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Media Monitoring Report

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Referendum Watch

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Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

Highlights

Polling results in northern states to be released on 2 February

Al-Rai Al-Aam 24/1/11 – The SSRC is to hold a plenary meeting today to discuss progress of the process.

SSRC Spokesperson Ms Sua'd Eissa said preliminary results of polling in southern states would be released on 30 January and results in northern states would be announced on 2 February.

She added that if there are no appeals the results released on 30 January and 2 February would be considered the final results.

Meanwhile, *Al-Wifaq* 24/1/11 reports SSRC Spokesperson George Maker as saying that 99% of registered voters in the South voted in favour of secession, according to preliminary results of polling. He said currently they are at the stage of data entry for some centres in the South, pointing out that the process would not take long time.

With all the votes in the North and Diaspora counted as well as 98.7% of the votes cast in South Sudan, provisional and incomplete results indicate that 98.81% are in favour of an independent South Sudan, according to the *Citizen* 24/1/11.

SSRC acknowledges 10 Counties in the South had more votes than voters

Sudan Tribune.com 23/1/11 - The South Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) on Sunday admitted that vote count revealed some parts of the semi-autonomous region had a voter turnout that exceeded 100% of the registered voters.

An analysis done by *Associated Press* (AP) showed several of these cases occurring in 10 of the south's 79 counties using information available on SSRC's website.

In Jonglei state's Bor County, the number of votes cast exceeded the number of registered voters by 720, AP said.

International observers who monitored the vote which concluded last week said the process was credible.

Justice Chan Reec Madut, who heads the southern bureau of the SSRC, said results from stations that recorded more than 105 percent turnout would be quarantined.

But Madut said that even if the commission throws out votes from counties where over-votes were recorded, "the trend is clear," meaning that the south has voted for secession.

The SSRC official said investigations into the quarantined results from 33 polling stations are underway. There were more than 2,600 polling stations across Sudan.

"There will be no problem I think, [but] we want to do work that satisfies our own conscience,"

Madut said.

The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) despite earlier threats that only a transparent and credible voting will get their recognition, decided this week that they will not object to the outcome after reviewing the process.

SSRC was working under a very tight timeline because of delay in adopting referendum law and later because of disagreement between North and South on the commission's composition.

Group discourages prediction of referendum results

Gurtong.org Juba, 23/01/11 - Leaders and activists in the Sudan have been urged to avoid prediction of the Southern Sudan Referendum results and urged, instead, to maintain calm until the final results are announced by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC).

A non-governmental organisation, the Sudan Network for Democratic Elections (SuNDE) has also called upon South Sudanese to remain patient even as preliminary results trickle in from across the semi-autonomous region and the Diaspora.

“The Commission is the final body mandated by the Southern Sudan Referendum Act 2009 to declare the results. Leaders from both the South and North should refrain from the use of inflammatory statements which could raise tensions or fears among the public during the tabulation of results and after the results have been announced”, SuNDE chairperson Lorny Ruot told the press in Juba.

SuNDE deployed 3,244 Observers in 1,622 referendum centers in all the 25 states of Sudan right from registration to the conclusion of the polling last week.

Among some of its findings were that there was lack of clarification on eligibility requirements, which raised concerns among stakeholders that eligible voters would be denied registration and eventual voting.

It also found out that the SSRC consistently released official rules and procedures late during the referendum process, which it said hindered the ability of groups wishing to observe the process to properly plan their observation activities, including training of observers.

SuNDE Coordinator Edmond Yakani said some observers faced hostility from referendum officials and voters who viewed them as political party agents.

Overall, the organisation said the voter registration was conducted in a free and fair environment.

The chairperson of the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau Justice Chan Reec Madut has announced that the provisional results of the referendum in the south will be announced on the 30th January.

Warrap says it cannot control celebrations for secession

Sudantribune.com 23/01/11 - Authorities from Warrap in southern Sudan said Sunday they cannot control individuals celebrating local referendum vote results if secession is confirmed.

"No official ceremony has been organized by the state but we have heard and witnessed it in our constituencies celebrations organized by individuals after the local results were announced at

individual polling centres. There were individual celebrations which we could not control because their rights to celebrate outcome of their choice. It is not a crime since there is no law which prohibits peaceful celebrations," explained state Deputy Governor Yel Mayar.

Mayar was one of the first senior officials in the state to approve results describing them as "great and encouraging" in an interview with Sudantribune.com on Friday.

He said he was among the first to vote. "This is what everybody who wants to hear. These results represent exactly the will of our people. It is now clear to the international community that this is what the south has been fighting for all these decades" he said.

In Twic County, Warrap State, Colonel Dominic Deng Kuoc Malek told Sudantribune.com last week they were increasing the number of security personnel in the area.

Group block road in Abyei

Al-Ayyam 24/1/11 – Traffic in the Abyei territory was brought to a halt after a group suspected to be Misseriya members blocked the main road leading to north of the territory. Abyei Administration official said closure of the road would worsen living conditions of over 30,000 residents.

