



**GOVERNMENT OF SOUTHERN SUDAN
(GOSS)**

**SOUTHERN SUDAN DEMOBILIZATION, DISARMAMENT AND
REINTEGRATION COMMISSION (SSDDRC)**



HEAD OFFICE - JUBA
P. O. PRIVATE BOX, JUBA, SOUTHERN SUDAN Email: info@ssddrc.com
Satellite phone: + 88 216 433 335 38 Uri: www.ssddrc.com



MEDIA RELEASE

Demobilisation Launches in Eastern Equatoria

For immediate release

Torit, Southern Sudan 11 October 2010 - Demobilisation activities launch today in Torit, Eastern Equatoria state of Southern Sudan. In the following weeks, more than 2,600 ex-combatants and women associated with armed forces are expected to arrive in the assembly area at the Technical Institute in Torit. With the assistance of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the eligible participants of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programme will enter a demobilisation process, consisting of counselling, briefings and some material support, at the DDR State Office in Torit town.

The DDR process in Southern Sudan is led by the Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC). UNMIS is the lead organization providing support to the SSDDRC with Demobilisation and UNDP provides lead support with Reintegration. So far (by 8 October 2010), 7,791 people have been demobilised across Southern Sudan, in Lakes, Central Equatoria and Northern Bahr El Ghazal.

“The DDR process will provide these ex-combatants with intensive professional support to help them reintegrate into their communities. The DDR participants richly deserve this unique opportunity to return to their communities with the skills and abilities necessary to build an honorable and productive new Sudan. We at the SSDDRC are proud to lead and participate in this process”, said William Deng Deng, Chairperson of SSDDRC.

“UNMIS is committed to support the National DDR institutions and particularly SSDDRC to implement the national DDR programme. Throughout the demobilisation phase, ex-combatants, members of special needs groups and women associated with armed forces receive a Transitional Support Allowances that help them to sustain their livelihood for a short period of time until they receive their economic reintegration package”, said Sidi Zahabi, Chief Integrated DDR Unit, United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

In Eastern Equatoria, the reintegration activities will be carried out by the German Agency for Cooperation (GTZ) which has already rolled out reintegration trainings in Central Equatoria and Lakes. If needed, the candidates are trained in literacy and numeracy skills after which they can start different training programmes, such as agriculture or animal husbandry, skills to run a restaurant or other small

business, brick making, hairdressing or mechanics, among others. Disabled and war wounded ex-combatants are entitled to the same training and packages as able bodied DDR candidates. Mothers can bring their children along and every effort is made to facilitate for them.

Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process was agreed upon in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005. Successful DDR is vital for peace and for sustainable development of South Sudan's economy. Communities must be involved to support returning ex-combatants so that together South Sudan can grow.

For further information, please contact:

Elia Kamilo Dimo
Director of Communication
SSDDRC
elia@ssddrc.com, tel. 0914 447124

Johanna Laurila
Public Information Advisor
SSDDRC/Pact Sudan
johanna@ssddrc.com, tel. 0925 292390