



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit  
Communications & Public Information Office

## MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

MONDAY, 03 JUNE 2013

### SOUTH SUDAN

- Presidency's stolen money: Justice Gatwec hands over findings (*Eye Radio*)
- Machar warns against sliding into regional politics in the country (*Sudantribune.com*)
- South Sudan security accuses media of "falsifying" restrictions on Machar as The Citizen refutes (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Security restricts S. Sudan TV from covering VP's activities, as his office dismisses (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Internal reshuffle hits South Sudan finance ministry (*Sudantribune.com*)
- 90% of Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal citizens want new political parties – poll (*Sudantribune.com*)
- UN humanitarian aid rushed into South Sudan before rains come (*VoA News*)
- UN mission in South Sudan cannot replace government (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Minister criticizes Human Rights Watch report on WBG skirmishes (*News Agency of South Sudan*)
- State authorities call for enhanced de-mining efforts (*Gurtong*)
- Police blocks women dialogue in Torit (*Sudan Catholic Radio Network*)
- South Sudan Red Cross restores peoples' hopes (*Gurtong*)
- Payii Roads and Bridges boss arrested over misuse of Juba-Kajokeji road funds (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Warrap accuses Unity of killing 3 people in cattle raids (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Suspected raiders kill 8 in Unity State (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Youth grumble over lack of jobs (*Gurtong*)

### SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN

- Kiir tells UN chief it is time to take action over Abyei (*Sudantribune.com*)

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Sudan says Bashir's statements reflect government's official position (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Sudan says "external influences" on SPLM/A made negotiations fail (*Sudantribune.com*)

### FEATURES/ COMMENTS

- OPINION: A call to discourage regional conferences in South Sudan (*by Justice Deng Biong on Sudantribune.com*)
- FEATURE: After "black gold", South Sudan eyes the real stuff (*Capital FM News*)

### LINKS TO STORIES FROM THE MORNING MONITOR

- Committee completes investigation into money stolen from Kiir's office (*Sudantribune.com*)
- More than 23K refugees flee South Sudan conflict (*Associated Press*)
- Self-proclaimed Lou-Nuer prophet declares his intention to work for peace (*Sudantribune.com*)
- South Sudan security accuses media of "falsifying" restrictions on Machar ... (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Security wants blackout on VP coverage (*Sudan Catholic Radio Network*)
- South Sudan TV editor says security agent threatened him with gun (*Reuters*)
- Governor criticises abuse of social media (*Gurtong*)
- South Sudan says Japan to construct alternative oil pipeline (*Sudantribune.com*)

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# Highlights

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## **Presidency's stolen money: Justice Gatwec Hands Over Findings**

*Eye Radio Juba, 02/06/13* - The ad hoc committee investigating disappearance of a large sum of money from the office of the President has completed its work, according to an official.

The Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Commission who also chairs the committee, Justice John Gatwec, told *Eye Radio* they have handed over the final report to the presidency:

"We have finished the investigation," said Hon. Gatwec."We've given the report to the President."

Hon. Gatwec declined to reveal the findings.

"We cannot give it to the public because it is confidential and only the President is the one who can tell the people what was found," he added.

In March, hundreds of thousands of combined US dollars and South Sudanese pounds were stolen from the office of the President under mysterious circumstances.

The report comes six weeks after President Salva Kiir set up the four-member committee to identify, summon, interview and investigate all the concerned members of the staff involved.

The suspects include the chief administrator at the office of the president, Mayen Wol Jok, executive director, Yel Lual Kur and the controller of accounts, Nhomout Agoth. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

## **Machar warns against sliding into regional politics in the country**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 02/06/13* - South Sudan's Vice President, Riek Machar, has warned against regional based politics, saying this can unfortunately take over the role of political parties and promotes tribalism in the young nation.

He said it is the multi-party politics by national parties such as the ruling party, SPLM that can unite the country by providing a national direction and vision and not by groupings into separate regional political blocs which firstly serve regional interests.

It is the national parties, he added, that can make it possible for a quality leader from anywhere in the country ascend to power even if such a leader come from a very small tribe.

Machar made the remarks in a speech which was broadcast on the state-owned South Sudan TV on Saturday while addressing the masses in an occasion organised in memory of a veteran politician, Andrew Wiu, who died last week.

The Vice President who doubles as deputy chairman of the SPLM has been discouraging the convening of regional forums as political blocs for discussing political issues affecting the country.

The regional gatherings were prompted by the internal transformation process within the ruling party in which senior party leaders, including Machar, criticized the party chairman and head of government, Salva Kiir Mayardit, from greater Bahr el Ghazal, for failing to tackle important national issues, calling on him to step down in the upcoming party national convention this year.

Senior politicians and intellectuals from the two defunct greater regions of Equatoria and Bhar el Ghazal in May held their respective regional conferences where they discussed various national issues, including the future leadership of the country, while putting first the interests of their respective regions.

The conferences also discussed the future of the SPLM party's leadership despite the fact that the participants in those regional gatherings came from different political parties in the country.

Machar said such regional forums that act as political blocs would kill the role of the political parties, promote tribalism and diminish the chances of ascending to power by leaders from smaller tribes.

He encouraged political parties to reflect the national unity by securing membership from all the states and tribes.

In a political party politics, it is your vision and program that matter, not tribe or region, he said, adding that a national party can identify a brilliant leader even from a small tribe to lead in order to direct and implement the party vision country-wide.

But with regionalism, he said, it will be the voice of a dominant tribe in that particular region that will thrive, thus fitting region against region or dominant tribe against dominant tribe.

He further pointed out that the practice of political regionalisation is against the demand for federalism in all its aspects. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Security accuses media of "falsifying" restrictions on Machar ...**

*Sudantribune.com* Juba, 02/06/13 - The headquarters of the National Security Service (NSS) in South Sudan has strongly denied allegations that it threatened and directed the media not to cover or broadcast activities related to the country's Vice President, Riek Machar, and instead accused certain quarters of the media, including *The Citizen* and *Sudan Tribune*, of "falsifying" the story.

*The Citizen* management has also counter-responded and threatened to make public the identity of the national security officer who raided their office on Thursday if the security organ tried to distance itself from the irresponsible act.

