



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

MONDAY, 09 SEPTEMBER 2013

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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Africa news roundup, September, Monday 09, 2013 (*The Independent*)
- People smuggling, heroin trade on the rise in EA: UN report (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Cabinet reshuffle in Sudan imminent – report (*AllAfrica.com*)
- Uganda backs Kenya vote to quit ICC (*The New Vision*)
- Sudan says ICGLR leaders want an African meeting to discuss new measures against ICC (*Sudantribune.com*)

LINKS TO STORIES FROM THE MORNING MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

- Sudan bombs South Sudan buffer zone positions, kills two – Juba (*Agence France-Presse*)
- SAF bomb attack in Unity state leaves two dead, six injured (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Calm in Jau after Sudan bombing raid (*Radio Miraya*)
- Engagement with Sudan ton continues, says foreign minister (*Radio Miraya*)
- South Sudan's Kiir, Mbeki hold talks in Juba (*Sudantribune.com*)

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- UN Special Envoy urges deal over Abyei status ([Sudantribune.com](#))
- Sudan offer conditional cooperation with new US special envoy ([Sudantribune.com](#))
- Fewer Sudanese refugees arriving in South Sudan – UN ([Radio Miraya](#))
- Analyst urges government to repatriate returnees before census ([Catholic Radio Network](#))
- South Sudan VP to attend UN assembly meeting ([Sudantribune.com](#))
- Minister of Defence promises reform in South Sudanese army ([Sudantribune.com](#))
- Warrap State: first humanitarian interventions as floods ravage five other states ([Sudantribune.com](#))
- Bor flood victims receive emergency food rations ([Radio Miraya](#))
- Warrap bans firearms in public places after grenade attack ([Sudantribune.com](#))

Highlights

AU’s Mbeki calls on Sudan and South Sudan to sort outstanding matters

Gurtong.net Juba, 9/9/2013 – The Head of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel, Thabo Mbeki, on Saturday held closed-door talks with South Sudanese President Salva Kiir in Juba, seeking South Sudan’s commitment to the full implementation of the Cooperation Agreements signed with Sudan last year.

Mbeki’s surprise visit happened after he also met the Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir in Khartoum.

His visits aimed at increasing AU’s pressure on the two countries to sort out the outstanding matters of the Cooperation Agreement came just after high-level talks between President Kiir and Bashir last Tuesday in Khartoum – a meeting that scaled up the implementation of the Cooperation Agreements.

South Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Barnaba Marial in a statement said Mbeki visit aimed at bettering efforts on the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement.

He however, could not detail the talks of the two leaders – President Kiir and Mbeki.

He told UN’s Radio Miraya that South Sudan reiterated its efforts to the full implementation of the Cooperation Agreements without any precondition.

“The Republic of South Sudan is completely committed to the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement without any precondition,” Marial said.

He termed the Saturday Sudan’s aerial bombings on South Sudan as “unfortunate” and said it won’t affect any effort between Juba and Khartoum in bettering their ties.

“I don’t think it will jeopardize the courage,” Marial said.

“We as a responsible government we will investigate this bombing that has taken place. We condemn such acts but these do not deter us. It does not stop us from going ahead with new spirit of making peace and implementing Cooperation Agreement with the Republic of Sudan in improving our communication with them, improving the exchange of trade,” Marial said. ([Back to Top](#))

South Sudan, Sudan sign Business Council agreement

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 07/09/13 – The Sudanese Businessmen and South Sudan Chambers of Commerce inked a bilateral commercial agreement on September 3 in Khartoum.

South Sudan Chamber of Commerce Secretary-General Simon Akuei Deng broke the news to the press that Dawud Birer Mamoon head of Sudanese Businessmen signed for Sudan and Chambers of Commerce head Benjamin Bol Mel signed on behalf of South Sudan.

Mr Deng explained that the agreement established a Joint Business Council comprising 40 members 20 from each country.

He said the council will cooperate to benefit the two countries through arbitration of disputes and lobby for beneficial economic and political policies.

Mr Deng explained that should there be problems between the two countries the council will lobby for peace so that business gets a chance.

He pointed out that the agreement was a gesture of good will. The Council is expected to meet later this month to discuss implementation modalities. ([Back to Top](#))

Sudan receives first flight of South's Airlines

Bernama Khartoum, 9/9/2013 – Sudanese capital Khartoum's airport on Sunday received the first flight of a South Sudan's airlines company which obtained authorization to operate flights between Khartoum and South Sudanese capital Juba, Xinhua news agency reported citing an official news report.

"This is the first flight of the South Supreme Airlines to Khartoum airport," SUNA news agency quoted Ayii Duang Ayii, chairman of the Board of Directors of the airlines company, as saying.

Ayii said the move emphasizes willingness for building distinguished relations between Sudan and South Sudan and contributes to the establishment of infrastructures to enhance cooperation between both sides. Sudanese Businessmen Association chairman Saoud Al-Berair said this flight came as part of the spirit of cooperation between the two countries, and the result of a cooperation agreement signed between the private sectors of the countries.

Cooperation between both sides would now shift from a commercial exchange to investments in the South and bring establishment of partnerships between the two countries' business fraternity, said Saoud.

Both countries will convene an economic and commercial conference in Khartoum in October with the participation of the South chamber of commerce and industry and business unions to work out a comprehensive cooperation work programme. ([Back to Top](#))

South Sudan welcomes more investment from China: envoy

Xinhua Addis Ababa, 9/9/2013 – South Sudan welcomes more investment from China and hopes the two country could further enhance bilateral cooperation for mutual benefits, said South Sudan's Ambassador to Ethiopia Arop Deng Kuol here on Sunday.

