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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

South Sudan's Kiir announces new cabinet

Sudan Tribune website 21/6/10 **Local dailies** 22/6/10 - GoSS President General Salva Kiir Mayardit has issued a presidential decree removing the caretaker ministers and reappointing them in the new government with some additional new faces.

On Monday Kiir issued the decree restructuring some ministries, upgrading some independent commissions and appointing 30 out of 32 ministers. Two ministers are yet to be nominated by the National Congress Party (NCP).

Among the new faces in the cabinet included Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), Pagan Amum Okiech and his deputy for Southern Sector, Dr. Anne Itto Leanardo.

Pagan Amum is appointed minister of the upgraded Peace Commission, now full ministry, with CPA Implementation added, to make it the ministry of Peace and CPA Implementation, which is also being handled at the ruling party's highest level. Dr. Itto is given the ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

Athor says his forces clash with SPLA forces, army spokesman denies it

Sudan Tribune website 21/6/10 – SPLM Spokesperson Maj. Gen. Kuol Deim Kuol has vehemently dismissed allegations suggesting another fresh clash between the SPLA forces and forces loyal to former SPLA General, George Athor Deng, who turned rebel after April elections.

Athor in an interview with Sudan Tribune on Monday said his forces clashed with SPLA forces on Sunday, describing it as one of the first deadly clashes ever occurred between his forces and the SPLA.

"Our forces yesterday at ten o'clock in the morning met with SPLA forces at reconnaissance site, south-west of Khorfulus town," he said, adding that they were engaged in what he described as fierce and a real fight twice.

He said that it was one of the first deadly clashes since he rebelled against the regional government, which he accused of votes rigging.

"This is the first time our forces recorded more than 5 casualties in one clash. We have lost eight people and left three others wounded. On their side, we have information that 85 were killed and 14 more were injured," he said, adding they have also captured more guns from the SPLA forces.

"Our forces have captured 24 Kalashnikovs and 5 hand grenades from the SPLA forces," he said. Athor also added that he expects more attacks from the SPLA against his forces.

Reacting to the interview the SPLA Spokesman, Maj. General Kuol Deim Kuol, SPLA described Athor's version of the story as mere and cheap propaganda that does not hold any truth. Kuol categorically denied knowing any fresh clash reported to have occurred between forces loyal to General Athor and SPLA.

"I am not aware of any fresh clash involving our forces against Athor again. All he is reporting are not correct. All he is reporting do not bear any single truth to publish them. They are all fabrications and white lies to suit his intention," he said. The SPLA spokesman however explained that the last fight between the SPLA forces and those of George Athor was on the 15th of this month.

Athor became the first political contender of the last April poll to stage armed protest, accusing the Southern Sudan ruling party of votes rigging. His rebellion prompted many Southern Sudanese intellectuals to describe it as unpatriotic decision driven by greed for power which destabilizes the region in the run up to the region's referendum on independence, scheduled for January 2011.

We still need Egypt's effective role towards the Sudanese issue – FM

Khartoum Monitor 22/6/10 Foreign affairs minister Ali Ahmed Karti yesterday reiterated call on Egypt to play a more effective role towards the Sudanese issue. Mr. Karti made the remarks after a meeting with Egyptian ambassador Afify Abdu which focused on bilateral relations between the two countries.

According to *Al-Khartoum*, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Muawia Khalid has denied that the call by the Ambassador was intended to get a clarification from Mr. Karti about his recent statements which were reportedly angered Egypt. Muawia said the Minister was misquoted, adding he only urged Egypt for a more effective and positive role towards the Sudanese issue.

No negligence on the arrest of Granville's killers – Government

The Sudan Vision 22/6/10 – Sudan Government has affirmed its commitment to apply the law and justice on anyone who commits a crime. Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Muawia Osman Khalid said that those who had killed US diplomat John Granville were a group of fugitive from justice who received maximum punishment according to the Sudanese Penal Code.

The US Government has demanded that Sudan Government speed up efforts to arrest the killers who escaped from prison two weeks ago.

