



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit  
Communications & Public Information Office

## MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2013

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# Highlights

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## **World Bank Okays 21 million dollars for South Sudan's poor**

*Sudan Catholic Radio Network, 26/6/2013* – The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a 21-million US dollars credit to support South Sudan's efforts to provide temporary work for poor people and build the foundations of a social protection system.

World Bank South Sudan Country Director Bella Bird said the amount would be used in Social Safety Net and Skills Development Project to offer temporary employment opportunities to an estimated 21 thousand families and skills development opportunities for another 3,500.

In a press statement issued on Monday, Ms Bird said the money will be used in Jonglei, Warrap, Eastern Equatoria and Juba.

Project team leader Endashaw Tadesse Gossa said the project addresses South Sudan's immediate need to provide support to the poorest families during the agricultural lean season.

He added that the project can support people to emerge from poverty, economic uncertainty, food insecurity, and frequent climate-related threats.

The project will help create a targeting and beneficiary registration system and a payment transfer and monitoring system that can be used to reach the poorest people. [\(Back to top\)](#)

## **Jonglei governor's decree transfers Boma into new sub-county**

*Sudantribune.com Bor, 25/6/2013* – The governor of South Sudan's Jonglei state has decreed the transfer of Boma administration to state secretariat office, appointing an administrative chairperson and four other officials in the process.

Kuol Manyang, in the decree obtained by Sudan Tribune, says the newly appointed officials will be answerable to him and not the Pibor county commissioner, as it was previously.

“In exercising the power vested upon me under article 99 (2) (1) of the transition constitution of Jonglei state 2011, I Kuol Manyang Juuk, the governor of Jonglei state do hereby order the transfer of Boma sub-county administration from Pibor county to office of the governor”, partly reads the decree.

Since the establishment of the semi-autonomous government in 2005, Boma remained under Pibor County, with one commissioner based in Pibor town. Two executive directors, both answerable to the Pibor commissioner, were also appointed in Boma and Pibor.

The governor, in the decree, appointed Khorok Remoris Alongole as chairperson of Boma, Justin Taiyin Kok as its executive director/secretary, while Zuagin Rachu Balko, Mary Hassen Turki and Alfred Bartagi Tuta were appointed as members.

Boma is one of the towns that remained under South Sudan army (SPLA) control since 1985 after its capture from Sudan Army Forces (SAF) during the civil war era. However, two months ago, the area was captured by South Sudan rebels before government forces dislodged them.

The state governor, who recently visited Boma pledged to improve lives of citizens in the area, through improved education systems, health services and provision of food. [\(Back to top\)](#)

## **Youth leaders demand separate ministry**

*Gurtong.net 25/6/2013* – Eastern Equatoria State youth representatives have petitioned their state government to constitutionally establish a separate ministry chiefly dedicated to deal with youth affairs.

They say if the government really endorses their request, the Ministry they are asking for will not only provide sufficient resources such as finances, materials and necessary equipment basically for its independent operations, but will always provide a strong link between them as youth and government in a coordinated manner.

“If really our government wants us to cooperate and collectively work together for a common goal and enable us to ensure conveying peace message to our state communities and bringing peace stability, it

must move to institute a separate Ministry dedicated to dealing with youth affairs and providing sufficient resources for its subsequent operations,” they said.

The youth said they are usually left unattended because they don't have a place to coordinate and operate from.

They strongly recommend the government to positively respond to move according to their needs saying by so doing, their affairs will always consequently be coordinated easily and conveniently.

The youth further advocate the government to give the youth top priority by providing them sufficient support and budget for youth activities and facilities to increase youth confidence in leadership.

“We want our government to treat us glowingly with proper and good attention because we want shining development, our government must give us top priority, our government should consider and provide us with sufficient support especially financial plan to enable our activities kick off efficiently and not only that but the provided financial plan if materialized will additionally facilitate increase of youth confidence in leadership,” they said.

In a related development, the youth have also called on the communities to cooperate with the government in improving the security in their respective areas while strengthen their efforts in community policing. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **E. Equatoria assembly opens with calls for peace**

*Sudantribune.com Torit, 25/6/2013* – The governor of South Sudan Eastern Equatoria state has officially opened the state assembly with calls for patience and peace among citizens.

Louis Lobong, in his speech at Monday, appealed to civil servants in the state not to lose hope in the wake of the current economic difficulties in the young country.

He urged lawmakers in the state to be productive during the fourth session of the assembly, and ensure that government plans and policies concerning their constituents are well deliberated.

South Sudan is currently facing tough economic times after government initiated austerity measures to fill the huge gap created by the oil shut down last year.

However, Lobong appealed to citizens in his state to unite with each other and ensure the forthcoming independence occasion, ends with success all over the state.

The governor, at the occasion, cited security, education and health as his main priorities, calling upon the state lawmakers to join hands in efforts to implement them.

Meanwhile, the speaker of the state assembly urged the youth not to be divided youth of the state not to be misled by “hungry” politicians in the state.

