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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Highlights

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## **The country will face challenges if the South separates – Taha**

VP Ali Osman Taha, addressing civil service leaders yesterday, said the country would encounter many political, economic and security challenges should the southerners choose separation, *local dailies* report. “We will face greater challenges if separation takes place and we will suffer the consequences,” he said, according to *Al-Ayyam*. Taha urged civil servants to leave their offices and head for the south to engage in dialogue to secure national unity.

## **2000 police personnel to secure elections – NEC**

The NEC revealed that voting during elections would continue for three consecutive days and ballot boxes would be under the supervision of the parties’ representatives and election officers for 72 hours, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports.

Meanwhile, NEC member Lt. Gen. Abdullah Al-Hardalu said that 2000 police personnel would be deployed to secure the election process adding the force training would be completed by early March.

## **URRP nominates presidential candidate**

Umma Reform and Renewal Party announced that the political and legal structure of the country does not guarantee free elections, saying it should be held under a national government or under the supervision of the UN *Al-Intibaha* reports. The party also announced the nomination of its leader Mubarak Al-Fadil Al-Mahdi as presidential candidate.

According to *Sudan Tribune website* 4/1/10, Al-Fadil told reporters today following the announcement that the “political and legal environment is not suitable for conducting elections unless two key amendments are introduced” to reverse the current policies by the ruling party and making political concessions.

## **Kiir to contest south elections, another candidate to compete with Al-Bahir**

*Ray Al-Shaab* has learned from sources close to GoSS Presidency that Salva Kiir Mayardit has decided to run in GoSS presidential elections and that he is still weighing to select Malik Aqar, Yassir Arman or Abdul Aziz Al-Hilo to contest national presidential elections. Kiir reportedly said the chances of one of the three SPLM leaders to win are greater. The sources said the SPLM Political Bureau will hold a meeting shortly to select one of the three SPLM leaders to run in presidential elections.

## **SPLM to bar some members from running**

*Al-Intibaha* reports that the SPLM has formed a committee of forty to select SPLM candidates for all levels of elections on strict criteria. The paper has learned that the committee will prevent any member who joined the Movement after the CPA was concluded from running on the SPLM ticket.

## **Deadline for receiving nominations in Khartoum announced**

Khartoum State Elections Committee announced that nominations for all levels of elections in the state would be received during the period from 12 to 22 January, *Al-Wifaq* reports.

## **Misseriya demand for voting rights logical – Speaker**

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir has downplayed the Misseriya threats, saying the Government is capable to address disagreement over the question of an eligible voter in the Area. He described the Messeriya's position as "sensitive", saying the dispute has been deferred until the Commission is formed. Al-Tahir described the Messeriya demands as justifiable.

## **33 killed, over 102 injured in Lakes clashes**

33 people were killed and over 102 wounded in fighting between SPLA and tribal militias in the Lakes State, **Al-Intibaha** reports. Sources told the paper that Akot town came under heavy SPLA artillery fire yesterday, saying the SPLA artillery was ordered to deal decisively with the armed militias.

## **Machar under house arrest**

GoSS Deputy President Riek Machar has been placed "under house arrest" and is being investigated following news about a move on his part to set up a new party, editor-in-chief of **Al-Wifaq** newspaper, Ishaq Ahmed Fadlallah, claimed.

## **Machar says 2010 carries high hopes for Sudanese people**

**Sudan Tribune website** 4/1/10– Year 2010 carries with it high hopes for the Sudanese people, says the second powerful man of the ruling party in the semi-autonomous Southern Sudan.

The Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan and Deputy Chairperson of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), Dr. Riek Machar Teny, also described the past 2009 as a special year in which three very important laws were enacted by the National Assembly.

These include referenda laws for Southern Sudan and Abyei in addition to the bill on popular consultations for Southern Kordofan and Southern Blue Nile states.

Addressing a public rally in Bentiu, the capital of Unity state, Dr. Machar added that the year 2010 may also witness people's victory through ballot boxes.

He told the rally that the April 2010 elections will make it possible for the people to choose their leaders in a democratic set up.

SPLM political party is racing with time to nominate its party candidates all over the country including the nominations for the post of president for both Khartoum and Juba.

Electoral Colleges are set up in each state to screen names of contestants to at least five. The political Bureau will finally pick one candidate for a single position based on certain criteria.

The party's spokesperson, Yien Matthew Chuol, has said the Political Bureau will meet on Thursday this week to nominate candidates for the April 2010 general elections including for the presidency.

Dr. Machar further added that the SPLM has high hopes for the Sudanese people this year.

