



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

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Highlights

South Sudan's Parliament calls for review of UN Mandate

Gurtong Juba, 17/06/ 2013 - The South Sudan National Assembly has called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to review the mandate of the United Nations Mission to South Sudan (UNMISS), saying the mission is concentrating in preventing danger against civilians but not concentrating on protection.

Presented by Hon. Aleu Ayieny Aleu, Chairperson of the Security Committee in the House, the move was passed as part of security resolutions by the House following an earlier motion debated by the parliamentarians about the security situation in the country.

Aleu said according to recent estimations, at least 10,000 people die in South Sudan every year as a result of criminal acts and rebellions.

Some of the resolutions include, enacting of laws criminalizing cattle rattling, child and women abduction.

It also resolved for immediate establishment of anti-cattle rattling in Jonglei, Unity, Warrap and Lakes States.

The Yau Yau rebellion activities have been considered as a serious threat and the parliament has urged governors to be provided with some exclusive powers in dealing with such kind of threats.

The House also resolved for upgrading of the Juba International airport through avoiding all permanent storage buildings is halted around it, extension of the airport and establishment of a VIP search room.

It also urged the Ministry of Security and the government of Central Equatoria State to take proactive measures in improving the security situation in Juba, pointing out more effort be put along Juba-Bor, Juba-Nimule, Juba-Torit and the Juba-Kajokeji roads among others.

Insecurity has been on an increase on these roads in recent months. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Kiir Lifts Immunity of Two Ministers over Alleged Corruption

Gurtong Juba, 19/06/ 2013 - South Sudanese President Salva Kiir yesterday issued two Republican orders lifting the immunities of his two national ministers of Cabinet Affairs and Finance and Economic Planning over alleged corruption.

The order cited as No. 12/2013 came to effect from yesterday right after its signing by the President.

Hon. Kosti Manibe the Finance Minister and Deng Alor Cabinet Affairs Minister are all alleged to have been involved in illegal transfer of \$7,959,400 USD to Daffy Investments Group Limited. The two Ministers have been subjected for 60 working days investigations under a committee formed also by a Presidential order headed by the Chairperson of the Anti Corruption Commission Justice John Gatwich Lul and other four members.

Mr. Wani Buyu the Undersecretary for planning and Simon Kiman the Acting Director General for Accounts in the Ministry of Finance shall also be summoned by the committee to ascertain from them as to who ordered and instructed them to write to the Bank of South Sudan to transfer the money to the Daffy Investment Group Limited and as to whether they have any bad faith connivance thereto.

According to the order the money was been used to purchase anti-fire safes.

Among some of the issues to be investigated from the two Ministers includes; finding out as to who made the approval and authorized the transfer of such an amount, as to whether the Council of Ministers had resolved that the anti-fire safes be purchased and as to whether the Minister of Cabinet Affairs has the mandate to request on behalf of the government the purchase of fire anti-safes among others.

This is almost Kiir's bold public move to fight South Sudan's one great menace, corruption.

The senior deputy Ministers of the two Ministries according the Transitional Constitution have been made to act in the absence of their bosses. [\(Back to top\)](#)

South Sudan's Kiir says Khartoum using pipeline as "weapon of threat"

Sudantribune.com Juba, 17/06/ 2013 - South Sudan president Salva Kiir has strongly dismissed allegations that his country supports rebels opposed to Khartoum saying the latter was using its oil pipeline to threaten the sovereignty of the new nation.

The South Sudanese leader made these remarks last week after a series of meetings he held with foreign diplomats in the capital, Juba.

At the meeting, which was aired on the state-owned SSTV, were ambassadors from the European Union, Britain and the African Union.

"The accusations by the government of Sudan that we support rebels fighting them are not correct. We have said this over and over again that we do not [have] facilities to provide any support to any armed groups fighting the Sudanese government," Kiir told the diplomats.

He said South Sudan, being new nation, is still striving to meet the demands of its people, but remains committed to ensure that peace prevails in Sudan.

"We need the Sudanese people to live in peace. This is why we have saying the problem in Sudan needs peaceful dialogue," Kiir stressed.

