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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

AMIS-UN transition

President Bashir says “no” to an AMIS-UN transition

(*AlAyaam* – 26th Feb. **Khartoum**) President Bashir announced yesterday that the government will not allow an AMIS-UN transition in Darfur whatever the reasons.

The President who was addressing the commissions’ committee for the comprehensive conference for Darfur pointed out that the AU forces are in the country by virtue of a decision the government agreed to take in order to block attempts at a foreign intervention in Darfur.

He said that AU forces should leave the country should they be unable to carry out their mission due to the problem of funding. The President accused foreign parties of targeting Sudan through the Darfur issue and trying to cause the country to tear the country into pieces.

“With the excuse of funding, they put pressure on a number of African states and officials in order to realise their own goals of transforming the AU in Darfur into a UN operation,” says the President.

The President renewed government commitments to realise peace in Abuja to block attempts at a foreign intervention in Darfur.

Popular Council calls for demos against foreign intervention

(*AlRai AlAam* – 26th Feb. **Khartoum**) The Popular Council for the Defence of Religion and the State has called upon the people of the Sudan to take to the streets next Wednesday to demonstrate in protests against ‘international intervention in Darfur’.

The Council has called for the people to assemble next Wednesday morning at the Martyrs’ Square from where they will move to present a Memorandum of Protest to the SRSG in Khartoum confirming their readiness to defend the state and religion.

North Darfur governor slams AU forces

(*AlRai AlAam* – 26th Feb. **Nyala, Khartoum**) The Governor of North Darfur has fiercely attacked the AU and describes its intentions to rescind its duties in Darfur as a breach of trust and a stab on the African continent.

He pointed out that the best solution to the problem is to assist the AU in carrying out its duties until the end of this year after which decisions will be made based on an assessment of its performance.

Governor Atta-el-Mannan said that the positions of the rebel forces should be made known to enable government troops to wipe them out of the area and thus facilitate the flow of relief.

The governor goes on to say that the security situation in the Darfur region has improved in comparison to recent months despite the presence of some isolated cases.

Speaking to the press, the governor pointed out that he has received reports that it is the AU that initiated the transition to UN and if this is proved, he adds, this will amount to a breach of trust and of the agreement between the Government of Sudan and the AU.

Nigeria to reconcile parties view, Nyala rejects foreign intervention

(*Sudan Vision* – 26th Feb. **Khartoum**) Nigeria has affirmed the continuation of its role in collaboration with the African Union to narrow down differences of views between the parties negotiating peace in Abuja. Nigeria has called on these parties to exert more efforts and to demonstrate more flexibility in order to overcome difficulties facing the negotiations.

The Sudanese Charge d’Affaires told SUNA that the Nigerian Foreign Affairs Minister who received yesterday Head of the Government Delegation to the talks, Dr. Mahjoub Al-Khalifa, and the accompanying delegation was briefed by the Head of GoS delegation on the progress of talks and what has been so far agreed on, in addition to the pending items. Khalifa was reported to have called on Nigeria to throw its full weight behind the talks to expedite reaching a peace agreement. According to the Charge d’Affaires, the Nigerian Foreign Minister promised the delegation of his government’s seriousness to push the talks in the direction of arriving at a solution. The Minister was quoted as requesting time to hear from the other party to the talks in order that his government be in a position to play the role that responds to the aspirations of the Sudanese people. The Charge d’Affaires said the State Minister at the Ministry of Finance, member of GoS delegation, Dr. Lual Deng, briefed the Nigerian Minister on what has been agreed on as to the wealth-sharing, reviewing government vision on negotiable items in this field. Deng was said to have stressed that the wealth-sharing in the case of Darfur cannot be dealt with similar to what has been applied to South Sudan per the Naivasha protocol. Deng was further reported to have affirmed that GoS and SPLM views on Darfur are identical. In a related development, the citizens in Nyala staged yesterday a mass demonstration requesting attempts to intervene in Darfur. The demonstrators handed over a protest memo to UNSG Representative, Jan Pronk, who is currently available in Nyala. Pronk promised to hand over the memo to UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan

CPA

Government to publish monthly oil-revenues distribution report

(*Sudan Vision* – 27th Feb. **Khartoum**) The Minister of Finance announced that a new method would be adopted for the sharing of oil revenue between north and south. The Minister added that the method involves the preparation of a monthly unclassified report showing the revenues and the share of each, adding that these revenues will be checked by International Institutions.

