



# United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit  
Communications & Public Information Office

## MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

MONDAY, 08 JULY 2013

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# Highlights

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## **South Sudan's 2nd birthday**

*Al-Jazeera News, 7/7/2013* – Two years after independence, world's newest nation still struggling with growing pains.

But building a new state has proven a daunting task, and two years on people's patience is being tested as the country struggles to stand on its own and deliver the dividends of a peace for its 8.3 million populations.

"We are free now, but life hasn't gotten better," Ruth Lugor, who works for a local grassroots organisation, told Al Jazeera. "Crime in Juba has increased and education and health services have become more expensive."

Upon signing the peace agreement in 2005, the government of South Sudan embarked on a state-building mission to prepare for independence in just six years, an extremely short timeframe to unite dozens of ethnic groups, construct roads, schools, and hospitals, to conduct a first census and elections.

Progress has been made in setting up institutions, but South Sudan remains one of the poorest nations in the world. "Towards effective nation building and prosperity for all" rings out the mantra on billboards across Juba, South Sudan's capital, but high expectations have given way to hard reality

Familiar problems of corruption, poverty, hunger and unemployment bedevil this infant country against the backdrop of continued tensions and tit-for-tat skirmishes with Sudan.

The international community has lent substantial support, and donors have contributed billions to bolster South Sudan's development.

"There was a huge amount of enthusiasm to kick-start development in South Sudan. A lot of commitments were made, and there were a lot of high expectations of what could be achieved very rapidly," said Bella Bird, World Bank country director for South Sudan.

"The fact that we use government systems to implement all our programmes slowed things down considerably. There was very little capability on the government side. But the difference between where things were, and where they are now is significant."

## **Extreme poverty**

Yet many people struggle to feed themselves, access to education and health services is low, and according to the UNDP South Sudanese women have the highest maternal mortality rate in the world. Only nine percent of the population will finish primary school, and most of the country continues to be inaccessible by road.

Progress has also been overshadowed by continued tensions and fighting with Sudan. Attacks along the yet-to-be-defined border and fighting over the Heglig oil field escalated into heavy fighting in 2012, displacing more than 170,000 people into camps in South Sudan and causing a humanitarian crisis.

"At the time of separation, there were a lot of unresolved issues. We have been embroiled in a border conflict from the onset of independence. As such, it is not surprising that we haven't achieved much," said Deputy Minister of Information Atem Yaak Atem.

## **Growing pains**

Corruption within the government has been rampant. Last year, President Salva Kiir asked 75 former and current officials to return an estimated \$4bn of stolen public money.

Allegations of graft have exacerbated bitterness towards the government, and are also impeding much needed private investment in the country.

Competition among ethnic groups for a share of the country's resources has also increased. In Jonglei state, David Yau Yau's rebel movement has recruited youth from disenfranchised Murle tribe to fight

the SPLA, the new country's army. Up to 120,000 people may have fled into the bush amid fighting over the past month.

Crime is being fuelled by ethnic rivalry and unemployment, and South Sudan has yet to establish a viable police force and turn a former rebel movement into a professional army.

"Security remains a very serious challenge for the country in terms of militias, urban crimes, unemployed youth, ethnic conflict and confrontations over land," said Jok Madut Jok, founder of the Sudd Institute, a think-tank in Juba.

Yet despite the many problems facing this young nation, progress has been made and there are positive signs.

This week South Africa's former president Thabo Mbeki is scheduled to visit Juba to advance concrete plans to demarcate the demilitarized border zone between the two neighbours.

Ordinary people such as Duku Patrick, a second year engineering student, are under no illusions about the scale of the task facing policymakers - and believe now is the time to revise the high expectations that accompanied independence.

"We need visionary leaders to make the right choices. We need to invest in education so that we are equipped to take the country forward," Patrick said [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **'Friends of S. Sudan' go public with call for "significant changes and reform" in Juba**

*Sudantribune.com* Washington, 7/7/2013 – A group of pro-South Sudan activists in the United States have released a letter sent to President Salva Kiir and other senior officials in Juba expressing concern over what they described as "increasingly perilous fate" of the new state which came to life in July 2011 after voting almost unanimously to gain independence from Sudan.

The letter signed by former U.S. State Department special envoy to Sudan Roger Winter, Sudan researcher Professor Eric Reeves, Co-Founder of Enough project John Prendergast and former congressional aide Ted Dagne said that they concluded that "without significant changes and reform" South Sudan "may slide toward instability, conflict and a protracted governance crisis"

"As friends, it is our responsibility to express our serious concerns directly and to offer constructive suggestions for the way forward".

The group, which has been one of earliest supporters of rebellion waged by southern Sudanese against Khartoum decades ago, accused Juba security forces of conducting "a campaign of violence against civilians simply because they belonged to a different ethnic group or they are viewed as opponents of the current government".

"This violence is shocking and has included rape, murder, theft, and destruction of property. We are particularly concerned about the evidence emerging of abuses by government forces in Jonglei. These terrible crimes occur because government forces believe they have the power to act with impunity," said the letter seen by Sudan Tribune.

"These atrocities are not isolated incidents but among many deliberate measures taken by soldiers on the instruction of senior commanders and government officials. Some may argue that the failure here lies in the chain of command, but the evidence makes clear that these orders are indeed coming from senior commanders," the group said.

The letter by the four pro-South Sudan activists also noted the lack of justice in crimes committed across the country and impunity enjoyed by some South Sudanese officials.

"Many attacks against civilians, including the killing of foreign businessmen, a teacher from Kenya, South Sudanese journalists, and many others, have gone unpunished. We have authoritative reports that government security forces have abused those who allow themselves and their cars to be searched. Many people, including government officials, have faced harassment and have been beaten up by security forces. Again, no one has been held accountable. This inevitably creates a climate of impunity" they said.

The Friends of South Sudan also addressed the issue of corruption and pointed out that "despite claims that vast sums have been expended on investment in infrastructure, there is very little to show in the way of roads, medical services, and education for millions of South Sudanese who greeted the prospect of independence with eagerness and hope".

"Those who have benefitted—who have become wealthy by misappropriating government funds—have often sent their families outside South Sudan, their children to private schools abroad, and have obtained the best medical services available in the world. This occurs while ordinary citizens who remain in South Sudan cannot afford even basic health services or modest educations for their children".

The letter noted a World Bank investigation presented to South Sudan Ministry of Justice which they said "presents clear evidence of massive corruption".

"And yet the Ministry of Justice has not yet prosecuted a single individual".

Dagne, one of the letter's signatories, was reportedly forced to flee Juba last year fearing for his safety following the release of a letter sent by Kiir to 75 officials urging them to return some \$4 billion dollars they are accused of stealing.

