



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit  
Communications & Public Information Office

## MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2013

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# Highlights

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## **Two killed, four sustain gunshot wounds in lakes state's forceful disarmament**

*Gurtong.net Rumbek, 18/9/2013* – Two people have been reportedly killed by the South Sudan army officers with four others sustaining gunshot wounds as the Lakes State government launched a surprise forceful disarmament of civilians in Rumbek on Tuesday.

The wounded are admitted at the Rumbek civilian hospital.

The disarmament was launched under instruction of Lakes state military caretaker Governor Maj-Gen Matur Chut Dhuol.

Lakes State resident expressed fears on the soldiers' option to shoot at any pastoralist seen in the area as the army suspected the pastoralists to be carrying guns.

An eyewitness, who requested anonymity, said that army people appear in their compound in Cuei-adukan and open gunfire.

The dead were identified as Mayeny Riak Muorjok and Maluoc Makur Maluoc, both from Rumbek Central County Bher and Nyang section respectively.

Another victim said that they were beaten by people in uniform adding that that the searching involved looting and humiliation of pastoralists and even students were also being tortured and terrorized by the soldiers.

Dut Makoi Kuok, the Lakes State Information and Communication Minister says the State government just decided to launch the forceful disarmament campaign across Rumbek Central County after citizens refused to surrender their guns.

"The state government decided to take guns by force because we have told people through radio but only about 200 guns were surrendered," he said. ([Back to Top](#))

## **Unknown gunman kills boda boda rider along Panyagor–Poktap road**

*Gurtong.net Bor, 18/9/2013* – Twic East County authorities have reported that unknown gunman killed a motorcyclist between Duk and Twic East counties as he was headed to Panyagor in Twic East County.

The victim was reported to have been driving from Poktap heading Panyagor, a Twic east county headquarters on Sunday when he was attacked.

Speaking to the media, Twic East County Commissioner, Adau Akoi Jurkuch says the Boda Boda cyclist shot dead by unknown gunman and the police from both counties of Duk and Twic East are searching for the criminal in the area where the incident happened but there was no source found to verify the attackers in the area.

On September 5, Jonglei State director of Traffic Police, Solomon Mabior Ruar issued an order stopping all the foreign Boda-boda businessmen from operating in Jonglei state.

The order was an implementation of the national minister of interior and wildlife conservation that issued an order stopping licensing motor circles being operated by foreigners Boda-Boda groups in South Sudan.

The director of traffic police said that any violation to this order will lead to the confiscation of Boda-Boda riders and the accused will be prosecuted before the court of law in accordance to provision of South Sudan laws.

He said that each and every foreigner has right to choose between two lines of either selling or take along his/her motorbikes.

"Whoever among the foreigners wants to sell his/her motorbike, he/she must come to traffic to take letter of agreement with the buyer," he said.

Twic East and Duk counties are areas where people fear much because of the insecurity being created by cattle raiders and child abductors in Jonglei state. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **VP calls for Unity to boost growth and development**

**Gurtong.net Juba, 18/9/2013** – South Sudan Vice President James Wani Igga has called for unity among the country's citizens saying it plays a great role in enhancing nation building as the country is faced with daunting challenges.

The Ex-parliament Speaker since taking office last month as the country's new Vice President has repeatedly spoke on strengthening the unity of the people of South Sudan.

"What we need from you is unity," he told a gathering in Juba.

"If we unite behind our government the rest of the expectations will come alone," Igga stressed.

Early this month addressing the Central Equatoria State community in Juba during a congratulatory reception ceremony, Igga called also for promotion of intermarriages between the different tribes in the country, saying it can strengthen the togetherness of the South Sudanese unity.

He further called for revision of the education policy in the country, pointing out that students should be made to study in the different parts of the country to understand the different cultures of others in the country – a move he said will better a sense of belonging. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Director General suspended following alleged dispute with education minister**

**Gurtong.net Rumbek, 18/9/2013** – The long-serving Director General for the Northern Bahr el Ghazal State Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Caesar Atem Biajo, has been suspended over what is alleged to be confrontation with the State Minister of Education.

Atem admits to have been suspended over what he believed as the misunderstanding and lack of trust and confrontation on most technical related issues within the ministry.

"I was issued a letter of suspension dated September 5th without clear limit date of suspension or without legal labour act reference. The suspension does not have when the investigation over the case shall be handled and as well does not have appropriate proceedings followed," he said.

He added that because he was appointed in 2005 through the council of Ministers resolution, he now has to be done the same through the council of Ministers' resolution so that it has a legal ground for the defence.

The letter of suspension indicates five charges against him, which include lack of Ministry's plans implementations, lack of proactive initiative to promote ministry's vision, lack of team spirit, lack of planning and failure to promote national Anthem in the schools as the main reasons why the minister is unhappy with him.

Contrary to the allegations, the DG says the accusations are baseless and have no legal ground for proof and hence would have been looked into by the technical committee for the purpose of transparency and accuracy if the minister had followed the right procedures.

"We have been divergent to each other over a long period of time, he has been looking for the reason to trap me but since I never dared to filthy my work, I had to remain professional following my tasks," he said.

Atem said things became complicated with the Minister in May when the rest of the junior staff turned to be vicious.

Atem who had served under various ministers of Education in the state as DG has said his boss was unprofessional when taking decision of either sacking him or looked for an alternative replacement without proper consultation.

"The minister did not look into the consequences of the technicalities of this ministry, he would have made earlier consultations for my replacement because this is not an easy task to do by any

person, but since he was in rush, I don't blame him for that decision but later has to experience the challenges impending," he insisted.

"I believe that my suspension is influenced over an issue of generator alongside with materials donated to our ministry by HEAR organization that has its activities closed down in the state and decided to hand over to us some of the furniture and other materials to our ministry; I had to form a community to distribute these materials to the various education sub-offices, surprisingly, the minister called me on phone that I have to give a generator to be taken to his home which I asked him to put it in writing, instead, he quarreled with me over the phone saying he cannot write but wants the generator taken to his home," Atem explains.

He is replaced by his deputy William Ajonga who declined to comment on the incident with Atem urging the public to be calm promising them that he will still serve the community in any other capacities. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Parliament endorses report on oil production impact**

*Radio Miraya, 17/9/2013* – South Sudan's Parliament has endorsed a report on the impact of oil production and exploration in the country.

The report which was presented by the chairperson of the environmental committee in the Parliament, Bor Gatweech Kuany, highlighted the negative impact of oil exploration on humans and the environment in oil producing states.

The committee was appointed two weeks ago to look into complaints raised by oil producing states of oil spills and negative impact on humans and livestock.

