Speech of the Minister of General Education and Instruction

Hon. Awut Deng Acuil

*[Recognition of partners, government, other dignitaries, and media – List to be updated with details & confirmation of presence]*

* Hon. Ministers & Deputy Ministers
* Undersecretaries
* H.E Ambassadors
* DGs present
* UN Representatives
* Representative of International Organisation
* National Organisations
* Media Fraternity
* Ladies & Gentlemen,

Today marks an important milestone in the transition from conventional modes of communication to new forms of information sharing and communication. Under the theme: *Digitisation of information and Knowledge Sharing* we convene to bear witness to a process that has been unfolding.

Not long ago, we could only communicate through written notes or orally relay and receive information. These, in addition to radios and televisions constituted the official channels of our communication. Times have proved that this is insufficient!

The volume of information flow has increased tenfold. The demands of the people we serve keep growing each day. How much we can receive and how much we can share with the general public is determined by the tools we have at our disposal. Unfortunately, we only match the need when we open new channels of communication.

The cost of not opening new communication lines is high. Anxiety among learners, parents, and the public to understand the ministry’s position or to receive communication from the ministry in pertinent matters is crucial and demands our undivided attention. Without filling this void, misinformation sets in. In the same way the world faces the challenge of fake news, we too are victims when we leave the population with many unanswered questions.

Going forward, we envisage that the challenges will continue to grow. The government is conscious of this reality. The need to communicate and open more avenues of interaction increases by the day. This is a challenge and a motivation to do more and get better at it.

The ministry of General Education and Instruction has developed new websites [www.mogei.gov.ss](http://www.mogei.gov.ss). This is linked to the ministry’s social media sites:

Twitter: @MinistrySsd

Facebook: Mogei South Sudan

In addition, the ministry has also developed the national curriculum development center website ([www.cdc.gov.ss](http://www.cdc.gov.ss)) that is linked to the main ministry site.

Each of these two websites provide significant information to different audiences. We have the different curricula for several subjects loaded online. Other materials of significant importance are the ministry policies, strategic plan, how we coordinate, and press releases for the general public, among others. We will also utilise the website for all scholarship opportunities and provide forms for applicants to fill.

The social media sites: twitter and facebook are active for mutual exchange and engagement with the audience. I urge you to make use of these communication channels. Every message received through these channels is accounted for. Some require individual response while others require general response. We have witnessed this and believe that continued use will increase and improve communication.

The platform we are rolling out today does not undermine any other medium of communication already known or available to you. Our traditional lines of communication are still open. You can still write letters to us, make calls through our known contacts, or meet us when the opportunity is available. What we are doing today is to increase your choices, make it easier, and in some cases, have faster response time to what you need or seek to know from the ministry.

The Ministry is at the centre of all investments in education across the country. To serve the needs of 2.3 million learners and more than 60,000 teachers, a lot of work takes place every single day. We are grateful for the fruitful partnerships we have with UN, international organisations, and national organisations - with whom we work to make this happen. However, we also have a duty to inform you. As a ministry, we have embraced the need to ensure we do not only do what is expected of us, but also to inform our stakeholders of what we are doing – and how we are doing it.

Through this initiative, we believe that we will improve information sharing and exchange, promote learning and research. The online platforms, through a sustained web presence will improve visibly, promote access to information on ministry’s activities, and ensure a wider demographic reach.

As we launch these platforms, we extend our gratitude to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Directorate of National Communication Authority (NCA), Department of Universal Services and Access Fund (USAF). Your efforts and commitment to sister ministries is commendable. We also acknowledge the support of Education Can’t Wait (**ECW**) and Norwegian Refugees Council (**NRC**) through the Multi-Year Resilience Program (**MYRP**) program in ensuring that we unveil these platforms to you. The ICT Department, Directorate of Planning and Budgeting has equally played a crucial role in following through every fine detail of the website development. Our appreciation also extends to Nilotech for the technical construction of both sites.

At this juncture, on behalf of the Ministry of General Education and Instruction, I officially launch the websites: [www.mogei.gov.ss](http://www.mogei.gov.ss) and [www.cdc.gov.ss](http://www.cdc.gov.ss)

Thank you all