In a press release issued on Friday 31 May from the head office of the National Security Service in response to the publication of a news article by *Sudan Tribune* speaking about restrictions on coverage of activities related to Machar, the security organ categorically denied it, saying they would not do such an irresponsible act against the country's Vice President.

Nhial Bol Akeen, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Citizen* newspaper and TV, told *Sudan Tribune* that a security officer raided his office "at gun point" on Thursday, threatening him to implement the directives that they should not publish or broadcast activities related to the Vice President.

Staff of the state-owned *South Sudan TV* also complained about the behaviour of some elements within the national security service, echoing the allegations of censorship on political activities related to the South Sudan's Vice President.

The security service however distanced itself from this act, denying any thing to do with the whole incidence.

"National Security Service is cognizant of the mandate, roles and responsibilities as provided in South Sudan Transitional Constitution; therefore shall never indulge itself into activities which are incompatible with its mandate", said the two-page statement

"The general public is therefore informed that the National Security Service has nothing to do with the said clown "security officer" nor had established any contact with the newspaper; neither had ordered any media censorship on issues related to political situation in the country," reads in part the press release, also published by *The Citizen*, Saturday.

The press release further said in a meeting on Friday involving senior officials from the national security and ministry of information and broadcasting over the allegation, Nhial Bol Akeen categorically denied giving the statements to *Sudan Tribune* about his office raid and blamed the story on the *Sudan Tribune* journalist, Ngor Arol Garang.

In response to the press release issued by the national security service, the management of *The Citizen* on Sunday issued a counter-press release confirming that Nhial Bol truly gave to *Sudan Tribune* the statements about his office raid.

*The Citizen* management in the press release it published on Sunday also invited the public to obtain from the office the identity of the security officer who stormed the office.

“The said officer who raided *The Citizen* compound on Thursday, May 30, 2015 [2013] is known to the employees and to the Editor-in-Chief. Whoever wants the details of him is invited to seek such details from the management,” the press release reads in part.

“The threat to censor the vice-president, Riek Machar, is a real demand according to the argument of the officer who raided our compound”, it says.

It further pointed out that the officer who raided their compound was himself in the Friday meeting.

“The officer attended the meeting arranged between Editor-in-Chief, Nhial Bol, and senior officials of the security by the Director General of the Ministry of Information on Friday, May 31, 2013”, it further reads.

A senior official in the ruling Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) on Sunday told *Sudan Tribune* that he believed a small section within the national security organ that is connected to a certain top leadership may be responsible for such an irresponsible behaviour.

He criticized such elements for being naïve and unconscious about the implications of their "reckless" actions of dividing the leadership and subverting the democratic principles", warning that the security service may unnecessarily fragment into groups of interests, leading to breakdown of their command and network system.

He said these are few disgruntled members of the security service who do not even coordinate their operations with their superiors, let alone the minister of National Security, Oyai Deng Ajak, who was always frustrated by the behaviours of such individual officers.

"The security officers implicated in such irresponsible behaviour should be disciplined and even dismissed from the service", he said, adding this can send a strong message to the rest.

The senior official also called for training of the security personnel, saying lack of training had also contributed to the low quality of the service.

The ongoing political debate on the future leadership in South Sudan is also believed to have caused a degree of anxiety among certain quarters of the public, particularly after the circulation of reports about frictions within the presidency about reforms and criticism on failure of president Salva Kiir to address it.

The ruling SPLM is undertaking a process of transformation in order to correct its past "failures" even in government.

These include rampant corruption, rising tribalism, overwhelming insecurity, failing economy, poor international relations and loss of direction and vision in the historical party. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

**Security restricts S. Sudan TV from covering VP’s activities, as his office dismisses *Sudantribune.com* Juba, 31/05/13** - South Sudan’s security services on Friday ordered management of the state owned *South Sudan television (SSTV)* to refrain from covering activities involving vice president Riek Machar, a source told *Sudan Tribune*.

However, media official at the office of the vice-president played down reports on censorship imposed on the coverage of Machar’s activities, stressing that no such measures can be taken against "the top boss" of the South Sudanese government during Kiir’s absence.

Security officials, who warned of tough measures if *SSTV* journalists fail to implement the directive, did not give any reason for the move, which comes a day after privately owned *Citizen Television* was given a similar directive.

These developments coincided with president Salva Kiir's trip to Japan and recent reports about competition within the presidency over the leadership of the ruling Sudan people's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Responding to Thursday's claims by *Citizen Television*, Machar's press secretary, James Gadet Dak, told *Sudan Tribune*, that the vice president's office only became aware of the allegations after reading *Sudan Tribune's* story.

"We are not aware of official policy or decision that restricts media coverage on political activities. What I know is that the vice-president, who currently acts in the absence of the president, is the top boss of all the government's institutions that are under the executive, including the security organs," he said.

"And I can assure you that he did not authorise that action as acting head of the government," he said. The state-owned television and radio have normally been broadcasting the activities of Machar's office, including political functions, he said.

Dak added that if the independent media were facing difficulties in freely covering apolitical events, they should raise their complaints to the ministry of information and broadcasting.

The South Sudanese president was seen off at Juba airport by senior officials including Machar, who in April was stripped of powers delegated to him by the president, after reports emerged that his deputy was considering standing for the chairmanship of South Sudan's ruling party (SPLM) at an upcoming convention.

There are fears among Kiir's supporters in the SPLM that he might lose his seat in the upcoming national convention to elect chairperson of the governing SPLM and then be in prime position to be the ruling party's candidate for the 2015 presidential elections.

"It has been more than one month now since security agents started being harsh on our activities, forcing us to be selective in what we report about activities involving the vice president", a presenter with the state-owned television told *Sudan Tribune* Friday.

*SSTV's* management, the journalist said, do not want to be seen as a tool disseminating political activities favouring particular politicians. The presenter, who wished to remain anonymous, said that "security services have increased threats on what we cover, especially meetings by the vice president".

Concerning the reports on restrictions imposed on the *SSTV* journalists, Dak stressed that Machar activities are well broadcast on the state-owned TV and radio. But he however admitted they are subjected to some pressures.

