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Media Monitoring Report

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Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

Highlights

NEC releases preliminary results of elections

Sudan Radio, Al-Sahafa 16/5/11 – The NEC yesterday announced the preliminary results of elections in Southern Kordofan state. NCP candidate Ahmed Haroun won 201,000 votes, SPLM candidate Al-Hilu won 194,000 votes and the independent candidate, Telefone Kuku, won 9,000 votes. The NCP also won 22 legislative seats and SPLM 10 seats.

The NCP will celebrate the election victory in Kadugli on Thursday where the Party's deputy chairman Nafie Ali Nafie is expected to address a rally marking the event.

Meanwhile, police spokesperson Lt. Gen. Ahmed Al-Tohami said security reports indicate that the situation in the region after the announcement of the results is calm.

However, press adviser to the SPLM Chair in the state Gamar Dalman said the SPLM would neither recognize the results announced by the NEC nor participate in the prospective executive and legislative organs and would not engage in political dialogue at present. Also, other political forces particularly the Communist Party, DUP and the PCP have rejected the vote results.

Sudan Vision 16/5/11 reports that Haroun achieved a tremendous victory over his SPLM rival Al Hilu by receiving 201,455 votes in contrast to 194, 955 for Al Hilu exceeding him by 6500 votes.

Moreover, the NCP has swept the SPLM, as well as other parties, in the run for the geographical constituencies, by winning 24 out of 32 seats in the legislative council, leaving 8 seats only to be won by the SPLM.

Both the NCP and SPLM attained an equal proportional political parties representation, as well as proportional woman representation, 4, and 7 seats for each respectively, regarding that SPLM scored 191, 582 votes, versus 182, 751 for NCP.

Deputy Commissioner of the National Commission for Elections; Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, said that southern Kordofan elections, were an important opportunity, for the people of the state, to participate in choosing a governor for the state, as well as choosing their representatives in the public consultancy and the legislative tasks.

Cautious calm in Abyei Area

Al-Sahafa 16/5/11 – Informed sources disclosed to the newspaper signs of an imminent war in the Area although the Chief Administrator Deng Arop denied that and confirmed stability of the security situation.

The sources said the SPLM did not commit itself to the Kadugli agreement and is planting landmines at migration routes and water sources around Umbilayil area and it also moved heavy military equipment to Abyei. The sources did not rule out an outbreak of fresh clashes.

Al-Intibaha 16/5/11 reports that 6 SPLM tanks and 6 Land Cruiser vehicles mounted with

rockets advanced into Abyei yesterday evening. According to the sources, the movement of UNMIS in the area is being blocked.

We will not extend UNMIS mandate – NCP official

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 16/5/11 – NCP Political Sector Chair Qutbi Al-Mahdi, speaking to reporters after a meeting of the Sector yesterday, said his party made it clear that it would not accept an extension for UNMIS after July 9. UNSC

On elections in southern Kordofan, Qutbi described the vote results in the region as a victory for his party.

Upper Nile runs out of essential commodities as borders blocked

Al-Tayyar 16/5/11 – The Upper Nile State is suffering shortage of food items due to the recent stoppage of land and river transport between the North and the South. Several traders in Malakal said the city ran out of commodities completely last Thursday and Friday. Prices of commodities have also shot up.

Border restriction hikes prices in S Sudan, Minister says

Radio Miraya 15/5/11 - Government of Southern Sudan's Minister of Regional Cooperation, Deng Alor, said in press statement on Friday that border restrictions from the north have resulted in a hike in commodity prices in the south. Alor warned that the move might negatively affect relations between north and south Sudan.

Meanwhile, the National Congress Party (NCP) denied the allegation. Senior NCP member, Ibrahim Ghandur, attributed the commodities scarcity to insecurity in some parts of the south, which, he said, has forced northern traders to avoid sending goods to the region.

The local markets in the south are suffering shortages of some commodities, Southern Sudan Trade Union's Deputy Finance Secretary, William Akoj, told Radio Miraya. He pointed out that the Union has not received any official notice about the issue.

UNMIS officials visit W. Equatoria over detention of UN helicopter

Sudan Vision 14/5/11 - On Thursday morning an UNMIS delegation headed by sector commander, Summan Kumar, arrived in Yambio to discuss the brief detention of a UN helicopter in Namutina Payam in Nagero County.

The delegation was received by state governor Bangasi Joseph Bakosoro in his office.

On the 14 April 2011, a UN helicopter was briefly detained in Namutina, Nagero County, by the local authority due to a breakdown of information between UNMIS and authorities on the ground, regarding the flight's "monitoring mission" to the area.

The sector commander said that UNMIS is concerned about the last two incidents of the detention of the UN helicopter and stoppage of the UN patrol to Birisi.

Summan stated that the helicopter had the authorisation from Juba to patrol the area, and on board was one SPLA soldier and one language assistant.

Bakosoro said it is the first time that a UN flight has come to Namutina and the state had not given them clearance.

“We found that one of the flights bearing UN symbol was flying towards Namutina area, without our information and we had no ETA for the flight, we don’t have flight clearance for Namutina, and it was also for the first time for UN flight to go to Namutina,” maintained Bakosoro.

The UN sector commander acknowledged that there was poor coordination in the operations.

“I think there is problem of miscommunication, we shall also see if there is some loose ends, we will now coordinate more on ground, we shall be talking to brigade commander, county commissioner, payam [village] - so there is no more confusion about UN helicopters” said Suman.

Suman revealed that they “will try to coordinate both military and civilian channels and UNMIS coordinator in state will spearhead the efforts.”

The governor called upon the UNMIS to feed the state government with relevant information before such activities are carried out.

The meeting resolved that UNMIS’s relevant bodies will conduct workshops in communities around the areas they intend to monitor, to explain the UNMIS mandate.

However he called for the respect of the home guards who are providing protection to the citizens in town and the UN staff.

The governor assured the delegation that such incidents will not happen again as far as the right channels of information are coordinated with the state government.

Taha nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

The Citizen 16/5/11 – Nobel Peace Commission reportedly agreed for the nomination of VP Ali Osman Taha to be awarded the prize. The initial agreement was made in response to recommendations from American and African academicians. Spokesperson of the initiative Ismail Alaghabash told reporters that more than 20 African, American academicians and prize holders have recommended Taha for the prize.

Egypt’s foreign minister elected as Arab League SG

Sudan Tribune Website 15/6/11 - Egypt’s current foreign minister Nabil Elaraby has been elected as secretary-general of the Arab League after his Qatari competitor Abdul Rahman bin Hamad al-Attiyah withdrew from the race.

Qatar’s withdrawal of al-Attiyah came in response to Egypt’s last-minute decision to switch from its original candidate, diplomat Mustafa al-Fikki, a member of deposed President Hosni Mubarak’s party.

Hamad bin Jassim, Qatar’s foreign minister, said Egypt’s choice of Elaraby had “encouraged”

his country to withdraw its nominee.