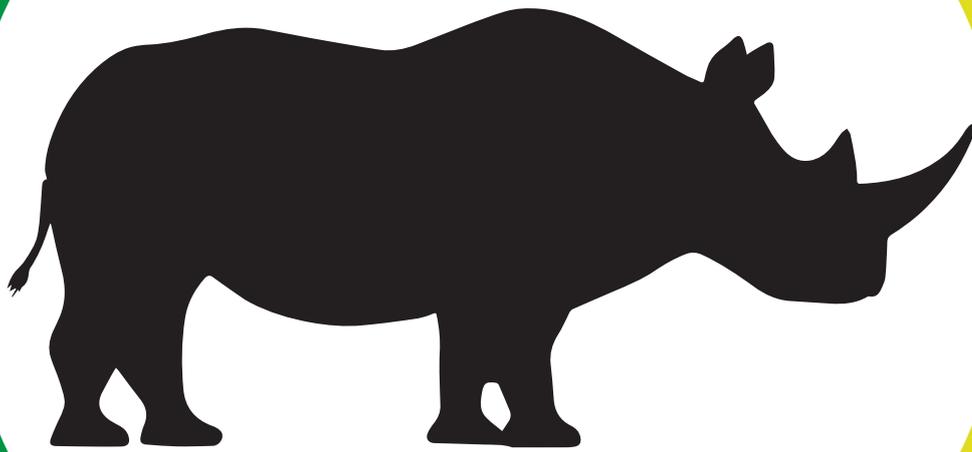




**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN  
CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE/JUBA  
STATE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT**



## **THE GOVERNOR**



**The Address of  
H.E Emmanuel Adil Anthony Wani, the  
Governor of Central Equatoria State on the occasion  
of the Opening of Third Session of the First Assembly.  
Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2026, Juba-South Sudan.**

**The Rt. Hon. Acting Speaker**

**H.E. The Deputy Governor**

**Hon. Advisors**

**Hon. Ministers**

**Hon. Chief Whips**

**Hon. Chairpersons of Standing Specialized Committees**

**Hon. Members**

**Hon. Chairpersons of Independent Commissions and  
Institutions**

**Hon. Commissioner of Juba County**

**His Worship the Mayor of Juba City**

**Development Partners**

**Religious leaders**

**Distinguish invited Guests**

**Members of the Press**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,  
Hon. Members,**

It is a great honour to address this esteemed august House on its re-opening for the Third Session, after a full year surpassing the traditional three months recess period. While I acknowledged the circumstances that caused this delay, I am grateful that we are opening the House today.

As the legislative arm representing the will of the people of Central Equatoria State, the functioning of this Assembly as a supreme authority is vital for effective governance.

Today's opening symbolizes our renewed commitment to work collaboratively towards peace, reconciliation, and development, which are the strong pillars and foundation upon which our State must always stand on.

I would also like to warmly welcome back the Honorable members from their recess who despite the challenges posed by economic crisis and insecurity to visit their respective constituencies in fulfilment of their representation mandate. I commend your efforts in engaging your constituencies, listening to the grievances and bringing their concerns to this House. Your efforts and dedication to remain connected with your constituencies demonstrates your commitment to serve your people.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,  
Hon. Members,**

Our collective goal remains clear: to consolidate peace, foster unity, stability and development. To realize this vision, my administration will pursue a strategic policy agenda anchored on four thematic pillars as outlined hereunder:

1. Peace, Security Stabilization and Social Cohesion.
2. Keeping Juba City and other Towns Clean, Green and Safe.
3. Economic Recovery through Agriculture and Establishment of Cooperatives and
4. Improved People-Centered Service Delivery.

1. **Peace, Security Stabilization and Social Cohesion.**

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,  
Hon. Members,**

Peace shall always remain our permanent and overriding priority. The responsibility to maintain peace rests on both of us, the government and citizens. Our state has endured the painful consequences of conflict, displacement, dehumanization, refugee life, loss of lives and properties, yet, our people have demonstrated remarkable resilience.

It is therefore incumbent upon all of us to work tirelessly for sustainable peace. My government will collaborate with all stakeholders through the Ministries of peace building and Local Government to promote grassroot reconciliation, peace, dialogue, and community healing initiatives particularly among farmers and pastoralists.

Additionally, my leadership will convene a peace and reconciliation conference that brings together political actors, community leaders and other stakeholders to address the root causes of disunity and to chart a shared future for Central Equatoria State.

