



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

THURSDAY, 27 JUNE 2013

SOUTH SUDAN

- CES donates 90 beds to Juba military hospital (*Bakhita Radio*)
- Army small pay challenging issue in South Sudan (*Sudan Catholic Radio Network*)
- Murle community working to persuade Yau Yau: Governor (*News Agency of South Sudan (NASS)*)
- Speaker blasts MPs on lateness as broadcasting corporation bill is passed (*Gurtong.net*)
- Media specialist calls for accuracy (*Sudan Catholic Radio Network*)
- Speaker announces move to reshuffle assembly committees' chairpersons (*Gurtong.net*)
- Commissioner allegedly orders arrest of 'critics' in Lakes State (*Gurtong.net*)
- MPs urged to play active role in curbing cattle raiding activities (*Gurtong.net*)
- Teacher held for beating student to death in Raga (*Gurtong.net*)
- International day in support of victims of torture victims marked in Bentiu (*Gurtong.net*)
- Kiir's former legal aide named land commission chair (*Radio Miraya*)
- Jonglei's Manyabol deserted due to lack of food, commissioner says (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Child labour rampant in South Sudan (*Catholic Radio Network*)
- South Sudan Red Cross Society officially recognized by ICRC (*Gurtong.net*)
- Yei authorities ban cattle roaming on streets (*Easter Radio*)
- South Sudan moves closer to oil pipeline to the south (*BBC News*)

SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN

- South Sudan has 1.2 billion oil barrels reserve (*Radio Bakhita*)
- Global witness trains civil society on transparent oil revenue use (*Sudan Catholic Radio Network*)
- 240 Sudanese teachers sacked in Upper Nile (*Radio Miraya*)
- Sudan defends oil closure decision, criticizes US envoy at UN (*Sudantribune.com*)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Rights group urges Obama to support media freedom in Africa (*Gurtong.net*)
- Drones bolster UN peacekeeping capabilities (*Voice of America*)

ANALYSIS/OPINION/EDITORIAL

- President Kiir's pedantic tricks in the SPLM Oyee machine (*South Sudan News Agency (SSNA)*)
- Political months ahead: How Kiir manoeuvred his deputy and neutralised his venom (*South Sudan News Agency (SSNA)*)

LINKS TO STORIES FROM THE MORNING MONITOR

- South Sudan vows commitment to find a solution to desertification (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Speaker blasts MPs on lateness as Broadcasting Corporation Bills is passed (*Gurtong*)
- Peacekeepers attack guards in Juba, UN denies (*Eye Radio*)
- US companies "interested" in South Sudan oil (*Sudantribune.com*)
- South Sudan crude sails for China (*argusmedia.com*)
- UN Africa commanders call for better technology (*Associated Press*)

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Highlights

CES donates 90 beds to Juba military hospital

Bakhita Radio Juba, 26/6/2013 – Central Equatoria Government on Wednesday donated 90 beds to Juba Military Hospital to improve conditions of wounded soldiers.

State Cabinet Affairs Minister Cecilia Oba, representing the Governor, said the state was committed to continue cooperating with the Military Hospital.

State Minister for Gender and Social Development Mary Apayi said the Government was working to render more support to the Military Hospital.

Juba Military Hospital Director Peter Ajak Bullen called on the state Government to give more support to the hospital.

Central Equatoria State delegation to the Military Hospital included the Ministers for Cabinet Affairs, Gender and Social Development, Animal Resources and other officials.

Army small pay challenging issue in South Sudan

Sudan Catholic Radio Network, 27/6/2013 – Central Equatoria Governor said the army's low pay is a challenging issue in South Sudan.

Clement Wani Konga said army salaries are so low that the soldiers cannot support their families and take their children to school and health centres.

The governor was talking on Wednesday in a meeting with the Acting Head of Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control in the national ministry of Interior Riek Gok Majok.

Mr Konga advocated for the installation of proper storage systems in the state and the country to reduce small arms in the hands of local people.

Dr Gok said he was able to collect 3,700 different types of guns from civilians since 2005.

He added that Juba and every state should have guns storage facilities.

He underlined the need for proper record keeping by buying a marking machine for all collected arms so that each organized force marks its guns and develops a database.

China Programme for a Safer World head Bernardo Mariani said the existence of small arms in the country can increase problems and clashes.

He added that small arms collection in the country is not the only solution to solve the country's challenges.

The European community raised the disarmament issue with the Central Equatoria Governor as one of the strategies for South Sudan to reduce illegal small arms possession.

Murle community working to persuade yau yau: dep. governor

News Agency of South Sudan (NASS) Bor, 27/6/2013 – The Murle community in Pibor is working to persuade David Yau Yau and his group to heed to the amnesty granted by the President of the Republic H.E Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit. The acting governor of Jonglei state, Hussein Maar Nyuot has said.

Maar said he was optimistic that Yau Yau's group would soon denounce rebellion in the state and join efforts to rebuild the country that has been devastated by over two decades of civil war.

The acting governor who made the sentiments in an exclusive interview to our reporter in Bor, capital of Jonglei State on Monday, warned of "an awaiting hunger" in Pibor should there be no external assistance to the state authorities.

"Pibor is the only county among the counties in Jonglei state where people did not cultivate due to the instability caused by Yau Yau's group", he explained.

David Yau yau took up arms against the government after he lost elections in April 2010 in which he stood as an independent candidate to represent the Gumuruk–Boma constituency in Pibor County at the Jonglei State Assembly.

The deputy governor said besides disrupting agriculture, the activities of Yau Yau's group has caused displacement among the population, disrupted education as well as delivery of services in the state.

Earlier this month, the political wing under the reformed Johnson Ulounj promised to join efforts to convince Yau Yau to denounce rebellion and accept the amnesty.

The government has formed a national healing and reconciliation campaign aimed at reconciling differences of the past and to forge a way forward for nation building process.

