



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit  
Communications & Public Information Office

## MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

TUESDAY, 05 NOVEMBER 2013

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# Highlights

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## **SPLA Command Council generals visit UNMISS**

*Gurtong Juba, 05/11/13* - About 60 generals from the SPLA Command Council yesterday visited the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) compound following the 4th SPLA Command Council Conference.

A statement from the mission said the UNMISS Deputy-Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in South Sudan/ Political and Mission's Officer-in-Charge during the absence of the SRSG, Mr. Raisedon Zenenga accompanied by the Deputy-SRSG/Humanitarian, Mr. Toby Lanzer and the UNMISS Force Commander, Major General Delali Sakyi gave a presentation describing key elements of UNMISS mandate before answering questions from the audience.

UNMISS underlined the Mission's ongoing commitment to South Sudan and some of its concrete achievements by highlighting the enhanced foot patrol campaign currently taking place in Jonglei and the tremendous work carried out by the United Nations Mines Action Service (UNMAS) throughout the country.

UNMISS also reiterated its support for the extension of the State authority across South Sudan, in full respect with national sovereignty and ownership of the Government and the people of South Sudan.

UNMISS welcomes the current dialogue and engagement with SPLA, and reiterates its commitment to assist South Sudan armed forces in achieving their current transformation.

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## **South Sudan poised to sign new deal compact with aid donors**

*The Guardian 05/11/13* - South Sudan is poised to become the latest "fragile state" to sign a new deal compact with aid donors, setting out benchmarks for peace and statebuilding.

Western aid officials say they have been impressed by the level of consultations from the South Sudanese government since the broad agreement on a compact in April. Consultations have taken place in all 10 states, from which 10 benchmarks for the government have emerged and five for donors.

"It has been quite focused. In other fragile states, there is a long list of priorities meaning nothing is a priority, so bringing it down to 10 is quite a positive achievement," said Stephan Messing, lead adviser on fragile states for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris.

Endorsed at an aid effectiveness conference in Busan, South Korea, in 2011, the new deal is an initiative put forward by the G7+ group of 19 conflict-affected countries, including Timor-Leste, Somalia and Afghanistan.

At its heart is the notion that developing countries should be in the driving seat on development strategy, with the focus on five state-building goals: legitimate and inclusive politics; security; justice; economic foundations (jobs); and revenues and services (managing revenue and delivering accountable and fair services). The thinking behind the new deal is that unless aid focuses on peace and security in fragile states, money will go to waste.

Somalia is fleshing out its new deal and installing the institutions needed to deliver it. Last month, a Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) was established to bring together Somali officials and international organisations to co-ordinate and implement financing of its new deal compact. An SDRF joint-steering committee will decide where and how aid money will be spent after pledges of €1.8bn in Brussels in September.

South Sudan is expected to sign its compact in early December. The priorities that have emerged from the consultations include national reconciliation, infrastructure and roads, access to justice and protection of civilians and human rights. For donors, better aid flows and results reporting, increased use of government systems and more predictable aid commitments are among the priorities.

South Sudan, which gained its independence two years ago after years of conflict with Sudan, experiences extreme poverty, weak and corrupt institutions, internal conflict, large numbers of internally displaced people, recurrent natural disasters and simmering tension with Sudan over the oil-rich border region of Abyei, which brought the two countries to the edge of war.

Recently, South Sudan has been hit by floods, which have affected more than 150,000 people. Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei states were reportedly worst hit. Apart from natural disasters, South Sudan has been plagued by inter-ethnic conflict in Jonglei. Dinka Bor, Lou Nuer and Murle ethnic groups have been carrying out violent cattle-rustling attacks for years. Conflict between the groups has been exacerbated by a rebellion from ethnic Murle rebels from the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army (SSDM/A).

During the long civil war preceding South Sudan's independence, Khartoum armed southern ethnic militias to fight against southern rebels. A Murle militia was one of several absorbed into the South Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). However, South Sudan accuses Sudan of supplying weapons to rebel groups in Jonglei, including the SSDM/A.

Human Rights Watch has said that since December 2012, the SPLA has committed serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, notably the unlawful killing of at least 96 people, mostly civilians, from the Murle.

