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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

NCP discusses formation of new government

Dailies 14/6/10 The NCP Council of Leaders held an emergency meeting yesterday to approve formation of the new government. Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie told reporters that President Al-Bashir presented to the meeting a list of NCP nominated ministers.

Sources said the new government would be announced during the few coming hours and that the key opposition parties would not participate in the government. According to the sources, the new government would comprise 35 ministers.

Sudan Tribune website 13/6/10 reported that the parliament speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir also submitted to the NCP meeting a proposal for heads of committees in the national assembly.

The NCP deputy Nafie Ali Nafie told SUNA that the participants reviewed the choices and gave their input but authorized the president and his deputies to make the final decisions.

Local media reported that Bashir will swear in the new government on Monday.

Partners' differences delay announcement of new government

The Citizen 14/6/10 – A reliable source and leading SPLM member who preferred to remain anonymous said that the announcement of the new government was delayed due to differences of the two partners after they failed to reach an agreement on pending issues.

The source indicated that it would be difficult to form the government without reaching an agreement on a number of issues that SPLM holds as crucial, including an agreement on a programme for the government for the coming period and formation of the referendum commission. The source added that the NCP has set the condition of working for unity and advocating it in southern Sudan during the remaining period of the peace agreement in coordination with SPLM but the SPLM rejected that demand at the meetings of the two partners.

However, NCP leading member Rabie Abdul-Atti denied any differences between the two partners and pointed out that consultations were underway for the announcing a broad-based government.

NCP, SPLM Joint Committee to meet next week

Al-Sudani 14/6/10 - The NCP-SPLM Joint Higher Political Committee will resume meetings next week in Khartoum to resolve pending issues. The meeting will be chaired by Vice President Ali Osman Taha and GoSS Vice President Riek Machar. According to Machar, the SPLM has handed over to the NCP its suggestions regarding article (67) of the referendum law, pointing out that the two partners would discuss post-referendum arrangement in case of Unity or separation. Machar said issues of citizenship, security; oil contracts, debts, international forces, and Nile water would be top items on the agenda of the meeting.

Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman says government should pursue a policy of reciprocity with US

Al-Rai Al-Aam 14/6/10 - Presidential advisor and NCP official Mustafa Osman Ismail said

Sudan should pursue a policy of reciprocity in dealing with the US and attributed the US hostility towards Sudan to the application of Islamic Sharia law, the "aftermath of September 11 attack", the war in the South and the Darfur issue. He said improvement of relations between the two countries depend on the US understanding of the Sudanese foreign policy which is based on religious and moral values.

17 people wounded in riots at University of Juba

Al-Sudani 14/6/10 – student riots and clashes occurred yesterday at Juba University between resulting in injuring 17 students and employees. Reportedly, the crisis began last Saturday and escalated yesterday. The paper source did not rule out that the riots were politically-motivated. SPLA soldiers were deployed to control the situation and the forces are still surrounding the campus.

SPLM accuses NCP of inciting attack in north Abyei

Al-Tayar 14/6/10 - SPLM spokesperson in Abyei, Wor Majack, accused NCP representative in the area of instigating 30 armed men to attack Maker and Tong towns, north of Abyei, to create tension and unrest in the area after a large number of the Messeriya leaders joined SPLA. He said the SPLM condemned the attack and called its officials in southern Kordofan to take decisive actions to control such breaches. He further confirmed the stability of the security situation after the clashes.

Sudan unable to contain rising dollar vs. pound, central bank hikes reserve requirements

Sudan Tribune website 13/6/10 - Sudan's central bank this week announced that it asked banks in the country to raise the amount it must hold in reserve from 8% to 11% as the local currency continues sliding against the U.S. dollar.

The governor of Sudan central bank Sabir Mohamed Hassan said in a statement that the change was made in response "to the fading of the effects of the global crisis on the country's economy and disappearance of the reasons that led to adopting expansionary policies during the past two years".

Hassan said while the central bank resorted to injecting cash and reducing reserve requirements, it is now revising its policies into more austerity-oriented one.

Sudan's banks are now required to maintain 11% of their deposits as reserves, down from 8%, both in local and foreign currencies. Furthermore, the central bank will now withdraw any deposits they made at the commercial banks for the purposes of increasing liquidity.

The only exception will be those banks that received deposits due as part of a bailout package.

Sudan runs a so-called managed float system, in which the central bank calculates an indicative rate based on previous day transactions and intervenes on the market if quotes break away from a plus/minus 3 percent corridor around that rate. The Sudanese pound SDG= indicative rate stood at 2.3019 to the dollar on Sunday, the central bank's website showed.