Speaker blasts MPs on lateness as broadcasting corporation bill is passed

Gurtong.net Juba, 26/6/2013 – For nearly ten minutes this morning, Members of Parliament at the South Sudan National Assembly were blasted by the Deputy Speaker, Daniel Awet, for poorly managing time as the morning session delayed due to lateness.

The parliamentary sittings which were supposed to kick off from 10:30 am from Monday to Wednesday in recent days do usually start past 11am. Today's session started just four minutes to 12 pm. Other recent past sessions have also started beyond 11am.

“You are late,” Hon. Awet challenged the MPs in his opening statement to the House today right after taking his seat. “We have changed the time from time 7 to 8 o'clock. Let 7 be 7 and 8 be 8,” he continued.

He challenged the MPs to change their attitude on time management, saying it is affecting the business of the House.

“So timing is very important. So respect time. If you respect time you will respect yourself as Honourable members,” said Awet.

Several MPs also do not turn up for sittings. Awet said the today's quorum was being attended by 184members only compared to over three hundred (300) MPs in the National House.

The parliament has today discussed only an agenda with Awet saying time could not allow the House to discuss more matters.

He had stressed to take measures from next week in a bit to improve business in the August House.

Yesterday, the house passed the long awaited South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation Bill now awaiting signature of the president into a law.

In a sitting chaired by the Deputy Speaker Hon. Daniel Awet, the bill was passed from third to fourth and final reading with minor amendments and observations after it was presented by Hon. Joy Kwaje, the Chairperson of the Information, Telecommunication and Culture.

Kwaje said the committee scrutinized the bill to ensure it is in conformity with the Transitional Constitution and other laws of the country.

Media experts had earlier on referred the attention of the parliament to the media bills a “development” in the media fraternity as it will give legal environment for the media fraternity in the fledgling nation.

The Broadcasting Corporation Bill is one of the media bills already ratified by the parliament. The other bills include; the Media Authority and Access to information which are yet to be ratified by the parliament though have already all been presented to the August House.

Media specialist calls for accuracy

Sudan Catholic Radio Network, 26/6/2013 – Journalists need to access accurate information in order to avoid rumours on certain political issues.

This is the view that Maria Frauenrath, Deutsche Welle Radio training manager, shared with journalists during the closure of seven-day training on reporting skills in Wau.

Ms Frauenrath remarked that politicians and journalists need to come into common understanding in giving out information.

She asserted that as journalists stick on the facts and accuracy, politicians have to allow them to access information to reach the public.

The trainer said journalists face hurdles in deciding the kind of information to give out and this can only be made easy if politicians understand correctly the role of the media.

Ms Frauenrath advised journalists to collect different opinions and put out accurate information in order to avoid spreading rumours.

She added that exposing correct information can help rectify false information from unreliable sources and will help calm tensions within the community.

The seven-day workshop drew participants from Warrap, Northern Bahr El-Ghazal, and Western Bahr El-Ghazal media outlets.

Speaker announces move to reshuffle assembly committees' chairpersons

Gurtong.net Torit, 26/6/2013 – The Eastern Equatoria State Legislative Assembly Speaker Emmanuel Ambrose Ocholmoi has announced plans to shake up the assembly composition by reshuffling chairpersons of standing specialized committees.

He announced publicly during the opening of the fourth session of Parliament yesterday in Torit though he did not specify how many chairpersons are going to be affected by the imminent move.

“Although our conduct of business does not stipulate that chairpersons of standing specialized committees should not be removed, I am forced to take action to remove some of them because of recommendations of their party or counties,” he said.

He added that the reshuffle is necessary because some members if appointed can participate and contribute in the leadership of the assembly.

He urged them not to be disappointed or annoyed if affected and replaced by one of their comrades, but they should instead be of assistance to those expected to take over their respective leaderships from them.

“When we formed this present government, we first did consultations with SPLM party and counties. The objective was to see the 8 counties were represented,” he asserted in interviews with Journalists at his office after the occasion.

The State Assembly has ten chairpersons of Standing Specialized Committees plus the position of the Assembly Chief-Whip.

Commissioner allegedly orders arrest of ‘critics’ in Lakes State

Gurtong.net Rumbek, 26/6/2013 – Yirol West County Commissioner in Lakes State has intensified arbitrary arrest of people found sitting under trees alleging that they are criticizing the state government performance.

Senior official who spoke to press requesting anonymity says that the commissioner is not supporting associations or grouping of people sitting under trees with fear that state government will be undermined on its security reform measures.

Authority in Yirol West County of Lakes State loyal to the imposed directive of Lakes state military caretaker Governor Matur Chot arrested four people without charges.

The head of taxation Majur Agep was suspended without a reason being provided by Yirol West County Commissioner Colonel Majak Ruei Angong with the trade union leader, Awad Mamud being suspended till further notice.

The security organs last Friday arrested Mr. Awad Mamud Abdulla, Mr. Mabui Ajuong, Mr. Majur Agep, and Mr. Jalal Maburuk.

The town Regional Court is under Chief Apuki Makeny Tiel, who is allegedly acting under instruction of county commissioner orders to sentence other six men arrested to be given a fine of 100 South Sudanese pounds.

South Sudan's army has been accused of detaining some 130 civilians without charges in Lakes State since February, beating some of them severely, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Monday.

"Soldiers rounded up dozens of young men, often detaining others if they couldn't find the suspects they were seeking, and held them in harsh conditions for weeks or months," HRW said, citing witnesses. "At least some were severely beaten."

MPs urged to play active role in curbing cattle raiding activities

Gurtong.net Juba, 26/6/2013 – The Eastern Equatoria State Governor Louis Lobong Lojore has made an appeal to Members of Parliament from cattle-prone raiding counties to commit themselves by taking crucial role to influence the warring communities against the negative habit in the state.