Furthermore, we must work collectively as leaders to de-escalate the ongoing violence in some of our counties by addressing security threats posed by holdout

groups, heavily armed cattle herders, cattle rustlers, lands disputes/grabbers, child abductors and criminal gangs.

With these in mind, our collective efforts shall focus on working closely with national security agencies, our neighboring states, chiefs, community leaders and civil society groups to create conducive environment for peace.

As State leaders, we should as well endeavor to address some of the issues that breeds unhealth politics and contribute to our division and affects our most desired unity, harmony, peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

To ensure and guarantee provenance of sustainable peace, and social cohesion in our State, my government, through the State Ministry of Peacebuilding, and other stakeholders will work closely with our people in the grassroots on the road to peace, reconciliation and healing to reconstruct our fractured social fabric.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,  
Hon. Members,**

In that case, the relevant government institutions are to initiate policies and public awareness programs to enlighten citizens on these undesired social issues. While on their part, members of the public are urge to remain cautious and vigilant always and to report any individual with suspicious behaviors that could lead to an act of suicide or crime. This is a collective responsibility of the Government, members of the general public and our respective families.

That said, the Government of Central Equatoria State shall remain committed to work closely with all National security organs and other relevant institutions in

ensuring that security and protection of the civil population and their property is taken as priority.

Besides, my government will encourage dialogue in addressing any problem that might arise in the cause of exercising our constitutional mandates in respect to the principles of inter-governmental linkages enshrined in Article 49 of the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan 2011 as amended.

To enhance dispensing justice in the State, my government will embark on strengthening the functions of the judiciary by ensuring deployment of Judges in all the Counties.

At the same time, the role of the Traditional Authorities and local justice systems are enhanced to resolve disputes and consolidate the rule of law to promote harmony among communities as such I have established a council to organize the chiefs (Council of Traditional Authorities).

The State Government shall strive to make Central Equatoria an accountable State to its citizens by embracing tenets of good governance as an obligation and duty for all who are entrusted with public responsibilities. Based on that standpoint, my administration shall remain steadfast and grounded on transparency and accountability in managing public affairs for the sole purpose of enhancing delivery of services that truly meet the needs of our people.

The State government will embark on a policy of reforming the public financial management system, fight corruption, and ensuring that every public officer serves with full dedication, honesty and integrity.

To uphold the principle of separation of powers and ensure checks and balances in our system, I urge the Honourable august House to strengthen the mechanisms of exercising its oversight role so that together we can build an accountable government.

I therefore direct all government institutions to formulate laws and adopt policies that promote and strengthen good governance based on the principles of transparency and accountability.

## **2. Keeping Juba City Clean, Green and Safe.**

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,  
Hon. Members,**

Juba City is the Capital of the Republic of South Sudan and the seat of the State Government. With this status, it is the mirror through which the image of the country is reflected. Therefore, keeping it clean and green is the collective responsibility of the state government and its dwellers.

To achieve this noble objective, my administration will prioritize comprehensive urban development plan that includes cleaning and waste management strategies to address the persistent issue of unhealthy environment.

I therefore direct the Juba City Council and other urban areas to undertake aggressive and massive civic education campaigns to ensure all residential areas, streets and market places are maintained and kept clean. We aim to plant one million trees along the streets and within the residential areas to promote environmental sustainability. I have banned and declared littering a crime in the towns.

To that end, Juba City Council should develop a proper waste management plan including mapping out areas that generate huge waste quantities. To effectively realize this plan, the following steps must be taken:

- Place public waste bins in markets, streets, schools, health facilities, bus parks and Residential areas among others.
- Organize regular and periodic waste collection campaigns in collaboration with all stakeholders.
- Encourage recycling and reuse of plastic and metallic materials.
- Enact bylaws that incriminate littering of the city and impose heavy fines on whoever violates the law.
- Strengthen enforcement of law and order to keep the city safe.
- Provide uniforms and badges to the rate collectors
- Establish digital revenue system to streamline collections.

The above measures apply to all urban areas in the State.

### **3. Economic Recovery through Agriculture and Cooperatives:**

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,  
Hon. Members,**

Given the economic downturn, largely due to conflict and political instability, my government prioritizes economic revitalization with agriculture as the backbone of the state economic recovery policy.

This recovery strategy is geared towards increased agricultural production, expand cooperative societies, commercialized livestock and fisheries, and

promote the tourism sector as alternatives to diversify our economy and improve our state revenue stream.