According to the Finance Minister, South Sudan share from oil revenue, which was transferred to GoSS, totalled \$800 million. The Minister reviewed a balance sheet detailing that share, and adding that \$197 million were spent on South Sudan before the formation of GoSS and putting into effect the Peace Agreement. The Minister made that statement at the ceremony of signing the new generators for the town of Al-Fashir, which was attended by the Minister of Energy and Mining, Dr. Awad Al-Jaz, the Governor of North Darfur State, Osman Kibir, the General Manager of the National Electricity Corporation and the Representative of the Sudanese (Intra Octorat) which is implementing the project. Replying to a question on media talks about the non-transparency by the Government as to oil revenues, the Minister denied that, stating that NCP and SPLM have set up an eight-member committee to audit oil revenues. The Minister said they asked SPLM to name its four

members on the committee but it has submitted only the names of two representatives who have participated in auditing the accounts and are in complete harmony with the Ministry.

Sudanese presidency hears a report on peace implementation

(*Sudan Tribune* – 25th Feb. **Khartoum**) President Omer al-Bashir and his two deputies Salva Kiir Mayardit and Ali Osman Mohamed Taha heard a report Saturday on the situation of implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) during the past two weeks.

The report was presented by State Ministers at the Presidency of the Republic Idris Mohamed Abdel-Gadir and Telar Ring Deng.

Abdel-Gadir said that the report included a number of steps that have been made including issuance of a republican decree establishing the internal border committee, which would hold its first meeting next week, issuance of a republican decree establishing the National Population Census Council as well as restructuring of the National Commission for the Revision of the Constitution.

They also included holding of the first meeting of the Political Commission for Ceasefire, which approved the regulations of the commission.

Deng, on his part, said the report included progress of works of the Evaluation and Assessment Commission, which held its fifth meeting, the Joint Military Committee for Cease-fire and the Joint Political Committee.

He added that the meeting of the President of the Republic and his two deputies also reviewed preparations for the second donors conference in Paris on March 9.

He pointed out that the meeting reviewed a detailed report on the financial transfers to the government levels in the south and the states.

UN

Lakes' minister, UNMIS official discuss peace implementation

(*ST* – 26th Feb. **Khartoum**) The head of UNMIS Lakes State Mrs Anna-Maria Laucini met Mrs Adak Costa Mapuor and her acting director for the youth and Sport William Madong to reach the agreement for how to preach the CPA to the Civil Authority especially those who stay at the villages areas.

The United Nation Mission (UNMIS) peace keeping force in South Sudan Rumbek Lakes State discussed with minister for Information on how to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) among the civil Authority. The ministry for Information, Culture, Youth and Sport has agreed to appoint her people to join work hand with UNMIS peace keeping force operating in Lakes State and to visit all location interested to operation for SPLM/A.

Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Nairobi Kenya, the South Sudan Government (GOSS) have not reached the deal that they were been interested like sharing for the oil revenue which was agreed to be 50/50.

The GOSS still on daily complain that they are not well treated by Government of Sudan (GOS) on CPA, It appear to them that there are violent in this CPA especially fighting which had occurred in Upper Nile Region last some day ago.

The Acting director for the youth and Sport Mr. William Madong say that food and security must to here in Lakes State so that it can influent the Sport and youth to stand strong and improve the situation of CPA, furthermore William added that today youngest generations need a especial treatment and more understanding to the youth to be implemented through their need.