Last Tuesday, the Sudanese government sent two letters, informing South Sudan of its decision to suspend economic agreements and the use of its territory to export crude oil to the international markets.

The letters, signed by Sudan's oil minister, Awad Al-Jazz indicates 9 June as the effective date for starting the shutdown process.

But Kiir said Sudan should not to use the shutdown of oil as a weapon to threaten his country, pointing out that the Sudanese rebels have a case which requires peaceful dialogue instead of war.

The South Sudanese leader instead urged his Sudanese counterpart, Omer Hassan al-Bashir Kiir to embark on a peaceful approach to the conflict, so that concerned parties can reach a comprehensive agreement.

He specifically called on Bashir to utilise the mechanisms provided in the September 2012 cooperation agreements, to peacefully resolve disputes through African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP).

The landlocked South, which has to use Sudan's pipelines and port facilities to sell its crude, has piped around 7 million barrels of crude to its neighbor since resuming production in April.

South Sudan used to pump 300,000 bpd before it turned off wells last year in a row with Sudan over fees.

In late April, Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) rebels, who aim to topple the Bashir regimetook control of Abu-Kershola in South Kordofan as part of a wide offensive that saw them briefly occupying North Kordofan second largest town of Um Rawaba.

The attack was significant given the fact that rebel activity has been mostly limited to the states of Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan. Residents said that the rebels were met with little resistance from government forces there.

The Sudanese government claimed that Juba provided the funding and support to this military offensive.

Meanwhile, the South Sudanese embassy in Washington issued a statement reiterating that its government does not provide any support to Sudanese insurgents.

“The accusations by the government of Sudan that the government of the republic of South Sudan provides support to their own rebels group fighting in Sudan are baseless and is an attempt by to backtrack and obstruct the implementation of the September 27th Cooperation Agreements between the two countries and particularly the Abyei Referendum in October 2013”, partly reads the statement extended to Sudan Tribune.

The embassy, in the statement, also accused the Khartoum establishment of supporting rebel groups within the territory of South Sudan, with the aim of destabilizing the country.

“This is evidenced by the recent activities of David Yau Yau in Jongeli state, who is still supplied weapons and logistical support by Khartoum,” it said.

Rebels who recently responded to Kiir’s amnesty calls claimed they received support from Khartoum to fight the new nation, a revelation which seems to back earlier claims from the south.

“The admission and testimony of rebel leaders such as Johnson Uliny, Bapiny Monytil and other rebels is further evidence that Khartoum is supporting rebels who are fighting a proxy war against the government of South Sudan,” the statement noted.

The weapons they brought along with them could not be obtained by these groups except with the help of Sudan as they confirmed, it added.

The Sudanese government has, however, remained silent over the rebel claims, almost three weeks after they responded to the amnesty call. . [\(Back to top\)](#)

Unrest as SPLM sacks official in South Sudan Lakes state, suspends two others

Sudantribune.com Rumbek, 17/06/2013 - The South Sudan ruling party (SPLM) has sacked its assistant secretary for political affairs in Lakes state’s Rumbek Central County, suspending two other officials for allegedly undermining the party.

The decision, officials told Sudan Tribune, was taken by the SPLM chairperson in the county, who accused those affected for being “unlawful” to the party constitution and its manifesto.

But the former secretary for political affairs has lashed back at the party chairperson, accusing him of making decisions that were contrary to the party’s constitution.

Kawaja Kau Madol, in an interview with Sudan Tribune, insisted he was still in office and mandated to perform his duties, until proper procedures are followed to warranty his sacking.

The SPLM chairperson at the state level, according to Chapter XIV, Article 48(c), of the draft party constitution, shall recommend the removal of deputy chairperson, secretary, and assistant secretaries to County Liberation Council for approval by simple majority.

“In regard to my case, you did not follow the due process as required by our party constitution and as such you have to be abide by the aforesaid rules”, Madol said in a petition letter obtained by Sudan Tribune.

He however said Chapter III (9)(2) of the SPLM constitution, warns party members against racism, tribalism, political sectarianism, religious intolerance and all other forms of discrimination within the country.

"In my case, I acted within my duties as [a] member of SPLM by discouraging tribalism in fulfillment of those duties", he stressed.

