



MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH 2013

SOUTH SUDAN

- UN fears S Sudan rebel offensive (*News24*)
- UN doubts S.Sudan offensive against rebels (*The Gulf Today*)
- Sudapet claims us \$1.2 billion payment from South Sudan (*Gurtong.net*)
- South Sudan says can resume oil output within three weeks (*Reuters*)
- South Sudan constitution should define term limits: activist (*Gurtong.net*)
- Senior Judge resigns, accuses chief justice of nepotism, incompetence (*The Citizen Newspaper*)
- South Sudan and Uganda police sign Mou (*Gurtong.net*)
- SPLM only party that recognizes women, says official (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Cattle keepers urged to return home (*Radio Easter*)
- N. Bahr el Ghazal politician shoots police officer (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Speaker throws MP out of state assembly (*Radio Emmanuel*)
- Commissioner warns against bridge collapsing (*Catholic Radio Network*)
- S.African Company to spearhead network provision in South Sudan (*Sudantribune.com*)

SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN

- Sudans agree to resume oil exports within three weeks (*Economic Watch*)
- South Sudan may soon resume oil exports through Sudan (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Sudan's Bashir 'accepts' summit as oil agreed to flow (*Agence France Presse (AFP)*)
- Sudan, S. Sudan inch closer to normal relations (*Sudanvisiondaily.com*)
- Integrated matrix agreement gives hope: Amum (*Gurtong.net*)
- Matrix agreement ends obstacles for deals implementation (*Radio Bakhita*)
- Umma, DUP welcome two Sudans' agreements, urge full implementation (*Sudanvisiondaily.com*)
- Russia and U.S. in tit for tat at United Nations over Sudan, South Sudan (*Trust.org*)
- Bashir calls Kiir as the latter renews his invitation to visit Juba (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Ethiopian major general named new commander of UN force for Abyei (*Xinhua*)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- SPLM-N accuses Khartoum of refusing to negotiate (*Catholic Radio Network*)
- SPLM-N blames AU mediation for only consulting with Sudanese government (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Sudanese pound strengthens slightly in wake of Khartoum-Juba agreement (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Sudan's Gezira agricultural project is failing, governor says (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Detained Sudanese, Eritreans under threat in Israel: HRW (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Africa to see robust growth, needs more inclusion: AfDB (*Reuters*)

OPINION/ANALYSIS/INTERVIEWS/EDITORIAL

- S. Sudan faithfully obliges as the AUHIP panders to Sudan & the UN cheerleads (*South Sudan News Agency*)
- We will never ameliorate under the SPLM authoritarianism (*South Sudan News Agency*)

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Highlights

UN fears S Sudan rebel offensive

News24 New York, 13/3/2013 — The United Nations has moved hundreds of peacekeepers to a troubled state in South Sudan ahead of an expected government offensive against a rebel group, a UN envoy said.

The deployment comes as UN leader Ban Ki-moon expressed concern about extrajudicial killings by the South Sudan army and its "reprehensible" downing of a UN helicopter in December, in a report to be discussed by the UN Security Council on Tuesday.

The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has moved the peacekeepers into Jonglei state, the scene of large-scale massacres ahead of a government operation against fighters loyal to rebel leader David Yau Yau.

"We are expecting a military operation against David Yau Yau to happen quite soon," UNMISS chief Hilde Johnson said.

The former Norwegian government minister raised fears that civilians could be caught up in the offensive.

"If the military operations start, as we think they might quite soon, we will have to be present on the ground to protect civilians to the maximum extent possible," she said at the International Peace Institute on Monday.

UNMISS has a mandate to protect civilians in South Sudan but does not carry out operations with government forces against rebel forces. "If the perpetrator also is the government's own army we have a challenge on our hands," she said.

The UN has about 5 000 peacekeepers in South Sudan but has had to move available troops to Jonglei because of the new emergency, and Johnson said the mission could not cope with a new crisis in the huge, remote country.

South Sudan split from Sudan in July 2011 after more than two decades of civil war which left two million dead. But on top of lingering tensions with its arch-rival neighbour, the South Sudan government has had to confront ethnic tensions and rebellions of its own.

Cattle

Yau Yau, an ethnic Murle based in Jonglei, launched an uprising last year after losing an election. He pulled out of a government-sponsored disarmament of militant groups while tensions have also risen with the rival Lou Nuer tribe.

Estimates of Yau Yau's followers; range from several hundred to 5,000 fighters. South Sudan has repeatedly accused Sudan of supplying weapons to Yau Yau, whom the government also blamed for a cattle raid that killed over 100 Lou Nuer in February. The Khartoum government denies providing weapons to Yau Yau.

Jonglei has been the scene of repeated massacres between the Murle and the Lou Nuer, including one in December 2011 when a column of about 8 000 Lou Nuer killed at least 600 from the rival tribe.

Johnson said the UN and local leaders had prevented a similar massacre in the same state on 28 January when a column of at least 6 000 fighters was detected.

The tangled divisions have been complicated by accusations by rights groups that the army has committed killings and other abuses against civilians in Jonglei as it disarms opposition groups.

The United Nations is still investigating the shooting down of one of its helicopters on 21 December by government forces. The four Russian crew members died.

Ban, in a report to the Security Council, called the helicopter attack "deplorable" and "reprehensible". The government said the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had believed the helicopter was a Sudanese aircraft delivering weapons to Yau Yau.

The report said restrictions on helicopter movements because of the incident had made "aerial reconnaissance for early warning purposes impossible."

Ban also raised concerns about "extrajudicial killings" and other abuses by the army during its clampdown on militants. These "give rise to serious concerns about the dangers facing civilians during SPLA operations," said the report.

UN doubts S.Sudan offensive against rebels

The Gulf Today United Nations, 13/3/2013 – The United Nations has moved hundreds of peacekeepers to a troubled state in South Sudan ahead of an expected government offensive against a rebel group, a UN envoy said.

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South Sudan split from Sudan in July 2011 after more than two decades of civil war, which left two million dead.

But on top of lingering tensions with its arch-rival neighbour, the South Sudan government has had to confront ethnic tensions and rebellions of its own.

After being ravaged by war, South Sudan is struggling to stem rising insecurity and transform a rag-tag ex-rebel army into an effective army and police force.

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Sudapet claims us \$1.2 billion payment from South Sudan

Gurtong.net 12/3/2013 – Sudapet, a Sudanese Oil Company is demanding US \$1.2 billion compensation from the South Sudanese government, Petroleum Minister Stephen Dhieu has said.

Dhieu said Sudapet is demanding the money as compensation for its efforts made in the development of the oil industry before South Sudan secession occurred in 2011.

However, Dhieu said South Sudan do not stand responsible for the compensation, explaining that the division of assets in the then Sudan ahead of the South secession was based on "territorial principle."

“The division of assets was based on territorial principle that any asset that is in Sudan will belong to Sudan and any asset of Sudan that was in South Sudan will belong to South Sudan,” Dhieu told the press upon arrival from Addis Ababa yesterday.

Sudapet represents the Sudanese government as the oil company both on main and upper stream sectors. It was responsible on pipeline, refinery and other facilities.

