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INTERVIEW

- Mohammed Abdallah Wad-Abouk (Misseriya MP) (*Al-Akhbar*)

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Highlights

Voter registration to start in early November

The one-month voter registration process for the forthcoming general elections starts on the first of November, says the NEC Director for the Electoral Registry, Al-Hadi Mohamed Ahmed. **Al-Sahafa** reports that Al-Hadi told a workshop in Khartoum yesterday that voter registration is an individual responsibility of the eligible voter. He pointed out that the register would be published on 15/01/2010. He also said that some 20 million potential voters are expected to register.

Al-Hadi also urged political parties contesting the elections to encourage their constituencies to register and to educate on the processes involved.

GoSS VP says parties may agree on draft referendum bill today

GoSS VP Riek Machar is confident the parties may resolve the differences over the draft referendum bill later today, **Al-Sahafa** reports. Following a meeting of the joint NCP, SPLM political committee yesterday, he revealed that the two sides have made major gains on the issue. He also said that the two sides also talked about a commission for Abyei and other issues and do not expect major difficulties.

SPLM would propose solutions to transcend differences over census results

Foreign Minister Deng Alor complains that the ministries led by SPLM figures have been “emptied of contents” in one way or other in a manner that does not help create confidence between the two sides, **Al-Akhbar** reports. Speaking at an interview, the prominent SPLM figure pointed out that the signals from the south about a possible secession is a result of the failure of the Sudanese state to provide equitable development and services to the people. “The SPLM would only accept unity on the basis of a new Sudan based on equal rights of the citizens and that recognises the country’s cultural, ethnic and religious diversity and not on the basis of a country ruled by Islamic *Sharia* laws,” the minister said. He also pointed out that the SPLM would propose measures to help the parties overcome the differences over the census results and is ready to listen to what suggestions the NCP has on the issue. On the referendum bill, the minister said that the SPLM still adheres to its calls for a simple majority vote to effect southern Sudanese secession.

Sudan ruling NCP says SPLM boycott threat an ‘escape’

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 13/10/09 — The National Congress Party (NCP) has lashed back at the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) accusing it of “deflecting its responsibility” following SPLM threats yesterday to boycott the National Assembly sessions in a week’s time if no agreement is reached with the NCP on a number of bills including the National Security Bills.

The NCP parliamentary bloc said in a statement that the SPLM ultimatum is a contradictory one because any boycott will effectively impede deliberations on these laws. They further called on SPLM to reverse its threat of boycotting the parliament. The NCP’s political bureau officer Mandoor Al-Mahdi stressed that a joint political committee between the two sides is deliberating on these laws to reach an agreement.

Al-Sahafa also reports that the NCP said in its statement that parliament would remain open for business even should the SPLM boycott sessions.

Election impossible in Halayeb area, says Beja Congress

Khartoum Monitor reports that Beja Congress Spokesperson, Salah Barukin, has ruled out the possibility of conducting elections in the disputed Halayeb Triangle in northern Sudan. He reportedly told **Miraya FM** that the area is totally under the control of Egyptian authorities and that no Sudanese citizen could go in.

UN delegation satisfied with S. Kordofan DDR process

A UN delegation from New York was recently in Southern Kordofan to witness the DDR process and has expressed satisfaction over the measures involved, **Rai Al-Shaab** reports. The UN says the DDR programme in Sudan is the largest in the world and has made a lot of progress. UN representatives pointed out that any obstacles to this programme would not bode well for peace and stability in the area. The purpose of their travel to the region is to seek solutions to potential problems.

Kassala starts demobilization of 2,254 ex-combatants

Rai Al-Shaab reports that the DDR Commission in Kassala State has announced preparedness to conduct a demobilization and reintegration operation targeting some 2,254 SAF and PDF ex-combatants. The head of the DDR Commission in Kassala, Al-Zein Abderlrahman, says reintegration operations in the region are proceeding well and in total transparency and will be completed by the 22nd of this month.

Security Council lengthen mandate of experts monitoring Darfur sanctions

UN News 13/10/09 - The UN Security Council today voted unanimously to extend the mandate of the panel of experts monitoring sanctions imposed over Darfur. The 15-member body adopted a resolution allowing the group, which monitors an arms embargo, travel ban and assets freeze, to continue its work through 15 October next year.

