

**The Republic of South Sudan
Ministry of Labour
Public Holidays and Observed Days
Annual Calendar 2026**

Foreword

The Ministry of Labour hereby issues annually public holidays and observed days calendar, which is comprised of two parts:

Part I: Public Holidays, these are celebrated with rest from official work. Citizens remain at home and do not report to work.

Part II: Observed Days, these are celebrated while employees continue to report to their places of work.

Legal Basis: In accordance with the Labour Act, 2017, Section 61 subsection (1) stipulates that "all public holidays shall be observed on calendar days" This means if a public holiday falls on a weekend (Saturday or Sunday), it shall not be compensated or carried forward.

Guidance to Institutions

- Government institutions with observed days not listed in this calendar are requested to notify the Ministry of Labour so that such observed days be formally included.
- The calendar is updated annually, and any new developments should be communicated promptly to this office.
- **Important notice:** as circumstances may require, the Office of the President may announce extraordinary public holidays. Such pronouncements are binding and must be adhered to by all; and,
- The Office of the President may direct the Ministry of Labour to issue a circular on the extraordinary public holiday which is not included in this list.

The Ministry extends its best wishes to all citizens and institutions for joyful and peaceful 2026 public holiday celebrations.



Hon. Gen. James Hoth Mai (MP)
Minister
Ministry of Labour
Republic of South Sudan - Juba

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Part I: Public Holidays

S/NO.	Date of Holiday	Holiday / Event	No. of Days	Remarks
1.	January 1 st	New Year	1 day - Thursday	Celebrating and observing the dawn of the New Year, reflecting on the past and ushering in hope for the future.
2.	March 20 th -22 nd	Eid-El Fitr	3 calendar days - Friday to Sunday	Muslim holiday marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. It is to be noted that the beginning of this holiday depends on sighting of the new moon.

Note: Dates for Islamic holidays are tentative and based on moon sightings, while Easter days shift annually.

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S/NO.	Date of Holiday	Holiday / Event	No. of Days	Remarks
3.	April 3 rd and 6 th	Easter Holiday	Good Friday and Easter Monday	Christian commemoration of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
4.	May 1 st	International Labour Day	1 day - Friday	International Day recognizing the role of workers in development.
5.	May 16 th	SPLA Day	1 day - Saturday	The day a unit of South Sudanese soldiers rebelled in Bor Town leading to the subsequent birth of the SPLM/A
6.	May 27 th - 29 th	Eid Al-Adha	3 calendar days Wednesday to Friday	Muslim sacrificial festivity marking the end of Hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.

Note: Dates for Islamic holidays are tentative and based on moon sightings, while Easter days shift annually.

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S/NO.	Date of Holiday	Holiday / Event	No. of Days	Remarks
7.	July 9 th	Independence Day	1 day - Thursday	The day South Sudan became an independent nation.
8.	July 30 th	Martyrs' day	1 day - Thursday	The day the founding Chairman of the SPLM died in a plane crash. The day is marked for commemoration of all martyrs.
9.	December 24 th - 26 th	Christmas Holiday	3 calendar days Thursday - Saturday	Christian holiday that marks the Birth of Jesus Christ.

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Part II: Observed Days

S/NO.	Date	Holiday / Event	Remarks
1	January 9 th	Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) Day	Commemorates the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Nairobi, Kenya (2005), which paved the way for peace, self-determination and the eventual independence of South Sudan.
2	February 22 nd	Nile Day	Recognizes the strategic, environmental and socio-economic importance of the Nile River to South Sudan and the Nile Basin region.
3	March 8 th	International Women's Day	Celebrates the achievements of women and girls and promotes gender equality, women's rights and empowerment.

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S/NO.	Date	Holiday / Event	Remarks
4	March 20 th	International Day of Happiness	Promotes happiness and well-being as universal goals and aspirations of human life.
5	March 22 nd	World Water Day	Highlights the importance of freshwater resources and advocates sustainable water management and access to safe water.
6	April 4 th	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	Raises awareness on the dangers of landmines and explosive remnants of war and supports mine-action efforts.
7	April 7 th	World Health Day	Marks the founding of the World Health Organization and promotes global health awareness and action.

