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Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

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Highlights

S. Sudan's Salva Kiir returns home amid his health concerns

Sudantribune.com Juba, 05/11/13 - The South Sudanese president Salva Kiir has returned to the country after reportedly traveling outside for a medical check-up.

He returned on Monday aboard a Kenyan Airways flight accompanied by high level officials, including his advisor for legal affairs, Telar Riing Deng.

Kiir, who turned 62 in September, was received at Juba International Airport by cabinet affairs minister Martin Elia Lomuro who was flanked by a line of cabinet ministers and armed generals.

No press statement was, however, made about the trip previously broadcast by the state-owned SSTV as an official visit to neighbouring Kenya, allegedly for bilateral talks with its government's leadership.

However, reports later emerged that he had traveled to South Africa for medical attention, contradicting initial reports that he was visiting Kenya capital, Nairobi.

In a broadcast on Monday, SSTV said Kiir was returning from a visit to Kenya, although no official comment was provided regarding the nature of the trip.

There was also no mention of the outcome of the scheduled meeting between Kiir and his Kenyan counterpart, Uhuru Kenyatta or any related news in the Kenyan and South Sudanese media outlets regarding the trip.

A close presidential aide who did not want to be identified told *Sudan Tribune* on Tuesday that the president was suffering from exhaustion and had taken a "short leave" to attend "a general medical check-up" on Saturday outside the country.

The aide said the president had experienced difficulties in sleeping and loss of appetite, as well as unusual changes in his unusual physical appearance and voice.

According to the aide he approached several colleagues with his concerns about Kiir's health, but the president put the symptoms down to a demanding work schedule and lack of rest.

"The president was not really sick but he experienced difficulties in sleeping for two days. That was on Thursday and Friday nights. One could see from the general appearance that he was not well but he insisted [on] going to work", the aide said.

Government officials have so far refused to confirm or deny the reports.

Speculation over the president' health has intensified on social media sites in recent days and reports have also emerged friends and relatives were paying him a courtesy visit on the development.

In an apparent move to downplay public concerns, an armed general, widely known as a close and long-time ally of the president since, told *Sudan Tribune* on Tuesday that the president was "simply tired from his] workload and needed rest".

"Anyone can feel tired and become weak from working too much, which is normal – even you in the media, there are times you feel tired [and need] to take rest", he said.

"There is a lot work in that office and if you are not careful, especially if you want to ensure that you attend to every single issue like what president Salva is doing, you will definitely fall sick. The body itself needs rest and this is what I have been telling those in the office, especially his personal doctors, to be constantly observing the president and advise him accordingly. He needs to reduce [the] number of meetings [he attends]", the general added.

The comments appeared aimed at countering speculation that the president's possible health problems may affect his ability to run for another term in office in the 2015 elections. Reports from other sources close to the president indicate that he suffers from fatigue and low blood pressure and that his doctors have ordered him to reduce his workload. However, his office has yet to issue any statements about his health, prompting questions about whether he has a more serious illness.

Meanwhile, pictures broadcast on SSTV showed Kiir, who appeared in good health, disembarking from a Kenyan Airways flight on Monday.

Sudan Tribune was unable to obtain any official confirmation on whether the president had in fact travelled outside the country for medical attention, with officials at the presidential press unit declining to comment, describing it as a private matter.

"My friend, I think you better leave me. I cannot make any comment because it is beyond my assignment. What you are asking is a private thing and I cannot make any comment on private affairs. It is strictly prohibited and I will be in trouble", a press officer who did not want to be named told *Sudan Tribune* on Tuesday.

Garang Mawien, a native of Northern Bahr el Ghazal state currently in Juba, dismissed reports that president Kiir was "unwell", despite there being no public statement on the matter.

"I do not want to speculate about the health of the president. I will wait until I get [an] official statement from our government then I [will] make my comment about it," he said.

"I want to reserve myself because there is an overwhelming feeling that South Sudan is at a critical crossroad and we need a strong leader, a president who could tackle all these challenges. President Salva has proved that he commands public support at the moment and any irresponsible talk about his health will certainly undermine his image and standing in the public eyes as our leader", he added.

Various opposition leaders have also avoided making any public comments on the matter, although there are reports that some individually contacted the president to send their "best wishes". [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Jonglei Commissioners warned of imminent Yau Yau threat, Parliament told

The Citizen Juba, 06/11/13 – A Member of Parliament representing Duk County, Philip Thon Leek yesterday informed the National Legislative Assembly that acting governor of Jonglei State Hussein Maar has warned commissioners of Akobo, Duk, Twic East and Urol of more attacks by Mrle groups loyal to David Yau Yau.

Thon pointed out that according to the warning, the attacks could take place anytime.

According to Thon, this warning came after airplane surveillance in the area on Monday spied a huge force of Yau Yau loyalists moving toward Akobo, Duk, Urol and Twic East County.