Abyei Administration Officer in charge of infrastructure Kuol Manit said obstruction of traffic would negatively affect lives of residents in the Area.

The Misseriya tribe, whose members are suspected of having blocked the road, told *Al-Shurooq TV* that its historic rights have been ignored by the NCP and the SPLM.

Kiir will lose his post after secession – NCP

Al-Intibaha 24/1/11 – NCP political mobilization secretary Haj Majid Siwar told reporters yesterday that southerners would lose their jobs if the vote result confirms secession. He said that all the South-related provisions in the CPA would automatically repeal and that the Presidency, particularly the post of the first vice president, would also be affected.

Meanwhile, National Assembly Deputy Speaker (SPLM) Atem Garang said continuation of service of southern Sudanese including ministers, MPs and holders of constitutional posts would be inappropriate after secession, according to *Al-Tayyar* 24/1/11. He said they had better begin to adjust and push for settlement of their entitlements including southern employees of the private and public sectors.

Southern Sudanese reportedly burn southerners returning north

Akhbar Al-Youm Khartoum, 24/01/11 – The paper reports that a "kind citizen" described as a truck driver walked into its offices late in the evening of last Saturday with a video recording from a cell-phone with pictures that he claimed were southern Sudanese burning fellow southerners who were coming back to the north. He claimed that the video recording was given to him by someone who claimed to be an officer in the SPLA. The SPLA soldier reportedly told him that southerners who thought to return north would face the same fate. The SPLA soldier, the truck driver said, said that the video was taken somewhere near Mayom in Unity State and was of southerners who were trying to return to the North after casting their votes at the referendum.

The video showed a couple of people being burnt and beaten by others in the presence of onlookers.

Asked to comment on the video currently in circulation over the internet, Federal Minister for Cabinet Affairs Luka Biong said he does not rule out a fabrication. He said that Sudanese are never known to carry out such acts and it may be an attempt by some people for some ulterior motive. He pointed out however that investigations would be carried out and, if found to be true, the culprits would be brought to justice. He pointed out that the Government of Southern Sudan and the SPLM strongly condemn such inhuman acts.

GoSS Information Minister Barnaba Marial said that the videos could have taken place anywhere and is being posted to cause frictions between the north and south of the country.

NCP draws timetable for talks with political parties

Al-Khartoum Khartoum, 24/01/11 – The NCP says it would unveil next Wednesday a timetable for forthcoming talks it intends to hold with opposition parties.

Federal Minister of Information and prominent NCP figure, Kamal Obeid, told the press following a meeting of the party's Political Bureau yesterday that the meeting discussed, among other issues, the need to continue discussions on a number of important proposals on pertinent issues in the current political landscape.

Umma's Al-Mahdi to meet angry opposition allies

Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 24/01/11 – National Umma Party leader Sadig Al-Mahdi has called for an emergency meeting to brief his allies in the opposition of his recent meeting with NCP's Chair and President of the Republic Omer Al-Bashir.

The opposition has expressed anger over the development describing the meeting as a violation of earlier agreements between them not to hold bilateral talks with the government.

The Popular Congress Party (PCP) has been more vocal in venting its disapproval of the meeting with party Assistant Secretary-General Ibrahim Al-Sanoosi pointing out that the NCP sought to make break into the opposition through such overtures. He said that each of the opposition parties have to let the other parties into what agenda they sought to discuss with the government and the NCP in such bilateral talks beforehand.

NCP has requested an extension of the Interim Period –Luka Biong

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 24/01/11 – SPLM's Luka Biong says the NCP has requested an extension of the Interim Period beyond the 9th July 2011 date stipulated in the CPA. He described this as a contradiction to the NCP position.

Luka Biong who is also the Federal Minister for Cabinet Affairs further pointed out that "spontaneous unilateral decisions" by the north like the one currently being mulled of relieving southern Sudanese of their duties in the federal government in the event the referendum results is separation would only spur the south to take countermeasures which may not be acceptable in the north. For instance, he pointed out, instead of allowing the north to benefit from its share in the oil revenue up to 9th July, the GoSS may decide to deny it the approximately \$5.2 billion in

oil revenue from March to July this year should steps be taken to relieve southern Sudanese from the federal government before the end of their term in office.

SAF says in full control over Darfur

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 24/01/11 – SAF Spokesperson Al-Suwarni Khaled said UN forces are deployed in the country only to monitor the implementation of the CPA until the end of their mandate on 9th July 2011 as per the peace agreement. He said the possibility of an extension of their presence after the Interim Period is out of the question.

He pointed out that it depends on the government of the south to decide whether or not it needs their presence on its territory should the UNSC decide an extension of its mission's mandate in the south after secession. In the north, he pointed out, the troops would continue to exist until 9 July only or if a new agreement is signed between the government in the North and the UN. "But until now, there is no need for such an agreement," he said.

Khaled also said that the SAF has knocked out the Darfur armed groups out of their "so-called Liberated Territories" and now has full control of the region. He pointed out that the SAF is currently combing the region of remnants of these rebel groups, most of whom have fled south of the 1.1.56 line. He also said that the SAF engaged in battle three days ago with a group of SLA-backed JEM forces.

