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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

New Government to be sworn in today

Al-Sahafa 16/6/10 - The new federal ministers will be sworn in today at 1100 hours at the presidential palace before president Omer Al Bashir, while the state ministers will take oath of office at noon.

Few surprises in Sudan's new government

Sudan Tribune website 14/6/10 - The long-awaited new cabinet in Sudan came at little surprise to most observers who expected the dominant National Congress Party (NCP) to keep many key figures in the post-election government.

The ruling party engaged in long discussions with the SPLM on their share of the new government as well as the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) despite the latter winning few seats in national assembly. The DUP leader Mohamed Osman Al-Mirghani had rejected the elections calling it fraudulent and accused the NCP of vote rigging.

The DUP and the Popular Congress Party (PCP) led by Hassan Al-Turabi had refused to join other opposition parties in their boycott of the elections. Both parties came after the elections to denounce the conduct of the polls and vowing not to be part of the new government.

However, the DUP later started talks with the NCP on participation but failed to agree on their share of representation in the government and it was also reported that Al-Mirghani insisted that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), an umbrella of northern opposition groups, be allowed to join.

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) reported today that Al-Mirghani returned home after a trip abroad and quoted one of his aides as saying that the issue of participation in the new government is up to the DUP leader to decide on.

DUP criticizes formation of new government

Al-Sahafa 16/6/10 - Spokesperson of the Democratic Unionist Party Hatim Al-Sir criticized the formation of the new government, saying there is nothing new about it. "It is just a change of faces," he said. He further added that the NCP had missed a golden opportunity to bring about a real change through the participation of all the political forces.

Muslim brotherhood says has reservation on participation in the new government

Al-Sahafa 16/6/10 - The political bureau of Muslim brotherhood confirmed that the party would not participate in the new government until the NCP and the SPLM have completed their understandings. Deputy Secretary General for the Muslim brotherhood Sheikh Ali Jaweesh told reporters that there were contacts and consultations with the NCP and they would decide afterwards.

Public disappointments over formation of new national cabinet

Sudan Tribune website 15/6/10 - After a day from the announcement of formation of the long awaited national cabinet, some people have expressed their disappointment over the power

sharing and regional representations.

Majok Lual Chol, a Political Science student at Juba University said the exchange of the foreign affairs ministry with other two ministries by national congress party and the SPLM has political calculations from the ruling NCP think tanks.

He said that NCP accepted to give out ministry of energy because they need to renew their relationship with neighboring countries. "NCP needs to amend and restore the badly tarnished relationships with foreign countries and to use it for lobbying against secession of the south from northern part of the country," he said.

While Chol was getting concerned at trading of foreign affair ministry, Bulo Kuol, an intellectual from Northern Bahr el Ghazal state expressed dissatisfaction over lack of his state's representation in the central government.

"I twice read the list of the ministers but failed to get a single name from Northern Bahr el Ghazal on the two lists for national and state ministers," he lamented.

"How was the selection which excluded Aweil done? Who were the members at the identification and selection committee for ministerial nominations," he asked.

SPLA attacked renegade Athor's camp in Jonglei state

Al-Ayyam 16/6/10- The SPLA yesterday announced that it had attacked renegade Gen. Athor's key camp in Khor Flus in Jonglei state, capturing 13 of his fighters.

SPLA spokesperson Maj. Gen. Kuol Deim Kuol said reports confirmed that Athor fled from the camp hours before the SPLA's attack but a major communication device used by his forces was seized.

According to **Akhir Lahza**, 7,000 soldiers from the SPLA attacked Athor's camp in which 257 people were killed and others seriously injured on both sides. Sources said the SPLA attacking troops were commanded by Ayut Alier.

AFP 16/6/10 reports SPLA spokesperson as saying that South Sudan army troops have clashed with supporters of a renegade leader in the sensitive Jonglei state, with more fighting expected on Wednesday.

The formerly rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said that supporters of renegade senior officer George Athor, who were captured on Sunday, had provided the southern army with his location.

"An SPLA reconnaissance team of 35 men headed on Tuesday to Dier, in the Khor Fulus district of Jonglei State. There were clashes, but we have no details of casualties," Kuol Diem Kuol said.

"Today (Wednesday), we have sent a combat team to the location, and clashes are expected," he said.

Athor, a senior southern officer, led a rebellion after losing the gubernatorial race in the southern Jonglei state during the country's April elections, accusing the south Sudan authorities of corruption. He was not immediately available for comment.