Governor Lobong was delivering his keynote speech during the opening of the fourth session of the Parliament in Torit highlighting key issues affecting his state.

He specified that those MPs hailing from the cattle-prone raiding counties must take great role in working closely and mutually with their respective communities to identify perpetrators, recover government firearms, recover stolen or raided cattle, and facilitate any recovered stolen or raided cattle to rightful owners through appropriate channels.

"This is the only way to bring about true justice, peaceful co-existence, security stability, inculcate the spirit of peace and among our communities," he said.

He cautioned the leaders to stop agitating conflicts and misadvising communities and politicking everything.

"We should stop defending our communities when they are on the wrong," the governor Lobong furiously stressed.

Parts of great eastern side of the state where cattle keepers reside is well known for the raiding practice and the state government has put efforts to end the cattle raiding activities but the practices persist.

However, in the last few years, the state government has reduced its magnitude to nearly theft and minimum stealth unlike in the past when organized raids used to be.

In a related development, the state governor announced that in comparison to the recent weeks, there is restoration of peace along Torit-Juba road as life has returned to normalcy saying he has witnessed peaceful travels as passengers move freely.

He also announced that insurgent in Jonglei state has subsidized as it has been dismantled by the SPLA gallant forces saying that so far there is no spill over of the rebels' incursion.

The leader assured the public that the SPLA forces are in full control of the situation and our state citizens at border with Jonglei have expressed their total rejection of the insurgency.

Teacher held for beating student to death in Raga

Gurtong.net Wau, 26/6/2013 – A student at Kuru Primary School in Raga County, Western Bahr el Ghazal State, died on the spot after allegedly being beaten by a teacher for disobeying school instructions not to attend night clubs.

Reports from Raga County said the teacher beat the pupil the student had disobeyed and declined a punishment for attending a night club.

The pupil identified as Gismala Faris Dut die on spot after being caned together with 17 other pupils on corporal school punishment.

Abandoning night clubs was one of the predominant regulations warning given to the students at Kuru primary school not to attend any night clubs.

The ruling SPLM State Secretary Kamil Wana and a deputy mayor of Wau Municipality rushed to the school as tension was high between the relatives and urged the boys' parents to stay calm and give a chance to the authority to address the issue described as an accident.

"The teacher might have not intended to kill the pupil but as accident does not have a formula, the boy died, therefore, you have to remain vigilant," Uraj urged the parents.

Local punishments in schools are always reserved without death expectations; Uraj said adding that the teacher had been taken for investigation in Raga town which is 90 miles away from Kuru.

Uraj also said that high government delegation from both Ministries of Health and Education from Raga town has visited Kuru.

In a similar relation, the victim's clan brother is also said have died in a road accident while moving from Raga town to Kuru after he heard the death of his relative.

Paulino Thomas, a medical assistant at Ujuku Dam-Zubier Payam confirmed that the deceased was beaten at the back without detailing whether the victim had other any sickness.

According to the regulations of South Sudan Ministry of Education, punishments to pupils who break school regulations is given in form of manual work like cleaning the school compound but not by beating.

International day in support of victims of torture victims marked in Bentiu

Gurtong.net Bentiu, 26/6/2013 – The International Day in Support of Victims of Torture has been commemorated in Bentiu, Unity State.

"On June 26 1987, the convention against torture came into force, it was an importance step in process of globalizing human rights and acknowledging that torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment should be universally illegal," said Benedetta Ondorisio, State Coordinator and team leader of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Human Rights in Bentiu.

She said that the first International Day in support of victims of torture was held on 26 of June 1998 and was a day when the United Nations appealed to all governments and members of civil society to take action to defeat torture and torturers everywhere.

The Universal Human Right convention proclaims that no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment around the world.

South Sudan has not rarified the convention yet, however, article 18 of the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan 2011 guarantees the right of the people to be free from torture.

The Governor of Unity State Taban Deng Gai during the commemoration said torture is happening even in families and should be stopped.

"We must leave the perception that one pays many cows as dowry then you start mistreating your wife or husband," Deng added.

The State Minister of Social Development, Gender and Child Welfare Ms. Lubna Abdallagani Babaker said the state has received two rape reports recently in Rubkona and one in Nhialdiu Payam of Rubkona and this is a form of torture that girls should know what to do when that incident occurs.

"It's not a family issue, you must report it to the legal administration or police to bring that person so to face justice," she said.

She urged all the law enforcement agencies and the State parliament to impose legal procedure to those who carried out rape.

The State Director for Human Right Commission Mr, Thomas Wijial Shoab said all should fight against torture and put it into practice as it's stated in the constitution.

Kiir's former legal aide named land commission chair

Radio Miraya, 26/6/2013 – The Governor of Central Equatoria State, Clement Wani Konga has issued a decree appointing former judge, Ajonye Perpetua Paya, the chairperson of the state's new Land Commission.

Perpetua was relieved of her duties as Deputy Head of Legal Administration in the office of the President in April and was also stripped of her judicial duties.

Konga's decree appointed Patrick Ladu Sekwat as her deputy, while Carlo Arigo has been named the Executive Director of the five man commission.

The State land commission is responsible for overseeing land policies in the State.

Jonglei's Manyabol deserted due to lack of food, commissioner says

Sudantribune.com Bor, 26/6/2013 – The locality of Manyabol in Pibor, Jonglei state has been abandoned by its inhabitants since two months ago due to "lack of food", said a commissioner of the area on Wednesday.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune on phone from Pibor, the commissioner general Joshua Konyi, said his people in Manyabol deserted the area after they were unable to receive food aids from humanitarian agencies due to high levels of insecurity there.

"What I know is that they moved out, not at once, to other areas where they could get food supply. Some are now in Gumuruk, others are in Kochar and some came to Pibor headquarters", he explained on Phone.

