



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit  
Communications & Public Information Office

## MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

FRIDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2013

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# Highlights

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## **VP advocates for inter-marriage to improve on community ties**

*Gurtong.net Juba, 5/9/2013* – The new South Sudan Vice President, James Wani Igga, has appealed to local communities to adopt inter-marriages to help improve relationship among the different communities and strengthen further the unity of the people of South Sudan.

The VP spoke while addressing the Central Equatoria State leaders who had demonstrated commitment and cooperation to work with the new South Sudan Vice President, James Wani Igga, reiterating efforts to build the new nation.

The six CES counties had a joint congratulatory message to the VP demonstrated by representatives of the counties who came together under the leadership of their various Commissioners.

The event involved performances of the different traditional dances of the different communities in the state.

In his statement to them, the Vice President called for unity advocating for intermarriages and revision of the education system in the country that should focus in promoting togetherness among the communities.

He also sought for respect of rule of law in the State and the country at large in an effort to mainstream good governance.

Wani Igga appreciated the demonstration of the State's leadership to work together with the national government leadership; commending building of the nation needs join hands of both the national and state governments.

According to Igga, intermarriages may improve relationship among the different communities and may strengthen further the unity of the people of South Sudan.

“We must revise the system of marriage. Makaraka should marry from the Lotuko, Lotuko should from Kakwa, Kakwa should marry from Shilluk. This will unite us honestly,” he said. ([Back to Top](#))

## **EU Aviation boosts Juba Airport security**

*Bakhita Radio Juba, 5/9/2013* – The European Union Aviation Mission in South Sudan confirmed security improvement at Juba International Airport after intensive training offered to nationals.

EU Information Officer IB Kok Hansen told Bakhita Radio that they issued 400 certificates to South Sudanese after aviation security management training at Juba International Airport.

He said some of the trainees were trained in South Africa and Uganda. Mr Kok added that some of trainees participated in more than one course.

He said EU Aviation Security was sure that the training will boost security as their advisors and mentors work with nationals at Juba International airport.

Mr Kok said similar trainings will continue in different fields of operation. He added that there will be significant improvement if work in new terminal completed.

Mr Kok said currently they are working hard to maintain the security of the old terminal. The EU Security Aviation started to deploy its personnel to Juba international airport in October 2012. ([Back to Top](#))

## **No banks mean a long walk in Jonglei**

*Eye Radio, 5/9/2013* – Citizens in Twic East County say that business activities are being badly affected because they have no banks. The nearest bank is in Bor town – which is now about 2 days walk from Twic East - because of floods and impassable roads.

Commissioner Dau Akoi said there is an urgent need for a bank to be established in the county.

“They are working here, and all the money goes to the bank. They make you come and withdraw the money from Bor so that mean you have we to travel from Twic East to Bor in order to withdraw the money,” he told Eye Radio. “Now it is the middle of the rainy season with the difficulties of transport from here to Bor. We are cut from Bor which makes it very difficult now. It usually takes maybe eight hours or nine hours or sometime you sleep on the way, but now it’s longer”.

One of the county officials in Twic East, Samuel Machar said that getting money from the bank is an ordeal for most people and that most people need their money to be accessible.

“It is so difficult,” he said. “When it comes to rains, to get our money is so difficult, life is so difficult when there is no money. A person who is working relies on his salary so if there is no money our family is left in a bad condition.”

Commissioner Dau said insecurity has also hindered movements in the County further affecting business. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Juba, Minsk establish ties**

*Eye Radio*, 5/9/2013 – South Sudan and the Republic of Belarus have established diplomatic relations.

The two countries signed a joint communique this week in Cairo affirming each other’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

They also agreed not to interfere with the internal affairs of each other’s country.

The communique was signed by Belarus’s Ambassador to Egypt, Igor Fisenko and South Sudan’s ambassador Anthony Kon. Belarus is in Eastern Europe and shares a border with Russia. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Nigeria’s oil refinery has lessons for South Sudan: economist**

*Eye Radio*, 5/9/2013 – Nigeria has announced that it will soon build its first oil refinery. The refinery would be the largest in Africa, turning Nigeria into a petroleum exporter.

A leading South Sudanese economist, Dr. Kenyi Spencer says that if South Sudan follows Nigeria’s lead and built a refinery many jobs would be created and businesses would invest in the country.

“You can imagine how many of our people would be employed, we will even run short of workers, we will have to employ some people from the foreign countries to come and help us because there will be too much needs for jobs,” Dr Spencer told Eye Radio.

Dr. Spencer also said that an oil refinery would help develop South Sudan’s industrial economy. There are more than twenty African Countries which have their own oil refineries. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Tough Judges, Open Field in South Sudan's Answer to 'American Idol'**

*Voice of America*, 6/9/2013 – On South Sudan's answer to U.S. televised music talent search "American Idol," the judges can be just as tough on contestants as their American counterparts.

Take judge Lam Tungwar. He didn't mince words with Paul Abraham when the budding artist finished his performance of "Pretty Girl" for "Talent Search," as the show kicked off its second season in South Sudan.

“Mr. Abraham, you sing 'Pretty Girl,' you have to be smiling and assuming she's just looking at you among the crowd. That’s number 1,” Tungwar told the pop star wannabe.

"Number 2: you are not controlling the instruments...the sound is louder than you are,” he said.

Abraham was one of 21 finalists selected from more than 200 people around South Sudan who auditioned for "Talent Search."

For the next 12 weeks, he and the other finalists will perform live at Juba's Nyakuron cultural center, with their musical interpretations broadcast on television around the country.

Three contestants will be chosen for elimination each week by the judges, but viewers will be able to save one of the performers earmarked for the chop by sending a mobile phone text message to a specified number.

In the end, just one contestant will be left. He or she will go home with 15,000 South Sudan pounds and a recording contract.

Evans Mandeah, the executive secretary of the South Sudan Artist's Association, which organizes the competition, said although the music scene in South Sudan is still in its infancy, artists and impresarios hope that competitions like "Talent Search" will help to boost opportunities for budding artists.

"The music industry in South Sudan is not well paying and one of the reasons is because there is no opportunity which is available for young artists to at least have their talent nurtured, trained and also sell their product in a way that they can be able to make resources out of their talent," he said.

Most of this year's "Talent Search" competitors will be given a chance to record at least two of their own songs after the competition ends, he said.

The performers also inspire others, like audience member James Dean, to try their luck as a pop star.

"When you come here and see what other people are doing, it will give you that morale so next time you can do it -- like, next time, maybe I can show my talent," he said.

Dean said he plans to come back every week to watch the contestants give it their best shot in the competition until the field is whittled down to one, lucky, and talented winner. ([Back to Top](#))

### **South Sudan to introduce small denomination notes and coins**

*Gurtong.net Juba, 5/9/2013* – The Central Bank Governor Kornelio Koryom has announced the bank's plans to introduce coins as part of the South Sudan currency; a local radio station quoted the governor.

Koryom said on Eye Radio that the move comes because small denomination paper notes have proven unpopular.

"Many people did not want it-[the small notes]. They said it cannot buy anything; you need to accumulate a lot of it so that you can be able to buy something," Koryom said.

"They are created for those who will buy needles, those who will buy shirt buttons, those who will buy tobacco and so many other things," Koryom added.

He however could not state when the coins will be out in market.

After South Sudan gained its independence in July 2011, the government introduced its own currency, the South Sudan Pounds ousting the Sudanese currency then on use, Pounds.

Official notes launched by the President Salva Kiir a month after the independence at the Central Bank were introduced ranging from 1, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 notes.

A note of 5 piaster was introduced but then not allowed for use by the Bank.

The new plan followed complains also raised by some citizens over the absence of small notes to buy items not worth 1 South Sudan Pounds.

Koryom said the smaller coins will continue to help people buy essential commodities of all prices. ([Back to Top](#))

### **South Sudan floods destroy homes, health center**

*Voice of America*, 5/9/2013 – Heavy rains last week destroyed at least 70 homes and the only health center in Raja County in Western Bahr el Ghazal state, relief workers said this week as they struggled to help victims of the flooding.

The health center that was flooded served more than 350 families, and Raja County Commissioner Hassan Jalaab Khadaam said the county does not have the money to repair it.

South Sudan Red Cross state chairman Leon Archangelo said no one died in the flooding a week ago on Tuesday, but warned that families without shelter faced an increased risk of disease, especially malaria, which is transmitted by mosquitoes that breed in stagnant water.

The Red Cross has provided temporary shelter to families made homeless by the flooding, but was limited in how far its help would stretch.

“Frankly speaking, the donations we have are not enough, based on the reality on the ground,” Archangelo said.

“We gave them only shelter assistance. But in general these people might need food items because their farms will not produce the products that they were expecting or some of the farms will not produce at all,” he said.

