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By: Prof. David De Chand
<http://www.sudanvisiondaily.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=58069>

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Highlights

Consultations delay GoSS formation – Kiir

Al-Ahdath 20/6/10 – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has attributed the delay of GoSS ministerial formation to the ongoing consultations with other political forces to ensure a strong government. Kiir, who made the remarks at a function organized by the Nuer tribe to celebrate the reappointment of Dr. Riek Machar as GoSS Vice President, said he wanted a strong government capable of confronting the current challenges.

Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** 18/6/10, reported that Kiir informed his current caretaker ministers in the cabinet of their final meeting as he expected imminent change within days.

Kiir on Friday told his cabinet that the weekly meeting was the last to be convened by the current Council of Ministers, adding that he expected a new cabinet in the next meeting.

The caretaker minister of Information and Broadcasting and official spokesperson, Paul Mayom Akech, said the President also briefed the cabinet about his recent visit to Khartoum.

He said the President, who is also the First Vice President in the Government of National Unity, participated in the inaugural cabinet meeting in the national capital during which unity and separation of the Sudan were discussed in the light of how the South perceives the political destiny of the nation.

Mayom further explained that the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) was supposed to get more ministerial positions in Khartoum than currently allocated, adding that the President of the Republic of Sudan, Omer Hassan Al-Bashir also appointed a non-SPLM official in a ministerial position which was supposed to be occupied by SPLM nominee.

He further added that Kiir briefed the cabinet on his recent meeting in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, with the US Vice President, Joe Biden.

The meeting of the two leaders reaffirmed commitment to abide by the choice of the people of Southern Sudan, he said.

SPLA chief calls on General Nyuol to bury election differences

Sudan Tribune website 19/6/10 - Southern Sudan President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has called on Gen. Dau Aturjong Nyuol to bury the differences created by the recent April elections, urging him to return to the party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Gen. Dau contested independently for gubernatorial position in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state after failing to secure the party's nomination, but lost to the SPLM official candidate and incumbent governor, Gen. Paul Malong Awan. He has been to Khartoum since the time of declaration of the election results.

In a meeting he had on Thursday in Khartoum with General Dau and Sultan Abdalbagi Ayii Akol, among other political leaders from Northern Bahr el Ghazal state, Kiir called for forgiveness saying the South had a lot of issues to resolve as a people with one identity.

"We have a lot to resolve together with one identity as South Sudanese people in order to

create conducive political ground for conduct of the referendum and other post referendum arrangements,” he told Dau.

Emphasizing on burying elections differences which generated into political bitterness, Kiir reiterated his call on General Dau to return to the party and said he would listen to his complaints once he returned to Juba.

“I would prefer [that] you come to Juba to once again meet and discuss with you some other issues and how to forge new understanding,” Kiir said, adding that elections are now over.

President Kiir also called on other political leaders to join him in the regional campaign for peace, love and reconciliation as alternative to creating and settling elections generated political differences.

President Kiir had earlier in his inaugural speech called for reconciliation and shift focus and gear to what lies ahead. “This is not to devalue the recent elections. Indeed, many Southern Sudanese voted for the first time in their lives in the elections. “

“However, it was just a step towards the ultimate dream of every Southerner embodied in self-determination,” Kiir said during his inaugural speech in Juba.

With a new mandate after elections, he unveiled his vision and vowed to remain true to the ideals that inspired the liberation struggle over two decades ago. “Though many of the liberation veterans have fallen, those who remain, like in a relay race, must finish the race and bequeath a free country to the future generations,” he said.

He also promised to unite the country; to nurture sustainable peace; to assure freedom so that every citizen may walk tall in his/her country; and to deliver an environment conducive for all the citizens to live dignified lives both now and in the future. “A government that is not capable of ensuring those basic needs to its people brings disrepute to itself and shall be a disgrace to the country and people. That I shall not allow [it] to happen under my watch”, he pointed out.

Gen. Dau was just among other several independent candidates who contested for gubernatorial positions and lost in their respective states. Another General, George Athor Deng, has rebelled against the government after losing the race to his main rival, Kuol Manyang Juuk, in Jonglei state.