The Ethiopian-born figure was hired by the UN to advise Kiir on anti-corruption policy and international relations and played a key role in the preparation of the letter which was made public to embarrass the officials who are accused of stealing four billion dollars.

He letter said that he was very frustrated by the extent of corruption, tribal wars and lack of development in the new nation.

The group presented a series of recommendations to South Sudan government to rectify the situation including an overhaul of the justice ministry; investigating and prosecuting human rights abuses; warning senior army officials against attacks on civilians; setting "clear" oil infrastructure priorities; making schools, medical services and clean water a priority; cutting the size of the army.

"The demands here are great, we well understand. But unless you begin to address them now, the tasks will only grow greater. Again, as friends of South Sudan, we urge you to confront these challenges on an urgent basis, and with all possible resolve," the letter closing paragraph reads. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Dr. Tedros Receives South Sudan's Foreign Minister**

*AllAfrica.com*, 6/7/2013 – Dr. Tedros received South Sudan's Foreign Minister Nhial Deng Nhial at his offices today (July 05 2013). On the occasion, Dr. Nhial Deng briefed Dr. Tedros on the current status of the ongoing peace negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan.

The briefing, in particular, focused on the outcome of South Sudanese Vice President, Riek Machar's recent visit to Khartoum. The Vice President who met with his Sudanese counterpart Osman Taha held discussions on a number of issues pertaining to border demarcation, security and the flow of oil. The two sides agreed to deal with security related complaints through the JPSM and JBVM mechanisms respectively.

Additionally, the two sides agreed that other mediation efforts should be welcomed, without undermining the role of the AUHIP. They also agreed to resolve all pending post-independence issues including the final status of Abyei. With regard to the AUHIP's new proposal, the two sides agreed to the assign the task of determining the center line of the safe demilitarized zone (SDZ) to the AU's border program technical committee, cessation of hostile media campaigns and to solve all disputes through mechanisms setup to solve the same. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **South Sudan not a failed state: British Envoy**

*Gurtong.net Juba*, 6/7/2013 – British Ambassador to South Sudan, Ian Hughes, has wiped out recent reports that South Sudan is a failed state saying factors examined to determine the report were during the Khartoum regime before South Sudan gained independence.

Ian told a State Radio Juba during an interview that most of the issues that put South Sudan into that situation occurred before the fledgling nation got her independence in 2011.

He however called South Sudan to frankly examine those negative factors to improve the image of the country, adding the way South Sudan is developing shows the potential for prosperous stable and dynamic country.

Ian also cautioned that there are a number of challenges ahead which needs critical focus to address.

The Magazine's indicators include a state whose central government is so weak or ineffective that it has little practical control over much of its territory; non-provision of public services; widespread corruption and criminality; refugees and involuntary movement of populations; and sharp economic decline. South Sudan government Spokesperson then denied the report's rulings terming it as "allegations." [\*\*\(Back to Top\)\*\*](#)

### **O3b's new satellite constellation to provide high speed connectivity to South Sudan**

**Business Wire** ST. HELIER, Jersey, Channel Islands, 8/7/2013 – Following the successful launch of O3b's first four satellites, O3b Networks today announced a major long-term capacity deal to provide high-speed, low-latency capacity to RCS-Communication, a most respected company and the leading Internet Service Provider in the world's newest nation, the Republic of South Sudan.

"High speed data communications have the potential to accelerate economic growth supporting entrepreneurship and multinational commerce. We are proud to provide RCS with connectivity to enable the growth of the new nation of South Sudan."

Juba is home to more than 300,000 people who until now had limited broadband connectivity. By delivering highly affordable and ubiquitous bandwidth with the performance and speed of fiber, the region will enjoy much improved connectivity, spurring both economic growth and social development. This will benefit a broad range of customers, including corporates and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Flippie Odendal, Managing Director, RCS-Communication said: "RCS is always on the lookout for new technology solutions that can enhance their service offering. Though fiber options are being considered for South Sudan, we do not currently have fiber connectivity in country. Our WiMAX network in Juba connects to the Internet backbone via geostationary satellite solutions which are reliable, but when compared to fiber offers latency challenges. We believe that O3b brings something new to the satellite industry that uniquely addresses this limitation. O3b will enable us to offer higher speeds and a more responsive user experience to our WiMAX clients."

Omar Trujillo, Regional VP Africa & LatAm, O3b said: "High speed data communications have the potential to accelerate economic growth supporting entrepreneurship and multinational commerce. We are proud to provide RCS with connectivity to enable the growth of the new nation of South Sudan."

The announcement follows the successful launch of O3b's first four satellites at the Guiana Space Center in French Guiana on June 25, 2013. The O3b network will deliver broadband connectivity everywhere on Earth within 45 degrees of latitude north and south of the equator. O3b's vast coverage area includes emerging and insufficiently connected markets in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Australia, with a collective population of over 3 billion people.

### **About O3b Networks Limited**

O3b Networks Limited ([www.o3bnetworks.com](http://www.o3bnetworks.com)) is a global satellite service provider building a next-generation satellite network for telecommunications operators, Internet service providers, and enterprise and government customers in emerging markets. The O3b system will combine the global reach of satellite with the speed of a fiber-optic network providing billions of consumers and businesses in nearly 180 countries with low-cost, high-speed, low latency Internet and mobile connectivity. O3b Networks' investors include SES, Google, Liberty Global, HSBC Principal Investments, Northbridge Venture Partners, Allen & Company, Development Bank of Southern Africa, Sofina, Satya Capital and Luxempart. O3b Networks is headquartered in St. Helier, Jersey, and Channel Islands.

### **About RCS-Communication**

RCS-Communication ([www.rcs-communication.com](http://www.rcs-communication.com)) is a professional ICT (Information Communication Technologies) company for businesses and organizations looking for a service



provider that understands the terrain, accepts responsibility for performance and ensures future-relevance for clients in a fast-changing world. It offers a wide range of Internet Connectivity-, Networking-, Radio-, Energy saving- and Mobile Satellite Solutions in partnership with selected suppliers and service partners. RCS combines in-country experience across East- and Central Africa, offering international best practices and a proven track record for delivering projects in challenging environments to specification and within agreed timeframes. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Youth want leader to step down for abuse of office**

**Gurtong.net** Torit, 7/7/2013 – The greater Torit Youth Committee led by Arob Jimmy Odera has accused a newly elected Union leader, Mr. Epone Emmanuel Lolimo that he is totally unfit to lead the youth in Eastern Equatoria State.

Coming together under a Committee of Ad hock youth, the Torit Youth in their petition addressed to the State Governor Louis Lobong Lojore over claims of undemocratic Youth Union elections also accused the embattled youth Union leader of mismanaging public funds and vehicles meant for referendum campaigns.