"The potential for further grave violations and violence is very high, in part because the SPLA – an army still in transition – faces significant command and control and discipline challenges but also because ethnic tensions are so high in Jonglei especially anti-Murle sentiment," a recent Human Rights Watch report said.

Tens of thousands of Murle are displaced, including most of the civilians from all six main population centres in Pibor county in Jonglei; many are too frightened to return. Murle rebels have also been accused of human rights abuses, killing and abducting civilians, and destroying facilities belonging to providers of emergency healthcare and food aid. The high level of tension in Jonglei is just one of the major hurdles for South Sudan's nation-building efforts under the new deal.

Somalia faces its own security problems as al-Shabaab, the radical Islamists, shows signs of regrouping after recent military gains by Amisom, the African Union force. Officials admit that, after forcing al-Shabaab out of the capital, Mogadishu, in 2011, and Kismayo in 2012, the campaign against it has lost momentum and stalled, at a time when Somalia seeks to rebuild after decades of war.

"Al-Shabaab is a major concern," said Massing. "Even in Mogadishu, security is very challenging. Second is the political challenge – the relationship between the federal government and the regions. That has to be worked out. The South Sudan consultation was a very good process, whereas the Somali compact endorsed in Brussels was based on more limited consultations with the regions.

"The federal government now has to reach out and build support for the compact. As for the donors, they have to live up to the principles of the new deal. It's not easy but it is necessary. It is not an answer for donors to work through parallel systems, as that can undermine the national government." [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Women to fight bad inheritance customs**

*Gurtong Wau, 04/11/13* - Women in Western Bahr el Ghazal state have taken steps to fight and eliminate cultural practices such as wife inheritance still practiced in South Sudan.

The condemnation came during the conclusion of three-day Wau Diocese Justice and Peace Commission training targeting women rights in the country.

During the workshop, the floor was opened to the participants to debate on the right of women particularly after the death of her husband.

The debate took minutes as many argued on the right of a woman to decide within the late's family to inherit her in case of death of the husband.

In South Sudan, many believe if the husband is dead, the wife does not have any right on her status; it's the family of the late husband to nominate a man to take responsibility of a woman as to continue in a footsteps of the late.

In many communities in South Sudan, the bride price was paid at the wife and therefore she does not have rights.

In many cultures, it is the brother of late to take responsibility of his brother's wife or also an elder son to act if his father dies to take responsibility on rest of his father wives.

One of the participants Anthonetha Ajok said that the problems affecting women are not inheritance only but taking care of the orphans.

Ajok attributed that women suffered more locally at hands of men because men who inherit them later on fail in handling family responsibilities.

"They later care of a woman but they don't care of children whom belong to the late husband," she said adding that "we need women in South Sudan to enjoy their freedom like the rest of women in the world; we need to move beyond doing home affairs." [\(Back to](#)

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### **County court opens in Jonglei capital Bor**

*Sudantribune.com Bor, 04/11/13* - A Supreme county court, headed by a paramount chief, has been officially opened in Bor, the Jonglei state capital.

Alier Aloung, the county paramount chief, said the facility was now set to best handle all appeal cases arising from the area.

"We arranged everything necessary [for] our function on 29 September. We began with the first case on this day and passed a verdict at noon", Aluiong told Sudan Tribune on Monday.

The court currently comprises of seven people, including the secretary and five other chiefs, all appointed by the county court head.

The institution, Aluiong further said, would handle cases related to marriage, cow theft, disputes among people, in addition to others.

"The state president of the high court has now given us powers to try all the cases related to our customary laws, starting from boma levels, via payams [districts], till they reach us in the county court here", he said.

For any case to appear before the village sub-chief, the complainant has to part with 50 South Sudanese Pounds [\$11], added the paramount chief.

He further said anyone unsatisfied with the ruling of a village sub-chief could still open a case before the village chief upon payment of 100 SSP [about \$40].

"The payam [district] court would also require the complainer to 150 SSP and final the county court would demand 200 SSP", Aluiong remarked.

A certain percentage of this money goes to the county account and we use the rest of the money to sustain the courts, he added.

