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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *Abyei Area Administration urges residents to return*

**Al-Ayyam** reports Abyei Area Administration urged residents who fled the town to return as quickly as possible. Chief Administrator Arop Moyak yesterday said the Government would provide services to facilitate the return, noting that several UN Agencies agreed to provide such services.

However, many residents of the town of Agok (south of Abyei) have cited security and stability as conditions for their return to the area and called on the GoNU and Abyei Area Administration to provide infrastructure, health and educational services.

Meanwhile, **Al-Khartoum** reports the Presidency approved an Abyei budget of SDG 285 without amendments. Abyei Area Minister of Finance Deng Ar told the paper that the budget would be submitted to the Parliament.

Chief Administrator Arop Moyak hoped the budget would be submitted to the parliament immediately for endorsement during the current session. Moyak toured Agwak area yesterday to familiarize civilians with the recent incidents in the area and to urge them to return, citing current stability and security in the area.

The federal delegation which visited the area last week said it would support efforts to boost security in the area by setting up 11 police posts and an integrated judicial system in the area.

### *Detained persons say were indoctrinated to testify for ICC - Haroun*

**Al-Wifaq** reports the Humanitarian Affairs Minister Amed Haroun has rejected ICC charges of his involvement in crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur. "These are unfounded charges based on fabricated information," he said. "Security authorities have detained persons who confessed to have been indoctrinated in a neighbouring country to testify for the ICC in return for money," he added.

Meanwhile, **Al-Intibaha** reports that NCP has categorically denied any inclination by Bashir to step down, citing options to deal with challenges that might arise in the political arena. "President Bashir's resignation is not among NCP's options to handle the ICC crisis," NCP official Prof. Ibrahim Ghandoor told the paper.

According to **Al-Sudani**, Umma Party leader Sadiq Al Mahdi has called for an extraordinary meeting of all the Sudanese political parties to discuss a possible ICC indictment of President Bashir. Mahdi has warned of the serious consequences of the indictment on the political and security situation in the country. He told the paper that it was obvious that the ICC judges would indict the President and that it would have serious repercussions on Sudan's security, political system and foreign relations.

**Al-Sahafa** reports Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem as saying that seven out of fifteen SC members are opposing deferment of the ICC indictment, noting that

China and Russian were trying to convince those countries to agree. Abdul Haleem also said the DPKO has warned that indicting President Bashir would affect stability of the country.

### ***Dialogue only way to normalize relations with Washington – Khartoum***

**Al-Sahafa** reports that US Envoy Richard Williamson said the Bush Administration would set the diplomatic ground for the incoming Obama Administration to deal with Sudan. However, he said other options should be considered should diplomatic efforts fail.

Khartoum was quick to welcome Williamson's statements. Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem said dialogue would be the only way to normalize relations between the two countries and urged the new US Administration to change its foreign policy.

### ***President Bashir to attend SAF air-force exercise tomorrow***

**Local dailies** report President Bashir is to attend tomorrow's largest SAF Air Force exercise in the Um Sayala area, west of Omdurman. SAF fighters, bombers, air carriers, heavy artillery and strategic weapons will take part in the parade. It is part of SAF's 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

### ***SPLM sticks to elections schedule***

**Local dailies** report the Northern Sector SPLM Chairman Dr. Keji Jarmili as saying that SPLM is sticking to the elections on schedule. She also emphasized the need to amend freedom-restricting laws as well as the referendum law. Jarmili told a press conference that SPLM SG Pagan Amum had just concluded a visit to El Salvador to learn about the El Salvador elections experience.

According to **Al-Wifaq**, Jarmili said SPLM has yet to decide if FVP Kiir is to be its presidential candidate. She denied that Kiir's upcoming visit to Darfur is intended to kickoff SPLM's elections campaign in the region. Instead, the visit is intended as a follow up on SPLM efforts to end the Darfur crisis.

### ***UNAMID officer detained, involvement in Omdurman incidents denied***

**Al-Wifaq** reports UNAMID has confirmed the detention of an officer by Sudanese police but the Mission declined to elaborate the charges. UNAMID spokesperson Nouredinne Mezni told the paper yesterday that a UNAMID police officer had been detained for four days 15-19 December in Khartoum. Mezni denied the charges were in any way related to the recent incidents in Omdurman.