It was provision week ago that President Omer Al-Bashir visits here the Lakes State, Rumbek and donated to Youth a University and Hospitals constructions including road transport to be open for youth to operate their daily activities here in Rumbek.

Sport is the greatest luckily position need to support by currently situation and they can comply themselves to continuous the step for CPA wanted.

GoNU

Salva Kiir discusses returns

(*AlRai AlAam* – 26th Feb. **Khartoum**) First Vice-president Salva Kiir has called upon southern Sudanese to contribute to efforts for increasing security in Darfur and eastern Sudan in order to reach a comprehensive peace in all parts of the country.

During a meeting yesterday with Aldo Ajo and Angelo Beda, the Vice-president discussed issues concerning southern Sudanese IDPs in northern Sudan and their voluntary return.

Salva Kiir, el-Mirghani discuss Darfur and eastern Sudan

(*AlSahafa* – 26th Feb. **Khartoum**) Reports say that Vice-president Salva Kiir and NDA leader Mohamed Osman el-Mirghani held talks last Friday in the Eritrean town of Massawa.

Informed sources say that the two discussed the peace process in the country focussing on Darfur and eastern Sudan and underlined the need for efforts to quickly bring a solution to these two problems.

Sudan-Eritrea:

First Vice-president meets Eritrean President

(*SMC* – 25th Feb. **Khartoum**) First V.P Salva Kiir discussed yesterday with Eritrean president in Masawa city the bilateral relations.

Kiir is currently visiting Eritrea accompanied by high level delegation includes minister of foreign affairs Lam Akol national intelligence and security service general manger Gen Salah Abdallah and others.

It was noted that First V.P comes in the context of exchanging visits between the two countries in order to normalize neighbouring relationship.

Darfur/ Abuja talks

Lack of funds threatens to halt Abuja talks

(*AlRai AlAamm* – 26th Feb. **Khartoum**) Sources close to the AU mediators have disclosed that lack of sufficient funding may bring the Abuja talks to a halt.

The sources say that the money the AU currently has for running the political talks amounts to only 3 million dollars which will only be enough for up till March this year.

South:

Salva Kiir forms SPLM's leadership bodies

(*ST* – 24th Feb. **Khartoum**) The First Vice-President, President of the Southern Sudan government, and Chairman of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Salva Kiir Mayardit, has issued two decrees, to form the SPLM Interim Political Bureau, and the SPLM Interim Executive Bureau.

The SPLM Interim Political Bureau includes 23 members, and the SPLM Interim Executive Bureau includes 57 members. Salva Kiir will head the two bureaus, while Pagan Amun will be their secretary general.

The decrees appointed five persons in the interim secretariat, eight in the Southern Sudan secretariat and twelve persons in the southern Sudan interim secretariat. The secretariat of Southern Kordofan State and Bleu Nile State are annexed to the South.

The SPLM political bureau will begin soon its activities at the SPLM central office in Khartoum.

The Chairman of the SPLM northern sector Abdelaziz al-Hilo, is charged to appoint the membership of his sector.

The two organs — SPLM interim political bureau and SPLM interim executive bureau - are instructed to prepare the SPLM second general conference, and to build up the political structure, but no date has been fixed for the holding of the conference.

By these decrees, Salav Kiir renews the mandate of the Leadership Council dissolved by the late John Garang. He also, re-managed its structures and changed the name.

In July 2005, Garang had dissolved the SPLM Leadership Council. But Salva Kiir, after his election as Chairman of the SPLM in New Site, rehabilitated the Leadership Council to transform the SPLM to a political party.

Three women are appointed in the SPLM interim political bureau: Rebecca de Mabior minister of transport in the government of Southern Sudan, Tabita Sokaya, Federal minister of health, and Awut Deng presidential advisor of the president of GOSS.

Also, some historical leaders of the SPLM are appointed in the political bureau: Salva Kiir chairman, Pagan Amun, Riek Machar, Kwai Manyang, Niah Deng Niah Samuel Abujon, Malik Agar, Mansour Khalid, Deng Alor, Abdelaziz al-Hilo, Yassir Arman and Lam Akol.

