

DDR on UN Peacekeepers' Day

On 29 May and in the middle of Torit Freedom Square, a young pupil from Airport View Primary School asked an attentive audience gathered to celebrate the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers: "Why do people continue to kill each other to steal animals if animals cannot bury people?... Who will bury the last survivor in Sudan after he is left all alone, surrounded only by cows?" Continuing his plea against cattle raiding, the 8-year-old boy offered his ideas for peace initiatives to the crowd by inviting the International Criminal Court chief prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, to bring all South Sudanese cattle to the Netherlands so there will not be any more killings!

The United Nations holds events around the world on this day in order to pay tribute to all the men and women who have or continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations and honour those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace. It was set up in 2002 by a Security Council Resolution and the date was specifically chosen as it is the anniversary of the setting up of the first UN mission (UNTSO) in 1948 to monitor the ceasefire after the Arab-Israeli War.



However this year in Eastern Equatoria on International UN Peacekeepers' Day the calls for peace and reconciliation were accompanied by various heartfelt activities including a festive march around Torit town behind the UN Police Band. UN DDR staff alongside colleagues from UNMIS bought trees and planted them at the Airport View School (see photo above). A UN field medical clinic was set up especially for the day and the DDR Torit team donated two boxes full of drugs for distribution to the sick which were selected from the DDR Medical Room due to the closing of the Demobilisation Site. Throughout the day 215 patients were seen by the WHO and the UN's Bangladeshi military doctors with free medicines being distributed to the sick. The patients' complaints were mainly minor health issues and body pains, but malaria was found and also diabetes was diagnosed. A small baby was given treatment for an eye infection.

It was without doubt a very inspiring day except that once again the UNMIS soccer team was defeated by Torit-town, 2-0!



from **South Sudan**



DDR Digest

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DDR draft discussed

On Tuesday the 7 June 2011 South Sudan DDR Commission presented the latest version of the Policy Paper on DDR in South Sudan at Home & Away conference hall in Juba. The conference was well attended with every seat taken and it included a large number of senior SPLA officers of different ranks, also police, wildlife, fire brigade and prison officers. There was also several representatives from different Line Ministries, consulates and international organisations such as World Bank.

The DDR Stakeholders meeting was opened by Ms Anna Kima; Deputy Chairperson of SSSDDRC who welcomed everyone to yet another important event in DDR Programme.

The meeting was also graced with the presence of the Minister for Information, H.E. Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin. In his speech, the Minister appreciated the contributions of all the stakeholders in supporting DDR in South Sudan and the tireless efforts of the committee that developed this DDR policy paper.

He related the overall objective of DDR is to promote peace, security and development, through successful Reintegration focused on utilising available resources, especially land for modern agricultural techniques and improved infrastructures. He also affirmed the need to reduce military spending by cutting down on numbers serving in the military, this he said will transform the liberation army into a professional army.

The Minister for Information however distanced his government and its forces from repeated allegations of having extensively recruited child soldiers during the past two decades of war "The children who came to the SPLA barracks were mainly orphans and those who had nowhere to go. What the army did was to send them to school and they are now well educated and serving in various disciplines within the country," he emphasised

Concluding his speech, the Minister on behalf of the Government assured commitment to support the DDR programme in the New South Sudan.

This was followed by presentation by H.E. William Deng Deng on the background, objectives, DDR target groups, the seven components of the DDR programme, including DDR crosscutting issues and other areas of the draft policy.

Questions and comments from the house were duly noted for inclusion into the DDR Policy Paper, which will be completed in the coming days.

ON AIR!

7pm on Wednesday 8 June and Radio Miraya dedicated an hour long radio programme on the topic of the redesign of the DDR policy. It was also repeated at 06.30am on Thursday the 9 June for those radio listeners who missed it.



The Round Table Talk Show was presented by regular host George Batista and his special guests from the DDR Commission were Claude O. Akasha (Director General for Operations) and Elia K. Dimo (Director for Communication). The show included clips from the DDR Stakeholders Conference for the Policy Paper on DDR by His Excellency Dr Barnaba Marial Benjamin, the GoSS Minister for Information. Mr Akasha and Mr Dimo described the objectives of the Policy Paper and explained to the listeners how they would work operationally.

The broadcast was a mixture of English and Arabic to appeal to the audiences and callers phoned in to ask their questions, engaging with a topic that definitely caught the imagination of the listeners.

[If you want to listen to this programme please go to our website and click on the link, email address below.]

Total Demobilised in South Sudan

12,525

Fri 3 June 2011

HOTLINES for former soldiers and WAAF available Mon-Fri 08:30-17:00

Tel Vivacell 0955 56 1752 Tel Zain 0901 33 2562 or email info@ssddrc.com

Please don't forget you can access more information about DDR on the website <http://www.ssddrc.org>

And photos from DDR events also available on Google Picasa <http://www.google.com/profiles/ssddrpi>

Central Equatoria is open for business



The South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) officially opened its Central Equatoria State Office on Friday 3 June; the official opening was attended by William Deng Deng, Chairperson of the SSDDRC, Mamert Sinarinzi, UNMIS DDR Operations, members of the SSDDR Commission and DDR Implementing Partners among others.

