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Highlights

Sudan's Bashir dissolves cabinet as talks continue for new government

Sudan Tribune website 30/5/10 - President Omer Al-Bashir dissolved today the government of national unity as discussion for the formation of a new cabinet with the southern Sudan ruling party are still continuing.

Al-Bashir on Sunday announced the end of appointment of Senior Presidential Assistant, Presidential Assistant, advisers, ministers and state ministers.

The Sudanese President appointed under-secretaries and secretaries-general to manage the functions of national ministries as caretakers, said a statement read by Omer Mohamed Saleh the spokesperson of the Council of Ministers.

The president also maintained the ministers of the presidential affairs, Bakri Hassan Saleh, and defense minister Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein and the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Kamal Abdellatif, in their posts until the formation of the new government within a week.

Bashir reaffirmed his commitment to form a broad-based government to fulfill the pledged he made in his electoral programme.

On Saturday the Sudanese Presidency held a meeting chaired by President Al-Bashir and attended by his two deputies Salva Kiir Maydrit and Ali Osman Mohamed Taha to discuss the formation of the new government.

The meeting endorsed an agreement on the programme of the coming government and its formation prepared by a joint committee of the NCP and the SPLM.

According to the deal the southern Sudan ruling party will be allocated 30 percent of the ministerial posts.

SPLM leading member Yasir Arman told Sudan Tribune that the discussions are going on between the two peace partners on the composition of the new cabinet.

However up to now his party obtained eight ministers and 10 state ministers in the new federal government. But he further said they demand 11 ministers as the total of the ministerial portfolios is 35 ministries.

"The SPLM will conserve all the ministries it had during the national unity government," Yasir said adding "the NCP wants the foreign ministry and in such a case we are ready to exchange it with the ministry of energy," he stressed.

He also underlined that under the new government the attributions of the ministry of energy are divided between three ministries: oil, electricity and mining.

Arman said that the SPLM ministers during the interim period were without effective powers stressing they want guarantees to ensure a genuine participation in the new government and not repeat the past experience.

Speaking about the programme of the forthcoming government, Arman said they want it to focus mainly on the implementation of the remaining issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the resolution of Darfur conflict and the democratic transition.

The NCP, on the other side, want it to focus on a void propaganda for the unity of Sudan, he added.

"The old unity died and is over. If the NCP wants to unite the Sudan they must work with us to establish this unity new bases and Khartoum ought to change its policies," he concluded.

Resolving humanitarian crisis requires funding, peace pact - UN official

UN News 30/5/10 - 30 May 2010 – Funding in Southern Sudan and a peace agreement in Darfur are key ingredients for resolving the humanitarian crisis in the two regions, a senior United Nations official said today, wrapping up a four-day visit to Sudan.

The UN and its aid partners have appealed for \$1.9 billion for this year for the country, making it the largest humanitarian operation in the world.

Food insecurity and rising malnutrition caused by poor rains and crop failures, along with higher food prices, are among the factors which have led to a new humanitarian crisis in Southern Sudan, said Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes.

As many as 1.5 million people in the region face severe food insecurity, while tribal violence has so far claimed 700 lives and uprooted 90,000 people. Continued attacks by the notorious Ugandan rebel group known as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has also contributed to insecurity, displacement and deaths.

"All this adds up to a very worrying situation against the background of high poverty and poor human development indicators in a number of areas, as well as the political uncertainties ahead of the 2011 referendum," Mr. Holmes said.

Southern Sudan will vote on independence early next year as part of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended two decades of civil war with the northern-based national Government.

Just over one quarter of the \$531 million requested for humanitarian assistance for Southern Sudan has been received so far, Mr. Holmes noted, with efforts to pre-position essential stocks before the rainy season hindered by transport and logistical constraints. He welcomed the \$35 million contribution made by the Government of Southern Sudan to tackle food insecurity.

On Darfur, the official said that little has changed since his last visit to the war-ravaged region last year, shortly after Khartoum expelled over a dozen aid agencies following the issuance of an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

While major gaps in response have been filled, quality and capacity remain below previous levels in some areas, according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Bureaucratic impediments and insecurity are impeding the ability to help those in need, as exemplified by recent fighting between the Government and rebels, inter-tribal conflict and the unresolved abduction of a staff member from the United States working for a non-governmental organization (NGO).

Seven years of war between military forces and rebel groups in Darfur have killed some 300,000 people and driven 2.7 million more from their homes.