Noting to a letter dated 14 December 2012 from the former South Sudan Commissioner Samuel Maccar, addressed to the then State Referendum High Committee which was then under the headship of Allan Lochul Teko, to formulate youth taskforce on referendum, Mr. Daniel Lopido was the Chairperson while Mr. Epone Emmanuel Lolimo and Ms. Hellen Siam Pasquale were secretary General and Finance Secretary respectively.

These three guys according to petitioners, were all appointed despite they are all from Greater Kapoeta Region.

It is alleged that funds and a vehicle allocated to the programme are believed to have been squandered and no accountability reports were rendered to the state youth.

“Our fear is that he will misappropriate, mismanage or corrupt the office of the youth of the entire state more so, Epone Emmanuel Lolimo who works as your personal Assistant Secretary may not have enough time to dedicate to the youth affairs,” says the petition.

The youth say that Epone Emmanuel Lolimo is working in political office and this will lead to political interference.

“It is said that politicking an independent Youth Union will it very difficult for international donors and other Charitable Organizations to support their programs, this due to principle of neutrality,” they said.

They leaders say that in a democratic governance, youth are part and parcel of Civil Society Organizations and must remain neutral at all times as it is required to stick to principle of freedom from politics and adherence to the principle of non-partisan

Responding to petitioners, the embattled leader defended that the committee was responsible for the decision it took, but that the petitioners have to deal with the entire body not an individual since he was not responsible of the said car that were personalized, but blamed the formers chairperson Lopido Daniel and two of his colleagues.

However, the former Youth Group for Referendum chairperson Lopido Daniel who revealed the car he was given registered in his name confirmed that he received one of the cars from Juba’s Referendum office adding that the Referendum office in Juba offered the cars as a reward for youth leaders in the ten states of South Sudan. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Japan boosts Ministry of Health with USD 4 million by Anthony Wani**

**Theniles.org** Juba, 8/7/2013 – The Japanese Government, through UNICEF, donated supplies worth USD 4 million to South Sudan’s National Ministry of Health. Central Equatoria State Minister of Health Emmanuel Baya, Japanese Charge D’Affaires Takeshi Akamatsu and UNICEF’s Yasmin Haque during the handover,

The supplies donated by the Japanese Government include vaccines, injection materials and cold chain equipment mainly to support immunizations and maternity care. It also includes special food for severely malnourished children, mosquito nets and anti-malarial drugs.

“The project is a symbolic project, as it focuses on the most vulnerable.” Takeshi Akamatsu During the handover on Thursday, July 4, the Japanese Charge D’Affaires in South Sudan Takeshi Akamatsu said the donation is part of the overall efforts to boost South Sudan’s health sector.

“The project is a symbolic project, as it focuses on the most vulnerable including woman and children with health risk such as yellow fever, malaria and nutritional inefficiencies,” he explained.

The Undersecretary of the national Ministry of Health Makur Koriom remarked that more health workers need to be trained; allow improving the staffing in the country’s various health units. Koriom said that the ministry’s budget remains strained since the austerity measures were introduced in 2012, not allowing the ministry to recruit new staff.

He added that he hopes once medical workers have graduated from the various health training institutes, more staff can be employed. UNICEF’s Yasmin Haque (left) during the handover on July 4.

Anthony Wani “Last year we trained 10 trainers who are now training more nurses at the Juba School of Nursing and we hope they will continue to produce more nurses and midwives,” Koriom said.

UNICEF South Sudan Director Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque said that UNICEF is coordinating their efforts with the government to reach hundreds of thousands of children who remain malnourished. She lauded the Japanese Government for supporting UNICEF’s humanitarian work in South Sudan with USD 13 million since 2012.

“Through this generous contribution, UNICEF together with the Ministry of Health and partners continue to make a difference in the lives of emergency affected people,” she said. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **South Sudanese students in Egypt meet government delegation**

*Gurtong.net Rumbek, 7/7/2013* – South Sudanese students in various universities of Arab Republic of Egypt conducted a meeting at the premises of the Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan in Cairo with the delegations sent by South Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit to address their concerns.

The delegation was headed by Peter Adwork Nyaba, Minister of Higher Education Science and Technology in the government of the Republic of South Sudan, Thamson Ezekiel chairperson of Education in national parliament, Director of scholarships and External relations Dr. Benjamin Gabriel Apai.

During the session, South Sudanese Ambassador Athony Luis Kon attended the meeting.

Students representative spokesman Julius Zindiah Madit said the delegation was formed as a result of a three-week shut down of the South Sudan Embassy by students due to delay of their bursaries for a year, closure of hostels and evictions of students from hostels by Egyptian authorities.

He explained that the meeting discussed ways of addressing students concerns by both governments of Egypt and Southern Sudan.

On the side of government of South Sudan, the government has addressed some of the issues like bursaries, accommodation, feeding while some like stationary and medication were not addressed.

The minister of higher education Dr Adwork Nyaba told the students that perhaps this might be last bursaries unless oil continues to flow.

The minister also said delay of stipends might be due to approval of money by council of ministers because the New Year’s budget is done in July. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **CARE International assists vulnerable communities in Unity state**

*Sudantribune.com Bentiu, 6/7/2013* – An international development organisation launched a health and sanitation programme in Padiet village of Unity state’s Rubkotna County this week.

Benson Wakoli, the programme coordinator of CARE international in Unity state, says the initiative, which aims to promote awareness and mobilize communities to install their own household latrines - will help reduced poor sanitation among the people in the area.

“We have been very much working in water and sanitation programme, you remember in Kaljak we just rehabilitated two water yards and also in Pantang we have rehabilitated one water yard. In Kadet we are just completing rehabilitation of [the] water yard and also we have been working with communities to rehabilitate boreholes", he said

The organisation has also been providing agriculture training, he added.

With South Sudan’s government struggling to provide health care for many citizens, many international NGO’s are stepping in to assist in delivering public services.

Poor infrastructures have hampered the attempts of the government aid workers to help meet the needs of many communities.

Wakoli says the programme of sanitation is due to be extended to other counties in Unity state such as Mayom and Guit.

“We are working very closely with communities leaders, especially in this Kaljak payam and we want also to scale up the programme to cover other areas in Guit up to Kadet as well as Mayom. We have seen the response is very good in the communities, the communities are willing to participate in this programme because they feel that it is a programme that is going to improve their status”.

In close collaboration with the Unity state health ministry, CARE International has opened eight primary health Care centres and provided seeds to those affected by severe flooding last year that wiped out many crops. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Organization distributes treated mosquito nets to curb malaria spread**

**Gurtong.net Torit, 7/7/2013** – In a bid to combat the spread of malaria in the region, Population Services International (PSI) has embarked on the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets to pregnant women and children under the age of five.

