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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Highlights

Bor citizens disappointed by minister's unity remarks - SPLA

Sudan Tribune website 5/9/10 – SPLA Head of Information and Public Relations department has publicly criticized the recent remarks by the minister of oil in the national government, saying it has disappointed his community.

Colonel Malaak Ayuen, in an interview on Southern Sudan Television (SSTV) on Sunday said his people of Dinka Bor community, from which Dr. Lual Achuek also hails, were disappointed over the minister's remarks which urged the people of Southern Sudan to vote for unity of Sudan during the referendum.

Ayuen said he was surprised that despite the fact that the people of Southern Sudan may not all support separation by 100% he did not expect Lual Achuek to be among those supporting unity, adding that Achuek could have been affected by his presence in Khartoum.

The remarks by the minister have angered both politicians and ordinary people in southern Sudan. A member of the SPLM in the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly in Juba, Arop Madut, this week criticized the remarks made by Lual Deng [Achuek], describing him as somebody who behaved as if he did not eat three meals a day in his life time until he became the minister of oil in Khartoum.

The SPLA deputy spokesman, Malaak Ayuen and Joseph Abuk, a writer, both of whom were hosts at the SSTV programme, also presented some of their views and stressed the importance of the preparations by the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) to come up with a national anthem and the name of the would-be independent country ahead of the upcoming referendum in 2011.

Ayuen, who seemed to be reacting to public criticisms on his parallel participation in the process of national anthem while an active army officer, said as citizens the soldiers also had the same right as civilians to contribute to the process...

SPLM separatists behind the helicopters deal – NCP official

Akhir Lahza 6/9/10 – The NCP has criticized the GoSS over reports of purchase of 10 helicopters, saying the step is a clear violation of the CPA.

Rabie Abdul-Atti, NCP leading figure, told reporters yesterday that separatist elements within the SPLM were behind the aircraft deal, warning against attempts to augment SPLA military arsenal which would send a wrong signal to the southern voters, stressing the need to reassure the voters that the process would take place peacefully.

Meanwhile, SAF spokesperson Lt. Col. Al-Sawarmi Khaled said the purchase by SPLA of aircraft and military equipment constitute a clear violation of the CPA and would be referred to the joint committee, adding that other issues are also in the process of being referred to the Presidency for discussion.

However, *Ajras Al-Hurriya* 6/9/10 reports SPLA spokesperson Kuol Deim Kuol has described reports about helicopters bought by GoSS as “lies by pro-NCP newspapers”. “Khartoum newspapers focus only on the SPLA. Why they do not say something about SAF armament. SAF got heavy weapons from China and now is trying to build a nuclear facility,” he said. But Deim pointed out that the SPLA had requested GoSS to assist it in buying helicopters to use them for ferrying food items and logistical support to its troops during the rainy season.

IGAD to participate in monitoring South Sudan’s referendum

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 6/9/10 – Sudan Government said IGAD would participate in monitoring southern Sudan referendum scheduled for January.

Foreign Minister Ali Karti, at meeting yesterday with IGAD executive secretary Ambassador Mahgoub Mualim, urged the organization to exert efforts to resolve similar crises in the African continent.

Sudan will not undermine referendum – NCP official

VoA.News.com 6/9/10 - A top official of Sudan’s dominant National Congress Party (NCP) has denied reports that the government would use the military to destabilize the semi-autonomous south Sudan ahead of the January referendum.

Rabie Abdelati Obeid said the NCP is committed to ensuring the full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which paves the way for next year’s referendum.

He described the report as propaganda orchestrated by opponents of the NCP to cause anxiety among residents in the south ahead of the vote.

“The NCP is insisting that the referendum should be carried out according to a transparent procedure and without any influence (by) any of the political parties, (that is) both SPLM (Sudan People’s Liberation Movement) and NCP. Both partners now are working together and it is in their own benefit that this referendum will be carried out according to a transparent and just procedure,” he said.

Obeid said the acceptance of the January referendum results by Sudanese, as well as the international community, will largely depend on the credibility of the vote.

“There is nothing that is proving that the referendum will not be carried out because now there is seriousness by the NCP and the SPLM for the period of the arrangement of the referendum and the post-referendum. Now the whole Sudanese (population) is ready for this referendum and I don’t think that there would be any obstacle to hinder the convening of this referendum in the beginning of the year 2011,” Obeid said.

He further said that a lot of people expressed doubt and concerns about Sudan’s recent elections saying it could not be organized.

Obeid, however, pointed out that, despite the criticisms and the doubts, Sudan was able to organize a credible vote monitored by both local and international observers.

“I can say 100 percent, as I am an NCP leader that the referendum will be carried out. It will be transparent. It will be fair. The people of the south will also not be affected by any views or opinions of any political parties and they will have their own will to say either “Yes” for unity or “Yes” for secession.”

Other Highlights

Abyei Administration signs contract to build airfield

Al-Rai Al-Aam 6/9/10 – the Abyei Administration has signed a contract to construct an airfield at a location 17 km away from the town.

Abyei Administration Finance Officer Acuil Akol Mayang told reporters yesterday that the project which will cost more than SDG 5 million is part of ongoing efforts to development the area. The airfield will be completed within 40 days.

Abyei Administration pushing to recover 1500 jobs and late dues

The Citizen 6/9/10 – Abyei Administration has called on the Presidency and the federal ministry of finance to stop remitting its share of the revenues enlisted in its budget through the commission of revenues and sending them directly to its account. The Administration also demanded the return of more than 1500 jobs approved in the budget and complained of fluctuations in the remittances of the area’s share in oil revenues.