Relief crews have been working to make the roads leading to the county passable again, so that trucks can carry aid to the area without getting bogged down, officials said. ([Back to Top](#))

### **UNMISS trains Councilors on laws**

*Voice of Hope*, 6/9/2013 – United Nations Mission in South Sudan or UNMISS Public Information Office on Tuesday trained 30 County Councilors in Wau, Western Bahr El Ghazal on how to enact laws.

Wau, Jur, Raja County Councilors gathered at the state Legislative Assembly for lectures on legislative responsibilities to empower them in lawmaking, Voice of Hope reported.

State acting speaker Paulino Pinyi Akol said the role of the legislatures includes revising the Local Government Acts, following annual state incomes and monitoring the executive organ.

He thanked UNMISS for training councilors at the Local Government level.

Mr Pinyi advised the councilors to know their roles so as to enhance executive decision-making for better service delivery. ([Back to Top](#))

### **South Sudan literacy rate at 27 percent**

*Gurtong.net Juba*, 5/9/2013 – South Sudan literacy rate stands at 27 per cent according to a latest statement released by the national Ministry of Education in collaboration with UNESCO, making the new nation one of the least literate in the world.

According to the 2008 national house hold census survey South Sudan stands at 8 million people though then semi-autonomous Southern Sudan government disputed the figure alleging it could be more.

Toby Lanzer, the UN Chief Coordinator of the Humanitarian Affairs in South Sudan however, estimated of recent the latest figure would stand at 12 million.

On September 8 South Sudan will join 194 nations worldwide to mark literacy day in Yambio.

The marking will advocate and highlight the importance of literacy in peace and development of South Sudan.

“Further statistics estimate that 2.2 million people aged between the ages of 15 and 40 are illiterate and that only 1 in 10 women are able to read and write” in the country – a challenge that requires nation mobilisation the agencies have said.

Women are more disadvantaged when it comes to accessing literacy learning opportunities in the country, the agencies added.

“South Sudan urgently needs to promote literacy and create a literate environment that will help advance its development goals to all its citizens,” added the agencies.

The Ministry stated that, Illiteracy is one of the top national challenges and thus requires political commitment, national mobilization and coordinated action toward attaining the literacy development goals.

This year celebration which will be marked under the theme “Literacies for the 21st Century,” UNESCO hopes that communities, the Government of South Sudan, development partners and the private sector will join hands in promoting literacy for peace, social and economic improvement, and nation building. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Expired good seized by Aweil municipality**

*Gurtong.net Aweil, 5/9/2013* – Authorities of Aweil town municipality have seized consumable goods whose expiry date expired and are still being kept on the market.

Addressing the journalists over the issue, the deputy town mayor Hon. Simon Tong Deng says his office is in possession of a number of consumable goods which he declares to have been confiscated from the traders as they become poisonous to eat and he adds that his office is inquiring for reports on such related issues for the sake of protecting the consumers’ safety.

“As our assigned security and other organized personnel were carrying out their normal duty of good inspection in Aweil market this week, they found out that number of consumable goods have their dates of consumption expired and were not reported to our office for checking and we came and found out that they were completely out of date,” he said.

He said the authority is planning to form a team to destroy the expired goods.

Among these expired consumable goods are 28 bags of maize flour, 23 bags of sugar, 30 cartons of tea leaves, 15 bags of lentils, 20 bags of sorghum, 14 cartons of Pepsi, 4 cartons of Tahania, a bucket of cheese and baking powder respectively.

Tong also says the office is going to speedily form a committee that shall look into the burning process as soon as possible the space is going to be limited as the number expired goods are increasing on daily basis.

Despite the high number of illiteracy in South Sudan and state in particular, Tong warns the buyers to be very cautious when buying and urges them to report cases of deceitfulness, fraudulence and perfidy should it happen that there are traders who insist selling expired goods to the consumers opting for excuse of ignorance and negligence.

“I want to inform the public to be always alert when buying any single item in any shop because these traders who always pretend to be honest but rather sedition when dealing with illiterate customers. The citizens must open their eyes and always reports cases of expired goods to his office throughout when persistence happens to be there,” he said.

Moreover, Tong urged the county commissioners to do the same kind of market inspections throughout on weekly basis to help reduce these cases of traders selling expired goods.

He also threatens to bring those traders found to be selling the expired goods into justice should they insist carrying out the same practice in the state.

Several expired goods which are mostly confiscated have been so far burnt but the practice still persists. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Mbeki confident over future relations between the two Sudans**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 5/9/2013* – Thabo Mbeki, head of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), said he felt a strong willingness from Sudan and South Sudan to build flexible and firm relationships taking into account the interest of the two peoples.

Meeki made his statement following a meeting with president Omer Al-Bashir in Khartoum where he arrived some 48 hours after the departure of the South Sudanese president Salva Kiir who had been in a one-day visit for talks with his Sudanese counterpart on post secession issues.

The former South African president predicted that the two countries will normalise their relations and resolve the outstanding issues smoothly and efficiently.

Mbeki did not elaborate about the topics he discussed with Bashir but, added that the joint communiqué released at the end of Kiir's visit to Khartoum last Tuesday represents a good foundation to move in building strong relationships.

According to the joint communiqué, the two leaders agreed to overcome all the obstacles hampering the implementation of the cooperation agreements, activate all the committees related to its enforcement and tasked the two foreign ministers to coordinate and supervise their activities.

They agreed to facilitate the work of the African committees proposed by the mediation to support the implementation of the signed agreements.

Bashir and Kiir also pledged to continue constructive dialogue to resolve the remaining issues including Abyei and border disputed areas. The statement also provides the need to reach an agreement on the formation of the temporary institutions in Abyei.

Mbeki further announced his departure on Friday to Juba where he is expected to hold similar discussions with the president Salva Kiir.

On Thursday the AUHIP announced the return to Juba of the Ad Hoc Investigative Mechanism (AIM), after inspecting various locations in South Sudan. Five days ago, the committee had left Juba heading to Bentiu, Yada camp, Renk and Raja.

The mechanism which tasked with verifications of claims to respective rebel groups will fly on Khartoum next week. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Khartoum says it lost \$5 billion as a result of Juba's oil shutdown**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 5/9/2013* – Sudan has lost around \$5 billion dollar during the period when its southern neighbor moved to suspend its oil production for a little over a year following a dispute between the two sides over transit fees.

Oil-rich but landlocked South Sudan currently has no outlet to export its crude to international markets except through pipelines and installations in Sudan.

The deputy governor of Sudan's Central Bank Badr al-Deen Mahmoud said in press statements has lost \$5 billion out of \$20 billion worth of oil that was not exported during the stoppage.

He said that out of the \$20 billion, \$11 billion was to be Juba's share and \$4 billion belonged to the oil companies.

Mahmoud said that South Sudan's oil transit fees will lead to a 30% decline in the exchange rate of the dollar against the Sudanese pound and will settle at 50% lower rate later.

Sudanese pound lost more than half of its value in the black market since South Sudan's independence and the government resorted to a limited devaluation to alleviate the chronic shortage of dollars in the market. But this was met with little success.

The Central Bank official said he believes that the implementation of the agreements signed between the two countries will benefit the two sides.

He disclosed that the Central Bank of Sudan ordered all banks to facilitate bilateral trade with South Sudan in terms of payments and withdrawing money.

Mahmoud expressed hope that the improvement in relationship between Khartoum and Juba will convince the international community to look more favorably on cancelling Sudan's debt.

In a related issue, the Sudanese Oil Minister Awad Ahmed al-Jaz sent a letter to oil companies effectively retracting orders from last June to prepare for shutdown in line with president Omer Hassan al-Bashir's orders at the time who was responding to what he said was Juba's continued support of rebels fighting his government.

The oil minister said that this measure comes in light of the talks held between Bashir and South Sudan president Salva Kiir in Khartoum last Tuesday.

South Sudan is producing 180,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) and plans to add 20,000 bpd after Sudan abandoned its threat to halt flows, Nicodemus Ajak Bior, the ministry's press officer, told Reuters.

"Technical teams are meeting and plan to increase the production starting within the next two weeks," he said. "Preparations are on." ([Back to Top](#))

### **Agreement to establish joint Sudanese, S. Sudanese Bank**

*Sudanvisiondaily.com Khartoum, 5/9/2013* – Saud Albereir, Head of Sudanese Business Owners and Employers Federation, revealed that an agreement has been reached between the federation and the Trade, Industry, and Agriculture Chamber of South Sudan in the meetings they held to establish a joint bank to facilitate and encourage trade exchange between the two countries.

He explained that their meetings with the team of the South Sudanese chamber – accompanying President Salva Kiir's visit- have shown many positive indicators which can cause a positive shift in the economic and trading relations between the two countries.