South Sudan Chief Negotiator Pagan Amum said South Sudan has called for Sudan to stop Sudapet from demanding compensation from South Sudan as it will interfere with efforts South Sudan may have to campaign for Sudan pay its billion debts.

South Sudan says can resume oil output within three weeks

Reuters Addis Ababa/Juba, 12/3/2013 – South Sudan will be able to resume oil production within three weeks and export no more than a week after that, the oil minister said on Tuesday, after the country reached deals on border security with Sudan on Friday.

A copy of the implementation timeline obtained by Reuters confirmed the date. "Resumption of production shall take place as soon as technically feasible," it said.

Speaking to reporters after returning from Addis Ababa, South Sudan's Petroleum and Mining Minister Stephen Dhieu Dau said there were few technical barriers to resuming oil output.

"We assume that we will resume as soon as possible," he said, adding it would not take more than three weeks to be able to resume output and no more than 28 days for it to reach the export terminal in Port Sudan.

Setting up a buffer zone

The timetable said the redeployment of forces from the border zone should be complete by April 5, and that the two countries should set up a joint committee by March 17 for demarcating the boundary.

However, it did not set a date for determining the final status of Abyei, a disputed territory that has been a perennial source of tension between the two sides. An administration and council for the area would be set up by March 17, it said.

Interior ministers from both countries also planned to meet on March 17 to discuss ways of opening up border crossings and easing the movement of citizens between the two countries, Sudan's state news agency SUNA reported.

South Sudan accused Khartoum of blocking trade across the roughly 2,000-km (1,250-mile) border ahead of partition. The timeline said the two should immediately start managing a "soft border" that would facilitate movement of people, goods and services.

After teetering on the brink of full-scale conflict in April during the worst border clashes since their split, the two countries agreed in September to set up the buffer zone but did not implement it.

South Sudan constitution should define term limits: activist

Gurtong.net Juba, 12/3/2013 – The amendment of the South Sudan Transitional Constitution which the National Constitution Review Commission is tasked with should clearly define term limits of key government positions, an activist has said.

Lorna Merekaje, Secretary General of the Sudan Domestic Election Monitoring and Observation Program (SuDEMOP), a civil society organization said positions starting from the Presidency, Commissions, Judiciary, and the Premier should be clearly stated.

“These elements play a lot in democratization and having embraced about democracy. We cannot leave this term limits out,” Lorna said. “If we are to go parliamentary how do we want it to be?” she questioned during a lecture on constitutional hearing held in the University of Juba.

“Is because if you look at these offices, when these leaders stay long there will be a lot of complain by the population. If we don't have term limits to me I feel that is a recipe for corruption and in that corruption

there is going to be an element of impunity because if I'm here you are not going to send me out. I can do whatever things I want to do you are not going to question because I have the powers," she reiterated.

She said; "realizing power sharing can only be done when there is an opportunity given to other people to come in with new ideology and to me I see that one as a development."

The current South Sudan Transitional Constitution has skeptically spoken about term limits. Article 100 in the constitution says that; 'the tenure of the office of the President of the Republic of South Sudan shall be four years, commencing from July 9, 2011.'

Lorna exclusively reiterated the call for respect of freedom of speech and forum should be given to the civil society so that it freely criticize and challenges the people in power. She also called for the full inclusion of the public in the process of the constitution.

The United Nations had last week echoed that, involvement of the public in the constitution making is crucial so that the law is owned by the South Sudanese and would also act as a fair stage of founding the permanent constitution.

Senior Judge resigns, accuses chief justice of nepotism, incompetence

The Citizen Newspaper Juba, 13/3/2013 – A letter addressed to the President of the Republic Salva Kiir Mayardit by senior judge John Clement Kuc through the Chief Justice announcing his resignation from the judiciary giving his reasons among others nepotism practiced by Chief justice Chan Rec Madut, lack of principles of the transparency in the judiciary, unclear policies thus making the judiciary not knowing where it is going forward or backward.

He said that the people of South Sudan wanted an "independent, competent, trusted and accountable judiciary that administers justice for all" and the core function of the judiciary according to these articles are the administration of justice through resolving disputes between the individuals and between the states and individuals, interpret the constitution and the laws of South Sudan but in the current situation, Kuc claims it is not being implemented.

South Sudan and Uganda police sign Mou

Gurtong.net Juba, 12/3/2013 – The Inspector General of National Police Services, Gen. Pieng Deng Kuol and his Ugandan Counterpart, Lt. Gen. Kale Kayihura have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set an implementation mechanism to deal with grievances of traders and the high rate of accidents on the road.

The two discussed the implementation modalities for the Kampala-Juba Highway Security Plan, when in June 9th 2012, truck drivers, transporters and traders blocked and disrupted traffic flow and normal business at the South Sudan-Uganda border.

The drivers alleged that there was torture, extortion, multiple taxation, arrest and detention without trial in South Sudan.

The Police Chiefs agreed to establish a joint monitoring mechanism to address the grievances of the traders. The two teams proceeded to sign a memorandum of understanding.

The aim of the security plan was to establish a framework for safety and security between the two countries. The document provides a joint implementation mechanism to monitor and report issues affecting safety and security along Kampala-Juba Highway.

The plan includes dividing the Highway into sectors and segments, deployment of dedicated command with personal well equipped to monitor and patrol and respond to immediate incidents.

There will be strategic technical liaison offices in both capitals and at strategic location of the Highway. With regular checks conducted about by the sector commanders of Gulu-Elegu and Nimule-Juba to ensure vigilance high visibility and sharing of information.

The Juba-Kampala Highway has killed dozens of passengers due to high speed and lack of control.

SPLM only party that recognizes women, says official

Sudantribune.com Juba, 12/3/ 2013 – The south-ruling party (SPLM) is the only political entity that has given women an equal opportunity to participate in the process of building the new nation, a party official said Tuesday.

Mark Nyipouc, who heads the SPLM branch office in South Sudan's Western Bahr el Ghazal state, said his party has increased women participation in politics, appointing them in various leadership positions.

"People say SPLM has not done this and that, but they do not say the good things which we have done as the ruling party. Even the media is not reporting fairly what the SPLM has done. All that [you] read in the media [are] negative criticisms about [the] performance of the SPLM," Nyipouc told Sudan Tribune.

The official, during the interview, likened the good deeds of the south-ruling party to that of a wife, who does the bulk of the domestic work, yet not recognized.

"Even in your house, if you do not recognize and appreciate what your wife or a child does, you will have problems", he stressed.

Gender activists in South Sudan have often expressed concerns over the inadequate numbers of women key leadership positions, despite calls for women empowerment from the current government.

The south ruling party has said it intends to increase the mandatory percentage of women in the party from 25% to 35% in order to empowering women so that in the future they will be able to compete with men on an equal basis.

The Deputy Speaker of South Sudan's National Legislative Assembly, Daniel Awet Akot told Sudan Tribune that the country had "formulated laws that promote and protect women rights".

"They have the right to hold senior positions in the government. Some of them are now ministers either at the national level or in the state," Akot said a day after South Sudan celebrated International Women's day.

