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CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

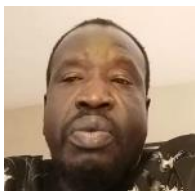
IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 95 | Week 50 | June 14, 2024

## Program: The Tumaini Peace Initiative in South Sudan

Submitted by Evan Freund

Claremont Rotary member Francis Limbe promotes peacemaking for South Sudan! Francis has brought two



of the principal leaders of the Tumaini Peace Initiative in Nairobi to the Claremont Rotary Club in a world-spanning Zoom meeting. **General Mario Loku Thomas Jada**, Chairman of the National Salvation Front- Revolutionary



Command Council (NAS-RCC) (top left) and **Maj. General Ladu Stephen Lukaja**, Secretary General of NAS-RCC (bottom left) delivered a comprehensive video presentation of NAS-RCC program to the Club via Zoom from Kenya and answered

questions from club members at our regular club meeting.

The NAS-RCC program and the Tumaini Peace initiative aim to restore peace to South Sudan through inclusive representation of South Sudanese people. Following the declaration of independence in 2011, South Sudan

continued to experience conflicts and civil war in various parts of the country. This affected the stability of the country and caused widespread human suffering. The NAS-RCC believe that the root causes of conflict include ethnic polarization caused by lack of transparency in recruiting government forces, and they must be addresses.

Beginning at the Juba Conference in 1947, the differences in cultural and social ways of life between the Arab north and African south of Sudan have manifested themselves. Although the recipient of major foreign aid from America following the 2010 ceasefire of the Darfur wars of liberation and 2011 independence of South Sudan, South Sudan lacked the infrastructure for equitable administration of aid, leading to the formation of internal cartels that frustrated the equitable utilization of resources available. A gorilla movement rebelled against the new government. Between 2013 and 2016 more than 500,000 were killed and millions of South Sudanese were displaced to neighboring countries. Violent opposition to the government continues to this day.

The NAS-RCC plans to address historical injustices, including land-grabbing, by launching programs for national reconciliation including a general amnesty. The NAS-RCC has recruited allies and supporters of its approach in neighboring countries and in the Organization for African Unity. A federal system of constitutional governance is again proposed, with in-



Leaders pose for photograph at the Tumaini Initiative in Nairobi on Thursday, May 9, 2024. | Credit | Courtesy

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## Tumaini Peace Initiative,

clusive policies to implement equitable distribution of offices and resources among all 64 tribes in South Sudan. The Tumaini Peace Initiative calls for a new social contract among the people of South Sudan, implementation of guarantors from the region and the international community, and lasting peace.



To achieve its objectives, the Tumaini Initiative launched a high-level mediation conference in Kenya on May 9th, 2024 involving six African heads of state with representation from opposing Sudanese parties. The mediation is led by veteran mediator of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, General Lazarus Sumbeiywo. The President of Kenya, William Samoei Ruto, PhD stated during the launch of the HLM-SS at State House in Nairobi that its purpose was “to secure a credible pathway to durable and sustainable peace for the Republic of South Sudan, the region, and the entire African continent.” He added that the goal is to end conflict, and political instability, silence the guns, make peace, restore tranquility and harmony, to enable South Sudanese achieve the peace and prosperity its people have long fought for.

As they continue with the talks, Generals Jada and Lukaja “look forward to establish cordial and harmonious relationship with international friends of good will like the rotary club in order to prepare ourselves for future partnership in business, trade, investment and economic development.”

Francis Limbe is carrying on the proud tradition of Rotarian involvement in peacekeeping and international development. Following World War II, Rotarians were at the forefront in establishing the United Nations. Forty-seven of the signatories of the UN Charter were Rotarians. Rotary International over the past decades has provided massive support to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The Rotary Action Group for Peace supports and publicizes the projects and activities of Rotarians for peace around the world and in local communities as well. Peace matters at every level of human endeavor, and Rotarians dedicated to securing a just peace consistent with the Rotary Four-way Test are working around the world for peace.