He also pointed out that a joint talks session will be held in Juba during the 3rd week of this month between businessmen from both countries to activate the cooperation agreement signed on Thursday between the federation and the South Sudanese chamber and to discuss obstacles and the flow of commodities, services, and investments between the two countries as well as to put in place the necessary solutions in participation with the official bodies concerned with the economic matters in both countries such as the Trade Ministry, ports Administration, customs, standards and metrology organization, banks as well as the participation of representatives of private and governmental sectors in border states.

On his part, Benjamin Paul, Head of the South Sudanese chamber, explained that Sudan is the closest to his country for commodity imports, pointing out that there are 7 South Sudanese states which share languages and citizens with Sudanese states, a thing which paves the way for exports through land, sea, and air. ([Back to Top](#))

### **AU welcomes South Sudan, Sudan Presidents' summit outcome**

*Catholic Radio Network, 6/9/2013* – African Union or AU Commission chairperson welcomed the outcome of the summit between South Sudanese President Salva Kiir Mayardit and his Sudanese counterpart Omar Hassan Al Bashir on September 3 in Khartoum.

Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma was encouraged by the two Presidents' steps to conclude the summit with positive outcomes, particularly Sudan Government decision to suspend the shutdown of South Sudan oil flow through its facilities to markets.

In a statement, she commended the two Presidents for activating two Committees created to oversee Cooperation Agreements implementation.

The chairperson welcomed two Presidents' commitment to continue their engagement on all outstanding issues, particularly those relating to Abyei.

Dr Zuma urged all stakeholders and citizens of both countries to continue to support their leaders' efforts to address the outstanding challenges. ([Back to Top](#))

### **UK opposes any unilateral moves in Abyei; AU welcomes Bashir-Kiir summit**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 5/9/2013* – The British government opposes any unilateral move to determine the future status of the disputed region of Abyei between Sudan and South Sudan, a senior diplomat said.

UK ambassador at the United Nations Mark Lyall Grant posted on Twitter that while his government supports the African Union (AU) proposal for Abyei, it has to be implemented with the agreement of Khartoum and Juba.



"We support AU proposals for Abyei referendum but timing/format to be agreed by both sides. Unilateral action won't help," he wrote.

Last year, the African Union mediation team proposed that a referendum be held in Abyei this October, but that only those residing permanently in the area would be allowed to vote in the plebiscite, and decide whether they want to join Sudan or South Sudan.

This proposal would effectively make the majority of voters come from the Dinka Ngok tribe, aligned with South Sudan, thus putting the Arab Misseriya nomads, who spend several months in Abyei every year grazing, not part of the voting.

However, Sudan swiftly rejected the plan, which received the blessing of the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC).

Yesterday, South Sudan's information minister Michael Makuei said that his government "sent out a circular to all institutions - be they public or private entities - to release the people of Abyei [to] go on special leave with full pay. We want them [to] go to register so that they [can] vote to determine their destiny".

Luka Biong, who was the former co-chair of Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) from South Sudan, said that Abyei must be put under international trusteeship in order to avoid unilateral declaration by the Ngok Dinka of the final status of Abyei.

"This option of unilateral declaration by the Ngok Dinka of the final status of their area can only be avoided if the AU could endorse the proposal and UN to declare Abyei area as UN protectorate area until a referendum is conducted to determine its final status", he reiterated in an article he published last month.

South Sudan president Salva Kiir reiterated to his Sudanese counterpart Omer Hassan al-Bashir during his visit to Khartoum this week that his country wants the AU Abyei plan to be the basis for resolving the standoff with Khartoum.

Bashir said that Sudan is determined to find a final solution that is satisfactory to all parties in Abyei that would ensure peaceful coexistence between the components of the local communities there "so as not to be a thorn on the side of relations between the two countries in the future".

Abyei was supposed to hold a vote in January 2011 on whether its residents want to join north or south Sudan. The plebiscite was delayed over disagreements on who is eligible to vote between the pro-south Dinka Ngok tribes and the pro-north Misseriya tribe.

The two sides also have yet to agree on the formation of local institutions in Abyei.

Meanwhile the Chairperson of the Commission of the AU Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma issued a statement welcoming the outcome of this week's summit meeting between Bashir and Kiir in Khartoum.

The top AU official said she is encouraged by the steps taken to conclude the summit with positive outcomes "particularly the decision by the Government of Sudan to indefinitely suspend the shutdown of the transportation and processing of oil from South Sudan".

She also commended the two presidents "for the activation of the two Committees created to oversee the implementation of the 27 September 2012 Cooperation Agreements".

Dlamini-Zuma also urged "all stakeholders and the citizens of both countries to continue to support their leaders in their efforts to address the outstanding challenges". ([Back to Top](#))

### **Great Lakes leaders order DRC Congo and M23 rebels to resume talks**

*Sudantribune.com* Kampala, 5/9/2013 – A meeting of leaders from the Great Lakes region has ordered for the resumption of peace talks between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the M23 rebels.

The leaders meeting under the auspices of the International Conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) ordered that stalled talks which had been taking place in Kampala resumes in the next three days.

"The Kampala dialogue should resume within three days after this extraordinary summit and conclude within a maximum 14 days during which maximum restraint must be exercised on the ground to allow for talks to conclude", read part of a communiqué issued by the leaders.

The meeting was convened by Uganda to discuss the deteriorating security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Uganda's Museveni is the current Chair of ICGLR.

Eastern DRC was last week the scene of fierce fighting between the M23 rebels and the DRC army supported by a UN brigade mandated to use force.

The fighting has led to displacement of thousands of refugees from eastern Congo into neighbouring Uganda.

The United Nations and the DRC government accuse Rwanda of supporting the M23 rebels. Rwanda denies the charge.

The ICGLR meeting in Kampala was attended by Presidents Yoweri Museveni, Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Salva Kiir of South Sudan, Joseph Kabila of DR Congo and Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Kenya parliament votes to withdraw from ICC**

*Al-Jazeera News, 6/9/2013* – Kenya's parliament has voted to back a call for the government to pull out of the International Criminal Court, where the country's president and his deputy are facing trial for crimes against humanity.

The motion "to suspend any links, cooperation and assistance" to the court was overwhelming approved by the National Assembly on Thursday.

Parliament is dominated by the alliance that brought President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto to power in a March vote.

The two men are accused of orchestrating post-election bloodshed more than five years ago. Both deny the charges.

Many Kenyan politicians have branded the ICC a "neo-colonialist" institution that only targets Africans, prompting the debate on a possible departure from the Rome Statute of the ICC.

"I am setting the stage to redeem the image of the Republic of Kenya," Aden Duale, the majority leader from Kenyatta's Jubilee coalition, said on behalf of the motion.

Opposing the resolution, minority leader Francis Nyenze warned: "We'll be seen as a pariah state, we'll be seen as people who are reactionary and who want to have their way."

Al Jazeera's Catherine Soi, reporting from Nairobi, said that Kenya had the support of African Union in this matter, and that other African countries could now follow suit.

"This motion and what comes after is very significant in many ways. Not only is it a show of defiance against the International Criminal Court, it also sets a precedent for other African countries that would feel aggrieved enough to start processes of their own," she said after the vote.

### **Voluntary sign-up**

The Hague-based court was set up in 2002 to try the world's worst crimes, and countries voluntarily sign up to join.

Any actual withdrawal requires the submission of a formal request to the United Nations, a process that would take at least a year.

A withdrawal could however preclude the ICC from investigating and prosecuting any future crimes.

Cases could then only be brought before the court if the government decides to accept ICC jurisdiction or the UN Security Council makes a referral.

Amnesty International condemned Kenya's move.

"This move is just the latest in a series of disturbing initiatives to undermine the work of the ICC in Kenya and across the continent," said Netsanet Belay, Amnesty's Africa director.

The rights group called on "each and every parliamentarian to stand against impunity and reject this proposal," warning that "a withdrawal would strip the Kenyan people of one of the most important human rights protections and potentially allow crimes to be committed with impunity in the future".

Kenya's 2007 elections were marred by allegations of vote rigging, but what began as political riots quickly turned into ethnic killings and reprisal attacks, plunging Kenya into its worst wave of violence since independence in 1963.

Kenyatta and Ruto were fierce rivals in the 2007 vote, but teamed up together and were elected in March in peaceful polls.

### **Judicial process 'in motion'**

Earlier on Thursday, the ICC's prosecutor said that justice must run its course in the cases against Kenyatta and Ruto.

"The judicial process is now in motion at the International Criminal Court. Justice must run its course," said Fatou Bensouda, the court's chief prosecutor, in a video statement on the court's website.

Ruto's trial comes about two months ahead of that of Kenyatta, who faces five charges of crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, persecution and deportation.

Both Kenyatta and Ruto have said they will cooperate fully with the court and deny the charges against them.

William Schabas, an international legal expert, told Al Jazeera that Kenya's obligations under the Rome Statute regarding those who are already being prosecuted "continue even if the country decides to pull out of the courts".

"In a strictly legal sense, there's no obstacle [to their continuing prosecution] but it's probably going to be harder to get Kenya to cooperate," he said.