My government will therefore allocate increased budget to agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and tourism sectors, promote the use of improved animal breeds, agrobusiness, seeds, tools, and to facilitate the access to agricultural land and markets.

Going forward, my administration is committed to embark on agricultural schemes in our six counties and Wonduruba Administrative Payam. This is aimed at boosting agriculture to eradicate poverty and making the state food secured and sovereign.

In this context, the State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Environment is directed to ensure all the tractors that were supplied by the previous State administrations to the Counties are traced, recovered and handed over to the County Agricultural Department for effective use and management.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,  
Hon. Members,**

Recognizing that roads infrastructure play an instrumental role in agricultural development, my government prioritizes the rehabilitation of key and vital feeder roads that connect productive areas and farmers to markets to stimulate local trade and support economic growth.

Currently, the State government has started the partial rehabilitation of Juba-Yei-Kaya Road to ease transportation of agricultural produce to the markets.

While focusing on Economic recovery through agriculture, it is imperative for other economic and financial institutions to develop sound plans that reinforce the overall economic recovery policy direction of the State.

Another important responsibility of the State is the protection of the Environment. As State, we cannot speak of the future without taking concrete measures to protect and conserve our environment, land, forests, rivers, and wetlands.

The State Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Environment should develop programs to promote afforestation and other environmental conservation plans that are vital for protection of the state ecosystem.

The State government will strengthen its disaster preparedness to respond appropriately to both natural disasters like floods, droughts, and man-made calamities caused by effects of human related actions like the armed conflict, land grabbing, roaming of cattle that lead to lose of lives, displacement, food insecurity that affect our communities.

To prevent the occurrences of these calamities, the state government will set up early warning systems to detect disasters or conflicts that would lead to appropriate rapid response, intervention or prevention before any disaster could occur.

#### **4. Improved People-Centered Services Delivery:**

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,  
Hon. Members,**

Improved people-centered service delivery entails, designing, focusing and providing social services that prioritize the needs, dignity and well-being of our people. On this sphere, education, health and provision of clean water, are in the heart of this policy priority.

In that context, the State Government will create a conducive learning environment through rehabilitation, construction of standard and well equip new infrastructure and reopening of all schools and other educational facilities that closed down due to insecurity.

The Ministry of education shall ensure improvement of teachers' welfare as they are architects par excellence for educational advancement in the State. The purpose of doing so is to ensure increased enrolment of children in our school.

The State Ministry of Education and Instruction is tasked to exert efforts to improve performances of students and pupils during leaving examinations and to carry out research to establish reasons for poor performances during those examinations.

To improve future performance in the standards of learning, the State shall endeavor to open or revive existing teachers training institutes to encourage in service courses, produce professional teachers and facilitate periodical supervision.

On the health sector, the State Ministry of Health and other stakeholders in collaboration with partners should work harder to improve access to maternal and child healthcare, manage outbreaks, expand vaccination programs, and ensuring that essential medicines and personnel are available in all health facilities in the State.

The ministry shall ensure the national health policy is fully implemented in the State to enhance provision of health services to the citizens especially at the rural areas.

The ministry should check the mushrooming private health facilities in Juba City and authenticate their credibility, professionalism and render periodic reports to the State cabinet.

Furthermore, the State Government shall strive to strengthen its own health training institutions and demand for a significant quota for admission of trainees into the national health institutes based in the state.

On provision of clean water, we all know the phrase “*water is life*” therefore, access to clean water is a basic right that the State government will take seriously to ensure that citizens have access to safe, clean and well-treated water that is free from water-borne diseases like cholera, typhoid, worms, diarrheal and other harmful substances.

In the long run, the State shall ensure all urban centers including its Payam and Boma centers shall have piped water. In case of the citizens of Juba, the State will exert concerted efforts to engage the National Ministry of Water Irrigation to expedite the connection of water system to residences to alleviate the plight of

citizens caused by exorbitant water prices especially those living in the suburb of the city.

On State Labor and Civil Service, the Ministry of Labor, Public Service and Human Resource Development (MoLPS&HRD) will champion public service reform agenda, check and clean up the nominal rolls of the State institutions and rid them of any ghost names as the State strive to pay salary arrears and to continue paying their normal salaries when the financial situation improves.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,  
Hon. Members,**

Youth and women are the pride of any given society. Therefore, empowering these two segments of our population is essential for building inclusive, prosperous and sustainable Central Equatoria State with far-reaching social, economic and political benefits. Given their numbers and energy, empowering the youth and women is very crucial because they come with fresh energy, creativity, innovation and new perspectives to solving societal challenges.