Emmanuel Ambrose Ocholimo was reacting after a youth conference organised in the state last week ended in controversy and a boycott over the formation of its executive body. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Clergy calls for unity, peace from parliamentarians**

*Gurtong.net Torit, 25/6/2013* – The newly appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Catholic Diocese of Torit in Eastern Equatoria State (EES), Monsignor Thomas Oliha has called for unity, peace and solidarity among the people.

While asking God to consider help taking away the ongoing rampant cattle raiding activities surrounding the state including killings of innocent ones, the clergyman who holds the people of EES people as well as the entire South Sudanese population to accept forgiving themselves as he appealed to them to stand in solidarity with them, prayed to God to come in since the state needs his intervention.

Speaking shortly after leading a Christian prayer on their behalf during the today's reopening of EES Legislative Assembly, the clergyman emphasized a call for unity among the Eastern Equatorian citizens and South Sudanese in general so development take place.

He pledges that his church will always strive to reach the state grassroots for reconciliation to educate them how best they could get involved in building their communities so in turn lifting up examples of peace and forgiveness among themselves.

The leader advocated on how best the people of Eastern Equatorians who had been hosting during the just ended civil wars for decades now saying this should be the time to embrace unity and being meaningful example to other regions in the Republic of South Sudan.

The State Governor Louis Lobong Lojore who was the guest Speaker of the function also appealed for unity saying unity of the state communities as well as South Sudanese people should be based on respect for all.

He affirmed that one of his government objectives is to advocate for justice, unity and prosperity among the people of his state.

Among those present witnessing the today's opening of the fourth session of the State Parliament included state Ministers, the state Advisor to government on political & Administrative Affairs, other veteran politicians, church leaders, representatives from Partners, state leaders of other political parties Organized forces and many patriotic citizens of EES. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Agriculture ministry unveils plans to council of states**

*Radio Miraya, 25/6/2013* – The Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Beda Machar has presented a report to Council of States on plans to support agriculture.

The report unveiled on Monday highlighted the purchase of 70 trucks and ploughs to be supplied to the states.

The report earmarked SSP 5million for provision of seeds, 3million for anti-pest chemicals, implements for farmers and also set aside SSP 17million for fuel.

Hon. Machar's presentation was in answer to queries raised by parliamentarians on the plans of the ministry to improve agriculture. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Ecobank eyes South Sudan, Angola markets**

*Daily Monitor Kampala, 26/6/2013* – Togolese lender Ecobank Transnational Incorporated is set to expand to South Sudan, Mozambique, Angola and Mozambique to deepen its presence in the African financial services market.

Mr Lawson Kolapo, Ecobank group chairman, said the West African bank has identified strong growth prospects in those markets which it wants to tap into. "We are tapping into the growing demand and potential of banking services in these markets," he said.

The financial institution's strategy is to have a presence in most countries on the continent to fulfill its Pan African goal of being the leading financial institution in Africa.

The bank secured shareholders' approval at the annual general meeting in Togo last week to replace the "Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS)" in the article of association with "Pan African" in order to ensure that the bank is not influenced by any institution or dominated by one country.

The bank currently operates in 33 countries including Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Senegal, Mali, Niger and Liberia, among others. The bank has been pursuing an aggressive expansion programme in the past six years, entering in new markets, a scenario that has seen its cost-to-income ratio increase to 72.04 per cent last year, from 69.60 per cent in 2011.

The group chief executive officer, Mr Thierry Tanoh, however, said when the subsidiaries begin to make positive financial contribution to the group, the cost-to-income ratio will reduce.

Ecobank ventured into the Ugandan market in 2008 and has 12 branches in the country. The Ecobank Uganda managing director, Mr Michael Monari, said three more branches in Mbarara, Jinja, Arua and Gulu will be opened this year to grow its customer base and mobilise more cheap deposits from businesses and individual customers.

The group posted a 25 per cent year-on-year net profit growth last year, rising to \$249.7 million from \$206.8 million the previous year. Mr Kolapo attributed the growth to prudent cost control coupled with the bank's lending and risk management policies. [\(Back to top\)](#)

## **Movable property may become collateral in South Sudan soon**

*South Sudan News Agency (SSNA) Juba, 25/6/2013* – It may soon be possible for business people in South Sudan to borrow using movable property such as cars and equipment as collateral.

This was revealed last Friday during a workshop held to deliberate the Draft Movable Property Security Bill, 2013. The workshop held at Home and Away Business Centre, Juba, was officiated by the Undersecretary of Ministry of Justice, Hon. Jeremiah Swaka to discuss a framework that can facilitate the private sector to access credit using movable property as collateral.

In his opening address, Hon. Swaka said that Friday marked another day of working towards a better regulated environment. He explained that secured transactions were important because most people were unable to work within the regulated environment adding that financial institutions of the day leave most people outside the circle due to the lack of capacity to borrow or secure transactions.

He said that secured transactions bill would add an important step in helping business people in to secure funds adding that this touched on 90% of the population. He acknowledged the assistance of the IFC and World Bank who he said had been working both with the Government and private sector in this effort.

In his remarks, the SSBF Representative Mr. Vincent Onwak said that the Financial Services Working Group of the Forum had found that in the absence of immovable property, financial institutions were reluctant to give loans and that an additional impediment was the lack of commercial courts. He said that this bill provided a platform to overcome these hurdles by providing the necessary legal channels.