The visit by South Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit to China in 2012 has enabled the two countries to sign a number of MoUs, which call for more Chinese investment in South Sudan, said Kuol to Xinhua in an interview.

The ambassador said that Chinese companies have been working on infrastructure development in South Sudan, which he said is an indication to the implementation of agreements reached by the leaders of the two countries.

He said South Sudan further calls on China to invest more in infrastructure and other sectors including agriculture.

"We ask China to participate both in agriculture and industrialization of the country. These are the main areas that we can see China can make a very big difference in South Sudan," he said.

South Sudan welcomes Chinese investors to visit South Sudan to discover the opportunities available in the country.

"We continue to ask China to send high delegation to South Sudan so that they acquaint themselves of all the opportunities that we have, because we see China as a good partner that can implement all the developmental projects in South Sudan," he said.

Kuol noted South Sudan is preparing for an international investment conference to be held in Juba in December this year.

"With this investment conference that is going to take place, we are going to invite China to come with all their investors, to come and participate in this investment conference in South Sudan," said the ambassador. ([Back to Top](#))

S. Sudan VP to attend UN assembly meeting

Sudantribune.com Juba, 8/9/2013 – South Sudan's new vice-president, James Wani Igga, will from 17 September be part of the United Nations general assembly meeting in New York.

Igga is expected to be accompanied by foreign affairs minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin, as well as his gender, child and social welfare counterpart, Awul Deng Acuil.

The delegation to New York will also be joined by Francis Nazario, South Sudan's deputy ambassador to the UN.

The vice-president will reportedly hold some bilateral discussions with world leaders on the margins of the general assembly meeting in what marks his first official trip since his appointment.

He is also expected to meet South Sudanese communities in the United States, as well as civil society groups and religious leaders.

Comprising the 193-member countries of the UN, the general assembly is the main policy making and representative organ of the world body, providing a forum for multilateral discussion on the full spectrum of international issues covered by the charter.

The assembly meets intensively in regular sessions from September to December each year, and thereafter as required. ([Back to Top](#))

Council of Ministers reviews 2013-2014 budgets

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 07/09/13 - The Council of Ministers in its ordinary sitting on Friday reviewed and passed with observations the 2013-2014 budgets.

Last month, Finance Minister Aggrey Tissa Sabuni withdrew the budget citing re-Government structuring as the reason for pulling out the budget from legislatures.

Government spokesperson Michael Makuei Lueth told the press that the council directed Finance minister and Economic Cluster to include observations before resubmitting it to the council next Friday for final endorsement.

He said the budget passed with observations had an envelope of 17.2 million but the actual budget is 9.2 millions Pounds and that the cabinet realized some areas of concern to be revisited and addressed. The budget is expected to cater for new units attached to other ministries. ([Back to Top](#))

Government gets 36 million SSP funding to construct Magwi-Lobonok road

Gurtong.net Torit, 8/9/2013 – With funding from the World Bank, the National Government has finally contracted a Chinese Company, Chinese New Era Group Corporation, to construct the 89 kilometer Magwi-Lobonok road in order to boost rural agriculture.

On Friday the two parties; the government of the Republic of South Sudan and Chinese New Era Group Corporation, signed the twelve-month deal for the construction of the key road at 36 million South Sudanese Pounds.

The Transport, Roads and Bridges Undersecretary Gabriel Makur Amour who disclosed that the Company won the bid because of its competence after extensive verifications.

The 89-kilometre road funded by the World Bank is one of the five roads destined to boost up access to rural agricultural production.

He affirmed that the move will serve as the government strategy to try to implementing what the Country's founder late John Garang advocated for taking towns to people through services closeness.

Economic and Commercial counselor in the Embassy of the People's Republic of China Zhang Yi who instructed the company to now start hiring, training local labour and launch cooperation with local communities to build a good image of China and improve relations with South Sudan, expressed that road construction was the foundation of the new Country's development. ([Back to Top](#))

South Sudan seeks donor support on census process

Gurtong.net Juba, 9/9/2013 – The Chairperson of the South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics, Chol Aruai, has called donors to intensify their support on the 2014 national census process, saying the process needs more external support.

Chol spoke on Friday after meeting donor agencies at the South Sudan Capital, Juba.

“We expect the development partners, the donors at least to come up with some contribution,” Chol said. He said the meeting of the donors was aimed at scaling up calls for more support from their side.

“A lot of work has been done in terms of the technical preparations but the challenge remains the issue of funding,” Chold said.

Early this year donor agencies had showed interests to ensure the census process is held on time.

South Sudan is set to hold its first household head count next year to pave way for the national 2015 general elections.

The country's population according to the disputed Sudan's general 2010 census results is 8 million people though the UN Chief Coordinator of the Humanitarian Affairs in South Sudan Toby Lanzer had estimated the population to be at least 12 million people now. ([Back to Top](#))

UN official pledges to help improve education sector in Western Equatoria State

Gurtong.net Yambio, 9/9/2013 – The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator Toby Lanzer has pledged to improve the education activities in Western Equatoria State.

While addressing the gathering at the Yambio Freedom Square during the International Literacy Day, Lanzer said that the mission is ready to support the state as far as education is concerned.

He further said by this time last year, the literacy day was launched by President Salva Kiir in juba and he supports the statement taken by the president to wage a war on illiteracy.

He said to build peace together on children and adults, they were to build their rights and shape their future and the future of the newest nation South Sudan.

Lanzer also said he is grateful to make his trip to Yambio because it has a great development potential adding that he is pleased to work closely with the state to addressing illiteracy.

He added that the UN in its position is committed to supporting the education of South Sudan and have been preparing generously throughout the austerity measures and was happy to note that the education budget has increased to 35%.