"I sometimes receive complaints from *South Sudan TV* about the behaviour of some security agents who agitate that the TV presenters and reporters should not broadcast some of the political opinions stated by the Vice President", he said.

Journalists claimed that security agents often acted on the directives of individuals in the office of the president when threatening sections of the media who are critical of the performance of Kiir's administration.

The presenter said some colleagues had, in the past, received threats and others were arbitrarily arrested, pointing out that it was not just the private media facing such mistreatment.

Journalists from independent media organisations "are seriously criticising our coverage and reporting on the national activities without taking into consideration [the] challenges we are facing".

State media staff had been "threatened at gun point for technical faults", the reporter said.

John Garang, a *SSTV* presenter was last year arrested by security agents for allegedly allowing footage to be broadcast showing Kiir "in unclear and gloomy appearance".

Dak advised TV personnel who complained to take up the matter to the ministry of information and broadcasting under which they operate and then see the way forward from that level.

[\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Minister criticizes Human Rights Watch's report on WBG skirmishes**

*News Agency of South Sudan* JUBA, 2 June 2013 (NASS) - The minister of Information and Broadcasting, Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin has denounced as unfair a report by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International on the violence in western Bahr el Ghazal State last December.

He said the report is one-sided and leaves out information from official sources at the national and state governments. The minister made the remarks on Friday after getting detailed briefing from the Governor of Western Bahr el Ghazal, Rizik Hassan Zachariah.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch reported that the citizens who took to the streets of Western Bahr el Ghazal were shot by the state government while holding a peaceful demonstration.

According to the governor, the government intervened in the demonstration because the demonstrators became violent. He explained that during the incident, the demonstrators were using guns, burned the office of the local government and even raped a mother of six children. He urged the two organizations to correct the reports to show some degree of impartiality.

[\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Internal reshuffle hits South Sudan finance ministry**

*Sudantribune.com* Juba, 01/06/13 - South Sudan's minister of finance, Kosti Manibe Ngai has issued an administrative order, transferring and re-assigning nine senior officials within the ministry.

The order, issued on 31 May, does not explain the reason behind the changes, although some ministry officials said the move could be linked to performance aspects.

Among those affected was Peter Garang, previously the director general administration and finance, who was transferred to implementation and follow-through unit in the minister's office. He however maintains his rank, according to the order.

Also involved in the shake-up were Ayom Jok Ayom, transferred from the taxation department to office of the minister for implementation and follow-through, while Silvano Malith, who previously served as director general for accounts, was transferred to the petroleum unit as its director general.

Neither the minister, nor any of the officials transferred or re-assigned was available for a comment when contacted by *Sudan Tribune*. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **90% of Greater Bahr el Ghazal citizens want new political parties: poll**

*Sudantribune.com* Juba, 02/06/13 - At least 89% of the population in South Sudan's Greater Bahr el Ghazal region say they prefer a new political party takes over the country's affairs, a recent survey shows.

Majority of those randomly surveyed, according to the International Republican Institute (IRI) opinion poll, cite high-level corruption, increased insecurity in form of land disputes, cattle raids, ethnic conflict and human rights abuses some of the misdeeds of the south-ruling party (SPLM).

South Sudan gained independence nearly two years ago after its population overwhelmingly chose separation in a self-determination referendum. The vote was a key part of the 2005 peace accord, which ended over two decades of the north-south Sudan civil war.

Since its independence, however, the young nation has been grappling with several challenges, which its current leadership has tried to address, despite the difficulties.

The government, at independence, pledged to deliver all the much-needed services to citizens, but most of these are yet to be seen, given the economic difficulties the new nation faces.

Some citizens, however, blame government for allegedly lacking the political will to serve the country, despite its commitment to do so.

Those interviewed, for instance, said corruption remains a huge setback to the new nation, further accusing top politicians with the SPLM of aggravating the problem, instead of seeking remedies to it.

Corruption, according to the polls, is South Sudan's biggest problem after unemployment. In South Sudan, the majority of the workforces, predominantly youth, are jobless, yet they account for about 70% of the country's population.

However, while 89% of the population interviewed during the polls wanted new parties formed before the next election, 76% considered all the existing political parties to be the same.

Public disillusion, experience show, has helped smaller parties come to the limelight in South Sudan, such as the African National Congress (ANC) and the SPLM-DC, under the leadership of former Sudanese vice president George Kongor Arop and Lam Akol, Sudan's ex-foreign affairs minister respectively.

Meanwhile, a top SPLM official has warned the south-ruling party to take note of the finding from the IRI polls, saying they could be signs of bad times ahead for the party.

"The readings are worrying. If our leadership does not adopt new strategies and change the current way of doing things, especially lack of political will to listen to the concerns of our people at the grass root level by providing basic services continue, detached itself from corrupt officials and actually hold them accountable before the public to safeguard justice," he official, who preferred anonymity, told *Sudan Tribune*.

I think it will be difficult to change the current hearts and minds of our people who are desperately looking for a change, he added, further expressing fears that the population may soon vote against the SPLM for the sake of change.

"I decided to be silent because [the] current political environment is fluid with suspicions. I am seeing that you young people are quick in misreading things and very fast with misinterpretations. This is what I do not want," said the official, also a member of the SPLM political bureau.

I have seen a lot of things happening before me, from within the SPLM while in the bush and after coming to the town. I want these issues to be deliberated in the convention not in the media, he said. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **UN humanitarian aid rushed into South Sudan before rains come**

*VoA News Geneva, 31/05/13* - The United Nations refugee agency (UNCHR) reports it is rushing to pre-position relief supplies for tens of thousands of refugees in South Sudan's Unity and Upper Nile states before the rainy season begins and deliveries become impossible.

U.N. refugee spokesman Dan McNorton says time is running out for this humanitarian operation.

"In terms of the cut-off point, in the next couple of weeks the window that we have in order to make those deliveries, and because in coming weeks those roads that we need to use will become impassable," McNorton said.

McNorton says the operation is in good shape, and relief supplies for more than 190,000 refugees from Sudan will be in place before the rains and floods arrive.

Currently, more than 73,000 refugees are living in Yida camp in Unity state. But the UNHCR expects more refugees to arrive in the coming weeks and is pre-positioning aid for more than 110,000 people.

