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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Monitor

- Mission complete, says SSRC (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Al-Bashir may not seek new term in office – NCP youths (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- No happiness over secession – FVP Kiir (*Al-Sahafa*)
- CPA partners endorse border demarcation plan (*Al-Khartoum et al*)
- GoSS forms constitution review committee (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Central Bank to review post-July north-south trade policies (*Al-Sahafa et al*)
- NCP, Umma and DUP share same views on broad-based government – NCP (*Al-Sahafa et al*)
- Abyei should not be held in suspension – SPLM's Deng Alor (*The Citizen*)
- Vice-president, Islamic scholars review implementation of Shari'ah in Sudan (*SUNA*)
- Sudanese ruling party's future in south "uncertain" - official (*Radio Miraya*)
- Pro-south Sudan paper could be 'banned' from north (*AFP*)

Other Headlines

- President Al-Bashir hails Russia's support to Sudan (*Radio Omdurman*)
- Commissioner calls for disarmament of new police recruits (*Gurtong.org*)
- South Sudan draft land policy under consideration (*Sudantribune.com*)
- South Sudan: World Bank initiates new procurement tool (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Sudan urges international community to fulfil pledges on Darfur (*SUNA*)
- Sudan's foreign ministry criticizes South Darfur governor (*Sudantribune.com*)
- South Africa seeks to curtail Mbeki's flights to Sudan to contain costs (*Sudantribune.com*)

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Post-Referendum Monitor

Mission complete, says SSRC

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 20/02/11 – The head of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) says the Commission has concluded its basic tasks in the north and south of the country with the successful and peaceful conduct of the referendum.

Speaking to the press in Juba yesterday, Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil said that the SSRC may have a further role on the Abyei referendum. He expressed hopes that spirit of cooperation would continue between the north and south.

Al-Bashir may not seek new term in office – NCP youths

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 20/02/11 – “It is likely that President Al-Bashir may not seek a new term in office after his current term expires,” NCP Secretary for Youths Affairs, AbdulMoneim Al-Sunni, reveals.

He pointed out that the NCP youths’ office had proposed that party members above 60 and holding executive positions should step down from such positions and take over legislative and planning functions instead. He said Al-Bashir has promised to back their proposal that seeks to encourage youth participation in the executive organs of the party.

Al-Sunni denied speculation that the youths have called on Al-Bashir to step down as president pointing out that such a move would have stirred the wrath of the people of Sudan who voted for Al-Bashir.

No happiness over secession – FVP Kiir

Al-Sahafa Juba, 20/02/11 – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit says he would continue in power until his term runs out after four years but would sit with the political forces in the south in the interim. He has also ruled out possibilities for an extension of the Interim Period.

Speaking exclusively to *Al-Sahafa*, the GoSS president said that he does not feel elated by the fact the south is seceding from the north. “I bear no bitterness to the north despite the protracted war and feel no happiness over southern Sudanese secession. I have lost dear colleagues and could not dance for southern Sudanese secession until I manage to achieve something tangible for all those orphans and impoverished left behind,” he said.

Kiir vowed no return to war but accused the north of trying to draw the country back to war. He also blamed the north for obstructing agreement on Abyei.

He also revealed that the SPLM is preparing for talks with the political forces in southern Sudan on constitutional review and a number of other issues pertaining to the building of the new state.

Salva Kiir also called for an extended UNMIS presence in Abyei to “monitor the violation that may occur from both sides.”

CPA partners endorse border demarcation plan

Al-Khartoum et al Khartoum, 20/02/11 – The joint political committee of the NCP and SPLM meeting in Khartoum yesterday has endorsed a plan for the north-south border demarcation exercise to be carried out by the ad hoc technical committee.

National Security Advisor Salah Abdallah stated at a press briefing in Khartoum yesterday that

the exercise would begin on 27 March.

The meeting of the joint committee was co-chaired by Abdallah and SPLM's Pagan Amum.

GoSS forms constitution review committee

Al-Ayyam Juba, 20/02/11 – The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has revised the membership of the constitution review committee, GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar has revealed. The 31-member committee is made up of 12 representatives of the southern Sudanese political parties, 10 members from the SPLM, 6 representatives of civil society organisations and 3 religious figures and is charged with reviewing the constitution and the system of government for the new state-to-be in southern Sudan. The committee set to work immediately after appointment last Friday.

The VP also noted that the GoSS would seek to engage renegade General George Athor in dialogue once the security situation returns to calm and when he stops violating the cessation of hostilities agreement.

Central Bank to review post-July north-south trade policies

Al-Sahafa et al Kosti, 20/02/11 – A conference of branch managers of Central Bank of Sudan held in Kosti, White Nile State, yesterday noted that the creation of a new state in southern Sudan would mean that what was internal north-south trade in commodities would become external trade and would therefore require some policy changes.

White Nile State Governor Yousuf Shunbuli said that his state requires some capacity-building for central bank staff to enable them handle the challenges posed by an emerging state in the south. He said that these measures have to be taken before July this year.

Meanwhile the Governor of the Bank of Sudan, Sabir Mohamed Al-Hassan, underlined the need for concerted efforts between the central bank and White Nile State to open Sudan to Africa through the gateway of southern Sudan.