### ***40% of southern Sudan's budget for Army***

**Ajras Al-Huriah** reports GoSS Legislature Chairman James Wani as saying that 40% of the 2009 Southern Sudan budget has been earmarked for the army. He told **Miraya FM** that security was a top GoSS priority.

### ***SPLA occupies agricultural schemes in the Blue Nile***

**Al-Intibaha** reports an SPLA armed force broke into several agricultural schemes in Bawa Locality of the Blue Nile State, forcing harvest labourers to vacate the farms at gun-point.

Ahmed Al-Tayeb, a farmer who witnessed the incident, said a group of 35 SPLA soldiers led by Farah Kabas entered seven schemes and replaced the harvest labourers with others loyal to SPLM. The farmers are determined to complain to the Blue Nile Governor Malik Aqar and his Deputy Ahmed Karameno to urge them to end SPLA violations in the area.

### ***30,000 IDPs going home***

**Local dailies** report GoSS began transporting 23,000 IDPs from Juba to their villages. GoSS Presidency Affairs Ministry official Deng Deng said more than 250 IDPs have been transported from Juba this week to their original villages in Sindwa area.

## **Websites/International News Coverage**

### ***Sudanese parties file their first arguments on Abyei dispute***

**Sudan Tribune website**, 20/12/08, THE HAGUE — The Government of Sudan and the SPLM submitted first written argument to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague –on Thursday, 18 December.

"The SPLM's submission included a set of fact and legal arguments over 300 pages long and is then supplemented by numerous, compelling maps, photos, historical records, and witness statements from chief, elders, SPLM/A officials and impartial international actors," said Deng Arop Kuol, a member of SPLM political committee on Abyei arbitration.

The arbitration on Abyei officially commenced on October 30, 2008, the date on which the presiding arbitrator, the French Pierre Marie Dupuis, was appointed and signed a declaration of independence, impartiality and commitment.

The two CPA signatories agreed last June, in a roadmap to resolve Abyei disagreement, to refer their dispute to an arbitration tribunal. They formally referred their case to the PCA on July 12.

The arbitration tribunal has to determine whether or not the Abyei Boundary Commission (ABC) experts exceeded their mandate "to define and demarcate the area of the Nine Ngok Dinka Chiefdoms transferred from Bahr el Ghazal to Kordofan in 1905".

The tribunal shall apply and resolve the dispute before it in accordance with the CPA provisions, particularly the Abyei Protocol and Abyei Appendix.

On February 13, 2009 the parties will present their counter- argument to the tribunal. Further, the arbitration agreement allows the two parties to provide a third written submission to the tribunal on February 28. An oral hearing also is scheduled for April 18-23. The Tribunal is expected to issue its final decision by July of 2009.

Despite the road map signed by the two parties on June 8, tension remains intense in the disputed area. A banal scuffle, on December 12 between members of the local police and a butcher led to the death of two policemen and the displacement of hundreds of civilians from the town.

"Recent events over the last few days in Abyei only further demonstrate the need for an immediate and comprehensive solution to the problem of Abyei," said Luka Biong Deng, the Minister of Presidential Affairs at the Government of Southern Sudan.

### ***Arab-African committee on Darfur to meet in Doha***

**Sudan Tribune website**, 20/12/08, CAIRO — Some Arab and African foreign ministers are expected to meet in the Qatari capital, Doha, on January 4 to discuss the ongoing preparation to organize peace talks between the warring parties in Darfur region. The ministerial committee meeting will be chaired by Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabr al Thani, the Qatari Prime

Minister and foreign minister, Sudan's deputy ambassador in Cairo Idris Suleiman told the Cairo-based Al-Gomhuria newspaper.

### ***JEM leader lashes out at Arab and African countries for support to Bashir***

**Sudan Tribune website**, 20/12/08, DOHA — JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim lashed out at Arab and African states, accusing them of a pro-Khartoum bias and of seeking to rescue the Sudanese president from the ICC indictment.

He made his statements on Saturday during a telephone interview with Arab journalists in Doha the capital of Qatar, a country that preparing to host peace talks to end the Darfur conflict.

Criticizing both the Arab League and the African Union, Ibrahim said there are some "non-democratic regimes which are scared for their safety" and wants to save President Bashir rather than solve the Darfur conflict.

He said "If they are really keen to resolve it, why they did not provide "one Tariffa (the smallest currency in the Sudan) during Seven years" for Darfur people. He underscored "they did not provide medicine or clothes, they are biased, and the Arab League is not eligible for mediation".