Deputy Speaker of the state parliament, Mark Nyipouch, urged the national government to deploy the army before more civilians lose their lives. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Jonglei's acting governor returns as uncertainty looms over future

Sudantribune.com Bor, 05/11/13 - The acting governor of Jonglei state, Hussein Maar Nyuot, returned to Bor from Juba on Tuesday morning in Bor from Juba where he went for official visit.

However, Nyuot did not have time to speak to media about the confusing political situation in the state as his security detail moved the press from Bor airport, a few minutes before he landed.

"If you guys want to interview the big man, forget [it] he is tired and doesn't want to stand with anybody for any business. You see your way before he comes", a security officer said

while asking them to leave the airport. He warned that if they did wait for the acting governor they would "face the music".

Maar left Bor two weeks ago after the Jonglei state parliament failed to vote for an extension of his interim period for another 60 days, to give him time to prepare for statewide gubernatorial elections.

On 22 October, the state assembly sat to discuss whether to extend the period of the deputy governor who acted as the state governor, following the resignation of the former governor Kuol Manyang when he was promoted to become South Sudan's minister of defence.

Although majority of MPs voted for an extension, the number of parliamentarians who voted for the extension did not reach the 75 percent needed for the vote to be valid as per the laws guiding the processes of the Jonglei state legislature.

The assembly recommended that elections be conducted to allow citizens to elect a new governor to replace Manyang.

A day after the sitting, the state speaker wrote to the national electoral commission to prepare and arrange elections in Jonglei.

Sources within the government said the failure of the assembly to approve the extension of his caretaker mandate had angered Maar.

The majority of MPs in the assembly expressed a wish that South Sudan's president Salva Kiir appoint someone as caretaker governor of the state. Kiir sacked the governors of Lakes state (January) and Unity state (July) but no elections are planned for either state despite it contravening South Sudan's transitional constitution that states that in such circumstances a fresh election must take place within 60 days.

Some MPs said the idea of asking the president to appoint somebody in the state was suppressed by the speaker of the state assembly and the Assembly Business Committee.

"We know that the elections will not be done in the state because of insecurity, impassible roads and lack of resources like money and logistical problems. But since we were blocked from the point of asking the president to appoint somebody, we just voted for elections. We still recommended it when there was no decision taken after the results of voting. We did not want to have 60 days added for Hussein Maar to act", Philip Thon Nyok the MP for Bor town told Sudan Tribune.

Many of Jonglei's state ministers have been in the South Sudanese capital Juba lobbying for the position for themselves or for someone from their county, according to government sources.

It remains unclear whether the next governor of Jonglei will be elected by the people or appointed by the president.

Jonglei's public appear divided over the issue with some supporting Hussein Maar to be made the governor, while others want a new face arguing that he did not achieve anything in his previous position as minister of information.

Maar now occupies three positions; the Jonglei state minister of information and communication, the deputy governor and the acting governor. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

South Sudan Journalists' Union to elect new executive body

Gurtong Juba, 06/11/13 - The Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS) national executive body is preparing to elect new office bearers as the term for the current body expires tomorrow.

For this elections to happen, members of states' Union from 10 states were invited to be part of the process with a supervisory task from the national Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with a technical support from the Secretary Generals of Union of Journalists

of Uganda (UJU) as well as Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ) whose technicalities also played role in amending the permanent constitution of UJOSS.

Speaking to the members during the General Assembly Meeting [GAM] for the end of the three-year term calendar year, the outgoing chairperson of UJOSS, Mr. Oliver Modi welcomes the members for the fair, democratic and transparent elections for another three years term for the forthcoming executive body which is not clear whether the members will nominate him again for another three-year term for the chairmanship.

“We are here today as the brothers and sisters working one objective goal for our country and South Sudanese in particular through creating bridges between the government, partners and journalists of different media house to promote peace, free press, transparent, responsible and developmental media in South Sudan,” Oliver told members of Executive committees representing 10 states in South Sudan who came to endorse 2010-2013 Financial report from the outgoing executive body headed by him.

He however, continuously emphasized that the choice of the members for the elections to the upcoming body will remain a fundamental right of UJOSS members in reference to interim constitution which is likely to be amended to a permanent constitution.

“This is absolutely every member’s right to observe and nominate who she/he thinks can prosper well because we all know that we are still far behind as we started from behind and still aiming further for the betterment of the media in South Sudan like any other developed and developing countries,” he added.

UJOSS was formed in 2004 by South Sudanese journalists and registered in 2008 by then the ministry of Legal affairs and constitutional Development and had its first executive body formed immediately after the registration with an aim to protect journalists’ safety and other human rights related issues within the county.

In 2013, the Union attained its regional membership of becoming part of Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) and likely lobbying to get membership for International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) body which is based in Brussels. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

African Capacity Foundation to train 200 civil servants

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 06/11/13 - African Capacity Building Foundation plans to train 200 senior government officials this financial year in good governance and prudent financial management.

South Sudan Capacity Building Project carries out the training.

Project Coordinator Peter Juma Sir said more than 50 senior civil servants were already trained in executive leadership.