In a nutshell, empowering youth and women is not just a social responsibility; it is a strategic investment on the State's future for driving progress, peace and sustainable development.

The Ministries of Culture, Youth and Sports and Gender, Child and Social Welfare should develop policies and programs for Youth and Women empowerment given the fact that the two segments of society are the strength of our State and entire nation. By the fact that youth and women carried the heaviest burdens of the intermittent conflicts, they too remain our solid hope for achievement of peace, unity and development.

My government will invest in youth and women empowerment programs through vocational skills and entrepreneurship capacity building trainings to address the problem of the school drop outs to help them contribute meaningfully to peace and development. The State will also remain resolute to support the persons living with disabilities to ensure that no one is left behind in the agenda of State rebuilding.

On a special note, my government will ensure the promotion of the girl child education by holding any parent accountable through the enforcement of the Central Equatoria State Girl Child Act 2014.

## **Achievements**

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

**Hon. Members,**

Despite the numerous challenges confronting the State, allow me to share with the Hon members of the august House the State Government's major achievements as summarized here below:

1. The Statewide Peace security stabilization tours of the State leadership across six counties including Wonduruba Administrative Payam.
2. Joint civil-security coordination mechanisms were put in hotspots across the state thereby improving civil-military relations.
3. Successfully participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Governors forum.
4. Conducted the Commissioners' Forum in February 2025 where key resolutions were adopted.
5. Several peace dialogues, peace conferences, symposium and Executive retreat were conducted.

6. Forty-five council of ministers' sittings had been conducted and sixty resolutions have been approved.
7. To transform the Local Government, a 5-year plan was developed with the support from partners.
8. Re-opening of Equator Broadcasting TV and launching of Central Equatoria News Paper.
9. Launched the rehabilitation of Juba-Yei-Kaya Road.
10. Completion and inauguration of the State Ministry of Animal Resources, Fisheries and Tourism headquarters and Veterinary Clinic.
11. Completed the construction of Equatoria Inn Business Center, pending official inauguration.
12. Completion and inauguration of Central Equatoria Vaccine Cold-chain.
13. Completion and inauguration of five maternity blocks in the state mostly in Juba County.
14. Assisted 704 Gender Based Violence cases and over 100 vulnerable children received assistance through partnerships with IRC and UNDP.
15. Provided walking aids and devices for persons with disabilities.
16. Conducted technical skills training for youth and women empowerment in Lainya, Kajo-Keji, and Yei.
17. Achieved 85% measles and polio vaccine coverage across all counties.
18. Renovated Kajo-Keji Hospital, and El-Shaba hospitals.
19. Constructed and inaugurated Buluk Pediatric Eye Unit and Yei Isolation Block.
20. More than 9000 cholera cases were managed.
21. School enrollment reached 179,673 in primary, 54,379 in secondary, and 34,380 in vocational training, with teacher training expanded.
22. With support from UNMISS/UNICEF, constructed and renovated 17 schools across the state.

23. 26 boreholes were rehabilitated across 24 schools, significantly improving access to clean water.
24. Formulated and approved the state budget ceiling for the fiscal year 2025-2026.
25. Improved financial management through regular institutional reporting.
26. Engaged with the National Ministry of Cabinet Affairs on the persistent revenue encroachment by the national Government institutions.
27. Organized the third edition of Juba Economic Forum in partnership with the state business union.
28. Over 50,000 households were reached with seeds and tools; 13,000 farmers trained; and 20 cooperatives supported with boreholes, tractors, and demonstration farms.
29. Over 95,000 animals were vaccinated, improved hygiene at fish markets, and began partnerships with FAO and JICA to expand poultry and fisheries.
30. Procured vehicles and upgrade ICT in the State Ministry of Finance.
31. Partial payments were made to meet government contractual obligations.
32. Registered 204 Cooperatives, including 3 new Agro-Business Centers.
33. 30,000 seedlings were planted, and waste management in Juba was improved in collaboration with JICA.
34. Domestic revenue increased by 15% due to tax enforcement.
35. Two mini agro-processing plants for maize and cassava were established in Juba and Yei.
36. Over 300 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) received training, and licensed across the state.

## **Challenges:**

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,  
Hon. Members,**

As usual, no achievements come without challenges, more so based on the current prevailing political, economic and social circumstances in the state.