Lakes state to benefit from Sudan Recovery Fund project

Sudan Tribune website 19/6/10 - June 19, 2010 (WAU) — The government of Lakes state is likely to benefit from the Sudan Recovery Fund project this year, an official handling the project has said.

Liz Grandy informed the governor, Chol Tong, on Thursday in their meeting, adding that they came to Rumbek to pay a courtesy call to the newly elected governor.

The official said the funds to kick start the projects will be approved soon after the formation of a new cabinet for Lakes State.

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From 2006 to 2009, both top UN organizations skip Lakes state operations due to frequent insecurity caused by SPLA soldiers and armed civil population which led into violent clashes as well as inter-clan clashes, which mark local staffs working difficult in accessing their local areas.

She added that besides Sudan Recovery Fund, the team discussed with the governor and commissioners of Lakes state counties about insecurity and what she described as "new coordination mechanisms" between the government state government and the different partners working in the state, in view of bringing to fruition what she called the "governor's vision".

The official expressed confidence in the implementation of the developmental projects in the state through Sudan Recovery Fund, describing the development plan of Lakes State as "terrific and visionary" because it covers key components like infrastructure and security.

Meanwhile, Governor Chol Tong welcomed the project as part of key development efforts to his state as well. He called upon more investors to boost the entire economic sector in the state.

South Sudan Police institutes new reforms

Sudan Tribune website 18/6/10 - Efforts to modernize Southern Sudan Police force appear to be on course with the recent initiation of reforms within the law enforcement body.

These reforms, introduced as a result of numerous public outcries for better policing, strive to ensure that the Police practice good governance in line with universally accepted principles of democracy.

Dr. Fred Yiga, a Senior Advisor to the Internal Affairs Minister and the Inspector General of Police (IGP) told this reporter yesterday that the new Police reforms was instituted to make officers within the force accountable to the existing laws, citing the 2009 Police Act and the Draft Code of Conduct for Southern Sudan Police Service.

"It [Police reforms] will also handle issues of indiscipline within the law enforcement body. But most importantly is to make officers practice good governance inline with agreed standards," Dr. Yiga exclusively told Sudan Tribune.

As part of these reforms, however, the Police have embarked on massive recruitment of young people into the force.

Currently, 6,500 new recruits, drawn from across all the 10 states of Southern Sudan are undergoing professional training at the Juba-based John Garang Memorial Police Academy.

"This professional training not only looks at the aspect of equal representation but provides an avenue for recruits to realize their national obligation as citizens of this nation," Dr. Yiga said.

He added, "Such professional trainings are essential in enhancing unity among the people. By bringing people from different locations, the element of regional imbalance is addressed hence minimizing the common causes of conflicts among the people."

Meanwhile, the Southern Sudan Police Service has now created a regional network with their counterparts in neighboring Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

As a result, Rwanda recently trained several Southern Sudan Police officers, while Uganda is offering the latter study opportunities, all aimed at further professionalizing the force.

According to Dr. Yiga, the newly instituted reforms have seen Southern Sudan Police Service become a member of the East African Police Conference (EAPCO). The new initiative has also improved its training and cross-border control programmes.

General Athor says none of his soldiers were captured by SPLA

Sudan Tribune website 18/6/10 - A former senior army general in the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has said none of his soldiers has been captured by the government forces in Southern Sudan.

George Athor Deng, the former SPLA Deputy Chief of General Staff, turned rebel after April elections, denied capturing of his loyalists in the recent military confrontations on Wednesday with SPLA forces.

General Kuol Deim Kuol earlier announced that SPLA troops attacked Athor's forces in the village of Wunlam on Monday night after they were led to their hideout in Khor fulus County by one of Athor's men captured in an earlier fight. He said a dozen of his soldiers were captured by the Southern army.

"He is running with less than 30 soldiers. They are his close relatives from the [his] village. Our forces are now pursuing him. We expect his capture within days," said Kuol, adding that the SPLA captured 13 of his men and radio equipment on Monday.