Petroleum Minister, Stephen Dhiew Daw, also confirmed the testimonies by residents in oil producing areas and said there are reports of deaths, deformities and premature births as a result of oil production and exploration.

"There was one incident in which a woman in Palluj delivered a deformed child without eyes, nose and even a sexual organ. We have taken action to refer her medical examination abroad to establish the real cause."

Thomas Wani Kundu, an MP from Central Equatoria State, accused the companies of focusing on oil profits.

"The oil companies operating in the area are only interested in the oil but not mindful on the life of human beings in the area," he said.

"The company should be mindful of the life of people in those areas."

The oil companies were invited to follow the deliberations but did not give their input. The Petroleum Bill was endorsed by the Assembly last year and clearly stipulated the regulations and guidelines to be followed by the oil companies. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Northern Bahr el Ghazal assembly passes SSP 185 million budget**

*Radio Miraya, 17/9/2013* – The Northern Bahr el Ghazal State Legislative Assembly has passed a budget of SSP 185 million for the 2013/2014 fiscal year.

More than 95% of the budget will come from a central Government grant with the rest of the amount to be generated from state revenue.

The budget was presented by the Chairperson of the Specialized Committee for Finance and Economy, Garang Zakaria Lual.

The committee also recommended the Ministry of Finance table the appropriations bill and a procurement plan, and improve the collection and management of local revenue. ([Back to Top](#))

### **S. Sudan money transfer services growing fast**

*Voice of Voice, 17/9/2013* – You could almost call the capital of Western Bahr el Ghazal, "Western Union" Bahr el Ghazal after the global money transfer company, so rapid has been the growth of money transfer services in the South Sudanese state since independence two years ago.

It used to be that residents of the state capital Wau had to wait months, if not years, for relatives to bring them money to live on. Now, they get the money in a matter of hours at one of four money transfer bureaus in Wau. And they don't have to pay the hefty transaction fees charged by banks for remittances.

Wau resident Angelina Abuk Kon's father sends her money every month from Juba, where he works. She uses the money to buy food and pay for transportation, and says it helps to keep her afloat. And it wouldn't be possible without the money transfer bureau, she said.

"This money transfer is helping us a lot," she told VOA News.

"If they were not here, our money would not reach us in a short time. I came to receive money from Juba, which is very far, but this money transfer service has made the distance shorter," she said.

Barnaba Garang Deng looks after his nephew, who has a medical condition that requires weekly treatment at the local health center. His brother, the boy's father, works in Lakes state, and sends money for his son's treatment every week.

Doing business with a wire transfer company is easier than dealing with a bank, he said, because banks ask for proof of identity, whereas money transfer companies don't.

"You can come and simply receive your money," he said. "We came; we take only five minutes, we get the money."

Daro Patrick, Branch Manager of Eden Money Transfer Service in Wau, said his company not only wants to help people who work far from home to be able to send money to their families -- and be safe in the knowledge that they will get it -- but also to enhance locals' safety by allowing them to carry less cash on them.

"You know these days the world is very risky and you could find you are hijacked," he.

"So we thought it wise at least to open something which is more efficient so that the person can deposit his money somewhere."

High demand for money transfer services throughout South Sudan has fueled substantial growth in companies like Patricks in the last two years, and officials at South Sudan's Central Bank say money transfer companies could help to boost the country's nascent financial sector by attracting outside investors to South Sudan. ([Back to Top](#))

### **New deal compact to improve on service delivery by agencies**

*Gurtong.net Bentiu, 18/9/2013* – The Unity State government has held a stakeholders' consultative forum to help build capacity and define how partners deliver aid and services to the citizens.

Speaking during the consultative meeting in Unity State, Moses Mabior, and the Director of Aid Coordinator in the National Ministry of Finance, Commerce, Investment and Economic Planning said the government of the Republic of South Sudan and the International Community pledged to enter into a long-term agreement to celebrate peace and state building.

"This agreement, in the form of a New Deal Compact for South Sudan will include mutually agreed policy benchmarks for the government marched with commitments from partners to build capacity and improve the way they deliver aid," said Mabior.

Mabior added that "the success of the compact will depend on the degree to which it is a true reflection of the needs of South Sudan....we are undertaking a series of Stakeholders consultation meeting with government, development partners and the civil societies in each of the ten States of South Sudan to identify what priorities people feel should be reflected in the policy commitment."

The Acting and Deputy Governor of the Government of Unity State Col. Mabek Lang Mading stressed that "the government of the Republic of South Sudan should do more to make sure that services delivery is among the top priorities and that the local communities are put in picture and consulted when need arises."



He added that the Government of Unity State is committed to implement and developmental project that aimed to improve the current situation in the Country in term of services delivery and how the local community gets their right share of resources.

The State Minister of Gender and Social Development Honorable Mary Paul Ngundeng said that the government should also concentrate on other source of revenues such as livestock and agriculture among other resources.

The communities at large have been complaining that they are not benefiting from their resources in the oil industries, there is no cleaning drinking, schools, hospital, roads and there is not employment to the immediate community affected by oil exploration.

The conference has discussed and identified few priorities and challenges in the natural resources management in the Republic of South Sudan.

The priority actions included; to improve the management of the oil and mining sector and their respective institutional framework, pass the Petroleum Management Bill and subsequently set up the future generations fund, the government should sign up to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and to increase investment in resource extraction, transport and processing and refining capacity.

The challenges identified in the management of natural resources included; the regulatory framework for natural resources remains incomplete, the petroleum revenue management Bill has been designed but remains to be enacting, the Country (South Sudan) is not yet a member of EITI and the local employment in the natural resource exploitation and management remain limited.

The government and the civil societies organizations has been conducting several conferences with the help from the international communities, Public What You Pay (PWYP) and Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), pushing the government to be a member of two entities so that transparency and accountability are put into action.

Since 2008, the Norwegian People Aids have been supporting three oil taskforces of Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglea States that are currently involve in advocating for the right of local community, services delivery, and environmental impact to the community, employment and will also be carrying out an awareness and dissemination of petroleum management Bill and Revenue management Bill so that that local community know their right and share of their resources and to mobilize the oil industries employees to form a strong union that will negotiate their grievances with their employers.

Three oil taskforces representatives from Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei with support from NPA are invited by PWYP to travel to Norway for the second time to access what role played by PWYP in Norway.

Due to the legacy of conflict and neglect, socio-economic development in South Sudan starts from very low base, despite a nominally high income derived from oil, in the absence of the basic infrastructure and limited services delivery capacity where many people remain cutoff from access to social services.