He added that his organization was also training civil servants in public financial management, fiduciary management, corporate governance, auditing and accounts.

Mr Juma said the project conducted a capacity gaps assessment for South Sudan and provided postgraduate scholarships for two officers.

“Areas of training include financial management, government budgeting, budget preparation practices, public finance and funding of operations and maintenance,” he explained.

National Audit Chamber official Peter Simbe said the project would improve communication at the workplace and offer staff an opportunity to further their education.

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Education scrutiny team visits Lakes State

Gurtong Rumbek, 06/11/13 - High level delegation from the National Ministry of Education is visiting Rumbek to acquaint themselves with current challenges facing education across the eight counties of Lakes State.

The delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Education Bol Makueng Yuol arrived in Wulu County located in southern part of Rumbek Central County on Tuesday and held a meeting with county administration.

The delegation was received by county education director William Kerjok who briefed the delegation of immediate challenges such as lack of teaching staff, lack of classroom and poor payment of teachers.

Wulu County is a peaceful county within Lakes State with 31 primary schools and one secondary school. There are 8,410 pupils from all 31 primary school and secondary school of which 2,296 are girls.

There are 210 teachers teaching in both primary schools and secondary and already few teachers left teaching professional due to poor pay.

A teacher usually received only 305 South Sudanese Pounds per month and the low payment forced seven teachers to join the army with aim to get high pay.

However, with all concerns raised to the ministry of higher education, national deputy minister Bol Makueng Yuol responded that a series of plans to upgrade education are underway in Juba.

He affirmed that effort to improved teachers salary will be made by the national education minister. [Back to Top](#)

South Sudanese divided over joining EAC

Gurtong Juba, 06/11/13 - South Sudanese citizens are divided over joining of the East African Community (EAC) as negotiations between Juba and representatives from the bloc's member states are set to start tomorrow.

The joining of EAC at home is backed by a section of the South Sudanese but others say it is still early to join the bloc.

South Sudan seceded from the Sudan in 2011 and immediately applied for EAC membership.

“The process of joining EAC should begin now. We should join our brothers in whatever regional bloc. The whole world is moving into bigger blocs,” Alfred Taban, a political analyst in Juba said Wednesday while appearing on *Radio Miraya's* Breakfast Show.

“The European Union (EU) was initially about a six-member bloc but now they are about 17.”

Taban argues that world over; countries are joining regional blocs to improve their economies and political survival.

“We cannot be left behind, we are now a nation yes; we should be joining these groups. It is for our own good,” said Taban.

However, Edmund Yakani, a civil society activist, Coordinator of Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) is one of those who believe it is too early for South Sudan to join the EAC, saying the demerits outweigh the merits at the moment.

“If we join the EAC, any member of the community can work in any member country without discriminating. How many South Sudanese can seek employment in the other countries and in terms of taxes, we are going to lose a lot because we are a very young economy,” said Yakani on Radio Miraya.

“The dividends of joining the EAC bloc are less than what we shall lose to it. We are going to create unemployment for our own people. This may raise xenophobia.”

However, Taban argues that it is better to join the bloc now so that the people can compete and improve services for the people, arguing that even construction of oil pipelines and international roads require partnership with neighbouring community members.

Taban however calls for intensive sensitization of the public on the pros and cons of joining EAC while Yakani calls for referendum as it concerns the citizens more than the politicians.

Despite opposition from some disgruntled Ugandan business people who have filed a petition to block Juba's bid, the new nation is expected to receive strong backing from Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda.

Discussions on South Sudan's application to join the East African Community (EAC) were set to start tomorrow during the meeting of the High Level Negotiations to take place in Arusha Tanzania, the headquarters of the East African Community.

A special team from the Republic of South Sudan is in Arusha where representatives from EAC Member states of Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania will join them in the task force which will commence its work, and determine rules of procedure and programme.

However, Ugandan businessmen have moved to court to block South Sudan from joining the East African Community and the Secretary-General of the EAC, who now has 45 days within which to file a response.

Juba's bid is tipped to receive strong backing from Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda.

Among other things, the Ugandan traders protests that while countries like Rwanda and Burundi that acceded to the EAC Treaty in 2007 were first subjected to rigorous tests and had had smooth trade relations with Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, the same rigours are not being applied to South Sudan, which has a bad record of harassing and abusing nationals of other countries doing business within its borders.

Court papers allege that 24 Ugandans have been killed extra-judicially, mostly by officers and men of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army. The same army is also accused of forcibly confiscating merchandise and 21 vehicles. For these losses and others, the Uganda traders' lobby claims that its 79 members are owed \$14,875,421 before interest since 2009.

Exports from Kenya and Uganda to South Sudan have more than doubled in the past 10 years and are currently valued at over \$200 million and \$180 million respectively annually. South Sudan has 85 per cent of Sudan's oil output, estimated at about 520,000 barrels per day, which offers the EAC a unique opportunity to have Juba as a partner state. [\(Back to](#)

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S. Sudanese kills three, faces deportation from Norway

Sudantribune.com Oslo, 05/11/13 - A South Sudanese man was on Tuesday arrested by Norwegian police over suspicion of stabbing to death three people on a train in the rural part of the country.