Participants underlined the need for the establishment of foreign currency outlets in all branches of the central bank in the state with the view that their activities would directly be linked to trade with the nascent southern Sudan state. They noted that the volume of commodities passing through the Kosti inland port to southern Sudan has increased by 400% in recent months.

NCP, Umma and DUP share same views on broad-based government – NCP

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 20/02/11 – The NCP point-man on external relations says his party and the National Umma and Democratic Unionist parties share similar views on the concept of a broad-based government that President Al-Bashir has called for of late. Mustafa Osman Ismail says the other parties see a “broad-based government” as an interim government followed by elections that would vote the NCP out of power.

In a related development, *Akhir Lahza* quotes Presidential Advisor Ibrahim Ahmed Omar as saying that the government welcomes all those political parties that want to participate in a broad-based government but would not discuss participation in government with parties that seek to topple the regime.

Abyei should not be held in suspension – SPLM's Deng Alor

The Citizen 20/02/11 – GoSS Minister for Regional Cooperation, Deng Alor, says relations between Sudan and the new state in the south would not be smooth if the problems of Abyei are

not put to rest. He accused the NCP of “refusing to resolve the Abyei issue for private reasons” and warned that the SPLM would not facilitate resolution of other post-referendum issues if the Abyei issue is not resolved before March this year.

Alor disclosed that they were fully satisfied with the outcome of the recent meetings of the United Nations Security Council, revealing that the Council would recognise the new state of southern Sudan on the 9th of July after which southern Sudan would become a member of the UN. He said they intended to sign a deal with the United Nations Security Council to extend the stay of UN forces in southern Sudan under a new mandate.

Vice-president, Islamic scholars review implementation of Shari'ah in Sudan

SUNA Khartoum, 19/02/11 – Vice-President Ali Osman Taha on Saturday [19 February] discussed with Muslim scholars issues related to the implementation of the Islamic shari'ah laws and the possibilities for applying Islamic norms on all issues related to governance.

In a statement following the meeting between the VP and Islamic scholars at the Council of Ministers on Saturday, the head of the League of the Islamic Scholars, Dr A'laa al-Din al-Zaki, underscored the necessity of advising government in all activities related to state performance.

Sudanese ruling party's future in south "uncertain" - official

Radio Miraya Juba, 19/02/11 – Agnes Lokudu, a prominent member of the NCP, says her party faces an uncertain future in southern Sudan. She pointed out that the same situation applies to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the north.

Agnes did not rule out the continuation of the NCP in the south if the SPLM agrees. She said the NCP southern members will hold discussions to determine the party's future in the region.

Pro-south Sudan paper could be 'banned' from north

AFP Khartoum, 19/02/11 - An English-language daily run by southern Sudanese living in Khartoum may be banished from north Sudan after the south secedes in July, its editor said on Saturday.

"We have not been told officially, but my staff say they have been told that they will not be allowed to operate in the north," said Alfred Taban, editor in chief of the *Khartoum Monitor*.

"Definitely we are concerned. We want to move to Juba eventually, but in our own time. At the moment there is no printing press in the south," he added.

Other Highlights

President Al-Bashir hails Russia's support to Sudan

Radio Omdurman Khartoum, 20/02/11 – President Al-Bashir has hailed Russia on its positions in support of Sudan and described as “special” the ties between the two countries.

In a meeting with the visiting Russian Special Envoy Mikhail Margelov, the two sides discussed economic cooperation and issues of mutual interest between them.

Speaking after the meeting, Margelov said that Sudan has turned into a model of stability within its Islamic, Arab and African surroundings. The Russian envoy lauded the successful conduct of

the Sudan referendum and the progress in the government's strategy for an end to the Darfur conflict.

In a related development, senior presidential aide Nafei Ali Nafei (NCP) told Russian special envoy to Sudan, Mikhail Margelov yesterday that northern Sudan is prepared to recognize and to immediately establish diplomatic ties with new state in southern Sudan.

Nafei lauded Russia's support to the Sudan government and said his country looks forward to stronger relations with Moscow. "We agreed on the need to work together to support efforts for stability in Sudan," Nafei told reporters yesterday.

The visiting special envoy said that the situation in Sudan is getting better and called on the international community to assist Sudanese to solve the problems of Darfur by themselves.

Commissioner calls for disarmament of new police recruits

Gurtong.org Juba, 18/02/11 - Residents of Juba County have complained of several cases of robberies by armed men in police uniform in recent days.

As a result of the reports, the Juba County Commissioner Peter Gore has called for the disarming of about 7,000 police recruits who graduated at the Rajaf Training Center in Juba last year and provided security during last month's Southern Sudan Referendum. He told the press in Juba on Friday that residents have accused the new recruits of abetting insecurity in the county.

"Residents have filed reports accusing the police of terrifying them during night hours. They have been accused of robbing people of money, mobile phones and other valuables in the night", the Commissioner said.

"It is however, unfortunate that after the successful conclusion of the referendum, insecurity has risen due to the widespread presence of firearms. Now that the referendum is over we need to collect all guns and store them for use by police officers on official duty", he said.

