

8th Sept 2010

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Referendum Watch

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Highlights

Referendum Commission says voter registration in October

Al-Rai Al-Aam 8/9/10 – The South Sudan Referendum Commission has announced that voter registration for referendum would begin in October. Deputy Head of the Commission Chan Ric Madut, however, indicated that the day for kickoff of the registration would be announced later. Madut revealed that UN would undertake the printing of voting cards abroad.

Meanwhile, SPLM Deputy Secretary General Yassir Arman told reporters yesterday that recent CPA partners' meetings failed to reach an agreement on the pending issues especially the Abyei area and demarcation of the border. He said there was lack of political will to resolve the sticky issues. Arman said SPLM had other options should referendum fails, warning against expulsion of the southerners from the North or the northerners from the South, adding the Constitution allows them dual nationality.

According to *Al-Sahafa* 8/9/10, Arman has downplayed the prospective CPA partners meeting in NY, saying “if issues are not resolved in Khartoum they will not be resolved in NY or Washington”.

Sudan's referendum without food security is meaningless - Itto

Sudan Tribune website 7/9/10 - As Southern Sudan prepares for conduct of a referendum on self-determination, a senior government official has warned that success in favor of either unity or separation will be meaningless unless the need to achieve food security is handled with seriousness.

Dr. Ann Itto Leonardo, the Agriculture and Forestry Minister in the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) made these remarks on Monday while leading a team that visited several World Bank-funded projects in Morobo County, Central Equatoria State. Morobo is located about 30 miles east of Yei River County...

“Much as we talk about success in the forthcoming referendum either in favor of separation or unity, let's not ignore aspects of food security for our people. For a democratic government to function properly, food security remains an essential element,” Dr. Itto said.

The government, the Minister noted, had embarked on an 18-month agricultural programme aimed at increasing productivity, through provision of improved seed varieties, infrastructural development and emphasis on modern farming techniques as opposed to use of rudimentary equipments.

“We need to change the current dependency syndrome of over relying on food imported from neighboring Uganda, Kenya and others. The government remains committed towards reversing these trends for the benefit of our people,” Dr. Itto, also SPLM Deputy Secretary General for Southern Sector.

According to the Agriculture Minister, increasing agricultural productivity will further involve

taking consideration the amount in metric tons of food produced by each household actively in agricultural activities...

Presidency to endorse Referendum Commission's SG shortly

Al-Akhbar 8/9/10 – The Presidency is expected to issue a decree during the forthcoming days to endorse the appointment of Ambassador Mohamed Osman Al-Nujoomi as secretary-general of the South Sudan Referendum Commission which is awaiting the appointment to begin full functioning.

Referendum result will be accepted – Assembly Speaker Al-Tahir

Al-Ayyam 8/9/10 – National Assembly Speaker and NCP leading figure Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir said referendum would be organized on time, efforts would continue to resolve all pending issues to ensure free and fair process and the referendum result would be accepted whether it confirms unity or secession.

Al-Tahir made the remarks at meeting yesterday with visiting South African ruling National Congress Party.

Distorting South image will not make unity attractive –Minister

Al-Ayyam 8/9/10- Cabinet Affairs Minister Luka Biong has denounced what he described as “distortion of image of the South to make unity attractive”. In an interview with *SUNA*, Biong said the South is capable to sustain as state if separation takes place and all that it needs to do are minor changes.

Biog has accused some northern elites of distorting the image of the South through some local newspapers, saying tribal conflicts exit all over Sudan. “These elites treat the South as if it is not part of the Sudan,” he said. “Such mentality will not make unity attractive in the South”.

South Sudan allocates over SDG 125 million for referendum

Al-Sudani 8/9/10 – Informed sources at the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) revealed that the Assembly has discussed a proposed budget of SDG 1,253,401 for the management of the upcoming referendum. According to the sources, the SSLA is expected to approve the budget in its final form on Thursday or Friday.

