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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Highlights

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## **NCP announces nominees for state governors in the north**

Presidential Assistant and NCP leader Nafie Ali Nafie at press conference yesterday announced the list of the NCP's nominees to contest state governors' elections in 15 states in the North but delayed the announcement of its nominees for the South state governors and GoSS president until they have been finalized, **local dailies** report.

According to **Al-Sahafa**, Nafie said the existing government would only be changed through elections, warning against attempts to take recourse to militias and armed groups to overthrow the Government. He advised those seeking to remove his party from power to contest elections.

**Local dailies** also report that nomination of Al-Bashir for presidential elections was formally submitted to the National Elections Commission yesterday. Nominations of two other candidates were also submitted to the NEC these are Mukhtar Al-Ebied from the Social Development Party and Mohamed Al-Hassan Al-Soufi from the National Reform Party.

**Sudan Tribune website** 12/1/10 reported that the NCP expressed openness to the idea of an alliance with its rival representing the South in the upcoming April elections, a senior official said today.

The presidential assistant and deputy NCP chairman Nafie Ali Nafie, speaking at a press conference today affirmed that his party is committed to holding the elections as scheduled.

Nafie stressed that the NCP would accept the verdict of the people irrespective of the outcome, hinting to the possibility of alliance with the SPLM "in light of the keenness of both sides to implement the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and to maintain the unity".

The NCP official added that the existing atmosphere and dialogue would enable the two partners to overcome the challenges and that such an alliance would pave the way to more stability and to guarantee the unity of Sudan.

The Sudanese National Election Committee (NEC) started accepting nominations today for the parliamentary and presidential races.

Critics say the NCP will likely achieve a comfortable win in the elections citing widespread fraud, vote buying and forged papers.

Nafie welcomed what he described as "clear signals" being reflected by the SPLM, adding that the NCP is standing for the implementation of the peace agreement even if it was not linked to the alliance.

He stressed that the NCP's goal is to hold the elections, conclude the interim period and give Southerners the full freedom to decide in the self-determination referenda and in this regard called for a strong campaign to stress the importance of unity and to warn from the disadvantages of secession.

Furthermore, he hailed the NCP-SPLM relations saying they are currently at their best

conditions following the ratification of laws.

### **Sudan President Bashir starts re-election bid**

**BBC** 12/1/10 - Sudan leader Omar al-Bashir has been officially nominated to stand for president in April's election by his northern National Congress Party (NCP).

The general election will be the first since the end of a two decade north-south civil war in 2005.

The southern SPLM party is expected to announce its presidential candidate later this week. The BBC's James Copnall in Khartoum says it is unlikely to be SPLM leader Salva Kiir, who is focused on his job as president of Southern Sudan.

Our correspondent says Mr. Kiir will want to remain as southern leader ahead of a referendum on independence for the semi-autonomous region due in a year's time.

More than three-quarters of the population live in the north, so it is likely that a northern candidate will win the election, he says.

Mr. Kiir also does not have the broad national support the late SPLM leader John Garang enjoyed, our reporter says.

### **Sudan's elections need credible monitors-Britain**

**Reuters** 12/1/10 - Credible monitoring of Sudan's first multi-party elections in 24 years is essential and the EU may send observers to help ensure such scrutiny occurs, Britain, Sudan's second largest bilateral aid donor, said on Tuesday.

Opposition groups in oil-producing Sudan have already alleged widespread fraud, vote buying and forged papers during last year's registration for the elections due in three months time, threatening to boycott the vote.

Britain's Africa minister, Glenys Kinnock, said there was an urgent need for an international effort to support the "fragile" north-south peace process ahead of the elections and a 2011 south Sudanese vote on secession.

"If we are to have a credible election there has to be freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom for the media," Kinnock, on a three-day visit, told reporters.

The international community has raised serious concerns about a law giving Sudan's feared intelligence services wide-ranging search and arrest powers. The law was passed last month thanks to the dominance of President Omar al-Bashir's National Congress Party's (NCP) in parliament.

Bashir was officially nominated on Tuesday as a presidential candidate by the NCP and its allied parties. The nomination came after he retired as army chief to comply with the political parties' law.

