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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

SPLM rejects postponement of elections

Khartoum Monitor reports the SPLM has rejected rescheduling the time fixed for elections in February 2010 and demanded abidance by the declared schedule. SPLM spokesperson Yen Mathew said that the commission's release to the media about possible postponement of the elections was unofficial.

According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, NEC deputy chairperson Abdullah Ahmed Abdulla told **Reuters** Tuesday that elections could face another delay due to delay of the census results.

However, SPLM declined to comment on the news of possible elections rescheduling. Mathew told the paper that the movement would comment when the NEC officially announces the postponement.

Analysts skeptical Sudan can meet election schedule

VOA 10/6/09 - The United Nations has played down reports that Sudan's elections, currently set for February, could be delayed once more. But some analysts are skeptical that the country's two main parties can resolve their differences over the organization of the election in time to hold the vote in February.

Sudan's national elections, part of the 2005 peace agreement that ended the two-decade north-south civil war, were initially scheduled for July. But earlier this year, with preparations far behind schedule, the exercise was delayed to February of 2010.

On Tuesday, the deputy chairman of Sudan's National Election Commission told **Reuters** that elections could be delayed again, pointing to a delay in the release of census results necessary for registering voters, and to the coming rainy season, which will put preparations on hold in many parts of the country until October or November.

But a UN Development Program official in Sudan said the commission has not said anything specific about delaying elections. Principal Senior Electoral Advisor Jorge Guzman said the chairman of the commission yesterday raised a number of issues that the commission is considering, including delays in releasing the census results. But he said the existing election calendar remains in place.

The political secretary for President al-Bashir's National Congress Party this week also reiterated support for holding elections on time.

But the director of the Sudan program at Justice Africa, Hafiz Mohammed, is skeptical that the elections will take place on schedule, pointing to the recently-released census results, which the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, the main party in the south, continues to reject, as the main stumbling block.

"I don't think elections are going to go ahead on time. The census is supposed to be the basis for the demarcation of the election constituencies. Now the SPLM is not recognizing it," he said. "This is the main problem. No one knows how to solve it. You have to come out with the demarcation first, and then the registration of voters and then the other processes, and all that has to finish before February," he added.

The SPLM, led by former rebels who now control the semi-autonomous southern government, says the census results inflated the figures for some groups in the north, and understated the total number of southerners in the country.

Mohammed says the SPLM and the NCP also remain in disagreement over laws governing political freedom. He says relations between the two parties are at a low point, and a resolution of their differences appears unlikely anytime soon. He also says the prospects for international pressure are limited.

"The international community has very limited power and influence. Up to now I don't see that the international community will be able to do anything to speed up the process or resolve the outstanding issues. There is no sign that there is any thing which the international community can do to break this deadlock," he said.

The chairman of the electoral commission said Tuesday that organizing the elections will cost some \$1.1 billion, urging the international community to provide support.

Government permits NGOs in Darfur, not ousted ones – Minister

Sudan Vision reports the Government has agreed to the entry of new INGOs for humanitarian work in Darfur provided they abide by the terms and conditions.

State minister for humanitarian affairs Abdalbagi Aljailani briefing the National Assembly yesterday reiterated government determination not to reverse its resolution on the expelled INGOs. However, he articulated that the Humanitarian Work Act permits operation of new organizations in accordance with the mandate given in that respect, and without involvement in political or intelligence activities or any suspicious conduct that impinges on the national sovereignty or security.

According to **Al-Ahdath**, Aljailani admitted the gap created by the INGO ouster and the lack of capacity of the national NGOs but said the government would support and strengthen them to address the situation. "INGOs role in Darfur is negative, the Ministry will never tolerate crossing the red line and violation of the national sovereignty," he told the Parliament. HAC Commissioner Hassabo Mohamed Abul Rahman estimated the gap created by the INGO expulsion at 4.7%, saying 52,000 tons of medicines are in stock and it will last until the end of the year.

Meanwhile, MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq has criticized the Human Rights Watch which calls on the SC to press Sudan to cooperate and surrender President Al-Bashir to the ICC. He also criticized the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Sima Samar for claiming deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Darfur. He said Sudan would never deal with the ICC, saying it would deal with the UN and the SC based on the ratified international treaties and agreements. He added that Sudan is not expecting any positive report from Samar due to her known negative stances, pointing out that reports by NGOs operating in Darfur disagree with her conclusions. Al-Sadiq said the ousted INGOs would never return whether with their old or new names. "Talk about return of the expelled INGOs is just speculation. This issue has been sorted out with the US envoy, UN humanitarian chief and a number of international envoys," he said.

New voluntary return plan for southern Sudan

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports HAC Commissioner Hassabo Mohamed Abdul Rahman as saying that a new 3-year plan was worked out with UN agencies for voluntary returns to southern Sudan. He told reporters that the plan focuses on development and reconstruction, saying the free food distribution experience has failed.

