

RCSO STATE BRIEFING PACK

Northern Bahr el Gazal State

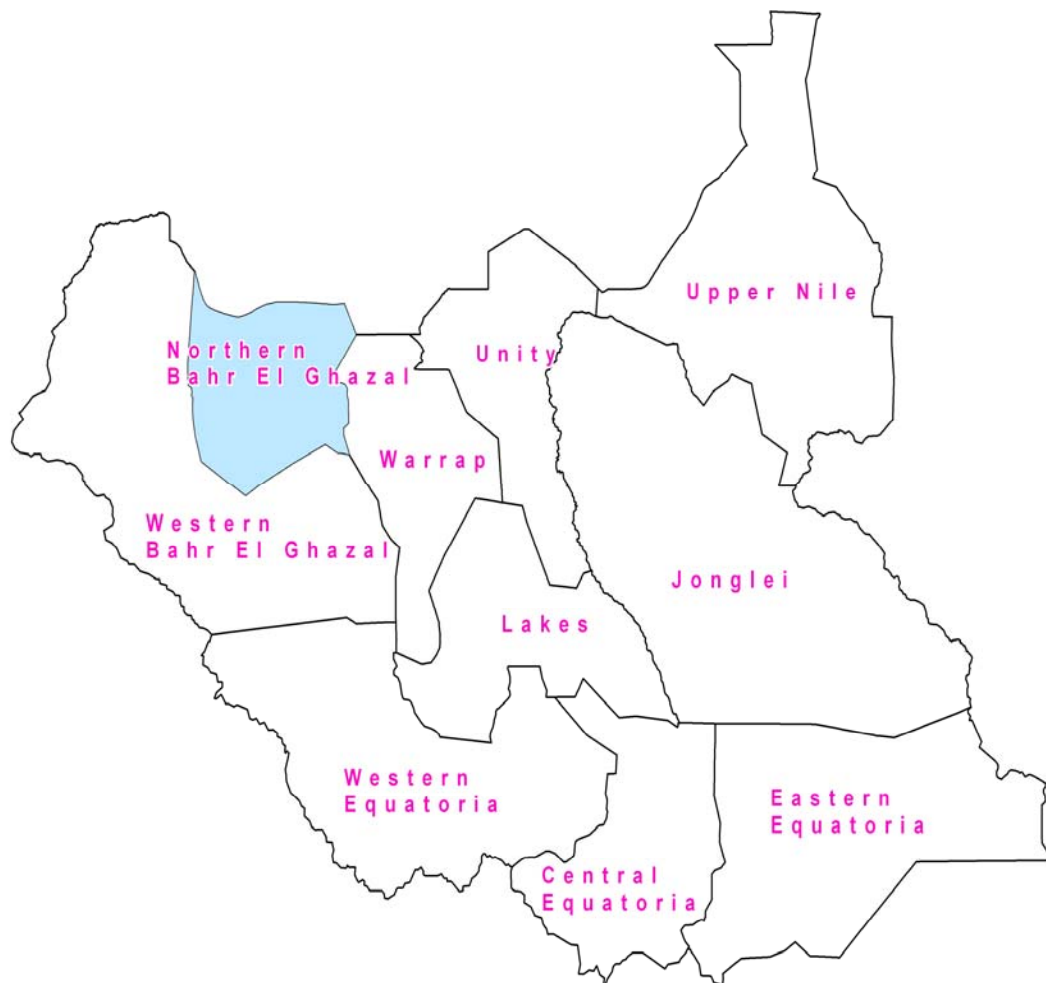


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1.0 Background Information

Northern Bahr el Gazal (NBeG) has a population of 720,898.¹ It borders Southern Kordofan State to the north, Warrap State to the east, Western Bahr el Ghazal State to the southeast and South Darfur State to the northwest.

Aweil City is the capital of the state and the main business and financial centre. It lies between 08.50 N and 27.20 E.

Administratively, the state is divided into five counties and 38 payams (Aweil North, Aweil East, Aweil South, Aweil West and Aweil Centre counties). Each county is headed by a Commissioner who is answerable to the State Governor and each payam is headed by a payam administrator answerable to the commissioner. As a result of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005, the displaced population of NBeG state is returning home. Initially, returns were organized by the United Nations/Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), but presently they are conducted spontaneously by the IDPs themselves.