Below are some of the overall challenges that are facing the state government:

- a. Insecurity in some parts of the state caused by holdout groups.
- b. Encroachment from some National Government institutions on the state government competences.
- c. Declined in revenue mobilization caused by perpetual some national government institutions' encroachment ( e.g. PIT, Sale adjustment tax, Number plates, Vehicle registration etc)
- d. Incapacitated state revenue generating institutions in terms of logistics and operation cost.
- e. Lack of state digital revenue collection systems.
- f. Abnormal financial assistance affects the functions of the government including critical service delivery.
- g. Inter communal violence in some parts of the state.
- h. Roaming of cattle from the Jonglei state and Terekeka County in areas of agrarian communities in all the Counties and Wonduruba Administrative Payam inflaming conflicts and displacement of citizens resulting to acute food insecurity.
- i. Territorial encroachment into the counties of Kajokeji, Morobo and Yei by the neighboring countries (Uganda and DRC) causing massive displacement, loss of lives and properties.
- j. Proliferation of drugs abuse and drugs dealings in the state.

- k. Many parts of the State remain poorly connected due to a lack of all-season roads, hindering movement of goods, services and people.
- l. The crime of Child abduction has continued unabated in Central Equatoria State and affecting many in Juba and Terekeka Counties where families are painfully robbed of hundreds of their beloved children.
- m. Land grabbing remains one of the major sources of conflicts hindering management of land administration particularly in Juba city and Juba County.

## **Way Forward**

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,  
Hon. Members**

To overcome the challenges alluded to here above, I direct the relevant State institutions to implement the following key interventions, among others:

1. Deepening collaboration with national security organs, organized forces, and local community leadership to address conflicts and insecurity related issues to stabilize areas affected by the activities of the hold-out groups, cattle-herders, and cross-border encroachment through dialogue and peaceful settlement of socio-political and economic grievances.
2. Engage the National Ministry of Finance and Planning for the timely release of State grants and funds accrued from sells adjustment tax.
3. Continuous engagement with the national government on issues of inter-governmental relations for better coordination, collaboration and cooperation.
4. Strengthen revenue generating institutional capacity.
5. Improve revenue mobilization through adoption of digital tax collection system.
6. Limit financial assistances until economic situation improves.
7. Embark on dialogue and reconciliation programs to mitigate inter communal violence in the state.
8. Engage the political and community leaders from the cattle keeping communities to respect the presidential order No. 29/ 2017 for the repatriation of all cattle to their respective areas of origin.
9. Engage the national government and the local authorities in the neighboring countries to respect the territorial integrity of our country and allow the border demarcation and delimitation committees finalize their work on the boundaries of the three countries.

10. Strengthen and coordinate multisectoral response to develop plans, enact and enforce laws, rules and regulations to control the magnitude of drug abuse.
11. Accelerate rehabilitation of critical roads to improve connectivity between areas of production and markets to boost economic growth and development.
12. Engage the authorities of GPAA to exert effort to recover the remaining abducted children and to hunt down the perpetrators to face justice.
13. The State Ministry of Housing, Lands and Public Utilities to develop the state land policy to undertake lands reform to rid the ministry of all land related malpractices that has infested the state ministry over the years including land grabbing.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker**  
**Hon. Members,**

As I conclude, allow me to inform the august House about the upcoming general elections. Few weeks ago, the National Elections Commission announced 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2026, as the date for holding the first democratic elections after the independence of our country.

Being the representatives of our people, let us support the decision to hold the general elections on the set date. This is to give the people of Central Equatoria State an opportunity to choose leaders of their choice and build a State whose foundation will be laid on firm democratic ideals that is driven by the will of its people.

Therefore, I call upon the members of this august House to start preparing our citizen for this process, emphasizing the importance of voter registration and participation.

As Governor, I am strongly urging our people not to miss this rare opportunity for democratic transformation of our Nation and State. I reaffirm my unwavering commitment to ensure that all our people in the Counties, Payams, and Bomas of Central Equatoria State who are eligible voters to register and cast their votes for securing better future for our people.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,  
Hon. Members,**

Finally, I wish you well in your deliberations and urge you to work collegially in the spirit of the R-ARCSS for the best interest of the Government and the beloved people of Central Equatoria State.

With this I declare the Assembly open.

*God bless South Sudan.  
God bless Central Equatoria State.  
God bless us all.  
Thank you.*

**Emmanuel Adil Anthony Wani  
Governor,  
Central Equatoria State  
Juba, Republic of South Sudan.**

