



PRESS STATEMENT:

TRANSPARENCY CONCERNS IN THE DISMISSAL OF THE RECONSTITUTED NATIONAL ELECTION COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

September 17nd, 2026 – We learned the dismissal of the Reconstituted National Election Commission Chairperson, just three months to general elections as announced a month ago. We understand that the commission is undergoing immense challenges pertaining to their mandate of organizing a free, fair, peaceful, credible and transparent general elections in South Sudan. The dismissal amidst the daunting task, is however, surprisingly alarming.

Our key concerns, nonetheless, is the fact that the dismissal, as reported, did not state any justification nor does the procedures appear to have been followed as per the National Elections Act, 2012, amended 2023.

A Commission's member, including the Chairperson, ought to be terminated only on the basis of: not attending up to five consecutive commission's meetings, proven partiality, incompetence resulting from "mental infirmity or physical incapacity" and gross misconduct. None of these grounds has been disclosed. On what account was the dismissal justified? For the sake of transparency as guaranteed by the Law, the public ought to know the grounds upon which the Chairperson was removed by the President.

Equally important, the dismissal is, but the last step according to the Elections Law. The public deserve to know if there was ever a resolution emanating from NEC members submitted to the President justifying the removal, if this was approved by the National Parliament or if the Consultation threshold within the Presidency was met?

Each and every single action and step by the commission, for or against it, is closely watched by South Sudanese – and we demand answers or will assume that the NEC Law was violated – a development that might weaken the public and legal standing of the commission or its activities before South Sudanese, region and international community.

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ABOUT US: *National Civil Society Coalition (NCSC) is an umbrella of grassroots Civil Society Networks, drawn from the South Sudan's 10 States and 3 Administrative Areas with the aim of enforcing an inclusive and vibrant civil society capable of effectively contributing to the national conflict transformation and state building agenda.*

Email: nationalcivilsocietyssd@gmail.com

Tel: +211 910934715