"The constitution gives them [women] the opportunity to serve in any position like men", he added.

The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement stated that 25% of women in the Government of South Sudan should be filled by women, although the SPLM struggled to fill this quota, largely due to low literacy rates especially among women.

Cattle keepers urged to return home

Radio Easter, 12/3/2013 – Terekeka County Legislative Council delegation currently touring the six Counties of Central Equatoria state urged cattle keepers to return their cattle home.

Terekeka County Legislative Council Speaker Vinancio Modi Wani, who led the delegation, said the cattle keepers have to find their way home, Radio Easter reported.

Yei River County Commissioner of Juma Augustine David called on the cattle keepers to consult the relevant authorities to avoid inconveniences with the local communities.

N. Bahr el Ghazal politician shoots police officer

Sudantribune.com Juba, 12/3/2013 – A politician and retired Brigadier General from South Sudan's Northern Bahr el Ghazal state, Jal Malith Jal, is alleged to have fired live bullets at a police officer in the capital Juba on Tuesday, hitting him three times, before handing himself in to police.

The police officer, who is in a critical condition, is being treated at a hospital in Juba.

Police have not announced the result of their investigations but relatives and eyewitnesses told **Sudan Tribune** that the shooting was related to a dispute over a government vehicle Jal is alleged not to have returned after he was sacked last year from his position as a political advisor to the state governor Paul Malong Awan.

The shooting took place around the Central Pub in Juba town at around 3:30pm after a police officer confronted Jal about the whereabouts of the vehicle, according to eyewitnesses.

"They started exchanging words and I saw the police officer asking him to comply otherwise he would be dragged to the prison", said patron of the bar, who wished to remain anonymous. The witness said he saw the policeman reach for his gun and then heard the gunshots and saw the policeman on the floor.

Deng Ajou, a native of Northern Bahr el Ghazal who was also in the bar at the time said the incident appeared to be related to an old political dispute but said that the police officer could have handled the situation with greater care and humility.

"I was playing cards when the incident took place. It was like a joke. You could hear it really clear. It was like pow, pow, pow, pow," he said.

"While this shooting is notable for the fact that it took place inside town during a broad day light, there are some aspects of this incident that are, unfortunately, all too common," he said.

"I am saddened that a brave and well trained law enforcement officer has been injured in the line of duty. I am also saddened that this appears to be another example of a domestic situation that turned violent."

Ajou said that before the shooting, he shared a friendly discussion with Jal and others from the parking lot, adding that he "did not appear agitated."

After the shooting, police searched the area as a precaution. Streets around the area remained cordoned off on Tuesday afternoon. Officials said the area would remain closed, while repairs were made and authorities continued their investigation.

Another witness, Kuol Bol Chol, said he did not like the way police officer was talking to Jal before he was shot.

"Actually [the] police officer was the one who was asking for it. He was misbehaving before others. He was threatening Jal Malith with arrest. He gave Jal condition at gun point. I heard him asking Jal to choose between being shot or accept to go with him. So Jal was actually defending himself. He was not the first to shoot. It cannot happen a person can just start shooting the person without the cause. What I am telling you is the truth", Chol said.

Chol also explained that procedures used were illegal and provocative for someone with Jal's senior level military background.

"The procedures were wrong. A senior person like Jal should have been given the letter of arrest by a simple police lieutenant. Jal is a Brigadier General. He should have been sent a Brigadier General if it was someone that needed arrest. Another way was to call him in court by the court order not an order of individuals in the position of authority. I did not see the letter but I am told it was from the state authorities. And to make it worse the authorities decided to use rough officer who did not want to hear anything from anybody", Chol told Sudan Tribune on Tuesday.

But a relative of the police officer, who has been identified as Angui Amuk Guot, said he was shot immediately after handing Jal the arrest warrant and asking the former political advisor what message he should give to those who ordered his arrest.

"He was shot while delivering the letter. It is really very bad. No one had expected this to happen. We did not expect Jal would shoot Angui", a relative said Tuesday.

Jal was among the senior military officers moved from active military service and put on reserve list by a presidential decree in February.

Speaker throws MP out of state assembly

Radio Emmanuel Torit, 12/3/2013 – Eastern Equatoria State Legislative Assembly Speaker on Monday threw out a legislator.

Ambrose Emmanuel Ocholmoi ordered the sergeant at arms to throw out MP Charles Odwar, representing Lafon corridor, after emotional exchange of words between the speaker and the MP.

Odwar resistance to leave the Assembly increased the verbal battle between him and the Speaker.

Once Mr. Odwar was out, the house remained silent as the rest of the MPs feared for the next person to be thrown out.

The disagreement came after Odwar inquired on the committee set up six months to investigate him following publication of his resignation letter on the internet.

Odwar was also accused of allegedly contacting members of neighbouring counties of another state with an intention of breaking out of Eastern Equatoria to form a third state.

Failure of the committee to table its finding to the Assembly prompted the MPs to raise the issue on a day as the Parliament had no agenda to deliberate on.

According to the speaker a matter that is before a committee and a court cannot be discussed in the Assembly until it is resolved by the relevant bodies.

Commissioner warns against bridge collapsing

Catholic Radio Network, 12/3/2013 – Western Bahr El Ghazal Acting Police Commissioner has warned that Jur River Bridge might collapse and cause more dangerous accidents due to its life expectancy period.

Albino Utho Mariano issued the warning after an empty trailer on Monday night fell into Jur River Bridge while attempting to cross the bridge.

The truck is said to have brought in goods from Juba and on its way back through Jur River Bridge went off the edge and fell inside the river, but caused no injuries.

Mr Utho said the Bridge was built in 1974 by an Italian engineer and was believed to last for only 25 years.

He said the bridge is now 39 years old and is more than the period put by the engineer, warning that it might collapse soon.

Mr. Utho called for immediate inspection of the bridge as a precautionary action to avoid further accidents.

Addressing journalists on Tuesday, Gideon Elijah Malouk, Western Bahr el Ghazal Traffic Police Director explained that the truck was being pulled across the bridge at night and had no lamps to see the road.

The director directed drivers to respect the traffic orders and not to cross the bridge at night.

Many trucks arriving in Wau at late evening hours are usually prevented from crossing Jur River Bridge until the following morning.

S.African Company to spearhead network provision in South Sudan

Sudantribune.com Juba, 12/3/2013 – Airspan Networks Inc., a South African-based provider of 4G broadband wireless access networks, has announced that RCS-Communication Ltd, a seasoned service provider in South Sudan, has selected its solution for a 4G WiMAX network deployment.

The first phase of the implementation, according to IT News Africa, has already started in Juba, the South Sudan capital.

“The Airspan network shows excellent results in terms of coverage and enables us to serve our clients in areas where we were previously unable to reach them on our terrestrial network.” said Philip Gerber, the RCS-Communication Country Manager for South Sudan.

According to Flippie Odendal, RCS-Communication Managing Director for South Sudan, the company made the investment to upgrade its current WiMAX network to the latest generation technology in preparation for further network improvements and specific service offerings planned.

