

Over 70 WAAF and Community Members graduate in food processing

By Pony Allen

About 70 community members and Women associated with armed forces (WAAF) have graduated from the Women Self Help Organisation Development Organisation (WHSDO), having undergone a six weeks training in food processing. WHSDO is a community Based development organisation which offers training opportunities to community members at grass roots level. They offer trainings in tailoring, food processing, and agriculture. The training was funded by PACT Sudan in collaboration with GTZ and UNDP. The beneficiaries included seventy women, three WAAFS and two men. The ceremony took place at Munuki Hai Dar-es-salam area on Friday 15th October 2010 and was graced by UNDP's gender and HIV specialist Mr. Julius Otim and Pact Sudan country representative Judy McKay among others. The beneficiaries appreciated the role of UNDP and its implementing partners in helping them acquire new skills that are vital to their reintegration into community. "The training was very good, I have learnt different types of cooking, and all this has been possible because of GTZ, Pact Sudan and UNDP" explained Babian Juan, one of the beneficiaries of the program.

With the new skills acquired, Bibian hopes to open a restaurant in Terekeka. She says she chose to open a restau-

rant because that would give her an opportunity to serve the community, while earning a living at the same time. Bibian Juan advised committed community members and women associated with armed forces to take up the training, so as to enable them serve themselves and the community. The program Adviser Mama Lucy appreciated the grandaunt's good behaviour and advised them to carry on with the discipline and also preach peace whenever they will go. "It is important to maintain peace in your heart, at home and with neighbours, that way you will leave happily and prosper in business and life," said Mama Lucy. According to the UNDP's re-integration officer Mrs. Rose Latansio, the training encourages women associated with armed forces to work with the community which is key to successful integration of WAAFS and ex-combatants into their community. Mama Lucy advised WAAFs and community members to take up the training since it will help them acquire new skills for alternative opportunities. She reviled to the people that the next food processing training will be conducted at Kator and will also run for six weeks. She also said that over ten ex-combatants are currently attending a three months tailoring course at the Women Self Help Offices in Juba. She appreciated and thanked the donors who made it possible for these 75 community members and WAAFs to attend the training.

Governor Rizik briefs cabinet on south-south dialogue

By Alier John

Wau- The Governor of Western Bahr el Ghazal Rizik Zakaria Hassan briefed his cabinet on the just-concluded Southern Sudan political parties' conference in Juba with a call on his Ministers to work in cohesion for the successful conduct of the referendum.

Rizik told the cabinet that all South Sudanese political parties have agreed to work for the independence of southern Sudan in 2011 referendum after they had ironed out all past political differences.

"If all South opposition parties and its rebels could come to an understanding then why not we in the state to work jointly and achieve what will shape the future of our people in the referendum" Rizik asked.

The Governor called on members of his cabinet and citizens of Western Bahr el Ghazal to work harder in awareness raising on the referendum to informed voters to register

and choose wisely between separation and unity in the referendum next year.

He also called on political forces in the State to "face the referendum with one heart" as he urged to put aside their differences to achieve the desired goal of independence.

He assured the cabinet that no any single political party is responsible for the referendum of Southern Sudan or make choice of any of the two options for the people of Southern Sudan, adding that only Southerners are responsible to choose between either unity or separation. "It is the mandate of the Southerners to choose any of the options in a democratic manner, we will respect their choice Sudan" he said.

The Governor told the cabinet that the code of conduct they signed between the Southern political parties and the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) will ensure transparent, peaceful, free and fair referenda.

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