At least 30 SSP, according to the head chief, would be collected from each head of cattle, adding that money collected would help the court compensate aggrieved parties in marriage-related cases.

“For instance, in case of divorce, the family of the husband has to be paid the balance of their cattle after deducting five heads of cattle for each child born during the marriage period”, he said.

A wife, in accordance to the Dinka customary laws, has no right to own her children.

"If she decides to divorce the husband for any reasons, the children will go to the latter after paying fives heads of each of these children", Aluong said.

“The husband can take his child [children] after the age of two years and above from their mother”, he added. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Road blocks affect WBG finance**

*Voice of Hope Wau, 04/11/13* - Western Bahr El Ghazal Finance Ministry complained that many road blocks and check points are negatively affecting state revenue collection.

Presenting a policy statement at the state assembly Monday morning Finance Minister Lilian Rizik Velentino announced a substantial decline in state’s revenue by nearly 400 thousand Pounds this year, Voice of Hope reported.

She articulated that the state collected 640,879 Pounds in revenue compared to one million in 2012.

The Minister pointed out that the drop in the revenue collection was caused by unnecessary road blocks which discouraged many business ventures, impassable roads caused by rains and the border closure.

Ms Rizik disclosed that the Ministry planned to hold an investment forum with foreign investors in order to bridge the financial gap in Western Bahr El Ghazal.

State acting speaker Paulino Pinyi applauded the Finance Minister on the comprehensive policy statement, calling for its implementation.

MPs complained that the state budget 2012-2014 was not passed by the assembly.

MPs threatened to impeach state ministers who fail to present their policy statement to the house. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Market vendors ordered to relocate**

*Gurtong Torit, 04/11/13* - Torit Municipal Mayor, Stephen Ofsaldo Lobali, has issued a local order directing vegetable vendors, butcheries and groceries to move from Omoliha Market to Torit Model Market.

The relocation of Vegetable Vendors, Butcheries and Groceries from Omoliha Market to Torit Model Market took effect from 1st November, 2013 and should be completed within seven days, according to the standing order.

In January, Eastern Equatorial State Steering Committee screened Business persons aspiring to acquire commercial plots at Torit Model Market in Torit for allocation of commercial plots.

After the screening more than 2,000 applicants, a number of Business persons successfully managed to get over 810 surveyed plots after long struggle through a lottery technique.

The Committee established that 353 traders both with existing businesses but owning lands or plots where they have been operating and those with existing Businesses but operating in rental buildings at the old Omoliha Market in Torit, have been considered a priority without any condition given to them because they want to encourage local business people to continue with the business ventures.

There are five different categories of commercial plots’ sizes which include 5 meters by 8 meters, 10 meters by 10 meters, 10 meters by 12 meters, 20 meters by 25 and 25 meters by 30 meters.

The market was constructed by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), through the UN Development Programme (UNDP), with support from South Sudan Recovery Fund (SSRF) through donation from a Multi-Donor Trust Fund, and was officially opened in November 2011.

The governments of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Norway provided contributions to the SSRF.

The new market serves as a “model” for constructing marketplaces, with set infrastructure standards.

The market is equipped with separate blocks for vegetables, fish and meat, and has accessible storage facilities for surplus goods.

It is enclosed in concrete perimeter fence; the market has its own elevated water tank, a borehole and a pump, as well as separate blocks for wash areas and toilets.

The model market and the road equipment were part of a US\$ 2.6 million livelihoods project intended to address the lack of market infrastructure, increase crop productivity and facilitate commercial development in Eastern Equatoria.

The state is one of the three ‘Greenbelt States’ in South Sudan which the government is developing as the country’s food basket, by boosting its commercial agricultural production.

Currently, South Sudan is dependent on basic commodity imports from neighbouring countries.

The facility would strengthen local trade and commerce, enhance the market infrastructure and build the capacity of small producers and traders, with a particular focus on women.

Further, food storage facilities were built to ensure surplus goods are safely kept for selling on the next market day.