Topographically, NBeG is a flood plain region lying between the Sahara desert belt and Savannah grasslands with scattered vegetation. Types of soils are clay to the east, sandy clay soil to the west; and loam and iron stone soils exist respectively in the western and northern regions of the state. The state is endowed with natural resources that include forests, rivers and wildlife. Untapped deposits of minerals are also believed to be present within the State boundaries. An average temperature range from 43.8°C in January to 36.0°C in September, and then drops to an average minimum temperature of 17.6°C in September down to 10.5°C in December. The annual average rainfall is 898 mm. and the rainy season lasts from April/May to October/November. The food production activities are mainly simsim, fishing and hunting. Some indigenous people have engaged in commercial ventures, but they face strong competition from the north. Arabic and Dinka are the main languages in the state

2.0 Security in the State

Since the signing of the CPA, the general security situation in NBeG has been very peaceful. However, during the first two years after the agreement was signed, seasonal clashes often arose between nomads from the north and the communities of the eastern and northern borders of NBeG. This has since stopped with the appointment and later election of the present state governor. Since his appointment in March 2008, the current state governor has expressed his conviction that the neighbouring communities on both sides (north and south) of the 1/1/56 border will always need each other, and therefore they should learn to resolve their disagreements by negotiation rather than the use of force. This is what he has been pursuing and working towards to this day.

2.1 Current security situation

¹ Sudan Population Census, 2008

At present, the security situation in the state is normal but unpredictable. The main security elements are: Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS), National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), and the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs). The UNMIS Kenyan contingent is basically responsible for the protection of United Nations personnel and property. There are no known armed elements in NBeG. Petty thefts, such as house breaking, trespassing, etc. occur. Domestic conflicts arising from drunkenness, which can sometimes be fatal, can occur but are very seldom.

3.0 Synopsis of State Government

Executive

The Executive arm of the state government is headed by the Governor, H. E. Lt. Gen. Paul Malong Awan, who was recently elected as Governor of NBeG and is also the current state chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The forum for his cabinet is known as the council of ministers, which meets regularly on a weekly basis. There are nine ministries and four commissions.

The Governor appoints State Ministers and advisers. The Council of Ministers consists of the Governor, the Deputy Governor (who also holds a ministerial position) and seven other Ministers, totalling eight ministers. The GoSS President during the 6th Governor's forum mandated the creation of a Ministry for Parliamentary Affairs within the existing state structure that will see the leader of government business in the state legislative assembly becoming the Minister. The State also has five advisers (security, political affairs, local government, economic affairs, and education, working directly with the Governor's office. The Governor is accountable to the GoSS President while the state ministers are accountable to the Governor. Each state minister is assisted by a Director General who is the professional and technical head of the ministry.

Assembly

The state has an elected legislative assembly consisting of 48 members: 43 are members of the SPLM, three are independent candidates, one member is from the Union of Sudan African Parties (USAP), and one member is from the United Democratic Sudan Forum (UDSF). The assembly has a speaker, deputy speaker and eight specialized committees, each of which is headed by a chairperson.

Judiciary

The state has an established judicial system. There is a state high court headed by the president of the high court, who is assisted by several other judges. There are also county courts headed by county judges in each of the five counties. These courts refer cases to the state high court for trials, as well as for appellate review.

3.1 Organogram

New State Government

The composition of the new State Government indicates that the office-holders are well-suited for the positions to which they have been appointed.

A. Ministers

1. **Mr. Madut Dut Yel - Deputy Governor and Minister of Local Government:** Mr. Madut Dut is a military man whose military experience is highly needed during the upcoming trying months leading to the referendum.

2. **Mr. Stephen Chol Ajongo – Minister of Education:** a university professor and educator who has reformed the educational sector in his two-year tenure as Minister of Education.

3. **Mr. Ronald Ruay Deng – Minister of Finance:** though the youngest minister in the entire Southern Sudan, over the years he has acquired extensive financial management skills that the state needs badly. Given his numerous initiatives, he is expected to devise many alternatives that will enable the State to reduce its dependency on oil money.

4. **Mr. Peter Kuot Jiel – Minister of Physical Infrastructure:** a holder of a civil engineering degree, coupled with long years of experience working with many NGOs. He runs a key ministry dealing with road and bridges network, physical constructions, land survey, acquisition of equipment, among a host of other related areas.

5. **Mr. Ayii Bol Agany – Minister of Agriculture:** a holder of a distinguished degree in agriculture who has extensive experience in this field, is suitably positioned at a time when increased efforts are needed to improve food security across Southern Sudan.

6. **Mr. Bona Makuac Mawien – Minister of Information:** an accomplished politician who is highly qualified for his position. He is regarded as an intellectual who brings a wealth of experience to the ministry.

7. **Mr. Akuei Mawien Dut – Minister of Legal Affairs:** a certified lawyer and advocate with many years of service in the legal field.