The JEM chairman said he opposed holding the 2009 general elections before the end of the conflict and the signing of a comprehensive peace deal with the Sudanese government.

"This government rigs elections. But the equation will change. We determine whether or not elections take place" Ibrahim warned. Participation in the forthcoming elections, in the presence of President Omer Al-Bashir in power "is not feasible", because "the outcome is already known: forgery".

The rebel leader reiterated his conditions for peace talks with the Sudanese government to release JEM members sentenced to death after May's raid on the capital.

He explained his position by saying that JEM is the only movement on the ground and the other rebels are "individuals who have mobile phones and appear on satellite channels."

The rebel leader who is under international pressure to take part in a comprehensive peace process went to say that regime change is the ultimate goal of his movement in order to establish a democratic regime in the country where all the marginalized regions can equally share power and wealth in Sudan.

"Our strategic goal is to topple this government and govern ourselves" he said, before adding "half-solutions are no longer viable."

The expected decision of the ICC judges would be "a historic moment", he said "The regime inevitably will fall very soon, and they know it, in Khartoum, even President Omar Al-Bashir said he was ready to step down if he is asked to do so".

### ***Angry, Outspoken Youths Become a Force in Darfur***

**New York Times**, Neil MacFarquhar, 20/12/08, HAMIDIYA CAMP, Sudan — The sheik was in a panic. The agitated youth in this West Darfur refugee camp, young men and adolescents who traditionally would have deferred to his authority, had gotten wind of his presence at a ceremony also attended by an official with the Sudanese government, their longtime antagonists.

Terrified that the youths would accuse him of treason, the sheik begged United Nations officials

to rush to his aid and vouch that he had not even broached the topic of compromise involving his people's cause.

The youths are known collectively as the "shabab," the Arabic word for young men. And they have become a vehemently pro-rebel political force in the camps for the 2.7 million people displaced by years of war between the Arab-dominated Sudanese government and rebels in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Increasingly angry and outspoken about their uncertain fate, the generation that came of age in the camps is challenging the traditional sheiks, upending the age-old authority structure of their tribal society and complicating efforts to achieve peace.

"They are much more extreme than the sheiks," said the United Nations official who related the episode of the frightened sheik, speaking anonymously to avoid jeopardizing his own acceptance among the shabab. "And they are hotheaded."

Eleven tribal sheiks around Zalingei — where Hamadiya is one of five refugee camps housing 120,000 people — have been killed since the beginning of 2007. One sheik was found with a nail hammered into his forehead. Another was shot at point-blank range. The cases remain unsolved, but some suspicion falls on the shabab.

"The sheiks and the traditional leaders have been influenced by the government, so the young people don't believe that the sheiks are still loyal to both the cause and the people of Darfur," said Abdallah Adam Khater, a Khartoum-based publisher and political writer from Darfur. The word influenced is a local euphemism for bribed.

In the short run, the emergence of the shabab makes any peace negotiations even more tangled, as rebel leaders will have to keep one eye focused on their most combustible constituents, who are opposed to any compromise with the government. In Kalma camp in South Darfur last year, the Fur ethnic group rose to evict all members of the Zaghawa clan to punish their leaders for signing the first Darfur peace agreement with the government. The protests, led by the shabab, helped drive more than 10,000 people from the camp. They also resulted in the killing of several shabab activists. Although shabab is the name used to describe the young Darfurians, they are not connected with the Shabab insurgent group in Somalia.

In the long run, outsiders also worry that a cohesive militant group will organize across Darfur's many camps, just as they emerged in the Palestinian territories and among Afghan refugees.

The shabab, strident in their politics, watch warily for any sign of compromise with the government of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, who is being sought by an international prosecutor on charges of genocide and war crimes against the people of Darfur. Humanitarian officials suspect there are jails that the shabab help run in the camps, and that they mete out punishment like whippings to transgressors.

At Zalingei, United Nations officials have learned to give traditional sheiks 24 hours' notice before any gathering outside the camps so that the sheiks can seek approval from elected shabab representatives.

The Zalingei police chief, a member of the Fur clan that dominates the camp, actually has relatives inside. But when he attends a wedding or other family gathering he has to drive his own car because the sight of his official vehicle might spark a riot, the United Nations official said.