In an interview with Sudan Tribune on Friday, June 18, 2010, General Athor however said none of his forces has been captured. "We do not have any single soldier captured from us and none of our soldiers has surrendered," said General Athor.

He said those reported to have been captured are civilians accused to have not cooperated with the SPLA forces who were looking for information about our military capabilities.

"Before our forces clashed with the SPLA forces at the reconnaissance on Wednesday, we had information that SPLA forces were in the area three hours walk from our location gathering military information about us. They were beating and threatening to kill local people who refused to cooperate with [them] in lying about us," he further explained.

"Others did [cooperate with the SPLA] and those who did not want to do so were accused, and I am told they were the ones arrested and reported to have been our forces. Nobody has been captured from our forces. I repeat nobody has been captured or surrendered," he said.

He also denied killing of any one of his soldiers after the recent clashes with the SPLA forces. "Our forces met and just exchanged fire with SPLA forces and did not kill anybody on our side. Those who went for reconnaissance on Wednesday returned with slight injuries. Some of them are not gunshot [wounds]," he said.

Gen. Athor became the first political contender to stage armed protest, accusing the Southern Sudan ruling party of votes rigging following declaration of Jonglei state's gubernatorial elections results in favor of his main rival and SPLM official nominee, the incumbent governor Kuol Manyang Juuk.

He earlier claimed to have coordinated the rebellion with the former Police Colonel Gatluak Gai in Unity state and David Yauyau in Pibor County of Jonglei state, adding that he has also been coordinating with some other army senior officers across the region.

The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has been trying to establish contacts with him with the aim to broker a peaceful settlement between his group and the government of Southern Sudan.

NEC trashes appeals against gubernatorial results in 3 Southern Sudan states

Sudan Tribune website 18/6/10 - The Sudan's independent National Elections Commission (NEC), which was charged with organization and supervision of the April elections, has rejected appeals raised against it by gubernatorial candidates from three southern states of Central Equatoria, Unity, and Western Equatoria.

Sudan conducted multiparty elections in April after 24 years of successive undemocratic rules in the country. The elections believed as the key to conduct of southern Sudan referendum scheduled to take place in January 2011, saw boycott of heavy weight northern political parties and withdrawal of the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) presidential candidate, accusing the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) of pre-election fraud.

Alfred Ladu Gore, a gubernatorial candidate who went to the poll independently following failure to secure official nomination of his candidature by the southern ruling party, the SPLM, in January, protested elections results announced in favor of his main rival, SPLM official nominee, governor Clement Wani Konga.

Gore was contesting in Central Equatoria state while Angelina Teny was contesting in Unity state and Jemma Nunu Kumba, who was the official candidate of the SPLM and caretaker governor at the time of elections, contested to retain the gubernatorial seat in Western Equatoria state.

She was one of the official nominees declared to have lost gubernatorial race in what majority of the people in the state described as free and fair elections. She among other officials including parliamentary aspirants who lost in the other states however insisted and went ahead to file their cases complaining against elections.

The national elections commission accepted their complaints and subsequently formed committees to thoroughly examine their cases using submissions from various polling stations in each state against particular case prior to declaration of the final and binding results.

So far, all the committees are reported to have completed their investigations and have allegedly come out in favor of all incumbent governors of the three southern states of Unity, Central and Western Equatoria.

Reacting to the declaration of the results favoring incumbent governors, Deng Achuil Kuany, an intellectual from Warrap state, said those who filed their cases wasted their time because it was clear that there was a political agreement between the two parties to rig these elections before they were conducted.

"It was a complete waste of resources and time for those who complained against [the] results. Who does not know that these elections were rigged to complain and go to court again?" he asked.

Sudanese opposition slam visit by spy chief to UK

Sudan Tribune website 17/6/10 - More than a dozen Sudanese opposition groups in the United Kingdom protested what they revealed was an upcoming visit by the Sudanese director of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) Mohamed Atta Al-Moula Abbas to

London.

