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Media Monitoring Report

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Headlines

- Opposition parties send memorandum to the National Elections Commission citing irregularities in voter registration and calls for a review of the process (**Al-Sahafa**)
- UNMIS Elections Chief, Ray Kennedy, calls for an increase in voter registration teams (**Al-Ayyam**)
- SLM-Abdulwahid threatens to target voter registration officials in Darfur (**Al-Ayyam; Al-Ahdath**)
- NEC delegation visits Juba (**Al-Sahafa**)
- NCP mobilizes funds for elections campaigning (**Al-Sahafa**)
- SPLM bars access to voter registration centres in Rumbek (**Akhir Lahza**)
- "Southern Sudan would be an Arab state if it opts for secession," says Presidential Advisor and prominent SPLM figure, Mansour Khalid (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Abyei chief administrator suspends head of local government (**Sudantribune.com**)
- Three die in tribal clash in Malakal (**Akhir Lahza**)
- HAC to adopt policy aimed at using relief funds to bankroll services in villages in Darfur (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Mbeki 'outraged' over his panellist's remark on Darfur mission (**Sudantribune.com**)
- UNAMID accuses SLM-Nur of impeding its work (**Sudantribune.com**)
- Egypt urges African countries to assist South Sudan (**Sudantribune.com**)

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Highlights

Opposition parties protest irregularities in voter registration, call for a review

Opposition parties are crying foul citing irregularities in the voter registration process, according to **Al-Sahafa**. Sudan Communist Party elections official Sidiq Yusuf said yesterday that opposition parties have sent a memorandum to the National Elections Commission (NEC) citing cases of irregularities and criticising the NEC for issuing a circular that allows members of the regular forces to register at their places of work. He also said that the voter's cards do not show the house number that could be used to confirm the place of residence.

He further pointed out that the NEC has opened loopholes that may lead to fraud in the process. He said that the opposition has called for the withdrawal of the voters' registry in certain suspect registry centres.

Representatives of opposition parties are expected to hold a meeting later today to reveal these irregularities.

UNMIS Elections Chief calls for more voter registration teams

UNMIS Elections Chief, James Ray Kennedy, says UNMIS is concerned with the progress in the voter registration and the electoral processes, reports **Al-Ayyam** quoting **SUNA**.

He pointed out that the voter registration process started at a slow pace in Sudan, as it does in any other country but is now picking up by the day. He pointed out that this is positive. He called on the NEC to monitor the process and promptly address any setbacks to guarantee that everyone gets his chance. He also underlined the need to increase the number of voter registration teams in different centres to facilitate the process and enable more people to register. He also underlined the need for voter education.

SLM-Abdulwahid threatens to target voter registration officials in Darfur

The Abdulwahid Nur faction of the SLM has threatened to target voter registration teams in Darfur, reports **Al-Ayyam**.

SLM member Ibrahim Al-Hilu pointed out that the movement will target these teams because some of them are security operatives in civilian attire. He said also that the movement believes that the elections are a propaganda manoeuvre and a cover to "perpetuate the atrocities in Darfur".

But the NEC says it is not aware of such a threat, reports **Al-Ahdath**. NEC deputy chair Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah said that they have received very good reports about unhindered progress in the voter registration process in Darfur.

NEC delegation visits Juba

NEC Chairman Abel Alier travelled to Juba yesterday at the head of an NEC delegation, reports **Al-Sahafa**. While in Juba, the delegation was briefed by representatives of the High Elections Committee in the region and discussed plans to tour seven southern Sudanese states. The NEC delegation travels to Rumbek today on the first leg of their tour.

The visiting delegation also held talks in Juba with GoSS Interior Minister Gier Chuang Aluong who briefed them on the elections security measures in place.

