



Republic of South Sudan
Transitional National Legislative Assembly
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 20th. April 2026

JUBA – The Transitional National Legislative Assembly convened for a landmark session, marking the first sitting presided over by the **Rt. Hon. Speaker Joseph Ngere Paciko**. The session, which ran from 10:35 AM to 11:48 AM, saw a robust turnout of **310 members**, easily surpassing the required quorum of 183.

In his inaugural "Communication from the Chair," Rt. Hon. Speaker Paciko set a firm tone for his leadership. He emphasized a commitment to the impartial application of Standing Orders "without fear or favor". Underscoring his role as a servant of the law, the Speaker noted that the Chair does not belong to him personally, but rather to the **Constitution** and the **House** itself.

Key highlights of his address included:

- **The Right to Speech:** A pledge to protect the rights of every member to express themselves freely and without contradiction.
- **Commitment to Punctuality:** A direct call for all members to respect the assembly's time and schedule.
- **Public Engagement:** In a historic move, the Speaker invited members of the public to witness the proceedings. This invitation was met with a significant public response, with citizens filling the Parliament's gallery to observe the session.

The Assembly addressed critical oversight and administrative matters during the session:

- **R-JMEC Quarterly Report: H.E. Ambassador Major General George Aggrey Owinow**, Interim Chairperson of R-JMEC, officially tabled the Quarterly Report. The document has been referred to the **Specialized Committee on Peace and Reconciliation** for further review.
- **Motion on Pension Contributions: Hon. David De Dau** (representing Twic East, Jonglei State) introduced a motion regarding the Ministry of Finance and Planning's failure to remit statutory pension contributions to the South Sudan Pension Fund.
- **Executive Summons:** Following a rigorous debate, the House resolved to summon the **Ministers of Finance and Public Service** to provide formal clarification on the status of these pension remittances.

The sitting proceeded with active participation, during which six members raised points of clarification and proposed amendments, all of which were addressed upon by the Chair.

Abraham Telat
Press Secretary
Office of the Rt. Hon. Speaker