McNorton says relief items for Yida are either already in warehouses or moving in truck convoys that are expected to arrive within the next week. Items include plastic sheets, blankets, sleeping mats and family tents.

"In Upper Nile, where there are over 117,00 refugees living in five camps, relief items for over 120,000 people will be placed ahead of the anticipated rains and floods. As well as using truck convoys, UNHCR is also using boats, which are able to operate along the Nile River, which does remain navigable throughout the rainy season," McNorton said.

With the ground operation to deliver humanitarian supplies nearly complete, McNorton says the UNHCR will not have to mount costly airlifts to provide the refugees with the supplies they need. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **UN mission in South Sudan cannot replace government**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 30/05/13* - The United Nations Mission in South Sudan said this week that it was not able to replace the role of the government in providing security to civilians in the young nation.

Marking UN peacekeeping day on 29 May, the head of the mission said that peacekeepers were trying to provide balanced protection to civilians in the troubled eastern state where 19,000 people have been displaced in recent months.

Hilde Johnson, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, said the mission has conducted well over 1,000 military patrols of long and short duration across Jonglei state since August last year.

"We have recently increased our military presence throughout the state to six companies, equally present in the areas of Jonglei's three main communities (the Bor Dinka, Lou Nuer and Murle). We are not the peacekeepers of one community; we are the peacekeepers for all of them", Johnson said.

The top UN official in the country, however, stressed that the mission cannot contain the whole conflict even if it were to deploy its "last pair of boots" to Jonglei, or other states facing security challenges, because peacekeepers were not in South Sudan to "replace the Government, the police or the military".

"The primary responsibility to protect the population rests with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. Like all UN Peacekeeping missions, UNMISS can only support the country's institutions to help them fulfill their responsibilities as a sovereign state.

"We put at their service the resources that UN member states so generously give us to achieve the goal that they and the Government of South Sudan have set for us: to help consolidate peace and security, to help extend and consolidate the authority of the Republic throughout the entire territory of South Sudan, and to help establish the conditions for development", Johnson explained.

Indian peacekeepers marked UN peacekeeping day in Bor, the capital of Jonglei state, on Wednesday by paying tribute to the five blue helmets and seven civilian members of UN staff who died in an ambush in April.



No group has accepted responsibility for the attack, which the South Sudanese military have blamed on Yauyau's rebels.

"As we observe the International Day of the United Nations Peacekeepers on 29 May, we pay tribute to sixteen of our bravest colleagues who died in two senseless tragedies: the downing of an UNMISS helicopter on 21 December 2012 and an ambush on a UN convoy on 9 April. Among the dead were four Russian crew members, five Indian soldiers—who died while fighting to protect their colleagues—, and two South Sudanese civilians", Johnson said.

The UN helicopter was shot down by the South Sudanese army (SPLA), who believed it be a Sudanese plane re-arming Yauyau's rebels.

"Both tragedies happened in Jonglei, a state most afflicted by insecurity and instability and which is the focus of the UNMISS mandate to protect civilians" she said.

In the face of adversity the UN mission was following "the inspiring example of the people that it serves" by remaining resilient, her statement said.

"Last year, UNMISS received threats by anti-government armed elements against one of our bases in Pibor County. Our response was to increase our military presence in the county."

[\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **State authorities call for enhanced de-mining efforts**

*Gurtong Torit, 02/06/13* - Eastern Equatoria State authorities have appealed to the UN Demining Group to rid former military garrisons in the state of unexploded ordinances.

The appeal comes a day after an explosion at Enyif residential area in Ifwoto Payam, Torit town in which three people died. Three others were critically injured in the Thursday afternoon incident.

The State Health Minister Dr Margaret Itto Leonardo condoled with the families of the victims and called for urgent interventions to remove the dangerous residuals.

The State Minister of Public Administration and Internal Affairs Claudio Suleiman Liling told the press that the need to re-demine the former Sudan Armed Forces garrisons follows two separate cases of blasts that killed four children in Eastern Equatoria State within three months.

"We have asked the UN demining team to do another search for unexploded devices in residential areas that were occupied by the Sudan Armed forces. There could more of these unexploded ordinances underground", Minister Liling said.

He advised parents to be cautious of their children's play areas, saying that children more often fall victims of the ordinances because of the exposure of the devises brought about by soil erosion.

He also discouraged parents from allowing their children to play with metallic objects. "We urge citizens to report any suspected cases of unexploded ordinances to government authorities", said the Minister.

Among the Demining Groups in Eastern Equatoria involved in demining activities in addition to mine-risk education and marking of danger areas is the Danish Demining Group (DDG). Much of their work involve general mine action assessments, including improving knowledge of returnee routes, way stations and areas of return affected by explosive remnants of war as well as carry out physical marking.

The leaders however, hailed the ongoing efforts by the Demining Groups, saying it will allow resettlements of returnees and internally displaced people as well as farming activities to take place. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Police blocks women dialogue in Torit**

*Sudan Catholic Radio Network Torit, 03/06/13* - Anti-Riot and regular police forces on Saturday blocked Women Constituency Dialogue at Torit East Primary School, Eastern Equatoria state.

The police condoned the school premises and denied people access and told participants to leave the premises since it was under security control, Radio Emmanuel reported.

State minister for Public Administration and Internal Affairs, Claudio Suleiman Liling, said the meeting was illegal.

He said the police was deployed to stop the dialogue because the organizers did not get government permission to assemble at the premises.

Mr Liling condemned an announcement placed on a local FM Radio to invite participants, saying Information minister was not notified on the meeting.

South Sudanese Network for Democracy and Elections (SSuNDE) organized the Dialogue to bring national and state women legislators together. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **South Sudan Red Cross restores people's hopes**

*Gurtong Torit, 02/05/13* - Communities in Eastern Equatoria State have hailed the South Sudan Red Cross for its efforts in re-integration of returnees.

The host communities and returnees from East Africa and formerly displaced persons from Sudan's Khartoum and Kosti have welcomed the distribution of food and non-food items.

Residents who spoke to Gurtong in Torit town said the humanitarian support from the Red Cross had restored their hopes in the rehabilitation process.