8. **Ms. Bustena Michael Manyang – Minister of Social Welfare:** a long-term social worker and community activist who has constantly and vigorously championed the cause of disadvantaged groups, particularly women and children.

9. **Mr. Angui Diing Diing – Minister of Parliamentary Affairs:** a well-versed former member of the National Legislative Assembly, and a commissioner who has brought many improvements to the border area where security is considered a high priority.

10. **Mr. Bol Tong Tong – Minister of Public Service:** a certified lawyer with many years of experience in the legal establishment. His services are particularly needed at a time when the GoSS is vigorously trying to reform the malfunctioning public service rules and regulations, and seeking to create a more vibrant, effective and results-oriented public service programme.

11. **Mr. Albino Madhan Anei – Minister of Animal Resources:** a veteran southern politician with years of experience dating back to the 1970s. He is a nationalistic figure who places national interests above his self-interest. He is on record as having persuaded his fellow party members in the Sudan African National Union (SANU) not to run against the SPLM, arguing that the vision and objectives of the SPLM are in line with those of SANU. [SANU was the only political party in NBeG without an official candidate in the April 2010 elections.]

12. **Minister of Health** – National Congress Party (NCP) to nominate the individual.

B. Garang Kuot Kuot – Secretary-General: a highly qualified, committed, patient and dedicated citizen who has over the years acquired the necessary skills and experience for his current post. He performed four years of community service as Secretary-General for the Federation of Aweil Communities in Canada, and engaged in continuous political advocacy to further the cause of marginalized people of Sudan, particularly citizens of Southern Sudan, Abyei, Nubia Mountain and South Blue Nile. He has also demonstrated his commitment to serve by mentoring youth and the SPLM State Secretariat. He was acting Secretary-General since 2008, and is regarded as the man behind the success of the state secretariat.

C. Advisers: they are known to have extensive experience in their respective area of assignment.

1. Mr. Jal Malith Jal – Political Adviser
2. Mr. Tong Atak Mel – Economic Adviser
3. Mr. Yel Deng Nguel – Security Adviser
4. Mr. Wany Anyit Majok – Education Adviser
5. Mr. Joseph Akok Aleu – Investment Adviser
6. Ms. Josephine Lado Moses – Gender and Human Right Adviser
7. Mr. Ismael Ibrahim Ahmed – Food Security Adviser
8. Ms. Sumeya Adut Deng – Peace and Reconciliation Adviser
9. Mr. Giir Riiny Lual – Local Government Adviser
10. Mr. Mariano Jiel Dhieu – Forestry and Environmental Adviser

D. County Commissioners - they are regarded as nationalistic and committed military men whose services and experience are much needed during the period before the referendum and beyond.

1. Mr. Kawac Deng Kawac – Aweil East
2. Mr. Kuol Athian Hal – Aweil North
3. Isaac Lual Chol – Aweil West
4. Mr. Jiel Mangok Ye l– Aweil South
5. Mr. Diera Madut Chan – Aweil Centre
6. Mr. Abraham Aleu Akol – Commissioner of the Headquarters

E. Chairpersons of the Independent Commissions - they are men with extensive experience and many years of service.

1. Angelo Marach Thiik – Public Grievances Chambers
2. Luol Mawien Deng – Employees’ Justice
3. Riak Wol Atuer – Human Rights
4. Wek Kuc Deng – Anti-corruption

4.0 Returns, Recovery and Development

Recently, there have not been any humanitarian concerns in the state. However, in 2007 and 2008, serious flooding occurred in the NBeG, which led to the outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea. A number of human lives were lost and properties were destroyed. Humanitarian partners, such as United Nations agencies, NGOs and government institutions, responded by:

- Providing treatment to patients at cholera treatment centres/clinics/hospital
- Providing chlorine tablets for water chlorination at water points
- Providing food and non-food items (NFIs) to affected families
- Providing sanitary facilities at camps for the displaced

5.0 RCSO State Team – Composition and activities

The RCSO State team was created to increase significantly the capacity and coordination of the United Nations at the state level in the areas of humanitarian action, stabilization, protection of civilians and state support.

The field office in NBeG state currently has five staff, four of whom act as focal points for each of these pillars under the guidance and supervision of a team leader who provides oversight support and coordination.

Its main objectives are:

- Coordinating and addressing emerging humanitarian concerns in collaboration with major actors and government partners.
- Stabilizing insecure areas by helping to extend state authority.
- Laying the ground for state take-off by strengthening state capacity to coordinate, implement and monitor stabilization, recovery and reintegration activities.
- Improving the collective impact of UNMIS and United Nations agencies for protecting civilians

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