"The Alliance finds this visit provocative and hurtful to the feelings of all those who were forced to leave Sudan as a result of the NISS persecution and repression. We equally call upon all civic societies and legal bodies to voice their concern and take all measures that could bring this visitor to justice as being a perpetrator and executioner of genocide, persecution and repression," said a statement by the representatives of the opposition parties in London.

"The Alliance of Sudanese Opposition Forces in the UK and Ireland cordially call upon the British authorities to deport this unwelcome visitor as his position as head of the NISS is on a par with heinous atrocities against innocent civilians in Darfur, Port Sudan and Kajbar".

There was no official confirmation of the visit.

Sudan lifts flight ban on UNAMID helicopters

Sudan Tribune website 17/6/10 - Sudanese government has lifted a ban on helicopter flights imposed last month in Darfur, the head of the hybrid peacekeeping force disclosed this week before the UN Security Council.

On 31 May, the Sudanese government had imposed a ban on all helicopter flights in South Darfur on the grounds of insecurity in the region.

"I am informed that the Government of Sudan has lifted the ban on helicopter flights as of yesterday, 13 June 2010. We shall provide information on developments in this matter as they unfold to the Council through appropriate channels," Ibrahim Gambari told the UN Security Council on 14 June.

UNAMID spokesperson Christopher Cycmanick told the Sudan Tribune that the ban referred to in Gambari's remarks before the Security Council was on all rotor-wing aircraft in South Darfur.

"At present, the latest we know is that flight restrictions in South Darfur on UN aircraft have now been relaxed to allow flights to all UNAMID team sites except for the Muhajeria, Shearia and Al Deain regions. However, flights between Nyala and El Fasher remain restricted to fixed-wing aircraft," Cycmanick further added.

Gambari in his remarks to the Security Council blamed the government and the rebel groups for the denial of access to the affected population in Jebel Marra.

"As a result of denial of access, logistics constraints and security concerns, it has not been possible to determine exact numbers but the figures for displaced persons as a result of recent fighting range between 10,000 and 50,000 in the region," he said.

JEM threatens to step up fighting and to repeat attack on Khartoum

Al-Ahdath 20/6/10 - JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim has threatened to continue war with the Sudanese government if it refuses to reach a "political solution" to the Darfur crisis. Khalil told the London-based *Al-Sharq Alawsat* newspaper by telephone that JEM would enter Khartoum any time it wants should the regime continue to deny the people their rights. With regards to ongoing talks in Doha, he said, "we do not recognize these talks and of course the results".

Meanwhile, SAF spokesperson Lt. Col. Al-Sawarmi Khalid, speaking to *Akhir Lahza*, has downplayed Khalil's threat, saying the Sudanese armed forces are capable of defending territories, warning that "if Khalil enters Khartoum again he will never get out of it".

Presidency refused to sack corrupt commissioners – Minnawi

Ajras Al-Hurriya 20/6/10 – SLM Chairman Minni Minnawi has accused the NCP of trying to circumvent the DPA. In an interview to the newspaper, Minnawi did not rule out that secession of the South would lead to calls for separation of Darfur and other regions. Minnawi, who is presently with his forces in North Darfur since two weeks, said the reasons for war in Darfur were still unresolved, adding the NCP is only interested in demobilizing soldiers. Reportedly, Minnawi said he would agree to the amendment of the DPA for a final settlement of the Darfur issue at Doha forum. “We will welcome the amendment if it will lead to a final and just solution for the Darfur problem. But we should be consulted, it should not be imposed on us,” he said. He has revealed that the Presidency had rejected a request from him to dismiss a number of commissioners in the Darfur Transitional Authority, whom he described as corrupt.

Pre-referendum Watch

Sudan’s Kiir says those wanting North-South unity should double efforts

Sudan Tribune website 19/6/10 – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has expressed time limit for those who would want unity between North and South in the post-referendum Sudan.

He said the CPA has given unity a priority while the other option is separation of the South from the North.

Kiir made the remarks on Saturday during a thanksgiving prayer occasion which was organized by the family of Dr. Riek Machar Teny at his residence in Juba. The thanksgiving prayers were an expression of appreciation for his reappointment as the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan.