The 31-year old suspect, the *Associated Press* reported, was due to be deported out the country after Norway rejected his asylum application, for stabbing a Norwegian bus driver, a Swedish male passenger and a 19-year-old Norwegian woman.

Norway's police spokeswoman, Eli Anne Tvergro, was quoted saying the suspect, whom she did not name, had been living at a reception center for asylum seekers in the nearby town of Aardal.

It is, however, unclear as to what prompted the suspect to carry out such a gruesome act, which left many astonished.

Meanwhile, Norwegian police immigration authorities were reportedly due to send the 31-year old man to Spain to have his application for asylum reviewed there.

Asylum seekers' requests, under European Union regulations, are supposed to be processed in the European country of initial entry, which in the suspect's case was Spain. Norway, which is a non-EU member, also applies the same law.

Score of South Sudanese citizens took to the social networking site, facebook, expressing grievances over the incident.

“Possible motives [of the incident] may include undiagnosed post traumatic stress disorder triggered by some event - family breakdown, racism, unemployment, etc”, Clement Werille wrote.

“Tragic indeed. May the souls of the victims rest in peace, and condolences to their bereaved loved ones, families, friends and relatives”, said Emmanuel Tongun.

Kenyi Osborn also posted another saying, “Really touching. May the souls of the deceased rest in eternal peace”, adding, “But what is wrong with us south Sudanese who cannot forgive and forget?” [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Joint oil committee urges border opening for effective oil flow

The Citizen Juba, 06/11/13 – The oil monitoring joint committee between South Sudan and Sudan has called upon the two governments to open the disputed borders especially that of Unity State and Abyei areas for the smooth flow of oil.

The call came after a meeting between the Ministry of Petroleum and a delegation from Sudan headed by the Undersecretary in the Ministry of Petroleum, Awad Mohammed.

Briefing journalists after the meeting yesterday, Awad said they had brief consultations on several issues including a successful oil exportation, quality production and concerns over border opening. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Sudan projected to receive \$1.4 billion from Juba in 2014: IMF

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 05/11/13 - The Sudanese government is poised to receive \$1.42 billion next year from Juba as part of the agreements signed between the two sides regarding exporting oil from landlocked South Sudan through pipelines extending all the way to terminals in the coastal city of Port Sudan.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its Sudan Article IV Consultation report released last Friday that remittances by Juba to Khartoum will jump from \$442 million in 2013 to \$1.42 billion in 2014 then will start decreasing to \$1.40 billion in 2015 and \$1.11 billion in 2016.

This arrangement will help bring Sudan’s fiscal deficit down to 2% of its GDP in 2013 compared to 3.8% in 2012. This figure is projected to drop further in 2014 to 0.9% before sliding back up in subsequent years.

Despite this, the IMF noted that non-oil economic growth is expected to slow to 2.3% this year from 4.6% in 2012 due to a slowdown in industrial and service activities.

In order to improve the macroeconomic outlook, the IMF urged Sudan to "rationalize" government spending, improve revenue collection, make exchange rate more flexible and restrict credit extended by the Central Bank of Sudan (CBoS) to the government so as not to exceed 2.5 billion Sudanese pounds and have CBoS refrain from rescheduling reimbursements due by Khartoum.

The CBoS must also stop acquiring government bonds known as Musharaka Certificates, the IMF said.

The IMF also pressed Sudan to overhaul its tax code noting that its revenue-to-GDP ratio of 6.2% is very low compared to similar economies with an average of 17% "reflecting in part exemptions and extensive tax incentives".

"Improving tax revenue will entail raising some taxes, streamlining tax exemptions, rationalizing business tax incentives, and taxing gold activities. Tax efforts should be accompanied by revenue administration measures aimed at developing a tax procedure code, strengthening the audit capacity, reinforcing the penalty procedures for non-

compliant taxpayers, and enhancing the business registration process and core operations' workflow" the IMF said.

Establishing a taxation system to the increasingly growing gold sector would be a central part of this policy, the IMF said and noted that gold accounted for 40% of exports earnings in 2012 compared to 1% in 2008.

Nonetheless the IMF said that while Sudan's central bank managed to boost its foreign reserves as a result of its gold trading activities "the benefits accruing to the budget, on the other hand, were negligible".

"Under the current taxation system, while artisanal miners are not taxed, gold mining companies are subject to a royalty (7 percent), a business profit tax (BPT; 30 percent), and pay a dividend proportional to for the equity share held by the government," the IMF said.

While this taxation system compares favorably to those in other gold producing countries, the IMF said that in the long term Sudan needs to impose a tax on mining companies to ensure that taxation will move in line with changes in activity.

As far as artisanal miners, a withholding tax could be levied when they sell their findings to gold merchants that should be close to the 30% BPT rate but not too high to encourage smuggling.