During a recent tour of Hamidiya camp by top United Nations officials, Shafiq Abdullah, 33, a shabab leader, lambasted a Sudanese reporter from Khartoum as a government stooge and became so vehement that the United Nations deployed security forces around them.

Mr. Abdullah reeled off four prerequisites before the shabab in any camp would agree to negotiations between Darfur rebels and the government: disarming the government militias; prosecuting those responsible for war crimes, starting with Mr. Bashir; expelling anyone who settled on land stolen from the displaced farmers; and carrying out all United Nations Security Council resolutions on Darfur.

“We organize protest marches against anyone who says we should negotiate with the government for the sake of Darfur,” Mr. Abdullah said in an interview. “I speak out for the sake of our case, even if I have to die.” Sheiks can no longer guarantee that they can win over men like Mr. Abdullah.

“The traditional structure of authority is beginning to break down,” said a Western diplomat in Khartoum, the capital, with wide experience in the camps. “The rebel leaders can no longer control the population through the sheiks.”

With about 80,000 residents, Kalma is among the largest and most volatile of the camps. When a group of high-ranking United Nations officials were inspecting a water pumping station there in late November, Mohamed Ahmed Ismael, a gangly 20-year-old, waded in among them.

“We are not free in Kalma!” Mr. Ismael shouted, pronouncing his words syllable by syllable in English learned in the camp school and gesticulating like the lawyer he aspires to become. “Look at our sheiks; they are not free! The security can come into Kalma at any time!”

Education in the camps, which often stops at the eighth grade, has to a degree expanded the horizons of men like Mr. Ismael. English was not taught in their now-razed villages, for instance. But their heightened awareness has also stoked their outrage about the wrongs committed against them and about their lack of opportunity.

Hamidiya is one of five camps in Zalingei housing 120,000.

“You cannot call them a unified group with one political ideology, but they are all angry,” said Mr. Khater, the writer. “That is the factor unifying them.”

Leaving the shabab feeling isolated, without hope for the future, would be dangerous, he added, since the youth may “support any kind of violent acts.”

The expense of maintaining the camps is phenomenal. Of the \$7 billion in donations the United Nations is seeking for emergency relief worldwide in 2009, \$1 billion is for Darfur.

Kalma, though a squalid shantytown built mostly of straw and mud brick and standard United Nations-issue plastic sheeting, exudes a certain air of permanence. An extended market dominates the main drag. Shiny metal storage tanks that supply much of the camp’s water sit on solid concrete bases. The camp stretches about 10 miles, along railroad tracks and has some 10 mosques and 8 cemeteries. Residents say they fear leaving its confines lest they fall prey to the janjaweed — a word they now use to describe any enemy, not just the government-allied militias that have wreaked so much havoc in Darfur.

The civilians who fled to Kalma when it opened in early 2004 are about to start their sixth year

here. The shabab complain that life is monotonous, the hutches that they live in miserable and the camp battered constantly by a hot, dusty wind.

“Before, our desires were simple when it came to education, to culture — all we really thought about was farming,” said Adam Haroun Ahmed, 20, who arrived in the camp at 15. “The colonization, the oppression, all the brutal things done to us by the janjaweed caused us to change our views.”

When asked to describe his old village, his school friends jostling around him shouted down the idea. “It is something in the past, almost imaginary,” one yelled. Another chimed in, “It is so far from our reality that we don’t want to be there.”

In an effort to help manage the young men’s anger, some shabab, including Mr. Ismael, have been employed as community police volunteers by the United Nations peacekeeping force, to help fight camp crime.

The camps have become de facto no-go zones for the Sudanese government, which it finds galling and which prompts regular announcements that it will clear them out — in contravention of all humanitarian standards. The government paints the camps as havens for rebels and criminal gangs who steal cars and cultivate marijuana.

Government forces tried a weapons raid in Kalma last August, deploying scores of troops in some 60 vehicles. The camp’s word-of-mouth early warning system, something the shabab helped mobilize, soon had thousands of residents pouring into the streets to block their entrance. The troops opened fire in the ensuing melee, killing 33 residents and wounding at least 70, according to the United Nations. The government troops retreated, but vowed to try again.

The Darfur camps present a challenge for the government, not least because they form a collar around several major cities. Ali Mahmoud, the governor of South Darfur and the man United Nations officials believe ordered the raid, professed himself unconcerned that young, highly politicized camp residents might resettle in Nyala or other cities.