NCP mobilizes funds for elections campaigning

A committee of the NCP charged with seeking funding for the party's elections campaigning has mobilised party members in the public and private sectors to contribute to fund the party's elections campaign, reports **Al-Sahafa**. Party deputy chairman, Nafi Ali Nafi, told the press following a meeting of the committee yesterday that the meeting also discussed how members could support the party through remitting a percentage of their income for a complete year.

SPLM bars access to voter registration centres in Rumbek

The SPLM has barred citizens and monitors from the UN and political parties from accessing voter registration centres in Rumbek, Lakes State, reports **Akhir Lahza** quoting the **SMC**.

The head of the NCP office in Rumbek has called upon the NEC to immediately address these problems. He said that the SPLM is trying to obstruct the registration process because "it is aware that it does not have a support base in the south".

Southern Sudan would be pro-Arab if it opts for secession - SPLM figure

Presidential Advisor and prominent SPLM figure, Mansour Khalid, says that the SPLM favours unity, reports **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. He did however express pessimism that unity may not be an attractive option to southern Sudanese at the moment because the CPA has not been implemented properly. Speaking to Cairo-based **Al-Mushahid Al-Siyassi** Khalid rebuffed accusations that the SPLM has dealings with the State of Israel. He assured that a separate southern Sudanese state would be pro-Arab.

Abyei chief administrator suspends head of local government

Sudantribune.com Abyei, 09/11/09 – Abyei Area Chief Administrator Arop Mayak has confirmed the suspension of Majith Yak, an executive council member who heads the secretariat of local government.

Mayak said the head of local government department is suspended over remarks attributed to him voicing resistance to the Abyei boundaries border demarcation. Speaking from Abyei, Mayak said his administration was formed in order to seek ways to restore peace and security between communities in the region.

"Our priorities in Abyei, regardless of our political affiliations, should focus on how to instantly address issues which prevent tension rather than those acting as stimulators of hate and confrontation," he said.

The chief administrator was referring to a statement made by the sacked official last month in which he called on the Misseriya to mobilize themselves against attempts being made by the two parties to demarcate the boundaries of Abyei.

"I am an SPLM but when I make comments, I selectively make them not because I do not have a constitutional right to speak my mind, but I have to consider how dangerous they are for the public particularly considering the situation in Abyei," Mayak said.

The chief administrator said the decision to suspend head of local government was discussed at an executive meeting and endorsed by the local legislative council but Majith, speaking from Khartoum, said he was not aware of any such suspension and will return to Abyei to carry out his duties as normal.

Majith, Rahma Abdel Reham, Deputy Chief Administrator, and Ayom Matet, head of education and public service are representing the NCP at the executive council while Zacharia Atem, Deputy legislative council, Kabashi Tom, Majak Matet among others represents NCP at the local legislative council.

Three die in tribal clash in Malakal

Three people died yesterday following a Dinka raid on Shilluk tribesmen in Upper Nile, reports **Akhir Lahza**. Authorities rushed to the scene of the clash to contain the situation as citizens locked themselves for fear of dear life.

HAC to fund services in villages in Darfur

The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has adopted new policies that would see relief funds channelled towards funding services and rehabilitation activities in villages of return in Darfur, reports **Al-Sahafa**. Commissioner Hassabo Mohamed Ahmed also said that some 20,000 residential areas have so far been established in the three states of Darfur.

The Commissioner also noted that at a certain point in time, IDPs would have to choose between returning to their villages or to return to demarcated residential areas in any of the capitals of the three states of Darfur.

Mbeki 'outraged' over his panellist remark on Darfur mission

Sudantribune.com Washington, 09/11/09 – The chairman of the African Union (AU) high-level panel on Darfur (AUPD) Thabo Mbeki is “outraged” following remarks made by the former Egyptian foreign minister who was one of the commission’s members.

In his meetings with Darfur IDP’s, Mbeki vehemently denied that his mission sought to find an escape route for Bashir.

However, Ahmed Maher El Sayed one of the AUPD members made remarks earlier this month to the contrary.

