

8 February 2011

www.unmissions.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Post-referendum Watch

- Sudan's Cabinet endorses referendum results (*Sudan Radio*)
- Bashir accepts south Sudan's secession vote (*Reuters*)
- South Sudan prepares for July's declaration of independence (*ST*)
- UNSG Panel on referendum urges parties to resolve Abyei problem (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Unity is better but it is victory of peace over war – SRSG (*Al-Ahdath*)
- Conduct of a peaceful referendum is a huge achievement – AEC Chair (*Al-Ahdath*)
- US welcomes Sudan referendum, seeks action (*AFP*)
- Arab League welcomes vote result (*Al-Ahdath*)
- EU hails "historic" south Sudan referendum (*AFP*)
- Misseriya call for deployment of troops along border with the South (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Border demarcation committee resumes work (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- SPLA to be downsized after secession – James Hoth (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Sudan investors prepare for great oil divide (*FT.com*)

Other Headlines

- SPLM SG Amum calls for comprehensive solution of Darfur issue (*Ajras Al-Hurriya*)
- Police unearth explosives near company in Khartoum (*Al-Sahafa*)

NOTE: *Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

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

Highlights

Sudan's Cabinet endorses referendum results

Sudan Radio 8/2/11 – Sudan's Council of Ministers held an emergency meeting yesterday and endorsed the referendum results which were released and accepted by the President Al-Bashir the same day.

President Al-Bashir, addressing the meeting pledged efforts to resolve remaining CPA issues and promised to assist the South to build its state.

GoSS President Kiir said recognition of the southern state by the North would pave the way for international recognition of the newly-born country. He said secession of the South does not mean the end of the road; instead the two countries would build strong relations. He said he would tour many countries of the world to urge them to lift sanctions imposed on Sudan including lifting its name from the countries sponsoring terrorism.

Kiir, however, urged speedy resolution of the outstanding CPA issues before July.

Bashir accepts south Sudan's secession vote

Reuters 7/2/11 - Sudan's president on Monday said he accepted a southern vote for independence in a referendum that is set to create Africa's newest state and open up a fresh period of uncertainty in the increasingly volatile region.

"Today we received these results and we accept and welcome these results because they represent the will of the southern people," Bashir said in an address on state TV.

Hundreds of people started gathering in the blistering heat of the southern capital Juba on Monday to celebrate the official results.

South Sudan prepares for July's declaration of independence

Sudan Tribune.com 6/2/11 - The GoSS has started making preparations to declare its independence, following the overwhelming vote in favor of secession in last month's referendum.

GoSS president Salva Kiir Mayardit has issued a presidential decree forming a high level committee chaired by Vice President Riek Machar Teny to prepare the nation for the declaration and celebrations of independence due on July 9.

Machar's committee will choose the venue for the declaration, prepare the budget for the event and send out invitations to dignitaries around the world.

UNSG Panel on referendum urges parties to resolve Abyei problem

Al-Ayyam 8/2/11 – UNSG Panel on referendum has welcomed the official release of the referendum results yesterday and urged the CPA parties to expedite efforts to resolve the problem over Abyei.

The Panel believes that the referendum result reflects the free will of the people of the South and that the process is largely free and credible despite the ambiguity that surrounds the political landscape and the occurrence of some security incidents.

Unity is better but it is victory of peace over war – SRS

Al-Ahdath 8/2/11 – Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Sudan Haile Menkerios has described the official release of the referendum result as a historic day for Sudan and Africa. He said unity is better for the people of the Sudan but the people of the south should celebrate the victory of peace over war.

He urged the North and the South to work for security of the country and Africa and praised the courage and wisdom of President Al-Bashir and his deputy Salva Kiir in handling the CPA dossier.

Conduct of a peaceful referendum is a huge achievement – AEC Chair

Al-Ahdath 8/2/11 – AEC Chair Derek Plumbly has pledged to assist the two parties to resolve the outstanding issues and congratulated the people of the south Sudan on the peaceful conduct of the process. He said the referendum results give the Commission a solid ground to work for achieving rapprochement on issues of post-referendum arrangements including Abyei besides it would also contribute towards the establishment of a strong partnership between the two governments in the North and the South.