The UN OCHA said in its latest weekly bulletin that an inter-agency team reached the area on 17 June to inspect the situation.

The fact finding mission "found Manyabol emptied of civilians, reportedly following a clash on 26 May in which several civilians were reported killed", said the humanitarian bulletin.

Sudan Tribune last May received reports about the killing of three local chiefs there, but the commissioner refused to give accurate account on who the suspects were and how many were killed.

OCHA said 560 of Manyabol displaced people are now in Gumuruk, where they will receive assistance from humanitarian groups, stressing that "the whereabouts of the population outside the town centre are unknown". The total population of Manyabol before the clashes was estimated at 4,000.

Child labour rampant in South Sudan

Catholic Radio Network, 26/6/2013 – Child labour is rampant in South Sudan and children trafficking for labour and sex exploitation as "serious."

The charge comes from Street Children Aid.

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Amo Oloka Francis told CRN on Wednesday that the local NGO identified a number of children who are trafficked for labour and sex in Juba.

He urged the state and national governments to deal with child trafficking squarely, put a proper policy in place and enforce it seriously so that children enjoy their rights.

Mr Oloka said parents should be responsible and work hard to feed and educate their children to become South Sudan's future leaders.

He urged parents to stop their children from shoe shining and other casual labours in order to feed families.

The official said children are not the solution to parents' financial problems. Mr Oloka said child labour violates child rights in three ways: it enslaves a child, forces her to drop out from school and affects child health. The world commemorated on Wednesday World Day against Child Labour.

South Sudan Red Cross Society officially recognized by ICRC

Gurtong.net Juba, 27/6/2013 – The South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) has been recognized officially by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 18th June 2013 in Geneva.

This recognition came almost two years after its establishment on July 9th 2011. SSRC is now the 189th National Society of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

“It is one of those events we will always remember in our lives as a major achievement in the service of mankind,” said John Lobor, Deputy Secretary General for South Sudan Red Cross.

In this event, South Sudan Red Cross management appreciates H.E Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan for endorsing the SSRC bill into law, and also credit goes to South Sudan Parliament, who passed the Geneva Conventions and SSRC law, just to mention a few. All these steps contribute significantly to the recognition of SSRC by the ICRC.

SSRC is also expecting to be admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in an upcoming General Assembly before the end of the year.

ICRC, in co-operation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, contributes to the development of South Sudan Red Cross, through institutional support and emergency preparedness assistance and exchange of families’ news.

SSRC is a volunteer-based humanitarian institution, auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. It was established through an Act of Parliament on 9th March 2012. The SSRC Bill was passed by Parliament and endorsed into law upon signature of the President of the Republic of South Sudan.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the largest humanitarian network in the world. It is composed of the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and, as of today, 189 National Societies. Each component of the Movement has its own role and legal identity, but all are guided by the seven Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

Yei authorities ban cattle roaming on streets

Easter Radio Yei, 26/6/2013 – Authorities in Yei River County of Central Equatoria State issued a local order banning the mass roaming of sheep and goats on streets.

Roaming cattle destroy crops and the newly planted trees along the major streets of Yei town, Easter Radio reported.

Commissioner Juma David said the order was issued to regulate animals that spoil the vegetation.

Mr Juma called on the stakeholders and the payam authorities to implement the order to protect gardens from cattle, especially during the farming season.

The order also stipulates that anyone who failed to tie down his or her goats will be fined 50 South Sudanese Pounds per animal.

Mr Juma said if owners failed to respond within three days the Government will get possession of the animals.

South Sudan moves closer to oil pipeline to the south

BBC News, 26/6/2013 – South Sudan has moved closer to its target of gaining access to a pipeline to export its oil to the south.

The presidents of Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda have agreed to build two pipelines across East Africa.

One would run from South Sudan to the Kenyan port city of Lamu and the other would stretch from Rwanda to Mombasa.

Currently, South Sudan exports its oil through Sudan and supplies are often disrupted as the two countries disagree over pricing and security issues.

The three-way agreement between the presidents was confirmed by Uganda's foreign minister, Sam Kutesa.

Last week, Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir threatened again to stop oil flows across its border with South Sudan, unless South Sudan stops supporting rebels operating across the shared frontier.

South Sudan denies supporting rebels and, in turn, accuses Khartoum of backing insurgents on its soil.

When South Sudan became independent nearly two years ago, it took 75% of the oil reserves of Sudan.

However, Sudan retained the pipeline infrastructure, as well as the refineries and export terminal at Port Sudan on the Red Sea.

East Africa is experiencing an energy boom at the moment, after oil and gas discoveries in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

New railway

Mr Kutesa said the three countries had also agreed to build a railway line from Kenya through Uganda to Rwanda.

"It was agreed to revamp the existing railway network and also construct a standard gauge railway line in Kenya and Uganda and also extend it to Rwanda," he said.

South Sudan has 1.2 billion oil barrels reserve

Radio Bakhita Juba, 26/6/2013 – South Sudan has an estimated oil reserve of 1.2 billion barrels in the producing areas.

Petroleum and Mining Minister Stephen Dhieu Dau made the revelation while presenting the Mining and Petroleum Policies 2013 to the National Legislative Assembly.

Mr Dhieu said the aim of the policies is to develop South Sudan's minerals for the benefit of its people.

He explained that the policy framework for the mining sector places minerals as means for growth and development.

Mr Dhieu said South Sudan has an estimated oil reserve of 1.2 billion barrels.

He added that the crude resources are managed by the Government but they belong to the people of South Sudan.

The Assembly referred the Mining and Petroleum Policies to the specialized committee of Commerce, Energy and Mining for scrutiny prior and presentation to the House after two weeks.

Global witness trains civil society on transparent oil revenue use

Sudan Catholic Radio Network, 26/6/2013 – Global Witness brought together a group of civil society organisations to put forward a guideline base on transparent use of oil revenue.