## **NCP, SPLM dialogue on census results continuing**

National Assembly Deputy Speaker Atem Garang revealed continued dialogue between the two

partners on the census results, saying if an agreement is reached some provisions in the Elections Act would be amended to ensure transparent elections, **Al-Sudani** reports.

### **Arab League Chief to inaugurate humanitarian projects in Darfur**

**Sudan Tribune website** 4/1/10 — Amr Moussa, the Secretary General of the Arab League will inaugurate a number of humanitarian projects in North Darfur state on January 20.

Moussa will inaugurate — in the context of Arab league commitments towards Darfur rehabilitation — Baraka Model Village to encourage voluntary return of displaced population, an emergency hospital and Dar Al-Salam Hospital.

The inauguration ceremony will be attended by the Governor of North Darfur State Mr. Osman Mohamed Youcif Kibir and the Commissioner of Humanitarian Aid, Mr. Mohamed Abdel Rahman Hassabo.

The Humanitarian Aid and Development Organization (HADO), a Sudanese NGO working in North Darfur coordinated and oversaw the implementation of those projects.

The HADO deputy director Mahgoub Mohamed Omer said the work in the implementation of projects nearing completion. He also praised the great efforts undertaken by the Arab League to enhance the humanitarian services in Darfur.

### **Sudanese Church calls for national reconciliation**

**Sudan Tribune website** 4/1/10 — The Sudanese Catholic Church has called on citizens to embrace peace and reconciliation as the nation enters the festive period.

Bishop Rudolf Deng Majak of Roman Catholic Church Diocese in Wau launched his call during a church service attended by Western Bahr el Ghazal State Governor Mark Nyipuoc on Sunday.

"There is need to face the year 2010 as a peaceful nation."

He thanked President Omer Al-Bashir and his first deputy and President of the government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit for reaching consensus on southern Sudan and Abyei referendums and popular consultation for the people of Southern Blue Nile and Nuba mountains.

The Bishop prayed for peace in the Sudan as the country enters election and wished the leaders to commit this nation into the Lord hands. "I pray for peace to reign in this nation as we enter the New Year," he said.

"We thank you Lord that you have carried this nation this far. As we enter the New Year 2010, I pray that you continue guiding us in everything that we do," he added.

The leader of the Roman Catholic Church who has been in Wau since ordained said the country has in the past few months experienced political tension because of the recently concluded talks over referendums and popular consultation bills.

He said political leaders should look at the festive period as an opportunity for reconciliation. "We should realize that despite our different views, we are one nation and, therefore, should live as one, he said encouraging churches to host a prayer breakfast for political leaders.

"People should not spend time venturing into unfounded criticisms and unnecessary politicking; he adds stressing on burial of matters relating to tribalism and move forward in unity."

### **Sudan rejects US measures against nationals**

Sudan Government has categorically rejected the US measures to subject nationals of 14 nations to strict screening, *local dailies* report. According to *Al-Sahafa*, Sudan Foreign Ministry described the measure as violation of passengers' privacy, warning reciprocation.

*Sudan Tribune website* 3/1/10 reported that the citizens of Sudan and those passengers flying into the United States through the East African nation will be subject to enhanced screening techniques, such as body scans and pat-downs as a mandatory procedure to be enforced by airlines and aviation authorities worldwide.

The US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced the new procedures on Sunday that would target the countries on the US list of state sponsors of terrorism that is currently comprised of Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria.

Other "countries of interest" were also designated as part of new heightened security measures including Afghanistan, Algeria Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Yemen.

The announcement follows a failed bombing attempt on Christmas day aboard a Detroit-bound U.S. airliner blamed on a Nigerian man who U.S. officials believe was trained by al Qaeda in Yemen.

The TSA said those techniques include full-body pat-downs, carry-on bag searches, full-body scanning and explosive detection technology.

All passengers are screened electronically for weapons and bombs regardless, and the new rules that include random enhancements appear more agreeable to airlines, which chafed at broad requirements imposed after the Dec. 25 incident.

Carriers complained about widespread delays and other passenger inconveniences, especially in Canada and Europe.

The TSA said the ability to enforce the new security measures is the "result of extraordinary cooperation from our global aviation partners."

The Obama administration came under fire from Republicans and others that American diplomatic and intelligence officials failed to prevent the Dec. 25 incident despite having evidence about the Nigerian bomber.

It is not clear if the US intends to put in place new rules for approving visas from countries such as Sudan in addition to ones already imposed that delays its issuance for 2-8 weeks and even longer.