The South Sudan Red Cross Torit Branch Director Philip Marcelo Subek Loku said among the items being distributed to 240 beneficiaries include blankets, cooking utensils, jerry cans, hoes, plastic sheets and treated mosquito nets among others.

He said that 500 beneficiaries in Torit County are expected to receive the assistance as consignments have already been delivered from Juba.

At Enyif residential area in Torit town 100 beneficiaries received the supplies early this week while a similar number received the items on Wednesday.

Loku clarified that the assistance is purely meant for vulnerable returnees and some host communities.

He said that a section of venerable groups in Kapoeta South County are also expected to receive non-food items while the organisation is currently implementing a food security project in Budi County. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Payii roads and bridges boss arrested over misuse of Juba-Kajokeji road funds**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 31/05/13* - South Sudan Police on Friday arrested the Managing Director of Payii roads and bridges company over misappropriation of funds allocated for construction of the 140km Juba-Kajokeji road.

Rex Abdalla Nicholas was reportedly arrested at about 3:00pm on orders from South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission (SSACC), whose summons he allegedly ignored, despite several reminders.

"SSACC summoned the MD [Managing Director] of Payii to come and answer some questions about the said road construction and he refused to report to SSACC despite a reminder sent to him," a source told Sudan Tribune.

SSACC then invoked section 29 of its 2009 Act, and sought the intervention of the Ministry of Justice and secured arrest warrant, he added.

Abdalla is now under detention as he awaits trial on why he failed to obey lawful orders from the anti-graft body.

Under Section 9(1) (b) of the Act, SSACC has powers to investigate cases of corruption involving public property as well as the private sector, which is later forwarded to the Justice ministry for further action.

In September last year, Mary Kiden, a member of parliament from Kajokeji decried the poor state of roads in the area, after heavy rains washed away a section of main bridge linking it to the South Sudan capital.

Area residents blame Payii roads and bridges company, the main contractor, of doing “shoddy” work and failing to complete the road contract, five years after it was awarded.

A committee, comprising members from Kajo-Keji drivers’ union and civil society entities, was last year formed to look into the road matter. The committee was, among others, tasked to mobilise funds for construction of the 140km stretch. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Warrap accuses Unity of killing 33 people in cattle raids**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 31/05/13* At least 33 people, mainly children and the elderly, have so far died in various cattle raids within South Sudan’s Warrap state, with officials pointing fingers at groups from neighbouring Unity state.

The region, the Gogrial East County Commissioner told *Sudan Tribune*, has also lost several herds of cattle, witnessed injuries inflicted on many of its people while thousands have been forced to flee their homes.

However, although Commissioner Akot Lual Akot says only 33 people have so far died in these attacks since January, South Sudan Red Cross officials in the area claim the figure is close to 60.

“This is now the 7th attack on the area by the group who comes from Mayom County. They killed 32 people in these attacks and wounded 27 others,” said Akot.

Most of the dead were women and children, many of whom were killed while sleeping, he added.

He described the incident as the worst single incident in the region since the start of the year.

The long-standing enmity between the communities, local residents say, have seen them caught in a cycle of violence and revenge killings over cattle theft, struggle for grazing land and water rights.

Commissioner Akot accused his Mayom county counterpart of masterminding the attack after he allegedly failed to control his area youth contrary to what the two leaders agreed upon in the previous meeting.

“I am accusing the new Mayom county commissioner Bol Maya of involvement because I called him repeatedly today, but he did not pick my calls. He did not return the calls and switched off when I tried now,” the Gogrial East commissioner said.

*Sudan Tribune* was unable to reach the Mayom county commissioner over the incident. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Suspected raiders kill 8 in Unity state**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 02/06/13* - At least eight people were killed and seven others injured when hundreds of a well armed group attacked Abiemnom county in South Sudan’s Unity state, the area commissioner told Sudan Tribune Sunday.

The attackers, according to Arop Turuk, were clad in “full military attire” and possessed modern weapons. They allegedly raided and drove away thousands of cattle during the attack.

“Something unusual took place. It was not expected. Hundreds of well armed groups, group in full military attire and possessing heavy weapons. They had RPGs [Rocket Propeller Guns], hand held grenades and all types of modern weapons. They launched an attack on the area today [Sunday at around 3:15 am early this morning,” the commissioner exclusively told *Sudan Tribune*.

They killed 8 people instantly and wounded 7 others and drove away hundred of cows, he added.

The attackers, the commissioner claimed, are suspected to have come from Unity’s state, adding that attempts to contact his Mayom county counterpart on how the stolen cows could be recovered did not succeed.

The Commissioner, however, said youth groups who tried to follow the stolen cattle came under heavy gunfire from the attackers, forcing them to retreat back.

“You could tell they [attackers] were real professional soldiers from the way dressed and they type of weapons they were carrying. They were fully organised”, he said.

Chol Deng, a member of parliament representing the area in the Unity state assembly confirmed the attack, which he also blamed on youth from neighbouring Mayom.

“It is true there was an attack today at 3:15 am. It was well organised attack by group carry sophisticated weapons, including heavy machine guns. They have killed people and drove away cows, which were in the cattle camps. Some cows have been recovered when youth tried to follow but a significant number was taken. They headed towards the direction of Mayom County”, Deng said by phone from Abiemnom County on Sunday.

He further revealed that local youth who tried to trail the attackers, hoping to lay siege on their village and recover the stolen cows, were instead utmaneuvered when they fell into the ambush laid by the raiders. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Youth grumble over lack of jobs**

*Gurtong Torit, 01/06/13* - Kapoeta East County youth have voiced concerns over rising unemployment and lack of educational opportunities in Eastern Equatoria State.

Speaking on behalf of the youth Salvatore Morin Lomor said that many youth who had completed school remained idle owing to lack of jobs.

He called on the County authorities to utilize the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to enable children who have dropped out of school to continue with their studies so as to bridge the education gaps created by the 21 years of civil war in the Sudan.

Another youth Andrew Lotogo observed that the CDF has never benefited any student in Kapoeta East County.

The youth submitted their petition for jobs and assistance towards education to Eastern Equatoria State Governor Louis Lobong Lojore at a meeting held at the headquarters of Kapoeta East County, Narus town on Friday, 24 May 2013.