South Sudan Law Society Taban Kiston Santo said the group wanted to discuss and educate communities on Mining Act and Petroleum and Revenue Management Bill, Bakhita Radio reported.

He added that after deliberation the group will propose laws regulating the extractive industry in the country.

South Sudan Civil Society Supporting Programme Benjamin Ochieng said though the government passed the Mining Bill, other bills including environmental policy are needed.

Global Witness Director Emma Vickers said her organisation was working to build peaceful relationships between South Sudan and Sudan on oil exploration for the last two years to see transparency and accountability.

Ms Vickers added that civil society groups were involved so that they advocate for transparency.

Petroleum Act 2012 and the Petroleum Revenue Management Bill are the two laws governing crude management in South Sudan.

240 Sudanese teachers sacked in Upper Nile

Radio Miraya, 26/6/2013 – 240 Sudanese teachers have been sacked in Upper Nile, state's Education Minister Daniel Wuor Joak said.

Mr Wuor said 318 South Sudanese teachers would be replace the sacked Sudanese. Wour said non-South Sudanese nationals would be dismissed from all the ministries in the state.

Sudan defends oil closure decision, criticizes US envoy at UN

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 26/6/2013 – The Sudanese foreign ministry on Wednesday defended the country's decision this month to shut down oil pipelines extending from South Sudan saying it exhausted all other options to resolve differences with Juba.

The ministry's spokesperson Abu-Bakr al-Sideeg was quoted by the pro-government Sudanese Media Center (SMC) website as saying that Khartoum sought relentlessly to convince Juba to end its support to anti-Khartoum insurgents.

Al-Sideeg said there remains a window of opportunity to end the stalemate between the two neighboring countries through implementing the proposals of the African Union (AU) mediator Thabo Mbeki.

He also noted Sudan's agreement to a visit by South Sudan Vice President Riek Machar which is expected to take place on Sunday.

Earlier this month Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir publicly ordered his oil minister to "immediately" close the oil pipelines and went as far as saying that Khartoum will never allow Juba to export its oil through its territories.

But Sudanese officials later talked down Bashir's rhetoric saying that the closure will take place within 60 days and declared that his directives could be reversed if South Sudan gives up its backing to the rebels.

Khartoum also announced its acceptance of Mbeki's proposal to defuse tensions between the two ex-foes.

The foreign ministry spokesperson also criticized this week's remarks by the outgoing United States ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice and accused her of "unjustified" hostility towards Khartoum.

Al-Sideeg said that Sudan expected Rice to encourage its actions and pointed out that the troika of US, UK and Norway affirmed that Mbeki's proposal represents the way out of the deadlock.

He also addressed accusations by Rice on delivery of humanitarian aid to conflict-ridden areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile stressing that Washington knows that rebels are the ones impeding the tripartite initiative (AU, Arab League, and UN) in this regard.

Rights group urges Obama to support media freedom in Africa

Gurtong.net Juba, 26/6/2013 – The Human Right Watch (HRW) has urged United States' president Barack Obama to use his visit to Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania beginning today to support besieged media outlets and independent groups across the African continent.

According to the HRW press statement, independent media have come under increasing threat in many Africa countries.

“President Obama should recognize the courage of African journalists and activists who speak the truth in the face of threats and reprisals, and call on his African allies to do the same,” said Daniel Bekele, Africa director at HRW.

Bekele added: “He should make clear to African leaders that the media and activist groups are critical for development, and should be embraced.”

In South Sudan, security forces have arbitrarily arrested and detained journalists and editors over the content of their reporting. This is partly compounded by the lack of media laws that has resulted to self-censorship.

Some media outlets in the banana republic (Uganda) were recently closed as the Ugandan police sought some documents in their premises.

According to HRW, in the Horn of Africa in recent years, dozens of journalists in Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia have fled targeted attacks and politically motivated prosecution. Since 2011, Ethiopia has used its counterterrorism law to prosecute at least 11 journalists.

In his 2009 speech in Accra, Ghana, President Obama spoke about the importance of civil society and independent journalism to democratic societies.

Drones bolster UN peacekeeping capabilities

Voice of America, 26/6/2013 – The United Nations is preparing to send at least three unarmed aerial vehicles - commonly known as drones - to bolster its peacekeeping mission in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Force commanders from other U.N. missions say advanced technology could also help their operations.

As rebels, terrorists and other dangerous elements obtain more sophisticated weaponry and equipment, the U.N. is working to stay a step ahead in its efforts to combat threats from such groups.

Currently, it is planning to send several unarmed aerial vehicles - UAVs or drones - to assist its 20,000 peacekeepers in the eastern Congo.

Lieutenant General Carlos Alberto Dos Santos Cruz, who is the Force Commander for the U.N. Stabilization Mission in DRC, MONUSCO, says he hopes the UAVs will be fully operational by September.

The commander told the U.N. Security Council during a peacekeeping meeting on Wednesday that they want to use the UAVs to identify where the armed groups are and to provide early warning of their movements. He said with a drone's ability to hover over an area for 10 to 12 hours, it could detect imminent threats to civilian populations.

"They will help in deterring hostile action by the armed groups and will trigger the use of quick reaction forces," Cruz said.

He said the mission is already using ground-based radar and other advanced military technologies in the Congo to provide better awareness of activity in the area. Asked about the use of UAV's in U.N. peacekeeping, Major General Delali Johnson Sakyi, Force Commander of the U.N. Mission in South Sudan, told reporters he would welcome this technology.

"It can really help identify flashpoints in time so that the proper processes would be engaged to mitigate conflict, so it is a welcome idea," Sakyi said.

Commander Sakyi said currently his mission collects information through patrols and with an infrared camera mounted on a helicopter. He said the mission only has one of these cameras and would like more. Such equipment would be particularly useful in a country like South Sudan with its vast size and lack of roads.

