



## DDR, Aims to Strengthen Public Information System

by Ater Garang Ariath | 19.03.2012

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WAU – DDR Public Information representatives across South Sudan launched a two day workshop in Western Bahr El Ghazal, Wau last Thursday with the aim of strengthening the dissemination of DDR Programs with effectiveness to influence the masses and develop a positive attitude toward program success. Addressing the opening of the workshop, the Acting Chairperson of DDRC Majur Mayor Machar welcomed the initiatives and pointed that the commission would develop the capacity of its public information to ensure successful communication of right information to South Sudan ex-combatants. South Sudan as a nation is expecting to have a regular army that have capacity to defend its national territorial integrity and its sovereignty, peace and stability and to achieve these is when our ex-combatants are demobilized and giving them right skills that will let them integrate in the community life, said Machar. “We need successful DDRC programs in South Sudan since we desperately need peace and stability to be preserved and this will be defined on how we communicate our message to our participants and partners,” he said. He brought to attention that the previous ex-combatants were traumatized due to previous DDRC programs in the united Sudan before South Sudan declared its independence because the media were not prioritized as forerunners in carrying that exercise.

Machar added that with previous perceptions, vulnerable soldiers in the national army, the Sudan People’s Liberation Army still have negative thoughts toward the commission. He called upon the participants to gain positive roles toward the commission as important institution that will bring stability to the country and impart vital skills to the ex-combatants. Beda Machar the Deputy Minister of Agriculture assured the commitment of the Ministry to work hand in hand with the commission in issues regarding farming activities and they would go to Mapel to access the farming site of the ex-combatants. Western Bahr El Ghazal State Director for DDRC Romano Opio appreciated the commission decision to host the PI focal person’s workshop that aims to enhance information techniques.

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