He urged South Sudanese to use the combined resources, combines effort, motivation and the combined creative ideas it's the general education strategic plan, the state level plan and also the ministry of alternative education plan.

This year, the theme for International Literacy Day 2013 is “Literacies for the 21st Century”.

In South Sudan, literacy is at the heart of peace building and democratic national development.

The overall objective of the national literacy day celebrations is to celebrate the efforts so far in improving literacy and to advocate for literacy learning within communities and renew commitment of all stakeholders’, including political leaders, donors, private sector and media to adequately support the realization of the right to literacy for all in South Sudan.

Western Equatoria State hosted the literacy event, enabling local level experience sharing as well as allowing the involvement of literacy learners and county-level leaders in the strengthening of their efforts to support literacy programmes at the grassroots.

On 5th September 2013, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, together with Save the Children and UNESCO held a conference with a total of 120 participants representing all the national and state ministries, education experts, learners and development partners.

The purpose of the day was to validate the Alternative Education Systems (AES) and the Youth and Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning policies.

In addition, emphasis was placed on the role of literacy in peace and nation building; the progress made by the states on promoting literacy learning; the launching of the literacy policy and state level action plans to promote literacy endeavours.

Furthermore, In line to the five-year General Education Strategic Plan (2012-2017), the ten states will work together to design feasible strategies and action plans to equitably improve access of relevant and quality literacy for all groups of learners, children, youth and adults, including learners with special needs.

The event in Yambio provided an opportunity to advocate to literacy learners, government officials and development partners the importance of literacy for all.

Equally, government officials and donors shared ideas that can shape efforts toward accelerating national literacy learning in all states.

Literacy provides a solid foundation to lifelong learning, helps improve quality of life and promotes development. A peaceful nation is dependent on the development of literate citizens.

Currently the literacy rate of South Sudan is 27%, one of the lowest in the world.

Further statistics estimate that 2.2 million people aged between the ages of 15 and 40 are illiterate and that only 1 in 10 women are able to read and write.

Women are more disadvantaged when it comes to accessing literacy learning opportunities. Hence, South Sudan urgently needs to promote literacy and create a literate environment that will help advance its development goals to all its citizens.

Illiteracy is one of the top national challenges and thus requires political commitment, national mobilization and coordinated action toward attaining the literacy development goals. ([Back to Top](#))

Upper Nile governor bans use of Arabic language in offices

Gurtong.net Malakal, 8/9/2013 – The Upper Nile State Governor, Simon Kun Puoc, has urged the state officials to avoid use of Arabic language in offices but should instead use English language or vernacular.

“South Sudan has changed its language of communication to be English as medium of instruction not only in schools but also in the offices for official work,” Kun said.

Governor Kun stressed on the issue during the second session of the Upper Nile State Legislative Assembly (UNSLA) directing the officials to use English language for writing letters and as a medium of communication in offices.

“If you again write to me a letter in Arabic I will burn it,” he said adding that “I want to tell you so that when something happen to your letter then you will not be surprised. I want to inform you in advance,” The governor stressed.

The governor stress that most of the members and state officials do use to write to him in Arabic language which he said is not very good since the country has changed its medium of communication from Arabic to English Language.

“If you don’t know English don’t use Arabic better use your mother tongue,” he added.

He said the state must implement the constitution which is the future and guiding principal.

“If someone does not use English and he or she wants to learn English should better join the English training centres that are operating in the evening so as to improve his or her English proficiency,” he said.

“There are very many schools that are training people in English, you can choose to go there in the evening and improve your English proficiency, so that you become safe and deliver services rightly,” he added.

A new college was recently opened in Malakal to assist transform the society to English as a medium of instruction after South Sudan declared the ban on use of Arabic in schools and government offices.

The college known as Nyikango Academy of Languages and Translation (NALT) is to assist during the transition.

The Director of Nyikango Academy of Languages, Ustaz Sabet Akwakwan Papiti said the college came to execution after a number of thoughts, plans and consultations to make the dream come true to assist the Arabic speaking group to cope with the new situation in South Sudan.

Upper Nile State was dominantly using Arabic Language during the many years of war in Sudan and by surprise the government of South Sudan in 2005 declared English as medium of instruction and an official language in the country as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

This move has put the Arabic learners off track prompting them travel long distances looking for English training.

English in South Sudan has become a very important medium of instruction and for getting jobs in the country. ([Back to Top](#))

Cabinet approves 7 million to floods victims

Catholic Radio Network Juba, 07/09/13 - The Council of Ministers in its ordinary sitting on Friday approved seven millions South Sudanese Pounds to rescue flood victims in Bahr El Ghazal and Upper Nile regions.

Government spokesperson Michael Makuei Lueth told the press that the money would be used for buying basic requirements that other organizations could not afford.

He revealed that the first consignment of relief was transported to affected areas.

The Minister called on non-governmental organizations and UN agencies to rescue flood affected people across the country.

Cabinet Minister Martin Elia Lumoro said the President of the Republic, Vice President and Ministers pledged personal contributions of one thousand Pounds each to cater for street children across South Sudan. ([Back to Top](#))

Red Cross launches flood response in Bor town

Radio Miraya Juba, 07/09/13 - The South Sudan Red Cross Society has started evacuating families affected by floods to higher ground in Bor town of Jonglei State.

About 53 families have been evacuated on Saturday as part of a three-day rescue operation involving forty Red Cross Volunteers.

The Acting Red Cross State Director, James Tut, told Radio Miraya that the families are being relocated to higher ground identified as safe areas by the state government.