Regarding popular support for the motion, Al Jazeera's Soi said: "It really depends on which side you look at. The ruling coalition says this debate is being supported, but surveys show that Kenyans don't want their own country to pull out of the court." ([Back to Top](#))

### **Kiir sheds close friends for better relations with Khartoum**

*AllAfrica.com/African Arguments*, 04/09/13 – September 3rd could turn out to be a make or break day for the relations between Sudan and South Sudan.

The September 3rd Khartoum summit was Kiir's third visit to Khartoum since North and South Sudan split and came barely four month after Bashir was in Juba tasked with averting an escalation of tensions and steering up the implementation of an agreement signed in Addis Ababa in September 2012.

The importance of this presidential summit and visit lies in its timing and the political and economic context that looks more favourable to the forging of new deals between the two old foes.

In the past month, Juba has rolled the wheel of change - removing giant SPLM historical leaders from decision-making circles. These changes can be traced back to January this year when top military figures were relieved from active duty.

The reform process broadened later in the year when the veteran politician Mr. Deng Alor - the minister for cabinet affairs and main actor on the unsettled Abyei file - was suspended over corruption allegations.

By July 23rd president Kiir ushered in major changes by dissolving the whole cabinet and removing his long serving Vice President Dr. Riek Machar. These gigantic political changes saw key members of the South Sudan negotiations team, including Chief Negotiator and the ruling party's Secretary General, Mr. Pagan Amum, out of government and out of the decision-making process.

The new political context in Juba has gone beyond cabinet reshuffle as the government has started to reconfigure its political outlook in a manner that convinced many political observers and analysts that these new changes are meant to appease its main rival in Khartoum. The changes saw new faces in cabinet that were considered Khartoum-friendly, with elements seen as jeopardising relations with Sudan being kept in the dark.

The appointment of Dr. Joseph Nguen Monytuel Weijang, the brother of a former South Sudanese militia leader, as the new head of the Unity State government serves no other purposes than to appease Sudanese-backed militias and to send a message to Khartoum that access for Sudanese rebels from Southern Kordofan to Unity state would be squeezed.

Khartoum was the first to welcome these changes, no doubt realising that its negotiators would no longer face such staunch opposition as that provided by Mr. Amum or have to deal with influential members from the Abyei community such as Mr. Deng Alor.

The only concern raised regarding these changes was by major western donors to South Sudan who have some worries about the effect of these changes on the course of negotiations with Sudan.

Whilst there has been no response from Juba, Kiir's visit to Khartoum with a completely new delegation sends the messages that the future of talks with Sudan is secure, albeit with new players.

For South Sudan to conduct such a meeting at a time when it has not yet decided on the fate of its top negotiator is indicative that this time round it is changing the rules and is interested in engaging concurrently both at the presidential and ministerial levels.

Indeed, the 'new' approach to handling disputes between the two countries is not 'new' at all - these same mechanisms were envisaged in the implementation matrix of the Cooperation Agreement signed in March this year. It is therefore imperative to conclude that the political context in South Sudan is becoming more favourable for Khartoum.

The summit comes just three days before the end of the extended ultimatum to shut down oil pipelines by Sudan. Last month, South Sudan's minister of Petroleum, Mining and Industry, Mr. Stephen Dhieu, raised concerns that the two countries had reached deadlock on whether oil would continue to flow after the 6th of September or that production would be shut down in accordance with threats issued by Sudanese president.

Sudan may have realised that the conditions it has given for the continuous flow of South Sudanese oil, and the allegations against South Sudan for rebel support, may not hold up under independent investigations and therefore it had to find a quick fix to reverse its earlier threat. Moreover, key stakeholders in the oil industry and close allies to Sudan are not supporting such undertakings, while the UNSC members had unanimously warned Sudan not to shut down oil pipelines.

These developments have brought some relief to Juba and provided good incentives for further discussion to seek means to resolve other pending issues such as the final status of Abyei and disputed borders. The timing of the summit was, therefore, appropriate considering that both countries needed to act on the UNSC recommendations.

From the press reports on the presidential visit to Khartoum, it is easy to capture the gist of discussions that were limited to Abyei, borders and the future of oil production.

The sequence of the agenda and the content could be extracted from the statements given by president Kiir who urged his counterpart to accept the AUHIP's proposal on Abyei, stressing that

the Permanent Court of Arbitration has already defined eligible voters (ruling for Dinka Ngok ownership).

President Kiir has stressed the CPA protocol on Abyei as a basis for conducting the referendum, reminding president Bashir covertly that for the formation of an administration the quotas shall remain intact, cutting short attempts by Sudan to change these quotas which - a stumbling block in the formation of an interim administration as envisaged in the June 2011 agreement.

From the outcome of the meetings it is clear that president Kiir has pushed South Sudan's agenda a notch higher. Kiir brushed aside alleged support for rebels or the security pre-requisite from under the feet of Khartoum, stating that he is not in Khartoum to complain or record a statement of admission or denial (he would only act if there was substantiated evidence that his government support rebels).

In my view Juba has acted according to the rules and has left no stone unturned in its quest for peaceful solutions to pending and residual CPA benchmarks.

With president Kiir's visit to Khartoum ahead of the AUPSC meeting to evaluate the mode of implementation, Juba has cleared the smoke screens and built the stage for the mediators, other regional and international actors to identify those who are repositioning the goal posts and procrastinating on dangerous files that have the potential to put the two countries on the verge of conflict.

The Khartoum September summit is a new chapter in the Sudan South- Sudanese relations which will either prove the futility of such agreements or put the past behind. It may also demonstrate that external pressure and a solution-backed approach is the only viable option to solve residual issues that led the Sudans to split.

President Kiir has played his part and is challenging his interlocutors in Sudan to pay back in kind. Kiir has paid a high price by shedding close and influential friends in an attempt to gain Khartoum's trust. ([Back to Top](#))

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### **Reinventing the wheel of divide and rule policies in South Sudan**

*South Sudan News Agency, 5/9/2013* – South Sudan is in a political purgatory at the moment that makes it easy to wave a white flag and resign to an inevitable future that looks bleak. From governance crisis to corruption to nepotism to cronyism to tribalism to inter-communal vendettas to cattle-raiding and child abduction to poverty to crime and gangsterism, to insecurity and lawlessness to human rights abuses to rebellions to oh dear, there is no end in sight. It is such that to avert suffering a stroke, throwing your hands up in the air and declaring: blessed are those who do not believe in South Sudanese human potential for positive social transformation and mutual peaceful coexistence seems comforting!

Discomfortingly, there is an increasing concern among many South Sudanese that “divide and rule” policies are being reprehensibly appropriated by the political leadership in South Sudan. On this score, it is exceedingly clear that the land continues to acutely suffer from the hangover of colonial legacies. There is an uncalled for continuity with the unjust and tragic history of Sudan here that must be immediately named and shamed. Reinventing the wheel of divide and rule policies in South Sudan is a red line. It is disheartening and overwhelming in all the least.

Should the “Mundukuru” (Arabic north of Sudan) be invited back to restore some sanity and the little South Sudanese unity that existed during the liberation struggle and prevailed in the overwhelming vote for South Sudan’s secession in the referendum or what (wele shunu ya jamaa)? Else, it seems complicated to build a nation in South Sudan under these circumstances, with the Dinka and Nuer cousins embroiled in a seeming irreconcilable and perpetual feud over who knows what. It is difficult to forge a nation in South Sudan while within the Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups there now appears to be a deep seated schism across clan and possibly political interest cantons. It is hard to dream of a nation in South Sudan where the Equatorians are largely and endlessly suspicious and distrustful of the Dinka, the Nuer and few other non-Equatorian tribes in between. It is near impossible to think of a nation in South Sudan while the Equatorians

are perceived as foreign Ugandans, deserters and false beneficiaries of a freedom they never fought for and therefore do not deserve.

In this vein, it is not easy to imagine how a cohesive national identity out of the varied and many ethnic groups, mostly incoherent and with little or no commonsense of a unifying cultural bond and a sense of collective belonging can be crafted in this country. It is absurd and naïve that some continue to refer to South Sudan as a “nation.” What a nation?

Question is, how can a collective sense of urgency on the need to steer our people away from present increasing hostile vibes across ethnicities and sub-cultures, which make us vulnerable to external exploitation, be instilled among our people, including the “educated” internet warriors among us? And how should a collective sense of unity and nationhood be forged in South Sudan amidst the current challenges and the rife in social strife on mostly tribal basis? In all honesty I have no frigging clue on how to wrap my head around this!

Yet all considered it is cathartic to write and cling to the hope that current challenges will come to pass when there will be a national awakening in this beleaguered country one day, just one day. But writing about hope of a national awakening alone though cathartic at least on individual capacity, is insufficient. Reality remains, a collective South Sudanese effort must be committed to actualize this hope. And as a starting point, it must be accepted by all that it is our collective responsibility to redouble the efforts to begin to transition to a national awakening era in earnest. A national awakening that rises above the tribe and ceases from a vicious and endless cycle of apportioning blame and exchanging hatred.