Other Highlights

South Sudan oil share July-December 2009 stand at US\$698.0 million

Sudan Vision 8/9/10 - Sudan's net oil revenue for the period July– December 2009 stood at US\$ 1,856.33 m. Out of the above sum, US\$ 1,131.88 m represents net export revenue and US\$ 724.45 m net return from crude used at local refineries.

The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) oil revenue share from net return during the said period stood at US\$ 698.9 m, out of which the sum of US\$ 485.31 being revenue from export and US\$ 213.59 m being net return from crude used at local refineries.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Dr. El Tayeb Abou

Ganaya said at the Oil Revenue Allocation Committee Joint Meeting that direct transfers to GoSS in the same period stood at US\$ 701.377 m in total, an increase of US\$ 7.097 m, on top its entitlement for the said period. He added that oil producing states' share for the same period totaled US\$ 34.38 m, with the amount including net export and local revenues. This amount was divided amongst states as follows: US\$ 11.99 m went to Unity State, US\$ 15.88 m to Upper Nile State and US\$ 6.51 m to Southern Kordofan State. The share of Abyei region as determined in the Abyei Protocol (at 8%) stood at US\$6.65 m, with the amount equally divided amongst the region's states at 2% each. These states are: Southern Kordofan, Warrap States, Ngok Dinka and Messeriya.

On the other hand, total oil net revenues for the period January 2010 - July 2010 stood at US\$ 2,722.68 m, with total oil export revenue amounting to US\$ 1,942.47 m, while return from crude used at local refineries standing at US\$ 780,21 m. The total share of the national government from export and local revenue stood at US\$ 1,581.61, with GoSS's total share standing at US\$ 1084.44 m, of which US\$ 854.98 m being export return and US\$ 229.35 m being net return from crude used at local refineries.

Dr. Abou Ganaya said the total direct government transfers to GoSS during the period from the start of the current year up to July stood at US\$ 1021.34 m. He added that revenue transferred to producing states for the same period stood at a total US\$ 46.44 m, split as follows: Unity State: US\$ 12.39 m, Upper Nile State: US\$ 24.65m, Southern Kordofan State: US\$ 9.40 m. On the other hand, Abyei's share out of the oil export and local revenue stood at US\$ 2.08 m, divided amongst the region's states equally at 2% each.

Dr. Abou Ganaya affirmed that they welcomed the resumption of the committee's meetings under the guidance of the two partners to the Peace Agreement. He lauded the efforts of the joint technical committee in collecting and analyzing data and preparing highly transparent report with respect to the shares of the parties.

On his part, Salvatore Garang Mabiordit, the undersecretary of GoSS's ministry of finance, confirmed the accuracy of the accounts and the ratios of splitting oil revenue according to the principles of the Division of Wealth and the Abyei Protocol.

US Envoy Gration due in Khartoum tomorrow to prepare for CPA partners' meeting in NY

Al-Akhbar 8/9/10- The newspaper has learned that US envoy Scott Gration is due in Khartoum tomorrow for meeting with VP Ali Osman Taha before the kickoff of the UNGA meetings. Gration is also visiting Juba to meet with GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit. US Consul General in Khartoum told GoSS VP Riek Machar that his country is keen on the conduct of the referendum on schedule.

Meanwhile, the US has invited the two CPA partners to attend a conference on Sudan on the sidelines of the UNGA meeting on 24 September in NY. According to sources, Gration meeting with Taha in Khartoum is expected to discuss the agenda of the meeting between the US Administration and Sudan Government delegation in NY.

US prefers Kiir to lead Sudan delegation to UNGA

The Citizen 8/9/10 – High-profile sources at the US State Department have unveiled to the newspaper a US offer presented by President Obama’s envoy to Sudan Scott Gration to the NCP and SPLM proposing that FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit should lead Sudan delegation to the UNGA.