“I don’t think it is going to be a problem in the future,” he said. “Some people return to where they lived before and some don’t return, maybe 20-25 percent don’t return. We can absorb all of them into the city.”

Others are less sanguine. “The government has created a powder keg that it doesn’t know how to defuse,” said a Western diplomat in Khartoum with wide experience in the camps.

### ***Chad says forces attack rebels near Sudan***

**Reuters**, 20/12/08, N'DJAMENA - Chadian land forces and at least one helicopter attacked rebel positions near Sudan in retaliation for an operation they said was launched from Sudanese territory, the Chadian foreign minister said on Friday.

Chadian government forces have been fighting eastern-based rebels in an on-and off conflict that has been fuelled by violence over the border in Sudan’s Darfur region.

Last weekend Sudanese militia known as "Janjaweed", who have fought alongside the Khartoum government in Darfur, attacked over the border into Chad, killing at least 65 people, torching two villages and sending up to 8,000 people fleeing for safety, Chadian authorities said this week.



"In the last 48 hours, we have bombarded rebel positions near Sudan. But we have not touched civilian populations because they had already been chased away from these areas by the Janjaweed and the rebels," Foreign Minister Ahmat Allam-Mi told Reuters. "We have retaliated following an action which came from Sudan," he said.

Sudan's government denied responsibility for the attack.

Allam-Mi said at least one helicopter had taken part in the bombardment, but gave no further details on the operation. "The government is responsible for protecting the population by air and land. These actions are part of that mission and we have on several occasions warned Sudan to stop supporting this rebellion," Allam-Mi said on Friday.

Chad and Sudan have repeatedly accused one another of supporting each others rebel groups, despite several attempts by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi to mediate.

Khartoum has resisted plans by the United Nations to send a robust peacekeeping force to Darfur where an ill-resourced 7,000-strong African force is struggling to have any impact promoting a partial ceasefire which has failed to stop fighting.

That has led to proposals for U.N. peacekeepers to be sent to quell Darfur-related violence in eastern Chad and northern Central African Republic, but Chad's government says only police and paramilitary gendarmes should be sent.

"We have accepted the principle of an international presence in the east to protect refugees and humanitarian staff, but we think it should be civilian that is, police and gendarmes with the resources necessary to do their job," Allam-Mi said. "We are open. Discussions are continuing. The government will give its views on the question very soon," he said.

### ***Chief Mediator calls on Ugandan rebels to de-escalate hostilities***

**Sudan Tribune website**, 20/12/08, JUBA – The Chief Mediator of the Uganda peace process, GoSS Vice President Riek Machar has called on LRA rebels to assemble in Ri-Kwangba to "de-escalate" the ongoing hostilities with regional forces.

A joint regional force launched an offensive against the LRA bases inside north-eastern DR Congo last week and still escalating.

In his second report on the status of the Juba peace process, dated 15th December, a copy of which the Sudan Tribune received today, the Chief Mediator stated that it was the Ugandan army that carried out the attacks on LRA on 14 December in Garamba forests. It was to be joined by Congolese forces while the SPLA would deploy along Southern Sudan borders to prevent LRA from infiltrating into the semi-autonomous region.

Urging the LRA rebels to assemble in Ri-Kwangba area and to respect the peace deal's terms, Machar stated that the military action was neither intended to destroy the Juba peace agreements nor abrogate the Ugandan government's commitments towards the peace process. "I would therefore invite the LRA to signal its readiness to return and assemble in Ri-Kwangba in order to expeditiously conclude the Juba process," he stated.

Some LRA rebels have reportedly infiltrated into Southern Sudan and were accused by government officials of killing two civilians yesterday in Western Equatoria state.

Machar said the LRA should contact the Mediator, who, in turn, using the Cessation of Hostilities Monitoring Team, would arrange safe passage for them to Ri-Kwangba at the Sudan/DR Congo border. He said the mediators were aware of the LRA's concerns about the ICC but that these would be dealt with within the framework of the peace agreement and "should therefore not delay this process any longer."

"The LRA must act swiftly and in good faith to conclude this chapter of violence so that peace can return to this region," he concluded.