“Our volunteers are now on the ground trying to evacuate the affected families from Hai Machour and the same will be done in Hai Fangak on Sunday followed by Achingdit,” he said.

“So we are just relocating these people to go to the center where all NGOs will go and help the situation there.” ([Back to Top](#))

Unity state government funds a survey on street children

Eye Radio, 8/9/2013 – The Unity State Council of Ministers has approved 21,000 pounds to conduct a survey on street children in both Bentiu and Rubkona Counties.

“The issue of street children is a great problem facing the state,” said Minister of Labor and Public Services, Benjamin Majack Daw.

Mr. Daw said the survey will be conducted early this month and will extend to other counties.

“The results of the survey will formulate proposals to solve the problem of the street children in the state and that will be included in the new fiscal year 2013 to 2014 budget in the state.”

Mr. Daw added that the results of the survey will give law makers important facts to enable them approach the issue of street children.

It is estimated that there are hundreds of street children in Unity state’s town centers and markets. Children often end up on the street because their parents are unable to look after their basic. ([Back to Top](#))

Communities urged to fight against hunger

Gurtong.net Torit, 9/9/2013 – Communities in Ikwoto and Torit counties have been urged to sustain their projects and equally utilize their potential to battle out the ongoing food shortage in the region.

The Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI) State Head, Ms. Astiati Paola, who doubles as Project Manager and Area Team Leader on Food Security Thematic Project, praised the communities for their strong and positive response for demonstrating commitment to carry on the just handed over projects.

She underscored the importance of sustainability saying it will help fighting the hunger in the region.

On their turn, the two Communities of Imatong (Ikwoto) and Hiyala (Torit) have promised to sustain donated projects in order to subsequently improve on their livelihoods.

Speaking to Gurtong, Acting Director General of the State Education, Science & Technology and Youth & Sports Ministry, Mr. Adelio Ojina Quinto disclosed that his Ministry has already taken over paying for teachers and management of the two life skills centres.

“It is no longer the responsibility of the AVSI. We really thank them for great donation in terms of capacity, material and finances. We believe because of responses we have seen from our communities, the two projects will be upheld so to fight hunger,” he expressed.

The Acting Director General has delightedly believed that the exciting part of the project is that it will not only provide employments to the local inhabitants but it will also earn real

living to them as he pledges his Ministry commitment to remain the project catalyst for sustainment.

He expressed that on behalf of the state government as the Ministry, they are extremely swollen with pride to be linked with and be part of this flourishing and rationalized project.

While urging beneficiaries to make their project grow from strength to strength, Mr. Ojinas expressed that they are optimistic that the project will successfully be sustained to address poverty and hunger in the communities.

He treasured the AVSI organization for committing its resources and time to helping the beneficiaries.

The two projects worth \$ 100,000 majorly covered three main areas of disciplines such as tailoring, building (carpentry and joinery which included brick laying concrete practices) and finally ALP commonly best known as accelerating learning program.

AVSI Coordinator for Educational activities, Mr. Okello Dominic Oliha added that there have been additional package to the beneficiaries as business skills training which has been referred to as support subject in the course.

The efforts were aimed at enabling beneficiaries to have space, time and opportunity to exercise what they have learned as life skills by putting it into a practice.

The main aim of the just ended workshop was to take through Educational leaders drawn from the state Ministry of Education with local ones including local managers of the two life skill centres, Imatong and Hiyala, to basically understand how they as beneficiaries will sustain the projects.

The Representatives of the Education Ministry work closely with the main beneficiaries to take care and maintain the two facilities with prime intention to sustain, clarified the AVSI Project Manager.

The workshop's participants including local managers of the two centres were demanding from AVSI management to give more explanations or details on how the project is going to handed over to the beneficiaries apart from seeking concrete plans on sustainability, expansion and improvement of the project.

Centres Management committees for the respective projects have been set up so to be charged with key responsibility related to follow up and management of the to be handed over projects, together with local beneficiaries.

The Centres Management committees have been empowered to know the value of Technical Vocational and Educational Training in relation to the two projects in question.

In 1993 AVSI first began supporting the people of Sudan by managing the Sudanese refugee camp Achol Pii in Northern Uganda on behalf of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

AVSI continued this work for many years; at the camp's peak it hosted more than 13,000 refugees.

As a consequence of the contacts established with Sudanese refugees in Northern Uganda, AVSI facilitated humanitarian interventions managed by the Sudanese Diocese of Torit and other local organizations in southern Sudan (Eastern Equatoria State), providing food and basic nonfood items to the displaced Sudanese inside Eastern Equatoria, items which were scarce due to the continuous civil unrest.

In 2005, after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which ended 22 years of civil war, AVSI opened a structured base of operations in Isohe, Eastern Equatoria State and another in Torit, the capital of the State.

In 2011, a third office was opened in Juba, the capital of South Sudan and currently works in Juba and in three counties of Eastern Equatoria State Ikwoto, Torit and Lopa/Lafon,

running multi sector projects including water and sanitation, education (formal and informal), health, emergency response and mine risk education.

ASVI's institutional donors in Sudan include United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), USAID/OFDA, the South Sudan Basic Services Fund (BSF), UK Department for International Development (DFID), European Commission (ECHO), the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and private donors. ([Back to Top](#))

South Sudan Economic Association launched in Juba

Bakhita Radio Juba, 07/09/13 - South Sudan Economic Association on Saturday launched its organization office in Juba.

Association chairperson Isaac Bior Deng said the association was constitutionally registered as patrician and non-governmental organisation, Bakhita Radio reported.

He said the Association aimed to conduct research on economic matters in the country.

Mr Bior said the Association operates through supports from all levels of government and donations from national and international NGOs and individuals.