He urged the GoSS Ministry of Internal Affairs to disarm the officers or deploy them to the states, with a specific number remaining in Juba. He attributed the possible involvement of law enforcers in criminal activities to low morale due to their poor pay and delays in disbursement of their salaries.

During last month's announcement of final results of the Southern Sudan Referendum, the GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit ordered for a crackdown on perpetrators of insecurity in Juba and across South Sudan.

South Sudan draft land policy under consideration

Sudantribune.com Juba, 19/02/11 - The chairperson of the Southern Sudan Land Commission Robert Ladu Luki on Friday handed over the land draft policy to the GoSS Ministry of Legal Affairs for review.

Ladu told *Sudan Tribune* from Juba on Friday that the land policy was designed in regards to the new policy frame work and new guidelines that was developed with the African Union.

However, before the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, all land belonged to the government. But after the peace accord, which ended over two decades of North-South conflict, the southern government has looked to transfer land rights to the community.

Ladu explained that, the Southern Sudan Land Commission has drawn-up the policy after a series of consultations with relevant land experts, like the chiefs, local authorities, traditional

authorities and civil society groups and representatives from the ten states of South Sudan.

South Sudan: World Bank initiates new procurement tool

Sudantribune.com Juba, 19/02/11 - South Sudan plans to introduce a new method of procurement in the civil service, in the soon to be independent region, to address bottlenecks in the process.

The new tool, dubbed Procurement Value Chain Analysis (PVCA), was introduced at a one-day workshop by the World Bank 14 February, which was attended by 35 officials from the southern government.

During the workshop, held at the World Bank premises in Juba, the participants used the PVCA tool to detect the procurement constraints government officials usually experience while implementing the World Bank-administered Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Southern Sudan (MDTF-SS).

Sudan urges international community to fulfil pledges on Darfur

SUNA Nyala, 19/02/11 - The conference of the special envoys to Sudan and UNAMID was held today [19/02/11] in Nyala, South Darfur State, in the presence of the South Darfur State Governor Abdelhamid Musa Kasha

Governor Kasha reviewed his state's efforts to realize security and stability, expanding state sovereignty and civilian protection as well as support for voluntary returns and the rehabilitation of villages of returns.

He called on the international community to fulfill its pledges towards Darfur and to implement development projects.

The Governor lashed out at some organizations that overstepped their mandate and affirmed keenness of his state to cooperate with the UN agencies and other organizations operating in the area.

Sudan's foreign ministry criticizes South Darfur governor

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 19/02/11 - The governor of South Darfur Abdel-Hameed Kasha has acted in a manner that created a risk for Sudan in conducting its relations with the international community, the foreign ministry said today.

This week Kasha ordered the expulsion of Médecins du Monde (MDM), a French aid group, from the region accusing it of supporting rebels from the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) led by Abdel Wahid Al-Nur.

Last year Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir authorized state governors to evict any aid group that oversteps its mandate or show disrespect to the country's sovereignty.

Kasha said on Friday that he awaits no permission from the foreign ministry to act when the country's security is endangered. He stressed that the decision would not be reversed and that they will not ask for indulgence from other countries.

But foreign ministry's spokesperson Khalid Moussa suggested to reporters on Saturday in response to question about Kasha's remarks that national security is a collective responsibility of different government agencies.

The spokesman criticized the decisions taken by some states with respect to foreign affairs

without consulting and coordinating with the central government which causes "serious damage" to the interests of the country, and undermines long-term efforts of affirmative action in international relations.

Moussa stressed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the "first line of defense" for national security and will spare no effort to enlighten the various parties on the need to cooperate and coordinate in order to spare the country the negative effects of some of the decisions that are inconsistent with the state's efforts to improve foreign relations.

South Africa seeks to curtail Mbeki's flights to Sudan to contain costs

Sudantribune.com Washington, 19/02/11 - The government of South Africa has been picking the tab on flights made by former president Thabo Mbeki to Sudan, according to an internal memo revealed by Johannesburg-based *Sunday Times* newspaper.

In an internal presidency memo dated December 2010, director-general at the presidency Cassius Lubisi complained about the costs of transporting Mbeki to Sudan and suggested that the AU should fund his trips going forward.

"I will seek clarity on the responsibility of the AU in the funding of missions involving South African leaders," Lubisi said in the memo.

The report says that the planes used by Mbeki are part of his perks enjoyed as a former president but the costs have now surpassed those of President Jacob Zuma.

The trips made by Mbeki to Sudan has cost 20.5 million Rand (\$2.9 million) between April 2009 and October 2010.

The spokesperson for South Africa's department of defense Ndivuhuwo Mabaya said that Mbeki regularly used chartered flights for his trips to Sudan because of his entourage of about 15 people, which was sometimes beyond the capabilities of the air force's aircraft. In light of the costs, South Africa indicated that it would limit Mbeki's travels since it believed his mission in Sudan was almost completed.

The Darfur portion of Mbeki's work is nowhere near completion and in his report to the AU last November, he acknowledged that he has achieved little progress in helping resolve the eight-years conflict or implementing any of his recommendations.

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