The Area’s finance officer revealed that the jobs approved for the area were slashed from 3110 to 1596 jobs, noting that the reduction had adversely affected the administration’s ability to carry out its duties to serve the citizens, citing a big shortage in the numbers of school teachers. The officer, however, said that internal electricity infrastructures were completed by 80%.

UN ready to support Southern Sudan Government

Al-Sahafa 6/9/10 – The UN has confirmed its total commitment to support efforts of the Southern Kordofan state government in all areas with a focus on the CPA implementation and popular consultation for the area.

SRSR Haile Menkerios, during his first visit to the area yesterday, said the aim of his visit is to get acquainted with the situation in the area and to find out how necessary assistance could be provided to the civilians in all areas. He said the organization is working seriously for a united and democratic Sudan, adding that Southern Kordofan and Abyei constitute keys to relationship between the North and the South whether the referendum result is unity or secession.

Southern Kordofan state governor Ahmed Harun, for his part, thanked the UN for its great cooperation with the state government which impacted the overall situations in the area.

VP Taha to meet with UNSG on the sidelines of UNGA

Al-Akhbar 6/9/10 – Sources said the visit of VP Ali Osman Taha to NY carries big surprises including a possible request to the UNSG to withdraw the ICC file from the SC.

The sources also revealed a prospective meeting between Taha and SG Ban Ki-moon on the

sidelines of the UNGA. According to the sources, the meeting is requested by the SG for discussion on remaining CPA benchmarks, preparations for referendum and guarantees for a free and fair process. Taha will also hold extraordinary meetings with members in the Security Council and the General Assembly to discuss aspects of cooperation and relations between Sudan and those countries and to brief them on ongoing efforts to implement the CPA besides the new strategy on Darfur.

Sudan Ambassador to UN Dafallah Al-Haj said Foreign Minister Ali Karti, Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salaheldine, Social Welfare Minister Ameera Al-Fadil and other senior officials from the ministries of foreign affairs and finance would accompany Taha.

Dependence on oil revenue will cripple South Sudan's economy: W. Bank

Sudan Tribune website 5/9/10 - The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) should adopt a broad-based economic strategy that prioritizes the needs of its population and avoids over-dependence on the country's oil revenues, a top World Bank (WB) official has advised.

During a three-day courtesy visit to the region, Obiageli Ezekwesili, the WB's Vice President for Africa urged the GoSS to devise medium and long-term development plans, in order for it to develop sustainably.

Ezekwesili emphasized the urgent need for the semi-autonomous region to start utilizing its vast non-oil resources.

"Over the years, experience has shown that for a country to move fast in its development plans, it needs to adopt a broader-based economic strategy, that is medium and long-term in nature," Ezekwesili told a press conference in Juba.

Ezekwesili took a tour of various development projects being implemented in Southern Sudan with support from the WB-administered Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) and said she was impressed by the levels of progress.

"Having done an assessment of the various projects being implemented in South Sudan, I have come up with the conclusion that this region wants development. The World Bank will always remain a strategic partner to South Sudan's development," she remarked.

Ezekwesili, who was flanked by the GoSS Finance and Economic Planning Minister, David Deng Athorbei, further urged the government to adopt proper economic policies, involving wise utilization of public resources.

She also lauded WB officials in South Sudan for their demonstrable commitment, especially in their management of the MDTF, which she described as having being particularly important in delivering essential services to the people.

Athorbei appealed to the WB to provide technical guidance on how the semi-autonomous region can effectively utilize its non-oil resources. Such assistance, he said, should continue even after the post-referendum period.

"The World Bank should help the Government of South Sudan in its capacity-building initiatives. We expect this cooperation and assistance to continue even during the post-referendum era,"

Athorbei said.

Washington earmarks \$40 m to build SPLA capacity

Al-Rai Al-Aam 6/9/10 – The US State Department has granted a contract to an American company known as DYN CORP to build SPLA capacity to convert it into a professional army, according to media reports. Reportedly, DYN CORP won an initial contract of \$40 million to carry out the task.

West Darfur state complains of UNAMID non-cooperation

Al-Sudani 6/9/10 – West Darfur state government has complained of lack of cooperation on the part of UNAMID by turning a blind eye to incidents within camps and renewed its call to the Mission to hand over the suspects of Himaydia camp.

Zalingei Commissioner Abdullah Ahmed Al-Amin told *SMC* that the bodies of the recent incidents were buried inside the camp in presence of UNAMID which is a violation of the law.

UN-AU mediator to arrange meeting with JEM chief inside Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 5/9/10 - The United Nations-African Union Joint Chief Mediator Dijibril Bassole will hold a meeting soon with the chairman of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in Darfur to discuss the resumption of the faltering peace talks in Doha.

Bassole told Sudan Tribune on Sunday that he will travel to Khartoum to secure the approval of Sudanese authorities for the return of the rebel leader to Darfur.

"I will also meet the concerned authorities in N'djamena and Tripoli to facilitate his return to Darfur," Bassole said.

The chief mediator further added that the joint peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) would be asked to provide the needed logistical support for the meeting.

Bassole however, did not provide a time frame for when that meeting might take place.

Ibrahim has been stuck in Libya ever since he was barred entry to Chad last May as part of a deal between N'djamena and Khartoum to end hostilities and normalize ties after years of proxy war between the two neighbors. Sudan reciprocated the move by expelling Chadian opposition figures on its territory...

Border Guards are security threat in Darfur –military committee

Al-Sahafa 6/9/10 – A technical military committee tasked with formulation of a security strategy on Darfur has classified the “border guards” in Darfur as security threat. Head of the committee Lt. Gen. Magzoub Rahama who met with South Darfur state Government and native administrators in Nyala yesterday said the unruly elements of the border guards would be tackled in accordance with the law.

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