Meanwhile, a document obtained by Sudan Tribune, shows the SPLM chairperson acted on order "from above" when he signed the documents that led to the Madol's removal together with the two other party officials.

In a related development, the Lakes state governor, Matur Chut Dhuol has reportedly ordered for the arrest of Malek Majok Agok, SPLM secretary for finance in Rumbek Central county for allegedly opposing the move to sack Madol.

Agok, who was arrested last week, has reportedly been transferred from police custody to the national intelligence security cell located in eastern part of Rumbek Central county. . [\(Back to top\)](#)

AU envoy accuses S. Sudan rebels of attacking CAR civilians

Sudantribune.com Juba, 18/06/ 2013 – An armed group from South Sudan, last month, attacked bases of the African Union-led Regional Task Force (FTF) and US Special Forces in Central African Republic (CAR), an envoy said.

Ramtane Lamamra, the commissioner for peace and security at the African Union, said the group attacked Obo town in CAR, before a combined force of the RTF neutralised the attack.

The 24 June incident, he said, caused tension in Bangui, the CAR capital, with the de facto CAR authorities agitating to forcefully deploy Seleka troops in Obo, after accusing the RTF troops of not protecting the local population.

Seleka is a coalition of rebel groups that toppled the CAR president, Francois Bozize in March this year.

“In view of the foregoing, I wish to underscore importance of stabilising the CAR, because the situation risks being exploited by the LRA to re-generate itself and step up atrocities in the region”, Lamamra said during the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) meeting on the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) on Monday.

He further said reports indicate that attacks and killings committed by the LRA in CAR were on the increase, since January and that the rebel group has been implicated of trading in ivory, and exchanging it for arms and ammunitions to sustain itself.

However, Phillip Aguer, the spokesperson of South Sudan army (SPLA), has denied the involvement of any south-based rebel group in the CAR attack.

“I don't think we have South Sudan rebel elements operating at our border with Central Africa [Republic]. If an attack indeed occurred, then it may have been carried out by the LRA”, Aguer told Sudan Tribune by phone Wednesday.

He said it was the responsibility of the RTF, to which South Sudan also contributed troops, to contain activities of armed elements, such as the LRA.

Meanwhile, Uganda and South Sudan governments, Lamamra told the meeting, have expressed interest in participating in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)-led stabilisation process for the CAR. . [\(Back to top\)](#)

Jonglei water factory sets up test labs

Sudantribune.com Bor,17/06/ 2013 - A factory in South Sudan's Jonglei state has set up a \$78,000 laboratory to test water turbidity, minerals, levels of Potential Hydrogen (PH) and conductivity before it is bottled.

The water plant, according to its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) previously relied on testing facilities located in the South Sudan capital, Juba.

“Now we got everything instead of going to Juba. We can just do our own here”, Majur Akoi told Sudan Tribune.

A team of lab technicians, he said, had been trained by a consultant hired to install the equipment. The technicians will test water samples during the production process.

“Every plant should have a laboratory, in order to avoid bacteria and all these in the water”, Akoi stressed.

The test should rhyme with what is on the bottle labels, such as the composition of minerals, irons, including total dissolved solid and PH in the water. . [\(Back to top\)](#)

South Sudan to take over Nile basin initiative leadership

Gurtong Juba, 18/06/ 2013 - South Sudan will tomorrow take over leadership of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) from Rwanda during a conference that brings all the Ministers of the ten members of the NBI dubbed the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) in Juba.

South Sudan Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Paul Mayom whom the leadership will be handed over to for the next one year in a routine conference this Thursday in Juba urged for full commitment of the member state in realizing the interest of the initiative.