Senior government officials from different levels of government and thousands of citizens in Juba attended the occasion. During the thanksgiving occasion, Kiir congratulated Dr. Riek Machar for being the Vice President during this critical period. He said Dr. Machar is the right man in the position to face the challenges ahead in the coming period.

He urged for unity of the people of Southern Sudan to support him and rally behind the leadership.

Kiir assured that the referendum for the people of Southern Sudan should be conducted by 9th January 2011 without any one day delay. He criticized those who advocate for unity between North and South for not doing enough.

“Those who want unity should double their efforts to do in six months what they should have done in the last five years,” he said.

Kiir also called for reconciliation among the people of Southern Sudan, adding that the conflicts caused by the elections should be left behind.

On his part, the Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar, thanked all the people who attended his thanksgiving prayers at his residence. On the top of them he thanked President Salva Kiir Mayardit for reappointing him as Vice President of the government.

Dr. Machar also thanked the SPLM political party and citizens of Unity state for electing him through party ticket in his constituency. He also thanked his wife for being courageous in

supporting him.

He told the gathering that the next coming period will be very critical not only for Southern Sudan but also for the whole country and therefore needs unity among the people of the Southern Sudan. He added that the current trend has shown that the people of Southern Sudan would vote for separation.

The Deputy Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) for Southern Sector, Dr. Anne Itto, praised Dr. Machar's contribution to the government for the last five years. She said the reappointment of Dr. Machar did not come as a surprise, explaining that "it is a matter of appointing the right man, in the right place and at the right time."

An elder from the Nuer community, Uncle Stephen Reat Chany, urged the two leaders to work together and cement unity and stability among the people of Southern Sudan. He said the leadership should also reconcile with the renegade General George Athor Deng in order to bring peace to Jonglei state and other states where such violence occurs.

NCP criticizes Kiir statement on referendum

Al-Khartoum 20/6/10 – NCP leading figure Rabie Abdul-Atti has criticized statements attributed to GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit in which he said he would not ask southern Sudanese to vote for unity in the upcoming referendum on South Sudan's self-determination early next year. Mr. Atrti said Kiir's statement contravenes a CPA provision that obligates the two partners to work for making unity attractive.

NCP and SPLM discuss UN role on referendum

Al-Ayyam 20/6/10 – the NCP-SPLM joint committee yesterday discussed role of the UN in the upcoming referendum and the membership of the Abyei referendum commission. Reportedly, the two partners exchanged views and proposals and would resume their meetings on Friday.

Meanwhile, southern MPs have called on the two partners to speed up arrangement to conduct referendum on schedule, warning that they would not accept any delay to the process which is scheduled to take place in January next year.

NCP, SPLM to meet in Addis Ababa on post-referendum arrangement

Al-Khartoum 20/6/10 – The NCP and the SPLM will hold a meeting tomorrow Monday in Addis Ababa for discussion on post-referendum pending issues including oil revenues, status of millions of southern refugees after secession, nationality, foreign debts, assets and North-South border demarcation.

Meanwhile, SRSG Haile Menkarios, addressing Sudanese nationals in the US, has urged for avoiding what he described as "bloody divorce". The SRSG revealed that the two CPA partners have reached an agreement on the membership of the South Sudan Referendum Commission but failed to make similar agreement on the Abyei referendum commission.

Retired Bishop calls for Southern Sudanese unity ahead of Referendum

Sudan Tribune website 19/6/10 - The Retired Catholic Bishop Emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Torit Bishop Paride Taban has called upon all the people of Southern Sudan and those in the Diaspora to get united ahead of the 2011 referenda that will determine the future destiny of the people of South Sudan.

Bishop Paride Taban paid a visit to the newly elected governor of Eastern Equatoria Stat Louis

Lobong Lojore, Paride was accompanied by a number of clerk men from the holy trinity peace village Kuron who came to congratulate the governor upon his April election victory as the State governor of the State and bid him encouraging words to serve the citizens of the state with courage and the strength of the almighty God.