He is expected to be a front runner in the April presidential vote, which will take place alongside parliamentary and state governor elections.

Kinnock said she had held many talks with the EU about monitoring the elections.

"It's not announced yet so I can smile and say I'm fairly confident (EU monitors will come)".

Last week Britain announced a 54 million pounds aid package to Sudan.

At present the Carter Center (of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter) are the only official observers, with about two dozen people to cover Africa's largest country of a million square miles.

Although a 2005 peace deal ended more than five decades of intermittent north-south civil war, mistrust between the former foes even after the formation of a national coalition government has left key points of the deal, including democratic transformation, unimplemented.

Kinnock said both sides needed to be pressured to sit down and work out problems ahead of the elections and the referendum.

Greater international efforts must be made to support Sudan's historic north-south peace deal, Minister for Africa Glenys Kinnock warned on Tuesday, according to **AFP** 12/1/10.

Concern is mounting in the oil-producing nation over the stability of the 2005 CPA, which ended a two decades long north-south civil war.

"The CPA is at a fragile moment," said Baroness Kinnock, speaking to reporters during a three-day visit to Sudan.

"We need more international engagement and greater international interest."

"We must ratchet up our diplomatic efforts and maintain appropriate pressures on the north and the south of Sudan," she added.

"We know that escalating violence in the south, if we are realistic, does have the potential to endanger the whole process... Therefore the emphasis we have to have is on a process that is about delivering peace through dialogue rather than violence."

However, the minister said there was hope for the future.

"There is time to bring about the changes that are needed... All that is required is that we can see and hear the political will implemented," she said.

### **170 SPLM candidates reject party nominations for N. Bahr el Ghazal**

**Sudan Tribune website** 12/1/10 – Just a day following an announcement made by Northern Bahr el Ghazal State SPLM Electoral College naming 73 candidates for various parliamentary seats, a group of 170 other aspiring candidates rejected the decision, accusing incumbent governor Paul Malong Awan Anei of having controlled the selection process to his liking.

The 170 aspiring candidates in Aweil, Juba and Khartoum are seeking to run on the SPLM ticket. The group questioned the integrity of the electoral committee pointing fingers at some members within it for having selected family members and relatives while disregarding all required standard criteria for selection.

### **New Abyei Chief Administrator sworn in**

New Abyei Chief Administrator Arop Deng Kuol was sworn in yesterday in front of President Al-Bashir in presence of Deputy Chief Administrator Rahama Abdul Rahman Al-Nur, **Local dailies**

report. According to ***Al-Rai Al-Aam***, President Al-Bahir directed the new Administration to work for stability in the area, to render services and development.

### **Sudan and China discuss expansion of Khartoum refinery**

***Sudan Tribune website*** 12/1/10 — Sudan's oil minister Al-Zubair Ahmed Al-Hassan was in China for talks on Khartoum refinery expansion, the official news agency SUNA reported today.

The minister of energy and mining, Al-Zubair, discussed during a regular meeting of Khartoum Refinery Board the performance of the refinery during the past year and plans for the new year.

The minister, who chaired the meeting, also tackled with Chinese officials an agreement to increase its production to 200 thousand barrels per day instead of its current capacity of 100,000 bpd to meet the growing need of oil derivatives.

Sudan and the state firm China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) signed on November 17, 2009 an agreement on the second phase of the expansion of the refinery.

China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC), a leading energy investor in Sudan and parent of Asia's top oil and gas firm PetroChina, owns 50 percent of the refinery, which it built and operates. The Sudan government holds the rest.

In London, Archbishop Daniel Deng, leader of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, accused China of pursuing a damaging policy of economic gain in Sudan and urged Beijing to use its influence to help ease rising tension ahead of elections.

"China is looking only for minerals; they are looking for economic benefit. That is all. That is damaging the country. They are not even making peace," the Anglican archbishop said during a visit to Lambeth Palace in London on Monday.

"They are not interested in whether Sudan goes to war or not. That is not their mission, that is not their problem," he further said.

Deng was joined by the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams, who recommended a single high level figure to act as a mediator between the feuding parties and called on China to play a "positive" role in peace efforts.