Some local economists say that the measures taken by the central bank does not address the root of the problem which centers around a decline in revenue from oil exports which is the main source of hard currency in the country.

The intervention by central bank to correct exchange rates caused a huge drop in foreign

exchange reserves from \$2 billion in mid-2008 to \$300 million in March 2009, which covers only 2 weeks of imports.

Sudan's foreign-exchange reserves were at \$956.2 million in January, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Sudan's economy, under U.S. sanctions since 1997, has been growing by 8 percent on average over the past 10 years on oil exports and foreign investment. But the sanctions have forced the central bank to move its reserves away from U.S. dollars into a basket of other currencies.

The central bank said this month that it would complete a conversion later this year from pegging the pound to the dollar into a basket of other currencies.

ABYEI: Eight killed people during clash between police and Messeriya

Sudan Tribune website 12/6/10 - A deadly clash between the police and armed Messeriya nomads identified as Awaled Umaran killed eight people in the oil-rich town of Abyei on Saturday.

Four others have sustained serious injuries in the clash which occurred in the extreme north of Abyei in the village of Maker Abior at six o'clock in the morning.

Abyei chief administrator, Deng Arop Kuol, told Sudan Tribune that some armed groups clashed with the joint police post in the area.

"They have killed one policeman and left another seriously injured in the stomach and I do not have any information on the other side but I believe there maybe casualties because there was blood and foot prints of individuals who have bled profusely," said Kuol.

General Kuol Deim Kuol, the SPLA spokesman in Juba, also confirmed the clash, adding that on Friday, a police reconnaissance received information of an attack in the area with armed Messeriya nomads.

"There were no casualties on both sides in the first attack, however, they went and regrouped themselves for another attack this morning. This is the attack that I am told killed one policeman and left another with serious injuries. On their side, I have not received any information but I am told there were serious injuries," said General Kuol.

Hassan Musa, one of the Messeriya leaders in Muglad, equally confirmed the clash and denied that it is part of an organized attack over territorial disputes between the Messeriya and the Dinka Ngok of Abyei.

He also condemned the clash saying the responsible were some individuals from Awaled Umaran whose cattle were taken in a clash in Unity State.

"That attack has nothing to do with the Messeriya leadership in general and we have already communicated their activities to Abyei's Chief Administrator prior to launching the attack on the area," he said.

He stressed they informed Abyei's Chief Administrator Deng Arop Kuol with his deputy Raham Abdurrahman about the activities of these people before the attack.

"We called them because we are not part of their activities and plan on taking revenge after what happened in Unity state because Abyei is not part of Unity state," explained Musa.

He added that he has information that 7 people from Awaled Umaran have been killed and 3 others have been wounded in critical conditions in Muglad.

Earlier, Kuol said that several armed groups and bandits are spreading fears and chaos in many parts of the oil-rich region.

"Reports of regular stops and attacks on civilians using public transports from Khartoum to Abyei are resulting in killings and looting. These activities are also forcing people to flee their homes for safety in neighboring areas. Hundreds of thousands of residents have already been displaced, putting pressure on impoverished host communities," added Kuol.

Maker Abior lies in the extreme north of South-Eastern part of Muglad town of South Kordofan State in Central Sudan. It is home to the former Sudanese Foreign Affairs Minister, Deng Alor, and close to the contested border lines.

3,000 persons lived in Maker before May's attack in which many towns were burned to ashes following a clash between the Southern army and Sudan's armed forces over the control of the area , but because of the lack of security in neighboring areas, there are now less than 2,000 people living there.

Half of them are in shelters on the outskirts of Agok, too terrified to return to their villages until their safety is assured. Roads into Maker are impassible during the rainy season and the movement of locals selling commercial goods has virtually stopped.

Food is scarce and access to the area is very limited. The village is one of the hardest hit areas in the region as it struggles further in the face of enduring security problems which disrupts local populations and hampers political advances and development.

In many areas at the border lines including Maker, local populations are forming armed groups to defend themselves and their communities. They are even managing to create guns from the most basic materials. The violence and subsequent displacement is occurring against the backdrop of chronic poverty and lack of public health, education and transport infrastructure.

The situation is further exacerbated by the return of thousands of internally- displaced persons from neighboring states such as Unity, Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal as well as Khartoum and other Northern states.

Residents of Maker are living with fear of attacks by armed bandits and roving groups. The identity of the perpetrators is often unclear, adding to the confusion of a terrorized population.??

In an interview with Sudan Tribune at Agok, Deng Biong Arop said that he lost his wife and his sister during Abyei's clash.

"My wife and my sister were both murdered as they were in the area collecting firewood. Their bodies were discovered much later by hunters."