“Airspan was selected as our vendor because we believe their solution offers us the best scalability and widest choice of future options,” Odendal said in the statement.

Meanwhile, in addition to the macro base stations and other related products and services, Airspan is reportedly supplying RCS with a “comprehensive network management system” called Netspan,” which will also manage any long-term evolution (LTE) network when deployed if and when activated.

Early this year, an official said South Sudan plans to lay a fiber-optic network that will link the Juba with submarine cables in East Africa, in order to cut the high cost of using the Internet.

“We are targeting this year, within this year, that we will be connected to the submarine cable,” Juma Stephen, the undersecretary in the country’s telecommunications and postal service ministry told Reuters.

“Construction of fiber-optic cables will more than halve Internet prices and make it twice as fast”, he said adding that government wants to cut that cost by reducing reliance on satellite bandwidth.

Almost two years since it got independence, internet access remains a hassle in the young nation, despite several providers, mainly mobile telecommunications companies, making the service available.

Sudans agree to resume oil exports within three weeks

Economic Watch, 13/3/2013 – Former civil war foes Sudan and South Sudan on Tuesday agreed to restart joint crude oil exports with the next three weeks, reported Reuters, after production had abruptly been shut more than a year ago over a bitter dispute regarding pipeline fees.

Leaders from the two countries, met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the supervision of the African Union, where they signed the agreement allowing South Sudan oil to pass through Sudanese pipelines, before being exported via the Port of Sudan.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the key factor in the pact was an agreement from both countries to pull back troops along the countries' poorly marked, but oil-rich, 1,120-mile border; while the two countries also agreed on oil transit fees, as well as a compensatory package from the South for being allowed to secede back in 2011.

Speaking to reporters after returning from Addis Ababa, South Sudan's Petroleum and Mining Minister Stephen Dhieu Dau said that there were only a few technical barriers to overcome before resuming oil output.

"We assume that we will resume as soon as possible," he said, adding that the two countries had already ordered oil companies to restart production within two weeks of "D-Day", given as Sunday, March 10.

The oil deal comes after months, under the mediation of former South African President Thabo Mbeki, where neither party seemed to be willing to back down. Last September, in a, the presidents of Sudan and South Sudan agreed in principle to multiple economic and security agreements, including setting timelines for demilitarizing the border and resuming South Sudan’s oil exports.

Late Tuesday, AFP reported that Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir had accepted an invitation by his counterpart, Salva Kiir, to visit South Sudan, for an inter-governmental summit.

African Union Commission chief Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said in a statement that the summit would be "the next step in cementing mutually cooperative relations between them."

In a statement, the United States State Department also expressed optimism at the new agreement; but Susan E. Rice, the American ambassador to the United Nations, expressed caution, especially given the two nations’ troubled history.

“There have been many agreements signed but too few actually implemented,” said Rice, as cited by New York Times. The importance of agreements, she said, was that “they are not just signed and touted but in fact implemented in real terms promptly on the ground.”

Some two million people died in Sudan's decades-long north-south civil war, which ended with a 2005 peace deal that paved the way for the South's secession. Samson Wassara, a professor of political science at Juba University, speculated that the agreement had been the result of increasing economic strain for both sides since the shutdown.

"This time, I think the parties are agreeing under diplomatic pressure, but also under economic pressure and local political pressure," Wassara said, noting that oil used to account for 98 percent of South Sudan's government revenues.

Sudan has been suffering too - the IMF predicted that its economy shrank by 11 percent in 2012 because of the loss of oil revenue following the South's secession. According to the BBC, Sudan's government was also growing increasingly worried of a "Sudanese Summer", akin to the "Arab Spring", due to a rise in street protests.

Michael Poulsen, an oil analyst at Global Risk Management, urged markets to adopt a more pragmatic view towards the new agreement.

"Depending on the security situation, six months' time is probably a more suitable time frame [for restart]," told Poulsen to WSJ.

"In the broader perspective, it should put a small tent in prices, but as long as Saudi Arabia has this must extra spare capacity, it will not have a major impact," he added.

South Sudan may soon resume oil exports through Sudan

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 12/3/2013 – The delegations of Sudan and South Sudan in the Ethiopian capital agreed on Tuesday to allow for the resumption of oil exports that were suspended last year for disagreement on the transit fees that should be assessed.

Landlocked South Sudan inherited most of the 350,000 barrel-per-day oil reserves that existed under the once united country but can only export it using the pipelines that run all the way to the terminals on the Red Sea.

Under the terms of the implementation matrix distributed by the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), the governments of the two countries are to instruct oil companies within 14 days to re-establish production, processing and transportation.

The two parties also agreed that a review of the existing metering system shall take place prior to resumption of production, with each party conducting the review respectively within its territory as stipulated in the signed agreement.

Last year, the two countries signed a number of cooperation agreements that called for resolving border issues, establishing a demilitarized zone, implementing the "Four Freedoms" pact and resuming oil production.

But Khartoum put implementation on hold and insisted that a security portion be concluded before moving to affecting other items.

Last Friday, two sides signed a deal in the Ethiopian capital outlining on steps to implement the demilitarized zone (DMZ), removing a major obstacle in the way of other issues.

Oil is the main source of state income for food imports and the loss of oil exports following a dispute over pipeline fees has left both economies in turmoil. It remains to be seen how long it will take oil companies to prepare the pipelines for the flow of oil, a process which could take several months.

Sudan's Bashir 'accepts' summit as oil agreed to flow

AFP Khartoum, 12/3/2013 – Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir has accepted an invitation to visit South Sudan, his office said on Tuesday, after the two countries agreed to resume oil flows in an easing of tensions following border clashes.

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir telephoned Bashir with the invitation but no date for a summit has been set, said presidential press secretary Emad Sayed Ahmed.

"Yes, Salva Kiir asked President Bashir to visit Juba and he accepted the request," Ahmed told AFP.

African Union Commission chief Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said in a statement that the summit would be "the next step in cementing mutually cooperative relations between them."

Months of tension and reported clashes along the undemarcated border between Sudan and South Sudan provoked international concern after the neighbours failed to implement key economic and security pacts they signed in September.

Two summits earlier this year could not break the impasse but, early Tuesday, negotiators for Sudan and South Sudan agreed to a 16-page timetable to put the nine September agreements into effect.

Major provisions include resuming the oil flow and demilitarizing the disputed frontier.

The timetable sets a March 24 deadline for both Juba and Khartoum "to instruct oil companies to re-establish oil production", according to a copy of the deal seen by AFP.

African Union mediator Thabo Mbeki, a former South African president, witnessed the signing in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The oil deal is worth billions of dollars in revenue to the crisis-hit economies of South Sudan and Sudan but analysts say it could take months for meaningful income to reach their treasuries, because of technical issues.

Bashir's visit to Juba would be the first since he attended South Sudan's declaration of independence on July 9, 2011, following a near-unanimous referendum vote for separation after a 22-year civil war.

Independence left key issues unresolved, including how much the South should pay for shipping its oil through Sudanese pipelines for export.

South Sudan halted crude production early last year, cutting off most of its revenue after accusing Khartoum of theft.