He told journalists that the Thursday meeting among other key issues on the agenda will deliberate on the status of the Nile cooperation and how to move it forward, review progress made by NBI in the previous fiscal year and provide strategic guidance for improved efficiency and effectiveness

The NILE-COM will also review and is expected to approve the work plan and budget for the physical year 2013/2014 as well as a number of strategy and policy documents. Tackling challenges in the usage of the water resource of the Nile will also be top in the agenda according to Mayom

The leadership of the NBI rotates in the alphabetical arrangement order of the countries; Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

South Sudan was admitted as the member during the 20th regular meeting of the NBI held on 5th July, 2012 in Kigali, Rwanda bringing to ten the membership of the regional institution. The 21st Nile-COM meeting was preceded by a two day meeting of the 39th Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) from 17th to 19th June 2013. The Nile-TAC comprises technical representatives from NBI Member States and oversees the work of NBI. It also offers technical support and advice to the Nile-COM on matters related to the cooperative management and development of the common Nile Basin water resources. Among other things, the 39th Nile-TAC meeting will discuss the NBI annual management report; the progress report for the financial year 2012/2013; the work plan and budget for the financial year 2013/2014 and later present these to the Nile-COM on 20th June, 2013 for approval.

The NBI is a regional intergovernmental partnership that seeks to develop the River Nile in a cooperative manner, share substantial socio-economic benefits and promote regional peace and security. It was launched on 22nd February, 1999 as a transitional institution and continues to be led by 10 Member States namely Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Eritrea participates as an observer.

The partnership is guided by a Shared Vision: ‘To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin Water resources’. The shared belief is that countries can achieve better outcomes for all the peoples of the Basin through cooperation rather than competition. At the heart of this challenge is the imperative to eradicate poverty

Professional day to day management of the NBI is by three centers: A regional Secretariat (Nile-SEC) based in Entebbe, Uganda is the executive arm of the NBI responsible for the overall corporate direction. Two subsidiary Action Programs namely the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) based in Kigali, Rwanda are responsible for investment projects in three areas of Energy, Agriculture and River Basin Management.

In each country, the National NBI Office headed by the respective Nile-TAC member serves as the focal point for all NBI-related activities

NBI is currently implementing a five year Strategic Plan 2012 – 2016. The focus for this period is consolidating the gains and delivering benefits to Nile Basin citizens

The NBI's revenues are derived from contributions from Member States and from grant agreements with development partners namely; African Development Bank, Canada (CIDA), Denmark, European Commission (EC), Finland (Funida), France (AFD), Germany (GIZ), Japan (JICA), The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden (Sida), United Kingdom (DFID), United Nations Development Program, United States of America, World Bank (DGF). . [\(Back to top\)](#)

Prisoner tortured to death at Langcok military prison

Sudan Catholic Radio Network Rumbek, 18/06/2013-A prisoner is reported dead after allegedly suffering torture on Sunday at Langcok Military Prison in Rumbek, Lakes State.

Matur Majak Kedit is said to have died after torture and was buried immediately by the authorities in Langcok.

A source told Good News Radio that Mr Matur was accused of assisted murder during the November 2012 sectional clashes of Rumbek Central County.

Mr Majak was tried and made to pay a compensation of 31 cows.

He was part of Rumbek Central Prisons inmates who made a failed escape months ago and was transferred to Langcok Military prison as a result.

The source said the news of Majak's death shocked the family who had paid part of compensation cows as required by law.

The source added that there has been no official communication from the authorities of how he died.

The family was informed by an insider at the military barracks.

The source said the death of Mr Majak has awakened fears that many prisoners reported to have been moved from Langcok to unknown locations could be dead already. . [\(Back to top\)](#)

Court sentences three MPS to two-year prison term

Sudan Catholic Radio Network Wau, 18/06/2013-Wau Special Court on December's violence on Monday sentenced three state members of parliament for rallying behind the youth against Wau County headquarter transfer to Bagari.

MPs John Richard, Julius Benzensio, and Angelo Marcello, plus Youth leader Anthony Sokoni and three more youths, were condemned to two years in prison.

The three youth were arrested before the Wau-Bussere road closure.

Judge Buga Ajwaj Maker declared that the sentences should be counted as from the date of arrest.

The Judge also condemned another eight youths to five years of prison for jointly blocking the road and burning business trucks along the Wau-Bussere road in December last year.

He said the eight convicts were proven guilty of burning a number of business trucks on the December 9, 2012 and of blocking a public road. . [\(Back to top\)](#)

Justice Minister summoned by parliament on breach of constitution

Gurtong Juba, 17/06/2013 - South Sudanese Minister of Justice John Luk Jok is set to appear before the Council of States on Thursday this week over a "breach" of the South Sudan Transitional Constitution.