He commended the Central Equatoria government for accommodating Association for the last five years.

MP representing Kajo-Keji in the National Legislative Assembly Mary Kiden Kimbo said the association can unite people.

She encouraged the Association to help mould the country.

The launch of South Sudan Economic Association drew national and state ministers and NGOs. ([Back to Top](#))

President Kiir to visit Western Equatoria: official

Gurtong.net Yambio, 7/9/2013 – South Sudan President Salva Kiir has planned to make an official visit to Western Equatoria State, an official has said.

The Western Equatoria State Acting Governor Sapana Abui said this as he returned to Yambio after making an official to Juba where he met with the President, his Vice and the national Minister of Interior.

Speaking to the press, Sapana said he led a delegation of Zande community elders to congratulate the president upon his new cabinet and to request him visit Western Equatoria state.

The leaders mentioned to the president about the poor road network in the state and the president pledged to support the construction of the especially the Luri bridge which has claimed many lives.

The leaders also congratulated the Vice President James Wani Igga on his new executive position and appealed to him too be a sample of peace and help in strengthening the ruling party.

Sapana said their visit was also extended to the National Minister of Interior to inform him about their major challenges in the state which include lack of logistical equipment to the security organs which is hindering their effective activities.

He further added that they also requested the minister to avail the ministerial order which had been issued banning all the foreigners from commercial Boda-boda business because the state had not received a copy to facilitate the implementation in the state.

The Interior Minister however promised to visit Western Equatoria soon in order to strengthen the boarder points which are always the entry points of criminal elements.

The ministry will also speed up the works at their headquarters in places like Nabiapai, Sakure, Nabanga and source Yubu. ([Back to Top](#))

Journalists urged to promote peace efforts

Gurtong.net Torit, 8/9/2013 – In order to promote peace in South Sudan, the newly appointed Eastern Equatoria State Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Clement Laku Chichim has condemned unethical journalism.

The minister said that there are some journalists in the region who always fall short of conducting themselves well by not demonstrating true colour of journalism while reporting affairs related to the public.

He advised them to conduct themselves responsibly by defending ethics or principles throughout reporting practice saying the journalists must try all efforts to report sensibly.

The Minister encouraged his reporters to do extra efforts to ensure his state appears on global spotlight, prefers principled journalists to handle affairs that do not inflame conflicts among or between groups, individuals or communities at any cost but rather must switch reporting watchfully.

Addressing his Ministry reporters in Torit, the Minister called the meeting for familiarization and to find out challenges and told them to avoid being arrogant at any point while conducting their work but they must maintain public relations especially with the Ministries they have been deployed to.

He strongly advised the journalists to be careful not to mislead the public in reporting things to avoid instigating hatred in the society but must work collaboratively with the society and government to promote peace and democracy in the state.

The leader also blamed some journalists for selectively colluding with some politicians to report things of their interests saying by doing so one is fallen short of ethics without knowing it.

He also advised them not to rely on public hearsay report until one follows by him or herself to prove or verify it.

While calling for hard work and team work among journalists, the Minister pledged to work closely with his Ministry's reporters to promote the state government while seeking ways to working jointly to address challenges journalists in the state are facing.

He encouraged them to feed the public with reliable information saying information is power. ([Back to Top](#))

Journalists appeal to new minister to address challenges

Gurtong.net Torit, 9/9/2013 – Eastern Equatoria State journalists have appealed to the state government through the State Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Clement Laku Chichim to offer support as they deliver on the high expectations.

Following invitations by the newly appointed Minister, all the reporters of the state Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Parliamentary Affairs assured the new Minister that they are committed to work and but they still lack essential assistance from the Ministry.

They told the Minister that since they need commitment, they equally need morale and material or financial support to excel which according to them has been missing with a wider gap left.

Among challenges they illustrated the new Minister Laku, include lack of laptops or computers to enable reporters do better job as they claim they are unable to laboriously write and transcript with difficulty on a piece of paper instead of directly doing it electronically.

The reporters have similarly lamented great suffer and struggle for lack of internet and even airtime as they claim they are missing.

Similarly, they appealed to the Minister to address the issue of mobility in order to enable them deliver better and improve on the Ministry's performances.

Some Journalists, however, informed the new Minister that some of them individually managed to acquire computers which have so far helped them do better job for the Ministry.

In his turn, the State Minister Laku who condemns unethical journalism urged journalists to promote peace efforts.

The minister said that there are some journalists in the region who always fall short of conducting themselves well by not demonstrating true colour of journalism while reporting affairs related to the public.

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He encouraged them to feed the public with reliable information saying information is power. ([Back to Top](#))

War veteran happy of new faces in cabinet

Easter Radio, 9/9/2013 – South Sudan war veteran and an advisor in the Defence ministry on Sunday expressed happiness on seeing new faces and positive changes in the cabinet.

Augustino Ali Luwaya said people are now relieved after long suffering due to rampant insecurity, armed robbery and killing, Easter Radio reported.

He said there were still threats from the Sudanese government despite cooperation agreements due to no commitment for the peace.

Veteran Luwaya urged people to pray and work hard for Yei to become a state.

The veteran called on Yei citizens to cooperate with all levels of government sent to work with them in the county. The war veteran was talking on Sunday at Christ the King Cathedral in Yei. ([Back to Top](#))

Church urged to boost awareness on constitution making

Gurtong.net Juba, 8/9/2013 – The Chairperson of the South Sudan Constitutional Review Commission Prof. Akolda M. Tier has called on the church to increase its role in creating awareness on the constitutional review process.

Akolda underscored the role played by the Church during the liberation struggle in fighting without guns and how significant it was in influencing affairs that finally led to the peace today.