“We desperately need to see a proper ceasefire in Darfur and a definitive political settlement, so we can move away from a focus on humanitarian aid and towards the recovery, reconstruction and development the region so badly requires,” Mr. Holmes said. “In the meantime, we will continue to work as closely as we can with the Government to address the problems and to make sure as fully as we can that humanitarian needs are met.”

The official's visit to Sudan, his fifth since 2007, took him to Southern Sudan and Darfur, wrapping up today in Khartoum, where he met with Government, UN and NGO representatives.

8 people killed during clashes in Lakes state

Sudan Tribune website 30/5/10 — Eight people were killed and 27 were wounded in the Abiriu Payam region of Cueibet Country of Lakes State following Saturday's clashes between two SPLA platoons and armed civilians.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune, Major General Kuol Diem Kuol, the SPLA official spokesperson, confirmed that three SPLA soldiers were killed and seven sustained injuries. He also added that 20 armed civilians have sustained injuries and five were killed by SPLA soldiers.

In an attempt to explain the cause of this clash, Kuol said that "there was a conflict between people in Rumbek and people in Cueibet over cattle raids, and in that case, there were allegations of attacks and Abiriu Payam was suspected to be the centre for clashes and the police presence there was very small - so, yesterday the commissioner of Cueibet county requested the SPLA 's intervention , when the people of Abiriu saw the SPLA stepping down from their trucks, they immediately opened fire killing one SPLA officer on the spot – so the SPLA fired and killed five armed civilians ,injured 20 civilians and seized 11 guns belonging to armed civilians."

The commissioner of Cueibet County John Madhang Majok couldn't provide a comment since his phone was out of service.

However, Major Diem appeals to the Abiriu people by saying that "I appeal to the people of Abiriu, the SPLA is an army and it came directly to you in your payam to maintain peace and ensure that civilians keep themselves on cultivation garden instead of confrontation."

Abirui Payam in Rumbek East County of Lakes state has been the scene of clashes between the SPLA forces and armed civilians since the peace agreement was signed – a significant number from the civilian population and the SPLA forces were killed.

SPLA officer defects, joins Athor

Al-Rai Al-Aam 31/5/10 –SPLA and forces of renegade General George Athor clashed yesterday in an area 35 km away from Fariyang in Unity state. Reportedly, incidents of defections from SPLA are increasing, with Col. Galwak Gai had already defected and joined Athor.

Meanwhile, George Athor told the newspaper on telephone that his forces clashed with SPLA yesterday in Unity state and his forces are now controlling an SPLA camp.

In another development, **Al-Intibaha** reports Athor issued a statement expressing his commitment to referendum on schedule but stressed the need to agree on measures between

the UN and the concerned bodies to ensure a result that will reflect the will of the people of the South.

Galwak forces in Higlig – SPLA

Al-Akhbar 31/5/10 – SPLA spokesperson Kuol Deim Kuol said Galwak Gai who mutinied against SPLA in Unity state came from Khartoum after rallying a total of 360 militias. He said SPLA is certain that Khartoum provided Galwak with vehicles, ammunition and uniform. He said the militias moved from Higlig area, adding that some militias were still in Higlig at the North-South border with the knowledge of Khartoum.

Taha leads Sudan delegation to France-African Summit

SUNA 30/5/10 - Sudan delegation led by Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha for participation in the 25th session of the France - African Summit left Sunday for France to attend the summit in Niece during Monday and Tuesday.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mutrif Siddiq, said in statement at the Khartoum Airport before departure that the delegation will comprise Presidential Adviser, Dr. Ghazi Salahuddin, State Minister at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Dr. Lual Deng, and Director of the National Security and Intelligence, Gen. Engineer Mohamed Atta and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Siddiq explained that the summit would review a number of political, socio-economic and environmental issues, indicating that Sudan has previously participated in such summit, adding that the last participation was in 2007 in France.

According to **Al-Sahafa** 31/5/10, UNSG Ban Ki-moon will preside over a consultation meeting on the sidelines of the summit which will be attended by representatives of AU and Sudan Government.

Forty parliamentary seats for whole South, not SPLM– Speaker

Al-Ahdath 31/5/10 - National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, commenting on the amendments to the National Elections Law to allow for the increase of 40 parliamentary seats for southern Sudan, pointed out that these seats are not for SPLM alone, they are for all southern Sudanese political forces and representatives from the three areas.