The areas discussed in the conference are legitimate politics, security, Justices, Economic foundations and revenues services. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Northern Uganda Railway line opened, expected to serve South Sudan and DRC**

*Sudantribune.com* Kampala, 17/9/2013 – A key rail route that has been dysfunction for the last 20 years has been opened with the first train arriving on Saturday in the northern Uganda town of Gulu, about 120 km from the Uganda –South Sudan border.

The railway line is expected to boost exports to South Sudan and Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

The first train arrived in Gulu for the first time in two decades with a cargo of steel from the Kenyan port of Mombasa destined for Juba, South Sudan.

The 500 kms line has been renovated at a cost of US\$ 2 million by the rail operator, Rift Valley Railway (RVR).

Cosmas Gatere an official of RVR said of the opening of the route: "This new service will play a vital role in promoting regional integration and trade by accessing areas hitherto closed to rail transportation."

The opening of the route has been welcomed by freight companies.

"We are excited by the logistical options the opening of the line presents through combinations of rail and last-mile road delivery both for imports and exports. We will now be able to provide more efficient cargo transport to customers along routes in northern Uganda, eastern DRC and South Sudan, and avoid long trips by roads", said Heinz Mueller, Managing Director, Spedag Interfreight, a leading freight and forwarding company in East Africa. ([Back to Top](#))

### **RwandAir to commence flights to Juba**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 17/9/2013* – RwandAir, the national carrier of Rwanda, will launch its first maiden flight to Juba International Airport this weekend.

Its first airline, the company said in a statement, will arrive in the South Sudan capital on 21 September.

"The airline [RwandAir] has opted to launch with three weekly flights on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. The first flight is set to attract passengers, many passengers from both ends, Kigali and Juba," the statement reads in part.

The airline company, however, said it chose to operate the Bombardier CRJ 900NG, the only of its kind in the region.

"This 75 seats aircraft is one of two that were purchased from factory in November of 2012 and serves daily flights to Nairobi and Entebbe via Kigali", it stressed.

Juba, reportedly become RwandAir's fifteenth destination since it re-branded in 2009 to its current operating name.

RwandAir is reportedly one of the fastest growing airlines on the African continent, operating in East Africa, Central Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa and the Middle East from its main base at Kigali International Airport in Kigali. ([Back to Top](#))

### **S. Sudan links debt relief to full resolution of disputes with Khartoum**

*Sudantribune.com Agok/Abyei, 17/9/2013* – South Sudan has received a proposal from Thabo Mbeki's African Union High Level panel to help its northern neighbor overcome its huge debts, the country's foreign minister said.

Barnaba Marial Benjamin said he handed over the proposal to President Salva Kiir who is still scrutinising it.

The joint engagement on debt relief, Marial stressed, was part of the cooperation agreement between the two countries signed a year ago, which demands both sides to lobby for Sudan's debt cancellation.

The minister also confirmed holding a meeting with the Sudanese ambassador to Juba, Mutrif Sadig over the issue, but did not hint on whether his country had accepted to help Sudan on its campaign for debt relief.

The minister, who exclusively spoke to Sudan Tribune on Tuesday, said he delivered the proposal to president Kiir on 12 September. He also reaffirmed the commitment of his government to fully implement the cooperation agreement, describing the recent bombing of Jau as the "work of spoilers of peace".

"That was [an] unfortunate development which we condemned as the government but it will not affect the relations between the countries. We will continue to pursue dialogue to promote peaceful resolution of any difference. You know that our president Salva Kiir visited Khartoum recently in

response to the invitation extended to him by his counterpart and it went well. They affirmed commitment to resolving all the outstanding issues", the minister said.

"This is what want some elements who are against peace and stability do not like. They are spoilers of peace", he added.

A South Sudanese official, who works in the ministry of foreign affairs and deal with Sudan affairs, said the proposal links any international engagement to help Sudan secure debt relief from international lending institutions and donor countries to showing progress and satisfactorily resolve disputes over a host of post-secession disputes which the two sides.

The diplomat, who preferred anonymity, told Sudan Tribune that the Juba government "is fully committed to establishing friendly, healthy and cooperative relations with the government of Sudan within the framework of cooperation agreement".

"We have done everything required from us, including withdrawal of our forces from the border area and recently accepted to be conducting joint border patrols. This demonstrates our commitment to implementing any agreement with our partner but the problem as always been the other side," he stressed.

He alleged that the Sudan Armed Forces "are still occupying areas which the two sides should have no presence of the armed forces because this is what causes conflict."

The official said Khartoum was depicting Juba as "unaware", claiming it was using tactics to get what it wants by using the international community, particularly the African Union to mediate over post secession issues.

He further disclosed that the Sudanese government had repeatedly and directly approached his ministry, through its ambassador to the country, seeking the launching of what he called a "joint outreach diplomatic engagement".

The initiative, the official said, specifically aims at lifting of sanctions imposed on Sudan by the government of the United States and cancellation of the debts Khartoum owed some lending institutions and donor countries.

"Mbeki last week brought a proposal asking the government, specially our president to support the joint diplomatic engagement to support Sudan get cancellation of about \$45.6 billion debt, while at the same refusing some of the proposals which the same Mbeki draws up to help the two sides resolve all the remaining outstanding issues which were not implemented in the comprehensive peace and differences," the ministry official revealed. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Fishermen say poor infrastructure hurting business**

*Sudantribune.com Bentiu, 17/9/2013* – Fishermen in South Sudan's Unity state say lack of access to bigger markets for their products has continued to hurt business activities, despite their huge catch.

Jany Kom Riek is one of more than 200 men in this area who get up every morning and head to the White Nile in narrow canoes, carved from coconut trees.

Riek casts his nets into the river and waits for either Tilapia, Nile perch or catfish to get trapped.

The young man says he spends three hours every morning and evening in his boat.

"The work is hard, but on a good day, I can catch up to 100 fish, which he I sell locally for 1000 South Sudan Pounds," he told Sudan Tribune.

Riek, however, reveals that he is capable of spending a lot more time fishing, if there was a mechanism for preserving his catch.

"When we catch fish, they will only last four or five hours before they are rotten. We are urging the government to provide us with fridges so we can fish for longer periods", he says.

Michael Koang Gatkuoth, a fellow fisherman, says they have repeatedly asked government to provide them with refrigeration trucks, better nets and hooks.



Their request, he says, has so far fallen on deaf ears.

"Most of us have been fishing for more than five to six years and we are tired of looking at the government to improve our situation. We need better equipment and better roads to be really effective", said Gatkuoth.