Six storage facilities were constructed in Magwi, Lafon and Budi counties with the Management and upkeep of these facilities being turned over to the women groups. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Food for all remains national concern**

*Bakhita Radio Juba, 04/11/13* - The national Agriculture and Forestry minister said food for all remains a major concern in the country and all must work hard to meet food security by 2014.

Beda Machar said food security is a collective responsibility of the ministry, the government and the entire population of South Sudan, *Bakhita Radio* reported.

He urged the educated elite and top government officials to be active participants in the production of food in the country.

The minister added that his ministry was working hard to put up policies to facilitate food production in the country.

Mr Machar said South Sudan was not free from all sorts of calamities affecting the world including flooding from climatic changes that greatly affected food production in the country.

He said South Sudan was already undergoing flooding.

The minister added that the government already established a committee to address floods in the country.

Mr Machar said the government was working hard to preserve food for citizens and sought assistance from its agencies to rescue hunger in the country. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Unity state to take action against oil companies over pollution**

*Sudantribune.com Bentiu, 04/11/13* - Authorities in South Sudan's Unity state say they are introducing tough measures against oil companies to stop oil producing areas from becoming pollution.

Most of Unity state's oil wells are reported to have leaked during the rainy season, which runs from April to November, threatening the health, livelihoods and lives of those living near oil wells.

Oil companies operating in Unity state have discouraged communities from living in the proximity of oil fields and advised people to stop drinking pond water for their own safety.

An oil task force - comprised of journalists from South Sudan funded by Norwegian Peoples Aid aiming to increase awareness among people living in the vicinity of Unity state's many oil fields - said on Friday that negligence by oil companies can have dangerous environmental consequences.

Benjamin Majak Dau, Unity state's acting information minister, said the government is doing what it can to inform its citizens about the dangers of living near oil-producing areas. Dau says authorities are training community leaders to take lead in raising awareness.

Unity state has discovered that a lot needs to be done in terms of "regulations" and "environmental assessment". He added that the government has raised concerns about the "great deal of damage" in counties producing oil.

"We had also appeal to them for more awareness to be exerted to our civil population", said Dau.

The minister says the government is encouraging locals employed at oil companies in Unity state to form their own union in order to send faster and more accurate messages of awareness to the communities living near areas of production.

Benny Ngor, the deputy field production manager for the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company (GNPOC), confirmed that due to poor management was contributing to an unsafe environment.

Ngor says the majority-Chinese-owned oil company is doing its best to provide clean water to residents and was learning from how leaking from oil wells found its way into pond water that is used for both animal and human consumption.

Unity state's information minister said the company is concerned about health of people in the surrounding communities.

The leaks may have contaminated "a lot of areas and during [the] dry season most of our cattle and some people are drinking from those ponds", minister Dau said.

However, Ngor maintains that GNPOC are taking the lead in discouraging people from drinking pond water in order to avoid future contamination.

He added that some of the oil fields near the border between Sudan and South Sudan were damaged during conflict in April 2012 and are yet to be properly repaired. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Ugandan traders attempt to block S. Sudan's bid to join EAC**

*Sudantribune.com Kampala, 04/11/13* - A group of Ugandan traders has dragged five members of the East African Community (EAC) before the regional court, seeking to block South Sudan's entry into the bloc.

The traders through their lobby, Uganda Traders Association of South Sudan (UTASS), argue in a suit filed in October before the East African Court of Justice, that South Sudan does not meet the requirements expected of states applying to join the EAC.

The traders have sued the Attorney Generals of Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Burundi, Tanzania and the Secretary General of the EAC over the matter.

"We are saying before South Sudan is admitted they should clean up their house", said Patrick Walusimbi, Chairman UTASS in an interview with *Sudan Tribune* on Monday.

Walusimbi says South Sudan's national government, the state governments and several influential individuals in the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) owe members of his association \$14.8 million, which they allegedly declined to pay.

"We need to be paid. We need justice. There are several traders who supplied goods in South Sudan but have not been paid. South Sudan should also improve on its human rights record", said Walusimbi.

"In some instances, we have clear cases with clear judgments by South Sudan courts ordering that we be paid but these judgements have not been enforced by the South Sudan government. It is the reason we have gone to the East African Court of Justice", he added.