The IMF also warned against the move by Khartoum to boost public sector wages calling it inflationary and said that any such increase should be linked to increases in the economy's productivity.

Instead, savings from the reduction in subsidies started last year should be used to better targeted social programs and higher capital spending.

Late last September, the Sudanese government agreed to scale back fuel subsidies which caused prices of gasoline and diesel to increase by almost 100%.

Violent clashes erupted between the demonstrators and security forces in different parts of the country leading to 70 deaths according to official figures and more than a 200 according to activists and opposition.

Senior Sudanese officials including president Omer Hassan al-Bashir have defended the measure saying the only alternative would be an economic collapse as the state budget can no longer continue offering the generous subsidies on petroleum products to its people.

The IMF approved of Khartoum's decision saying that fuel subsidies in Sudan "disproportionately" benefit the rich.

"[T]he bottom quintile of the population receives about 3 percent of the subsidy, whereas the top quintile receives more than 50 percent. Against this background, the phasing of fuel subsidies should proceed in a gradual fashion over the next four to five years".

In a statement submitted to the national assembly yesterday, the Sudanese finance minister said that next year the government will cut subsidies further on certain goods including fuel in order to reduce the budget deficit and stabilize the exchange rate of the Sudanese pound against the US dollar.

The IMF did acknowledge that phasing out subsidies will negatively impact a large section of the population noting that 47% of Sudanese live below poverty line.

"Therefore, an increase in social expenditures should accompany the phasing out of subsidies. Over the medium term, the authorities should gradually move from a broad-based subsidy scheme to a targeted one". [\(Back to Top\)](#)

M23 rebels abandon rebellion against DRC government

Sudantribune.com Kampala, 05/11/13 - The most powerful of the numerous militia in the volatile eastern Democratic Republic of Congo(DRC) , the M23 ,on Tuesday announced it had abandoned its nearly two year old rebellion against the DRC government.

“The M23 Directorate announces... that it decided from this day to put an end to its rebellion and to pursue by purely political means, to find the solutions to the root causes which led to its creation,” said M23 President, Bertrand Bisimwa, in a statement issued on Tuesday from the Ugandan capital Kampala.

Bisimwa said M23 commanders asked commanders to prepare their fighters for disarmament and demobilisation.

“The chief of general staff and the commanders of all major units are requested to prepare troops for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration on terms to be agreed with the government of Congo.”

The DRC army with the backing of a United Nations brigade comprising of soldiers from South Africa, Tanzania and Malawi routed the rebels and took over a string of towns previously under control of the M23 including their bastion of Bunagana, near the border with Uganda.

The announcement by the rebels came only a day after leaders from the Great Lakes at a summit with their Southern African counterparts in Pretoria, South Africa, called on them to sign a peace agreement with the DRC government at the Kampala peace talks.

The collapse of the peace talks in Kampala two weeks ago sparked off fresh fighting between the M23 and the DRC army. The two sides could not agree on amnesty and integration of the rebels into the national army.

The news that the M23 has abandoned rebellion has been welcomed by Russ Feingold, the US Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region.

“In a region that has suffered so much, this is obviously a significant positive step in the right direction,” said Russ Feingold in an address on Tuesday to the press in Pretoria, South Africa.

The M23 is largely made up of Tutsi rebels who were previously part of the Congolese army, but mutinied in April 2012 when they accused the DRC government of not respecting a 2009 peace deal.

Rwanda, and to an extent Uganda, have been accused by the United Nations and human rights organisation of supporting the rebels, an allegation denied by both countries.

The announcement of the end of rebellion by M23 has raised hope for peace in eastern DRC. But the region still has a multitude of militia groups with the potential to cause more mayhem in the long suffering but mineral rich eastern Congo. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Ukraine begins delivery of 200 battle tanks to Ethiopia

Sudantribune.com Addis Ababa, 05/11/13 - Ukraine's state-controlled arms exporter, Ukrspelexport SC, has begun delivering the upgraded T-72 main battle tanks and related parts to the Ethiopian military.

According to local sources gathered by *Sudan Tribune*, the Ethiopian military has taken delivery of a first group of 16 T-72 Tanks which recently arrived at Djibouti port.

The delivery is said to be part of the 2011 deal signed between Ethiopia's defence ministry and the Ukrainian arms firm to purchase 200 T-72 tanks at a cost of \$100 million.

Officials at the ministry of defence declined to comment on Tuesday over the matter despite repeated attempts by *Sudan Tribune*.

The components of the T-72 tanks were upgraded with modern guided weapons, new and powerful engines, reactive armour as well as updated sighting systems and countermeasures.

Ethiopia, Africa's second most populace nation, is one of the continent's top military spenders.

According to the Global Firepower military power ranking report for 2013, the horn of Africa nation was ranked second on the African continent after Egypt and placed 28th globally.

The Ethiopian military is made up of an army and an air force. In 2012, Ethiopia had an estimated 150,000 personnel in their ground forces and 3,000 air force personnel.