He says fishermen can only sell their catch in the local markets because the roads to other areas of the state are in terrible conditions.

According to Gatkuoth, the 45-kilometer trip to the capital Bentiu from his village, takes more than two hours by road.

### **Austerity Measures**

Peter Gaw Ngundeng, Unity state director of fisheries for Unity admits the challenges facing fishermen, but says the current austerity measures limit efforts to intervene.

An austerity budget was introduced last year after South Sudan shut down oil production following a dispute with Khartoum over transit fees.

Juba resumed production in April, but government officials say austerity measures will not be lifted until the beginning of next year.

Ngundeng, however, promised the fishermen will be supplied with better equipment, including refrigeration trucks, once the austerity measures are lifted.

"So we have a lot of plans, we have general planning for the department to improve the livelihood of the community. We need to capacitate them when the oil will yield well and the government will have daily revenue from the oil, so we have a lot of plans targeting the fishing community," he said.

At the moment, the best advice he can give the fishermen is to dry or smoke some of their catch, the official added.

South Sudan, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) estimates, could earn up to half a billion annually from the fishing industry, if fully developed. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Civil rights advocacy group petitions world leaders' conflicts in two Sudans**

*Sudantribune.com* Agok/Abyei, 17/9/2013 – Leaders of the major different civil and human right advocacy groups from Africa continent and Middle East have petitioned world leaders expected to gather at the upcoming 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), urging them to intensify efforts to secure a halt and an address to the ongoing conflicts inside Sudan and with the government of neighbouring South Sudan over differences regarding the final status of the border region of Abyei.

"We appeal to the African Union Peace and Security Council to demand action leading to the immediate cessation of hostilities in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur and the provision of full and unhindered humanitarian assistance to those who need it, especially those located in rebel-held areas. The suffering of innocent civilians in these regions needs to be dealt with as a matter of utmost urgency", the advocacy groups representing over 30 leaders said in a letter extended to Sudan Tribune Monday.

The group which called specifically on the leaders from Africa said "fundamental drivers" of the conflict in Sudan are "identical" that a comprehensive resolution would address them instead of "piecemeal".

"Acknowledging that the fundamental drivers of the conflict are shared across Sudan, we encourage the Council to move away from the piecemeal peace deals of the past and state its support for a comprehensive approach to the resolution of conflicts in Sudan that culminates in a national dialogue process which is holistic in its content and scope and inclusive of all relevant stakeholders, not solely the Government and armed groups", the leaders of the major civil and human rights advocacy groups added.

They said their calls was in line with the commitment of the African leaders at the AU Summit in May during which the leaders pledged to address the root causes of conflict and the affirmation of the AUPSC in its 29 July 2013 communiqué that a framework of democratization is essential for both Sudan and South Sudan.

The activists further urged the African Union Peace and Security Council to ensure greater capacity is provided to support this democratization process in Sudan as well as a similar process in South Sudan.

“We encourage the AU PSC to develop this comprehensive approach in consultation and coordination with other key regional and international players”, the petitioners stressed in a letter dated 16 September.

They also called on the African leaders to endorse the 21 September 2012 proposal on the resolution of the conflict of Abyei, quoting African Union Peace and Security Council description of the proposal which considered it as a fair, equitable and workable solution to the dispute between the two countries.

“We call on the African Union Peace and Security Council to endorse the 21 September 2012 proposal on the final status of Abyei as a fair, equitable and workable solution to the dispute between Sudan and South Sudan that both states should now accept as final and binding”, the letter reads in part.

“We encourage the AU PSC to review the recommendation from the AUHIP in its report of 29 July 2013 which suggested the Council undertake a visit to the Abyei Area to express support for the people of the region. This would demonstrate to both parties the Council’s concern over the impasse on the final status of the Abyei Area to both parties, and the need for an urgent and conclusive resolution of this issue, as presented in the AUHIP proposal”. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Khartoum hails positive development after Salva Kiir's Visit**

*Sudanvisiondaily.com* Khartoum, 17/9/2013 – Sudan has hailed the "positive development" in its relations with South Sudan following the recent visit to Khartoum of South Sudanese President Salva Kiir.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Monday that the visit, during which President Kiir held talks with host President Omar Al Bashir, would lead to "more steps to consolidate confidence and cooperation between the two countries".

It said the positive outcome of the visit represented an "African model rooted in cooperation and integration between two countries emerging from a conflict that extended for decades".

The statement also hailed the African Union (AU) and the Ethiopian government for their role in enhancing the relations between Sudan and South Sudan.

"The Government of Sudan would like to commend the efforts of the AUHIP led by President Thabo Mbeki, the African Union Commission, and the efforts of H.E Haile Mariam Desalegn Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the chairman of the IGAD," it said.

"The two countries and peoples, thus, present to the world an African model rooted in cooperation and integration between two countries emerging from a conflict that extended for decades," the Foreign Ministry said.

It said one of the positive outcomes of the talks was that the Ministers of foreign Affairs of the two countries received an invitation from the European Union to visit Brussels for consultations and discussions with the relevant officials in the Union over the planned contribution by the EU to the two countries, particularly for cross-border projects. ([Back to Top](#))

### **EU hosts a meeting for the foreign ministers of Sudan and South Sudan**

*Borglobe*, 17/9/2013 – On the sidelines of the summit hosted by the European Union (EU) on the situation in Somalia, Catherine Ashton, Vice-president and high representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy received both the foreign ministers of Sudan and

South Sudan Mr. Ali Ahmed Karti and Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin to discuss the issues of peace and development and the role of the EU in the coming period.

During the meeting, Catherine Ashton welcomed the results of Salva Kiir's visit to Khartoum and confirmed the EU's support for peace and good neighborly relations between Sudan and South Sudan. She added that the EU looks forward to the implementation of all the agreements signed between the two countries to achieve stability for finding opportunities for sustainable development.

The Sudanese and South Sudanese Foreign Ministers participated in the international conference on Somalia in which the European Union pledged 650 million Euros for peace and state building projects in Somalia. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Sudan threatens to expel US envoy**

*Radio Miraya, 17/9/2013* – The Sudanese government has warned that it will expel the US envoy to Khartoum if Washington continues to get involved in its internal affairs.

Addressing the press in Khartoum, the Director for US Affairs in the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, Mohammed Abdallah Al Tom called for Sudan to be removed from the list of terrorist sponsoring countries and for all economic sanctions to be lifted.

Abdallah further warned that Sudan will also stop the flow of South Sudanese oil through its territories, in line with the sanctions which do not permit foreign exports through its territory. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Couple killed by South Darfur gangs**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 17/9/2013* – Gunmen killed a health official and his pregnant wife in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state which became the most dangerous town in the western Sudan where armed gangs become the main source of crime and insecurity.