He described the peaceful conduct of the referendum as a huge achievement for the Sudanese people.

US welcomes Sudan referendum, seeks action

AFP 7/2/11 - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Monday welcomed a historic referendum granting independence to southern Sudan and said the United States was initiating the process of removing Sudan from its terror blacklist.

Clinton congratulated Sudan on the "peaceful and orderly vote" and pledged to improve ties with the Arab-dominated government, hailing it for accepting the referendum that showed nearly unanimous support in the South for secession.

"We urge both northern and southern leaders to continue to work together toward full implementation" of the 2005 peace deal that led to the referendum, Clinton said in a statement.

Clinton said US officials "urge them to work expediently to reach agreement on the post-referendum arrangements that will define their future and lead to a mutually beneficial relationship."

Clinton said that the United States was "initiating the process" of removing Sudan from a blacklist of nations that sponsor terrorism.

"Removal of the State Sponsor of Terrorism designation will take place if and when Sudan meets all criteria spelled out in US law," she said.

The requirements include not supporting terrorism for a period of six months and ensuring it will not do so in the future, she said.

Arab League welcomes vote result

Al-Ahdath 8/2/11 – The League of Arab States has welcomed the results of the referendum.

League's representative Ambassador Mohamed Munsif has described the process as fair and transparent which met international standards.

EU hails "historic" south Sudan referendum

AFP 7/2/11 - European Union foreign policy Chief Catherine Ashton on Monday applauded southern Sudan for its historic independence referendum and pledged to seek a long-term partnership with the new state.

"This is a historic moment for Sudan," Ashton said in a statement, hailing the "peaceful and credible" conduct of the vote.

"The EU fully respects the outcome of the referendum as a true reflection of the democratically expressed wishes of the people of Southern Sudan," said the 27-nation bloc's chief diplomat.

"The EU looks forward to further developing a close and long-term partnership with Southern Sudan which is set to become a new state once the CPA (Comprehensive Peace Agreement) expires in July 2011."

Ashton said the EU would continue to support efforts to reach an agreement on all outstanding issues between the two sides and find arrangements "that will sustain the North-South relationship in the long term."

"The EU remains committed to engage both North and South Sudan in the promotion of democratic governance, respect for human rights and a peaceful and prosperous future for all Sudanese people," she said.

"In this context, the EU will step up its dialogue with both north and south and is ready to play its part in underpinning the development of two viable states."

Misseriya call for deployment of troops along border with the South

Al-Rai Al-Aam 8/2/11 – The Misseriya has called on the central government to deploy troops to disengage between the tribe and the SPLA in Abyei territory. Misseriya Union Chair Mohamed Khatir Gumma stressed the need for deployment of the troops, saying they are concerned over the increasing buildup of SPLA along the area from Abyei to Al-Meiram.

Meanwhile, Misseriya leader Nimir Babo Nimir has welcomed President Al-Bashir's statement that the tribe's rights would not be compromised, saying the President's statement gives hope and optimism that the Abyei issue would be resolved.

Border demarcation committee resumes work

Al-Rai Al-Aam 8/2/11 – The Border Demarcation Committee has warned the two partners

against delay of demarcation of the border until after the expiry of the interim period.

Committee Chair Prof. Abdullah Al-Sadiq said the committee would hold its first meeting today in presence of southern members, adding that resumption of the committee's work would mean its final report would be submitted to the Presidency by the end of May.

Al-Sadiq said he is hopeful that the border would be drawn on the ground before the end of the interim period.

SPLA to be downsized after secession – James Hoth

Al-Sahafa 8/2/11 – SPLA Chief of Staff, James Hoth, in an interview to the newspaper, has revealed a tendency to downsize the SPLA after secession and described the SPLA soldiers from the Blue Nile and southern Kordofan as a time bomb in the North, saying their number in the SPLA could not be underestimated.

“The issue of SPLA soldiers hailing from the Blue Nile and southern Kordofan need to be resolved because they have taken up arms and fought with the SPLA so political solutions should be found to the problems for which they have taken up arms for. If their concerns are not addressed there will be a problem in the North because they will fight,” he said. Hoth added that the popular consultation process should be acceptable to the population of both areas, adding that if the process is not satisfactory problems might happen and these people could fight a war with the South itself because they are armed.