During the opening ceremony, the SSDDRC State Coordinator for Central Equatoria State, Rev. Saturino Ladu Lawrence informed the excited celebrants that he acknowledged and appreciated the Chairperson, William Deng Deng for following up with the Government authorities to ensure that they acquired the plot that is currently housing the DDR Central Equatoria offices. "It was not easy but we worked very hard and with the help of God and our leaders we were able to come this far", said the State Coordinator Rev. Saturino.

The State Office was constructed by the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to support DDR activities. As stated by the UNMIS DDR coordinator, Mr. Mamert Sinarinzi, UNMIS has constructed all ten of the DDR state offices and will continue to support DDR activities across the country in the future. He appreciated the good collaboration with the Commission accorded during the construction. "UNMIS was requested to build the SSDDRC State Offices and with the help of the UNMIS engineers, we were able to deliver. UNMIS DDR will continue

support the programme to move forward" Mamert Sinarinzi told the gathering.

He called upon the Commission and all stakeholders to work hard to implement the DDR programme, emphasising that DDR was vital in achieving sustainable peace and development.

The Chairperson of the South Sudan DDR Commission, William Deng Deng said the offices are being opened at the right time when the programme is being redesigned to suit the new independent South Sudan. He noted that a good working environment is very necessary for the Commission to execute its duties and to be able to deliver. "The Commission is not a place where you come and leave at any time, we need to put in all our time and effort so as to achieve good results, there is a lot of work and all NGOs and Implementing Partners and Government departments that have the capacity to deliver will be much required in the days to come", said William Deng Deng.

The DDR programme launched its activities in Central Equatoria in 2009 with a caseload of over 2116 former soldiers and WAAF. This group came to be known as the *Mangala caseload*, named after the Assembly Area, as it included people from the local area but also participants who came from other States but who ended up settling there as well. The Central Equatoria State Commission at that time operated from a very small rented house located past Yei Road near Jebel Korok. According to the Central Equatoria State Coordinator the offices were very small without enough space to receive and address the former soldiers. "The new office opened today is a blessing to the Commission and its beneficiaries", said the State Coordinator Reverend Saturnino.

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Gift from GoSS– thank you !



The South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) have received ten vehicles from the Government of South Sudan. According to the SSDDRC Director General for Operations Mr. Claude Akasha, the vehicles came as a blessing since the Commission has been facing transport difficulties both in the states and at the Headquarters. "Mobility has not been easy especially in the states; this Government support will play a big role in the success of the programme" said H.E William Deng Deng, the Chairperson of the SSDDRC. The Commission received ten vehicles: eight Landcruisers (with hardtops) and two Landcruisers (pickup trucks). According to William Deng Deng, the new vehicles are well chosen as the models are very suitable for South Sudan's rough terrain.

The Chairperson of the DDR Commission William Deng Deng in turn handed over the vehicles to the Director General for Operations Mr. Claude Akasha who will then analyse the Commissions transport needs and distribute the cars accordingly. "The vehicles will facilitate movement, timely reporting and provision of services to our beneficiaries, the former soldiers. At this point in time, support like this to the Commission is very important and plays a big role in the success of the programme," said Mr. Claude Akasha.

This gift from the Government of South Sudan comes in at a critical moment when the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration

Commission are undergoing lots of changes including redesigning the DDR programme. According to the Chairperson of the SSDDRC Commission, this support is a sign of the Government's commitment to support the DDR activities, "It shows that DDR is a very important programme" said H.E William Deng Deng.

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Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programme came into being as an integral part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended the 21-year civil war in Sudan. This was the first step in the transition to sustained peace and development. DDR has its roots in the Machakos protocol which stated that the army would be reduced and professionalised. Under the CPA both signatories agreed to downsize and streamline their forces through the DDR programme. In South Sudan the Demobilisation was launched in June 2009.



In South Sudan, the DDR programme is lead by the Government with UNMIS and UNDP providing technical and operational support in Demobilisation and Reintegration respectively. The new DDR Policy for the DDR Programme is currently close to completion and will be presented to the Council of Ministers in the coming weeks.

Let's learn about Reinsertion



On 31 May and 1 June, the SSDDRC along with its UN partners (UNMIS & UNDP) held Reinsertion awareness workshops with several representatives from Community Based Organisations (CBO) in Malualkon, Aweil East County and NYemullel Town, Aweil West County in Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

The purpose of these forums is to clarify several concerns and doubts surrounding the Reinsertion project proposals by those Community Based Organisations (CBO) and grassroots groups. Recently the Aweil Local Reinsertion Review Committee (LRC) observed that the criteria and guidelines as set out in Reinsertion SOP had not been understood by potential Implementing Partners (IPs). During its recent preliminary review process the LRC decided to carry out more awareness campaign activities in various communities as a way of further supporting these CBOs and partners in developing their project proposals to the required standards.

In the first workshop in Malualkon approximately 30 participants attended including CBO representatives, former soldiers and community members.