During the presentation, IFC's Senior Transactions Specialist, Mr. Alejandro Alvarez de la Campa emphasised the necessary preconditions for secured implementation of secured transactions as: an appropriate legal framework, a collateral registry, skills acquisition and the interest of banks and other financial institutions. He cited a number of African countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Rwanda that had already implemented secured transactions lending.

The vibrant discussion session dwelt on concerns of hosting secured transactions registry, use of intangible assets as collateral, enforcement issues and the attendant potential for conflict during enforcement as well as partial credit repayments. Also raised was the question of determining the value of collateral given depreciation factors and other risks.

The consensus among participants in the workshop was that the Ministry of Justice should host the Registry and details of the exact directorate involved would be worked out.

The workshop was attended by a cross section of participants drawn from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment, the Central Bank, commercial banks and representatives of the South Sudan Business Forum and IFC and World Bank staffers. [\(Back to top\)](#)

## **High fuel prices recorded in Jonglei State**

*Gurtong.net Bor, 25/6/2013* – Businessmen in Jonglei State have been significantly affected following an increase in fuel prices.

Speaking to Gurtong on Monday, the chairperson of Agalla Company Ali Abdalla said that 200 litres of fuels costs 1,450 South Sudanese pounds in their centre.

“In the Market one drum (200 litters) of fuel cost 1,500 South Sudanese pounds but from here we do sell it at cost of 1,450 South Sudanese pounds,” Ali Abdalla told Gurtong.

Abdalla said that after the independent of South Sudan the company that was operating was receiving its fuel from Khartoum through river transport.

Ibrahim Alteiep has said that Agalla Company is a small business formed by the 35 porters after the independence of South Sudan from Sudan government after the former company that was operating at the river side moved their services back to Sudan.

Company members contributed money and bought the empty drums of fuels for so that they can continue selling the fuel at the river side.



“We were porters already here at this port, so if there is anything that may give us money as well than we can own it too,” he said.

High fuel prices have led to the closure of the Jonglei State Power Station at Bor in July last year.

And according to the Director of Jonglei State Electricity Simon Reath, Jonglei State power station has been experiencing fuel shortages for the last six months, hence affecting operations.

“We have requested state authorities to take over the station by providing us with fuel for our generators,” said Reath.

He said his team will meet the Commissioner of Bor County together with some state officials to discuss modalities to resume operations at the station.

The revenue collected from the station will then be shared with the state government after an agreement is reached.

But there has been no any step taken between state government and the power station authorities since last year.

“Eighty percent of the revenue will be given to government and 20 percent will be for staff services”, he said.

Fuel prices in South Sudan have increased in recent months following the oil pipeline closure in January 2012. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **South Sudan joins 40 other countries in movement to tackle malnutrition**

*Gurtong.net Juba, 26/6/2013* – South Sudan together with UN agencies has today launched a move to join 40 other countries to Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) in the fledgling nation.

A high level mission comprised of key UN agencies – UNICEF, WHO, FAO and WFP are in the country to mobilize and leverage partnerships and commitments from the government and stakeholders towards developing a road-map to introduce the SUN movement in South Sudan.

According to UNICEF, the move is objectively aimed to mobilize and leverage partnerships and commitment from the government, donors, UN agencies, NGOs and Faith Based Organizations, civil society and private sector towards developing a road map of introducing the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) in the Country.

UNICEF describes malnutrition in the country as “critical public health concern” where estimated 200,000 children under five are at risk of being malnourished. WHO, FAO and WFP have also joined the campaign.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Yatta Lugor, the Deputy Minister of Health said that; “the problem of under-nutrition is significant here-South Sudan, where 31% of children under-five are stunted and 23% wasted with wide variations across the 10 states.”

“Introduction of SUN would go a long way in combating the situation of nutrition in the country,” Yatta added calling for integrated and comprehensive policies and programming work frame South Sudan needs to address under-nutrition especially stunting in line with SUN framework.

The SUN movement is a new effort to eliminate malnutrition in all forms. It is founded on the principal that all people have a right to food and good nutrition. The global movement was launched in 2010 to support a framework for scaling up actions to address under-nutrition and the funding needed to support them. 40 countries have already joined the movement.

Toby Lanzer, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan said that; “a critical aspect is proper nutrition among children” who are a nation’s future. “We need concerted effort to tackle malnutrition,” he said, adding that UN agencies will accelerate their efforts to support the government in this important initiative.

Malnutrition is a critical public health concern in South Sudan where an estimated 200,000 children under-five are at risk of being malnourished. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates are also regularly above the WHO emergency threshold of 15%. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **With German help, S. Sudanese tries hand at film**

*Voice of America*, 25/6/2013 – When the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development put out a call in December for aspiring young filmmakers to make movies about life in South Sudan, Mary Kadi Manoah stepped up with an idea based on her own experience about returning home after the end of the Sudanese civil war.

"When I came back, I felt this is my country but at the same I felt out of it because everyone treated me different, everyone called me names," said Manoah, 27, who works as a reporter at a local South Sudan television station.

"So when they asked me to come up with an idea for a short film, this is what came to my head first," she said.