There are about 11,000 peacekeepers in south Lebanon, monitoring the so-called Blue Line between Lebanon and Israel. Major General Paolo Serra commands that mission, UNIFIL. He said having new technology would be very useful.

UNIFIL would like to have an enhancing technology - and I think about cameras, I think about mobile capabilities in order to better check the Blue Line," Serra said.

If the use of UAVs is successful in eastern Congo, they could be employed in other missions to monitor cease-fires, borders and arms embargoes, and could eventually reduce the need for as many peacekeepers on the ground.

President Kiir's pedantic tricks in the SPLM Oyee machine

South Sudan News Agency (SSNA), 26/6/2013 – President Kiir with his pedantic tricks is at it again. This time he picks on those in the inner circle of the SPLM Oyee machine. Do not be carried away by the headline grabbing subject of corruption. This is just part of the trick. Keep your eyes wide open during this interesting period of power struggle in the SPLM.

On 18th June 2013 Sudan Tribune under the title, 'South Sudan president suspends two ministers for corruption probe' <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article46997> reported that president Kiir had suspended Ahmed Deng Alor, the minister for cabinet affairs and Kosti Manibe, the minister of finance for involvement in transfer of millions of dollars for personal benefit. In the same order the president further appointed Judge John Gatwech Lul, the head of the anti-corruption commission to investigate the allegation within 60 days with the view of bringing prosecution against the accused. A good section of the society already appears to approve of the president's action. This is what is expected in any normal functioning government. However, I am afraid that some citizens may already have had their hopes raised for nothing. The reality could be different.

President Kiir is using the corruption vehicle to get at people he believes have abandoned supporting his leadership in the ongoing struggle between him, his deputy and Pagan Amum. So the suspension of the two ministers has more to do with their views in the current battle for leadership of the SPLM Oyee machine than corruption per se. President Kiir is trying to prepare the ground by weeding out all those who have either publicly withdrawn their allegiance to him or those who have remained silent without expressing their allegiance to him.

Why is the corruption vehicle a charade? SPLM Oyee itself is a product of corruption and it will not survive without exercise of corruption. Corruption runs deep in its veins and it is what keeps it alive. Please see, 'Fudging the issue- President Kiir and corruption in RSS.' <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206250013.html> we already know that Ahmed Deng Alor is a Don of corruption and there is nothing new about this latest accusation by the president. The vital thing for the public to note is that nothing will come out of this investigation and here the editorial of South Sudan Nation under the heading, 'Latest mega-corruption: Is Kiir yet again a toothless bulldog?' published on 19th June 2013 is spot on.

Judge John Gatwech Lul is a sworn poodle of John Luke, the minister of Justice and president Kiir. He is a fixer of the regime. He runs the launderette of SPLM Oyee. Having been reduced from the prestigious position of a judge to an SPLM laundry man, his main task is washing of Oyee dirt and issuing clean bill of health to the criminals brought to his attention. For instance, recently the kith and kin of president Kiir hammered their way into the president's office safe in J1 in Juba and helped themselves to millions of dollars of South Sudanese money. Instead of a proper investigation by the relevant organs, the president referred the matter to Judge Lul and as expected he bathed the thieves with legal detergents and cleared them on grounds that the evidence got contaminated.

Unlike Lul, his predecessor Dr Pauline Riek was a lady of integrity who could not allow her character to be tarnished by SPLM Oyee crimes. While she was leading the Anti-corruption commission she acted professionally and was committed to clean South Sudan of corruption but she was sabotaged and denied the necessary legislation to carry out her duties by none other than president Kiir himself. This remains a shame on South Sudanese. Her removal underscores the fact that the problem in South Sudan is not lack of educated people or professionals but rather it is the pugnacity of Dinkocracy.

Judge Lul in the current case will implement what has already been agreed between president Kiir and the minister of Justice John Luke which is that no SPLM Oyee member will be prosecuted for corruption. Actually the exoneration of the kith and kin of the president referred to above is the result of this policy. John Luke is on record that nobody will be prosecuted for corruption. Please see the following articles, 'South Sudan: Don Salvatore Allegiance to the Code of Omerta in RSS' <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206100131.html?page=4> and 'Sudan: Corruption Saga - the SPLM Five Big Guns or the Quintet Squirrels' <http://allafrica.com/stories/201202271279.html?page=2>

Reacting to president Kiir's suspension of the Ahmed Alor and Kosti Manibe; John Luke in 'South Sudan says lifting immunity not automatic indictment of corruption'

<http://www.udantribune.com/spip.php?article47040> subtly reiterates and re-invokes the SPLM Oyee policy of no prosecution for corruption.

Therefore, all those who are hoping for a critical and factual report of the investigation followed by prosecution of the duo in court may be raising their hopes to be dashed. John Luke erected a clear sign post as notice to the public last year when he said, “No Prosecution for Corruption in Republic of South Sudan”.

Now that we have explored the president’s action in light of the information and experiences available to us, let us move on to talk about the proposition of this paper which is that the president is using the corruption vehicle as a tool to weed out his opponents in the SPLM Oyee machine and to strengthen his position for the expected leadership contest.

In terms of the leadership contest, president Kiir is in a very awkward position. First, he has practically proved beyond doubt that he is ineffective, weak and a tribal leader. Under his watch South Sudan deteriorated to a failed state because he was focused on enriching the so called ‘born to rule’. Secondly, he knows that his colleagues in the Oyee machine have lost confidence in his leadership. Thirdly, he is a hostage to the semi illiterate and powerful group of tribalists led by people like Salva Mathok, the deputy minister of interior and Paul Malong, the governor of Northern Bahr El Ghazal. Fourthly and crucially he has tasted power and does not want to lose it. So if he is to remain in power he must secure re-election to the post of chairman of SPLM Oyee during the coming convention. This requires him to be brutal to knock heads. But knocking heads in an organisation of criminals can be a very dangerous business. It is this very reason that has forced president Kiir to be selective like a predator stalking a herd while looking for the weak and easy prey.