The couple was shot dead in their house on Tuesday as local sources say the murder was for personal reasons. The man works for the Health Insurance Authority while the woman is a prison officer in Nyala.

Police source told Sudan Tribune that a man suspected of taking part in the killing was arrested.

Following the incident many people gathered outside Nyala main morgue to denounce the assault and demanded local authorities to end the escalating insecurity in the town.

South Darfur governor, Adam Mahmoud Jar Al-Nabi, pledged last week to improve the security situation and to arrest gang members who perpetrate attacks and robbery "sooner or later".

Police authorities also announced that some 26 police check points were set up in Nyala according to a tight security plan.

The armed gangs are composed mainly of former militiamen who fought against the rebel groups. Weapons and ammunition are proposed for sale different local markets in Darfur.

### **Germany support disarmament in Darfur**

German ambassador in Sudan Rolf Welberts on Tuesday handed over to the Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) authority in Khartoum the first batch of technical support to its programme aiming to mark small arms and light weapons in Darfur.

Following the handing of the marking machines, Welberts announced that his country will directly provide \$20 million to support rehabilitation programmes in Darfur. Germany also contributes to the EU support for peace and development in the region. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Sudan Slams US for rejecting Al Bashir's participation in UNGA meetings**

*Sudanvisiondaily.com Khartoum, 17/9/2013* – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tuesday issued a statement through which it rejected the conduct of the US administration toward Sudan, especially concerning the statements of the spokeswoman of the US State Department and American envoy to the United Nations with regard to the participation of Sudan at the African Leaders in New York

on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings, in response to the invitation of Obasanjo Foundation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Sudan adherence to its full right to participate at the highest level in the meetings of the 68th session of the UN General Assembly, indicating that it has demanded the United States, on its capacity as the headquarters state, to issue the required entry visas for Sudan delegation as soon as possible.

The ministry expressed its rejection and astonishment over the irresponsible statements given by the spokesperson of the US State Department and American permanent envoy to the United Nations.

The statement pointed out that the President of the Republic aims to visit the UN headquarters, stating that the headquarters country, the United States, has no legal right for objection to the participation of any official from any full member state in the UN at activities of the United Nations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the United States as not morally, politically and legally qualified to provide sermons and advices on respect to the International Humanitarian Law and the human rights under its own known record of war crimes and extermination against whole peoples, the last of which was the invasion of Iraq in the year 2003 and the killing of more than one million Iraqi persons after deceiving the world with false lies.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs went on to say that the US administration is protecting and helping Israel which is the biggest perpetrator of human rights violations, crimes against humanity and the unprecedented war crimes, adding that the US administration does not even allow any criticism or condemnation against Israel from the Security Council.

The statement said that it is ironic that the US administration managed to use the issue of the International Criminal Court (ICC) as pretext to criticize the application of the President of the Republic for entry visa, when the United States itself is not a member of the ICC and openly objecting to it.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the trend of the US administration to threaten about the International Criminal Court issue, under the African consensus over the ICC targeting of the African leaders who are democratically elected by their peoples reflects only the US Administration aim to humiliate the African leaders and peoples.

The statement finally affirmed Sudan adherence to its right for full participation at the highest level in the 68th session of the UN General Assembly, demanding the United States, on its capacity as the headquarters' country, to issue the required entry visas for Sudan delegation, headed by President Al-Bashir, as quickly as possible. ([Back to Top](#))

### **U.S. hints it will approve visa request by Sudan's Bashir**

*AllAfrica.com* Khartoum, 17/9/2013 – The Sudanese government hit back at statements by U.S. officials condemning a bid by president Omer Hassan al-Bashir to travel to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) meetings this month.

The Sudanese government on Tuesday confirmed what US State department officials announced as a visa application by Bashir to enter the country.

The move by Bashir to seek entry drew rebuke by US officials who called on him to answer charges first at the International Criminal Court (ICC) which indicted him in 2009 and 2010 on ten counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in connection with the decade-long conflict in Sudan's western region of Darfur.

"Such a trip would be deplorable, cynical and hugely inappropriate. We would suggest that given that he is under those charges, and that the ICC has indicted him, again, on genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity charges that it would be more appropriate for him to present himself to the ICC and travel to The Hague," US ambassador to the UN Samantha Power told reporters yesterday.

The US State Department deputy spokesperson Marie Harf refused to say whether the visa request will be granted when queried by reporters on Monday.

However a senior State Department official today hinted in an interview with Reuters that Bashir would end up being issued a visa saying that the Sudanese leader "not receive a warm welcome" if he were to travel to the UN meeting.

"I am not going to speak to the specifics of this case, but typically as a host nation the United States is generally obligated to admit foreign nationals, but visas broadly speaking can be restricted," the unnamed official added.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday issued a statement accusing Washington of protecting Israel and violators of human rights and directing the ICC to indict African leaders who are democratically elected by their people.

"The US government is not qualified morally, politically and legally to offer sermons and advice regarding respect of international humanitarian law and human rights, in the background of its [US's] known record in committing war crimes and genocide against peoples. The last of these [war crimes] was the war in Iraq in 2003 and the killing of more than one million Iraqis after it [the US] sought to mislead the world with intentional lies, as a number of its former officials have revealed," Sudan foreign ministry spokesman Abu-Bakr al-Sideeg said. ([Back to Top](#))

### **Islamic coalition calls on Sudan's NCP to step down and transfer power to them**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 17/9/2013* – The Sudanese Islamic and National Forces Alliance (INFA) has announced its categorical rejection of lifting fuel subsidies and described the anticipated move as "catastrophic", calling upon the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) to hand power over to them.

The new alliance, which is comprised of 20 parties including the Just Peace Forum (JPF), Justice Party (JP), the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) and the United Sudan Forces (USF), declared that it represents the appropriate replacement for the NCP's regime.

The coalition which was announced on Tuesday threatened to resist the new economic measures through popular, political, and legal means and called on the Sudanese people to reject the upcoming economic measures.

The Sudanese opposition umbrella organization known as the National Consensus Forces (NCF) announced that it is planning to organize public sit-ins to resist the government's anticipated decision. Also the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF), an alliance of rebel groups issued a statement calling on their supporters inside the country to protest against the economic reforms. ([Back to Top](#))

### **African Union to debate mass exit from ICC amid trial of Kenya's leaders**

*Washington Post Kampala, 18/9/2013* – An upcoming summit of the African Union will debate the possible exit of some African countries from the International Criminal Court, Uganda's deputy foreign minister said Tuesday as the trial of Kenya's deputy president proceeded at The Hague.