Like four other amateur filmmakers who answered the call to make a movie, Manoah was given \$650 and two months to make her film.

She produced "Clash of Cultures," which tells the story of a young woman who gets into an argument with friends over her style of dress -- they think it's too provocative for South Sudan.

Simon Bingo made another of the films. He said he wanted his film to address issues in South Sudanese culture that are often swept under the carpet, such as child marriage.

His film, called "Dowry of Life", is about a young woman who continues to have an affair with the man she really loves, even after she is forced by her parents to marry a wealthy man. The young woman's actions eventually have disastrous consequences.

"Just assume you are forcing yourself to get married to a lady that you don't love. How would you feel?" Bingo said.

"We are trying to discuss with our own people, our own South Sudanese -- please let us value women, let us try to give support to our own young sisters so that they can get a bright future ahead."

"Dowry of Life" was Bingo's first foray into film. Working on the film has inspired him to pursue a career in filmmaking, and to move forward with his dream, he is trying to find the money to buy a camera and editing equipment.

Bingo and the four other young filmmakers are optimistic about their futures. Their films were screened at the Black International Cinema Berlin festival in the German capital last month, and in Juba this month at an event called "The Making of Juba Youth."

Deputy Minister of Education Rebecca Joshua Okwaci has called them pathfinders and expressed the hope that more young people in South Sudan will be given the opportunity to develop their artistic talents. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **EAC leaders agree to build oil pipeline**

*The Daily Monitor*, 26/6/2013 – Uganda yesterday agreed with Kenya to develop the oil pipeline to Lamu Port, dropping an earlier option of using Mombasa or Dar es Salaam which is a longer route and more expensive.

In a memorandum of understanding read by the Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Sam Kutesa, after the meeting between Presidents Museveni, Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and Paul Kagame of Rwanda, the pipeline would be extended to Rwanda.

"It was agreed that we develop two oil pipelines, one pipeline that currently exists and brings products from Mombasa to Eldoret should be extended to Kampala and Rwanda. That pipeline will be configured such that it has to have a reverse mechanism so that when we have our own finished products, it can pump those products backwards," read the memorandum.

"Another pipeline will be constructed and will be for evacuation of crude oil when it starts flowing and this again will be done between Uganda, South Sudan and Kenya, ending up at the port of Lamu,"

Mr Kutesa also said the three countries have agreed to mobilise resources to construct a railway line from Kenya through Uganda to Rwanda.

'It was agreed to revamp the existing railway network and also construct a standard gauge railway line in Kenya and Uganda and also extend it to Rwanda,' he said.

This, according to President Museveni, would reduce transport costs of goods from Mombasa to Uganda and Rwanda.

When asked why Tanzania and Burundi, the other two members of the community, had not attended the meeting, President Museveni said: "Even if you are two or three, you still talk about EAC issues."

### **The specific tasks**

Each country was given specific tasks to follow up and achieve the proposed economic projects. Rwanda is supposed to fast track the implementation of one East African Identity Card and single tourism visa.

Uganda will spearhead the construction of the railway and the oil pipeline refinery while Kenya will oversee the construction of the oil pipeline.

Mr Kutesa said the three heads of state agreed to meet every two months to assess the progress of the massive economic proposals.

When asked whether he would go to the International Criminal Court for trial, President Kenyatta said he was not in Kampala to discuss the issue.

President Museveni also refused to comment on the visit of President Barrack Obama to Africa. "Obama was not part of our programme," he said. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **'Fuel price rise may impact on commodity prices in Sudan'**

*AllAfrica.com Khartoum, 25/6/2013* – The Sudan Parliament has given the green light to the Executive Authority to increase fuel prices, the knock-on effect of which may be a new rise in commodity prices.

A source has revealed that Parliament has agreed to increase the price of petrol and diesel; indicating that the decision would be implemented within the next few days. Petrol will be increased first, followed by diesel.

However, the National Consensus Forces (NCF), a coalition of Sudanese opposition parties attempting to remove the National Congress Party (NCP) from power, has rejected the decision.

The NCF media spokesman Kamal Omar explained to Radio Dabanga that the government's decision to lift subsidies on fuel and electricity is in fact placing new burdens on the poor.

"The purpose of the move is to generate revenue for the regime's treasury," says Omar. "This is to overcome the government's failure to create stability in the country due to the wars," he asserts.

"These goods are not subsidised and that this decision intends to raise their prices. This will result in raising all the prices in the market. The question is how citizens who depend on one meal a day will be able to afford the new burdens," he said.

Omar pointed out that these government measures "might actually play into the hand of the 100-day plan announced by the opposition forces to topple the Al Bashir regime". [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **U.S. incoming National Security advisor vows to maintain focus on Sudan**

*Sudantribune.com Washington, 25/6/2013* – The United States ambassador at the United Nations Susan Rice vowed today to continue having north and south Sudan as priority in her new role as president Obama's National Security adviser .

Rice, who will assume her new post next week, said that improved relations with Khartoum is contingent upon the latter "meeting the most fundamental obligations to its own people".

The U.S. official also noted the suspension of an invitation extended to Sudan's presidential assistant Nafie Ali Nafie as announced last week by Washington.