Supreme Court confirms death sentence against killers of US diplomat

Al-Sahafa 31/5/10 – Informed sources told the paper that Sudan's Supreme Court has endorsed death sentence against four people accused of killing the US diplomat John Granville after his mother insisted on execution.

Editorial: “It is indeed a serious matter”

By the Editor-in-Chief, **Akhir Lahza** 30/5/10 (From BBC Monitoring) - Dr Miryam al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has described as "a serious matter" the banning of opposition leaders from travelling to Kampala to take part at a conference arranged by the International Criminal Court.

We say it is in fact a serious matter, not the ban but participation in such a conference that does not concern our country at all, especially since Sudan was not among the signatories to the Basic Rome Statute in the first place. That court has also taken a clear political stance against our country. Its contempt for us and for our people reached the extent of demanding the arrest of the head of state on accusations made in connection with fabricated cases. It went even farther by accusing the Sudanese government of protecting fugitives from justice, and it seeks

to market these accusations from within the UN Security Council at its meetings which are scheduled for next month. It has placed the name of former cabinet minister Ahmad Muhammad Harun, who is presently a governor, and Ali Kushayb at the head of a list now comprising two persons as a prelude to putting the name of President Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir later on the same list.

It is really something serious and disgraceful for the opposition forces to push our country and make it jump towards the unknown in order to serve their basic objective of toppling the existing regime and removing Field Marshal Umar Hasan al-Bashir from power and from the Presidency, even though the Sudanese people have announced their decision through the ballot boxes in elections witnessed by the entire world. The same combined forces that seek to join hands with the ICC failed to undermine the confidence of the proud people who have said their decisive word.

By their present actions, the opposition parties are provoking the feelings of all the people of Sudan who came out in spontaneous demonstrations that day the fabricated ICC charges were issued against the president of the republic who is the symbol of the nation and its sovereignty. The people said "No" to the West, Zionism, and all those who wanted to delay Sudan's progress towards attaining the nation's aspirations and its legitimate dreams to build a state based on applying the Shari'ah of Allah.

By Allah, it is a dangerous and disgraceful conduct for those who wanted to make themselves voices and tongues that express what is in the minds and hearts of the enemies of religion and the nation.

The people have said their word and proceeded on their course to attain their major and sublime objectives. As for those who have lost political and popular legitimacy, they have begun to run after daydreams that will never come true. Success comes from Allah [Islamic saying].

Referendum

Juba forces says Sudan's unity requires new bases

Sudan Tribune website 31/5/10 - Juba alliance political forces agreed today that Sudan's unity could only be maintained if the country is reshaped on new bases.

FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit met Sunday in Khartoum with opposition forces that formed an alliance with the SPLM last year.

"The meeting reiterated that Sudan's unity should be built on new bases, and through joint efforts and national consensus between the political forces," said Yasir Arman who attended the meeting on Sunday evening.

SPLM deputy Secretary General Yasir Arman said the meeting supported the organization of the referendum as scheduled and said opposed to any delay.

The opposition leaders and the SPLM further said the result of the referenda should be respected and implemented.

The opposition parties' members of the political coalition also praised the successful elections of Salva Kiir as President of Southern Sudan Government. The meeting also agreed to meet soon

in Juba to define a joint vision for the upcoming period.

Hassan Al-Turabi, leader of the popular Congress Party which is part of this political coalition, is in jail since two weeks after the publication of an article in the party's newspaper saying that Iran built a weapon factory in Sudan.

The meeting agreed that Turabi detention is a clear violation of the constitution and Human Rights Charter.

Yasir said the First Vice President discussed the issue at the presidency and SPLM raised the issue during the bilateral meetings with the NCP.

Referendum must result in unity – Blue Nile Governor

Al-Rai Al-Aam 31/5/10 - Blue Nile Governor Malik Aggar has said the 2011 referendum must culminate in a vote for unity. While on a tour of the national service coordination council in Khartoum yesterday, Aggar said that the Presidency must work towards encouraging unity. He called upon all the people of Sudan to support unity option and work towards that end.

Governance shortcomings push southerners to separation – Pagan

Al-Ahdath 31/5/10 - Pagan Amum has reiterated that unity is no longer an attractive option for the people of southern Sudan. Addressing participants at the 27th SPLM Anniversary celebrations in Malakal yesterday, the SPLM Secretary-General said he expects most southern Sudanese to vote for separation because of the "failure of the system of governance in Sudan which is founded on principles of Islam and Arabism." He said that southern Sudanese could not live in an Islamic state but pointed out that separation does not mean that the two sides should not live in peace.