

Published in the Citizen newspaper, 1st /1/2011.

DDR denies threats to UN, asks audit report

By Mary Ajith
Juba

Chairperson of the South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) William Deng said yesterday his office did not threaten UNDP but only asked it to release the auditory report on finances, refuting early reports by some media.

Traditionally, UNDP each year gives audit reports on the previous budgets so that the commission plans the upcoming programs accordingly.

Deng said DDR was asking the United Nations for Development Project to release the auditory report of funds for the program, adding that the reported threats were a misrepresentation by the media.

He said the Commission was

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expecting UNDP to release the audit report early but have delayed.

"We have not received the audit report up to this time," he added.

DDR Commission is a provision in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) tasked to rehabilitate former war combatants, supported by UNDP.

"We want the audit report release to help us plan the programs which will be conducted during the referendum since Southern Sudan is expected to be a new nation comes 2011," the Commissioner told the Citizen in an interview in his office yesterday.

He said the agreement was made in a Comprehensive Peace Agreement that UNDP will be the head of the program because they have a good financial management.

"This makes it normal to do the auditing of the project to see the financial aspect of the program."

The report awaited from UNDP would determine whether programs would be extended, enlarged or shrunk, depending on how well the previous budgets were regulated.

Deng said the program will be enlarged after knowing how the finances are being spent, but he declined to comment on how the money has been spent used by the UN.

"This audit will inform us about how the project is being run," he said.

"There are a lot of misinterpretations that Sudan is threatening UN to release the money and accusing it of misusing the money. These claims are not true because without the audit the commission can't judge how UNDP has used the money. The agreement between the two is that the audit report is to be released to the Commission every year for easy plans of their programs," he said.

Both UNDP and the Commission are serving the interest of the people of Southern Sudan and should not discriminate themselves in their work since the money they are keeping is a contribution of the international donors which must be used in the interest of the people, he said.

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