The program in Eastern Equatoria State is aimed at saving the vulnerable pregnant women including lactating mothers and children under the age of five.

Officials say that if pregnant women or children under five years get infected with malaria, they are likely to get very sick or die and if a pregnant woman gets malaria, her baby may be less healthy.

As has been practices since CPA period to date, the PSI in conjunction with the National Government and the State Government of Eastern Equatoria is carrying out a countywide distribution exercise of the nets in Budi County.

PSI field registrar, Mr. Yabayaba Lomute Hillary who manages a residential area of Konyokonyo within the town, confirmed that his exercise would begin today but Kimotong and Napak distribution exercises commenced yesterday while Chukudum and other parts of the County have also been reported to have started at different dates but all exercises will run for possibly two days minimum.

Generally, in Eastern Equatoria State, many of development sector partners of the health are collaborating with the State Health Ministry and are tirelessly exerting efforts aim at combating the Malaria spread in the region.

In April, Merlin, one of the Non-Governmental Organizations, donated 8,800 treated mosquito nets for the ongoing anti-malaria campaign particularly for the Department of Health in Kapoeta East County.

Aimed at combating Malaria in the region, in its turn, the Kapoeta East County Health Department, positively took a step to launch the distribution of treated mosquito nets targeting pregnant women and children less than five years.

State officials have welcomed the initiative many development sector partners for providing health service support to the Ministry of Health in state with aim to save the lives of citizens. [\(Back to Top\)](#)



## **FM to represent Sudan in S. Sudan national day celebrations**

**Sudanvisiondaily.com** Khartoum, 7/7/2013 – An Informed source revealed the postponement of The First Vice President, Ali Osman Mohammed Taha's trip to Juba which is supposed to start today to further date.

The same source affirmed that the Foreign Minister. Ali Karti will lead Sudan's delegation to participate in South Sudan's 2nd Independent anniversary.

Earlier, South Sudan's Minister of Information and spokesperson, Barnaba Benjamin expressed the welcoming of South Sudan's cabinet to the outcomes of the visit of Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar to Khartoum describing it as a successful mission.

Benjamin revealed the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministers of Petroleum of Sudan and South Sudan according to which Sudan will purchase 4500 barrels of South Sudan Oil to operate the Kosti power plant, adding that they are expecting the visit of Sudan's Minister of Petroleum to Juba soon. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

## **Sudan MiG-29s said to conduct air strikes on South**

**Worldtribune.com** Cairo, 7/7/2013 – Sudan has been accused of renewing air strikes on its southern neighbor. South Sudan said the Khartoum regime has ordered Air Force and Army operations along their disputed border. The South Sudan military said the Sudanese Air Force bombed targets in the disputed area of Jau on July 5.

"This is a complete violation of all the agreements, mainly the security arrangements and the creation of a buffer zone," South Sudan Army spokesman Philip Aguer said.

In a statement on July 5, Aguer said the Sudanese Air Force employed two MiG-29 fighter-jets in which four South Sudanese soldiers and two civilians were injured.

He said the Sudanese Army also launched attacks into South Sudan in the Upper Nile state. This marked the first report of Sudanese air strikes on its southern neighbor in more than a year. Khartoum has also threatened to stop South Sudanese crude oil exports via a pipeline through Sudan.

"Our soldiers are on maximum alert to be on self-defense, but will not react to these provocations," Aguer said. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

## **SAF denies Juba accusations of fresh attacks on border areas**

**Sudantribune.com** Khartoum, 6/7/2013 – Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) spokesperson dismissed accusation by the South Sudanese army (SPLA) of air and ground attacks on Unity and Upper Nile states stressing that "these accusations are unfounded and unjustified".

"There is no any air attack carried by a Sudanese aircraft because there is no war between the two countries", said Al-Swarmi Khalid reaffirmed on Saturday. He further added that SAF forces have withdrawn 10 km north inside the Sudanese territory in line with the security arrangements deal signed last September.

SPLA spokesperson Philip Aguer said the attacks breach the security arrangements which include a pact of non-aggression and the establishment of a demilitarized zone on the common border.

From his side, Al-Swami further said "this accusation is unacceptable because the Agreement provides existence of a monitoring committee tasked to deal with such charges and it has to clarify whether there is a breach or not." [\(Back to Top\)](#)

## **Now is the time for Arab Unity; Nafie**

**Sudanvisiondaily.com** Khartoum, 7/7/2013 – "Now is the time for joint Arab work to achieve unity and peace" said Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, Sudan's Presidential Assistant. Nafie made the remarks while addressing yesterday in Khartoum the closing session of the 7th conference of the Arab Union of Health Professions.

The Presidential Assistant said Sudan welcomes ongoing efforts to reach an agreement with South Sudan to achieve good neighborliness. Since partition, Sudan has been eager to establish cordial relations with South Sudan although the endeavour has not been reciprocated, he said.

Apparently, South Sudan has now realized that it will not be able to harm Sudan and is now moving toward building good relations and that is a welcome development; he said.

The Arab world should realize that fighting among themselves will serve the interests of other entities, Dr. Nafie said.

The Presidential Assistant confirmed the stability of the security situation in Darfur, stating that Sudan welcomes cooperation and coordination with the west.

He said that Sudan is pleased to be the permanent headquarters of the Arab Union of Health Professions. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Eritrea's leader says comprehensive strategy key to resolve Sudans disputes**

*Sudantribune.com Addis Ababa, 7/7/2013* – Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki said that a broader scope and an all-embracing strategic solution is crucial to attain a durable deal in resolving outstanding CPA issues between Sudan and South Sudan.

Afwerki made the comments while conferring with visiting EU Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan, Rosalind Marsden at the presidential palace in Asmara last Thursday 4 July.

According to Eritrea State Television (EriTv), the Eritrean President and the EU special envoy discussions focused on the immediate steps that need to be taken to bring sustainable peace and stability as well as ensure good-neighbourliness between North and South Sudan.

While noting the efforts and measures exerted so far to resolve the dispute brought only little progress, Afeworki stressed a need to focus on “comprehensive and strategic solutions rather than on fractional and temporary remedies” to narrow existing differences between the two former civil war rivals.

Marsden to her side said that the European Union shares the views of the president with regard to addressing the setbacks facing Sudan and South Sudan.

The British diplomat said the EU pays special attention in handling the situation and is working with international and regional bodies to bring peaceful and lasting solutions.

Both the Eritrean president and the EU special envoy have agreed to work closely particularly to engage in joint consultations to deal with the issues of the two Sudans and on peace and security concerns facing the East African region at large. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **South Sudan's FM briefs Ethiopian PM about recent talks with Khartoum**

*Sudantribune.com Addis Ababa, 7/7/2013* – South Sudan Foreign Affairs Minister and International Cooperation, Nhial Deng Nhial, said that there are promising developments towards a speedy implementation of agreements signed last year between the governments of Sudan and South Sudan.

