



DDR Digest



Independence Day Special

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

SATURDAY 9 JULY 2011

Nation is born, congratulations to South Sudan

A monumental day for the people of South Sudan. The day that our SPLA forces, both active and non-active, hold their head high for having bravely brought this day to light. It is also a testimony to the people of South Sudan who stood steadfastly against all colonial forces for the last 100 years.

It is important to note that with independence, the new country will take care of its weak and will develop the resources, both human and natural. And in particular will help and train those comrades who will in the near future be given a new assignment to join the civilian life through the DDR programme in South Sudan. God bless the united Republic of South Sudan.



William Deng Deng
Chairperson, SSDDRC

Information HOTLINES available Mon-Fri 08:30-17:00

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Access more information about DDR on the website <http://www.ssddrc.org>

DDR events photos also available on Google Picasa <https://picasaweb.google.com/ssddrpi?>



I CALL UPON EVERYONE FOR ALL NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE TO TRANSFORM THE SPLA INTO A PROFESSIONAL, ACCOUNTABLE, OPERATIONALLY EFFECTIVE ARMY UNDER THE OVER-ARCHING PRINCIPLE OF CIVIL-MILITARY CONTROL

Force 2017: New Nation, a new Army

In the newly independent Republic of South Sudan, the SPLA is undergoing a transformation and modernisation process. The SPLA is expected to be rechristened as the South Sudan Armed Forces (SSAF) in the near future. The SPLA will be engaged in a changing from a guerrilla army into a professional regular force designed to operate under democratic civil control of the Republic of South Sudan. The guidelines for this process are outlined in the *SPLA White Paper on Defence*, which the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly endorsed in 2008.

The President of Republic of South Sudan and who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the SPLA H.E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit writes in the forward of the *White Paper*: “I call upon the various leaderships in Southern Sudan, in particular, the Sudanese people and the International Community to commit all necessary requirements and guidance to transform the SPLA into a professional, accountable and operationally effective army all under the overarching principle of civil-military control. Such a transformation end-state will not only ensure peace and stability in Sudan but also provide relevant capabilities for the SPLA to contribute towards regional and international peace and stability.”

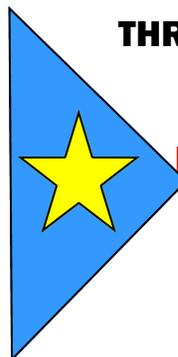
“My Government will also ensure that Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration activities play an important role in Security Sector Reform, as does the control of small arms and light weapons in order to consolidate the gains from our peace agreement and reduce the threat of armed violence in the society,” H.E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit writes in the forward.

According to SPLA Spokesperson Col. Philip Aguer Panyang, the new DDR programme will be a very important component of the SPLA modernisation process. “Through DDR, we are planning to rightsize the army and reintegrate our comrades. It is a very crucial process and the success of DDR will determine the success of the SPLA transformation process.” The SPLA spokesperson continued: “The SPLA will bring forward plans through the DDR Commission to demobilise those who are of retirement age and those who are unfit or disabled. The right of the individual to voluntarily leave the SPLA will also be recognised.” Mr Aguer explained that DDR in the long run will be good for the society and the country and therefore all stakeholders should strive to make it a success. Currently the SPLA believes that the number of soldiers on their payroll is approximately 194,000. The SPLA wants to have a troop strength of around 100,000 soldiers.

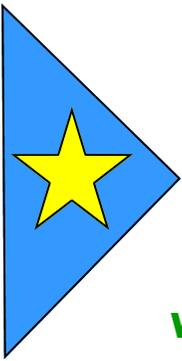
Mr Aguer’s Independence Day’s message was: South Sudan should not forget the noble cause for the war — the values of justice, equality and freedom. The South Sudanese should uphold these three values as the new nation is born.



An SPLA soldier standing to attention during the rehearsal for the Joint Integrated Unit’s closure ceremony in Juba, South Sudan.



THROUGH DDR, WE ARE PLANNING TO RIGHTSIZE THE ARMY AND REINTEGRATE OUR COMRADES. IT IS A VERY CRUCIAL PROCESS AND THE SUCCESS OF DDR EXERCISE WILL DETERMINE THE SUCCESS OF THE SPLA TRANSFORMATION PROCESS.