Ethiopia engaged in border war with Eritrea during 1998-2000 which killed over 70,000 people from both sides.

With its border disputes with Eritrea still unresolved and Addis Ababa committed to the African Union's force in neighbouring Somalia, Ethiopia has beefed up its military strength in the past ten years.

Ethiopia is also among the top ten countries that contribute to peacekeeping mission worldwide.

It currently has over 4,000 peacekeeping troops deployed in the contested Abyei region, which is claimed by both Sudan and South Sudan. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

ANALYSIS – Oil and the new Cold War in Sudan: Independence of S. Sudan shrouded in skepticism

Internationalpoliticalforum.com 04/11/13 - The independence of South Sudan on July 2011 has been welcomed by the international community as a sign of high possibility of ending the humanitarian crisis in the region. Even though, this is a big challenge for Khartoum (North Sudan), it cannot be rejected as nearly 100 percent (approximately 98.88 percent) of South Sudan population voted to secede from the North. The general perception assumed is that this is a new beginning to a better future for both South Sudan and Khartoum. However, the humanitarian crisis in the bordering area between both territories persists indicating the fragile two-state partition. Indeed, the humanitarian crisis has sparked a deeper problem- oil resource war – a military contest over oil- and this will pose in the long run a greater threat to the 'national interest' of both North Sudan and South Sudan.

Again, oil is the main natural resource for the North and South economies. The dispute over oil-rich boundary as well as the overlapping of oil blocks will impose diplomatic tensions between both the two states and the independence of South Sudan will be put to test by the North. Thus it is essential to explain briefly about the significance of black gold (oil) and how it contributes to the prolonged tensions before and after the partition. Sudan has been exporting crude oil since 1999, and in the next decade, oil production increased dramatically to 490,000 barrels per day. As mentioned, this black gold remains crucial to economic development of both and the basic resource to mitigate the endemic problem of poverty of the whole of Sudan. Oil is accounted for 60 to percent to 70 percent revenue in the North and 98 percent in the South, this imbalance in division has made Khartoum less happy with the South's independence. Subsequently, unbalanced oil spread involves dispute over provinces as well. This covers areas like Abyei, South Kordofan, where the Blue Nile long pipelines connecting Port Sudan to the central Africa states runs through these areas.

Furthermore, about 75 percent of Sudanese oil is produced below the old colonial line dividing North and South and the current border sticks to that colonial legacy. Growing oil competition between the North and the South is regulated under the CPA (Comprehensive Peace Agreement). In general the CPA, signed in January 2005, is seen as an important agreement towards the achievement of mutual understanding between two leaders, President Omar al- Bashir of Sudan and Southern Sudanese President Salva Kiir. Indeed, it is hoped that CPA will end one of the longest- running war in this turbulent region. The main objective of CPA is to restore economic development by encouraging trade cooperation between the two countries. Now Sudan and the SPLM (Sudanese People's Liberation Movement) have arrived at an agreement, now the CPA's main concern is with

lasting security, boundaries and of course to settle the sharing of oil revenue between both sides. In fact CPA was assumed as the guarantor in the holding of the July 2011 referendum; yet it still fails to satisfy both parties. For instance, the South is unhappy with CPA oil allocation, the North is not satisfied when 98 percent of oil revenues belonging to the South.

On April 22, 2012, *Russia Today (RT)* reported thousands of people displaced during the military escalation between Sudan and South Sudan's SPLA soldiers in the Heglig oil- rich area. UNHR (United Nations Human Rights), concurred indeed that thousands of civilian population in Heglig town had fled due to military clash between Sudan armed forces and SPLM soldiers. The report also stated that South Sudan's army had already completed its withdrawal; however the tension erupted when the South accused the North for bombing the area and this stretched the peace deal. Heglig is part of South Kordofan area. Indeed the problem was accentuated in 'turbulent' areas due to unclear border determination. It is still unsettled whether Abyei, South Kordofan (including Heglig), and Blue Nile states should be recognised as North territorial area or become a part of the South. The ethnic clashes were also frequent in these 'hot areas' due to a struggle or competition for water and land. Press TV reported on February 2013, the clash erupted between members of Sudanese Arab Misseriya tribe and South Sudanese- based Nuer tribe, and killing more than 60 people in the contested zone of Abyei.

North- South tension extends not only due to internal conflicts or 'states at oil war', but also due to the intervention of foreign powers that pose as an international threat to independence of the South. Paradoxically, the signing of CPA is to ensure the restoration of peace and ending the conflict, but obviously US-China rivalry over African oil had indicated that both states (North and South) could become proxies to these two 'heavyweights' and their geopolitical maneuvering in the spreading of the oil resource war. Moreover, the Former US President George W. Bush announced the establishment of sixth US military command, AFRICOM on February 6, 2006. The main intention of this military command is to promote the USA as the main oil player in regional stability-instability of the Africa continent. With China shifting its focus to Africa by conducting wider investment and military cooperation, AFRICOM is clearly aimed to counter China's influence as well. The US argues that its oil dependency needs Africa oil. Sudan is recognised as one of the largest oil producers in Africa, and China via *China National Petroleum Company (CNPC)* is a growing presence with \$5 billion invested in Sudan's oil fields development. This development gets negative reaction from Washington as the US worries that it may lose control of African oil and this will pose as a big threat to US energy security. .

