

By James Gatdet Dak

May 31, 2009 (JUBA) – The President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, has issued presidential decrees relieving and appointing cabinet ministers in the semi-autonomous GoSS.

The Decree was issued on Sunday and with effect from 31st May 2009.

RELIEVED MINISTERS:

- 1- Mr. Paul Mayom Akech, Minister of Internal Affairs
- 2- Mr. Kuol Athian Mawien, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning
- 3- Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Minister of Regional Cooperation
- 4- Mr. David Deng Athorbei, Minister of Transport and Roads
- 5- Mr. Anthony Lino Makana, Minister of Commerce and Industry
- 6- Professor Philip Yona Jambi, Minister of Cooperatives and Rural Development
- 7- Mr. Gabriel Changson Chang, Minister of Information and Broadcasting
- 8- Mr. Gier Chuang Aluong, Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services
- 9- Ms. Mary Kiden Kimbo, Minister of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs
- 10- General (Rtd) Albino Akol Akol, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

APPOINTED MINISTERS:

- 1- Mr. Gier Chuang Aluong, Minister of Internal Affairs
- 2- Mr. David Deng Athorbei, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning
- 3- Mr. Oyai Deng Ajak, Minister for Regional Cooperation
- 4- Mr. Anthony Lino Makana, Minister of Transport and Roads
- 5- Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Minister of Commerce and Industry
- 6- Mr. Peter Abdel-Rahaman Sule, Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development
- 7- Mr. Paul Mayom Akech, Minister of Information and Broadcasting
- 8- Mr. Madut Biar, Minister for Telecommunications and Postal Services
- 9- Mr. Gabriel Changson Chang, Minister for Culture, Youth and Sports

The newly appointed ministers with new faces in the cabinet include

Mr. Oyai Deng Ajak, who served as the Chief of Staff for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), Mr. Peter Abdel-Rahaman Sule, chairman of the United Democratic Front (UDF) party, and Mr. Madut Biar.

The relieved ministers without new portfolios include Mr. Kuol Athian Mawien, Professor Philip Yona Jambi, Ms. Mary Kiden Kimbo, whose replacement is not yet appointed and Gen. (Rtd) Albino Akol Akol.

The rest of the ministers have been in the cabinet, but re-appointed in different portfolios.

Kiir appoints new army Chief of Staff, relieves deputies

Tuesday 2 June 2009.

June 1, 2009 (JUBA) – Southern Sudan's President and Commander-in-Chief of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), General Salva Kiir Mayardit, has issued a decree appointing the SPLA's new Chief of General Staff and relieving a number of his deputies.

The move comes after the appointment yesterday of the former SPLA Chief of Staff, Oyai Deng Ajak, as minister of regional cooperation, the equivalent to foreign minister in the semi-autonomous government.

Major General James Hoth Mai, now promoted to the rank of Lt. General, has been appointed as the SPLA's Chief of Staff, replacing General Oyai Deng Ajak, with effect from May 31, 2009.

General Salva Kiir Mayardit told the newly appointed Chief of General Staff that despite many achievements, there are still many milestones facing the SPLA that need to be passed. He said that the prime areas of concern include lack of discipline among the forces, desertions within the units and delay of salaries.

James Hoth Mai was born in Ulang County, Upper Nile State. He joined the SPLA in June 1983 and participated in various capacities including being the commando commander and chief of operations for Operations Jungle Storm between 1993 and 1995. He also participated in Operations Thunder Bolt. He served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics in 2005.

Before his current promotion and appointment, Lt. General Hoth was the SPLA's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. He holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Fort Hare University, South Africa.

This is first change in the SPLA command since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005, which recognizes the former rebels as a conventional army of southern Sudan's government.

Commanders and alternate commanders have taken on more conventional titles: colonels, brigadiers and generals. Also, the regional parliament in Juba authorized last year the establishment of an air force while other corps are being considered by its hierarchy.

However the SPLA, challenged with unsuccessful disarmament and resurgence of tribal fighting, is still facing some problems such as lack of discipline and integration of some thousands of former militiamen. The demobilization and the professionalization of the SPLA troops have been delayed since

2005 due to the lack of funds and fears that relieved soldiers without a profession or a job could create troubles in the south.

General Salva Kiir Mayardit also issued another decree relieving from their positions Major General Salva Mathok Gengdit, Deputy Chief of Staff for Administration and Major General Bior Ajang, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, though the two outgoing deputies were promoted in rank.

No new appointments are yet decreed to fill the positions of the three deputies to the Chief of Staff for Administration, Logistics and Operations.

Kiir also issued other decrees promoting the SPLA Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Lt. General Paulino Matip Nhial to the rank of General (1st Lieutenant General), promoting Lt. General Oyai Deng Ajak, the newly appointed Minister for Regional Cooperation, to the same rank of General, and promoting Major Generals Salva Mathok and Bior Ajang to the rank of Lt. General.

The SPLA Commander-in-Chief also re-appointed Lt. General Salva Mathok Gengdit as Presidential Advisor for SPLA Affairs. No re-appointment is decreed for the former Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Lt. General Bior Ajang.