The southern army accuses Athor and his men of acting on behalf of Khartoum in a bid to destabilise southern Sudan ahead of a referendum on independence scheduled for January next year, a charge denied by the central government.

The referendum is a key provision of a peace deal signed between Khartoum and southern rebels in 2005 to end a two-decade civil war between north and south Sudan which left two million people dead.

According to the United Nations the states of Jonglei and Warrap -- where several clashes have taken place in recent months -- are the two states most affected by insecurity this year.

Suspected Sudanese militia kills 10 Ugandan soldiers –Ugandan Army

Sudan Tribune website 15/6/10 - Ugandan Army has blamed Janjaweed militia for deaths of its 10 combat soldiers.

Ten Ugandan troops were killed in the Central African Republic last month and the likely culprit is a Sudanese militia group linked to the government, the Janjaweed, army officials said on Tuesday.

Ugandan Army is hunting LRA rebels and its illusive leader in Southern Sudan, and the search for Kony has taken them to close to Darfur, which is the stronghold of Janjaweed, a militia group blamed for orchestrating genocide-like atrocities in Darfur.

The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) had earlier denied media reports of the incident, which occurred on May 27 while a UPDF contingent was hunting for remnants of a Ugandan rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

The New Vision, a Kampala daily, quoted the UPDF's chief of defence forces, General Aronda Nyakairima, confirming the deaths of soldiers and suggesting that it was not the LRA that killed them, but most likely Sudan's Janjaweed, reports Reuters News Agency.

The paper said the soldiers were attacked by about 400 men on donkey backs, and quoted Nyakairima as saying that was a sign of their link to Sudan.

Nomads (Ambororo) linked to Janjaweed has been active in Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal states, security analysts in the region have cited possible links between LRA rebels and Nomads.

The army had previously denied reports of the soldiers' deaths in another Ugandan paper, the Daily Monitor. The Monitor, which is independent, had quoted unnamed sources saying the 10 soldiers had been killed by the LRA.

UPDF spokesperson Felix Kulaigye told Reuters the New Vision's account of the general's comments was right. The LRA could not have killed the soldiers because the group's capabilities have been greatly degraded, the paper had quoted Nyakairima as saying.

"Kony's capacity to cause trouble has been reduced. If he was causing chaos in neighbouring countries, there would be refugees in our country," he said, referring to LRA leader Joseph Kony.

Tension between Sudan and Uganda is high! Uganda Army accuses Khartoum for harbouring Gen Kony and his cruel men, an allegation which Sudan vehemently denies.

The LRA has fought inhuman rebellion blood civil war for more two decades with the aim of

toppling President Yoweri Museveni's government for about two decades from bases in northern Uganda and southern Sudan.

Since LRA bases were destroyed in mid December 2008, the group has continued to terrorise innocent civilians who bear the brunt of human horror.

LRA is known for its savage acts on the civilian population, including abducting boys and girls to use as sex slaves and child soldiers, to wring support from the local population or as punishment to perceived civilian enemies.

World cup delays UN session on Sudan for hours

Al-Sahafa 16/6/10 – The fever of the World Soccer Cup currently on in South Africa has caught the UNHQs in NY as the Security Council Chairman (Mexico) postponed Council sessions to allow members to enjoy a match. The SC chairman, on Monday informed the Council members that sessions on Sudan and the ICC report would be rescheduled so that he was able to watch the opening match between his country and South Africa. Interestingly, the permanent members unanimously agreed, no veto was used.

Ethiopia imports \$1.2 billion fuel from Sudan, Djibouti

Sudan Tribune website 15/6/10 - Ethiopia said on Tuesday that it has imported 1.8 million metric tones of oil from Sudan and via Djibouti at a cost of 16.4 billion Birr (some 1.22 Billion USD).

The Ethiopian Petroleum Enterprise said that the fuel was imported from Sudan and Djibouti during the past 11 months and it has seen a 7.4 percent rise from same time last year.

Speaking to Ethiopia News Agency, Public Relation Officer with the Enterprise, Damenu Kebret said that, currently some 195 fuel tanker trucks enter the country daily carrying 45,000 liters of oil each. He said currently sufficient oil reserve is available in the country due the huge oil purchases made.

Some 80 % of Ethiopia's oil demand comes from neighboring Sudan based on the two governments' special agreement, which allows Ethiopia to purchase on lower prices from the global oil market.

Ethiopia uses the neighbor country as a major oil source to reduce massive transport costs. According to the Ethiopian Petroleum Enterprise, Oil imports from Sudan could save the country up to US \$7 million per year.

