Press Release on September 23rd 2014

Improvement of Food Security situation in the Republic of South Sudan

The Government of the Republic of South Sudan announces the results of the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for September 2014.

The IPC is an evidence-based approaches, which uses international standards to classify the nature and magnitude of food insecurity in a country or region.

The latest IPC analysis indicates that food security across the country has begun improving and is expected to continue on a positive trend through December 2014, following seasonal patterns, particularly in Greater Bahr el-Ghazal and Greater Equatoria regions.

Normal rainfall, good crop planting and performance, and the start of the green harvest in late August have had a positive effect on the seasonal availability of crops, livestock products, fish, and wild foods.

However, in Greater Upper Nile, due to displacement, planting has been reduced below normal land size, which may impact overall cereal production and could lead to food stock depletion.

While there are significant improvements since May when there were rumors of a looming famine, the current overall food security situation is much better than a typical year at harvest time.

According to the IPC analysis conducted in South Sudan earlier this month, only 1.5 million people are projected to remain food insecure through December 2014, with two-thirds of them in the Greater Upper Nile. If new shocks occur, their resilience into 2015 may be weakened. Further, by March 2015, more than 2.5 million people might become food insecure if the current situation is not reversed.

The Government, based on the results of latest IPC analysis, would like to clearly state that there is no famine in South Sudan. Therefore, we advise against the irresponsible use of the word famine by stakeholders, including the media. Nevertheless, the Government acknowledges the concerns of the IPC projection for 2015, and urges all actors to scale up their efforts in the coming months in order to prevent further deterioration of food insecurity and malnutrition.

The Government reiterates its commitment to securing a lasting peaceful solution to the ongoing political crisis, so that humanitarian and development work may continue. We are
also fully committed to ensuring enhanced trade in all areas of the country, uninterrupted access for humanitarian aid, and an enabling environment for people to return to their homes to rebuild their livelihoods.