“We think that a delegation led by Salva Kiir and comprises NCP senior officials will give momentum to the high-level sideline meetings with senior officials of the US administration and the guarantors of the CPA,” the sources said. “President Obama will meet with the heads of the delegations participating in the UNGA meetings besides we are preparing meetings for the President with senior NCP and SPLM leaders particularly as this will be the first meeting of its kind,” the sources added. The meeting will focus on referenda.

The sources, however, cited non-concurrence between the NCP and the SPLM on the US offer. “There is a big difference in viewpoints between the NCP and the SPLM on who should lead the delegation and the agenda for discussion,” the sources said. “We have heard from the Sudanese press that VP Taha will lead the Sudanese delegation but we have not received an official confirmation”

Sudan Government rejects US carrot and stick policy

Dailies/SUNA 8/9/1- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed its astonishment and denunciation to the reports circulated by mass media on a new American strategy for Sudan that is based on new encouraging incentives and deterrent sanctions to pressure the government to abide by holding the referendum on time and implementing the remaining CPA benchmarks. In a statement it issued yesterday, the Ministry reiterated the government commitment to implement all the clauses of the CPA and holding a free, fair and transparent referendum which will reflect the real desire of the people of south Sudan.

The Ministry stressed the government keenness to implement the CPA and carry out the referendum comes as part of its patriotic and national commitment toward its people all over the country, adding that the government is not in need of thanks or incentive from any one and does not fear sanctions or blame of any country.

The statement affirmed that Sudan Government welcomes honest contribution from any country or circle to realize peace and stability in the country away from the “carrot and stick policy” which is not suitable to be a basis for dealing between countries.

South Sudan names official opposition leader

AFP 7/9/10 - South Sudan’s parliament on Tuesday named as official leader of the opposition a member of the breakaway Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-Democratic Change, an offshoot from the ruling SPLM party.

Onyoti Adigo Nyikwec was nominated as leader of the largest opposition party in the legislative assembly of the semi-autonomous south, which is preparing for a referendum due in January that many in the south believe will see Africa’s largest nation split in two.

"It is the first time in the history of southern Sudan to have the leader of the opposition in the parliament," said Nyikwec in his acceptance speech, one of four SPLM-DC parliamentarians in the 170-seat house.

"This is the real democracy which has been guiding the principles we fought for for so many years," he said.

"The referendum needs us to unite all our ranks together, so that we go to the referendum united as the people of southern Sudan for the independence of southern Sudan," Nyikwec said, to loud applause from the parliament.

The opposition position is the fourth highest in terms of protocol within the parliament, after the south's president, vice-president and parliamentary speaker, said James Wani Igga, the assembly's speaker.

Two men condemned to death for killing Chinese oil workers

Sudan Tribune website 7/9/10 - Two Sudanese men allegedly affiliated to an armed rebel group in Darfur have been convicted and sentenced to death by hanging for killing four Chinese oil workers and a Sudanese soldier in the Kordofan region in 2008.

Idris Bahar and Ahmad Adam faced trial in the Khartoum North Criminal Courtroom under charges of criminal complicity, vandalism, kidnapping and premeditated murder. They were found guilty of kidnapping and the killing of four Chinese aid workers, as well as a Sudanese soldier who was killed in a failed rescue operation by the authorities.

Fifteen suspects were originally arrested in relation to the case. However, 13 of them were acquitted due to insufficient evidence.

The court said that the two convicts, who belong to the Arab nomadic Al-Misseriya tribe, had made judicial confessions stating that they were affiliated to the Kordofan sector of the Darfur rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement. The two convicts denied any role in the abduction.

The court has given the prosecutor a period of 45 days to contact families of the victims and ask them whether they want punishment or wergilds.

The convict's defense lawyer, Abu Bakr, told Reuters Tuesday that he would "be approaching the Chinese ambassador to Sudan and the families of the victims to support payments to the families of the two tribesmen so that they would not be put to death by hanging."

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