"What we have seen tragically in Darfur and more recently in the Two Areas [Blue Nile & South Kordofan]—and now with Sudan's violation of the September 27th Agreement with South Sudan reflected in their decision to suspend oil flows, which are not meant to be suspended under the



September 27th Agreement but only for technical reasons, not for political reasons—is discouraging and has certainly shaded our view of the timeliness of such an encounter [with Nafie]" Rice said in a press conference at UN headquarters in New York.

"We remain in communication with the leadership in Khartoum. We will continue to do so. But there are important steps that the United States feels ought to be taken to protect the people of Sudan, which is the responsibility of the government, and those have always been central to our interest in and ability to make meaningful progress in improving the relationship," she added.

The invitation by Washington to Nafie, who is also the ruling party's vice chairman, sparked outrage among lawmakers and activists alike.

But the U.S. administration defended the move saying while it is aware about Nafie's past; it needs to open lines of communication with senior government officials in Khartoum with the exception of those indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The invitation was revoked however, following Sudan's decision to shut down the pipelines that transport the oil produced in landlocked South Sudan to export terminals in Port Sudan for it to reach international markets.

Khartoum claimed that Juba continues to aid rebels who have recently stepped up their military offensive in South Kordofan, Darfur and even launched a daring attack on North Kordofan's second largest town of Um Rawaba.

The Sudanese government downplayed Washington's decision saying that they were not the ones who asked for the invitation.

But the U.S. asserts that conflicts in Abyei, Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan have prevented any move to normalize ties. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Sudan warns expelled aid groups against attempting to re-enter**

*Sudanriune.com Juba, 25/6/2013* – The Sudanese ruling National Congress Party (NCP) has warned foreign aid groups that were expelled from the country against attempting to enter areas in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states without Khartoum's permission.

The NCP's secretary of organizations, Adil Awad Salman said in press statements on Tuesday that some organizations which had previously worked in Sudan and were booted out due to violating government's policies are currently trying to sneak into the two states which are the scene of fighting between the army and rebels.

He claimed that these groups are seeking entrance through political bodies and people with connections to rebels in order to collect information on the humanitarian situation in Sudan and fabricate reports with the help of world powers and organizations such as Amnesty International and Transparency International.

Salman added that those reports will be used to place more pressure on Sudan and its foreign policy and said that they will not tolerate violating Sudan's political and legal sovereignty, describing it as "red line".

The NCP official revealed a new strategy for civil society organizations that is in line with the government's policies regarding human rights work in Sudan and underscores permanently banning any groups which support rebels from entering the country. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **Obama to Discuss Trade, Investment in Africa**

*Voice of America, 25/6/2013* – U.S. officials say Sub-Saharan Africa is a center of global growth, home to many of the world's poorest people, and a place where U.S. business investment and trade could help boost economic expansion. U.S. President Barack Obama is headed to Africa along with key U.S. economic officials and will meet American and African business executives.

Economists say many of the world's fastest-growing economies are in Africa, and the potential for future growth - particularly outside the resource sectors - is greater than it has been in decades. Trade within Africa and with the United States is up and could grow more.

U.S. officials say rising African incomes and a growing middle class could boost demand for American-made products, and help create jobs in the United States.

But China has more trade with African nations, and some critics of U.S. policy say Beijing has made the continent more of a priority, and rarely imposes the kinds of political conditions on investments that come with some U.S. deals.

New U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman says American companies offer deals that build a future.

"Africa wants investors, particularly American investors. They like the fact that when American companies invest, they hire, train and promote local staff, they invest in the communities and they're focused not just on taking resources out of Africa, but also in investing in human resources in Africa as well." said Froman.

Froman says these investments are not charity but "hard-headed" profit-oriented deals that participants expect to pay off.

The United States and other donors continue to send aid to help Africa's poor. Froman says the flow of investment and trade is a critical part of the U.S. development strategy to reduce poverty.

"We need trade, not just aid; investment, not just assistance," he said.

The agenda for the trip includes talks on improving the rule of law. Companies say they are much more likely to succeed, grow and hire people if they have effective and predictable courts to settle business disputes.

Trade officials say they will discuss efforts to improve regional trade. One idea is to streamline the sometimes complex and slow process of paying tariffs on exports moving through Africa's many nations, a problem that discourages exports and hurts economic growth. [\(Back to top\)](#)

### **More rough times ahead for South Sudan!**

*South Sudan News Agency (SSNA) 25/6/2013* – Off recent everything and everyday has come to look the same for South Sudan before even celebrating its second Independence anniversary. Under President Salva Kiir's leadership, the peoples' hopes for an agrarian society have long evaporated while his Excellency continues to hire and fire and rehires and fires again. Does he really have anything to show for?!!

Eventually a new country is brought to an abrupt halt as a result of incapacity right in the top office. Today neither the country's internal politics nor its external engagements are any closer to its peoples' expectations. For in both cases the thermometers have persistently recorded very high reading, especially so lately when scales seem to offer no any assurances.

The strained relationship between Juba and Khartoum continues to dominate the news headlines. And as things are far from being rosy, there are every reason to predict that president Kiir's administration is yet to face huge challenges ahead, as it struggles to adjust amid all these hiring and the firing drama of senior officials and ministers alike.