Determining that the situation in Sudan continues to present a threat to international peace and regional security, the Council requested in today's resolution that the panel coordinate its activities with the joint United Nations–African Union peacekeeping force, known as UNAMID, which was established at the beginning of 2008.

GoSS unveils Juba/Lamu road construction plan

Miraya FM 13/10/09 - Southern Sudan's Director-General for Roads and Bridges, Jacob Marial Maker says plans are underway to construct a road linking Juba with the Port of Lamu in Kenya. In an interview with **Miraya FM**, Mr. Maker said this latest development was part of the government's plans to ease transportation. He said the Kenyan port of Mombassa which had been the only export and import outlet for Southern Sudan from Kenya had become too congested of late. This, he said was hampering the transportation of goods into Juba and other parts of the south. Mr. Maker also said that there were long-term plans to construct railways and roads to link Southern Sudan with its neighbours.

Nuer urges UNSC to save the peace in Sudan

In a statement issued on 12/10/2009, the Nuer Supreme Council condemned the violence in Bentiu, Unity State, which led to the loss of innocent civilian lives and called upon the UN Security Council to intervene to save the peace in southern Sudan. The full text of the statement appears on **Sudantribune.com** and could be accessed at ([ctrl+click here](#)).

Rains, poor roads hamper mystery disease response

IRIN JUBA, 12/10/09 - Efforts to identify a haemorrhagic disease that has killed four people in a

remote corner of Southern Sudan have been thwarted by bad roads made impassable by heavy rainfall, according to officials.

The deaths took place in Kitkit, a military outpost in Western Bahr al-Ghazal state. On 23 September, the state's director-general of health, Martin Mayen Wol, had written to Southern Sudan's health ministry in Juba to report the deaths and that six soldiers were complaining of nose bleeds and vomiting blood.

"As there is no means to verify the situation and confirm the condition due to the bad roads attributed to the rainy season, we ask your esteemed office for direct intervention through the international and UN bodies," wrote Wol. "The situation is urgent, Sir."

A team from Southern Sudan's health ministry, the UN World Health Organization and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) could only get as far as Timsah, 70km away.

"... Not even a vehicle could move," Nathan Atem, the Director-General of Preventive Medicine, said. "They had to come back."

Without a landing strip, Kitkit is inaccessible even to aircraft. A doctor sent to the region on a flight with the UN Mission in Sudan, following an appeal for help issued in late September, had to turn back.

Blood samples of those infected have been sent to the US Centres for Disease Control labs in Atlanta for analysis.

Ministry of Health Under-Secretary Majok Yak Majok played down fears that Ebola might be to blame for the deaths: "It could be any other disease that can cause bleeding," said Majok. "For a serious outbreak, it could have not remained [as] contained since 23 September."

He noted that if it was a viral infection it would have engulfed the entire region in the three weeks.

VP Taha says CPA erred on land issues

Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha says the negotiators of the CPA made a mistake in not agreeing that the authority over land should be a federal issue like the issue of the minerals it contains, reports *Al-Sahafa*. Addressing a conference organised by the National Urban Development Council, VP Taha noted that conflict between the different levels of government over who should have authority over government land has made a number of investors leave the country.

Engineer falls off UNAMID aircraft

An aircraft engineer inspecting a UNAMID aircraft fell off the aircraft to his death at Khartoum Airport yesterday, *Al-Raed* reports. The body of the deceased flight engineer, a non-Sudanese, was taken to the mortuary for an autopsy.

South Darfur aborts LRA infiltration attempt

The Government of South Darfur reports that regular forces have aborted an attempt by the LRA to infiltrate South Darfur and to deploy elements on the South Darfur borders with southern Sudan and the CAR, *The Citizen* reports. The government reports that the LRA was repulsed and some of its elements were killed and other captured. The government says that the rebel movement is no longer a threat to the state.

INTERVIEW: Mohammed Abdallah Wad-Abouk (Misseriya MP)
Al-Akhbar, 11/10/09

AA: *Don't you think that the Misseriya Conference and the consequent memorandum rejecting the PCA ruling came three months late?*

MA: In fact, the true position of the Misseriya on the PCA issue was not made public when the award was declared. If you recall, following the meeting in Juba called for by FVP Salva Kiir with representatives of the Misseriya tribe, our people said that they had no intention to declare their position on the PCA ruling at that time on the grounds that there was a tribal conference in the pipeline that would discuss all those issues. Our people said at that time that the tribe would make its decisions on the issue public after the conference that recently took place.