MPs voted a motion raised by Hon. John Masua, Chairperson of Decentralized Governance and States Affairs summoning Hon. John Luk Jok to give a statement on the issue of Lakes

State's Care Taker Governor Maj. Gen. Matur Chut Dhuol staying in office for more than the specified time of 60 days.

Matur was appointed in January by the South Sudanese President Salva Kiir after the Ex-Governor Chol Tong Mayai was fired.

However, as a Caretaker governor, elections are supposed to be held within sixty days to democratically elect another Governor which up to date has not happened, presenting a violation of articles 101(r and s) of the Transitional Constitution.

The Parliamentarians also have demanded an explanation on the Caretaker Governor on his decision to make a reshuffle in the cabinet.

Soon after been appointed to office, Matur immediately reshuffled the cabinet as one of his measures in action.

The parliamentarians said his decision was a misinterpretation of article 165 of the Transitional Constitution calling it illegal.

Activists in recent months had also raised critical concern over the issue.

John Luk is also expected to explain the legal background used by the Caretaker Governor to relief and appoint new Ministers. . [\(Back to top\)](#)

National assembly summons education minister over exams

Sudan Catholic Radio Network Juba, 18/06/2013-The National Legislative Assembly summoned the General Education Minister to appear at the House on Wednesday in order to attend the South Sudan Secondary School Examinations report deliberations.

The Committee of Education; Research, Science and Technology on Monday presented the report and the Assembly adjourned it naming it "incredible."

Chairperson Samson Ezekiel Ndukpo said the committee found out that no enough time was given for the preparation of the examinations.

MP Peter Bashir Gbandi said the committee members and the General Education Minister did not sign the report. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Sudan slams countries saying Bashar's killing was unintentional

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 18/06/ 2013 - Sudan has slammed the position of some countries for refusing to condemn the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) for the killing of a former rebel leader who signed a peace agreement with the government in Doha last April .

Mohamed Bashar, late leader of JEM-Sudan, a group that splintered in September 2012, was killed with his deputy Suleiman Arko Dahia near the common border between Chad and Sudan on 12 May. His group said their "peaceful convoy" was attacked inside the Chadian territory while JEM rebels on the other hand said Bashar attacked their position inside the Sudanese territory

Amin Hassan Omer, head of Darfur peace follow-up office, met on Tuesday with an investigation team formed by the UN Security Council to probe the circumstance of the death of Bashar .

After the meeting, the state minister told the official SUNA that the international Implementation Follow-up Commission (IFC) in a meeting held in Doha on 4 June called to "hold accountable JEM-Gibril Ibrahim faction and all the perpetrators of violence and to bring them to justice".

He further said the IFC underlined that the killing of Bashar and aides was intentional and premeditated aiming to dissuade other rebels interested in peace and to destabilize regional peace.

"Those who say that the assassination of (JEM- Sudan) leaders was unintentional have their own agenda and the government know about their relation with the rebel JEM which committed this crime", he stressed.

Following the Doha meeting, it was reported that some western countries, said that Bashar was killed during a battle with JEM rebels and refused to consider them as terrorist group as Khartoum demanded.

Sudan accuses some western capital of supporting the rebel groups through South Sudan and Uganda in order to bring down the regime of president Omer Al-Bashir.

He further urged the United Nations Security Council to hold accountable JEM rebels, stressing that Chad is serious in its efforts to track the Sudanese rebels and to bring them to justice for the murder crime committed in its territory.

The international special envoy for Sudan/Darfur gathered on 17 June in El-Fasher where they participated in the fifth retreat to discuss ongoing efforts to settle Darfur crisis. The meeting was organized by Mohamed Ibn Chambas, UNAMID chief and joint peace mediator.

The annual meeting included diplomats from Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, Morocco, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, United States of America, United Kingdom, European Union, African Union, and the United Nations.

The participants in their communiqué said they "took note" of the ICF's communiqué, adding that "the killing of JEM-Bashar leader Mohamed Bashar should not impact negatively on the peace process".

They also called on the holdout rebel groups to resume peace talks with the government and expressed their support to the efforts of the joint mediator to "revitalize the peace process" and to reach a comprehensive peace in Darfur.