South Sudanese and particularly our present political leadership must sincerely begin to think of creating a nation first. We must commit our hearts and minds in the service of working towards forging a national unity and identity that binds the diverse and colorful social fabric of South Sudan. Keep the cash but at least build a nation for future generations’ sake.

As things stand, current events in South Sudan are antithetical to anything peaceful, nation-building and reconciling. The present political path that is being treaded is an inversion of any efforts aimed at forging unity and commonsense of purpose and national identity in the land. More importantly and as noted above, it is an obnoxious political dispensation which is not short of a byproduct of various intractable colonial legacies in South Sudan that must be immediately shunned.

Whether it is based on ignorance or deliberate negligence blinded by lust for wealth and material accumulation that holds sway to our history and what we fought for, the present morally obscene political scene is unsustainable. It is an unbecoming of the tireless efforts of South Sudan’s founding fathers and mothers and selfless sacrifices of our previous generations of heroes and heroines to restore our human dignity. It is indeed a betrayal of the spirit of liberation and a re-inaction of colonial policies in South Sudan in our face by some poor, myopic, egotistic and power-mongers in our political leadership.

As many commentary entries have accurately concluded of recent, the present unfolding of polarizing tribal politics in South Sudan is a direct result of the so-called “divide and rule” policies which are being consciously or sub-consciously appropriated by our political leadership to serve their shortsighted parochial greed and political power interest. At the moment there seems to be little distinction between some of our present political leadership, namely the “liberators,” from South Sudan’s traditional colonial masters and oppressors.

For those blinded by wealth hoarding, they must be reminded that South Sudan is borne out of the resilient resistance to divide and rule policies, which were central to our downfall to colonial subjugation in the first place and which South Sudan has tirelessly toiled and ultimately liberated itself from. It is a known fact that the aspirations of successive colonial masters in consolidating political, geographic and economic power not only in the greater Sudan, but also in the African continent at large were significantly aided by inciting tribal hatred and fragmentation. Any new such attempts will equally ultimately be foiled.

In reminding ourselves about our tragic historic realities, the divisive colonial policies which seem to now find favor in current political manifest in South Sudan are thus, traceable to the first

foot-imprint of the colonial masters—the Mundukuru when they first arrived in the Sudanese scene back in the 7th century C.E. Khartoum later perfected these policies, and sadly Juba seems to now follow suit.

The first batch of colonialists arrived brandishing the divide and rule policies with one intent and purpose: to loot and exploit the huge reserve of human as well as natural resources in the land. Their long term objective was, of course, to ultimately settle and rule the land indefinitely as “born to rule” as they are now doing, while aggressively embarking on cultural domination of Sudan through seductive or compulsive policies of Islamization and Arabization of the Sudanese. In this schema, converted local groups to Islam were (and are) given preferential treatment and afforded access to political power and resources in return for policing their disadvantaged compatriots in service to the colonial masters.

And as history records, despite initial local resistance, the project was always moving forward. Islamic enculturation and demographic transformation came to overwhelm the old northern Sudanese Christian kingdom of Nubia in old Dongola and Alwa in Soba further south not far from modern day Khartoum. As seen today, resulting from these historic processes, the northern part of the country, Sudan (which literally means the land of the black) is predominantly inhabited by the Arabaic people in the shape of Barabra ethnic group represented by Sukut and Mahas in lower Nubia. In upper Nubia there is the Ja’ali group, the nomadic or semi-nomadic Juhayna group and the Shayqiyya confederacy, who occupy the territory east of the Nubian land, known today as Port Sudan and Suoakin region.

While the locals exposed their vulnerabilities across ethnic divides, the Mundukuru settlers were busy hankering down and extracting the gold and precious stones known to be in abundance in the eastern region. They were also busy capturing and selling the locals for slaves, among other vices. The wicked lucrative slave business invited the Mundukuru to raid villages further south. This ultimately transpired in the cultural and demographic transformation of north Sudan as Mundukuru presence increased and local presence decreased. Waves of local migration to the south followed and those who remained in the northern areas have not only been enslaved, but also been absorbed into Arabism and Islamism.

As Ibn Khaldun, an Islamic historian writing in the fourteenth century is quoted by P. M. Holt and Martin W. Daly: “the clans of Juhayna Arabs spread over their country [Sudan], and settled in it, ruling it and filling it with ruin and decay. The kings of the Nubians set about holding them back, but lacked strength. Then they proceeded to win them over by marriage-alliances, so that their kingdom broke up, and it passed to some of the offspring of Juhayna...So their kingdom was torn to pieces, and Juhayna took possession of their land.”

As if this was not enough and sniffing the continued local vulnerabilities across ethnic groupings, Jallaba penetration continued further South under the leadership of Abdallah Jamma by 1504-05, where a fierce clash with the South Sudanese Shilluk kingdom in Funj is reported. The Arabs were severely defeated on that occasion, but the Funj kingdom also somehow ultimately succumbed and was “...soon after converted to Mahometism.”

As a side note, in this first phase of colonialism, the bitter irony is that the old Sudanese Christian kingdoms were left alone to fend off Muslim-Arab encroachment and expansionism, without any support from other Christian communities in the region. In a desperate attempt to preserve the old Sudanese Christian faith and identity, an envoy from the kingdom of Alwa was reported to have been sent to Ethiopia, a home to one of the oldest Christian churches in Africa requesting for priests to be sent to provide moral and spiritual support to their kingdom, but to no avail. Overall, divide and rule policies create disunity and incite hatred across ethnicities, which in turn were instrumental in the “successes” and “achievements” of the first campaign of colonial Islamization and Arabization of Sudan.

Divisive colonial policies continued to be significantly influential in subsequent colonialist agendas and were again favored and effectively used by the Turko-Egyptian colonial masters under the overall command and leadership of Mohammed Ali Pasha. Like its predecessor, the use of divide and rule policies in the invasion of Sudan in 1821 under the command of Mohammed Ali’s son, Ismail Kamil Pasha was primarily aimed at exploiting Sudanese human and natural

resources. However, it was much less centered on cultural and religious expansion as an agenda. In seeking to serve this resource exploitation purpose through divide and rule policies, Mohammed Ali's son installed local puppet client-rulers, the likes of Mak Nimer. Though Mak Nimer ultimately rebelled and assassinated his master, Ismail Pasha by burning down the house that hosted him and some of his cohort to ashes. Mohammed Ali's administration also worked closely with the ilk of Zubeir Wed Al Rhama, the notorious Ja'ali slave trader, who wreaked havoc in Bahr el-Ghazal and Darfur regions.

The wheel of divide and rule policies was reinvented in subsequent generations of colonialisms in the Sudan from Anglo-Egyptian rule in 1898 to post independent Sudan from 1956 to the seeming current appeal to this policies in post independent South Sudan by our rulers. In his Complex Emergencies, David Keen aptly drove the point home. He maintained that, "using one ethnic group to police another was a common imperial tactic. For example, during the gradual imposition of British rule in Sudan from the end of the nineteenth century, elements of the Baggara cattle herders of western Sudan were used to quell southern Sudanese groups who were resisting colonial rule, and the use of southern slaves among the Baggara was tolerated by the British. Since the Baggara were themselves a potential threat (particularly after their role in the 1883 Mahdist uprising), this strategy offered to reinforce colonial rule on two fronts."

Indeed the whole marginalization and center vs. periphery dynamic which was one of the underlying causes of the north-south divide was a product of colonial divide and rule policies. Our British colonialists saw to it that Khartoum was given preferential treatment where colonial administration in the Sudan was concentrated and left in the control of elite few from the north after the independence in 1956, at the expense of the peripheries. As Alex De Waal puts it, "the country's wars are logical continuation of historic processes of asset stripping and proletarianisation of the rural populace which began in the nineteenth century and which has continued during war and peace alike."

In her article "A Curse from God? Religious and Political Dimensions of the Post-1991 Rise of Ethnic Violence in South Sudan," Sharon E. Hutchinson underscores Khartoum's present continuity with and scaling up of the practice of divide and rule policies, now known by the Mundukuru as "killing the slave through a slave." "Mounted on horseback and wielding government-supplied AK-47s," Hutchinson observed, "cattle- and slave-seeking raiders declared a jihad against a southern civilian population armed with little more than spears. Trained in counter-insurgency methods by the Sudanese army and entrusted with the task of depopulating the oil fields north of Bantiu, these Baggara militias began to kill, rape and enslave hundreds of unarmed Nuer and Dinka women and children in a dramatic breach of previously respected ethical limits on inter-tribal warfare in this region."

