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Media Monitoring Report

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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

“We did not agree on cessation of hostilities in S. Kordofan” – Nafie

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 30/6/11 – presidential aide and deputy chairman of the ruling NCP Nafie Ali Nafie, speaking to reporters yesterday upon return from Ethiopia, dismissed news of conclusion of an agreement between the NCP and SPLM (North) on cessation of hostilities in southern Kordofan, saying the issue would be further discussed by a security committee.

However, he said, an agreement was reached to allow northerners in the South and southerners in the North nine months to adjust their status.

Nafie also said that a buffer zone between the North and the South would be created based on 1956's border with a limited civilian monitoring.

He said the issue of the demarcation of the border had not been resolved yet and the two parties also reached no agreement on the economic issues but they would be discussed in the first week of July.

"We have agreed, in principle, on establishment of a buffer zone around the 1956 border line and at a distance of 10 kilometers north and 10 kilometers south," he said, according to *Xinhua* 29/6/11.

"This buffer zone will be under a limited civil supervision and guarding groups at a number of points in north and south Sudan. We have agreed that the guarding groups would be from Ethiopian troops," he added.

Ban welcomes accord on Sudan's Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states

UN News center, 29/06/11 - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today welcomed the agreement reached between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM on political and security arrangements for Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan, two states along the country's north-south border.

"The Secretary-General commends both parties for the political will they have demonstrated in reaching the agreement," his spokesperson said in a statement.

Under the Framework Agreement, signed yesterday in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, the parties will form a Joint Political Committee to address all relevant issues related to Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, both of which were supposed to hold popular consultations on their future in accordance with the CPA.

The statement adds that the two sides should begin working on a ceasefire and allow humanitarian access into Southern Kordofan, where at least 73,000 people are estimated to have been displaced in recent weeks due to fighting between northern and southern forces.

Mr. Ban urged the parties to use the momentum created to conclude a cessation of hostilities in Southern Kordofan without delay, according to the statement.

“The Secretary-General calls on the parties to ensure the protection of vulnerable civilians and full humanitarian access to those in need in Southern Kordofan,” it adds.

1300 Ethiopian soldiers to deploy in Abyei – Ministry

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 30/6/11 – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs revealed that an Ethiopian force of 1300 personnel would be deployed in Abyei in the first phase and SAF would withdraw simultaneously.

Foreign Office spokesperson Al-Obeid Murawah, speaking to reporters yesterday, ruled out any future clash between SAF and the Ethiopian force, hoping that the deployment of an Ethiopian force would bolster relations between Sudan, Ethiopia and the new state in the South.

Meanwhile, *Al-Intibaha* 30/6/11 reports that commander of the Ethiopian force arrived yesterday in Abyei, accompanied by a military committee from SAF and SPLA. Sources said the visit was intended to prepare for the deployment of the Ethiopian force.

Taha, Kiir agree to develop South-North relations

Local dailies 30/6/11 – FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit and VP Ali Osman Taha have stressed the need for maintaining strong relations between the North and South.

Kiir said the South would seek to maintain diplomatic, political and social relations with the North. Kiir and Taha made their remarks after a meeting in Equatorial Guinea where they are attending AU summit.

Mbeki says Nuba fighters to join Sudan army

The Citizen 30/6/11 – AUHIP Chair Thabo Mbeki said yesterday in Addis Ababa that northern and southern officials reached a deal regarding the fate of Nuba fighters and other who fought with the southern army.

Mbeki said the two sides agreed that the former rebel combatants would be integrated over a period of time into units of SAF.

South to mobilize \$500 b for infrastructure development - Machar

Sudan Tribune 29/6/11 - The soon to be independent oil rich state of South Sudan will mobilize 500 billion dollars' worth of investment for infrastructure development in the next five years, says the region's Vice President, Riek Machar Teny.

In a press briefing on Wednesday shortly after his return to Juba from his three weeks visit to the United States of America during which he mobilized for support for the new independent state, Machar said he participated in the UN's special session of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on South Sudan in New York.

"The main objective in the ECOSOC is to mobilize the world to support South Sudan and Sudan in different areas such as infrastructures, agriculture, rule of law and good governance etc.," he stated in a one page press briefing document seen by the Sudan Tribune.

Machar said after independence the focus will shift to attracting investments in the new nation. He said he met with a number of key investors during his visit in the US who expressed interest to invest in the region after independence.

"With these visits and many more to come, the focus will be to attract investors to come and invest in South Sudan and we want to build South Sudan to be the best in the region and the world," he said.