The two nations then fought in March and April along the border before hailing an end to conflict with the September agreements.

None of those deals was implemented, over Khartoum's accusation that South Sudan backs rebels in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

South Sudan denies such support.

But under a timetable signed last Friday "both governments have commenced withdrawal of their armed forces from their common border" to implement the buffer zone, Dlamini-Zuma said.

"She stresses that this augurs well for the full normalization of relations between the two countries," the AU said.

However, a regional political expert called the buffer zone deal "a big joke" that will be difficult to monitor and unlikely to succeed.

South Sudan's deputy head of mission in Khartoum, Kau Nak, told AFP he is hopeful the deals will finally take effect because of their potential to improve economic conditions in the poverty-stricken nations.

"I'm optimistic based on that," he said at his embassy, also citing international pressure and the "destructive" effects of conflict.

The timetables also allow for a re-opening of 10 border crossings and, Nak said, should provide hope for thousands of hungry, jobless South Sudanese stranded in the north and wanting to travel south.

At last count there were more than 100,000 Southerners in the Khartoum area alone but nobody really knows how many remain in Sudan's other states.

"We still have big numbers in those places. All of them are waiting for means of transport. All of them lost their jobs. All of them lost their nationalities, and nobody's supporting them," he said.

"If these agreements are implemented there will be many options," for South Sudanese to get help in moving south, or to choose a life in the north, Nak added.

Sudan, S. Sudan inch closer to normal relations

Sudanvisiondaily.com Khartoum, 12/3/2013 – President of the Republic Omer Hassan Al Bashir, speaking on telephone to his South Sudanese counterpart, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has underlined the need for commitment to implement the matrix of the cooperation agreements concluded between the two countries in Addis Ababa yesterday.

The two Presidents, who exchanged congratulations over the signing of the matrix, agreed that the interest of the two peoples entail strong relations between the two nations.

The two Presidents also agreed to go ahead with the implementation of the matrix in a serious and sincere manner and to resolve all outstanding issues to promote cooperation between them.

Emad Sayed Ahmed, presidential press assistant told journalists that President Al Bashir accepted Kiir's invitation to visit Juba.

The two countries yesterday signed a matrix to implement the cooperation agreements they concluded on 27 September 2012.

According to Sudan delegation in Addis Ababa, the matrix signals the start of implementation of agreements between the two countries in all fields including security, economic cooperation and movement of citizens.

The delegation expressed Sudan's commitment to implement the matrix as per the timelines and in accordance with principles of good will, cooperation and good neighborliness.

In statement yesterday, the delegation appreciated the efforts made by all regional and international bodies towards this important achievement especially the AUHIP headed by Thabo Mbeki, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and the UNSG's Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios.

The AUHIP Chair Mbeki said Sudan and South Sudan agreed to issue instructions to resume export of South Sudan oil via Sudan's territory within two weeks.

The document was signed by Sudan senior negotiator Idriss Mohamed Abdel Gadir and his South Sudanese counterpart Pagan Amum after four days of negotiations sponsored by the AU in Addis Ababa. Mbeki told reporters that necessary instructions will be issued within two weeks for the oil companies to resume oil exports.

Integrated matrix agreement gives hope: Amum

Gurtong.net Juba, 12/3/2013 - The South Sudan Chief Negotiator on post secession issues with Sudan, Pagan Amum has said the agreement reached with Sudan on implementation modalities of the cooperation agreements gives hope for full implementation of the deals.

“With the signing of the matrix, now all the obstacles blocking the implementation of the cooperation agreement are removed,” Pagan told journalists in a press conference shortly after arriving with his team from Addis Ababa.

“It is our hope that now with the signing of the matrix it gives us hope,” he reiterated. “It opens for us a new page for building new relations where our two countries will cooperate,” he added.

He said South Sudan is committed to peace and has already started implementing the matrix agreement since March 10th.

The Implementation Matrix agreement which Pagan said was signed this morning at 5:15am after a long night of negotiation details commitment of the two parties; Sudan and South Sudan to fully implement the Cooperation Agreement.

The duo reached and signed the Cooperation Agreement in September 2012.

The parties have adopted the attached integrated Matrix to facilitate the coordinated implementation of their commitments as reflected in the Agreements referred to in the Cooperation Agreement of 27 September 2012.

In Particular, the Parties shall be guided by the principle of good faith and the principles set forth in the Preamble of the Cooperation Agreement. This matrix shall be an Integral part of the Cooperation Agreement.

Matrix agreement ends obstacles for deals implementation

Radio Bakhita Juba, 12/3/2013 – South Sudan chief negotiator said the matrix signed between South Sudan and Sudan has opened way to the implementation of cooperation agreements signed last September 27.

Pagan Amum Akech told journalists on Tuesday upon arrival in Juba that they have signed the timetable that has cleared obstacles that hindered implementation of cooperation agreements.

Petroleum Minister, Stephen Dhieu Dau said the oil production may start within two weeks, but that the crude will take nearly a month to reach the international market.

He added that for the oil will reach the market until the pipeline filling is completed and that will also depend on production.

The Chief Negotiator added that the matrix has assured South Sudan that the cooperation agreements will be implemented.

Umma, DUP welcome two Sudans' agreements, urge full implementation

Sudanvisiondaily.com Khartoum, 12/3/2013 – the National Umma Party and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) welcomed the matrix signed between Sudan and South Sudan.

The two parties, in statements they issued, underscored the need for the immediate implementation of the agreement including security arrangement and oil and to secure freedom of trade, grazing and legalizing the four freedoms without delay.

The Umma Party and the DUP, led by Al Sadiq Al Mahdi and Mohamed Osman Al Mirghani respectively, represent the two biggest political parties in the Sudan after the ruling National Congress Party (NCP).

The Umma Party's statement urged both countries to stop harbouring their rebels and called on the AU and the UN to set up mechanism to monitor rebel camps, stating that border disputes cannot be resolved bilaterally due to the presence of border population. It suggested the establishment of a commissioner of elders to address the issue peacefully.

The statement underscored the need for comprehensive dialogue including Darfur movements to ratify the peace agreement.

The DUP welcomed the matrix of security agreement between Sudan and South Sudan, describing it as positive. It said the party will closely monitor the relation between the two countries. The statement urged both parties to show goodwill to implement the agreement.

Russia and U.S. in tit for tat at United Nations over Sudan, South Sudan

Trust.org United Nations, 12/3/2013 – The United States and Russia traded swipes at the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday over proposed statements about peace progress in Sudan and South Sudan, with Russia's U.N. envoy accusing the U.S. ambassador of bizarre behaviour and making outlandish claims.

It was the latest in a series of tense public exchanges between Moscow and Washington, whose relations have become increasingly frosty in recent months because of disagreements over how to deal with Syria and human rights in Russia.

U.N. special envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, briefed the 15-member council on efforts by neighbouring states to implement a deal mediated by the African Union in September to resolve a conflict over oil and land.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, said the United States had been working for the past two weeks to negotiate a broad statement by the council welcoming positive developments, but also noting areas lacking progress.