Nhial made the remarks after separate meetings with his Ethiopian counterpart Tedros Adhanom and with Ethiopian Prime minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, on Friday in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

The South Sudanese minister briefed the Ethiopian officials on the current situation between Sudan and South Sudan and on the ongoing efforts to implement the cooperation agreement signed by in September 2012 ET and implementation matrix of negotiations of March 2013.

Nhial in particular briefed the Ethiopian officials on the outcome of talks held by the South Sudanese vice-president, Riek Machar with his Sudanese counterpart Also Osman Taha during his visit last week to Khartoum.

Ethiopia provides all the soldiers of the UNISFA which tasked with the protection of civilians in Abyei and the protection of monitors from both countries in the demilitarized zone.

Ethiopia also as chair of the IGAD regional body brokered, jointly with the African Union mediation team headed by former South African president Thabo Mbeki, the signing of the Cooperation Agreement and the Implementation Matrix

After holding discussions with the Ethiopian officials, Nhial told reporters that South Sudan accepts the approach set by AU's panel of the wise as a solution to narrow differences.

While requesting Ethiopia's support, the South Sudanese minister affirmed that his country is ready to comply and implement with a team of delegations of the AU body expected to arrive in Juba soon.

Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn to his side said Ethiopia will continue to extend its support towards the implementation of previous agreements signed between North and South Sudan.

According to Ethiopia ministry of foreign affairs, Desalegn further assured the South Sudanese minister that Ethiopia also as IGAD chair will exert maximum support to the AU panel of the wise in the efforts to achieve sustainable peace between the two east African neighbours. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Juba says Khartoum wants to buy 4,500 barrels of oil for Kosti power plant**

*Sudantribune.com* Juba, 6/7/2013 – South Sudan's cabinet has approved the outcome of the recent mission of the country's Vice President, Riek Machar, to Khartoum to mend the souring relations between the two neighbouring countries, saying the mission was very successful and revealed that Sudan requested an oil purchase for power generation purposes.

Barnaba Marial Benjamin, South Sudan's minister of information and official spokesman, told the press on Friday that the cabinet had endorsed the report presented by the vice-president, Machar, putting the two countries back on the right track of peaceful dialogue rather than threats.

Marial said the oil will now continue to flow uninterrupted and that Khartoum also has requested to further buy 4,500 barrels per day from the South Sudan's crude oil passing through the pipeline in order to operate its power station in Kosti.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has already been signed in Khartoum between the two petroleum ministers, he said, adding that the details for the terms of the agreement will be worked out by the two ministers soon in Juba. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Sudan will not shut oil pipeline: senior official**

*The Daily Star Khartoum*, 8/7/2013 – Sudan will not carry out a threat to shut pipeline carrying South Sudanese oil for export, after the two sides agreed last week to ease tensions, a senior ruling party official said on Sunday.

"The pipeline will not be shut," said Rabbie Abdelatti Ebaid, of the governing National Congress.

"The two parties now agreed to stop hostilities," after a meeting last week between the South's Vice President Riek Machar and Sudanese officials, he told AFP. But Ebaid said the two sides have agreed to let an African Union panel handle such complaints. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **SPLM-N calls to bypass reluctant Sudanese opposition parties**

*Sudantribune.com* Khartoum, 7/7/2013 – The Sudan People's Liberation Movement –North (SPLM-N) called on the Sudanese opposition forces to unite their efforts to overthrow the regime of president Omer Al-Bashir, stressing it is time to bypass those who are undecided over this strategy.

Yasir Arman, SPLM-N secretary general, said in a statement released on Saturday, that the Movement's leadership found that experience has proven it is difficult to unite all the opponents under the banner of regime change.

"Therefore the duty of those who want to bring down the regime is to unite immediately without waiting for reluctant (parties)", Arman stressed.

The call is made following a meeting held in undisclosed place in South Kordofan from 27 June to 5 July attended by SPLM-N leader Malik Agar, his deputy and commander general Abdel Aziz Al-Hilu and Yasir Arman.

Arman, on the other hand, disclosed that the SRF military command held a series of parallel meetings to discuss the implementation of Plan (B), adding it will transform the SRF work on the political and military levels.

Sadiq Al-Mahdi, UNP leader and former prime minister, criticizes systematically the use of arms to topple the regime and says that armed violence will bring another undemocratic rule. He calls for a

peaceful transition, adding that Sudanese by using peaceful means can force the regime to cede the power.

In a gathering organized on 29 June, addressing those who are disappointed by his position and chanted anti-government slogans, Al-Mahdi said "You came to hear me not for me to hear you". He further urged his supporters to stand in the way of those working to sabotage on behalf of foreign powers "who should be isolated".

Arman said that the SPLM-N believes on the need to combine the use of arms and peaceful means to overthrow the regime, pointing out that "popular uprising should be the main tool to topple the regime" with the participation of SRF supporters.

"The armed action weakens the regime and enhances the chances of the intifada (uprising) in the framework of the integration and cohesion of roles, taking into account the fascist nature of the regime which fully controls the state apparatus", he said.

Regarding the talks with the Sudanese government, Arman said the regime is only willing to partial solutions which "are not part of our calculations and do not exist in our political dictionary" he stressed.

However he reiterated the positions of the SPLM –N over the humanitarian cessation of hostilities to feed civilians in the rebel controlled areas. He also said the children vaccination campaign should be carried out from Kenya and Ethiopia.

He added that the Polio vaccination can involve UNISFA peacekeepers who can manage the temporary arrangements and support international agencies carrying out the campaign until the end of the operation.

He further said they decided to merge the prisoners of war (POWs) captured in South Kordofan and Blue Nile with the prisoners under the joint military command of the rebel alliance.

Arman said they are in contact with the "forces of armed action in eastern Sudan" due to the important role of this region to achieve change in Sudan. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Darfur ICC suspect ‘badly injured’ in assassination attempt: official**

***Sudantribune.com*** Khartoum, 7/7/ 2013 – The commercial shops at the grand market in Nyala, capital of South Darfur state, were shut down following news of an assassination attempt that targeted the notorious Janjaweed militia leader Ali Kushayb who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for allegedly committing crimes against humanity and war crimes in Sudan’s western region of Darfur.

The governor of South Darfur state, Adam Mahmoud Jar al-Nabi, told the pro-government Ashorooq TV that an unknown person opened fire on Kushayb whom he identified as an "assistant at the Central Reserves Police" and one of his companions in Nyala yesterday.

He added that Kushayb was severely injured in his hands and receiving treatment at Nyala hospital.