The traders, their chairman said, previously channeled their grievances through the Ugandan government, but the latter reportedly proved unhelpful.

"We have been complaining for a long time. Now is time for action", he stressed.

Walusimbi said the goods that have not been paid for in South Sudan were supplied by Ugandan traders between 2005-2009.

The EAC is a regional intergovernmental organisation with headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The body comprises of Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda.

South Sudan applied to join the community shortly after attaining independence from Sudan in July 2011.

Member states will begin discussions on South Sudan's admissions on Thursday this week.

The East African Treaty requires that members accept the "community as set out in the treaty; adhere to good governance, democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights; and establishment and maintenance of a market driven economy" as conditions for joining the community.

Last month, foreign affairs ministers from Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya and Rwanda signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Kigali, Rwanda, which is expected to boost business among partner states.

"I declare that those with Rwandan passports and the whole of East Africa will no longer need visas to travel to South Sudan", South Sudan president Salva Kiir was quoted saying at the summit in Kigali.

Analysts say South Sudan stands to gain a lot from the EAC once its admitted into the regional integration. The young nation would, for instance, have access to a market of 140 million people.

South Sudan would also be able to benefit from existing infrastructure such as roads, ports, railways and airports, an analyst noted.

However, South Sudan's admission to the community would also come at a cost for the young nation, observed a paper from the Brooklyn Institute; an US-based organisation which specialises in conducting research.

"Some South Sudanese citizens have expressed concerns about potential lost jobs, revenue, business and industry to the more developed nations of the EAC", says the Brooklyn Institute paper titled "South Sudan's Quest for regional integration".

The paper argues that fear for the loss of jobs by South Sudanese is based on the fact that literacy rate in the country stands at 27% compared to Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania which stand at 87%, 73% and 72% respectively.

Caleb Alaka, a prominent Ugandan lawyer told Sudan Tribune that the suit by Ugandan traders could throw a spanner into the works for South Sudan's application to join the EAC.

"The suit is a possible threat to South Sudan's admission because the East African Court of Justice has jurisdiction over the member states. The court will not order South Sudan



because the country is not within its jurisdiction, but it can order the partner states'', Alaka said on Monday.

Ugandan traders in South Sudan have for long complained of mistreatment in the country. South Sudanese authorities say some of the Ugandans are engaged in unlawful acts such as robbery.

But what appears to have recently caused tension between the two countries is the August order in which South Sudan's interior minister ordered foreigners engaged in commercial motorcycle business to halt the practice.

About 1,600 Ugandans were affected by the order.

Following the order, however, South Sudan and Uganda have been engaged in bi-lateral talks to address the fall-out. A planned visit by Uganda's foreign affairs minister to the South Sudan capital, Juba is still on the table. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **South Sudan's oldest tribal elder dies age 119**

*Sudantribune.com* Juba, 04/11/13 - Elder Simon Mayan Tut, believed to be the oldest elder on records in South Sudan, died on Sunday in the Upper Nile state's capital, Malakal, at the age of 119.

Born in 1894 late pursued his intermediate school in Abong in 1912 and by 1967 he studied veterinary science at the Veterinary Institute in Ethiopia.

During his adult lifetime he was known for peace advocacy among the Nuer community in particular and South Sudanese people in general.

Tut was a veteran Anya-nya I fighter and in 1980s after the 1972 Addis Ababa Agreement represented the former greater Upper Nile region in parliament.

Also known for gracing important traditional events, the late was the invited guest who blessed the reception of 'dang' or rod belonging to a Nuer prophet Ngundeng Bong, upon its return from Britain, during a reception ceremony in 2009 at Nyakuron Culture Center in Juba where president Salva Kiir and other senior government officials attended.

In his testimonies, Tut explained that he was already a big boy when Ngundeng died in 1906 in the same present day Akobo county.

The former vice-president, Riek Machar Teny, who on Sunday paid condolences to the family of the deceased, described him as a national icon as well as a senior citizen of this country with accumulated experiences during his lifetime.

Machar had earlier during the funeral of late Daniel Jumi Tongun, urged the national government to give special attention to the country's senior citizens who have attained the age of 90 and above.