The Archbishops later expressed their concerns in a meeting with the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

### **South Sudan minister says public cooperation reduced crime in Juba**

***Sudan Tribune website*** 12/1/10 — South Sudan minister of internal affairs General Gier Chuang Aluong has said crime incidents have decreased in Juba because public relationship with police patrolling forces have relatively increased making it possible to combat armed robbery.

Speaking during the end of a daylong security meeting held with police commissioners from various states of Southern Sudan in his office on Tuesday 12, he said reduction in commission of crime in Juba is a resulted of better education of members of the public on the importance of community policing.

"I urged you to embrace community policing education which is the simple and best alternatives

to bringing reduce rising of criminal cases across the region," the minister said.

"We embarked on public education on the importance of safety here in Juba, this, he said, resulted in decrease in the number of criminal incidents in the town."

General Gier said the good relationship existing between the police force and public in Juba has seen more people finding it easy to inform the police about potential crime incidents.

"In due course, this had resulted into the arrest of perpetrators before they fulfilled their missions," he stressed.

He further said the police force in Juba is now able to deal with criminals without difficulties in tracing them because publics have realized dangers in sleeping with security related information.

The general commended the good relationship between the police and the public that had enabled the force arrest some of the most wanted criminals in the capital of the semi autonomous government of South Sudan.

He mentioned one of the successes attained as the recovery of a sub-machine gun and a locally made pistol in last year's Juba arms collection operation.

He continued to say, the crime situation in Juba town had tremendously improved in period leading to Christmas days compared to period dated back to 2006-2009. He attributed this to the good relationship between the police and members of the public.

However, he said, the police force still facing a shortage of working facilities and police quarters which has resulted into its staff living far from duty stations.

He said he asked the both executive and legislature to include the force's activities to consider supplementary budget so that it may purchase some of its equipment.

The minister also requested development partners to assist the force in improving its capability to fight crime.

### **“NCP should make peace or be overthrown” – JEM**

**Ray Al-Shaab** reports JEM spokesperson as saying that the NCP has only two options, either to make comprehensive peace or it would be overthrown by JEM.

### **SPLM's Malik Aggar describes the regime as “toothless”**

Blue Nile Governor and SPLM Vice Chairman Malik Aggar told a mass rally at a school in Damazine last Monday that the SPLM has “surrounded President Al-Bashir from all sides” and has the ability to take over office from him should they wish, reports **Akhir Lahza**.

“When we were in the bush we thought the Salvation Regime was indomitable but then we came in, thrust our hands inside its mouth and discovered that they could not bite,” he reportedly said. He described NCP leaders as power-hungry and lacking credibility.

He reminded that President Al-Bashir is surrounded by SLM-MM in Darfur, the Eastern Front in the east and the SPLM in the south.

## **Taha, Machar to meet in Khartoum today**

VP Ali Osman Mohamed Taha and GoSS VP Riek Machar are set to hold talks today to discuss outstanding issues *Al-Ahdath* reports. In a statement yesterday, the Office of the Vice-President of the GoSS said that Machar flew to Khartoum yesterday for talks with Taha on the census results and possibility of an increase in southern Sudan representation in the National Assembly.

## **Al-Bashir calls on Misseriya to preserve security and stability**

Speaking to representatives of the Misseriya tribe, President Al-Bashir has promised to address Misseriya concerns over the Abyei Referendum Bill endorsed by the Parliament recently, *Akhir Lahza* reports. He also called on Misseriya representatives in all political parties to help preserve peace, security and unity in the country and to sustain ties with the Dinka.

## **Gunman shot dead a northern trader in Renk**

The shooting by a gunman of Mohamed Ali Jameel, a northern Sudanese trader in Renk, Upper Nile State, cast a gloom over the city, *Al-Intibaha* reports.

The SPLA soldier reportedly shot the trader in front of his house in the town yesterday afternoon following argument over "tax imposed on northern traders by some SPLA soldiers".

Reportedly, the deceased was a prominent trader of good reputation in the area who started his business in Renk since 1972.

## **One student killed, four injured in university violence**

One student was killed and four wounded yesterday at the college of engineering of the Sudan University of Science and Technology, *local dailies* report. According to *Al-Ayyam*, a Baathist Party member stabbed NCP member to death, the altercation was triggered by a political debate.