Governor Lojore admitted that unemployment remains a major issue in South Sudan due to inadequacy of funds following the shut-down of oil production and pipeline in April last year.

He disclosed that unresolved pension scheme is another factor that hinders the recruitment of more human resource into the civil service.

The Governor assured the youth that ten percent of CDF money will be allocated to the education bursary kitty and encouraged school dropouts to return to school. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

## **Kiir tells UN chief it is time to take action over Abyei dispute**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 02/05/13* - South Sudan president Salva Mayardit said it is time for the international community "to take action" in order to resolve conflict over the disputed region of Abyei, accusing Sudan of showing lack of political will to forge an understanding.

The president made the remark at a meeting with the Secretary General of the United Nations on the side-line of the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yakohama, Japan on Sunday.

"Despite our good intentions and commitment to resolve the difference, we are not making any progress because the other side which is supposed to work together with us as our sincere partner has not been able to move even when we have accepted the request to negotiate past the deadline", president Kiir reportedly told the secretary General of the United Nations Ban-Ki Moon on Sunday.

The president was further quoted as calling on the international community, particularly the United Nations "to act" because the two leaders (himself and Sudanese president Omer Ahmed Hassan El Bashir) have repeatedly fail to agree on the way forward to end the decade of conflict over the area.

He accused Sudanese government of "lacking interest and will" to the address the issue, describing the request seeking extension of negotiation within the African Union as "a political trick to buy time"

"The intention is to buy time. We have met more than three times this year with president Bashir and we did not resolve anything. They are always going against proposed action plans and implementation modalities which always make delays become another reason for negotiation. This shows that Sudan is not serious about committing to what it takes to get these issues resolved", he explained.

Kiir was referring to his latest meetings with his Sudanese counterpart Omer Al-Bashir in Juba and Addis Ababa where the two parties failed to agree on the formation of the interim administration and the referendum's organisation.

The United Nations' Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on his part commended the progress made you made in the implementation of some aspects of cooperation agreement and urged the South Sudanese government to continue engaging with Sudan to move forward on the implementation of the 27 September 2012 deals.

He further "stressed the increasing concern of the international community with regard to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in South Sudan, and called on the Government of South Sudan to do more to protect civilians in Jonglei State, in particular.

"The world is deeply concern about increasing insecurity situation in Jonglei. We are getting towards a time now where hard decisions need to be made", said Ki-Moon.

South Sudanese Minister of foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Nhial Deng Nhial said president Kiir had met also with a number of Asian and world leaders on the sideline of the conference, describing all meetings "fruitful with encouraging pledges made for development and humanitarian assistances". [\(Back to Top\)](#)

## **Sudan says Bashir's statements reflect government's official position**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 02/06/13* - The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) political sector held a meeting today chaired by Sudan's 2nd Vice President al-Haj Adam to discuss situation across all battle fronts and particularly in Abu-Kershola which was taken back from rebels hands this week.

Abu-Kershola which is located in north east of South Kordofan state and on the borders with North Kordofan, had been seized by the rebel Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) fighters in late April along with a brief occupation of North Kordofan's second largest town of Um Rawaba.

On Friday SRF rebels said that they downed a military helicopter near Abu Kershola where a Sudanese army top commander was on a visit to inspect the recently reclaimed area, but the army denied the rebel claims.

Sources told Sudan Tribune that Sudanese army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ismat Abdel-Rahman narrowly escaped death when he visited the area's frontlines. The shelling started on his convoy from rebels in mountains nearby prompting Sudanese troops to use tanks and helicopters to secure and evacuate the senior army official safely.

In the process a helicopter was shot down, the sources added.

Following Sudan re-asserting control over Abu-Kershola, president Omer Hassan al-Bashir announced that they will no longer negotiate with SRF and warned Juba that they will shut down the pipelines if they do not cease backing rebels.

But at the time Ghazi Salah al-Deen al-Attabani, a leading NCP figure, downplayed Bashir's remarks calling it "an understandable political speech as part of a military campaign".

South Sudan's ambassador in Khartoum, Mayan Dut Wol also indicated that they do not take Bashir's threats seriously describing it as an "emotional" outburst.

"I am not shocked," Wol told Reuters. "We know the president, we know him," he said, laughing.

But the NCP meeting today stressed that Bashir's statements at the Abu-Kershola liberation celebration reflects the official position of the government and the party.

"The call [is made] again to [South Sudan] President Salva Kiir to overcome this [SRF rebel] group that wants to disrupt the peace and [we should instead] work together to complete the peace in the south and north and not support armed movements and comply with the agreements signed" NCP deputy media officer Qubais Ahmed al-Mustafa said following the meeting.

He went on to say that Bashir's talk about South Sudan's support to rebels by South Sudan in his capacity as the country's top man who is privy to the facts and information.

At a separate event today, the director of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) Mohamed Atta al-Moula Abbas claimed that the SRF forces are re-grouping with the support of Juba to serve Zionism and world imperialism.

Last March, Khartoum and Juba agreed to form a joint committee mandated with addressing concerns and complaints which may constitute a violation to the MOU on Non-Aggression and Cooperation of 14th February 2012, as well as the Mutual Cooperation Agreement of 27th September 2012.

The JPSC meeting which took place in Khartoum last month between military intelligence teams from north and south Sudan has failed to reach an agreement on the thorny issue of harboring and supporting rebel groups in both countries.

The director of South Sudan department at Sudan's foreign ministry, Badr Al-Din Abdullah said today that the JPSC meetings between Sudan and South Sudan will convene in Juba today.

According to Sudan's foreign ministry spokesperson, Abu-Bakr Al-Sideeg, the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) had flown to Khartoum and Juba to determine the committees' meetings dates, adding that the Sudanese side has suggested the date for today's meeting.

He further said that Khartoum didn't receive any notice from Juba asking for postponing the meeting because several ministers are travelling with president Salva Kiir in his current visit to Japan.