Late Tut is expected to be laid to rest at Walgak in his home county of Akobo. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Khartoum and Juba postpone security meeting**

*Sudantribune.com* Khartoum, 04/11/13 - Sudan and South Sudan agreed to postpone a meeting of the joint security committee between the two countries aiming to discuss the baseline for the demilitarized security zone called zero line.

Presidents Omer Al-Bashir and Salva Kiir agreed last October to expedite the identification of a zero line to create a safe demarcated border zone along the shared border before mid-November.

The Joint Political and Security Committee (JPSC) rapporteur, Al-Moiz Farouq announced on Monday that the fifth meeting which had been scheduled for Tuesday 5 November was postponed to allow more time for the AUHIP advisory committee to achieve its mission.

The meeting was supposed among others to discuss the outcome of the AU panel on this respect.

The creation of the zero line is proposed by the African Union mediation team because the two countries did not reach an agreement on border demarcation, but they need to activate a buffer zone between the sides to prevent cross-border attacks by rebel groups.

On the other hand, the African mediation on Monday announced that the 3rd petroleum monitoring committee (PMC) began in Juba on Monday 4 November.

The committee which is chaired by the Nigerian Emmanuel Egbogah is tasked with the monitoring of the oil transportation agreement between the two countries .

Talks between the two countries within the PMC framework further aim to reach an agreement over the rights of Sudan National Petroleum Corporation in South Sudan.

When the two countries signed this deal in September 2012 they failed to agree on SUDAPET rights. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **3,500 returnees leave Kosti for Greater Bahr El Ghazal**

*Catholic Radio Network Juba, 04/11/13* - 3,500 South Sudanese stranded in Kosti since 2011 on Monday left Sudan for Greater Bahr El Ghazal.

South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission Chairperson Peter Lam Both told CRN on Monday that from Unity State the returnees are transported by land to Wau and Aweil.

He said South Sudanese and Sudanese teams together with NGOs took two months to organize the repatriation of the stranded returnees.

Mr Lam disclosed that some people decided to remain in Kosti because they were working in some farms.

He said that was their choice, but the government was encouraging everyone to return to South Sudan.

Mr Lam said the Commission is preparing to repatriate this month 41 thousand South Sudanese living in open spaces in Khartoum.

He said President Salva Kiir Mayardit directed the Finance Minister to release money for repatriating South Sudanese from Sudan. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Sudan, SPLM-N fail to meet over polio campaign**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 04/11/13* - Sudanese government and SPLM-N delegations did not meet in Addis Ababa on Monday to discuss the technical arrangements including a cessation of hostilities before to launch polio vaccination campaign in the rebel held areas.

The campaign is supposed to start on 5 November in the whole South Kordofan state including the areas controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North.

Also the Sudanese government and rebels had to sign a humanitarian truce a day before on 4 November in a meeting convened by the chairperson of the AUHIP, former President Thabo Mbeki.

However the SPLM-N negotiating team issued a statement on Monday saying they did not travel to Addis Ababa because the government delegation declined to participate in the humanitarian discussions.

"The SPLM-N learned that the Sudan government failed to travel to Addis Ababa, claiming that the invitation did not reach them. This is the second time for them to fail to attend a meeting called by the AUHIP", reads the statement.

The rebel group further urged to condemn the Sudan government for "using humanitarian aid as a weapon of war", adding they used to practice it in the Darfur and other areas in the country.

The SPLM-N said they do not trust the participation of the Sudanese humanitarian body and proposed to involve the UN mission deployed in Abyei (UNISFA) to transport the vaccines to their areas. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

## **OPINION - Do our Parliamentarians know their role in South Sudan?**

*By Peter Gai Manyon on southsudannation.com Juba, 04/11/13* - Everybody is saying, South Sudan is having a Parliament when in the real sense, we don't have a legitimate Assembly in place. We have the building called National Legislative Assembly of South Sudan but the people who are there are not representing their constituencies but rather are there for political accommodations from the ruling party.

Most of them are there just waiting for their monthly salaries and allowances, which had become a burden to the people of the Republic of South Sudan at this particular period of time.