### ***Operation against Ugandan rebels continues in DRC***

**Uganda Broadcasting Corporation** (UBC) Radio, 21/12/08 -- A combined force of UPDF (Uganda People's Defence Forces), SPLA and DRC government troops has continued to bomb LRA hideouts in Garamba, National Park in the northeastern DRC. The spokesman for the operation, Cap Chris Magezi, told UBC by satellite phone from Garamba that the combined forces had destroyed more than 70% per cent of LRA installations and that they had also recovered military equipment from the camps they overran including

### ***Sudanese journalists call for release of shoe hurling reporter***

**Suna website**, 21/12/08 -- The Sudanese Journalist Union (SJU) has called for the release of Muntazar al-Zaydi, the Iraqi journalist who recently hurled his shoes at President Bush. A statement issued by the SJU described his action as the response of a journalist concerned about the issues of his people and nation and reflecting his deep rejection of his country's occupation.

### ***A Kenyan curriculum with a Southern Sudanese twist***

KADUGLI, 18 December 2008 (**IRIN**) - Nosa Abdalla Anglo, 19, was only a year away from joining a secondary school in Khartoum in 2005, but is still in primary school four years later and worries about her chances of going to high school in 2012.

Anglo, a returnee to the state of South Kordofan after fleeing the North-South war, which ended with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, was in an Arabic-medium school in Khartoum but is now enrolled in an English-medium primary school in her village of Karkaraya, on the outskirts of Kadugli, the main town in the state. "When I joined the school I was taken back to class two," she told IRIN.

"I was not happy about this but learning was not easy for me because it was now in a new language," Anglo said. "I find arithmetic easy but now even the subjects I knew before seem tough."

"The curriculum is a mix of Kenyan and Ugandan [syllabuses] with a Southern Sudanese twist," said Andrea Naletto, from the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) education project. "This will probably present future challenges for the children as they seek to advance their education."

"Children returning from the north are getting frustrated; this is also contributing to school dropouts," said Cecilia Pino, CARE team leader for South Kordofan. "For most poor people, education ends after the fifth grade."

The few parents who can afford it send their children to schools in the south, in Yei for example, even Kenya and Uganda. There is one English-medium secondary school in Kauda, about 120km from Kadugli, with about 90 students, 12 of whom are girls. The school is inadequately equipped, does not run up to form four and lacks boarding facilities.

The political situation in South Kordofan has resulted in a dual system of education compromising effective learning, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). During the war, no side won a convincing victory in the state, with some areas being under the control of the predominantly Arabic Khartoum administration, while others were under the control of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, which has adopted an English medium.

"The demand for education is high but so are the challenges such as a shortage of schools, learning facilities and qualified teachers. The returnees have seen city life and are sending children to school; we do not want to discourage them," Vijaya Singh, UNICEF education specialist in the state, said. UNICEF is supporting school construction, teacher training and has an accelerated learning programme to help support late school entrants.

The education system relies heavily on volunteers, most of whom have been educated in Arabic and therefore find it difficult to teach in English. The schools have also not been integrated into the state education system and lack government support. "The quality of education is not very motivating. We have to work a lot on teaching skills," said Singh.

Some of the primary-school teachers are grade six dropouts. "Whoever is available to teach something teaches," said Theodora Oikonomides, education project manager with the NRC.

"Integration between the two systems of education [Arabic and English] has made progress but structural differences in the curriculum, recruitment and training of teachers as well as the salary and employment policy, are an obstacle to the good delivery of services," Oikonomides said.

The adoption of a foreign curriculum is another problem. "We are teaching a Kenyan syllabus but we do not have enough teaching materials, especially for Kiswahili and CRE [Christian religious education]," Ayub Stephen Janerabi, a headmaster said.

In 2007, no passes were recorded in Kiswahili. "This was because the students started learning late. Teachers for the basic classes have now been requested from Kenya," said Anju Mursal Tutu Kuku, the education coordinator in the Ministry of Education.

"Our geography and history are also not included in what we are teaching," Kuku said. "We would like the curriculum to reflect the whole of Sudan and its history, not that of a certain place."

The education ministry has requested the deployment of high school certificate-holders to work as primary school teachers for the 228,000 pupils in the state. There are 1,200 primary schools, of which 165 are English medium, with about 660 volunteer teachers.

There are plans to integrate the two education systems, employ salaried teachers, and develop a curriculum in both Arabic and English, according to the education ministry.

Meanwhile, Anglo is hopeful that in 2009 she will proceed to class six; her school only runs up to class five and has about 391 students but no latrine or water source.