First this administration is not doing well to secure the future of the country's Oil industry which represents over 98% of the revenues. Kiir has been to China last year, and he was referred back to sort out things with al Bashir. Not too long he was also in Japan, and no much was heard, with exception of the old wild talk about a certain Toyota company which accepted to build the pipeline to Lamu. Nothing new!

Secondly this government's performance in the field of Human Rights will continue to strain relationship with the international community which has for a very long time, carried the burden of filling in the gaps in the weak economy and rudimentary service sectors.

The US administration and the Communist China are all working day and night to deter Al Bashir of Sudan from implementing his declared threats to shut down the oil pipelines. As things stand now, one can say that President Kiir can only pray for the goodwill of these two superpowers to pressure Khartoum into reversing its hostile position on South Sudan's Oil industry.

With China, it's of course business and truly business without attaching any of those strings like Human Rights Records or Good Governance, issues often brought to the table when Western governments deal with Sudan and South Sudan and in line with their policies towards most third world countries.

For this reason alone, it can be said that whether the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) enters Khartoum and takes over the seat of power or it is the other way round with the ruling NCP succeeding in putting an end to the country's many rebellions or /and completely eradicating the indigenous people in the Nuba Mountains, Darfur, or the Blue Nile Region, all these could be Okayed by China as long as they never impact negatively on its multibillion dollar business investments in the country.

While the South Sudan and Sudan relationship are important for the Chinese interests in the region, it cannot be overstressed that they too [Chinese], like it is case with the above scenarios, see no point in favoring one side over the other after South Sudan has become a sovereign state, run from Juba and not Khartoum any more.

The Chinese need the Oil, which is mainly produced in the South, and can only at the present be transported through the Chinese built pipelines across the North, for export to China and elsewhere. In this case, the best that China can do as a way to safeguard its investments, is to discourage and disapprove any of the very frequent political brinkmanship that characterizes the North Sudan and South Sudan relationship.

It's in China's interest if the two Sudans can rather take their historical hostilities away from the Oil industry or other areas where Beijing has, and is planning to invest. If the Sudanese and the South Sudanese fail to see the relevancy of sticking with programs that will alleviate the sufferings of their poor citizens, and rather engage in promoting border warfare and subversive activities to undermine the sovereignty of the other, then China for its own interest will be forced to discipline the two.

On the other hand, the Western governments and especially so, countries like the US, UK, Norway, although all had directly invested heavily in the wake up to South Sudan's independence, they are all terribly disappointed with this new country's record on Human Rights and Good Governance.

Reports, year after year from the Human Rights Watch (HRW), the International Crisis Group, the Center for Journalism Studies (CJS), and the US State Department, are all critical of the performance of Salva Kiir Mayardit's government on Human Rights which has persistently been characterized by gross violations.

As a concerned South Sudanese citizen, it doesn't in any way take me by any surprise to read the numerous reports about my country's appalling Human Rights records under President Salva Kiir's leadership. Nonetheless these reports as written by the international bodies and other foreign countries friendly to South Sudan are to be seen as signs of concern by South Sudan's friends and all those well-wishers.

It also encourages the people that their plights have really reached the international community, thanks to the development in the ICT; no death in the most remote parts of the world can go unreported. But as the deaths after deaths [e.g. Engineer John Luis Silvino, Isaiah Abraham, and many others] have now been brought to the attention of the world and rightly acknowledged as extra judiciary killings, the next step would be to hold the president and his executives responsible and work hard to bring them to the book.

Did I hear someone mention the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague? Yet the people of South Sudan expect these countries like USA, Britain, Norway and others to do more than just condemning Salva Kiir and his government for running not only a police state, but in fact presiding over slaughter houses being manned by butchers who relate to the president through kinship, and patronage.

It's true that corruption and graft are ubiquitously practiced at all levels of Kiir's government, and be reminded that these vices were allowed to take root by design. President Kiir and his cronies, planted it, then nurtured it and are now harvesting its fruits. Everything here happens for a reason as designed by His Excellency.

And it can no longer be held as a secret that President Salva Kiir Mayardit had planned to buy loyalties in order to cling to power. This, he has made by many other ways, including handing out millions of dollars of the public money to his associates, kinsmen, loyalists and cronies.

He also had over the past years, been very reluctant to prosecute his ministers and executive officials who were accused of grafts in the millions and billions of dollars. This has been the situation throughout his tenure in office over the past eight years. He was clearly avoiding any attempts that could be seen as stirring the political waters within and without the SPLM party, as his way of buying loyalties, the old fashioned Jallaba style. But this must end, and so must Kiir's term in office ended as well, come 2015.

No one can be made to accept the president's latest move to fire two of his most senior ministers- Deng Alor and Kosti Manibe, just like that and without asking even the most basic questions, like why now and not before? Whatever that thing which forced Salva Kiir to part ways with these two senior comrades, has more to do with Kiir's own survival in power and as a person than it is to do with the good of the Country.