Ladies and gentlemen, in South Sudan context there are those that have lost value in them and there are those that have dignity in them no matter the circumstances, however looking at the way our parliamentarians are doing things in the Assembly, you find that, some of them have lost value and dignity within themselves and therefore, nothing is moving well in the National Assembly as we are speaking and moreover the role of parliament is supposed to make laws and order in every Country worldwide.

We all know that, rule of law and respect for human rights observation had been violated by both Executive and States Governors in South Sudan that is why some Governors are dismissing speakers who were legally elected by the people. People are being handled based on the village way of solving national agendas in South Sudan.

When you look at the National Assembly and Councils of states, you find that no good issues are discussed people are basing things on the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) which has become too ambiguous to the Media and the people of the Republic because there is no legitimacy from the people who are running the ruling party leadership.

### **Composition of Members of Parliament**

In South Sudan, there are two Assemblies, one of which was elected in 2010 using Sudan Electoral Laws not South Sudan Electoral Laws, some people came to the Assembly based on many manipulations, some of whom came through ways that are not clear to the civilians who are the voters up to now.

That means there were no transparency and legitimacy in the election of 2010 especially the MPs who are now in the National Assembly. Meanwhile President of the Republic of South Sudan appointed some of the MPs to the Council of States Assembly.

Those who came from Khartoum had been considered to be in the Parliament and their main role is to work for the interest of one person which we all know in South Sudan context. How can national issues move when the composition of Parliament is having the big influence from the Executive?

And how can we conclude that we have Independent Legislature when others were appointed by using a decree? Where on earth can Parliamentarians be appointed by the use of decree?

People are having different opinions from the rest. MPs are supposed to represent the voice of the people that they are representing but in the case of South Sudan, things are not going that way, issue are going contrary to the point.

In the autonomous Republic of South Sudan, there are many liabilities that are holding public positions without participation that might help the indigenous citizens who are in the grassroots level. Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 to date, there is nothing that had changed from the National Assembly in Juba from the time of Comrade James Wani Igga.

Most of the Members of Parliamentarians are just getting salaries without raising a motion in one day since the history of the Country after South Sudan gained Independence. Most of them are just dozing when it comes to the time of discussing national issues in the National Legislative Assembly.

Interestingly, most of the MPs in the National Assembly lack good education background, most of them are coming from background of Theology, that means they have run away from Saving the God the almighty, a very complex issue.

We all know that as per the education context once is supposed to specialize based on his/her interest but for the case of the South Sudan, you find that most people who are in the Assembly most of them are people who were Pastors by then.

But the question now is who is going to preach the word of God? Does it mean to them that they have chosen a wrong career in this very time?

Conclusively, in South Sudan Legislative Assembly, there are Members of Parliament who were in the house for ten years without raising a motion that can benefit the people of South Sudan, most of them like my Honorable who represents me in the Assembly, never talked one day in the National Assembly. He is there just for survival and moreover people back home have no way of Communications and etcetera.

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## **ANALYSIS - Abyei pressures two Sudans for resolution**

*An Analysis by Andrew Green sourced from **AllAfrica.com** Juba, 04/11/13* - The non-binding referendum in Abyei - where people voted overwhelmingly to join South Sudan - and the ensuing celebration, has brought little immediate resolution to the long-festering Abyei problem.

Instead, the spectre of potential conflict looms between the Dinka Ngok and the Khartoum-allied Misseriya tribe, who also lay claim to the territory.

Both Sudan and South Sudan claim the 10,000 square kilometre area, which is home to the Dinka Ngok and - seasonally - to the Misseriya, who bring their cattle there for grazing.

As the Human Security Baseline Assessment (HSBA), which provides independent analysis on issues facing the Sudans, has pointed out, Abyei's grazing season starts this month. Soon the Misseriya will come into contact with some of the tens of thousands of Dinka Ngok who returned to the area for the referendum. HSBA warns this will "pose great challenges for UNISFA" - the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei.

Abyei Referendum High Committee spokesman Luka Biong acknowledged that violence is one possible - though unlikely - outcome of the vote. He told IPS a Misseriya attack could "spark a small war or escalate into a bigger war if the South is prepared to fight." But neither government is interested in another battle, he added.