On the other hand, the office of the Darfur general prosecutor announced on Tuesday that they indicted 18 people of the killing of Bashar and his deputy.

The general prosecutor however pointed out that they would not disclose for the time being the names of the people accused of the murder, stressing that the investigators are still collecting evidences against them. . [\(Back to top\)](#)

Shells hit Sudan town as African football cup opens

Agence France-Presse Khartoum, 18/06/13 - Suspected rebel shell-fire hit the capital of Sudan's war-torn South Kordofan state on Tuesday, the opening day of an African regional football tournament, local sources said.

They said the shells hit Kadugli in the early afternoon, ahead of the first match in the Council for East and Central Africa Football Association (CECAFA) Kagame Club Cup.

"They are targeting that stadium," a local resident said.

The venue was not hit and there were no reports of casualties.

A separate source in Kadugli said several shells struck in different parts of the town and the Sudanese army retaliated.

Football fans inside the stadium heard both the shelling and the return barrage from the army, but kept on watching the game, the local resident said.

"It has become almost normal for the people of South Kordofan," he said.

Insurgents from the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N) admitted shelling Kadugli last Friday as they targeted a Sudanese military facility.

But some shells landed inside a United Nations peacekeeping base, killing one soldier and wounding two others. Residents said the base is near the CECAFA stadium.

Neither the rebels nor the army could be reached for comment.

The rebels, fighting since 2011 in South Kordofan, have periodically shelled Kadugli since late last year, causing some fatalities.

Kadugli is co-hosting the tournament with El Fasher, in Sudan's troubled Darfur region. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Sudan's new constitution must recognize diversity – seminar

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 18/06/ 2013 – A seminar held in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi to discuss the drafting process of a new constitution in Sudan called for incorporating clauses that recognize diversity and upholds basic freedoms.

The meeting which brought Sudanese journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders and political activists adopted a "Declaration of Guiding Principles for Constitution Making in Sudan".

"Conscious of a deepening national crisis characterised by extreme political polarisation, grave human rights violations, and ongoing conflicts in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, delegates agreed on the need for a constitution that establishes a pluralistic and democratic system of governance, and one that respects ethnic, religious and cultural diversities in Sudan" according to a statement released by the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS).

"Other key guiding principles included respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, gender equality and the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women, the achievement of social justice and the equitable distribution of wealth and power, and an end to impunity and the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms," ACJPS further said.

After South Sudan became an independent state in July 2011, Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir declared that the country's new constitution will be 100% Islamic and would make Arabic the official language.

Sudan's current constitution, which was agreed in 2005 as per the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) with South Sudan, in theory recognises the country's ethnic, religious and cultural diversity.

Opposition parties and critics claim that the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) plans to use the new constitution as a tool to silence dissent and tighten its grip on power.

While several opposition parties rejected participation in the constitution drafting committee outright, some NCP officials claimed that some have privately expressed interest in taking part. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Sudan says Mbeki's proposal contains no new elements

Sudantribune.com Khartoum 17/06/ 2013 – Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) said today that proposals of the head of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), Thabo Mbeki, to resolve the recent crisis between Khartoum and Juba were made prior to Khartoum's decision to halt flow of South Sudan's oil through Sudanese territory.

Over the weekend the Sudanese government announced it has informed the AUHIP of its acceptance of the proposals.

The NCP's spokesperson, Yasser Yossif, said in press statements on Sunday that the AUHIP's proposal focused on three points including non-harboring of rebel groups by South Sudan, building the demilitarized zone and halting hostile media escalation.

Yossif further held the government of South Sudan responsible for impeding the mission of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mission (JBVMM).

He reiterated Khartoum's commitment to Mbeki's plan, saying that it represents a suitable platform for resuming the implementation of the cooperation agreements.

Tensions between the countries have escalated last week when Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir ordered the closure of pipelines carrying oil from landlocked South Sudan.

Sudan also announced that it will put on hold cooperation agreements signed with South Sudan last year on a wide range of issues that included citizenship rights, security issues, banking and border trade.

Last March the two sides also agreed on the implementation schedule for these accords.

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