The governor further pointed that the perpetrator was arrested by the police and remains in their custody and described the shooting as an isolated incident, saying that it might be motivated by personal reasons.

An eyewitness told ***Sudan Tribune*** said that Kushayb was inside a car repair shop along with his bodyguard who was killed in the shooting adding that people and merchants fled the market to their homes in fear of retaliation by the Janjaweed militia.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has reported last month that Kushayb had recently led or participated in attacks which resulted in the killing of civilians in areas in central Darfur.

Sources asserted that today’s incident is an extension of events last week when the local government of South Darfur imposed a curfew in Nyala that starts from 7:30 pm to 7:00 am after deadly clashes erupted between members of security apparatus and a tribal militia which led to the death of five people.

The militia, which formed part of the Janjaweed, attacked the local headquarters of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) and buildings around it.

In a separate incident, a nineteen years old student was shot in the head and killed while 5 others were injured when National Services conscripts opened fire on students who were applying for university admission at the national service headquarters in Nyala.

An eyewitness said that a group of students who were lining in the application queue protested against favoritism when a student accompanied by an army officer completed his application process without following the queue.

Conscripts who were guarding the National Services headquarters fired live ammunition to silence the protesting students.

A senior official at the National Services in Nyala, who preferred to stay anonymous, said that bullets were mistakenly fired and the killing was unintentional.

In a separate context, the United Nations has said that lack of security and stability in Nyala threatens to disrupt the flow of the much needed humanitarian assistance, destabilize reconciliation efforts and derail progress towards greater economic and social development.

In a statement issued in Khartoum yesterday, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Ali Al-Za'tari, expressed the sadness of the UN and its partners in Sudan over the killing in Nyala, South Darfur, of two Sudanese staff members from the humanitarian non-governmental organization, World Vision International.

According to the statement, a third World Vision staff member was also critically injured during the fighting between Government forces and an armed group.

"I urge the Sudanese Government to launch an investigation and bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice", said Al- Za'tari.

South Darfur state has witnessed a near total security breakdown in recent months with recurrent incidents of looting, banditry and murder including from pro-government militias. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Sudan's NUP launches its "million signature" campaign for regime change**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 6/7/ 2013* – The Sudanese opposition National Umma Party (NUP) will launch its "memorandum for liberation" campaign on Sunday which aims at collecting peoples' signature to change the government, officials here said today.

The NUP announced that the campaign will kicks off in its headquarters at 7:00 pm on Sunday.

The NUP member of information office in Khartoum state, Ayoub Mohamed Abbas, said that the party's leader, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, will be the first person to sign the memorandum.

He added that the memorandum is not only confined to NUP members, but all Sudanese people, pointing that all political parties from opposition and government were invited to attend the launch of the campaign.

The NUP official said that the signing of the memorandum will begin in Khartoum and will proceed to cover all states.

In the same context, the NUP leading figure, Abd Al-Jalil al-Basha, said that the move comes in fulfillment of the NUP's message to the government which was delivered by Al-Mahdi who urged the government to approve the comprehensive political solution or face the sit-ins and public campaigns.

Meanwhile, the NUP secretary general in Khartoum state, Abdul Rahman Saleh, called upon NUP members and its religious wing "Kayan Al-Ansar" to attend the launching of the campaign.

"The regime that seized power through a coup and established empowerment through exclusion and making people poor, abusing human rights, tore the country and subjected it to internationalization so it deserves to be asked to leave; Leave!", he said.

"We are working to establish a new system that frees the country from tyranny and corruption and achieve complete democratic transformation, comprehensive and just peace and our means to achieve



this is through mobilization and sit-ins and all the available methods except violence and utilizing the outside [foreign forces]", Al-Mahdi added.

However many opposition figures and even some within the party assert that al-Mahdi has no genuine interest in seeing the regime go.

They also point out that al-Mahdi's son Abdel-Rahman is an assistant to president Omer Hassan al-Bashir. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **Sudanese activists stage demonstration in front of Justice Ministry**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 7/7/ 2013* – A group of Sudanese activists have demonstrated in front of the Ministry of Justice in Khartoum to protest the slow pace of the trial of those involved in the killing of 4 protesters in Kajbar area in north Sudan in 2007.

The protesters held banners saying "Justice is a meaning, not a building" in reference to the Ministry of Justice's multi-billion high rise building in down town Khartoum.

The protesters handed over an urgent memo to the officials at the Ministry of Justice calling for referring the case to the court to investigate the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

The protest lasted for 23 minutes and demonstrators dispersed upon arrival of security forces who feared its expansion. [\(Back to Top\)](#)

### **South Sudan: still a new young nation**

*The huffingtonpost.com/news, 7/7/2013* – South Sudan's initiation into the ranks of sovereign nation-states has at times been a baptism by fire. Simmering tensions with its Sudanese neighbor to the north have brought the two countries to the brink of war. Inter-communal violence has killed hundreds of civilians and uprooted many thousands. The hit-and-run attacks of an armed group in the strife-torn state of Jonglei have defied government efforts to stabilize the largest state in the country.

But the people of South Sudan will put aside those setbacks on July 9 and celebrate the second anniversary of their hard-won independence. It is time to congratulate the Republic of South Sudan and the South Sudanese people.

South Sudan should be recognized for its resilience. It is resilient because its people fought for over two decades to claim their rightful place among the family of nations. Resilient because it has weathered 18 months of belt-tightening measures induced by the loss of nearly all its income through the suspension of oil production. Resilient because it is tackling the formidable tasks of nation- and state-building against a backdrop of negligible infrastructure, inter-communal conflict and meager levels of human and social development that consistently rank South Sudan among the world's poorest countries.

I witnessed the birth of South Sudan in its capital Juba on July 2011 and the outpouring of euphoria that greeted the dawn of independence. But South Sudan's honeymoon with the international community is over. Among other things, the Government of South Sudan has been taken to task over the human rights violations of ill-disciplined security forces, the abrupt decision in January 2012 to halt oil production on account of a dispute with Khartoum over pipeline fees and misappropriation of oil, and disturbing allegations of extensive corruption that have been acknowledged in public by President Salva Kiir Mayardit.

This heightened scrutiny of the young nation should be welcomed. The cause of human rights was at the heart of South Sudan's long struggle for independence. The soldiers who staged a mutiny in the Jonglei state capital of Bor 30 years ago and triggered Africa's longest civil war fought against decades of discrimination and being excluded from meaningful participation in the national life of the old Sudan.