Ask Eric Reeves and he will sit you down. The trend of divide and rule continues in Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan, as well as in Jonglei State and elsewhere in South Sudan through the arming of David Yau Yau's forces and others before him as is well-documented. These policies are now feared to be appropriated by South Sudan's political leadership in current political calculations. I am not easily bent on dwelling on history. But our present government owners in Juba must be careful not to be equated with South Sudan's traditional colonial masters. In their policies, they must refrain from invoking the bitter and unjust colonial history that was primarily based on divide and rule policies and that was thought to have finally been overcome with the independence of South Sudan. There are limits. Reinventing the wheel of divide and rule policies in South Sudan is one. ([Back to Top](#))

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### **South Sudanese all across East Africa should leave for home before it is too late**

**South Sudan News Agency, 5/9/2013** – The last few weeks have seen a mounting tension between people of South Sudan and their Ugandan neighbours. This is a serious turn in events. For what has historically been seen as the most amicable relationship between neighbouring people in the whole region of East Africa, is once more under threat.



Uganda had served as the second home to many South Sudanese refugees during the liberation war against the Muslim Arabs of North Sudan. Equally so, many Ugandans had had also the taste of their Sudanese neighbours hospitality during the years when it was caught in political instability.

To stress the point even further, South Sudan's Pan Africanist and charismatic leader late Dr. John Garang de Mabior, fate had him killed after paying a pilgrimage to his colleague and brother in arms Yoweri Museveni of Uganda. Hence for good or for bad, late Garang's name will always remain linked to Uganda because of that sad historical incident.

However in real life not everything is meant to please everybody, and thus came these new measures taken by the government of South Sudan banning foreigners from driving motorcycle taxis commonly known as boda-boda. Unfortunately it left about 1,600 Ugandans, who were operating in Juba and other parts of the country, jobless.

As many of those expelled Ugandans made their ways back to Uganda fears of retaliatory attacks on South Sudanese living in Uganda became louder and louder.

"We got security intelligence; we heard some people saying that since their children have been chased from South Sudan, the South Sudanese in Uganda should also be chased", Patrick Onyango, the deputy spokesperson of the Ugandan police, told Sudan Tribune on Tuesday.

"As a result of that we [the police] have come up with security measures to protect our brothers and sisters from South Sudan living in Uganda. We have communicated to all our units in the country to offer extra security to South Sudanese and their property in the country", he added.

How much faith do the South Sudanese have in the ability and the dedication of our brothers and sisters in the Ugandan Police to protect them and their properties is a judgment for those South Sudanese currently residing in Uganda to make. However I must stress that these kinds of problems are likely to strain the brotherly ties between the two countries.

It is no more secret that citizens from all across the East African countries continue to suffer in the hands of criminals in whichever country they reside including in their own. People from Kenya, Uganda, Eritrea and even the South Sudan itself have died brutally and unaccounted for in nearly all of these countries and justices have never been served.

When it comes to talking about relationship between neighbouring countries, East Africa provides a very unique example. Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, D R Congo, and South Sudan have long history of human movements between one place and the other since time immemorial.

With many ethnic groups divided by the colonial borders that have come to represent the borders of these modern states, it is not uncommon to see people with the same features claiming citizenships all across this vast region.

However we cannot be in denial of the new status quo that today defines the present day realities in this vast piece of land which our ancestors had once roamed freely in search of pasture and safety. Today we are Kenyans, Ugandans, Ethiopians, Congolese, South Sudanese, etc. With these new structures came new set of laws and regulations, some are international others are national or regional.

Notwithstanding the continental call for a unified Africa as started by our forefathers the founders of the Pan African Movement, like Kwame Nkrumah, Jomo Kenyatta, Julius Nyerere, all of whom worked to establish the Organisation of African Unity [OAU] now the African Union [AU], we know that our leaders together with the people have hardly made any success towards the continental union.

It is true that those who divided Africa in the first place are also not in any way fans of this continent's unity. The African people too, and especially their policy makers have unfortunately tackled the issue of unity with mixed approaches, often giving in to internal pressures dictated by electorates' demands.

Having said this, one must also genuinely acknowledge that, the importance of the African unity in its philosophical context remains largely a hot topic for the African Diaspora, while the African people on the ground maintain a different view about it. Unity like any commodity comes at a price and the African people and their leaders alike are not ready yet to pay that price!

In the diaspora, African unity is owned by the masses and not state officials. It was and remains a project hatched, nurtured and promoted by Africans from all across the continent and those of the Americas and the Caribbean.

And while outside the African continent, the search and zeal for African-ness and unity amongst its people tops the list of those involved in it, back home in Africa all seems to be taken for granted.

With the exception of isolated islands of projects and programs here and there, the continent in the large part is consumed in its own internal power politics and wrangling over leadership position that have now a days come to replace the old chieftaincy.

Xenophobia is one such phenomenon that has followed the human race wherever they step their feet. And if xenophobia is any word to go by in Africa, we must understand that it is the politics of distraction dictated by the gross failures into which whole countries have plunged by their so-called nationalist leaderships.

The whole thing is no more just about Africans from another country. If you look at it slowly, you will see that there exists an underlying local disharmony even between the groups that go on to call for xenophobia.

Some people rightly or not have even segregated against their own countrymen in matters of everyday life. I am not surprised that these same fellows will go an extra length to mobilise and organise a mob opinion against other fellow Africans.

What I have failed to understand is that while those who fought the liberation war in South Sudan are now the very people in the top helm of power in the new country, why are their families still residing in those neighbouring countries?

It is as if they want to tell us that they have liberated the land, but in another way they are unable to govern and develop it into a place where they can live in peace with their families, but also be capable of providing quality education and quality health services to their children and the rest of the citizens within the country.

There are now two classes of South Sudanese who still reside outside the new country even after the country was declared an independent sovereignty on July 9, 2011. There are those who have naturalized as nationals of their second homes, and these I have no issues with them.

However my concern is with the second group who continue to reside outside South Sudan without getting the citizenship of those host countries [Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Congo, Kenya, etc].

People in this second category will undoubtedly have to put up with a lot of problems as they are not official citizens of their host countries and their stay there is not the same like that one of the nationals.

But since South Sudan is now an independent state, no South Sudanese should allow themselves to suffer in any foreign lands. You will need to relocate home whenever the host becomes unwelcoming.

My sincere advice is either you officially naturalize where you now reside since you prefer to continue living there or you return to South Sudan to avoid any unnecessary problems. As Africans it should be easy for fellow Africans to naturalize wherever they reside within the continent. If the laws are in place, then you just follow it.

What you must not do is to continue living in foreign lands for reasons of education, security or health services, without seeking naturalization.

If it is that you are banned by the laws of the country to naturalize or do not want to do it, then you are better off in your South Sudan where all you need to do is to a sustained pressure on the authorities to make these missing services available.

Unless you are there to pressurize the politicians into doing something be it improved education, health or security, they are never going to be there for you in a million years.

You can still have a quality education within South Sudan using this same money that you spend abroad. Believe me, for only a half of the money you pay them in Kenya, Uganda or Ethiopia, you can have these same teachers come all the way and teach your children in every village in South Sudan, run your health centres or even run your security services for you if you want.

Truly the Saudis, the Kuwaiti and the all Gulf States did it when they first discovered their Oil wealth.

They stopped seeking education in the other countries and made sure that they hired every brain in the region to come over and educate their children, run their health facilities, clean their streets, even man their security services.

And when they became qualified and confident enough to take over these jobs, they quietly did it without raising hell on earth.

You are now the leaders in your own country and when you continue to keep your families outside the country in the name of insecurity or acquisition of better education, what that clearly says is that you have admitted incompetence.

Even your calls for foreign investors seem to have only attracted the criminals of East Africa first, then Europe and America. This is something to worry about.

On the other hand there are already mountains of evidence to show that billions of dollars continue to leave this poor country of South Sudan to finance huge sectors in education, health, housing and tourism worldwide, but especially so in Kampala and Nairobi.

Here it is for you to see my compatriots. Have you ever asked yourselves how many dollars do these East African brothers and sisters carry on them when they enter the borders of South Sudan? Now compare that to the briefcases full of dollars and other hard currencies that are taken out by you the South Sudanese and your friends who help you in the deadly game of milking our country dry.

These East Africans you are now sending back to their countries of origins are largely people with terrible criminal records. Their countries must have enjoyed some peace when these people moved into South Sudan; however it now time that they have their goods back.

On the other hand we must never underestimate the possibility that South Sudanese are likely to become vulnerable people all across East Africa as they are known to have the money, otherwise they wouldn't be in those places in the first place.

Secondly most South Sudanese are easily betrayed by their physical features, and thus are readily distinguishable from the other communities and nationalities. No way can they be mistaken for other nationalities.

My advice to all of you the South Sudanese, is not to underestimate the threats being declared against you by your brothers and sisters all across East Africa. Please listen and move out when there is still enough chance and time to relocate in one piece.