Ahmed Alor and Kosti Manibe happen to be the weakest quarry in the herd to start the game with. To send a strong message to the SPLM Oyee membership to tow the line, president Kiir has decided to sacrifice the duo. Ahmed Alor is sacrificial because he is a foreigner and the overwhelming majority of South Sudanese know that and they would not go out to the streets to protect him. After all, Ahmed’s opportunism disgusts a lot of people. All his life in the then Sudan he did not want to associate with South Sudanese. All his friends were Arabs and he did not want to identify with the South Sudanese cause. In 1983 as a staunch Arabist and unionist he saw an opening in Dr John Garang’s ideology of New Sudan to become somebody. He grabbed the opportunity and became a close friend of the late. During that period he manipulated the late and enriched himself. When Dr Garang died, he quickly jumped ship abandoning his group of Garang boys and attached himself to president Kiir; again he further enriched himself obscenely. Now sensing that president Kiir is about to lose, he has begun to reposition himself for another leap to place of power. It seems president Kiir has noticed and hence his present predicament.

Although Ahmed Alor has support in the Abyei boys like Luka Biong, Gen. Pieng Deng, Dr Francis Deng and so on, this would not pose any threat on its own to president Kiir. This obviously is a huge draw back for Abyei. Ahmed Alor since Garang days has been the pivotal character distorting South Sudan politics. The power that Ahmed wields in the SPLM Oyee machine via manipulation should not be underestimated especially in absence of ideology and a coherent policy in the party. Ahmed is the one person responsible for the invisibility of the minister of foreign affairs and the forceful assertion of Abyeians as citizen of South Sudan contrary to the provision of the CPA of 2005.

With Ahmed’s fall from grace, it now remains to be seen whether this will result in shift in the unarticulated foreign policy of South Sudan. It is worth remembering that South Sudan lost Panthou to the Sudan due to the machinations of the Abyei boys led by Ahmed and the negligence of Dr Riek Machar.

Unlike Ahmed Alor, Kosti Manibe’s citizenship is unquestionable. He hails from an area deep inside South Sudan. An area that has produced patriots throughout the struggle for secession of South Sudan. Kosti is not only a member of the SPLM Oyee but a committed loyal member whose character has all along been immaculate. He is well educated, well-mannered and very calm. Kosti is a force for stability and good but unfortunately a self-constructed victim of his very self. Kosti is very disadvantaged. He has no local support as proved by the general election of 2010. He also has no followers in the SPLA as

he is not a military person coupled with the oppression of Equatoria has made him to be disposable. Kosti may have been chosen by president Kiir to make example of because he may not have revealed his political preference and allegiance as to who should be the next leader of South Sudan. Kosti is reported to be notorious for silence and keeping things to himself and this may not have earned him friends among the Warrap cartel.

The dragging of the duo into the mud is also a serious warning to the other contenders. Pagan has made his ambitions clear and it appears he may not be in good book of president Kiir. Pagan being in the same predicament like Kosti without local support from the Chollo people may soon find himself in difficulties. In the general election of 2010 he failed to win a seat in his home area. However, he has advantage over Kosti as he appears to have some support in the SPLA and among the Bor people because he is a 'Garang boy'. Although this support puts him in a better position, there is no guarantee that he will not be dragged into the mud.

While president Kiir plays this roulette he has seriously compromised his own position and the welfare of the SPLM Oyee machine itself. His advisors seem to be short sighted and they may have miscalculated badly. This game which is supposed to strength president Kiir's position ironically may be the very one that speeds the demise of his regime. President Kiir enjoys the presidency because of the combined support of his tribe and their control of the SPLM Oyee machine. By targeting Ahmed Alor and Kosti Manibe, he has automatically lost the support of the Abyei group and the Equatoria SPLM Oyee members. The Abyei group due to marriage alliance may now shift their allegiance to Pagan Amum or even Dr Riek Machar in a tradeoff possibly for influence on foreign policy in South Sudan. So what is emerging is the disintegration of the unity of greater Jieng which also means the loosening of their grip on power.

In effect, president Kiir's opponents will now be the potential beneficiaries of his short sighted action. Instead of strengthening his position, he has opened up himself to unnecessary attack weakening his authority and support base. Ahmed Alor and Kosti Manibe are members of the SPLM national liberation council, the highest organ of the SPLM Oyee machine. As far as it is known there is no mechanism in the organisation which will halt them from participating in the debate on the leadership question. So, Ahmed and Kosti will have their day of revenge when things come to the NLC especially on the dispute over the voting system that decides the leadership of SPLM Oyee.

This drama should be a lesson to all those from the smaller tribes in the SPLM Oyee machine that they have no future in this organisation. This is an organisation that serves one particular ethnic group. It uses members of the other ethnic groups as fodder for its growth and enrichment of the 'born to rule'. If you swim with them, do not be surprised when they push you away from the deep clear water into the mud.

In all, president Kiir with his pedantic tricks is now stoking the disintegration of the SPLM Oyee. This is good news for the country. He should be encouraged to carry on. We say well done to him and his advisors. The disgruntled abused groups now have to carefully calculate on who to support for leadership in South Sudan because they have no future in it. Wisdom dictates that Equatoria should pick up the mantle and challenge for the position of leadership to rescue the country from total collapse.

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Political months ahead: How Kiir maneuvered his deputy and neutralised his venom

South Sudan News Agency (SSNA), 26/6/2013 – The south Sudan's leadership conference will be an interesting episode to watch. It will be an all-out war. However, the most interesting part is when the top two will perhaps go one on one. Whoever wins, will win by a knock-out, not by points. This is the only way you can win a match and embarrass a referee, who is squaring up with your opponent to influence the outcome otherwise.