"Unfortunately perhaps in the interests of derailing such a (statement), the Russian Federation ... tabled a draft statement which only discussed a very narrow aspect of the substance of the larger statement," Rice told reporters. "We objected to the issuance of a statement ... divorced from the larger set of issues."

Rice said the proposed Russian statement did not include any reference to Sudan's conflict-ridden border states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, a stalled process to determine the final status of disputed territory Abyei or cross border incidents, including air strikes by Sudan in South Sudanese territory.

Khartoum has denied carrying out air strikes in South Sudan.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, president of the Security Council this month, said he proposed a short statement to welcome progress made by Sudan and South Sudan in the past few days as work continued on the broader U.S. statement.

The two former civil war enemies agreed at talks in Addis Ababa on Friday to order the withdrawal of their troops from a demilitarized border zone within a week to ease tensions and open the way to resuming oil exports.

'Outlandish accusations'

Sudan and South Sudan then agreed on Tuesday to a timeline to restart oil exports from landlocked South Sudan through Sudan to the Red Sea. South Sudan said it will now be able to resume oil production within three weeks.

"Ambassador Rice chose to spill out to the media some confidential conversations we had today and actually did it in a bizarre way from what I hear," Churkin told reporters.

"Trying to find all sorts of ulterior motives and come up with various outlandish accusations is not the best way to deal with your partners on the Security Council. I know it's not a good way to deal with the Russian delegation," he said.

Last month Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused the United States of applying double standards over Syria and blamed Washington for blocking a Security Council statement condemning a car bomb attack in Damascus.

Some 2 million people died in Sudan's decades-long north-south civil war, which ended with a peace deal in 2005 that paved the way for the South's secession. But the countries again teetered on the brink of war last April.

The latest deal to further implement the September agreement did not set a date for determining the final status of Abyei, a disputed territory that has been a perennial source of tension between the two sides.

In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, Khartoum has accused Juba of backing rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North. South Sudan has denied supporting the rebels.

"It is unfortunate when we have the kinds of gambits that we witnessed today that the council is not able to speak in a unified way, comprehensively ... and to assess objectively the progress, welcoming it where it is deserved and noting where it is lacking," Rice said.

Sudan's U.N. Ambassador Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali Osman said there was no reason for any member of the Security Council to block a statement that was encouraging to Sudan and South Sudan.

Bashir calls Kiir as the latter renews his invitation to visit Juba

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 12/3/2013 – South Sudanese president Salva Kiir Maydrit renewed Tuesday his invitation to the Sudanese counterpart Omer Al-Bashir to visit Juba during a telephone call between the two leaders.

The Sudanese presidency announced that the two presidents, in their telephone call, congratulated each other on the signing of a matrix to implement the Cooperation Agreement they had signed on 27 September 2012.

The press secretary at the Sudanese presidency Eimad Sid Ahmed said that Kiir renewed his invitation to Bashir to visit Juba and the latter accepted the invitation and pledged to visit Juba soon.

He added that the two presidents agreed that interest of the two people and mutual benefits require strengthening the historical relations between the neighbouring countries.

Sid Ahmed further said the two leaders to proceed in good faith to enforce the matrix and to work seriously to settle the outstanding issues that hinder the promotion of cooperation between the two countries.

The Undersecretary at oil ministry Awad Abdel Fatah who is also a member of the Sudanese negotiating delegation announced that oil firms were directed to resume oil exportation, stressing that all the related administrative and technical measures will be finalized as soon as possible.

The head of the Sudanese delegation Idris Abdel Gader stated that the two parties agreed to work together to address Sudan's debt and to reach donors to write it off within two years.

He added that if the exemption was not possible, then the only remaining option is to divide the debt between the two countries.

He also asserted Sudan's commitment to reach an agreement over Abyei issue in accordance with the protocol related to the disputed area.

He confirmed that monitor mechanism or JBVMM will temporarily base in Kadugli before to move to Abyei.

Ethiopian major general named new commander of UN force for Abyei

Xinhua United Nations, 12/3/2013 – UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday named a major general from Ethiopia to head the UN mission and peacekeeping force for Abyei, a disputed oil-rich region which straddles the border between Sudan and South Sudan.

"The secretary-general has appointed Major General Yohannes Gebremeskel Tesfamariam of Ethiopia as the head of mission and force commander of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)," UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said at a daily news briefing here.

"Major General Tesfamariam succeeds Lieutenant General Tadesse Werde Tesfay of Ethiopia, who completed his assignment on 24 January 2013," Nesirky said.

The UNISFA, set up by the UN Security Council in June 2011, is mandated to oversee the demilitarization and maintain security of the Abyei area, and protect civilians and humanitarian workers there.

The final status of Abyei has yet to be determined. It is one of the outstanding issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which helped bring an end to the conflict between Sudan and South Sudan, before the latter's independence in July 2011.

Previously, the secretary-general urged both parties to peacefully work towards resolving the matter, among other unresolved issues.

SPLM-N accuses Khartoum of refusing to negotiate

Catholic Radio Network, 12/3/2013 – Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) Secretary General has accused Khartoum government of deliberately refusing its call for negotiation.

Yasir Saeed Arman described Khartoum refusal as part of its tactics to prevent humanitarian aid going into Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile regions and continue with its ground and air attacks.

He also accused Khartoum of using food as weapon to continue to destabilize the civilian populations in the two regions.

Mr Arman said Khartoum's decision to deny access to aid agencies will result in more suffering of the civilian population.

He said SPLM-N is ready to negotiate with Khartoum according to the African Union High Implementation Panel agenda.

Both parties were scheduled to meet last Sunday, but the talks were postponed until further notice.

SPLM-N blames African mediation for only consulting with Sudanese government

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 12/3/2013 - The Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) called on the African Union (AU) mediation team to consult with the two parties when it comes to deciding the date of talks and other related arrangements.

The angry reaction comes as the mediation recently notified and cancelled two dates it had fixed for direct talks between the rebel movement and Khartoum government aimed at ending the ongoing conflict in the two southern Sudanese states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

According to the SPLM-N's chief negotiator and its secretary-general, Yasir Arman, the mediation initially scheduled direct talks with the Sudanese government delegation for 5 March, but later moved the meeting to 10 March before informing them that "the talks were not going to take place until further notice".

"It was an open secret that Khartoum put new conditions and they said openly that they are not ready to negotiate directly with the SPLM-N", Arman said in a statement extended to Sudan Tribune on Tuesday.

Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir has openly rejected holding direct talks with the SPLM-N to settle the ongoing conflict and reach an agreement over humanitarian access into the rebel-held areas in the Two Areas.

Sudan said talks can be held only once South Sudan disengages with its former allies and when the rebel fighters hand over their arms.

Khartoum last Friday agreed with Juba to implement a security arrangements agreement which provides for a buffer zone on the common border and the deployment of joint patrols to monitor it.

The SPLM-N secretary-general said that Khartoum's rejection of direct talks "will only result in more suffering of the civilian populations" and called on the AU and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) "to look into how to implement" its resolutions stipulating that the two parties hold direct talks.

He nonetheless said they are "ready for direct negotiations" with the Sudanese government in accordance with the agenda set by the mediation.