Once you are back in South Sudan with all your money and properties, you are likely to make it ten folds in your own home towns than in some unsafe remote countries. You can still build those schools and health facilities that you admire in Uganda or Kenya right next to your cattle camps or farms or in your own home towns, villages and state capitals. ([Back to Top](#))

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## **The SPLM and the rise of autocracy in South Sudan**

*South Sudan News Agency, 5/9/2013* – The Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) is a political party in South Sudan. It was founded on democratic principles and waged a successful war against Khartoum’s brutal regime of more than twenty-four years. Yet despite the resolution of this bloody, decades-long struggle between Sudan and South Sudan, the hope for a democratic government that the people of South Sudan once had is slowly fading. Both Khartoum and Juba are still complaining about each other for their own self-legitimizations, the young nation is overwhelmed with immense internal conflicts, and the leaders of the new republic are still struggling with ideas of Marxism-Leninism. The international community is thus left to choose between facts and lies as the liberated new country faces a gloomy future. This critique is an attempt to show how the SPLM runs and manages South Sudan, why it fails to live up to its promises, and the consequences that the people of South Sudan might face.

### **The SPLM: Legacy, forgotten promises, and deceptions**

The successful 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that was signed between South Sudan and Sudan effectively made the SPLM the ruling party of South Sudan. The hopeful legacy of the SPLM has since been diminished and continues to diminish. The SPLM has had near-total control of political, economic, security, and military sectors, among others. However, its promise is being undermined as it imposes autocratic practices that were among the very reasons it waged war against Sudan’s ruling party, the National Congress Party (NCP), from 1983 to 2005. The SPLM runs and manages the country using a constitution that was designed, passed, and implemented to serve its own autocratic predispositions. This is the turmoil the young nation now faces, and it is contrary to the motivations of the people of South Sudan, who sacrificed their lives for the democratic promises of the SPLM.

The SPLM was founded on democratic principles and sought to liberate the marginalized Sudanese from Khartoum’s ferocious regime. The movement faced international isolation with some of the world’s most influential nations not recognizing its legitimacy, including the United States, United Kingdom and many other European nations, all of which cited communism and inhumane practices during the struggle as reasons to condemn it. Nevertheless, the ideology of secular Sudan, first introduced and practiced by the late South Sudanese leader Dr. John Garang, was instrumental in helping the SPLM regain the trust of some of the world’s most powerful players. Garang’s attempt to secularize Sudan was intended to transform the nation into a democratic state. The SPLM was indeed involved in horrendous acts during its struggle, and it is now apparent that the concern initially raised by the Western countries about the practice of autocracy in the movement is being realized by the people of South Sudan. Under the leadership of the SPLM, those who were assumed to be visionaries during the struggle have since become visionless. Since assuming power as the ruling party of South Sudan, the SPLM-led government has backtracked from its democratic principles, subsequently demonstrating that it neither respects nor follows its own policies.

It was not long ago when the people of South Sudan embarked on a path to nationhood after years of being denied it by the Khartoum regime. However, they came to realize that their decades-long struggle led to more of the past they were trying to overcome; the common goal that the people of South Sudan fought for is slowly vanishing before their very eyes. In 2007, I wrote an article titled *The Untidy Path to Normalization in Southern Sudan* (Sudan Tribune, October 7, 2007), which described the difficulty of creating a viable country under the SPLM and suggested the steps southern leaders at the time should take to achieve the goals set out under its democratic principles. I also explored South Sudan’s internal conflicts and examined the causes and effects of ethnic conflicts in South Sudan. At the time, I was confident that the SPLM was moving in the direction that the party envisioned during the liberation struggle. It has since become clear that this was a naïve view.

I would like the South Sudanese to know that in a democratic country that which is good for an individual does not necessarily coincide with what is good for the collective—it usually does not. It is this very tension between individual and collective interests that creates a sense of responsibility in society. Humans are not perfect, and that is why they establish laws to guide behavior. Hence, it is just as important for the ruling party of South Sudan to establish laws that

are humane and respect human rights. Such a commitment to and dedication for all South Sudan's citizenry must be the central overarching vision of its rulers; only then can citizens enjoy the fruits of living in a just society. Without such a dedicated commitment on the part of rulers of South Sudan, the country devolves into a failed experiment, wherein its citizens are made to witness their ruling party continuously infringing upon and disrespecting laws on a large-scale. When the government is not held accountable by its own laws, such laws do little to maintain social order and integrity.

The SPLM fails to understand that a political party with a moral vision for its citizens and country must always be guided by the principles of this vision when justifying its actions, rather than hiding selfish interests by coming up with false justifications that make it appear as though it is acting in the common interest of the people it governs, while in fact acting in the contrary ways. However, this is not the case in South Sudan under the SPLM; the elites of the ruling party of South Sudan appear to have no plans for the nation. They enjoy describing their successes that they achieved when they were in the bush during the struggle, and assert that they should be accepted as the leaders who liberated the South Sudanese from Khartoum's dreadful regime. No one would doubt or question these leaders' bravery or loyalty during the long violent and agonizing wrestle for freedom. But now as the smoke clears, these leaders, and everyone else fighting for a free South Sudan, must come to terms with the startling fact that their fight for justice has managed to carve out of the madness merely a potential for the establishment of a democratic country. This potential must be made actual with equal bravery and dedication once evidenced on the battlefield. It is our new field of battle – but this time we must fight for peace and justice. Most of these leaders are not interested in considering and constructively responding to criticism; they are satisfied with praises honoring their courage in the bush, but they cannot rest on their laurels. If the SPLM is to be the only political party to provide essential services to the people of South Sudan, then it must make major changes. Failure to do so will force the competent South Sudanese to question the legitimacy of the party to act in the interest of the people who put it in power. The ruling party must either act now to restore its tainted image or it must prepare for what could be a crushing end to a historic political party which was founded on a veneer of democratic principles. No government can shrug off critical issues that are vital to the survival of the nation and expect to remain in power without losing support and legitimacy.

Still, the SPLM-led government has shown an incredible capability to deal with public outcry without properly addressing concerns. It does this by using communist-style media tactics whereby it applies laws and implements peoples' demands without verification. In Juba, for instance, extrajudicial killings, tortures, illegitimate detainments, and intimidations are common. On occasions when the government knows the public is outraged, the SPLM will proclaim the launch of an investigation. Consequently, many investigations are broadcasted, but none ever appear to satisfy the public because they are phony inquiries. These deceptive maneuvers are indicative of a lack of moral leadership within the ruling party. This is a clear indication that the party lacks an internal rationality, which is essential to rule for the interests of the people.

The elites of the ruling party are good at manipulating people. They do this with propaganda, intensifying media presence and releasing political pronouncements only when they know that the political pressure is overwhelming. This is one of the reasons the SPLM continues to manage and run the young nation like a one-party communist state. When the president dissolved his cabinet on July 23rd, his cronies went to the media and publicly appealed to the people of South Sudan, claiming that everything was going to be fine. I am not sure if things are going as smoothly as the SPLM's elites claim, though I am sure they now know the gravity of the situation. Furthermore, during their appeal to the nation and the international community, some of these tyrannical admirers went on to claim that the next government was going to be more "lean and inclusive." Nonetheless, the SPLM has been known for many years as a party that does not follow its own principles. Thus, one is left wondering the extent to which the new government really matches the portrayals of the president and his cronies. However, one thing is clear: the people of South Sudan know who is who and what is what in the government as well as in the political dome of the SPLM.

This is the 21st century, and there are no longer concealments behind which the government can hide. Since Salva Kiir Mayardit took power after the death of Dr. John Garang de Mabior, Kiir persistently removed, appointed and reinstated most of his government officials. The recently purported dissolution of the cabinet is implausible, because Kiir consistently used his constitutional powers during an interim period (2005-2011). The public is well aware of the SPLM's dubious tactics, which nevertheless continue to be publicized by political sycophants of the ruling party. Most of the SPLM's elites do not care about the future of the country. They only make the situation worse by organizing political yes-men and ordering them to do anything that can appease and pacify the troubled citizenry. With directives from behind the scenes, the SPLM's political yes-men are required to do anything that their bosses want them to do in a show of political adherence.

In spite of prevalent public criticisms, the elites of the ruling party appear to have their own agendas, which are at odds with the desires and demands of the South Sudanese people. The SPLM-led government must understand that political power resides with the citizens, no matter what the party's code of belief dictates or how powerful the government becomes. It is equally important for the ruling party to recognize that societies are greatly influenced by their cultures as well as other social norms that prove useful in their lives. The SPLM has lost its values and become a political entity run by a few power-hungry individuals. These individuals cemented their authority by rallying behind their cliques, meanwhile labeling anyone who questioned the direction of the party as a foe, traitor, tribalism, jaalaba or Khartoum's agent. This is precisely where the deception and lies of the SPLM become clear, as it favors only those who preach the mentality of corrupted political discourse. This is a treacherous path that any reasonable political party would not pursue.