He is left to care for his children in a tiny makeshift shelter with no means of making a living, and no immediate prospects of returning home. He received financial support from his older brothers living in Juba and abroad

Sudan denies existence of flight ban over Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 13/6/10 - The Sudanese government today denied the existence of a

flight ban in Darfur but acknowledged that some "protective measures" have been taken to protect aid workers.

The European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, speaking to Reuters after a four-day visit to Sudan, said Sudanese authorities had turned down 26 of more than 30 recent requests for aid road trips in South Darfur state.

Georgieva was misquoted by Reuters earlier as referring to a flight ban rather than a road trip ban.

"We are calling on the government to allow the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations that are key to get into more remote areas," she said by phone from Kampala. "One in five or one in six requests were granted... They have to shift more towards access being the rule rather than the exception."

The Sudanese foreign ministry spokesperson Muawiya Osman Khalid said Sudan is keen on carrying out its duties toward its citizens and fulfill its commitment with regard to reaching the needy people and to provide them with food and humanitarian services at any place.

He said that authorities mean to protect aid workers and their properties by measures it imposed in some parts of Darfur.

NBGS: Governor calls to promote unity of local leaders

Sudan Tribune website 13/6/10 - The Governor of Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Paul Malong Awan Anei, has on Saturday called on local artists to increase efforts to promote peace and unity amongst local leaders in the state.

Governor Anei was addressing the significant crowd gathered at Aweil Freedom Square to officiate the launching of a local band dubbed as "Aweil Jazz band" and handing over financial support for the band, collectively raised for the purchase of musical equipments by the citizens of Northern Bahr el Ghazal at home and in the Diaspora.

"If he needs peace, he should first and foremost release supporters of the independent candidates and other political parties to validate his call for forgiveness and reconciliations," he adds.

Governor Anei is seriously consulting with members of his political party to form his new cabinet hopefully in the coming few days. He is reported to have received communications from the President of Southern Sudan to consider forming a representative government to end political differences created by the elections.

His government is therefore expected to include faces from SPLM members who turned independents after failing to secure the approval of their candidatures by SPLM's political bureau in January. They have demanded the appointment of the deputy-governor, two county commissioners and at least two or one minister from their camps in the state cabinet.

US assistant secretary of state for African affairs to visit Sudan 23 June

SUNA 13/6/10 - The US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Johnnie Carson, accompanied by the US envoy to Sudan, Scott Gration, the US Undersecretary of the State Department for Administrative Affairs and a number of officials would arrive in Sudan on June 23.

The visit comes in the context of the inauguration of the new premises of the US embassy in Khartoum.

SUNA learned that the delegation, which will meet a number of senior government officials, will visit Juba to inspect the US Consulate premises in the South.

Meanwhile, the US envoy to Sudan, Scott Gration, will hold meetings with senior government officials to review issues of mutual concern.

Pre-referendum Watch

National Assembly to endorse today referendum commission members

Al-Rai Al-Aam 14/6/10 – The National Assembly will hold a session today to endorse the nomination of the members of the South Sudan Referendum Commission including the chairman and his deputy. National Assembly Deputy Speaker Atem Garang said the issue of SPLA representation in the referendum commission has been addressed.

Security and defence encounter referendum challenges – police

Al-Rai Al-Aam 14/6/10 – Deputy Director General of Police Lt. Gen. Adil Al-Ajib said the security and defence authorities would encounter a lot of challenges during referendum on southern Sudan's self-determination. However, Gen. Al-Ajib confirmed the ability of the defence and security authorities to prevent violence whether the referendum result is unity or secession. Gen. Al-Ajib made the remarks at a symposium yesterday in Khartoum on "self-determination on the scale".

The Misseriya stick to right to self-determination for Abyei

Al-Sahafa 14/6/10 – The Misseriya have announced that they would stick to their right to vote in the referendum on Abyei for deciding the territory's destiny. Misseriya leader Mohamed Omer Al-Ansari told the newspaper that there were claims that the tribe would not vote in the referendum on Abyei next year. "Exclusion of the Misseriya from voting would happen only if the voting takes place in the sky," he said sarcastically. "The destiny of the territory will not be decided without the participation of the Misseriya. We do not care about international or US troops. It is a matter of life or death," he added.

Liberation Party to gather "a million signatures" in rejection of self-determination

Al-Sahafa 14/6/10 – The Liberation Party has stressed the need for efforts during the forthcoming stage to block referendum on self-determination for southern Sudan which it described as "a crime intended to divide the country". "The people should be mobilized to revoke the right to self-determination," Party spokesperson Ibrahim Osman Abu Khalil told a press conference yesterday, adding their party is planning to launch a campaign across the country to collect a million signatures as part of efforts to halt referendum. He added that their party would also organize a sit-in strike in the heart of Khartoum in rejection of the exercise. Mr. Abu Khalil also called on the Sudanese armed forces and security to shoulder their responsibilities to keep the country united.