But later in the day a member of Sudan's delegation at JSPC told pro-government Ashoroq TV that the meeting has been postponed after consultations between the defense ministers of the two countries. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Sudan says "external influences" on SPLM-N made negotiations fail**

*Sudantribune.com* Khartoum, 01/06/13 - The Sudanese government attributed the collapse of the recent round of negotiations with the Sudan People Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N) in Ethiopia last month to "external influences" exerted on the rebel side.

These pressures, according to Sudan's negotiating delegation Hussein Hamdi, impacted the rebels strategy in the talks to seek goals that were irrelevant to resolving the conflict in the border states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

"I can say that there are external influences which have made the rebel delegation lacking decision, flexibility, and will" Hamdi said, adding that the government delegation acted in accordance with the strategic objective and the methodology and ethics of negotiating for peace.

The SPLM-N on the other hand, he said, dealt in a tactical manner to maneuver and not to negotiate.

Speaking on pro-government *Ashoroq TV*, Hamdi said that they sensed threats from SPLM-N Secretary General Yasser Arman in Addis Ababa that if they don't reach an agreement, they will march all the way to Khartoum.

"We deal with threats seriously whether it is with the South [Sudan] or our internal institutions" he said.

He stated that the composition of the rebel delegation was centered around Arman saying that he blames those who authorized him to talk on their behalf".

Hamdi stressed that the government delegation was flexible and that positive results could have been reached if the other party responded to it.

The Sudanese official went on to say that Khartoum has great confidence in the African mediation team led by Thabo Mbeki to lead the negotiations.

He explained that last month's attack on Abu-Kershola by the rebels of the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) was for the purpose of "psychological recovery" that came in the wake of signing of the implementation matrix with South Sudan which created confusion and fear within the rebel ranks.

Hamdi further said that target of the attack was to incite hatred within the components of society in South Kordofan that "will not add anything to them [rebels]".

SRF is an alliance between Sudanese factions opposed to the government led by president Omer Hassan al-Bashir. It was declared on 12 November 2011, following several months of support by Darfuri rebel groups for the SPLM-N in its conflict with Khartoum.

The alliance brings together the two main factions of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, as well as the other major rebel group in Darfur, the Justice and Equality Movement, and the SPLM-N. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **OPINION - A call to discourage regional conferences in South Sudan**

*By Justice Deng Biong on Sudantribune.com, 01/06/13* - First, allow me to stress the obvious and that is the fact that we do not have any constitutional vacuum to urgently look for a new one like we are doing these days. What we lack, sometimes, is the will to enforce the existing constitutional and legal provisions accordingly. Another mistake we sometimes commit, whether deliberately or inadvertently, is the creation of institutions not provided for in the

Constitution or law and their unjustified empowerment to do the work of duly constituted institutions thereby evidencing our failure to adhere to institutionalism and constitutionalism!

The recent examples of institutions created outside our existing constitutional and legal framework are the so called “Greater Equatoria Conference” and “Greater Bahr el Ghazal Conference”. Greater Upper Nile has not yet organized one and I encourage them not to do so. I need to be convinced by the organizers of these two conferences as to what necessitated their organization or whether their objectives and outcomes could have not been achieved by the relevant constitutional or party institutions!

If the objectives behind these conferences were coordination of issues in regard to effective implementation of the decentralized system and devolution of powers and any other issues related to the states; that might be understood as that is possible in the light of the provisions of Article 59 of the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan (TCSS) ,2011. Since the cited article provides for the competences of the Council of States, one would expect the latter to be the organizer and its Rt.Hon.Speaker to officiate over them and not the RT, Hon.Speaker of the National Legislative Assembly!

For the benefit of those who might not be aware of our constitutional framework, for a reason or another, allow me once more, dear reader, to highlight some relevant provisions in our Transitional Constitution, 2011, to see for yourself a possibility for organizing this type of conferences with such politically charged agenda.

Shortly before our independence, we agreed, through our representatives in the then Southern Sudan legislative Assembly (SSLA) to adopt the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan (TCSS), 2011, that: “...derives its authority from the will of the people and shall be the supreme law of the land. It shall have a binding force on all persons, institutions, organs and agencies of government throughout the Country.” And that: “The authority of government at all levels shall derive from this Constitution and the law.”(See Art.3 (1) (2) of the TCSS, 2011).

After our independence we became free and sovereign in our nascent state. But our sovereignty according to Art.2 of the TCSS, 2011, “... is vested in the people and shall be exercised by the State through its democratic and representative institutions established by this Constitution and the law.”

In other words the preceding paragraphs emphasize; first, the supremacy of the Constitution and its binding force on everybody and institution in the Republic of South Sudan and secondly, that the state or governments shall exercise powers given under the Constitution through constitutionally and legally established institutions. Where do the two conferences, mentioned above, fit?!

Among the numerous resolutions/recommendations made by the two conferences, two recommendations struck my attention most; namely the choice of federalism as system of governance for South Sudan (Greater Equatoria Conference) and the support of the incumbent President H.E.Gen.Salva Kiir Mayardit as presidential candidate in the upcoming 2015 general elections (Greater B.Ghazal Conference).The two conferences were certainly not mandated to pass such resolutions. I see this last resolution as an unnecessary preemption of what might be the position of the SPLM on which ticket Gen. Kiir came to power, when the right time comes and when the Party’s competent body, the 3rd National Convention, decides on the Party’s flag bearer!

On equal basis, I ask the SPLM members who attended the last Greater Equatoria Conference which recommended federalism for governance in South Sudan, while they are crystally aware that the position of their SPLM Party is Decentralization; are you not embarrassed?! Where does your political loyalty lie most? In the community or in the political party which is constitutionally competent to debate these matters?! See Article 5(2) of the SPLM Constitution, 2008 which says the SPLM shall be guided by the principle of Decentralization



and devolution of power which was reaffirmed in the preamble to our TCSS, 2011 which says and I quote: “Committed to establishing a decentralized democratic multi-party system of governance in which power shall be peacefully transferred...”Unquote.

Another paragraph of our preamble in the TCSS, 2011, says we are: “Determined to lay the foundation for a united, peaceful and prosperous society based on justice, equality, respect for human rights and the rule of law.” Can we achieve unity of our society in a peaceful manner if we encourage these unconstitutional regional bodies?!