Admittedly, significant effort from the international community has been made to halt diplomatic tension between North and South, for instance through CPA. But the intervention by foreign powers is seen as the major problem now and this may lead finally to the failure of the Sudanese peace deal. Since the presence of US global military might (via AFRICOM) in Africa, the US are acting through surrogate allies in Chad and the neighboring states and have trained and armed the SPLA rebels against Khartoum. In addition, the US have also allegedly contributed financial aid to South Sudan in its effort to support the South separation from the North. According to *US Congressional Research Service (2012)*, US foreign assistance to South Sudan in 2011, has approximately reached up to \$341 million and this is higher than financial aid to North Sudan, which stands at approximately \$30 million. US hegemonic power is seen clearly in the leaked secret report that US military advisors are being deployed in Nzara, South Sudan and in the other three US allied states.

Perhaps, there is the better solution to this issue – the US and China should collaborate in developing South Sudan, indeed, even better Sudan should get the same benefits. Moreover, US-Chinese co-operation could also bring a positive impact as well as it generating economic growth rather than rivalry to secure interests. In fact, this significant cooperation not only benefits Sudan and South Sudan, but the whole African continent. The

main issue that really needs to be addressed now is that South Sudan is a new country and indeed they face economic difficulties. CPA determination should be reviewed, but the most important thing for the moment is a serious commitment from the major powers, such as US and China where they are really sincere to help any troubled nations, thus, dismiss 'skepticism' about southern independence.

In a nutshell, the independence of South Sudan is clearly shrouded in 'skepticism' and this is due to the failure of peace dealing and border demarcation. Above all, foreign intervention has shown that there is no promise that South Sudan's independence is a genuine freedom particularly when it clashes with the potential interest of US's oil agenda. Indeed this oil resource war scenario depicts the true concept of realism; oil hegemony via funding a proxy war in Sudan.

ANALYSIS - Members pull apart: Is this the beginning of the end of EAC?

The East African Tanzania's decision to seek closer economic ties with Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to counter grand infrastructure plans by Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda will reshape the political-economic map of the region, even as the country says it remains committed to the East African Community.

A spokesman for President Jakaya Kikwete told *The EastAfrican* that the Tanzanian leader intends to attend the EAC Heads of State Summit in Kampala at the end of the month, although the country is looking west to find new political and economic allies.

"Nobody is moving out of the EAC," Salva Rweyemamu said in a telephone interview on Friday. "We are still very loyal members but we are free to engage with any country on a bilateral or trilateral basis like other countries."

Tanzania's place in the regional economic bloc has come under scrutiny after EAC Minister Samuel Sitta was quoted last week as saying officials have been directed to stay away from meetings convened by the EAC.

"For instance, there is a meeting going on now in Nairobi and the higher authority in the country has directed the minister for foreign affairs not to attend," Mr Sitta told MPs in Tanzania, according to *The Citizen* newspaper. "Tomorrow, there is another meeting in Burundi whose agenda is similar to what the three countries are advocating and I have directed the deputy minister [who is in Bujumbura for another engagement] not to attend."

Snubbed invitation

President Kikwete snubbed an invitation to the Transform Africa technology summit in Kigali, partly because, according to officials, it coincided with the third infrastructure summit between Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda taking place in that city.

Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza, who was also invited to the technology summit but not to the infrastructure one, also stayed away.

Leaders from the three countries first met in June under what has come to be known as the "Coalition of the Willing" to discuss joint investments in a new standard gauge railway, an oil refinery in Uganda and oil pipelines. They were joined in Kigali by President Salva Kiir of South Sudan, who is expected to join the grouping.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni told journalists in Kigali that the coalition was discussing logistics along the Northern Corridor trade route that links Mombasa to Goma and would involve Tanzania once discussions turned to the Southern Corridor, which runs from Dar es Salaam to Kigali and beyond.

Tanzanian officials have however publicly protested after the coalition discussed issues such as the single tourist visa, work permit fees and political federation that are already before EAC organs.

“It pains us if our partners are acting behind our back,” Mr Sitta told Tanzanian MPs in Dodoma, adding that the country was treading cautiously in its relations with the rest of the EAC states.

Bad blood

The crisis in the EAC can be traced back to May when President Kikwete advised Rwanda to consider holding peace talks with armed rebel groups based in eastern DRC.

President Paul Kagame responded angrily to the proposal with Kigali insisting it will never negotiate with groups it accuses of participating in the 1994 genocide.