The future of the Republic of South Sudan under the SPLM leadership is uncertain. Any rational citizen of South Sudan cannot simply dismiss the autocratic tendency, which is now being put into practice by the Juba's autocrats. This is clearly a failure to adhere to the democratic principles, where instead those that came to power usurped it autocratically, for their personal interests rather than the interest of the public; South Sudanese should not allow this tyrannical wave to take shape. I know most citizens of South Sudan understand that communism has contributed to the behaviors of many current leaders of the new republic because of the movement's initial manifesto—a manifesto which was a product of Ethiopian former dictator Mengistu Hailimariam's communist texts. The current political quandary requires competent leaders of a political party who promote peoples-based ideas, not leaders who seek to oppress their citizens. It would be a mistake for me not to acknowledge the gravity of political intrigue which is now going on in the country. This young republic is unquestionably sitting under a self-made time bomb—a bomb that is being built and managed by the SPLM.

It would also be a moral mistake not to point out that the SPLM has become disconnected from its political principles. The party's elites must thrust aside their despotic mentalities, promoting that which fits the needs and desires of the citizens rather than seeking out personal gains. This is how successful nations are run. The elites must also take actions to implement the democratic principles upon which their party was first founded, as well as cease embracing and preaching democratic songs without actually fulfilling their messages. This is the 21st century, and there is no longer any room for a tyrannical way of thinking. In addition, the country can only move in the right direction if the right political leaders are employed in such a way as to successfully implement the party's policies with careful moral reasoning. A nation with a history of rebellions is a nation with incompetent leaders. Furthermore, the leaders (e.g. parliamentarians, etc.) who work for the people must understand that their citizenship statuses are no different from the ordinary people who they represent—both the citizens and their leaders have the same rights under the law to obey or disobey principles. In addition, the lawmakers must likewise know that they are working for the people and not the government.

And yes, undeniably, despite these serious failings, it should be noted that the SPLM has nevertheless made some encouraging progress, particularly within the education sector. Many of the South Sudanese can now send their children to school, which was impossible when the South was under Khartoum's regime. And yes, it must be acknowledged that the steps the SPLM must

take towards changing its present mindset are intricate. Accordingly, the people of South Sudan should not expect this to happen overnight because communism was the actual doctrine that the current ruling party of South Sudan was using during the struggle.

In light of this situation, we have to ask why, if at all, the South Sudanese should support a party that does not keep its promises. Why would the South Sudanese fight against northern Sudan in the first place? Is it possible that the SPLM has lost its valiant values of sacrifice and honor upheld in the long battles in the bush; and, has now become merely a political entity run by a few power-hungry individuals? Why are the leaders of South Sudan recycling the old ideas that they fought so hard to change? What kind of a country has South Sudan become? Can a rebellion against the government be used as a means of establishing a democratic society? And finally, can South Sudan have a promising future under SPLM's rule?

### **Tribalism and Regionalism in South Sudan's Politics**

The politics of tribalism and regionalism have become problematic in South Sudan. The citizens of this nation know how tribalism kills and destroys. The South Sudanese have an extensive history of tribal conflicts. In a country like South Sudan, it is easy to find people doing things in tribal groups, as tribal interests are always associated with national issues. This is not to single out the young nation, precisely because this phenomenon happens in any nation where tribalism is seen as a political expedient; it is a stratagem that keeps South Sudan moving downward. In the Republic of South Sudan, tribal politics are used by most political leaders as a contrivance to serve themselves and their tribal affiliations due to the fact that the country is ethnically divided.

This kind of grouping is influenced by tribal interests, and those who dare to question or challenge this hooded-system are treated by their tribal hoodlums as traitors. Such challenges often result in isolation and in some instances the so-called traitor is unjustly condemned to harsh treatments or even death.

These tribally-motivated practices must be addressed so as to understand, minimize, or perhaps eliminate those aspects that are destructive to the well-being of society. I call these tribally-motivated practices "the mentality of who is your uncle." The reason I choose the above name to describe South Sudanese tribal rehearsals is because it is common in South Sudan to see one tribe advancing its ideology in pretext of unity and togetherness for all tribes while secretly working to undermine the interests of the other tribes.

The ethnic and regional politics were tried before by other governments including the former Soviet Union, and they failed miserably. Indeed, I sincerely doubt if the regionalization of politics of the Republic of South Sudan will work best for the SPLM because it is likely to encourage regionalism, tribalism, and sectionalism.

It is evident that the moral and political objectives that all the tribes of South Sudan fought for were precisely and unequivocally to ensure the establishment of their own country; it was not to tribalize or regionalize the young republic after independence. The people of South Sudan fought together to have their own country. Tribalization and regionalization threatens the young republic after hard-won independence. However, the South Sudanese should learn from other nations that once tragically employed tribal and regional conflicts to function as so-called good politics. The 1994 Rwandan's genocide is a good example of a nation filled with both tribal and regional hatreds. I do not believe that the citizens of South Sudan want their country to be a "failed state," because I know that they are proud of their identity and cultural norms, but they also suffer from hearts full of toxic, tribal ideologies. In a society like South Sudan, tribal conflicts will always be there, but they can be minimized if political leaders think collectively. I would not argue with sadists on this particular issue because I know that their ultimate purpose is to see the people of South Sudan fail and suffer. People should not waste their time listening to politicians who care only about elections, power and recognition. The right people to listen to are those leaders who think and act like statesmen—these leaders are people who act collectively, think deeply about the future of the country, work to better their nations and show rationality in any calamity, regardless of any political risk that may stand in their way. The leaders of this young nation must act in this manner if they wish to minimize or avoid the looming regional and tribal politics.

The fact of the matter is that the Republic of South Sudan is a nation still deeply infested with tribal ideologies and the SPLM-led government must be smart to avoid digging its own political grave.

#### Possible Consequences

There are consequences that the SPLM-led government must prepare for if it is serious about its own political potential. However, if the ruling party fails to change its current political attitude and cast off its autocratic tendencies, then the following outcomes may be all but inevitable:

- (1) South Sudan will be deeply divided on regional and tribal lines—this could encourage or incite ethnic or regional rebellions, deepen mistrust between communities in the already fragile society, and further destabilize the new nation.
- (2) The ruling party will lose its vital grounds and regional politics will ascend—this could cause an uprising against the ruling party.
- (3) National parliamentarians will be influenced or guided by regional or tribal politics, not national or party politics.
- (4) A popular and possibly stronger political party will emerge, and the SPLM will eventually lose its hold on the political, economic, security and military spheres.
- (5) A new rebel movement that is far more powerful than any current or previous rebel group could surface.

These five outcomes are probable unless the Juba's autocrats adjust their autocratic propensities.

In all successful societies, everyone must be willing to make sacrifices and the SPLM's elites and citizens alike are not immune from these social responsibilities. The future of this country can only be built by leaders who think and act like statesmen who, acting in the capacity of fellow countrymen, actively fight for the growth of their country, the future of their youth, the cultivation of the unique talents of their people, the preservation of their country's environment, the enactment of compassionate laws protecting the poor, elderly, and disabled—this is the future, and much needed and anticipated statesman of South Sudan; they are individuals who will cultivate justice and peace among their people.

I understand that cultural norms are very important in almost any society, but this will not suffice if the people of South Sudan are to have significant influence on the future of their country. There is no need to stick to a tradition that costs lives. It makes sense for tribes to defend their interests, but tribal agendas can contribute to the development of a nation only if they are collectively acknowledged and accepted by all tribes that make up the nation. It is also important to admit that most of the current political leaders of South Sudan and their supporters prefer to fabricate a reason to cover up their misdeeds so as to uphold their tribal doctrines, rather than do the right thing for the well-being of their country. The claim that one tribe is supreme over other tribes in South Sudan is a perilous wishful thinking. This kind of mentality cannot build a prosperous South Sudan. Building a successful, democratic nation can only be done by political leaders who think and act like statesmen, people who think collectively, not by leaders who think and act like autocratic politicians and crave power.

Can we ever legitimately assert that some tribes are morally superior to others? Can this ever be compatible with a unified country that supports all of its citizens, despite tribal membership? These questions are for you to consider and draw your own conclusions.

Building a successful democratic nation can only be done by political leaders who respect the laws, and behave like statesmen. The people of South Sudan did not fight for an autocratic government or a one-party state; they fought hard to have a nation where opposing views are respected. The SPLM's deceptive politics should not be used as the policy of the government, and they must not be tolerated. The government must work with tribal leaders in tackling ethnic conflicts. The SPLM should implement policies that match its founding principles, eradicate its autocratic tendencies, and lead as a national political party if it is to regain the peoples'



confidence. Otherwise, it risks ongoing diminishment of its own legacy and legitimacy, and eventual collapse. ([Back to Top](#))

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