“During the time of the armed conflict the church laid a very big role in advocacy and lobbying public opinion to support the case,” Akolda said on Friday after meeting religious leaders in Juba to discuss on how best they should increase advocacy in their programs on the review process.

“The church is one of the elite organizations which can play a very big role. Therefore the church really should not sit idle. It should continue to do the role which they are playing during the time of the armed struggle,” Akolda stressed.

He said the Commission is currently involved into wider public consultations on the constitution amendment and pointed out the challenge of inadequate funds as hitting challenge. ([Back to Top](#))

Man threatens to burn church in Yei

Easter Radio, 9/9/2013 – A man in Yei River County threatened to set fire on St Michael Chapel under Christ the King Parish of Yei Catholic diocese after destroying a house constructed last Wednesday.

Omar Samuel said he will burn the chapel if Christians reconstructed the house he destroyed, Easter Radio reported.

He claimed that St Michael Christians constructed the chapel in his plot and used his teak for constructing the house.

An eye witness said Mr Samuel destroyed the house at 4 o ‘clock in the morning and hunted for whoever comes to question his actions.

The eye witness denied that the plot given to the church belongs to Mr Samuel and he had no teak in the place.

After mass on Sunday, St Michael Christians marched to their parish priest office to report Mr Samuel’s threats. ([Back to Top](#))

Jonglei students urge inter-tribal marriage to ease violence

Theniles.org Bor, 9/9/2013 – Students from the restive state of Jonglei said inter-tribal marriage and forgiveness would pave the way towards an end to protracted violence in their home region.

At a discussion called ‘The Road to Peace in Jonglei’ held two weeks ago in Bor, students from Jonglei drawn from different ethnic groups of the state, including the Dinka, Anuak, Nuer and Jie, explored possible solutions to the bloodshed.

Samuel Chur Alier, a panelist from the Dinka community and a student of Alliance High School, pointed out that high dowries, a lack of inter-communal interactions, unemployment, and the practices of body marking are major causes of divisions and communal violence in the state.

“Intermarriage among the tribes [...] can cement confidence and trust among all communities of the state.”

Samuel Chur Alier “Intermarriage among the tribes, avoiding body markings, forgiveness for any past mistakes, free and timely movements of people within themselves and among different tribes, can cement confidence and trust among all communities of the state,” Samuel said.

Organised by the Communication and Public Information Office of UNMISS in collaboration with the State Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage and the State Peace Commission, the event was attended by over 100 participants including senior state officials, traditional and religious leaders, intellectuals, civil society groups, students, prominent figures and media.

South Sudan's Jonglei State is the flashpoint of ongoing violence, affecting tens of thousands of people, many of them displaced, who remain in need of humanitarian assistance.

An estimated 74,000 residents of the state's Pibor County -- around half of its entire population -- have been registered to receive aid, especially food.

The Nuer community panelists said a lack of equitable development in all counties, illiteracy, and the practices of abduction, presence of arms in the hands of civilian and lack of road accessibility were the major causes of inter-communal violence among residents of the state.

They also called for widespread disarmament in the state.

The Anuak community's Mary Akwey said building schools and health centres, expanding agricultural activities, community inter-marriage, and deployment of security forces in Boma would all contribute to stability in the region.

"We ourselves caused all the conflicts and mess across the state." Jie panelist The Jie community, meanwhile, underlined the need for Jonglei's various communities to consider themselves as one nation.

"We ourselves caused all the conflicts and mess across the state," a Jie panelist said. "We need to be together, work together and live in peace and stability in order to achieve a bright and sustainable future."

Acting Governor Gabriel Gai Riem told Jonglei's students and youth to uphold peace, describing the talks as "timely and significant discussions".

UNMISS staff told participants that the protection of civilians is the primary responsibility of the government of South Sudan, although UNMISS offers its support. ([Back to Top](#))

Africa news roundup, September, Monday 09, 2013

The Independent 9/9/2013 – In South Sudan a commercial airline on Sunday began to operate flights to long-time foe Sudan, in a new sign of a thaw between the African neighbors, Reuters reports.

Last week, at a summit of presidents, Sudan dropped its threat to stop oil exports from its landlocked neighbor, opening a new chapter in rocky bilateral ties. Oil is the lifeline for both.

Both leaders also agreed to revive trade across the border, which mostly came to a halt last year when tensions over disputed territory and oil fees escalated.

South Supreme Airlines, one of the few airlines in the new African nation, started flights from Juba to Khartoum on Sunday, Sudanese state news agency SUNA said.

Two Sudanese airlines already fly to Juba.

South Sudan seceded from Sudan in 2011 under a 2005 peace deal which ended decades of civil war. Both countries yet have to sort the ownership of several disputed border regions.

In Egypt army-backed authorities have decided to annul the Muslim Brotherhood's non-governmental organisation, widening a drive to neutralize the movement behind deposed Islamist president Mohamed Mursi, France24 reports.

The move applies to the non-governmental organisation registered by the Brotherhood in March, and stems from accusations that it used its premises to store weapons and explosives. The decision has yet to be formally announced, an official said.

The army-backed government is waging the toughest crackdown in decades on the Islamist group, which says it has a million members.

Although short of a ban, dissolving the NGO will strip the Brotherhood of a defence against challenges to its legality. Egypt's then army rulers formally dissolved the Brotherhood in 1954.

Social Solidarity Minister Ahmed el-Boraie has now decided to dissolve the Brotherhood's NGO, ministry spokesman Hany Mahana said. The move will be announced once the minister returned from an overseas trip.

The General Federation of NGOs wrote to the ministry on Thursday consenting to the dissolution of the Brotherhood NGO after its leaders missed a deadline to answer the accusations.