Okello Oryem said that Uganda, whose president has questioned the ICC's credibility, would be compelled to quit the Rome Statute that created the court if a "summit-level" recommendation is made in solidarity with the leaders of Kenya who face criminal charges at The Hague over their alleged roles in post-election violence that killed more than 1,000 people in 2007-08. They face charges of crimes against humanity, which they deny having committed.

The ICC has come under strong criticism from some African leaders who say it disproportionately targets Africans. The international court has indicted only Africans so far.

Oryem cited concerns about the credibility of the witnesses in the trials of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy, William Ruto. He said Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni "is doing everything possible" to stop the criminal trials in Europe of Kenya's leaders. An African Union



summit next month in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, “will decide this matter” of a possible mass exit from the ICC, he said.

At Kenyatta’s inauguration earlier this year, Museveni gave a speech in which he accused the ICC of being biased against Africans. His criticism of the ICC surprised many in Uganda, where Museveni once was seen as a strong supporter of the international court after he backed its charges against the fugitive warlord Joseph Kony and his top commanders.

But Museveni has accused the ICC of what he calls “arrogance” in its handling of Kenya’s post-election violence case.

“I was one of those that supported the ICC because I abhor impunity,” he said in April in Nairobi, Kenya’s capital. “However, the usual opinionated and arrogant actors using their careless analysis have distorted the purpose of that institution. They are now using it to install leaders of their choice in Africa and eliminate the ones they do not like.”

Kenyatta and Ruto have both pledged to continue cooperating with the ICC, even though Kenya’s parliament recently voted to withdraw from the ICC. Ruto’s trial is under way and Kenyatta’s is scheduled to start in November.

Thirty-four African countries, including Nigeria and South Africa, have signed the Rome Statute.

When an African Union summit in May urged the United Nations to transfer trials of Kenya’s leaders to Kenya, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said the ICC prosecutions “have degenerated into some kind of race hunt” of Africans. “We object to that,” he said.

Amnesty International said recently that Kenya’s exit from the ICC would “set a dangerous precedent for the future of justice in Africa.”

A mass exit of African countries from the ICC “would weaken its political and practical ability to seek justice for victims of atrocity,” said David Crane, a law professor at Syracuse University in the U.S. ([Back to Top](#))

### **African press review 17 September 2013**

*The Daily Monitor Kampala*, 17/9/2013 – South Africa's financial paper, *BusinessDay*, reports that South Sudan’s president, Salva Kiir, is facing dissent as Africa's newest state stumbles.

According to the Johannesburg-based daily, the performance of the former bush fighters as rulers has fallen short of even the most modest expectations.

President Salva Kiir is facing growing dissent from the streets and from inside his ruling party. Critics say the newborn nation is facing the same ills that plagued the old Sudan - corruption, a lack of public services and repression of government opponents and the media.

While no one regrets secession from the North, says *BusinessDay*, half the population feels South Sudan is heading in the wrong direction, with poverty and crime on the increase. The absence of a real opposition party means widespread grievances find no outlet through the political system.

At least half of the 10 billion euros earned in oil revenues since the 2005 peace deal with Khartoum has been stolen by government officials.

Also according to *BusinessDay*, Rwanda has responded to regional criticism of its military deployment along the frontier with the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, saying its territory has been repeatedly hit by cross-border shelling.

Rwanda’s ambassador to South Africa, Vincent Karega, told *BusinessDay* on Monday that 34 shells exploded inside Rwanda in a recent 10-day period. Ambassador Karega went on to suggest that the shelling was not accidental but a ploy to try to suck Rwanda into the conflict between Congolese troops, supported by United Nations peace keepers, against the Rwandan-backed Congolese rebels known as M23.

Rwanda first complained about the shelling during August’s intense fighting in areas north of the eastern Congo city of Goma. The M23 rebels were forced to retreat and there have been no reports of cross-border incursions by Rwanda’s army.

Rwanda is concerned that only M23 fighters are being targeted, while the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda - exiled remnants of the former government army in Rwanda that helped to commit the 1994 genocide - are being left untouched.

The border deployment by Rwanda was criticised at a special summit of the Southern African Development Community in Windhoek, Namibia, last Wednesday, where the possibility of a Rwandan invasion of the eastern DRC was deplored. Rwanda is not a member of the Southern African Development Community.

In South Africa itself, the rand is continuing its remarkable turnaround from its lows against the dollar last month, and on Monday traded at its strongest level in five weeks.

Confirmation that former US Treasury secretary Lawrence Summers is out of the running for the chairmanship of the American Federal Reserve boosted confidence that the Fed will maintain its soft stance for longer, thus helping emerging market currencies, including the rand.

In Kenya, The *Standard* reports that Deputy President William Ruto will today face his accusers as his trial resumes at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

The first prosecution witness to take the stand is expected to be a woman, who survived the attack at Kiambaa where 30 women and children were burnt to death inside a church on 1 January, 2008.

The 37-year-old woman is expected to testify about planning meetings allegedly attended by Ruto at a prominent politician's home in the Rift Valley where she worked as a cook.

There's bad news on the front page of The *Daily Nation*, where it's reported that Kenya is one of the countries that will not achieve key goals on health and child mortality by 2015, according to a UN agency report.

The study says that Kenya's pledge to attain the Millennium Development Goals on health, especially those on preventing the death of children, is far from being realised.

The report, jointly released on Monday by UNICEF, the World Health Organisation and the World Bank, says that despite a reduction in the number of children dying before reaching their fifth birthday, the decrease is not enough to achieve the goals set in the year 2000.

Pneumonia, premature birth, asphyxia, diarrhoea and malaria are cited as the leading causes of death among children. The reports says a child born in sub-Saharan Africa faces more than 16 times the risk of dying before his or her fifth birthday than a child born in a high-income country.

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### **South Sudan: A third alternative to the oil pipeline proposal**

*AllAfrica.com*, 18/9/2013 – To say that the new state of South Sudan, a country with over 80 percent of the population illiterate and more than 50 percent living below the poverty-line, is facing huge challenges in kick-starting her economic development is no exaggeration. South Sudan is probably the most oil dependent country in the world. This means that we must make the best use of our oil revenues to jump-start that much needed development. This also means, not accepting the argument that, we are too weak to exert any, if not full control over our resources.