AA: *On what basis did the tribe reject the PCA award?*

MA: The rejection is based on the premise that 59 tribes that represent the true dimensions of the Misseriya tribe have been swallowed up by the PCA ruling. If I, as an educated member of the tribe residing in Khartoum do accept the ruling, do you expect those people who have lived in those areas for hundreds of years would accept the ruling? All I am saying is that people should understand the decision taken by the Misseriya.

AA: *We do recall that a delegation from the Misseriya had earlier pledged allegiance to President Al-Bashir and blessed the ruling. Why this change of mind?*

MA: To date, we have not voiced our support to the PCA decision and I have not heard of such representatives of the Misseriya who you said gave their support for the decision.

AA: *But the Misseriya did have representatives who attended the ruling at the PCA and welcomed the decision. This is the picture that the world would remember.*

MA: With due respect to those members of the Misseriya tribe who traveled to The Hague in the name of the Misseriya, I tell you that those people did not represent the tribe but rather represented their individual and partisan interests. The Misseriya have no knowledge about what took place at The Hague.

To make it worse, no one – be it from those who claimed to represent us at The Hague, the Government or the parties to the CPA – has ever taken the trouble to go to the Misseriya areas and brief the people about such a crucially important decision as the PCA ruling. This is part of the crisis today.

AA: *What position do the Misseriya tribesmen who were at The Hague currently hold following your rejection of the ruling?*

MA: The Misseriya tribesmen who went to The Hague are divided over this issue. Some have remained silent; some back the Misseriya decision while others back the government position in favor of the PCA ruling. Allow me to say that the delegation of Misseriya tribesmen who went to The Hague have done more harm to the tribe than good.

No entity, be it domestic, regional or international could force the Misseriya into accepting something they are not convinced with. Our position on this issue should be respected by all. We are working towards convincing our people to adhere to our general policies and to maintain the peace. I request all parties, including the NCP and the SPLM who referred the issue to the PCA, to accept these views of the Misseriya people and their position on the ruling.

AA: *One of your leaders whom we talked to says he is not aware that the Misseriya have rejected the ruling.*

MA: This is true of leaders who try to avoid confrontation. It is true that there were some individual voices in the past talking about these issues but this conference has come out with the official views of the Misseriya tribe on the PCA ruling. Our recent decision puts the Sudan government, the NCP, the SPLM and the international community before a major challenge. I have learned that our representatives handed to the SRSG Ashraf Qazi a memorandum on our decisions. Our people are now suspended and we do not know our fate.

AA: *What happens next after the resolutions you issued?*

MA: Our resolve will be evident on the ground and should not be ignored. If ignored, an unnatural situation will be created in the region.

AA: *Do you mean an outbreak of war?*

MA: Of course not. I mean that all parties should understand why the Misseriya took this decision. If the parties really want stability in the region, I expect them to go down to Misseriya land and talk to the grassroots without any interference from our Misseriya leaders sitting in their offices in Khartoum and reach a solution with them.

AA: *Who do you refer to as the people who sit in their offices in Khartoum?*

MA: I do not refer to anyone in particular but those groups of people in Khartoum who, throughout the last twenty years, have claimed to represent our tribe at the government and at the NCP.

AA: *What is the government reaction to your rejection of the PCA ruling?*

MA: There has been no response to date but I request that this decision taken by more than 4,000 participants at the Misseriya conference should be respected. We have also heard no response from the NCP and the SPLM but I also call upon them to understand why we came up with the decision.

AA: *Can you tell us what would happen should the government, the NCP and the SPLM decide to ignore your resolutions and to implement the PCA ruling?*

MA: Such a decision would be a dangerous gamble to encourage confrontation. The fundamental rights of the people have to be respected. I think this is a failure of the parties who were in charge of resolving the issue and they should correct the mistake.

AA: *Do you blame the leaders in government, the NCP, the SPLM and the Misseriya for this?*

MA: Yes they do bear a major portion of what is happening. The Misseriya however do respect President Al-Bashir and we are convinced that he has our best interests at heart. During the countdown to the signing of the Abyei Area Road Map at the Friendship Palace, President Al-Bashir had wanted to hear the truth from the Misseriya but the organizers gave him an inaccurate picture of the situation. The Misseriya leaders who later went to The Hague had at first refused to sign the Road Map but we do not know what happened afterwards and made them change their minds later.

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