Bishop Paride said he supports the cry of the people of Southern Sudan whether they will choose unity or Separation [but] they must analyze it very well with all the experiences they had undergone of 25 years of turmoil and human.

He added that many people had now diverted from the church enjoying the little material peace of the world, he called upon all Sudanese to be much watchful of the threat ahead of the referenda in the Sudan and always act positively in peace.

In his response to the visiting veteran church leader, Governor Louis Lobong described Bishop Paride as "the architect of development and a hero of the people of Eastern Equatoria and the entire Southern Sudan".

He assured the Bishop that, his government is going to join hands together with the church and especially the Bishop to work to help the communities in the State through this difficult moment in the history of South Sudan.

Lobong recognized the work of the retired Bishop during the war in the State in supporting the needy and desperate communities in difficulties, building schools and health institutions across Eastern Equatoria State.

Bishop said the Southerners are more peaceful people than many people outside Sudan perceive it.

CPA partners differ on waters, nationality and borders issues – Amum

Ajras Al-Hurriya 20/6/10 - SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum has expressed hope that the US would play a decisive role to assist the CPA partners to avoid slipping back to war. "We hope the US will work for ensuring a bright future for the Sudanese people," Amum told the US Congress yesterday, adding GoSS is working to build capacities and to rehabilitate the infrastructure destroyed by the NCP.

Regarding security in the South, Amum told the Congress that the GoSS, with the help of the international community, has built capacities of police and the judiciary, disarmed militias and converted the SPLA into an organized army. He revealed that GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit recently sent a delegation to Khartoum to convey to President Al-Bashir GoSS' protest to arming southern militias.

Amum also revealed that the two CPA partners have failed to reach an agreement on the demarcation of the border, waters and nationality issues. Reportedly, the Congress asked Amum about the reasons for the NCP's division of the ministry of energy into three ministries. Amum has officially requested support for resolving post-referendum issues.

Southern MPs accuse unnamed personalities of seeking to delay referendum

Al-Sudani 20/6/10 – Some Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly members have accused unnamed personalities of planning to delay the upcoming referendum. Assembly Chairman Peter Bashir said the people of the South would not tolerate any delay of the referendum, adding there are political personalities who are planning to postpone the process. He has urged the people of the South to take part in the ongoing preparations and to consolidate their efforts

so that the referendum process is successful.

South Sudan parliament says referendum should be held on time

Sudan Tribune website 18/6/10 - The parliament of the semi-autonomous region of Southern Sudan on Friday urged the two peace partners to speed up the process of the conduct of Southern Sudan referendum, saying any delays would not be in the interest of the people of the region.

Peter Bashir Gbandi, a newly elected controller of the regional assembly in Juba told the press that the people of Southern Sudan would not accept any political delay to postpone the conduct of referendum as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

“We all know that referendum commissions for both Southern Sudan and Abyei have not yet been formed though discussions over formation started long enough, because certain people are playing political tricks to delay conduct of the referendum on time,” he said.

“We know their intentions and they should also know that South Sudan will not accept these tricks to delay conduct of the referendum but it will be conducted as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Referendum must be conducted on time and this was why the house joined a youth procession demanding conduct of the referendum as per schedule last week,” he added.

Honorable Bashir who participated in the recently carried out youth procession for separation in the capital, Juba, urged that all stakeholders and citizens in the region should now get prepared to participate in the upcoming referendum.

“Referendum is a one-time event. Therefore, our people need to massively show up during registration so that it is conducted successfully,” he said. He further added that for referendum to be successful it must be a collective responsibility. “We need to put our acts together as one and the same people regardless of political status. It must be coordinated and monitored fully by all of us,” he stressed.

Former member of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, Deng Thiep Akok, also described referendum as one of the significant events stipulated in the 2005 North-South peace deal that must be conducted without political compromise.

“The two parties can compromise over the other elements [of CPA] but not in the conduct of the referendum because it is the only binding piece of hope left with the people of South Sudan,” he said.