Meanwhile, *local dailies* report that the Sudanese Government has stressed that justice would be done based on the Sudanese law and rejected the US Judiciary's intent to track down the escapees for trial on the US soil on charge of murder and link with terrorist organizations.

Aid organizations in Darfur call on Government to provide security

Al-Ayyam 22/6/10, **Miraya FM** 21/6/10 - Humanitarian aid organizations operating in Darfur called on the Sudanese government to provide protection on the roads leading to the internally displaced camps which had witnessed kidnapping of aid workers and looting of their vehicles.

This came in a meeting Sunday between Deputy UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Georg Charpentier and the governor of South Darfur State Abdel Hamid Musa Kasha.

The Governor held the organizations responsible for the attacks being carried on them due to lack of coordination with the local authorities.

Meanwhile, **Khartoum Monitor** 22/6/10 reports that OCHA has expressed optimism over the dialogue with the new state government in South Darfur. Resident Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Georg Charpentier and South Darfur state government Abdul-Hameed Musa Kasha on 20 June co-chaired a round-table discussion on strengthening state joint mechanisms in Nyala. The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration between the newly-elected state

government officials and the humanitarian community in South Darfur through the state Joint Committee and sub-committees on programmes. The meeting also discussed safety and security issues. "This meeting was a positive starting point for improvement of dialogue and cooperation on issues and challenges for the humanitarian community. I am pleased with the commitment expressed by the South Darfur state authorities in terms of working together on the implementation of these mechanisms," Mr. Charpentier reportedly said.

General Aturjong heeds calls seeking his return to SPLM after elections

Sudan Tribune website 21/6/10 - A former independent candidate, who contested for gubernatorial position in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state during the April elections, has expressed his willingness to return to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

General Dau Aturjong Nyuol, who went to the poll independently after failing to secure approval of his candidature by the party's Political Bureau, the highest political organ in the SPLM hierarchy, accepted calls on him to return to the Southern Sudan's ruling party.

This came following a meeting last week between him and the Southern Sudan President, General Salva Kiir Mayardit, who reiterated his call on him to forgive and return to the party.

Defense ministry reluctant to send choppers to Sudan

Mainichi Japan 18/6/10 - The Defense Ministry has found it difficult to dispatch Ground Self-Defense Force helicopters to Sudan for a UN peacekeeping mission in the southern part of the African country, a senior ministry official said Friday.

The ministry has already notified the Foreign Ministry and the Cabinet Office's Secretariat for the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters about it, according to the official.

A referendum on the right to self-determination for the people of Southern Sudan is to be held in the country next January, and it has been hoped that GSDF helicopters would be used to help transport ballot boxes under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Defense Ministry has found it unclear whether the country will be stable at the time of the dispatch and found that the helicopter operation would be costly, the official said.

But the Foreign Ministry remains willing to dispatch the aircraft to the African country as part of Japan's international contribution, leaving the government to make a final decision based on Defense Ministry reports.

The government sent a fact-finding mission to Sudan in May to study the feasibility of sending a GSDF helicopter unit. Upon the mission's return, the Defense Ministry came to the conclusion that while it would cost more than 10 billion yen to send large transport helicopters and troops to Sudan, the benefits of the undertaking would be limited, according to the official.

A civil conflict in Sudan that lasted more than two decades ended in 2005, and Japan has dispatched several GSDF members to the UN mission in Sudan, which is monitoring a cease-fire and assisting in peace-building in the country.

While calls for the right to self-determination are growing in southern Sudan, tension is rising between the north and south, partly because some in the central government in the north want the south, which has rights to oil resources, to remain part of the country.

The Self-Defense Forces has participated in several U.N. peacekeeping operations, including in

Cambodia, Mozambique, East Timor and Sudan, since a law was enacted in 1992 enabling troops to be dispatched to such overseas missions.

Cyprus halts ship loaded with tanks, explosives destined for Singapore, Sudan

AP 22/6/10 - A senior Cyprus customs official says authorities have barred an arms and explosives-laden ship from leaving the island until inspectors confirm the cargo doesn't breach a United Nations arms embargo on Darfur.