The Vice President expressed optimism that South Sudan would become the "hub" of Africa, adding the nation is also geographically the center of the continent. "70 kilometers away from Juba in Tali, Central Equatoria, this is where the center of Africa is. We will build an airport in South Sudan where South Sudan can be the hub of the African Countries and the world just like Dubai and Singapore."

"We will raise 500 billion dollars from private investments in the next 5 years to build this nation to catch up with the rest of the world in infrastructure development. There is no reason why we should not be the best of the best in the region and the world. We have resources and we will utilize the resources to benefit our nation," he further assured.

He described his visit to the US as success during which he held several meetings with officials of the US administration, Congress and the United Nations on issues pertaining to the emerging new nation, the Abyei crisis and the fighting in Nuba Mountains in addition to Blue Nile.

"The conclusion of my visit to USA was a success. Both the Congressional and U.S Government officials expressed their support to the new state and to make this state viable and support it in all areas."

He said he also discussed with the US Congress the need to lift sanctions imposed on Khartoum, particularly on oil sector, arguing that the continuity of the sanctions will not only harm North Sudan but also affect the new state of South Sudan which depends on oil facilities from the North such as the pipelines and refineries as well as the export terminal.

While in New York I had meetings with UN SG Ban Ki Moon, UN President of the General Assembly Amb. Joseph Deiss, UNSC Permanent members (USA, U.K. France, China and Russia), the President of the UNSC and some UNSC non-permanent members," he added.

He further added that he also met with senior officials of the United Arab Emirates in Dubai and agreed that a conference for South Sudan on trade and investment will be conducted in October this year in Dubai. Machar who described Dubai as "an outreach" to other Arab nations added that the conference would also be sponsored by the United Arab Emirates.

"This will be an opportunity for all the Gulf and Arab states to come together and support the new state economically," he said.

The Vice President further revealed that South Sudan will open an embassy in Dubai soon after independence to deal with issues on trade and investment.

South Sudan calls on US to lift sanctions

Reuters, 29/06/11 - South Sudan urged the United States on Wednesday to lift sanctions on Sudan ahead of the southern region's independence on July 9 to avoid hitting the new nation's oil-based economy.

"We rely in southern Sudan on oil revenues, and... according to the American sanctions on the whole of Sudan, oil is a sanctioned commodity," southern Vice President Riek Machar said after returning home from a visit to the United States.

"We lobbied that this time it is necessary that the sanctions on the whole of Sudan be reviewed and actually, preferably, lifted," he told reporters at the airport of the southern capital Juba.

South Sudan denies banning circulation of newspapers from North Sudan

Sudan Tribune 29/6/11 - The Government of South Sudan (GoSS) on Wednesday denied media reports and allegations claiming that some newspapers from North Sudan have been banned in Juba, the regional capital.

This comes following report by the Khartoum-based *Sudan Vision* newspaper, alleging that the paper was seized in Juba by airport authorities.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune in an interview on Wednesday, Baranaba Marial Benjamin, minister of information and broadcasting service in GoSS said his government encourages all freedoms including press and that it would not compromise its obligations.

"The Government of South Sudan has principles and obligations which do not compromise all freedoms including press. All these freedoms are clearly stipulated in the interim constitution of South Sudan", said Marial. The official who holds additional post as GoSS spokesperson said the newspapers from North Sudan are circulating in Juba and elsewhere in South Sudan.

"It is not correct that all newspapers from the North have been banned from circulating in the South. The newspapers from the North are actually the ones circulating in abundance in Juba", said Marial.

Atem Biar Chol, a member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in a separate interview in Juba on Wednesday said that GoSS does not interfere in the media affairs the way the government in Khartoum does.

"If there is somewhere media enjoy all freedom in Sudan, it is South Sudan. The Government of South Sudan does not interfere in the media affairs. The media alone can attest to what I am saying. They are not experiencing what is done in the North", said Chol.

He went on to accuse the North Sudan state-owned media of acting as a government mouth piece and said he was saddened by its continued lies against the people and Government of South Sudan.

"The media in the North are controlled, they cannot get away with the kind of journalism that they are practising, where they even forget the basic practices in journalism, such as getting the views from the other side in order to come up with a balanced story. What we are witnessing

now is appalling and if not checked will lead to loss of public confidence in the media,” he said.

He urged the media to reassess themselves and begin to set the agenda for political discourse and promote healthy debate among stakeholders instead of carrying hate speech and articles, which were only aimed at destroying organisations, political parties and the religious groups.

Chol said while the North Sudanese state-owned media know the facts about disadvantaged Sudanese people, they chose to ignore the truth and instead go with their own fabrications.

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