**‘KALAS. YOU GOT YOUR
FREEDOM AND YOU FORGOT
ABOUT US. YOU ONLY TOOK
THE MEN WHO FOUGHT.
WITHOUT US, THESE MEN
COULD NOT HAVE MANAGED.
WE FED THEM, CARRIED THE
WOUNDED AND NURSED THEM’**

**WOMEN ASSOCIATED
WITH ARMED FORCES**

Half the sky



SSDDRC Deputy Chairperson Anna Kima Hoth

The importance of women’s role in conflict and why they should continue to be considered in the new DDR programme was eloquently expressed by South Sudan DDR Commission Deputy Chairperson Anna Kima Hoth. Speaking in an interview, Ms Kima said: “Women played a very crucial role in the South Sudan conflict and without their invaluable contributions the war could not have given this verdict of an independent South Sudan.” She maintains that the person who provided food in the frontlines was also a fighter, not just the person who carries the gun. Ms Kima continued: “Some women had to amputate their comrades legs that were destroyed by mines. There were no doctors, no operating rooms to serve them. We had to do it with whatever we could find. Most wounded soldiers survived because of us.”

DDR is perceived to be a masculine activity and even the international standards for DDR programmes (IDDRS) acknowledges that: “A strict ‘one man, one gun’ eligibility requirement for DDR, or an eligibility test based on proficiency in handling weapons, may exclude many women and girls from entry into DDR programmes. This may inadequately attend to the needs of a large group of people participating in and associated with armed forces.”

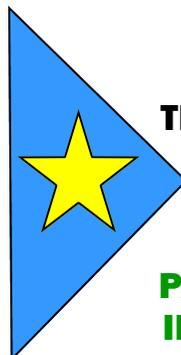
According to Ms Kima the perception of women changed drastically after the two civil wars and now this is acknowledged through our governments’ quotas for women. “The war created a positive attitude towards women, [men] understood why god created women. Men of South Sudan are acknowledging that we are not domestic servants or baby making machines,” she said.

As South Sudan DDR Commission Deputy Chairperson Ms Kima went on to explain: “Recently a few Women Associated with Armed Forces members came to me, they told me, ‘kalas, you got your freedom but you forgot about us. You only took the men who fought. Without us, those men would not have managed. We cooked food for them, carried the wounded and nursed them.’ I informed them that we have not forgotten you and we are in the process of redesigning a different programme for WAAF.”

According to the Deputy Chairperson, the SSDDRC is in the process of implementing a pilot project to integrate the WAAF within the communities through different activities. A pilot project for DDR, funded by PACT Sudan, has identified four community-based organisations in Central Equatoria who will implement activities for the WAAF across South Sudan.

Ms Kima concluded that WAAF, who saved their families and the soldiers with nourishment, food and care, are the heroines of our nation and an inspiration to the world.

As the Chinese proverb rightfully suggests: Women hold half of the sky.



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THEM. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS
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WAAF. AS A PILOT PROJECT,
PACT WILL FUND FOUR CBOS TO
INTEGRATE WAAF INTO SOCIETY**

DDR celebrates the birth of South Sudan



We are with the people of South Sudan on this Independence Day. We are having a number of senior officials coming from the United States including Dr Susan Rice, former Secretary of State Colin Powel, and several former special envoys as a Presidential delegation to convey President Obama's personal interest and congratulations to the people of South Sudan. On Independence Day we will transform our consulate general into an embassy as we establish relations with the new state.

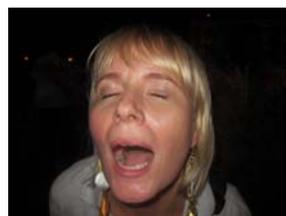
Roger Moran, US Deputy Ambassador

WHO SAID WHAT



South Sudan must not forget the people who have made this happen. These are the war heroes who have fallen to make the independence of South Sudan. Let us light candles in their name and let their dream be the torch to guide and build this new nation

Amanuel M. Gebremedhin
Chief CPR Unit, UNDP



South Sudan Oyeee!
Johanna Laurila, SSDDRC



South Sudan Oyee!

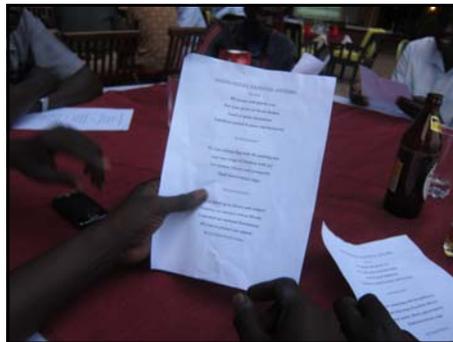


Left: Cutting the cake
Amanuel Gebremedhin, Simon Yazgi,
Anna Kima, William Deng Deng, Roger
Moran.

Above: Covered in champagne
Simon Yazgi



Management and DDR Staff get to party ahead of the Independence Day celebrations in at Davinci restaurant in Juba on 7 July



A cake in the shape of the Republic of South Sudan; learning words to the new national anthem; singing songs from the military days



Excitement for the future is difficult to contain; our staff sitting pretty; proud and happy at last