Demetrios Hadjicostis said on Tuesday that the cargo manifest on the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged cargo ship Santiago indicated that the explosives were destined for Sudan and the tanks for Singapore. He said the ship picked up the cargo in Germany and Spain.

The ship has been anchored off the east Mediterranean island's southern port of Limassol since June 11 when it was inspected after requesting refuelling. A UN arms embargo on Darfur has been in place since 2004.

Three peacekeepers killed in West Darfur - UNAMID

Sudan Tribune website 21/6/10 - The African Union – United Nations peacekeeping mission Monday lost more three Rwandan soldiers killed during an attack against its troops based in West Darfur, the UNAMID reported.

The three peacekeepers were in charge of the protection of civilian engineers building a UNAMID site near the village of Nertiti, in the Jebel Marra region when they "came suddenly under heavy gunfire at approximately from more than 20 assailants in camouflage battle dress".

The armed men wounded gravely a peacekeeper and stole a vehicle, the UNAMID said. In a bid to stop the growing violence against its members, the UNAMID chief, Ibrahim Gambari instructed his troops to vigorously repel any attack.

UNAMID condemned the assault and urged "all parties" to ensure the safety of its members in the restive region. It also reminded that any attack against peacekeepers is considered a war crime.

Pre-referendum Watch

SPLM contravening CPA by promoting secession - NCP

Al-Khartoum 22/6/10 – The ruling NCP said that SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum has contravened the CPA by promoting secession during his recent visit to the US. Amum reportedly said the SPLM received assurances from US officials and several Security Council members for prompt recognition of South Sudan independence should the southern Sudanese choose separation during the upcoming referendum. The NCP has described Amum's statement as preemptive and contravenes the constitution.

According to **Al-Akhbar**, NCP official Riek Gai Cok told reporters at the Parliament yesterday that the SPLM attempt to mobilize foreign support for referendum will be of no use because referendum concerns all southerners and SPLM Secretary General Amum does not represent all southerners.

UK earmarks \$100 million dollars for Southern Sudan referendum

Sudan Tribune website 21/6/10 - The United Kingdom has earmarked \$100 million US dollars for the conduct of the upcoming referendum in Southern Sudan. The money will be availed through the British International Foreign Development organization that will be based in Juba.

This was revealed in a meeting between the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, and the visiting delegation from the United Kingdom led by the British Ambassador to Sudan, Nicholas Kay.

The meeting discussed the general role the British government can play in supporting the process of the referendum. It will also provide expertise and assist in the civic education among the population in Southern Sudan prior to the conduct of the referendum.

Ambassador Kay stressed the importance of making the referendum a success, adding that it was to avoid repeating mistakes committed during the recent elections.

Vice President Machar had earlier stressed the importance of revealing specific assistance budgets by international community partners so that the government prepares accordingly.

He briefed the UK top diplomat in the country on the formation by the Government of Southern Sudan of an oversight Referendum Task Force under his chairmanship to assist the would-be formed technical Southern Sudan Referendum Commission in preparing the ground in Southern Sudan for the conduct of the referendum.

He further explained that the Task Force will be composed of three main sub-committees. These will include the Committee on the conduct of the referendum to sensitize the people of Southern Sudan and mobilize them to vote, among others.

The second sub-committee will focus on the negotiations on the post-referendum issues such as oil, waters, assets, liabilities, security, international agreements, citizenship, etc.

The third sub-committee, he further explained, will focus on preparing the Government of Southern Sudan for the post-2011 governance in Southern Sudan in case of secession.

Dr. Machar further explained that this will include addressing the issues of governance, particularly on decentralization including the review of the Southern Sudan interim constitution in case of the South becoming an independent country.

He earlier said if the vote results in unity of the Sudan, structuring of the Sudanese state on secular basis to reflect on its diversity, including eradication of the Islamic Sharia law, would also be discussed by his referendum Task Force.