Biong explained that the Dinka Ngok leadership was under no illusion the referendum would settle the Abyei question once and for all. That, however, was not really the point.

"There's a possibility this could [create] real pressure," he said, adding that officials will have to "see the consequence of what we have said." And in that they have been successful. Though they are trying, the Dinka Ngok's actions will be hard for the two governments - especially Juba - to ignore.

In the peace agreement that ended the decades-long Sudanese civil war, the Abyei community was promised a referendum to coincide with the January 2011 ballot to determine the future of southern Sudan. The south got their vote and promptly split from Sudan. But there was no referendum for Abyei.

Last September a panel of African Union (AU) experts called for a Dinka Ngok-only referendum for October this year. However, the AU backed away from the proposal when Khartoum objected to the exclusion of the Misseriya.

The Dinka Ngok leadership pressed ahead with the referendum, despite warnings from the AU that the move could threaten peace in the region. And on Oct. 31, Abyei Referendum High Committee officials announced the results of their hastily-organised, unilateral referendum to determine the future of the disputed area.

The vote only included the pro-South Dinka Ngok community and, as anticipated, the decision was nearly unanimous - more than 63,000 people voted to join South Sudan. Twelve people voted for Abyei to remain part of Sudan, officials reported.

As soon as the votes were read, leaders of the nine Dinka Ngok kingdoms signed pledges declaring their intention to join South Sudan.

Officials in Juba, unwilling to upset their relationship with Khartoum, made their feelings about the referendum known by keeping silent.

But Biong is hoping that the Dinka Ngok vote will trigger the AU to re-start negotiations between Khartoum and Juba. There is evidence this is already happening.

An AU team is set to arrive in Abyei Tuesday, Nov. 5, for a two-day visit. Ahead of the visit, they have already called for the U.N. Security Council to extend its support to the September 2012 proposal, which calls for "Abyei residents to determine their political future, and the right of continued access for migratory populations."

Bringing Khartoum and Juba to the table will be difficult, though. The notoriously chilly relationship between the two governments is currently thawing, signalled by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's visit to Juba in October.

Both countries are benefiting from the détente. When landlocked South Sudan seceded, it took with it three-quarters of Sudan's oil reserves. But Sudan retained the only pipeline South Sudan has for exporting its crude.

Early last year Juba cut off oil production, citing the high fees Khartoum was charging to use the pipeline. The issue was resolved after more than a year and production restarted in March. So far South Sudan has made 1.3 billion dollars from renewed sales, according to the Ministry of Petroleum, of which it has paid 329 million dollars to Sudan.

Dr. Alfred Lokuji, a professor of peace and rural development at the University of Juba, told IPS that in light of the current situation, both sides will "be careful about trying to escalate things" when it comes to Abyei.

The leaders of the two countries have skirted the Abyei question. They have called for a joint administration and police force for the region, but failed to set a timeline. They did not even broach the issue of a referendum, though Juba has voiced support for the AU proposal in the past.

Mawien Makol Arik, South Sudan's foreign affairs ministry spokesperson, told IPS that the government would not allow the Dinka Ngok vote to upset the improving relations.

"The two presidents have laid out a communiqué to actually expedite the Abyei administration to be set up," he said. "Both governments are not part of the referendum, so there is [no] disturbance that is going to happen."

While Khartoum may be able to get away with not immediately addressing the issue, Juba might not have that luxury. There are deep ties between Abyei and South Sudan, with many members of the Dinka Ngok serving in high-profile government positions where they are well positioned to lobby the government.

And President Salva Kiir's political rivals have already signalled they are prepared to make political hay out of the issue if South Sudan decides to keep quiet about Abyei.

William Rial Liah, the secretary-general of the opposition Democratic Unionist Party, travelled to Abyei in the days ahead of the referendum to show his support.

"We are behind the Abyei people," he told IPS. "Let the Abyei people go with this decision and we back them until the end."

While the outcome of the referendum may never be recognised, Dinka Ngok leaders may have gotten exactly what they wanted out of the vote: bringing diplomatic and - in Juba's case - political pressure to bear so they finally get the referendum they were promised.

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