Meanwhile, Hoth categorically denied any link between the SPLA and Israel.

Sudan investors prepare for great oil divide

FT.com 7/2/11 - Dividing up Sudan's oil industry between north and south is emerging as a challenge akin to separating conjoined twins, a fact that has heavily invested Chinese interests uneasy as the country prepares to split.

Final results released on Monday showed that nearly 99 per cent of 3.9m southern voters cast ballots for separation from the Arab-led and Muslim north in January's referendum.

The outcome should mean that an independent south Sudan will emerge on July 9, following five decades of intermittent civil war.

Among many issues the north and south have to negotiate before then – such as citizenship rights and the destiny of their mutual currency – oil is one of the trickiest. An oil wealth-sharing deal included in a 2005 peace agreement is due to expire in July.

Revenues from oil production, estimated at 500,000 barrels a day, are critical for both the north and south. Both sides must decide how to divide up three producing blocks that straddle the border, and manage contracts, infrastructure, staff, oil debt and tax systems.

China's state oil company, CNPC, has a 40 per cent share in these blocks through the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company (GNPOC) consortium, in which Malaysia's Petronas Carigali Overseas has 30 per cent, India's ONGC Videsh 25 per cent and state Sudanese company Sudapet the remaining 5 per cent.

“Carving up the GNPOC Consortium along the border may have dire consequences for all parties involved,” said a report by the research network the European Coalition on Oil in Sudan: “How to Separate Siamese Twins”.

A senior CNPC official told the Financial Times the GNPOC companies want their current contract to continue unscathed, with the blocks managed by a joint venture formed between the two new states.

Drilling and other activities will already involve crossing the future border daily, the official said. “The worst thing for the joint ventures is just to separate things completely,” he added. “It’s very easy to talk about the surface but very difficult to talk about what is underground. It is impossible to know how much is in the south and how much in the north.”

There are also questions about plans for a southern pipeline favoured by the south’s ruling Sudan People’s Liberation Movement as a way to free the region from dependence on the north’s infrastructure.

Production from the relevant fields is expected to peak next year and they could run dry within 15 years, the CNPC official said. “If [the southern] government wants to build a pipeline it will take a lot of time and where is the financing?”

Under the current agreement, the north and south split the Sudanese share of revenues equally.

But the south has long argued it has been short-changed and Vice-president Riek Machar, who is in charge of negotiations for the south, told the FT the south would seek retrospective payment should unpaid dues emerge. The Referendum Act provides for oil contract negotiation in any post-referendum scenario, although the south has so far sought to reassure investors that it will honour pre-2005 contracts.

China, which has long been criticised for its close ties to Khartoum, has also moved quickly to prove itself amenable to an independent south, after previously backing unity.

“Oil is a pillar of the economy – everybody depends on it and we hope settlement between north and south will not affect production,” said Zhang Jun, China’s consul for economic affairs in the southern capital Juba. “For that we need co-operation.”

While GNPOC has offices solely in the north, CNPC – which is responsible for about half of Sudan’s oil output – established a satellite office in Juba late last year, staffed by Chinese expatriates.

“China has a substantial amount of oil interests in the south and one of the interesting parts is the very positive role that China has been playing behind the scenes,” said David Abramowitz, policy director at Humanity United, a US rights group.

The CNPC official said conditions in the south were worse than in the north, however, and that the consortium was losing \$10m a year to corruption, theft and damage.

He said trucks bringing in fuel vital to operations were stopped at 12 illegal checkpoints on one 200km stretch of road alone, each time being charged \$300. Waste oil has been set ablaze and workers kidnapped, he added.

Mr. Zhang said: “Our people are risking their lives for this oil and the benefit of this country.”

Other Highlights

Police unearth explosives near company in Khartoum

Al-Sahafa 8/2/11 – police discovered yesterday explosives near premises of a company in Al-Taef area in Khartoum.

Sources said a team was rushed to the area and the explosives were removed and investigation was underway to identify those behind the incident and their motives.

United Nations Mission In Sudan - Public Information Office

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