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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Jonglei Governor -elect reacts to defeated rival's demand to quit office

Sudan Tribune website 4/5/10 - Jonglei State Governor-elect said the defeated rival's call for his removal is impossible because "it is the people of Jonglei who elected me".

Speaking to Sudan Tribune on Tuesday in Bor, Kuol Manyang Juuk said he would quit "if the people of Jonglei lost confidence in" him. Mr. Manyang was reacting to George Athor media reports that he (Athor) demands Jonglei Governor's removal as a preliminary step to cessation of tension following last week attack on Dolieb Hill SPLA barrack in Upper Nile State.

"Who is George Athor to say that I will be sacked?" Kuol responded on Tuesday in an interview with the Sudan Tribune. "I was elected by the people of Jonglei state and if the people of Jonglei lost confidence in me, they will say and I will resign," he added.

Mr. Manyang said his main focus is the formation an "inclusive" local government where all tribes would be represented with objectives to complete disarmament for total peace in the south's vast-populous State. He stressed that limited resources remain stumbling block to achieve this huge "ambition".

Two constituencies to rerun elections in Western Equatoria State

Miraya website, 4/05/10 - The Western Equatoria State High Elections Committee announced on Tuesday that parliamentary elections will be repeated in two constituencies: Nyere constituency, no.6 of Mvolo County, and Bangasu Constituency, no. 18 of Yambio County.

Speaking to Radio Miraya, head of the Committee, Laurence Sulubia, said that voting had to be conducted again in Nyere constituency after several ballot boxes containing votes were burnt. In Bangasu, Sulubia said, a re-vote was necessary as one of the United Sudan African Party (USAP) candidate died before polling began.

Sulubia, however, did not mention the exact date when both constituencies will conduct voting again.

“We will keep the country united as we have inherited it” – Al-Bashir

Al-Sahafa 5/5/10 - Addressing a function organized yesterday by the Sudanese armed forces to celebrate his election victory, President Al-Bashir said the conduct of elections confirmed stability of the security situation in the country in general and Darfur in particular and vowed to keep the country united. "We have inherited a united Sudan. We will hand over a united country to the coming generations," he said.

Partners agree on 80% of border demarcation issues – Foreign Minister

Al-Sahafa 5/5/10 – Foreign Minister Deng Alor said the CPA partners agreed on 80% of issues concerning the North-South border demarcation and also reached a semi-agreement on Abyei border demarcation. He said four contentious issues remain but the forthcoming Presidency meeting would resolve them including the formation of a referendum commission. Alor also revealed that the two partners discussed eight points associated with sharing of wealth, property and debts should the South secede. The Minister said the distribution of ministerial portfolios might plunge the two partners in differences similar to those of 2005 but they would

ultimately reach an agreement. Alor made the remarks after a meeting with US envoy Scott Gration.

Another serious SPLA internal rebellion in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal

Sudan Tribune website 4/5/10 – The SPLA is headed towards a rebellion in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state.

A Brigadier General, who was suspected of supporting the recent move in Jonglei State by General George Athor, and suspected to be under the direct orders of a recently defeated independent gubernatorial candidate, General Dau Aturjong in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal state, is reported to have moved out of site with over one thousand soldiers in the state and their destination is not yet known.

They have not attacked any town or barrack and are said to be loyal to General Dau. General Dau Aturjong, is also said to have gone to Khartoum.

Security sources also said some other forces under his command have been on the move around the North-South border.

This, if confirmed, will be the second most serious rebellion involving the SPLA forces following the rebellion in Jonglei state by the forces under Gen. George Athor.

Lam Akol to become foreign minister in upcoming government - report

Sudan Tribune website 4/5/10 - The NCP is leaning towards picking SPLM-DC Chairman Lam Akol as the new foreign minister to replace Deng Alor from the mainstream SPLM, according to a newspaper report.

The independent *Al-Tayar* newspaper said that presidential adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Deen Al-Attabani had agreed to Akol taking over the post after he was originally nominated for this position.

Such a choice is likely to infuriate the SPLM which has been at odds with Akol since his establishment of a breakaway party with the same name and running against SPLM chairman Salva Kiir for South Sudan presidency.

“Behind the news”

Al-Wifaq 5/5/10 – informed sources close to the circles associated with the formation of the new government revealed that the prominent “Revolutionary Command Council” leaders will retain their posts in the new Government. According to the sources, the presence of senior military personalities in the new government will strengthen the government and the alliance between the islamists and the army.