He further welcomed the 8 March agreement on the modalities of implementing security arrangements and reiterated the SPLM-N's readiness to sign an "immediate humanitarian cessation of hostilities".

The SPLM-N rebels say they control more than 40% of the Sudan-South Sudan border and announced their willingness to cooperate with the monitoring teams "for the demilitarized buffer zone to achieve its goals".

Sudanese defense minister Abdel-Rahim Hussein stated that the issue of rebel groups in both countries will be discussed on 17 March in a meeting where the two parties are expected also to tackle the implementation of other deals, particularly those on border trade and crossing points.

Sudanese pound strengthens slightly in wake of Khartoum-Juba agreement

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 12/3/2013 – The U.S. dollar inched lower in the Sudanese black market in what appeared to be an immediate reaction to the agreement signed on Tuesday between Khartoum and Juba to resume oil exports.

South Sudan is to pay its northern neighbor to route its crude through northern pipelines ending a row that led to the shutdown of the entire southern output of 350,000 barrels a day.

The loss of oil revenue severely curtailed Sudan's foreign currency inflows putting pressure on the Sudanese pound and pushing inflation rates even higher.

Furthermore, Sudan's low levels of foreign currency reserves held by the central bank also meant the latter could do little intervene to support the pound against other currencies.

On Tuesday currency traders told Sudan Tribune that the dollar is now selling for 6.9 pounds compared to more than 7 pounds previously.

However they said that the market ran out of Euros after it surpassed 9.0 pounds.

In a related issue the Sudanese finance ministry Undersecretary Abdel-Rahman Dirar said that the oil agreement will bring balance to the economies of the two countries by providing the much-needed hard currency so that the pound can regain its footing thus bringing prices down.

Sudan's Gezira agricultural project is failing, governor says

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 12/3/2013 – The governor of Sudan's Gezira state al-Zubair Bashir Taha slammed a government law adopted in 2005 saying it has done nothing to improve productivity of the country's largest agricultural scheme that contains one of the world's largest irrigation projects.

The Gezira project, which includes over 2 million feddans of land by the Blue and White Nile rivers and employs 130,000 farmers, traces its origins to British colonial times. It initially developed land for cotton through a system of canals.

There has long been a struggle between the farmers and the government over ownership of the land as Khartoum wants to ensure it has control over the project in order to make it subject to its economic and agricultural policies.

Gezira governor who addressed a committee tasked with evaluating the project said that seven years after the law was enacted, there was no improvement in productivity which led to increased unemployment and displacement of entire families by closing textile mills and other factories that were benefiting from the project.

He urged the government to either annul or amend the law which he said hit production of cotton and other crops compared to pre-law period.

Taha also criticized the fact that Gezira project administrators are not accountable to a higher body and the non-existence of a general assembly to govern it.

He proposed giving his state a stake in the project in terms of administration and overseeing it and noted that the scheme has not benefited from development loans received by the country over the years.

The Sudanese government has long pledged to bring about a turnaround in the project in order to make it the breadbasket of the country and beyond.

But farmers say none of that has come to pass as production costs have jumped thus eating into their margins and many were jailed over outstanding debt.

Observers say that the eroding values of the Sudanese pound have raised the cost of imports such as fertilizers and other materials.

Detained Sudanese, Eritreans under threat in Israel: HRW

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 12/3/2013 – Authorities in Israel are threatening, through prolonged detention Sudanese and Eritrean nationals, including asylum seekers to they can leave the country, a US-based right group said.

Israel, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the hotline for migrant workers, since December last year, pressured several detained Sudanese, mainly from Darfur and one Eritrean to leave the country, and in February 2013, some 50 detained Eritreans reportedly agreed under similar pressure to leave for Uganda.

All 50 remain in Israeli detention, the group says.

“Israel’s prolonged detention of asylum seekers apparently aims to shatter all hope so they feel they have no real choice, but to leave the country,” said Gerry Simpson, senior refugee researcher at HRW.

The Israelis authorities, the official added, should release the asylum seekers, while their claims are being examined and protect anyone at risk, instead of browbeating some of the world’s most abused and vulnerable people into giving up their rights and putting themselves at grave risk.

Sudanese and Eritreans, according to the rights group, are likely face a real risk of harm if they return to their home countries, Under Sudanese law, for instance, anyone who has visited Israel reportedly faces up to 10 years in prison in Sudan and Sudanese officials have said the courts will apply the law.

The group, in a report extended to Sudan Tribune, said Israel would contravene international laws, if it opts to return anyone to a place where the person’s life or freedom would be threatened.

“(..).Such return would violate international law’s prohibition on refoulement – forced return to a serious risk of persecution,” partly says the report, citing the 1951 Refugee Convention, which bars the return “in any manner whatsoever” to places where a person would face a serious risk of persecution.

Meanwhile, the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) has confirmed that Sudanese agreeing to leave Israel in recent months were sent to “third” countries through which they only transited and traveled on to Sudan.

These countries, according to HRW, had no obligation to allow Sudanese nationals to enter, meaning, “they would have been forced to travel onward to Sudan.”

An asylum seeker, under UNHCR Detention Guidelines, should only be detained “as a last resort”, with detention permitted only briefly to establish a person’s identity or for longer periods if it is the only way to achieve broader aims such as protecting national security or public health.

Currently, Israel, HRW said, is holding more than 2,000 African nationals in two detention centers near the Egyptian border, including at least 1,100 Eritreans and 600 Sudanese, all of whom reportedly have little prospect of being released because of “restrictive” Israeli asylum laws and policies.

However, although about 50,000 other Eritrean and Sudanese nationals reportedly live in Israel’s cities, authorities have informally suspended their deportation, but plans are on course to have them deported anytime.

Africa to see robust growth, needs more inclusion: AfDB

Reuters London, 12/3/2013 – Sub-Saharan Africa is likely to show robust 5.8 percent growth this year, with domestic demand playing a key role, but business must do more to promote a more inclusive society, the African Development Bank said on Monday.

"We are looking at growth of around 5.8 percent this year in sub-Saharan Africa, excluding South Africa it would be 6.2 percent," AfDB president Donald Kaberuka told Reuters in an interview on the sidelines of a business briefing.

Growth prospects for the region were "slightly higher" than 2012, Kaberuka added.

The World Bank forecasts growth of 4.9 percent this year for sub-Saharan Africa, with South African growth seen at 2.7 percent.

Growth in Africa has been strong in the past few years, compared with anemic growth in much of the developed world. The World Bank sees global growth at 2.4 percent this year, with high income countries expected to see a rise of only 1.3 percent.

Mining and resources only contributed around 30-32 percent towards sub-Saharan African growth, Kaberuka said, with consumer demand, infrastructure, financial services and agri-business the other main contributors.

Kaberuka said he hoped to outline plans at the bank's annual meeting in Marrakech in May for an infrastructure bond totaling up to \$24 billion, backed by the AfDB and bought by African central banks, to help investment in the region.

But the AfDB president told the briefing that despite rapid growth on the continent, Africa still suffered from too much poverty and wealth inequality, and needed to make more progress towards creating an inclusive society.