The Ethiopian Petroleum Enterprise reasoned out the successive rapid economic growth of the country for the steadily increasing Oil consumption of the country.

Ethiopia sees its Economy growing by 11% this year. The Economist magazine predicts Ethiopia's economy to grow by 7% in 2010 and predicts the country to be the 5th fastest growing economy in 2010. Last year, the magazine predicted Ethiopia as the 4th fastest growing economy for 2009.

The IMF has rewarded the government's economic management with financial support, and a strong performance in agriculture, the mainstay of the country, will make Ethiopia as one of the fastest-growing economies.

US wants investigation into jailbreak of diplomat's killers

AFP 15/6/10 - The United States on Tuesday called on Sudan to conduct a full investigation into the escape from jail of four Islamists sentenced to death for the 2008 murders of a US diplomat and his driver.

The US embassy in Khartoum "requests the government of Sudan to initiate a thorough investigation of the circumstances surrounding this escape from one of Sudan's most secure prisons," it said in a statement.

The four Sudanese Islamists had been sentenced to hang for the New Year's Day murder of US diplomat John Granville, 33, and his driver Abdel Rahman Abbas, 40, who both worked for the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The four escaped on Thursday from Kober jail in northern Khartoum. The escapees exchanged fire with police at the Abu Halif checkpoint, southwest of Omdurman, police said on Friday, but the driver was later captured.

The US embassy said it was "deeply troubled" by the escape, asking Sudan "to use all means at its disposal to pursue and capture these convicted criminals."

It also seeks the prosecution of "any individuals or groups found complicit in the escape of these criminals."

Sudan has asked Interpol to issue an "orange notice" after the escape of the four - Abdelraouf Abu Zaid Mohamed Hamza, Mohammed Makawi Ibrahim Mohammed, Abdelbasit Alhaj Alhassan Haj Ahmed and Mohannad Osman Yussif Mohammed.

Pre-referendum Watch

Disagreement over border demarcation delays submission of report to Presidency

Al-Ayyam 16/6/10 – SPLM representative in the Ad Hoc Border Demarcation Commission Rek Degul revealed that disagreement among the committee members over contentious points delayed submission of a report to the Presidency.

Meanwhile, the commission is reportedly making necessary preparations to fix border marks on the ground at the areas agreed upon within the committee which extend from Quz Nebak to the Ethiopian border.

According to SPLM representative, the commission is trying to reach an agreement on contentious areas which extend from West Bahr el Ghazal to CAR in order to submit a report to the Presidency.

SPLM says US, Uganda and Egypt promise to recognize new state should secession take place

Ajras Al-Hurriya 16/6/10 – The Security Council at a session yesterday on Sudan stressed the need for full implementation of the CPA and conduct of the referendum on schedule.

Meanwhile, SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum said he met with the DPKO officials and the SRSG to Sudan for discussion on the progress of the CPA implementation, preparations for the referendum, and the role of the UN troops in maintaining peace as well as the situation in

Darfur. He said he also met with the US Ambassador to the UN as well as the representatives of Egypt and Uganda. Amum revealed that the US, Uganda and Egypt had promised full recognition of an independent South Sudan state should the people of the South vote for secession.

Reportedly, the SPLM SG will continue his meetings with the SC members in NY including with the Chinese and Turkish Ambassadors.

SPLM contacts with the international community pose threat to the referendum – NCP

Al-Intibaha 16/6/10 – The NCP has said that all necessary political and legal guarantees for the upcoming referendum are in place so there is no need for guarantees from the international community or any other body. NCP official Azhari Al-Tijani told the newspaper that the people of the Sudan would not tolerate any interference in the CPA implementation, saying the current contacts by some SPLM leaders with the international community pose threat to the referendum.

Sudan may witness new war if parties disagree over referendum results – Foreign Minister

Sudan Tribune website 15/6/10 - A Sudanese minister has warned today that any probable disagreement on the results of southern Sudan referendum could lead to a new war in the country.

At different times since the general elections last April Sudanese officials from the ruling National Congress Party said they would be more vigilant about the organization and security issues related to the southern Sudan referendum stressing they would not accept any rigging or fraud.

"If we don't agree on the results of the referendum, this could cause a new war between northern and southern Sudan," said the newly appointed foreign minister, Ali Karti on Tuesday. He further added such conflict would be more disastrous than the past.

"It will be a difficult and tough war, different from the previous one because both sides are better equipped," militarily, Karti warned.

The Sudanese parliament on Monday postponed the endorsement of the nine members of the Referendum Commission appointed by President Omer Al-Bashir. The SPLM objected the nomination of a member belonging to the Democratic Unionist Party.