"They were notified three consecutive times and none of them attended and so, according to the law, the minister of social solidarity can dissolve the NGO," Mahana said. "The decision is effective with the end of the legal time frame, so the decision is taken and what remains is writing the legal memorandum."

The Brotherhood won parliamentary and presidential elections after veteran autocrat Hosni Mubarak was overthrown in 2011. There has so far been no attempt to ban its political wing, the Freedom and Justice Party.

In Zimbabwe, police say they arrested six men accused of killing 41 elephants with cyanide, Aljazeera reports.

Police official Muyambirwa Muzzah was quoted on Friday as saying rangers found several elephant carcasses after following tracks in the southwestern Hwange National Park.

Muzzah said a cache of tusks, worth \$120,000 on the illegal ivory market, and other remains were found near water holes that had been laced with cyanide.

He said the six were arrested when they returned to collect the ivory and they are suspected of operating from the western city of Bulawayo.

The police official said hundreds of wild animals feeding on the dead elephants could also die from poisoning.

The *Bulawayo Chronicle* newspaper reported on Friday that poachers arrested in May for poisoning wildlife were jailed for two years.

The South African *Mail and Guardian* newspaper said poaching of elephants on the continent has increased substantially with a recent report saying at least 25,000 were killed last year.

The report also said the illegal ivory trade had doubled since 2007.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, M23 insurgents said on Sunday they are ready to return to peace talks and would not make integration into the national army, which has not proved successful in the past, Reuters reports.

Regional presidents on Thursday called Kinshasa and the rebels to restart negotiations after the army, backed by U.N. troops, bolstered the government's position with rare military successes in recent fighting.

The M23 insurgency is the latest incarnation of a Tutsi-dominated rebellion that has repeatedly tried to integrate into the Congolese army, only to withdraw. Its fighters deserted en masse 18 months ago, accusing the government of renegeing on a 2009 peace deal.

M23's leader Bertrand Bisimwa said on Sunday that the rebels would send a delegation to talks which are due to reopen in Uganda's capital Kampala on Monday. But he said they were not interested in pursuing a new reintegration deal.

“We are not demanding integration into the FARDC or into politics,” he told journalists in the town of Bunagana, a rebel stronghold near Congo’s eastern border with Uganda and Rwanda.

Congo’s government has already said it will attend the talks.

Bisimwa reiterated a long-standing demand that the government eradicate the Rwandan Hutu FDLR rebels, made up in part of ex-soldiers and militia who fled to Congo after slaughtering around 800,000 Rwandan Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

M23 has accused the army of receiving military support from the FDLR, an accusation Kinshasa rejects. The government and U.N. investigators meanwhile claim Rwanda is supporting M23, a charge the rebels and Kigali have repeatedly denied.

Bisimwa also called for the return of thousands of Congolese refugees – most of them Tutsis – now living in camps in Rwanda.

“We are ready to go to Kampala and to be disarmed. And our soldiers are ready to enter the demobilization process if Kinshasa accepts to fulfill the two conditions,” he said.

M23 humiliated Congo’s army and the country’s 17,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping mission by briefly occupying the eastern city of Goma in November, forcing Kabila to accept the Ugandan-brokered peace talks as a condition of the rebels’ withdrawal.

However, with the help of a new U.N. Intervention Brigade – created in wake of Goma’s seizure and given a tough mandate to neutralize armed groups – the army has pushed M23 fighters away from the city of one million. ([Back to Top](#))

People smuggling, heroin trade on the rise in East Africa: UN report

Sudantribune.com Kampala, 08/09/13 - A new report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) says more than 100,000 people were smuggled out of East Africa last year, bringing in \$15 million for criminal gangs operating in the region.

The report, titled “Transnational Organised Crime in Eastern Africa: A Threat Assessment”, was released on 4 September.

The UNODC said more than 100,000 people paid smugglers to transport them across the Gulf of Aden or Red Sea to Yemen in 2012, in what was one of the key findings of the report.

The UN report says about 80,000 of the 100,000 migrants who attempted to cross into Saudi Arabia from Yemen were “waylaid by smugglers and subjected to a range of abuses, including confinement, beatings, extortion and rape”.

The report also noted an increase in the heroin trade in the East African region.

“Heroin has been trafficked to and through Eastern Africa since at least the 1980s, but a series of recent large seizures suggests that this flow has increased”, the report said, adding that East Africa has become a regional hub for the illegal sale of the drug and that the local market is now worth millions of dollars.

“The local market is estimated to consume at least 2.5 tonnes of pure heroin per year, worth some \$160 million. The volumes trafficked to the region appear to be much larger, as much as 22 tonnes”, the report said.

Despite the quantity, researches noted that East Africa acts mainly as a transit point for drugs destined for South Africa and West Africa.

A weakness in the rule of law and a growing illicit market are the primary drivers of the drug trade, according to the UNODC.

The report recommends strengthening law enforcement measures in order to make the East African region less attractive to drug traffickers. ([Back to Top](#))

Sudan: Cabinet reshuffle in Sudan imminent - report

AllAfrica.com Khartoum, 9/9/2012 – The highly awaited cabinet reshuffle is soon to be announced following the conclusion of consultations by president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir with other political forces and stakeholders, according to a Khartoum daily.

Bashir so far has met with influential figures within the ruling National Congress Party (NCP), leaders of NCP ideological arm, the Islamic Movement (IM), high ranking military and police officers and leaders of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Mohamed Osman Al-Mirghani and the opposition National Umma Party (NUP) Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi.