Sudanese authorities conduct raid on Darfur IDP camp

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 23/01/11 - The joint African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) said today that Sudanese authorities conducted a raid on a camp housing Internally Displaced People (IDP) to search for weapons and other illegal items.

UNAMID said that the raid on Zamzam camp, located on the outskirts of North Darfur capital, violated the Status of Force Agreement (SOFA) requiring notification and consultations prior to any actions regarding IDP camps.

Because of this incident "the senior leadership of the Mission urgently contacted Government security officials and the Wali [Governor] of North Darfur to address the matter".

The peacekeeping force said that the authorities informed them of their plans only "three hours after they were set in motion".

The statement by UNAMID said that parts of the camp were cordoned off starting at 6 am by a combined Sudanese Military/Police force in as many as 100 vehicles.

UNAMID chief Ibrahim Gambari called on the authorities "to act with the utmost restraint, particularly with regard to the use of force, and ensure that no one is harmed".

An unnamed official in North Darfur told SMC that the camp was a base for the Sudan Liberation Army faction led by Minni Minnawi which imposed levies and established in-house courts to prosecute cases based on personal differences and tribal considerations.

He further said that a display would be erected in El-Fasher on Monday to show the items seized from the camp.

Critics, IDP's and rebel groups say that UNAMID has been practically unable to carry out their mandate effectively for being in constant fear of angering Khartoum. This month a coalition of human rights and advocacy groups urged the UN Security Council to insist on regular public reports on the humanitarian and human rights situation in Darfur to monitor the situation on the ground adequately.

The groups said that the UN human rights office has not issued public reports on human rights issues in Darfur for two years and that the UN humanitarian coordination office stopped publishing humanitarian needs profiles for Darfur in late 2009.

Popular Consultation Monitor

26,800 people take part in PopCon in the Blue Nile state

Al-Intibaha 24/1/11 – The number of the people who have so far participated in the ongoing Popular Consultation (PopCon) in the Blue Nile state reached 26,800 participants in 58 centres. PopCon Parliamentary Commission Chair Prof. Al-Amin Dafallah who visited the Commission HQs in the Blue Nile praised the smooth conduct of the process.

Popular consultation in Blue Nile State reveals calls for autonomy

Sudan Tribune.com 23/1/11 - The process of PopCon in Sudan's north-south border state of Blue Nile has entered its ninth day amid reports of public dissatisfaction and calls to accord the area autonomous rule inside north Sudan, heightening fears that Sudan could see future breakaways following the near-certain secession of south Sudan.

However, the process does not entail any right to self-determination to the two areas which will remain inside north Sudan, unlike south Sudan which is set to gain full independence as a result of a referendum vote that took place between 9 and 15 January.

Malik Aggar, the Blue Nile governor and a senior member of the SPLM, which controls south Sudan, has listed the choice of autonomous rule in the confidential ballot paper which he cast on Saturday at a polling station in his hometown in Bau locality, Sudan Tribune has learned.

The process is taking place at 46 polling centers and is organized by an Assessment and Evaluation Commission formed by the state's legislative assembly in which the majority of seats are held by the National Congress Party who govern north Sudan.

As stipulated in the CPA, the commission will submit its report to the federal government, which in turn will form another committee to conduct similar consultations in the two areas.

In light of the two reports, the federal government will decide whether or not there are any shortcomings in the deal to be rectified.

Meanwhile, a local official has reported that the vote is enjoying a high-turnout by local citizens who expressed dissatisfactions with the CPA.

Mamoun Hamad, an SPLM MP in the Blue Nile's Legislative Council, told reporters on

Saturday that the polling stations were witnessing high turnout amid the presence of the consultation commission members and international observers.

According to Hamad, the majority of citizens had said that the CPA failed to fulfill their aspiration.

He also claimed that military had recently amassed 2,000 soldiers in the state.

Other Highlights

NCP stormy meeting turned into a fight in the Red Sea state

Al-Sahafa 24/1/11 – A meeting of the NCP leaders in the Red Sea state yesterday turned into a fight in which participants have thrown chairs at each other. The problem started when NCP deputy chairman in the state Ahmed Tahir Hussein expelled some party leaders from the meeting after they had accused him of being behind the call for self-determination for the region. The meeting broke down after the clash amongst the party leaders.

NCP leading figure who is also an official of the DDR Commission Ahmed Tahir Jaish has called on the federal government to intervene, saying Hussein is inciting tribes in the area to demand self-determination for the region.

Reportedly, the meeting was attended by more than 50 NCP members from the region and the purpose of the meeting was to discuss marginalization of the eastern Sudan and the need to unite the region.

PDF combatants head for Darfur

Al-Sudani Khartoum, 24/01/11 – The Popular Defence Forces (PDF) are amassing to head to Darfur. The PDF announced the arrival of battalions of fighters to the area to block Darfur armed groups returning north after having been expelled by authorities in the south.

High ranking PDF sources have revealed that the PDF combatants' main task would be to secure return routes and areas of returns for voluntary returnees to Darfur.

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Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200