SPLM calls on Al-Bashir to investigate corruption in the South

Akhir Lahza reports SPLM spokesperson Yen Mathew as saying that GoSS has not received its oil revenue share since five months. Mathew, who addressed a press conference yesterday, rejected Lam Akol's allegations about corruption in the south, demanding evidence. He said SPLM was in possession of documents signed by Akol himself requesting support from an Arab country on grounds that he was working for unity. He also called on President Al-Bashir to set up a committee to investigate claims of corruption in the south.

SPLA blocks convoy heading for Kenana to receive Al-Bashir

Al-Intibaha reports a convoy of vehicles, carrying civilians heading for Kenana to join a rally to receive President Al-Bashir, was intercepted yesterday at a point on the border between the White Nile and the Upper Nile States. One of the civilians told the paper that the SPLA elements stopped the convoy which was coming from Juda town and held it for several hours, resulting in their delay to join the rally marking the launch of an ethanol plant.

South Sudan pledges \$30 m for demobilization programme

Sudan Tribune website 10/6/09 – The President of Southern Sudan government has pledged 30 million US dollars to fund demobilization programme launched yesterday in the south.

Salva Kiir Mayadrit's pledge was announced by Luka Biong Monoja, GoSS Presidency Affairs Minister, who read the presidential speech delivered on Wednesday at the launch of the DDR programme in the semi-autonomous region.

Around 35,000 combatants of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) will be demobilized in the first phase of the operation. South Sudan DDR is part of the national DDR programme launched last February. Some 4,500 combatants from the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), Popular Defence Forces and SPLA are so far demobilized.

"Your people are not chasing you away- we are re-deploying you and assigning you new and crucial duties and responsibilities" said Luka Biong.

He further stressed that this programme "will build the skills of DDR participants in carpentry, clerical, computer, building, electricity, plumbing, welding, tailoring, cooking and catering services."

The programme DDR foresees the disarmament of equal numbers of forces from both SAF including its militias or SPLA. Juba is the third operational centre after Ed Damazin in Blue Nile State and Kadugli in Southern Kordofan.

A total of 180,000 participants from North and Southern Sudan stand to benefit from DDR by leaving military life and reintegrating into society. The programme is operationally managed by the North Sudan and South Sudan DDR Commissions, with technical and logistical support from the Integrated United Nations DDR Unit.

"In demobilizing these former heroes from the SPLA, the government will be giving them an opportunity to return to their communities with dignity and with respect," the Deputy Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator, Lise Grande said, speaking at the ceremony at a military base outside the southern regional capital Juba.

"Its success depends also on the achievements of all the other benchmarks of the CPA", she

added.

The launch ceremony was also attended by senior officials of the Governments of National Unity, and southern Sudan as well representatives of diplomatic missions in the country.

Speaking on behalf of the donor community, Japanese Ambassador to Sudan, Yuichi Ishi, urged the ex combatants to benefit from this opportunity. "The sustainable peace and development of your country rest upon you and your colleagues". "Japan has been proactively assisting the people of Sudan to implement the CPA with a special focus on DDR", he added.

Donors pledged some 88 million dollars in February, but more contributions are needed, including from north and south Sudanese governments.

President Bashir open ethanol plant

Local dailies report President Al-Bashir yesterday launched Africa's first ethanol plant with a capacity of 65 million litres, expected to increase to 200 million litres within two years. Addressing a rally marking the launch, President Al-Bashir said "Sudan's response to enemies will continue to be additional development". "We will never sell the country in exchange for wheat," he told the crowd.

Sudan says African states to meet in October over ICC row

Sudan Tribune website 10/6/09 – The African states that have ratified the Rome Statute that forms the basis of the ICC will meet in Uganda next October to discuss legal aspects of the treaty.

SUNA said that the conference was decided during a two-day meeting held this week in the Ethiopian capital aimed primarily at discussing the possibility of a mass withdrawal from the ICC.

However, the participants at the meeting refused to endorse a mass withdrawal as requested by Sudan, Libya, Senegal, Djibouti and Comoros Island.

The outcome of the meeting dealt a severe diplomatic blow for Khartoum as it has lobbied its peers in the continent for months to withdraw from the ICC.

Some Sudanese officials have said that they hope such action would weaken The Hague based court.

SLM-Minnawi faction rejects finance minister's funds report

Miraya FM 10/6/09 - The SLM-Minnawi faction has denied the figures in the report of the Minister of finance and National economy which was submitted on Tuesday to the parliament, regarding funds transferred to the transitional authority in Darfur.

Speaking to **Miraya Fm**, the movement's spokesman, Seif Eddin Haroun, quoted the minister saying that more than 800 million US dollars have been transferred to Darfur transitional authority.