"Achievement of unity with the North is impossible" –Amum

Al-Rai Al-Aam 14/6/10 – SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum said he would embark on a

campaign within the Security Council to push for the conduct of the referendum on schedule and to ensure the recognition and the support of the SC members to an independent state. He said he would convey his movement's vision to the SC that achievement of unity with the North is impossible.

Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Atem Garang has dismissed claims that SPLM is pushing for separation. Mr. Atem, who was speaking to journalists yesterday, said Amum's speech to the SC would focus on the CPA and the obstacles facing its implementation.

Darfur rebels say supportive to Southern Sudan referendum

Sudan Tribune website 12/6/10 - The rebel Justice and Equality Movement reiterated its support to southern Sudan referendum saying it should be held as scheduled in January next year.

Ahmed Hussein Adam, spokesperson of the rebel group, said his movement reaffirmed its position in a meeting held in Berlin with Luka Biong Deng, former GoSS Presidential Affairs minister on the sidelines of the 15th International Berlin Gathering, an annual forum to debate on conflicts resolutions.

The meeting discussed the upcoming referendum and the resolution of Darfur conflict. "We believe that Khartoum government should refrain from seeking to spread chaos in southern Sudan in order to delay the referenda," Ahmed said from Berlin, referring to the rebellion of some former SPLA members after April elections.

He also stated that Luka Biong stressed the SPLM support to a peaceful settlement of the seven year conflict in Darfur region.

The rebel group released today a picture of a tank claiming it captured during the recent fighting in Darfur. The tank is one of two tanks captured after a battle against the Sudanese troops near Adeela Mountains near Muhajariyya, south Darfur. A third tank is destroyed, JEM said.

Ali Alwafi, JEM military spokesperson, said the seizure of the tank demonstrates that JEM keeps the military upper hand and Sudanese army soldiers are unwilling to fight for the government of the National Congress Party.

Editorial

Pagan's campaign in UNSC

Sudan Vision 13/6/10 - According to news articles, SPLM [Sudan People's Liberation Movement] Secretary-General Pagan Amum will lead a high official delegation from South Sudan to attend a session to be held in UN Security Council tomorrow to discuss the peace of Darfur and South Sudan referendum.

The purpose of SPLM officials attending the session is to have guarantees from the UN state members to recognize the new state of South Sudan and to help in conducting the referendum as scheduled.

Pagan stated in press statements that he will lead a campaign amongst the UNSC members to participate in the referendum conduction as scheduled in January 2011 along with guaranteeing their recognition of the new born state in south Sudan after the referendum results.

Pagan affirmed to newspapers that he will convey the view of the SPLM on the impossibility of

achieving unity with the North after the government failed to make unity attractive. However, it is the first time for the SPLM to announce its escalating its campaign inside the UNSC in referendum issue.

Pagan's statements are not new as he kept seizing any opportunity to affirm that secession is the only option for the South and that the train of unity has gone with the wind! What Pagan presents doesn't coincide with the official line declared by the SPLM leadership and doesn't express the views of the majority of South Sudan citizens.

It seems that we are in need to keep hammering on the benefits of the unity and the hazards of separation to confront the separatists' calls which harm the south as well as the north.

The constructive dialogue remains the best means through which we can reach an agreement to maintain the unity of Sudan.

It goes without saying that in today's world there became no place for tiny entities and that is very clear in Europe which headed towards unity despite the differences of its nations culturally and ethnics.

The people of our black continent are dreaming to have a united entity just like the one of European Union.

We need to remind Pagan that the voluntary unity will give no chance for the hostile plans against Sudan.

We need to remind Pagan that the insecurity and intertribal clashes besides the new rebellions amongst the SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] leaders represent great threat to the new born state if South Sudan separates.

By cessation Sudan as an entity will come to an end practically and the two neighbouring states will be an easy target and the situations in the two states will be open to all options including more splintering.

It is the duty of all Sudanese political forces in the government and the opposition, besides the organizations and Arab/African states to work for guaranteeing Sudan's unity through 2011 referendum.

Pagan's campaign for the Southerners is a historical fault and the Sudanese in North and South will pay a high price for that.

We see no justification for any Northerner or Southerner leader to campaign for secession unless he has a desire to hold a high position in the separated state.

It seems that Pagan is reading from an SPLM manifesto other than the one which spoke and preached about new united Sudan that the founder of the movement stressed on and fought until the CPA is reached.