"A lot needs to be done about equity...especially around natural resources management," Kaberuka said, adding that AfDB calculations showed wealth inequality has been rising in Africa by around 1.5 percent a year since 2000.

"Sometimes it seems that the rent-seeking elites and the extractive industry business live off each other. Otherwise, how can we explain that a country pumps out two million barrels of oil a day and yet half live below the poverty line?"

Both policymakers and investors had their part to play in spreading wealth more evenly, Kaberuka said.

"Perhaps for too long we have been pointing fingers at governments, businesses have a responsibility here as well," he said. "This is Africa's trouble, which prevents us going to the next level."

South Sudan faithfully obliges as the AUHIP panders to Sudan and the UN cheerleads

South Sudan News Agency, 12/3/2013 – South Sudan and Sudan renewed their pledges on 8 March 2013 to withdraw troops from the border. According to the AUHIP Chairman, Thebo Mbeki, 14 March 2013 is the D-Day, the final day to have completed the withdrawal.

Agreeing to the principles on the establishment of verifications and monitoring mechanisms, the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, had this to say through his spokesman (World Peace, 10 March 2013):

With this agreement, there should be no further conditions in the way of immediate implementation of the other signed 27 September agreements, including the agreement on oil.

Reiterating these sentiments, the media asserts that moving out of the buffer zone will “possibly open... the way to the resumption of oil exports from the south” (see Reuters, 8 March 2013).

And in marching lockstep, sources on the ground had also confirmed that the SPLA is preparing to pull out of the alleged contested areas in Northern Bahr El Ghazal, among others.

Now in the face of these developments and despite hollow assurance from the AUHIP, South Sudan citizens in the border areas, especially the Northern Bahr el Ghazal civilians, remain strongly opposed to withdrawal without guarantees. We should all be concerned because Khartoum is always ahead of everyone in this game. Knowing that Khartoum is manipulative, calculating and prone to dishonoring agreements before the ink dries, it is imperative that South Sudan thinks everything through before committing colossal mistakes as it had done in the past.

Our plan B must be in place. The UN which is cheerleading the current negotiations is toothless; it has never been our fallback position.

Therefore, it is in this context that we viewed withdrawal from the 14 Mile Area as a mistake, leave alone including it in the 27 September Agreement in the first place and for accepting to leave the area when there are no guarantees that Khartoum will honor the agreements.

In summary, Juba must learn from the past mistakes of dealing with Sudan. First, Juba must demand that Khartoum withdraw its troop from the areas in question. Second, Juba must secure guarantees such that when South Sudan army moves out of border areas such as the 14 Mile Area, Khartoum does not have an incentive or maneuverability to move in and occupy the area indefinitely as it has done in Abyei since May 2011. Juba must take a leaf from the ages-long axiom: bitten once, twice shy.

[Disclaimer: The Aweil-Today USA Media Team is a grassroots Aweil Community effort to sensitize the deceitful ways of Khartoum and to offer a counterargument to making an undisputed land such as the 14 Mile Area a disputed one].

We will never ameliorate under the SPLM authoritarianism

South Sudan News Agency, 12/3/2013 – It has been the toughest year since we become free from Jallaba, more people are struggling to cope with rising situation in our beloved country, many are feeling the pain and disappointed about incompetent Government in Juba. At a time when some of our citizens are

travelling back to neighbourhood country for safety, our country has been ruined by our selfish leaders Oyee. Eight out of ten says they are worried about the instability in the country soon.

Everyone knows that shutting oil down was wrongly and madness , no plan B, hoping that Sudan Government will collapse, oil revenues were spent unwisely, and some revenues went to individual bank account, it is disgrace by ruling party to misuse the power for their selfish ends.

I do not know any country in this world where stealing is as cool as in our country, in the a couple of years coming if we are still under this corrupted regime, we will have probably the highest density thieves in the whole East Africa maybe Africa. Today there are more thieves in this government including some MP's in the National Assembly (JUBA) than before. Then the time of General Joseph Lagu and Molana Abel Alier if I have not mistaken.

Stealing and deceiving or cheating is the most of the awful things in the human history and it's a sin. However, I was brought up in the tribe where they consider that any act leading to dishonestly are prohibiting, i.e. you and your family will be denounced as evil in the community even people will create a songs in your family name and not that alone but no one will marriage from that your family, nevertheless nowadays you can find some of my fellow tribe men/women, in this government are collaborating with dark hands and thieves in other side of communities where stealing and others evil act are legitimate for them. It is regarded the strength

What is the source of this moral decadence that has permeated our society? Take a look at the top of the nation, we have a President and Vice President whom is never let any opportunity go bye, they are reminding us that they are there to destroy our National wealth, which both are the champion of corruption. And null leadership character.

How we define corruption in this dispensation, I do not know. But the international community has put us at the extreme point of corruption index in the world. Forget World Bank and IMF that the same organization has found that the overwhelming percentage of this corruption takes place in our country unbelievable. However, corruption to the Presidency is only when money is transferred to personal account.

Remember that President, and some of his friends bought houses outside of our country at over Million dollars. Assuming that he/she did not spend a penny of his salary since he started earning a living, there is no way he/she could have saved such money those days, even taking into consideration the alleged bank loan. How has that loan been repaid?

Think back, a former Finance Minister, he is a close friend of our President. He embezzled closed to a billion dollars with his cohorts. This money was meant for infrastructures and paying local and national services in the country.

He was arrested before he escaped the prison, yet our President did not fire or discipline him, not only that last year 75 ministers and officials SPLM/A stolen our public funds with no shame. And our President, he allegedly instructed that they will be trial in the future nothing happen until present. We know that our president has been as silent as the lamb. These fellow thieves they will be quietly investing theirs loot money on the properties outside of the country.

As South Sudan continues bleeding, an overwhelming percent of the best brains in the land are abroad. There is more intellectual living overseas than are in South Sudan. At home half-baked and semi-illiterate are ruling us and ruining the country and they do not have any clue in the international politics and economy.

Given our resource we should plan on launching satellites, instead our leaders go to shrines to swear to alien deities. I know some of them go to black magic that convince them that if he/she can kill and harming their fellow human beings that will be the only way forward for continuation of ruling them.

South Sudan may be the one (depending on which information you choose) greatest oil producer in our continent (Africa), yet South Sudanese is listed as one of the poorest country on earth. But individual South Sudanese are among the richest people in the East Africa according to the BBC, reports.

In short this current government concept has destroyed our society, therefore we, as community should say with loud voice that enough is enough we can't go further. Or we will start honouring corrupt and thieves of rich faithful with various titles each title dotted with specified amounts. The only qualification for such honours is nothing other the bank account of their own and their children. Rather such honour should goes to the humble heroes widows and widowers, who work hardly daily to barely scrap a living. Again missing from such lists are hardworking honest, whose only disqualification is their bank account.

Finally, I am certain we will not give-up or dampening the spirit of our unity that will help us to discover the true meaning of the country. As the wise man says the greatest gift which you can give to your people is unity and solidarity and it is cost nothing. All that will not come through if current thieves SPLM, Oyee regime is still ruling us.

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