S/NO.	Date	Holiday / Event	Remarks
8	April 22 nd	International Mother Earth Day	Promotes environmental protection, climate action and sustainable use of natural resources.
9	April 25 th	World Malaria Day	Recognizes global efforts to prevent, control and eliminate malaria.
10	April 28 th	Safety and Health Day	Raises awareness on Safety and Health at Workplaces
11	May 3 rd	World Press Freedom Day	Promotes freedom of expression, media independence and the safety of journalists.
12	May 12 th	International Mothers' Day	Recognizes the vital role of mothers in families, communities and national development.
13	May 28 th	Menstrual Hygiene Day	Promotes menstrual health, dignity and access to sanitation and education for women and girls.

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S/NO.	Date	Holiday / Event	Remarks
14	June 4 th to 10 th	African Child Week	Promotes the rights, welfare and protection of children in Africa, in line with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and serves as a build-up to the Day of the African Child.
15	June 5 th	World Environment Day	Encourages global environmental protection and sustainable development actions.
16	June 10 th	International Fathers' Day	Recognizes the role of fathers and male caregivers in nurturing families and society.
17	June 12 th	World Day Against Child Labour	Calls for the elimination of the worst form of child labour and protection of children's rights.
18	June 16 th	Day of the African Child	Established in 1991 to commemorate the 1976 Soweto Uprising and to promote children's rights, education and protection across Africa.

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S/NO.	Date	Holiday / Event	Remarks
19	June 17 th	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	Raises awareness on land degradation and promotes sustainable land management.
20	June 20 th	World Refugee Day	Honors refugees worldwide and highlights issues of forced displacement and protection.
21	June 23 rd	United Nations Public Service Day	Celebrates the value and virtue of public service and its contribution to development.
22	July 7 th	National Girls' Education Day	Promotes access to quality education for girls and addresses barriers to girls' education.
23	August 12 th	International Youth Day	Highlights youth development challenges and promotes youth participation in governance and development.

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S/NO.	Date	Holiday / Event	Remarks
24	August 19 th	World Humanitarian Day	Honors humanitarian workers and promotes international humanitarian action.
25	September 1 st to 7 th	Public Service Week	Showcases public service delivery, professionalism and citizen engagement.
26	September 8 th	International Literacy Day	Promotes literacy as a foundation for lifelong learning and sustainable development.
27	September 21 st	International Day of Peace	Promotes peace, non-violence, dialogue and conflict resolution worldwide.
28	October 5 th	World Habitat Day	Reflects on the state of human settlements and the right to adequate shelter.
29	October 5 th	World Teachers' Day	Celebrates teachers and recognizes their role in education and nation-building.

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S/NO.	Date	Holiday / Event	Remarks
30	October 11 th	International Day of the Girl Child	Promotes girls' rights and highlights challenges faced by girls globally.
31	October 13 th	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	Promotes disaster preparedness, resilience and risk-reduction strategies.
32	October 15 th	Global Handwashing Day	Promotes hand hygiene as a key public health intervention.
33	October 16 th	World Food Day	Commemorates the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization and raises awareness on food security and hunger eradication.
34	October 24 th	United Nations Day	Marks the entry into force of the United Nations Charter and promotes multilateral cooperation.
35	October 31 st	World Cities Day	Promotes sustainable urbanization and inclusive city development.

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S/NO.	Date	Holiday / Event	Remarks
36	November 8 th	World Town Planning and Urbanism Day	Highlights the importance of urban planning for sustainable development.
37	November 19 th	World Toilet Day	Raises awareness on sanitation, hygiene and safe waste management.
38	November 20 th	World Children's Day	Promotes children's rights, well-being and participation.
39	November 25 th to December 10 th	16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence	Global campaign to end violence against women and girls.
40	December 1 st	World AIDS Day	Raise awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and support.
41	December 3 rd	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Promotes inclusion, rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

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S/NO.	Date	Holiday / Event	Remarks
42	December 9 th	International Anti-Corruption Day	Promotes integrity, accountability and anti-corruption efforts.
43	December 10 th	Human Rights Day	Commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
44	December 20 th	National Prayer Day	Promotes Peace and Reconciliation, Foster National Unity, Seek Divine Guidance, Strengthen Moral Leadership, Catalyze Healing and National Renewal

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