On this regard, Haile Menkerios Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan told the UN Security Council on Monday that the two peace partners informed separately the UNMIS of "their desire for United Nations engagement at a "much greater level" than during the elections".

Menkerios however stressed that the current mandate of the Mission does not allow such involvement advising the two parties to commonly define this "greater level" and to present their request to the United Nations to extend the UNMIS mandate.

The demarcation of North-South border is one of the pending issues that the CPA partners are grappling with. Observers fear a future war between the two signatories of 2005 agreement if they disagree on the boundary delimitation.

President Omer Al-Bashir warned last week the delimitation of some parts of northern-southern Sudan boundary could be explosive, adding that the unity remains the best option for the interests of the two parties.

Minister Ali Karti today reaffirmed that the borders between north and south Sudan should be demarcated before the organization of the referendum.

"We cannot hold a referendum before the border is demarcated. The demarcation will help establish where people live and where (natural) resources are located," he said.

The representatives of the five permanent members at the UN Security Council reaffirmed their support for the conduct of the referendum and encouraged the CPA parties to begin discussion on the post referendum issues.

Also the UK Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant stressed that the "referendum must take place on time and its result must be credible. Either outcome could lead to friendly relations between the North and South".

US earmarks \$60 mln for southern Sudan referendum

Sudan Tribune website 15/6/10 - The US government has allocated sixty million (\$60m) dollars to assist in the process of the upcoming referendum in Southern Sudan.

This was revealed in a meeting on Tuesday between the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, and the United States Consul General in Juba, Ava Rogers.

The American official briefed the Vice President on the technical support the United States government has initiated for the process of the upcoming referendum in Southern Sudan. She said the \$60 million dollars budget will be channeled through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Consul General reiterated her country's commitment to see a timely conduct of the referendum in Southern Sudan as scheduled.

Other American-based independent agencies among which include the National Democratic Institute (NDI) will also participate in providing technical support during the process, she said.

Dr. Machar, who also chairs the Southern Sudan Referendum Task Force, informed the US official on the ongoing formation process of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, which he said, will begin its work soon after endorsement of its membership by the National Assembly in Khartoum.

Earlier, the United Nations through its Southern Sudan office in Juba pledged to avail more than eighty million (\$80m) US dollars towards the referendum process.

NCP, SPLM to discuss post-referendum issues in Addis next week

Al-Ayyam 16/6/10 – It was revealed, during the Security Council session in NY, that a meeting between the NCP and the SPLM will be held in Addis Ababa next week for discussion on post-referendum arrangement.

Meanwhile, former South African President Thabo Mbeki told the Security Council that the AU

Panel on Darfur is planning to hold a conference of all the Sudanese political forces.

Editorial

Editorial: "Border demarcation determination before self-determination!"

GoSS Vice President, Dr Riek Machar Teny, said that the upcoming referendum on South Sudan can be conducted even without a complete demarcation of the North-South borders.

According to Dr Machar, about 80 per cent of the North-South border has been agreed upon by the joint committee of the CPA partners and the remaining 20 per cent which constitutes some of the oil fields and agricultural lands in the South have remained contentious while the dialogue is ongoing.

The borders demarcation is crucial to avoid any risk of relapsing to post-referendum violence like in the case of border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia in 1998 following Eritrean vote for independence from Ethiopia in 1993.

Dr Machar's statement aims at confirming that the dispute over the border demarcation doesn't affect the referendum conduction.

Theoretically such dealing with the issue seems to be reasonable as Sudanese have the experience in borders demarcation since independence as there are still some borders' disputes between Sudan and some neighbouring countries such as that with Ethiopia, Kenya and Egypt.

But in reality and in the circumstance in which the referendum is going to take place the dispute over the borders is threatening and might lead to military confrontation if South Sudan became an independent state.

The nearest example is the conflict on a small area of land in the Eritrean/Ethiopian borders which has no importance; but despite that a fierce war erupted between the two countries.

However, the separation process between Eritrea and Ethiopia took place in a very healthy environment without any conflicts, but a small plot of land was enough to escalate the tensions and returned the two countries to war square.

The same scenario might repeat itself if we ignore the importance of completing the borders demarcation before the referendum date.

It is high time for the two partners to discuss the issue seriously and express keenness to quickly settle the dispute taking into consideration the dangerous consequences in the future.

To sum it up, borders demarcation issue should be settled in a sincere way today and not tomorrow, irrespective Sudan remained united or separated.