This being the case, whatever the president's hopes to avoid by sacrificing, both Alor and Manibe must for sure be something very huge and an imminent danger. It must also be so huge, that preventing it can only be by sacrificing Hon. Deng Alor & Hon. Kosti Manibe. In other words only sacrifices of their calibers were necessary to secure the redemption of whoever was (were) to be redeemed. If it is true that everything in politics has a price, then the price being paid by the SPLM rulers through their sacrifice of two of their most senior members is so big that it can never go unnoticed.

However the track records and history of this leadership, past and present, have undoubtedly pushed SPLM's friends before the enemies to pass a very strong verdict against Salva Kiir and his leadership style, both of which are now beyond human redemption. And completely unredeemable as it is, and by all standards, this government is heading towards a self-inflicted disaster of the implosion type...

As stated somewhere in this article, President Salva Kiir lacks both the political shrewdness and the necessary pragmatism to settle the border demarcation stalemate with Khartoum. Nor is he a visionary leader to guarantee a steady flow of his country's Oil to the world markets, through Port Sudan, Lamu, Mombasa, Djibouti or otherwise. Talking without taking actions is NOT being visionary!

Whatever that president Kiir is up to in his last days in office, will NEVER buy him the trust he has so far lost. And when you look far on the horizon, you can only see more hard times ahead for a leader who has nothing more to offer! Is it not time that he calls it a day and packs! [\(Back to top\)](#)

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### **What could convince voters in 2015?**

*Sudantribune.com* 25/6/2013 – As we are approaching the 2015 elections, politicians are campaigning either openly or secretly. The potential voters are grouping behind their preferred individuals in what seems to be undemocratic manner. This has made some people, even in the international community, worry that elections in South Sudan in 2015 will end up dividing the country and cause chaos that would affect development.

But it is likely that the experiences after the 2010 elections have taught some intelligent leaders that rebelling because of losing elections does not make you get the seat you want. Because of this experience, the candidates who will lose elections in 2015 might not rebel against the government like George Athor and David Yau Yau did. They might work hard to win the next elections like many contestants in other democracies do.

Yet, the political aspirants who have high chances of winning in 2015 will truly be disappointed if they lost elections even though they will not rebel. To prevent this disappointment, it is better to know now what would convince South Sudanese to vote for any political aspirants in 2015.

In my personal understanding, what would make some aspirants lose elections in 2015 could be their own mistakes and the mistakes of their supporters. It is clear now that the top aspirants for president are relying on strategies that may not help them. If you read carefully, you will see that South Sudanese are

divided into two major strategic beliefs. Each side is convinced that its strategy will work for its candidate in 2015.

The first belief is that being a member of the SPLM party will guarantee you the winning of the upcoming elections. This belief is based on the past realities. We know during the 2010 elections, for example, that being the SPLM candidate guaranteed many people their current political positions regardless of their individual popularity or lack of. Being an independent candidate in 2010 was equated with rebellion by people who just came out of war where political disagreement was often equated with treason.

Still, there were some areas in which this kind of belief never worked. In those areas, independent candidates beat SPLM candidates. The voters in those areas understood that political differences with SPLM party were not equal to treason. This understanding that being independent is not equal to treason is likely to increase in 2015, making those who believe in the popularity of the SPLM as their individual popularity lose positions to either candidates from other parties or independent candidates.

The reality shows that SPLM is losing its privilege of being a liberation icon. Citizens are now redefining both party and individual popularity by connecting it to service delivery. Those who do not notice this shift in definition might be disappointed in 2015.

The second belief is that tribal affiliation will guarantee somebody the winning of elections in 2015. Such a belief is not disconnected from reality. There are some examples where this belief can be justified. This year's election in Kenya is one of these examples. Uhuru Kenyatta was elected president in March, 2013, despite the fact that the Western World was threatening to cut ties with Kenya if both Uhuru and William Ruto were elected. The reason behind the threat was that both men were indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

However, Kenyans did not think like the Western World did. They were thinking as tribes, not as a nation, when they voted for the indicted candidates. Now those who threatened to cut ties with Kenya have accepted the choice of Kenyans even though they still believe that it was not the best choice. This Kenyans' belief in tribal affiliation and not in a candidate as an individual person is true in South Sudan today.

But, South Sudan could be different from Kenyans because there are many smaller tribes here that constitute a sizeable number. These smaller tribes might join hands and vote for their preferred presidential candidate, either from outside or from within one of the bigger tribes like the Dinka and the Nuer. This means the population of one tribe or two tribes will not guarantee its candidate the winning of the 2015 elections, making the belief on tribal affiliation for the winning of elections like it happened in Kenya a misplaced one.

Based on the above reasons, we would argue that convincing people to vote for a candidate in 2015 will combine one of the above reasons with some other reasons. Tribal affiliation to major tribes, for example, is likely to work when a candidate from one of the major tribe is able to attract voters from the minority tribes. Attracting voters from the minority tribes, however, will have to go beyond the arguments we see in most of the comments today.

The comments we see today are limited to either praising or insulting of one of the two leading candidates for president: President Kiir and Vice President Riek. The reasons that are given for insults or praises of each of the above mentioned leaders have become familiar and serious readers have started to ignore them. Some comments that are intended to market one of these candidates will soon become damaging to them rather than promoting them.

The best way of attracting voters from different communities will be through action, not marketing of a candidate through verbal comments.

