

22 June 2009

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Highlights

Presidency Minister to address the National Assembly on Census

SUNA 21/6/09 - The Minister at the Presidency of the Republic, Gen. Bakri Hassan Salih, will present a statement to the National Assembly today on the Population Census, while the Minister of Science and Technology would also present a statement at the Parliament on his ministry's performance during the year 2008 - 2009.

We received SDG 5 out of 284 million – Abyei Administration

Abyei chief administrator Arop Moyak said the area administration has received just five million Sudanese pounds from the Presidency this year out of their budget which is 284 Million pounds, **Miraya FM** reports. In an interview to Miraya he said the Presidency did not support them financially, resulting in delay of provision of services to citizens, adding some companies have come to work in infrastructure projects.

NCP rejects Gration's proposals on census

Al-Raed reports the NCP delegation participating in Washington meeting has rejected US envoy Gration's five proposals submitted to address the dispute over the census results. Meanwhile, reports from Washington stated that SPLM delegation continued to portray the census results as questionable but Scott Gration was trying for the second consecutive day to achieve rapprochement between the two partners. Gration proposed a repeat of the whole census exercise or a repeat in the areas where results are contested.

SUNA 21/6/09 reported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hoped that the declaration by the American envoy for Sudan, Scott Garton, and his denial of any genocide in Darfur will be the stance of the US administration with all its institutions, on ground that such a stand will facilitate the ongoing process of dialogue between the government and the American administration. The ministry hoped that such a stance will also silence the hostile attitudes against Sudan in the United States in particular and the West in general.

GoSS sends aid convoy to several states

Al-Akhbar reports GoSS yesterday sent a convoy carrying large quantities of food from Juba to several states including North Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, Jonglei and Equatoria as part of its efforts to bridge the food gap in those areas. GoSS VP Riek Machar has described the food situation in those areas as "worse".

Meanwhile, **Sudan Vision** reports SPLM-DC held GoSS responsible for the famine in some parts of Southern Sudan States. SPLM-DC spokesman, Jamal Al-Sarraj stated that the famine in the South as admitted by UN was due to the failure of GoSS to prepare for such events despite the huge transfers of oil revenue received in the South.

He added that the oil revenue transfers received by GoSS from the central government were not utilized in development projects or services, but it was transmitted to private accounts in foreign banks a matter that led to the current deterioration in the south.

He said that the only achievement of GoSS was the establishment of a beer factory. Al-Sarraj appeared confident that his party would win upcoming elections.

Kiir to visit Libya today

FVP Salva Kiir will leave for Libya today on a three-day official visit, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports. FM Deng Alor and Presidency State Minister Joseph Acuil will accompany the FVP whose consultations with the Libyan officials will focus on Sudan-Chad relations.

Meanwhile, *Al-Watan* reports that Kiir, upon return from Libya, will leave for the US for consultations on executive issues concerning GoSS as well as a range of other national issues.

Debate continues on referendum law

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports the National Constitution Review Commission (NCRC) yesterday continued discussions on the referendum bill in presence of the two Partners. NCP political mobilization secretary Ibrahim Ghandour told reports yesterday that consultations on the law were proceeding, adding that the parties concerned are doing their best to get the law passed by the current Parliament session.

Army ready to repulse JEM attack

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports the government has announced that the security organs are ready to repulse any military assault on the part of JEM. MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq told reporters yesterday that JEM usually resort to military operations every time it is disappointed by the outcome of talks. Al-Sadiq expects the Qatari mediator and other parties to engage in intensive contacts to reenergize the peace process to achieve a breakthrough.

Presidency directs release of prisoners

Al-Sahafa reports National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mohamed Al-Hassan Al-Amin as saying that President Al-Bashir has agreed to the Parliament's request to direct the release of some inmates and to reduce jail terms of others on the occasion of the Revolution Day.

CPA partners trade charges over political activity

NCP has called on the SPLM to allow southern political parties unrestricted political activity in the south, *Al-Sahafa* reports. NCP political mobilization secretary Ibrahim Ghandour told a symposium yesterday that southern political parties are complaining of detentions and closure of their offices in the south. Meanwhile, National Assembly Deputy Speaker and SPLM leading figure Atem Garang said there are obstacles encountering political activity in the north. "PCP leader Hassan Al-Turabi should be allowed to exercise his political activity in the north," he said.

Meanwhile, *Sudan Vision* reports SPLM-DC chairman Dr. Lam Akol as saying that no political party is allowed to operate in Southern Sudan. Akol made the remarks at a forum organized by *SMC* yesterday. Akol claimed he has been barred by a governor from addressing a political forum in one of South Sudan regions.

Three suspected cases of swine flu in Khartoum

Al-Sahafa has learned from sources that there were three suspected cases of swine flu in Khartoum but they have not yet been confirmed. However, *local dailies* report Khartoum State Health Minister Brimina Oriat as saying that the country is free of the disease.

AIDS cases rose to 1800 in Western Equatoria

Al-Raed reports governor of western Equatoria State J. Kumba as saying that cases of AIDS in his state reached 1800. He has called on the Ministry of Health to increase voluntary check centres in order to control spread of the disease in the state.

Manufacture of first Sudanese plane kicks off July

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports President Al-Bashir will launch on 5 July aircraft industry in Sudan to manufacture the first Sudanese plane. Al-Safat industry complex, part of Sudan's military industry, announced a five-year plan to manufacture the first Sudanese aircraft (Safat 01), saying it would be 80% Sudanese.

Sudan FM to be replaced by SPLM in cabinet reshuffle

Sudan Tribune website 21/6/09 – SPLM intends to request replacement of some of its federal ministers in the government of national unity, Sudanese newspaper reported.

The independent Al-Sahafa newspaper said that the SPLM will nominate Kosta Manibi minister for cabinet affairs to be the foreign minister instead of Deng Alor.

The South Sudan government minister for cabinet affairs Luka Byong will take Manibi's position in the federal government. Alor will replace Byong in his post.

The newspaper also said that there would be further shuffle in the government of south Sudan (GoSS).

Al-Mirghani is DUP presidential candidate

Akhir Lahza reports DUP official Ali Al-Sayed as saying that Mohamed Osman Al-Mirghani will be the Party's presidential candidate in the upcoming elections. He said if Al-Mirghani declines to run the Party's constitution authorizes him to select another person to contest.

JEM leader's Israel visit provokes reactions

Many political parties have lashed out against JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim for visiting Israel and also criticized the Chadian government for arranging the visit, **Akhir Lahza** reports. NDA parliamentary group Chairman Hassan Abu Sabeeb described the visit as "treason", saying Khalil was one of Mujahideen who had been opposing foreign interference in the country. The Baath Party has also described Khalil's visit to Israel as "high treason".