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Highlights

Kiir rules out termination of NCP-SPLM partnership

FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit, addressing a rally in the Blue Nile State yesterday, revealed that the SPLM and the NCP would soon resolve their differences over the census results, citing ongoing dialogue between the two parties, **Ajras Al-Hurriah** reports. Mr. Kiir denied that the SPLM intends to terminate its partnership with the NCP despite disagreement over a range of issues which, he said, would be resolved by the Presidency. He said the CPA was the only hope for the Sudanese people, urging them to vote for unity.

For his part, the Blue Nile governor Malik Aqqar complained of lack of development in his state and called on the Presidency for urgent intervention to implement the security arrangements.

Sudan Tribune website 12/8/09 reported the SPLM chief inaugurated a number of development projects in the region and called for unity among the people and dismissed the possibility of any return to war between the North and South.

According to **Miraya FM** 12/8/09, Kiir called on all political parties to overcome disagreements for the sake of unity and peace, saying the CPA partners would overcome the dispute over the Referendum Bill and that a new bill for popular consultation for the Blue Nile and southern Kordofan was underway.

Situation in the South is a humanitarian storm – UN

Local dailies report UN Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator Lise Grande told a press conference yesterday that the South is facing a humanitarian storm. **Al-Sahafa** reports Lise Grande painted a grim picture of the situation in the region.

Spiraling inter-tribal conflict, a massive food shortage and a budget crisis have converged to create a humanitarian emergency in southern Sudan, putting at least 40 per cent of the local population at risk, Lise warned yesterday, according to **UN News Centre**.

A “humanitarian perfect storm” is how Lise Grande described it during a news conference in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

“Southern Sudan is facing an almost unmanageable set of problems,” she said. “A lot of good work is being done... despite this, we just can’t keep up.”

According to Ms. Grande, inter-tribal conflicts are increasing in number and intensity. Since January, over 2,000 people have died in inter-tribal violence and more than 250,000 people have been displaced across southern Sudan, she noted.

The region also faces an acute food shortage brought about by a combination of delayed seasonal rains, widespread insecurity and high food prices. In addition, the GoSS is tackling a “massive” budget gap owing to the global financial crisis and the drop in oil prices.

“Probably no other Government in the region has suffered as much from the global meltdown as southern Sudan, which has lost a staggering 40 per cent of the revenues it expected,” said Ms. Grande. “As a result many of the plans that the GoSS had made with the international partners,

the UN agencies and NGOs [non-governmental organizations] have had to be shelved.”

The situation has left 1.2 million people dependent on food assistance from the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and is made worse by a lack of funding for humanitarian work, she added.

Ms. Grande stated that \$85 million is the bare minimum needed just to keep people alive in southern Sudan, where more than 90 per cent of the population lives on less than \$1 per day, 97 per cent has no access to sanitation, and one out of seven women who become pregnant will probably die of pregnancy-related complications.

While there are many constraints in southern Sudan, she said two of the most difficult are access and capacity. Presently, there is less than 200 kilometres of paved road in the whole region. “At the best of times, we have access to only 40 per cent of the areas we need to get to. During the rainy season, we lose even this,” she stated.

“In terms of capacity, the point is that there isn’t enough,” she said, whether it is on the part of the Government, UN agencies or NGOs.

“The GoSS is making Herculean efforts, the NGOs are doing fantastic work, the UN agencies are operating around the clock, but all of us are stretched to the limit – we don’t have enough money, we don’t have enough staff and because of these constraints we are not moving out of the emergency fast enough.”

UN aircraft flying SPLA troops to Lokongole

Al-Wifaq reports UN planes yesterday stepped up efforts to fly SPLA soldiers to Lokongole area where an SPLA battalion is stationed. Reportedly, the SPLM intends to disarm the Murle by force.

UNMIS troops in the South “tourists” – SPLM

Al-Wifaq reports the National Assembly Deputy Speaker and SPLM leading figure has described UNMIS troops in Southern Sudan as “tourists”, saying they have not come to keep peace and to resolve tribal conflicts in the South.

NEC says receives no objections to census results

Ajras Al-Hurriah reports NEC Chairman Abel Alier as telling reporters in Juba that he had met with all the political parties and none of them expressed rejection of the census results. However, he pointed out that SPLM did not attend the meeting. Alier added that elections committees in states have received their plans and they would soon begin voter education, adding voter registration would also begin in November.

Meanwhile, *Al-Ayyam* reports NEC Deputy Chairman Prof. Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah said so far the Commission received only one objection to the census results.

SPLA detains SPLM-DC delegation in Blue Nile

Al-Intibaha reports the SPLA in the Blue Nile State detained members of the SPLM-DC’s delegation who were on an official visit to the state to prepare for the movement’s convention in the region. The SPLM-DC issued a statement yesterday denouncing detention of its delegation at the behest of the state governor and called on the Political Parties Affairs Council, the Presidency and the human rights organizations to intervene to end repeated excesses against its supporters.

Meanwhile, the NCP leaders in the Blue Nile state have threatened to wage war on the state governor Malik Aqqar, warning him to stop poking his nose in the NCP's affairs in the area. According to ***Al-Wifaq***, Malik Aqqar, while addressing the Blue Nile State Assembly in presence of FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit, warned against a move to remove his deputy Ahmed Karamanu (NCP) from his post as the NCP head in the state.

Death sentence against USAID officer killers overruled

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports the Court of Appeal yesterday overruled the death sentence against murderers of the USAID officer John Granville and his Sudanese driver. The Court said no sentence could be issued under article 130 of the Criminal Code without taking into consideration Granville family's opinion, adding the family of the driver also prefers to forgive.

Saudi Arabia donates 70 m Riyals for Humanitarian Work in Sudan

SUNA 12/8/09 - The General Commissioner for the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), Hassabu Mohamed Abdul-Rahman, yesterday received a delegation of the Saudi Red Crescent for discussion on a donation of 70 million Saudi riyals provided by Saudi Arabia to support the humanitarian work in Sudan.