Those who love to see their candidates win in 2015 must advise them to turn their attentions to practical issues that matter to citizens across ethnic groups in South Sudan. It is when people see how a particular candidate is going to change their lives for the best that they will be convinced to vote for him or her. It is not what the relative to a candidate says about the goodness of such a candidate (as we often read in most of the comments under articles) that will convince the voters to vote for him or her.

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### **Bashir's Sudan: a test to the credibility of the AU**

*Sudantribune.com* 25/6/2013 – As Africa celebrates this year the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Organization of African Union (OAU) and almost a little more than a decade since the formation of the African Union (AU), Africans will ask themselves to what level the AU and its institutions have succeeded or put the continent on track of their main goal of promoting at least a peaceful Africa. In particular the commitment to achieve the goal of an Africa without conflict and to clear the continent of wars, civil disturbances, human rights violations and humanitarian disasters through African solutions to African problems may need close scrutiny and reflection.

The recent debate about ICC by the AU heads of state and government on the 50th anniversary of OAU/AU tainted the image of the continent and cast doubt about AU's commitment to clear the continent of human rights violations. As argued very well by Sudd Institute that the allegation that ICC unfairly targets Africans is not only incorrect but made mockery of the lives of Africans that were shattered at the behest of some of these leaders who applauded the motion to condemn the ICC. One would not imagine how African leaders could describe that Bashir has been unfairly targeted by ICC and how would people of Darfur feel about the organization that would make them proud of being Africans and African Union.

Although people may differ on semantic of whether what happened in Darfur is genocide or not, but most African leaders would agree that what happened in Darfur by all standards could be described as gross human rights abuses or crimes against humanity. Besides the lack of recognition of what happened in Darfur as war crimes or crimes against humanity, the AU within the provisions of its Constituent Act did not act in Darfur, particularly Article 4 (h) that allows it to intervene in a member state in respect of grave circumstances such as war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. The AUPSC has even failed to recommend to the AU Assembly as per its mandate provided for in Article 7 (e) of the Protocol of its establishment any intervention in Sudan in respect of grave circumstances in Darfur. The AU has instead ordered all its member states not to cooperate with the ICC in apprehending and surrendering the Sudanese President to the Court.

With the invasion of Abyei by the Government of Sudan that resulted in displacement of about 150,000 thousands with massive human rights abuses that resulted in exceptionally high level of the post-trauma stress disorder illness and gross human rights atrocities committed by Bashir in Nuba Mountains, the AUPSC could not investigate such atrocities nor recommend any intervention to the AU Assembly as required by the Protocol of its establishment. Even with more than one million are being denied humanitarian assistance in the war affected areas of Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile and despite the tripartite humanitarian access agreement between AU, UN and the Arab League, the AUPSC is unable to support and facilitate humanitarian actions in these areas as per its power provided in Article 7 (p) of its protocol.

When the two countries were virtually in situation of war over the contested area of Panthou (Hegilig), the AUPSC boldly adopted in April 2012 a roadmap to put the two countries on the track of peace and to put to an end the endless negotiations over the post-secession issues. The AU Roadmap provides a framework within a time-bound of three months for resolving holistically all the pending issues between the two states. In case the two countries failed to agree on any of the post-secession issues, the AUHIP was mandated to provide to the AUPSC final and binding proposals on all outstanding issues.

Since the launching of the AU Roadmap in April 2012, the two countries concluded on 27th September 2012 nine (9) agreements on all post-secession issues except the final status of Abyei and the claimed and disputed areas. It took almost six months for the two countries to agree on 12th March 2013 on the implementation matrix for the nine agreements. As the two countries started the implementation of these nine agreements, Bashir in erratic way decided on 8th June 2013 to unilaterally terminate the nine agreements in a public rally in Khartoum. This decision did not only foil the AU Roadmap but also thwarted the AU slogan of "African solutions for African problems".

On the remaining issues of the AU Roadmap, particularly the final status of Abyei, the AUHIP came up on 21st September 2012 with a proposal on the final status of Abyei when the parties failed to agree. The AUPSC meetings at the level of permanent representatives, ministers of foreign affairs and heads

of state and government all accepted the AUHIP proposal on the final status of Abyei as representing a fair, equitable and workable solution to the issue of Abyei. Despite the consistent outright rejection of Bashir to the African solution to the final status of Abyei, the AUPSC is unable to endorse the AUHIP proposal as final and binding to the Parties as per its commitments in the Roadmap.

This trajectory of inaction and failure of the AU to implement its own commitments and solutions pose a real doubt about the credibility of its institutions after 50 years of existence. The slogan raised by the AU to ensure African security by strengthening African Peace and Security and Governance Architectures to ensure African solutions to African problems remains an elusive goal. For Africa to claim the Millennium and achieve Pan African Development Goals, the AU must be bold in taking decisions in disciplining its members which are in aberration with the Pan African agenda. Sudan under Bashir is a real test to the credibility of the AU. It is to be seen whether the AU will continue with inaction towards Bashir's Sudan or will AU make history by taking bolder and comprehensive approach to the conflicts in Sudan and to bring Bashir to face justice before the aggrieved people of Sudan take laws into their hands. [\(Back to top\)](#)

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