The security services of the young nation must take seriously their obligation to protect all citizens of South Sudan and be accountable for any violations. As President Salva Kiir Mayardit said on Human Rights Day last year: "We fought to be treated as equals, for our human rights to be respected, and for human dignity for all... Now is the time for us to make sure that our new nation is built on the same values and principles." Words need to be translated into action. One way of doing that is to complete

the comprehensive and far-reaching reforms of the South Sudan National Police Service which are well underway, with support from hundreds of UN police advisors. Curbing corruption is another top priority as the third year of sovereignty approaches. South Sudan should make sure that the oil resources become a blessing and not a curse. A financial management act was recently approved by the national legislative assembly, an oil revenue management act is soon to be passed and a South Sudan oil and gas commission has been established, all to improve economic transparency and reduce financial mismanagement.

As South Sudan celebrates its independence, the mandate of the UN peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is up for renewal; Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has asked the UN Security Council to extend the mission's mandate.

As head of the Mission in South Sudan, I look forward to another year of close collaboration with the government on a wide range of challenges.

Foremost among these is the protection of civilians under imminent threat of physical violence. The primary responsibility will always rest with the South Sudanese government and its security forces. But UNMISS will continue to support the government's efforts in this area and also act independently to protect civilians under the Chapter 7 mandate approved by the UN Security Council. At least 12,000 South Sudanese civilians fleeing violence have been given shelter at our bases in the past nine months.

The UN is also mandated to be a critical voice when warranted. The Mission's Human Rights Division has issued two in-depth reports on inter-communal violence in Jonglei State that called on the South Sudanese government to take more steps to safeguard communities under threat of attack. Furthermore, we have worked successfully with South Sudanese authorities to identify and resolve hundreds and hundreds of cases of prolonged and arbitrary detention in all ten states of the country.

The second year of South Sudan's independence was also a trying time for UNMISS as two senseless attacks on our peacekeepers killed 16. But the global commitment to the new nation remains robust, with 63 foreign countries represented among the more than 10,000 civilian, military and police staff members of UNMISS.

The sky-high expectations that greeted the birth of South Sudan have been tempered by two sobering years of painful austerity and frictions with Sudan and also internal tensions. But the trials and frustrations of the recent past must also be kept in perspective: in a decade when many countries in sub-Saharan Africa are celebrating the golden anniversary of their independence, South Sudan is still very much the new kid on the block.

The criteria for judging the world's youngest country should reflect that. In the meantime, let us celebrate the Republic of South Sudan's second birthday, and renew our pledge to help its people achieve the enduring peace and prosperity they so richly deserve. **(Back to Top)**

*Hilde F. Johnson is the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in South Sudan and Head of UNMISS. Find out more at [www.unmiss.unmissions.org](http://www.unmiss.unmissions.org) and [www.un.org/peacekeeping](http://www.un.org/peacekeeping)*

## **Lakes State governor and "doctrine of necessity"**

*Sudantribune.com*, 7/7/ 2013 – To 'take someone for a ride' is idiomatic expression for deceiving someone or a group of people. In this respect, someone somewhere is trying very hard to deceive the people of Lakes state, in particular the law-making institutions (Council of states and the state legislative assembly) as to why the care-taker Governor, Retired Major General Matur Chut Dhuol should continue in wielding power, despite the fact that his very existence in office is not in accordance with the constitution of the country.

Lakes state's military caretaker governor, Matur Chut Dhuol was installed by President Salva Kiir in January 21st, replacing the elected governor (Chol Tong Mayay) on the backdrop of inter-communal conflict that took the lives of scores of people, which is endemic to almost all ten states of South Sudan.

Under South Sudan's constitution, the president has the power to replace a governor on national security grounds, but a new governor should be elected within 60 days. This has not happened.

The care-taking period for Governor, Retired Major General Matur Chut Dhuo expired on 31st of March 2013. But he is still in office. His continued stay is therefore unconstitutional.

A group of state government's constitutional post-holders whom the General removed unconstitutionally from their positions petitioned him before the Council of States-an upper house law-making body. In light of that petition, the Justice Minister, John Luk, Jok appeared before the Council of States on 25th of June to clarify on the legality of the Lakes state's governor tenure.

The justice minister told lawmakers that the caretaker governor was being kept in the position based on a "doctrine of necessity." The Doctrine of Necessity is described as the basis on which extra-legal actions by state actors, which are designed to restore order, are found to be constitutional. Such doctrine, as it is called, is derived by necessity. Such necessity does not exist in Lakes state, and if it does, it is not in Lakes state alone. It can only be used, for example, to rescue a particular situation from gross human rights violation. Is General Matur here a part of solution or a part of the problem?! To many People, he has become a big problem.

As a result of the governor's strange policies, insecurity and communal conflicts, for which the elected governor was removed, continue unabated, as evidenced by the events which are occurring almost on daily basis and are being reported by the media. Because of such reports the governor has developed problems with media houses, leading to closure of a Catholic Church operated Radio Good News, which is very popular and useful source of information to the local audience.

Inter-communal conflicts are not peculiar to lakes state, because such conflicts are happening in almost all ten states. The records of such violence in terms of losses in human lives and property in some states are by far worse than what happened in Lakes state. So, what or who is behind unconstitutional political changes in Lakes state?

To some of us who have been following the situation keenly, political turmoil in Lakes state started with last year's visit to the state by the Chairman of SPLM in the state, Mr. Daniel Awet Akot, who is also the Deputy Speaker of the National Legislative Assembly. During his visit, Mr. Awet wanted to make changes within SPLM state secretariat which brought him into loggerhead with some SPLM members; who challenged the changes he wanted to make as unconstitutional. There was a big row caused by Awet's moves which polarized the party members in Lakes state. Chairman, Awet mistakenly associated the opposition to his unconstitutional changes with the then governor, Chol Tong Mayay. Awet wanted to make changes that would allow him secure re-election as the state chairman and probably as a governor, come 2015 general elections. When his efforts were thwarted in Rumbek, Chairman Awet came back to Juba with grudge against Governor Chol Tong and some of his ministers/commissioners. Awet reported to SPLM leadership in Juba that the situation he found in Lakes state was hostile to him and probably others who are holding elected positions within SPLM or the government. He therefore suggested that the government of Chol Tong be unseated or else they (Awet and Company) will not win come next SPLM or General Elections.

The plan to unseat governor Chol was hatched and the plotters waited for an opportune moment, which was provided by clashes between Kuei and Rup sections of Rumbek Central County. Chairman Awet and other senior government officials in Juba, especially those close to the president, such as advisors and ministers from Lakes state, conspired against the elected governor, Engineer Chol Tong Mayay.