Following the suspension of oil production, the government of South Sudan announced that, it would build an alternative export pipeline to the Indian Ocean via Lamu in Kenya. With an economy that produces almost nothing else, except crude oil, there is a need to scrutinise, debate and think through this proposal thoroughly. This includes examining the feasibility and viability of this alternative option of an export route; the time it will take to build it "assuming that all is well", technically and economically; the geo-politics and security of the region; and the cost of not just the construction, but including the charge per drum to be levied by Kenya, etc.

Insecurity is not an attractive option for investors to come in as cost benefits analysis simply generates a reluctance to invest in a new pipeline in an insecure region/ zone. Granted that oil companies will go anywhere there is money to be made, but of course we should strive for security and stability to make it easier. The dwindling oil reserves and lack of significant new discoveries in South Sudan is also another element to factor into the equation.

We need to start thinking rationally about these issues for our country's sake. Keeping ourselves uninformed, infantilising and over-simplifying things would achieve very little or no good at all. There is the belief within South Sudan that a pipeline can be built within one year or two at most. Realistically speaking, it will probably take us from three to five years to build a new export pipeline to the Indian Ocean via Kenya, assuming that all preparations are in place.

Technically the two oil blends that we produce in South Sudan, the Nile Blend and the Dar Blend cannot be transported in the same pipeline. This is one of the reasons why there are two pipelines to Port-Sudan. This means we have to build two parallel pipelines to export these two types of oil as they cannot be mixed in the same pipeline.

Economically, building the two pipelines will require billions of dollars, which is not a small sum to find, especially given the shape of our country's finances at the moment and the fact that there is no guaranteed financing for this option, contrary to all that has been reported.

This paper is trying to examine possible solutions to exporting South Sudanese oil. There has been a great deal about the alternative pipeline, which for the purposes of this piece I will call alternative 1.

While I am sympathetic and do not object to the idea and the proposal put forward by Professor Sharon Hutchinson of the University of Wisconsin and Professor Eric Reeves of Smith College, Massachusetts entitled: Oil Transport from South Sudan to the Kenyan Coast: An alternative to the oil pipeline proposal that would promote immediate employment, national unity, and long-term economic growth. I will call this alternative 2.

I would like to introduce alternative 3, which is the moving of the oil by road. Yes, Paved Road - A highway. This might sound like a farfetched idea and though I have to acknowledge from the outset that one of the major issues with transporting flammable liquid by people & road over far distances is, that it is not sustainable in the long term. Oil tankers on a road could be a cause for insecurity as it will be perceived as easier to attack, rob and vandalise. Drivers will be easy targets from all sorts of madness en route.

Now let's look at several realities. For a start, all the oil and most of the other commodities consumed in South Sudan are transported into the country via trucks on largely unpaved roads. If I may, I would wish to thank the two eminent academics in proposing alternative 2. I also would like to say that I would more or less use the same template, the same justifications, reasons and rationales to present the case simplistically, and I have to emphasise here simplistically, for transporting our oil on paved road. The same rationales apply as much to the road alternative 3, as they do to the rail line.

I am confident that moving our oil by road would be much more beneficial for the people of South Sudan in a number of ways. This is more so, considering the country's development and economic needs than transporting the oil by any other means.

Building a paved road for the purposes of transporting South Sudanese oil will have a residual benefit not only for the vested interest groups from within and without, but will at least at the same time leave something for the general South Sudanese citizen to improve their lot with. The building of a paved road to the Indian Ocean via Kenya has many major advantages over the oil pipeline proposal or even moving it by rail. If there was capacity I would recommend building a paved road and railway system together, but all considered I would say a road first. Seconded by a railway, and an alternative pipeline as the third option.

I would first highlight some of what I regard as the main disadvantages (with a few mitigations) to building a road and then illustrate the advantages:

The environmental impact of a road is a criterion which is often used to prevent new infrastructure from being built or to re-orient choices towards transport alternatives such as rail. The need to reduce CO2 emissions and prevent global warming has to be seriously taken into account. Road transport is becoming less polluting, thanks to the combined effects of stringent measures, new anti-pollution standards, modernization, cleaner fuels and manufacturing and building of roads

techniques and improving the performance of roads, better alignment coupled with sufficient width and infrastructure capacity giving traffic the possibility to flow steadily.

It is true that a road, even more than a railway transport, would move oil less rapidly than a pipeline some might consider this as a disadvantage. This could prove an even bigger advantage to South Sudan, because it could provide greater flexibility and control in responding to oil price fluctuations and permit longer term monetisation of this finite natural resource, as elegantly outlined by the two Professors in their proposal.

Evidently a road would move much less oil than a pipeline on a daily basis (quantity). This could actually be an advantage in that it will be better in the long run if South Sudan uses revenues from this natural resource over a longer period of time, extending the revenue stream for a number of years and maximising what can be extracted, than expending it within a short time.

### **Here are some advantages for the road besides just transporting our oil:**

**National Unity.** A national highway would be a truly national project, linking regions, and with the potential to bring all of South Sudan within a continually growing transport system. An initial highway can serve as the beginning of a key part of the transportation infrastructure for South Sudan. The possibilities for roads spurs, extensions, and new roads/ highway are immense and multiple. In some areas, a road will provide creative possibilities for trade, as opposed to raiding for cows, etc. The road would be a symbol of national pride and resourcefulness. It would connect people, provide for improvements in national security, and speed movement of food in times of shortage, etc.

**Expand the geographical reach of community services:** A road could be used for the delivery of government-supported services in the areas of emergency food supplies, primary health service, veterinary medicine, etc. so as to bring tangible and socially inclusive "peace dividends" to greater numbers of citizens more cheaply and more quickly.

**Employment:** A road/ highway could provide an immediate and significant source of employment for South Sudanese especially among demobilised SPLA soldiers and those who live in the regions through, which the road would pass. Since a road construction does not require the same technical expertise as does an oil pipeline construction. In addition an expanding road system within South Sudan would continue to provide jobs and food security for the future, something that cannot be said of a completed pipeline.

**The broadest benefits of a road:** A road could last indefinitely with minimal maintenance continuing to grow and serve the peoples and economies of South Sudan and the region for many generations to come. In contrast, the utility of an oil pipeline would end with the depletion of this finite resource.

**Help to create an import and export economy:** A road can carry products other than crude oil for export and crucially will allow for imports as well. The image of an oil pipeline is that of a one-way extraction of resources from Africa (exploitation); a road moving a range of both imports and exports presents an entirely different picture and will connect South Sudan with the world at large in flexible and strategic ways. A road can carry cattle, gold, agricultural and other products to bolster nascent domestic markets as well as generate revenue from exports.