SPLM interim executive bureau includes six women, all the members of the Political Bureau and some 34 members among them: Harun Ron Lual, presidential advisor at the presidency

of the republic, Mr. Gier Cuang Aluong minister of Telecommunications & Postal Services (GOSS) and David Deng Athorbei minister of Labour, Public Service & Human Resource Development (GOSS).

Human rights

Security admits torture

(*AlAyaam* – 26th Feb. **Khartoum**) AbdelGadir el-Sayed Osman, a security and intelligence officer and prosecution witness in the case against the suspects in the sabotage case, has admitted the suspects have been tortured by security personnel when they staged a hunger strike in their detention cells.

Speaking before court yesterday, the security official pointed out that the suspects were then taken into solitary detention and kept separately and were being taken blindfold for interrogation.

On the other hand, the court has ordered a defence lawyer out of court for contempt.

The court says the lawyer commented contemptuously on the court refusal for the defence counsel to cross-examine the witnesses for the prosecution.

Other developments

US seeks to establish military base in southern Sudan

(*AlRai AlAam* – 26th Feb. **Khartoum**) Sources in the US report that the US seeks to open a military base in southern Sudan under the pretext of protection of oil installations there.

A source told Emirates-based *AlKhaleej* newspaper that the Bush Administration was not happy with the state of instability in mineral-rich Darfur which is endowed with a large reserve of oil and uranium. Washington fears these resources may fall in the hands of terrorist organisations, according to the sources.

The sources also fear an escalation of the situation in the Great Lakes region thus threatening water resources.

LRA rebels drive southern Sudanese to refuge in the bush

(*ST* – 24th Feb. **Khartoum/Nairobi**) Deadly raids by Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels have forced scores of villagers in southern Sudan to flee their homes to spend nights in the bush fearing abductions and killings, a German humanitarian group said on Friday.

The insurgents have been carrying out raids in vast southern Sudan belt called the "LRA Triangle" which lies between Rasola town near the Democratic Republic of Congo border, the region's capital Juba and Lokukei town near the Ugandan border.

"The threat imposed by the LRA forces the local population to leave the village during the night to hide in the bush," said Klaus Stieglitz, the deputy director of Sign of Hope.

Last week, LRA fighters attacked villages around Rajef, 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) south of Juba and brutally hacked to death three people, including a 70-year-old man and looted cassava farmland, the group said.

"It is a shame that these people nearly feel like animals. They are in fact deprived of their human dignity," he said after touring villagers around Rejaf and Nimule outposts in southern Sudan, where the group delivered humanitarian support.

The group said LRA last week attacked villages around Rajef, 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) south of Juba and brutally hacked to death three people, including a 70-year-old man and looted cassava farmland.

In areas outlying Nimule, about 150 kilometres (94 miles) southeast of Juba, the insurgents have abducted at least 92 people, including children, and villagers believe that most of them are still held by the ruthless insurgents, they said.

"The villagers told us they can identify the attackers as the LRA because of the ethnic Acholi accent in their language," Stieglitz told a press conference in Nairobi.

"These LRA activities pose the most difficult hardship on people who are already struggling to rebuild their lives after suffering from war and displacement," he said, adding that the raids have disrupted the economic activities.

In Uganda, the LRA fighters have forced several thousands of children so-called "night commuters" in the country's north to flee their home villages each night to relative safety of the streets in larger towns, notably Gulu.

The Ugandan army has been pursuing LRA rebels inside Sudan since 2002, when Khartoum, long accused of harbouring and arming the rebels, allowed Ugandan forces to conduct seek-and-destroy operations against them in southern Sudan areas.

But the army has failed to vanquish the insurgents, who took over the leadership of northern Uganda's rebellion in 1988, two years into a conflict fuelled by perceived economic marginalisation of the region by Kampala.

The group distinguishes itself by its brutality and its total absence of a public political face, a characteristic making negotiating an end to the war all but impossible.