The undercurrent struggle for top leadership of the ruling party (SPLM) is another factor in the political instability within Lakes state. Scores of SPLM members are divided as to who should be the leader and torch bearer come the next general Elections. In this exercise, people are being labeled as supporters of X or Y. As a result, Lakes state has become a grass, while elephants are fighting for the top job. In the light of the above analysis, there is a strong belief on my side and probably many others that Minster of Justice did not do justice by failing to tell the lawmakers the truth, when he was summoned last week to appear before the Council of State, to answer questions as to why General Matur is still holding the important position of state governor unconstitutionally. The situation in Lakes state does not warrant the so called "Doctrine of necessity". [\(Back to Top\)](#)

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## **Is South Sudan on the right path?**

*Sudantribune.com*, 6/7/ 2013 – the people of the South will celebrate the second anniversary of their independence. It is a moment of reflection of what they have achieved as nation and as citizens who make up this new nation. In my piece about the first anniversary of the independence, I stated that given “our rich cultural values and enormous resources and the inspiring selfless sacrifices of our martyrs, South Sudan has a character with all the ingredients for building a bright and prosperous future and one day becomes the most powerful nation on the continent.”

There is no doubt that the second year of the new nation has been a difficult year by all standards. It is the year that the South relied on other revenue sources other than oil revenue for running the affairs of state. It is even shocking to some international analysts the level of resilience exhibited by the economy of the South. Some international experts even refrained from making any forecast for the economy of the South.

A friend in the leadership of NCP confided to me that they were shocked by the resilience of the economy of the South because they expected it to collapse within six months after the closure of oil production. In fact the South Sudanese pound remains stronger than Sudanese pound and the inflation in the South is far lower than that of Sudan. In terms of food security situation, the forecast of the Famine Early Warning Systems Network suggests improved food security for year 2012/2013 with a near-average harvest was expected and improved access to food in most areas of the South.

This high level of resilience of the economy of the South is attributed to the structure of its economy and the austerity measures adopted by the government. The rural economy of the South is weakly integrated with the urban economy that is more prone to external shocks such as the closure of the oil production. Also the government has adopted serious austerity measures that helped a lot in mitigating the consequences of the shutdown of the oil production. Despite the recent development, Mr Kosti Manibe, the National Minister of Finance, has performed his duties with distinction amidst austerity measures and the 2012/2013 budget earned him the nickname “Kosterity” budget. I would say that he is one of the best ministers of finance we have since the signing of the CPA in 2005. Kosti is seen by most of the international community as one of the bright spots of the Government of South Sudan.

Other positive development is the concerted measures taken by the Ministry of Petroleum. Being a land locked country with a bad neighbour such as Bashir’s Sudan, South Sudan needs not only to diversify its economy but also to diversify the outlets for exporting its oil. The Ministry of Petroleum has been successful in contracting some foreign companies to construct refineries. Had it not been the logistical constraint during the rainy season, the South would have celebrated the opening of its first refinery in Unity State on the Independence Day. South Sudan may need to strategically explore this option of refining locally its crude oil with the aim of meeting regional fuel needs, particularly Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea and even Sudan. Uganda seems to make strategic choice of refining its oil locally rather than exporting it as a crude oil.

One the pipeline, the Ministry of Petroleum might have received now the pipelines feasibility study from the German firm. Although the content of the study is not yet public, the early indications seem to suggest that the pipeline to Djibouti through Ethiopia may be more feasible than that of Lamu in Kenya. The feasibility of Lamu pipeline will depend on the decision of Uganda to export its crude oil and the quantities of new oil discoveries in Block 5 in the South and in Kenya. The real challenge now to the South is to get the funding for this pipeline so that the work to commence immediately. The Government of South Sudan may need to explore a possibility of making use of the SPLA to assist in the construction of this alternative pipeline.

Other positive development during the year is that the South Sudan Audit Chamber under the leadership of Mr Steven Wound has been able to provide a credible audit reports that will provide a sound basis upon which the South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission could open specific cases for further investigation. Also the Ministry of Justice has started well by opening cases against the companies that were illegally involved in the sorghum saga. Also some efforts by the Office of the President to administratively investigate the stolen money in the office and the USD 8 million contracts are quite encouraging. One would have wished the due process of law could have been followed in these two cases without prejudging the individuals involved.



Diplomatically and despite the financial constraints faced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the South Sudan was elected as Vice President of the UN General Assembly. It was also nominated unanimously and cleared without objection by the region to be elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Council. The press statement made by President Salva on the unilateral decision of Bashir not to allow the oil of the South to be exported through Sudan improved the image of the South within the international community. In particular his statement that “While president al-Bashir has declared jihad (holy war) and is mobilizing for war, I maintain my pledge to you and the world that I will not take the people of South Sudan unnecessarily back to a state of war” was a huge diplomatic score for the South.

Despite these achievements, the South faces enormous challenges in positioning itself within the world arena. South Sudan was ranked number four (4) of the failed states, ranked number 143 in terms of Global Peace Index out of 162 countries, classified as not free country in terms of Freedom in the World Index, ranked number 124 out of 179 countries in terms of Freedom of Press Index, got six (6) scores in terms of Status of Political Rights compared with the least free score of seven (7) and got five (5) scores in terms of status of Civil Liberties compared with the least free score of seven (7). Although these global indices squarely put South Sudan in the group of bad countries, it has performed better than other countries that gained their independence for more than half a century ago such as Sudan.

As mentioned by Robert Kennedy that “There are those that look at things the way they are, and ask why? I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?” In fact we have a chance of not only looking at the way the South is now but how we would like to see the South. If we were to dream of the South to be among the best performing countries in the world, we need visionary, coherent and collective leadership. The SPLM as a leading political party has to provide this visionary leadership. Despite its struggle to overcome the “curse” of liberation, the SPLM must put its house in order by creating democratic environment within the party.

The basic documents (manifesto, constitution, rules and regulations and code of conduct) are the democratic pillars upon which the SPLM can create a democratic atmosphere within which each member can contest to any position in the party with clear rules of the game. It seems access to the leadership positions within the SPLM superseded the institutional and organization arrangements of the party. The meeting of the SPLM National Liberation Council and the extraordinary meeting of the Convention need to be convened as urgently as possible to pass these basic documents after-which the National Convention will elect the new leadership of the Party.

There is a compelling need for a peaceful and smooth transition in the leadership of the SPLM. In the history of most liberation movements, there is no shortcut to access leadership and in most cases the incumbent leadership tends to continue for a period of time. Cde Salva Kiir is a consensus leader with whom the unity of the South can be sustained as he remarkably succeeded in uniting the South during critical times towards independence, Cde Riek Machar has proven to be action-oriented leader, accessible and ready to take decisions, Cde James Wani Igga is the reconciliatory heart of the party and people-centered leader, Cde Pagan Amum is visionary and represents the new generation of leadership and Cde Rebecca Nyandeng is the mother of the nation with potential of providing a last resort platform for building consensus within the party. The synergy and complementarities of these leaders can easily provide visionary, coherent and collective leadership that will put the South on the right path of success. **(Back to Top)**

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