**Speed of construction:** since we have raised questions about the overall feasibility, cost and length of time required to construct an oil pipeline to the Indian Ocean via Kenya and to a lesser extend the railway option. A paved road could be constructed much more speedily (especially that we have some of the raw materials right there at home in South Sudan) at a considerably less cost and without many of the technical nightmares that would inevitably accompany a pipeline and again to a lesser degree a railway construction.

**Strengthen regional ties:** Unlike a pipeline, a road could stimulate multiple economic initiatives, local entrepreneurship and economic growth that would benefit South Sudanese, Kenyans and the wider region. A road designed to benefit regional communities would face less potential opposition and thereby diminish long-term security concerns.

### **Further advantages:**

To state the obvious a road is almost certainly much less expensive to construct than a pipeline by far (unless the contract is drawn up like most that have been reported since the CPA was signed). Given the two-way nature of such a road and the possibilities for both significant non-oil exports for example food stuff, etc., and inexpensive imports. An independent international cost/benefit analysis of a road against a pipeline will almost certainly favour the road.

A road can be repaired and maintained much more quickly in the event of damage from any source. Oil transport itself would be considerably more secure, especially since security forces could be equipped to patrol and monitor it and hopefully keep our communities peaceful and secure at the same time.

There are considerable environmental advantages, especially in areas where a ruptured pipeline would do tremendous damage to the local ecology.

Since South Sudan predominantly relies on oil. It would make sense to establish a proper oil industry including refineries to be built and strategically located within South Sudan (I must re-iterate strategically located).

We in South Sudan have realised the long cherished goal of our recent history's struggle, starting with the Torit Mutiny in 1955, built upon by the SPLA in 1983, culminating in the referendum vote in January 2011 and independence in July 2011.

But, and it is a big BUT indeed, how many South Sudanese have benefited from their oil? The answer is a very minute - infact a very insignificant number of South Sudanese have or are enjoying whatever comes from their oil thus far.

We all want to actualise the political and economic independence of South Sudan. The question of how to do so remains an urgent one and it is never too late for a robust discussion and debate on the potential advantages and disadvantages of all the three alternatives: 1) A pipeline, 2) A rail line, and 3) A Road.

Yes, I have not done any costing yet and do not have any hard figures for how much a road will cost us and how long it will take us to build it. The only benefit to cost ratio that we should be measuring and thinking about here from a South Sudanese point of view, is what the South Sudanese people will get out of each option. The cobwebs of vested interests groups and associations have always and will always continue to get more than their due. And it is unfortunate that there is very little that we can do about that. At the end of the day consumers do not care where the oil they use come from and how it gets to them. But a road will make a considerable good difference to the people of South Sudan. The benefits of building a road to the people of South Sudan outweigh the cost by any measure.

We should not allow ourselves to be seen as delusional or out for an adventure. Sometimes good intentions are not enough. That is why we in South Sudan need to adopt pragmatic approaches and engage in a much more rigorous policy analyses and debates to inform our public and policy developers.

Oil is not just a commodity as many of our people believe it "just" to be. It is a strategic asset. And as such calls for strategic planning and thinking outside the box! The problem is not the solution(s) to oil transportation, but our ability to do the right thing. ([Back to Top](#))

### **[Aleu Ayieny's order is here to stay!](#)**

*Sudantribune.com*, 17/9/2013 – The reaction of foreigners particularly Ugandans living in South Sudan towards recent ban on foreign boda boda riders by Interior Ministry and Wild Life Conservation in the Republic of South Sudan should be an eye-opener. Immediately after this Order came to effect, Uganda motor cycle riders fled back home and began misinterpreting action taken by Government of South Sudan as expulsion of Ugandans. They also claimed they were robbed of their belongings by South Sudanese as they returned to their country. They put forward all these claims in order to premeditate and justify their harassments of South Sudanese living in Uganda and to create discord between Uganda and South Sudan.



Consequently, this matter seemingly suffered sensationalisation when Uganda Parliament took tough line by calling for blanket expulsion of South Sudanese living in Uganda. Fortunately, Uganda Government was quick to dismiss this call because the matter had already been clarified by two Presidents: Uganda's Yoweri Museveni and South Sudan's Salva Kiir. But what could have been in the mind of one Honorable Member of Parliament, Gilbert Olanya who raised motion in Parliament to expel South Sudanese in his country? Did he really look around in his village or Kampala and saw single South Sudanese ridding boda boda or matatu? Has he ever heard or seen group of heavily armed South Sudanese gangs who stage night robbery in any Uganda cities or his village in Northern Uganda? Are there South Sudanese doing petty jobs such as restaurant attendance, laundry, construction, hawking etc. reserved for local Ugandans? The questions are many to occupy this page. But the fact is, no South Sudanese fits in any of the above questions. However, the opposite of that equation is reality which Hon. Olanya intentionally fails to accept.

But personally, I am not surprised by Hon. Olanya and his colleagues' attitude towards sovereign decision of banning foreign boda boda riders in South Sudan. Just like most of the neighbors of the Republic of South Sudan, Uganda could also hold leverage of threatening South Sudan and hold it hostage because it relies heavily on imports brought from East African via Uganda route. It is worth mention that Uganda traders and truck drivers blocked Nimule Road in several occasions because of their claims of mistreatment in South Sudan. So, shall South Sudan continue to live under continuous threats and blackmails even when exercising its sovereign rights to put its house in order? Of course not! And Aleu Ayieny's Order is here to stay.

Those South Sudanese who criticize Aleu's ban on foreign boda boda riders in the country are either driven by self-centered political interest or myopic jealousy of this Order. If we are to call spade a spade, foreign boda boda riders did not do anything good in this country since they invaded streets of South Sudan major towns a couple of years ago. Many accidents that had happened in Juba have always largely been blame on disorganized; greet boda boda riders who never respect any piece of traffic rule of this country. I am not saying such accidents may stop since they are banned but the fact that sanity is restored as a result of Aleu's Order will definitely reduce cases of accidents masterminded by erstwhile boda boda mob in Juba streets.

While others criticize this order on the best reasons known to them, I personally appreciate this order which I call a "patriotic decision" that would enhance us taking back our country from unscrupulous foreigners that are firmly taking control of all economic factors in South Sudan in the pretext of investment. Yes these groups may have been given license by the Government. But what is wrong with cancelling such licenses if they became thorn on the flesh of the citizens? In any case, foreign investors (?) should not benefit at the expense of citizens, and then cheer up because they were licensed by Government to operate lawfully! Any critic whether South Sudanese or foreigner must be objective and critically look at the behaviors of investors in this country. ([Back to Top](#))

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