When US President Barack Obama snubbed Kenya, the land of his father, to visit Tanzania, Presidents Museveni, Kagame and Kenya’s Uhuru Kenyatta met in Kampala at the time to agree on quicker reforms, joint investments in infrastructure and a speedier way to a political federation.

Tanzania’s expulsion of Ugandan, Rwandan, Congolese and Burundi refugees from the north of the country, including many who had lived there for decades, added to the tension but the divergent viewpoints now appear likely to be cemented in a realignment of political and economic allies.

READ: Tanzania expels EAC immigrants, hikes fees

Last week’s summit in Kigali saw the rollout of a Single Customs Territory in which taxes on imported goods will be paid on arrival in Mombasa and trucks weighed only once at the border into Uganda or Rwanda. Strategically, this move strengthens Mombasa’s position as the preferred trading port for Uganda and Rwanda.

The expected entry of oil-rich but infrastructure-poor South Sudan creates a new economic bloc with almost 100 million people and gives economies of scale to plans for the Lamu Port and South Sudan Ethiopia Transport (Lapsset) corridor. Should Ethiopia join the coalition, it would create an economic bloc with a population larger than that of Nigeria.

Senior officials involved in the coalition privately indicate that they expect Tanzania to eventually join them.

“All we are doing is accelerating the progress but we expect to continue working with our brothers,” a senior Ugandan minister said.

However, the quick pace of the plans means the train is likely to have left the station by the time the five heads of state are set to meet later this month under the EAC.

Salvage Southern Corridor

To salvage the Southern Corridor, on which there are also plans for a new railway and a mega port at Bagamoyo, Tanzania is now moving to cement its ties with Burundi, DRC and, possibly, the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Both sides are keen to court Burundi. *The EastAfrican* has learnt that its infrastructure minister was invited to the Kigali summit but stayed away despite having attended the second in Mombasa.

Small and poor Burundi is a key ally for Tanzania, offering a strategic geographical link to the much bigger prize of the mineral-rich and infrastructure-poor DRC. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

ANALYSIS - What does each coalition have?

The East African 3/11/13 - Tanzania has revealed it is seeking stronger economic and trade relations with Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in response to a coalition shaping up among Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and South Sudan, side-lining Burundi and Tanzania.

Beyond the controversial statement, what is it that each of the coalitions have?

In terms of land area, the Tanzania-Burundi-DRC axis is more than twice as big as the Kenya-Uganda-Rwanda-South Sudan coalition.

Covering nearly a million square kilometres, Tanzania accounts for 51 per cent of the total land area in the EAC today, and the DRC alone is bigger than the entire EAC — the country is as big as the whole of Western Europe.

However, despite having the highest average rainfall in the region, arable land in the DRC is only three per cent of the total land area. Tanzania holds the greatest fraction of arable but unused land in the EAC — an estimated 380,000 square kilometres.

By comparison, Kenya's arable land is intensely farmed; Uganda and Rwanda are even more intensely farmed because of their high population densities.

The UN Population Division projects that the population in the Kenya-Uganda-Rwanda-South Sudan axis will bulge from 96 million today to 170 million by 2050. The region will likely be forced to turn to the Tanzania-DRC-Burundi axis as it looks to feed its growing numbers.

Despite its poor soils, the DRC's dense forest cover is invaluable to the continent — rainforests are responsible for 28 per cent of the world's oxygen turnover.

Tanzania also has a rich forest cover compared with the Kenya-Uganda-Rwanda-South Sudan axis. The country boasts 352,000sq km of natural forest, compared with a total of just 23,000 sq km in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda combined, according to data from the EAC Secretariat.

Each person in the Kenya-Uganda-Rwanda-South Sudan axis has an average of 2,900 cubic metres of water a year, but in the Tanzania-DRC-Burundi axis, water is twice as abundant, at 7,900 cubic metres per year. The former's case is only salvaged by the recent discovery of a massive aquifer in northern Kenya.

In many ways, roping in the DRC is the ultimate game changer for the Tanzania-Burundi coalition. The DRC's total mineral wealth is estimated to be worth a mind-boggling \$24 trillion, more than the GDP of Europe and the US combined.

But potential is not enough. A country has to transform its natural resources into tangible benefits for its people, otherwise the infamous "resource curse" sets in.

Decades of instability in the DRC gives it the second-lowest human development indicators globally (ranked 186 out of 187 countries on the UN's Human Development Index in 2012), and the mineral-rich, rebel-dominated east continues to be volatile.

The conflict means that it has huge reconstruction needs, but very little tax headroom and weak institutions. The conflict has also badly damaged the country's infrastructure.

Health indicators are also dismal in the Tanzania-Burundi-DRC axis, with the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) revealing that malaria is a particularly heavy burden, with the business impact of the disease hitting hardest in Tanzania and Burundi compared with the other economies.

Kenya's economy is supported by well developed financial markets and a relatively efficient labour market. Rwanda continues to be the easiest place to do business, according to the GCI.

But South Sudan scores poorly in human development indicators, the legacy of decades of civil war. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

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