Machar, other SPLA leaders may not be part of upcoming GoSS

Al-Intibaha 5/5/10 – Special sources have painted a grim picture of the new southern Sudan government expected to be formed within two weeks. According to the sources, powers of GoSS VP Riek Machar are likely to be reduced to pave the way for his removal at a later stage. The newspaper obtained a document indicating that Gen. Paulino Matip, Gen. James Hoth, Gen. Oyay Deng, Gen. John Kong, Maj. Gen. Ismail Kony, Maj. Gen. Thomas Sirilo and Dr. Peter Adot are also likely to be marginalized and removed. The document stated that civil service leaders from other tribes in Equatoria and Upper Nile will also be sacked but those from the Dinka will be promoted in both GoSS and SPLA.

Referendum:

AEC urges speedy formation of the referendum commission

The Citizen 5/5/10 – The Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) urged the two CPA partners to expedite the formation of the referendum commissions for southern Sudan and Abyei.

AEC David Chairman Plumbly told a press conference yesterday in Khartoum that the remaining time was short and welcomed the Presidency's decision to start demarcation of the borders and stressed the need for concurring on the regions that were not demarcated by the technical committee. He called for finalizing demarcation of Abyei borders in accordance with the PCA ruling.

According to *Miraya website*, 4/05/10, Mr. Plumbly said that deliberations have been made on the necessary transition procedures to ensure peace in Sudan after the popular consultations and referendum in South Sudan and Abyei are conducted in 2011. He noted that concerned parties have begun discussions, adding that it was a positive sign.

He stressed the need for the concerned parties to spend the remaining time focused on these objectives. He added that democratic transformation does not happen overnight nor can it happen in one general election.

“We will react to the NCP’s charges in due course” – Nafie

Al-Rai Al-Aam 5/5/10 – Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie declined to comment on the statements made by SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum accusing the NCP of impeding the conduct of referendum. “We will react in due course,” he told reporters yesterday.

Meanwhile, NCP official Mandour Al-Mahdi has accused groups within the SPLM of seeking to make mischief between the two partners to block any move for improving their relations. Al-Mahdi, however, reaffirmed the commitment of the NCP leadership to conduct the referendum as per the CPA provisions.

Other Headlines

Humanitarian Affairs, GoSS to discuss food gap

Al-Ayyam 5/5/10 – GoSS has revealed a prospective visit by the Humanitarian Aid Commissioner to the South to discuss food crisis. Concerned authorities estimated the food gap in southern states at 220,000 tons. GoSS Voluntary Returns Coordinator in the North Kormaj Chuol said the Humanitarian Aid Commission is determined to redress the food gap in the South. He admitted the food gap in the South but said it “did not amount to a famine because the food situation in the south is good and not as worse as the UN has described”. He said the WFP provided 58% of food needed in the South.

Security in Warrab State's Tonj South deteriorates as attacks continue

Miraya website, 4/05/10 - Attacks by unknown gunmen in Tonj East and Tonj South counties in Warrab State on Tuesday have left a trail of casualties in its wake. Commissioner of Tonj South, Deng Alieu Ayang, told Radio Miraya that the state's security situation is deteriorating; adding that the exact number of casualties cannot be determined as fighting is still ongoing.

Ayang further said that gun shots are still being heard and dead bodies continue to be uncovered in the surrounding area.

SPLM wants a US base, NCP influence curbed

Al-Rai Al-Aam 5/5/10 – The SPLM proposed to the United States the establishment of a military alliance and also requested the US to provide assistance for strengthening the southern Sudan's military, economic and technological structures. The SPLM has also sought the US assistance to meet the SPLA salary needs, to complete the building of its Air Force and to pay the bills of weapons it received. Reportedly, the SPLM has prepared a strategic paper to be presented to the US Assistant Secretary of State who is expected to visit the South during the current month. The paper suggests a solid military cooperation to confront challenges posed by terrorism, to resolve conflict in the region, to maintain power balance and to curb the growing influence of the NCP in the Lakes region.

Military Copter crashes in Nyala

The Citizen 5/5/10 – an ME2 military helicopter of the armed forces crashed in the headquarters of the 16th infantry division in the central part of Nyala yesterday. Sources said the 5-passenger copter, which has recently been allocated for the division's commander, lost control following a technical fault and crash-landed inside the division quarters resulting in serious injury of 5 passengers. The sources revealed that the crash was the first incident of its kind in Nyala and that the pilot was reported to be in good health after being ex-rayed.

Curfew Declared in Al-Fasher City

SUNA 4/5/10 -The acting Governor of North Darfur State, Idris Abdalla Hassan, issued a decree imposing curfew in Al-Fasher city from 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, till 03:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5.

The decree was necessitated by the security situation in the state and aimed to put an end to the attempt of infiltrators to create anarchy in the state.