Again, if we pick the issue of the Rule of Law mentioned above, it means in simple words that, before deciding any matter, a public officer/servant should ask him/herself, by what legal authority is he or she doing this or that. The organizers of the said Greater regional conferences should have asked themselves, where in our Transitional Constitution, State Constitutions and laws such conferences are provided for and whether they were legally authorized to organize them. They are certainly not provided for and the organizers were clearly acting contrary to the provision of Art.3 (2) of the TCSS, 2011, which says: “The authority of government at all levels shall derive from this Constitution and the law.”

Finally, and in summary, I am opposed to these greater regional conferences and make a call to discourage them for the following reasons:

1) Apart for being unconstitutional, they promote communal politics which stratify the country into communal political blocks and does not assist national unity of our people. E.g., it is not for no good reason why Section 47 (1) of our National Elections Act, 2012, requires that a person nominated for the office of the President must be seconded by ten thousand registered voters from at least seven states, with no less than two hundred voters from each state. This is to ensure electing a President who shall be a real symbol of national unity and representative of all communities

2) The conferences undermine the multi-party system of governance enshrined in our TCSS, 2011. In other words, we have agreed that political power in this country shall be peacefully contested and transferred through nationally representative political parties not communal associations. See Section 16 (2) (f) of our Political Parties Act, 2012, which says a political Party shall be qualified to be fully registered if:

(i) it has recruited as members, not less than five hundred registered voters from each of more than at least eight states;

(ii) the members referred to in paragraph (i) reflect regional and ethnic diversity, gender balance, representation of minorities, youth and special categories groups;

(iii) the political party shall have in its national governing body at least one member from each state.

(iv) the political party shall have branches in all the ten states and is, in addition organized in not less than eight states.

(v) the composition of its governing body reflects regional and ethnic diversity, gender balance and representation of minorities and special categories groups.

3) The choice of what system is good to govern this Country or who should lead it, is not a business of regions or communities, but of political parties as manifested in their political programmes.

*Justice Biong is the current Chairperson of the National Public Grievances Chamber-RSS-Juba. He can be reached at [dkoklek@yahoo.com](mailto:dkoklek@yahoo.com) **(Back to Top)***

### **FEATURE: After ‘black gold’, South Sudan eyes the real stuff**

*Capital FM News Nanakanak, 02/06/13* - Knee-deep in muddy water, Peter Locebe and a long line of other men scour the sand for the sparkle of a speck of gold, back breaking work in the fierce equatorial sun of South Sudan.

“There is so much gold here,” Locebe said, mopping his brow and telling stories of how he once found a whole ounce (30 grams) of gold in a single day from the muddy creeks in this remote and grossly impoverished region.

But while the panners sift the dirt in the hope of making their fortune, the gold here could also turn out to be a much-needed economic lifeline for their fledgling nation.

Experts believe and South Sudan hopes the land holds good potential for larger scale mining, a possible future resource to wean the economy of the world’s youngest nation off an almost total reliance on the pumping of crude oil.

Initial geological assessments suggest South Sudan holds good reserves of iron ore, copper, nickel, platinum and manganese.

“Long term, mining has the potential to replace oil, because oil is seen to be phasing out in about five or 10 years time,” said Rainer Hengstmann, who works for the London-based Adam Smith International advisory firm to support the oil and mining ministry.

Setting up large-scale mining could take from around five to 15 years, he estimates.

As yet, it is nearly virgin territory for explorers, apart from an aerial survey carried out near the main trading post town of Kapoeta here, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) east of the capital Juba.

South Sudan won independence from former civil war foes Sudan in July 2011, taking with it the bulk of the former united country’s oil reserves, a resource that provided 98 percent of Juba’s government revenue.

But bitter arguments and still tense relations with Sudan — who controls all the pipelines the landlocked South need to export crude — showed the danger of near total reliance on a single resource.

South Sudan’s economy was crippled when it shut down crude production for more than a year — restarting only in April — after accusing Khartoum of stealing its oil.

That makes minerals under the soil a literal gold mine for the nation.

– Foreign companies lining up but infrastructure lacking –

Armed with picks and plastic tubs, the Toposa people here started digging soon after the end of British colonial rule in the 1960’s, recruited by traders scooping a fortune by buying a gram of gold for a dollar.

The Toposa, still wearing traditional costumes consisting of little but vast strings colourful beads, have now been joined by an estimated 60,000 artisanal diggers and panners lured by the gold rush.

However, larger companies are expected soon.

Petroleum and Mining Minister Stephen Dhieu Dau says the government is “giving special attention to this sector”, and hopes to provide the first exploration licences later this year.

Interest is keen, officials say.

“There are so many companies at the door, just queueing to come in,” mining ministry director general Arkangelo Okwang said, adding officials still need to finalise mining regulations to ensure the resource is managed, and becomes a “blessing, not a curse.”

As yet, the formal industry is not even in its infancy.

“Where’s the infrastructure, where’s the power?” asked Hengstmann. “You need roads, a railway...you can’t run a mine on generators.”

But hand digging miners are already pulling out impressive hauls.

A gram sells for between 36 to 47 dollars (28 to 36 euros) said Kenyan trader Samuel Mutham Kivuva, a spokesman for around a thousand foreign middlemen in the gold trade, allowing a small profit for resale down the line.

He claims around five kilogrammes (11 pounds) of gold leaves Kapoeta each week. That represents around a million dollars (euros) in golden nuggets and dust a month.

More than double that amount was reportedly being shipped out last year before metal detectors were outlawed by mining ministry officials.

The government has vowed to stop the gold smuggling across the border, and start taxing the gold leaving freely from the country.

“There are border customs but they don’t check people’s pockets,” said Kapoeta commissioner Martin Lorika.

But many across the region are attracted to Kapoeta, whose dusty streets and simple shacks exude the air of a Wild West frontier town, rife with rumours of shady business deals.

One western mining analyst even alleges Somali pirates send associates to launder potentially marked dollars bills from ransom payments by buying pure gold more easily smuggled for sale in Dubai.

International firms may come in the future, but for the moment, business is for only the brave.

“This is a land where if you think of investing...you need a proper godfather,” Kivuva warns.

[\*\*\*\(Back to Top\)\*\*\*](#)

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