The Sudanese president was reportedly scheduled to meet with his longtime foe Hassan al-Turabi who heads the Popular Congress Party (PCP) and Secretary General of the Sudanese Communist Party (SCP) Mokhtar al-Khateeb.

It is not clear if these meetings materialized.

Al-Mijher Al-Siyasi daily newspaper quoted informed sources as saying that the current defense minister, Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein, will now assume the post of presidential assistant responsible for the security and military affairs, adding that an unnamed high ranking army officer will be named as defense minister.

According to the same sources, it has become almost certain that Lieutenant General Bakri Hassan Saleh will keep his post as a minister of presidential affairs, and that Lieutenant General Taha Osman, will also keep his position as state minister and director of Bashir's office.

The sources also said that two state ministers, Idris Mohamed Abdel-Gadir and Amin Hassan Omer, will be removed from their current posts. The first will return to his original post as ambassador at the foreign ministry, while the latter will be named as minister of information and culture.

The former state minister of finance, Hassan Ahmed Taha, was being mentioned as strong candidate for the ministry of finance but other sources speculate that the current finance minister, Ali Mahmoud Abdel-Rasool, will retain his position.

According to the sources, the two presidential assistants, Gaafar al-Mirghani, and Abdel-Rahman Al-Sadig Al-Mahdi, will stay onboard. Both are the sons of the DUP and NUP leaders. ([Back to Top](#))

Uganda backs Kenya vote to quit ICC

The New Vision, 9/9/2013 – The Government of Uganda has supported the decision by the Kenyan parliament to pull out of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Kenyan lawmakers on Thursday backed a motion to pull out of the ICC, ahead of next week's trial of their vice-president William Ruto. Uganda says the decision was long overdue.

"Kenya voted to join the Rome Statute by themselves and they are free to withdraw," said Uganda Government spokesperson, Ofwono Opondo. He added that Kenya was right to withdraw because ICC has showed a lack of fairness in its indictment of leaders.

Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta, vice-president Ruto, and radio presenter Joshua Arap Sang are accused of inciting violence in 2007. "Uganda has made its position clear. Our disappointment is with the way the indictment against the Kenyan leaders was selectively done.

Perhaps they wanted to make them withdraw from the race but the Kenyan people stood their ground by voting them in. The withdrawal (from ICC by the Kenyans) is an indictment to the credibility of the ICC," Opondo said. Career diplomat, Jack Wamai Wamanga, who is also the MP for Mbale municipality, said a country has the right to withdraw if it feels the decisions of the court are going against their interests.

"If you join and ratify an international treaty you are bound by it, but you can jump out. So the Kenyans have the right to withdraw from the treaty," he said. Wamanga, however, said

the decision could be regrettable because it may cause leaders around Africa to commit crimes against their people with impunity, and withdraw from the treaty whenever the court goes for them.

The symbolic vote offers a defiant message to the ICC, but does not impact upcoming trials of the East African nation's leadership, and parliament must now vote on a Bill within 30 days to formalise steps for an actual withdrawal. Kenya is the first country to hold such a vote. The motion "to suspend any links, cooperation and assistance" to the court was overwhelmingly approved by the National Assembly through a voice vote.

On Tuesday, the ICC is due to start the trial of Ruto on three counts of crimes against humanity for allegedly organising 2007-2008 post-election unrest that killed at least 1,100 people and displaced more than 600,000.

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

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

Many Kenyan politicians have branded the ICC a "neocolonialist" institution that only targets Africans, prompting the debate on a possible departure from the Rome Statute of the ICC. ([Back to Top](#))

Sudan says ICGLR leaders want an African meeting to discuss new measures against ICC

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 8/9/2013 – The head of the Sudanese delegation to the Extraordinary Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) that took place in Uganda this week said that leaders at the regional bloc called for an African meeting to discuss new measures against the International Criminal Court (ICC) including en masse withdrawal.

The General Director of Bilateral and Regional Relations at Sudan's Foreign Affairs and National Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region, Ambassador Abdul-Mahmoud Abdul-Halim was cited by Sudan news agency (SUNA) as saying that this move comes in light of Kenyan parliament's recent decision to withdraw from the ICC.

Abdul-Halim told ICGLR summit in his remarks that Africa must learn its lesson from the Kenyan situation which is that the ICC is a "questionable" body that targets the stability and security of Africa and as such the continent must confront this court in a way the safeguards the unity and safety of African states and their people.

The former UN ambassador disclosed that the ICGLR summit also discussed the "blackmail" being practiced by the ICC against the elected Kenyan leadership, indicating that the summit has reviewed the ICC practices against the African countries and its threat to the stability of Kenya.

He added that the Kenyan delegation briefed the summit on the Kenyan Parliament's decision on to withdraw from the Rome Statute which is the basis of the Hague-based court.

Abdul-Halim went on to say that the leaders at the summit recommended in their deliberations on the sidelines of the summit and in the presence of the Chairman of the African Union Commission, the importance of convening an extraordinary African summit towards adopting a more stronger African stance against the ICC including withdrawal from the court.

He stressed that the developments in Kenya confirms the correctness of the Sudanese position which regards the court as a politicized body that exclusively targets Africans.

The Hague-based court has opened investigations into eight cases, all of which are in Africa including Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), Darfur, Kenya, Libya, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali.

Five of the eight cases were referred voluntarily by the African governments in question; two through a UNSC resolution supported by the bulk of African members in the council at the time and one was opened at the ICC prosecutor's request.

But the AU has insisted that the court is unfairly targeting African nations and sought to introduce changes to the Rome Statute that would change the mechanisms of ICC case deferrals. It also pushed for the appointment of an African prosecutor which came to light with the election of Gambian lawyer Fatou Bensouda into this post last year. ([Back to Top](#))

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