Political landscape

The current and future political landscape in the south Sudan is apparently poisonous-one that everybody fears, and a rocky place to ride. In such environment, only political Asti odes will survive.

The SPLM convention will mark water shed and protests for the politicians who will not make it. But those protests will add salt to the wound .Regional conferences have been conducted, with Bhar-el-gazel, endorsing president kiir .Equatoria, might have followed a similar note. If that endorsement is anything to go by, then the president will take it all.

With the upper Nile region left, and from the look of things, Machar's supporters may outnumber the incumbent's, and toe the line to endorse him. There are no significant inroads that such a move could alter the overwhelming balance of support for the president, before the election. On the other side of the coin, you will find out that the opposition parties are climbing a ladder without steps. This means that they have no formidable platform or network that will bring diverse thinking intellectuals together to post a powerful opposition to the government. I wanted to say that the opposition parties are comprised of a group of "garden boys" who are neither team players nor game changers. Whatever, they articulate is a "bear hall talk" and a cosmetic exercise simultaneously.

As I have already stated, in a future to be seen, the most primary decisions and policies are made within SPLM party structures and will continue to do so. This is because the SPLM is the most irreversible tsunami of south Sudan's politics. You must be a 140 pounds political giant, to be able to instigate a wind of change, against such a dominant party.

The outcome of political debates and political battles in the SPLM and its branches will continue to shape the content of the government. The key role modules in this arena are the SPLM and the SPLMYL and possible alliances.

The SPLM youth league, under its current leader has been a mouth piece since the days of our late leader, and is perpetuating the same nature now, upon which I can assert that; there is no leadership in the youth league, because the current leadership, has elements factored with selling -out the legacy of the youth league and a double agent - abusing the league's platform to save the master at all costs. With his sell-out tendencies, his master will be be-abled to capitalise. He is a traitor who can never be trusted to carry out the mandate of the youth to its logical conclusion.

The league is in disarray, however, current status of the youth wing will not change the outcome of that conference then, or in 2015 general elections, but it will dramatically do thereafter. The youth feels that they are not represented because the current leadership constitutes the group of "house boys" who were nominated at the back yard, not whom the youth elected, and only represents the interest of the master less they are fired. It is highly inconceivable that a house boy can easily be turned against his master unless his master is deposed.

This is why it is crucial to comprehend the style of contest within the SPLM and its youth wing by measuring the roles each will eventually play when the battle is at stake. Who wins the war or who wins the battle, will be determined by the dynamics of such styles in across the spectrum.

One of these styles is that; patronage rather than ideology is now the key inertia of the SPLM politics and will shape the run up to the convention. It is still inevitable to discern some ideological consistency' regarding the factions that coalesced around Dr Machar and President Kiir. Kiir, looks set to defy the political harmony and that is where his problem is' because if he doesn't, he risks losing power. And if he continues defying the SPLM Legacy; it's not a sin to second Machar's warning that; SPLM will be a "football".

What makes the president so irritant rather articulate is that; he knows' once he lose power, he will never be back to the throne and he would have gone a failed president. He must have tasted the glory of being in the state house and insists not to buy that luxury of losing it. So, he will do anything in his power to win by hook or crook. You may level him incompetent at your own peril. But that is not the point. In Africa you don't have to worry about being a success or a failure, or even abuse of human rights. What you need to do is, steal public money, build mansions and buy the poor to vote for you when it comes to elections. Question is; how long are you going to be stealing? There is no doubt' the buyers and the bought are all thieves. The difference is; the buyer is the big thief and the bought is the small thief, all bear the same conviction.

If you still are wondering what simple strategy Mr “Tiger” is capable of, then you might not have monitored his personality from the angle of incident.

It is simple; smile and laugh in the public, but in reality you behave like a monster, a tyrant who will target perceived enemies without mercy, and because of that fear few dare to speak openly." That is why in South Sudan, everybody feels irritated even with a closest friend because majority has become a security personnel. In this regard, people fear the army of spies that surround the crown. Without a code of conduct, not because those codes do not exist, but because they have relentlessly been violated, these spies are fiercely willing to silence discerning voices of reasons by detention, brutal attacks or even massacre them, in an effort to install complete fear in the “opposing and opposition” in order to take full control of the embattled party and build a fault consensus, that will pave the way for a long reign of the incumbent and subsequently seal power struggle.

As I strongly suggest that power should remain in Bhar-el-gazel for some time {I understand it is not a kingdom}, I also belief in the accommodation of those individuals who have the potential. You can call me silly, stupid and many more, in so much that I would, if you do not agree with me that we, Bhar-el-gazelese have been the face of the revolution and had been extremely sidelined in the leadership circles during the struggle. Power, being in Bhar-el-gazel, is a privilege, the same way as it has been for Upper Nile years ago, and I belief we are not immune to the chance we have now. However, we do need to be killers, dictators and triblists, rather act as people holding the keys of authority and perfection.

However, the run-up to the national convention is primarily about access to state resources for the benefit of particular interest groups irrespective of their ideological attributions. It is for this reason that SPLM and its alliances, will stand behind Kiir. It also explains why the president striped his vice of the powers he once was given ,and why he purged those rumoured to topple him, replacing them with his closest, allies in order to strengthen his grip on the party.

While there is a group of the discontented fellas, those opposed to the president has not consolidated into a coherent faction, and consists of a spiralling, confused and an often realigning mess, a group of power angry politicians without an agreed champion’. Indeed, the vice president has put himself in this uncomfortable spot, by availing himself to run for presidency. Mr Machar needs to calculate his steps well. First, he must know that he is not going to win. Secondly, if he runs against the incumbent, and doesn’t win, he will most certainly lose his position within the SPLM and in the government. If, by sympathy, he is retained, then he will lose influence because he would have been neutralised.

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