“Incriminating the president is out of question and fundamentally unacceptable,” the former Egyptian foreign minister said in an interview with the Egypt based **Al-Masry Al-Youm** newspaper.

Abdel-Wahab El-Effendi, a pro-Islamist Sudanese political analyst who travelled with the panel revealed that Mbeki was angered by statements attributed to Maher.

He disclosed that the former South African president wrote a “strongly worded letter” to the Egyptian foreign ministry protesting Maher’s remarks.

El-Effendi said that Maher declined to join the team in its tours of Darfur “citing dangers to him being an Arab”.

Alex De Waal, a Sudan expert who was also an adviser to the panel corroborated El-Effendi’s story in his blog saying that people “should examine the record of Minister Maher’s participation in the activities of the Panel. I did not see him a single time in Darfur or Khartoum”.

Maher, was confronted in the last meeting of the AUPD by his peers who gave him choice between withdrawing or signing off on the report as is, El-Effendi added. The Sudanese columnist acknowledged that Maher’s remarks “gave ammunition” to those who argued that the ulterior motives of Mbeki’s panel is to protect Bashir.

Darfur rebels reacting to Maher’s statements said they were not surprised by them stressing that it proves their earlier point of view.

UN force in Darfur accuse SLM-Nur of impeding its work

Sudantribune.com Paris, 09/11/09 – The African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) issued a strong worded statement today accusing Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) led

by Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur of obstructing its work.

The press release comes following an incident by which SLM forces loyal to Al-Nur held a UN plane briefly after mistakenly believing it belonged to US special envoy Scott Gration.

The SLA-Nur were bracing for a meeting Gration organized with defecting commanders in areas they controlled and warned the US official to stay away else they would consider it “a direct interference in the Movements’ affairs”. UNAMID said that elements from the rebel group surrounded one of their helicopters with a field assessment team at Deribat, in South Darfur for three hours before allowing it to take off.

“It is unacceptable that the Mission’s personnel have again been targeted and threatened in the course of their persistent efforts to assist in restoring peace and security to Darfur. Deliberate attempts to obstruct the operations of the Mission are inimical to attaining overall peace and stability in Darfur and will have an adverse impact on efforts to improve the humanitarian situation in the region, and are totally unacceptable” UNAMID said.

“UNAMID strongly deplores the periodic harassment and detention of its personnel and stresses that it will not tolerate any attempts at intimidation or attacks on its personnel that are aimed at thwarting the progress of the peace process”. But the SLA chief dismissed the UNAMID statement saying the latter is to blame for the “unfortunate” incident.

“They [UNAMID] know very well that it is our normal business practice to hold their personnel or obstruct their work. This has never happened before and our forces have a code for situations like this that they adhere to,” Al-Nur told ***Sudan Tribune***.

“UNAMID is to blame for not communicating their route before taking off so that SLA can anticipate their arrival. These are our rules and they are very clear. Had they done this, the incident would not have happened” he added.

But the Darfur peacekeepers countered Al-Nur’s remarks saying that “the coordinates of all UNAMID flights are systematically communicated to the concerned parties prior to any trip”.

Egypt urges African countries to assist South Sudan

Sudantribune.com Cairo, 09/11/09 – Egypt has called on African nations to provide support to South Sudan during a regional summit that was concluded today. Egyptian state media said that foreign minister Ahmed Aboul-Gheit met with his counterparts from Kenya, Uganda, Senegal, Liberia, Eritrea, Chad and Niger on the sidelines of the fourth Forum of China-Africa Cooperation at the Red Sea resort city of Sharm al-Sheikh.

The foreign ministry spokesperson Hossam Zaki told reporters that Aboul-Gheit discussed the Sudan issue during these meetings and his government’s efforts with the Sudanese parties aiming to reconcile differences between the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the framework of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Zaki quoted Aboul-Gheit as stressing the need to tackle the issue of the standards of living in South Sudan and tribal conflicts there. He urged his African counterparts to lend a hand to South Sudan in different areas.

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