(James Gatdet Dak contributed to this report)

3. SPLM rejects charges of restricting political activity in the south

Al-Ahdath reports an upsurge of mutual criticism and recriminations between the SPLM and NCP after President Al-Bashir has lashed out against the SPLM manner of functioning in the south. SPLM SG Pagan Amum, speaking to Al-Jazeera TV has dismissed claims that the south is ruled by the SPLA military intelligence, saying the claim "is unfounded". Amum said SPLA had no intelligence apparatus and it does not restrict freedoms, citing the existence of ten NCP offices in the southern States. However, he pointed out that the NCP isn't welcome in the south.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Information Kamal Obeid reacted by explaining that President Al-Bashir's speech to the NCP Shura Council was in the context of analyzing the political situation, adding that NCP leaders in the south reported that their political activities had been restricted and that some SPLM influential leaders could not move freely in southern Sudan.

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports Amum has described the NCP's statements on elections as an expression of a state of fear over the growing support of the Sudanese people for the SPLM.

Amum, who was addressing a ceremony marking 26th Anniversary of the SPLM yesterday, threatened to mobilize the Sudanese people against the NCP's policy and called for the establishment of a democratic and secular government to address marginalization.

He accused the NCP of withholding the referendum law, saying the National Assembly's session will never end until the law is passed. "Any attempt by the NCP to renege on the agreement will mean going back to war," he warned. "They are seeking to reignite war. The NCP is obstructing democratic transition," he added.

Meanwhile, SPLM Deputy SG Yassir Arman has downplayed the NCP's popular support, saying the NCP is always seeking to derail the CPA. "A new Sudan can not be built without Darfur. Dividing the movements will not benefit Sudan and will not be in the interest of the country," he added, citing Darfur as an example.

4. Sudan: Former SPLM Figure to Lead Splinter Group

31/05/2009

By Ismail Adam

Khartoum, Asharq Al-Awsat- A leading member of the splinter group that has split from the Sudan's People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], who asked not to be identified, has revealed that the new movement, named "the Sudan's People's Movement -- Democratic Change," which has been formed by this group will be led by Dr Lam Akol, a prominent former leader of the SPLM. He told Asharq Al-Awsat that other prominent leaders from the SPLM will join the splinter group but he did not give names.

Silva Kiir, the SPLM chief, held a series of meetings with SPLM leaders in Juba, the southern Sudan capital. Sources said that during these meetings the leaders discussed "developments in the situation in the country and preparations for the meetings of the political forces in Juba." This splinter group leader revealed that their movement will be allied with the ruling Sudanese National Congress Party against the SPLM, led by Silva Kiir. He said that this alliance will be declared in a later stage in order to arrange for the elections scheduled for February. He expected their nascent movement to receive broad support from citizens in southern Sudan and that it will win a majority over the SPLM in the north.

This splinter group leader denied that their movement was born in coordination with the ruling Sudanese National Congress Party. He said: "We are a people's movement and we advocate the principles of the movement for which we have fought. We found out that the administrative failure and corruption in southern Sudan under the chairmanship of the current SPLM leadership requires the establishment of this movement to put things right in southern Sudan and implement the peace agreement in a sound manner."

A statement released by the People's Movement -- Democratic Change, said that Dr Lam Akol is "the only leader qualified to lead the nascent movement." The statement, which was signed by Jamal al-Sarraj in his capacity as the official spokesman for the nascent splinter movement, said that "the leaders of the Sudan's People -- Democratic Change are waiting for Akol's decision to come to southern Sudan. He is not just a president; he is a spiritual, historic leader and a veteran politician." The statement added: "We are in dire need for Akol's leadership."

It is to be recalled that the nascent movement delivered its papers to the Registrar of the Sudanese Political Parties a few weeks ago to be accredited as a political party.

Officials of the SPLM believe that the nascent movement is a creation of the National Congress Party and stressed that the SPLM would deal with it from this perspective.

As part of the ongoing political activities in the Sudanese arena in preparation for the general elections scheduled for February, the ruling National Congress Party's Consultative Council met in Khartoum yesterday to discuss political and organizational issues, most importantly the National Congress Party's preparations for the elections. Dr Nafi Ali Nafi, deputy leader of the National Congress Party for Political and Executive Affairs, addressed the meeting. He said that the National Congress Party seeks to entrench an unprecedented experiment in mature political practice in terms of liberties and integrity through the forthcoming elections. He called on political forces to overcome obstacles in the way of the elections and avoid creating any difficulties that may lead to postponing the elections.

5. Southern Sudan women's association elects leader

Tuesday 2 June 2009.

By Isaac Vuni

May 31, 2009 (JUBA) — The Southern Sudan Women General Association (SSWG) has today at Juba Bridge hotel elected Mrs. Sarah Awel James chairlady for a three year term of office. Mrs. James comes from Bor county in Jonglei state.

James got 41 votes against 18 of Jasmin Samuel from Western Equatoria state. Although Hon. Jasmin Samuel accepted to work for promoting women in the whole south Sudan, she wondered how the three states of Greater Equatoria could compete against seven states of greater Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile and Jonglei.

Hon. Abuk Payiti Ayik disclosed that it was Dr. Anne Itto, SPLM Deputy Secretary General for Southern Sector, who nominated Jasmin Samuel to contest against Sarah Awel James, knowing that the two candidates are both from the same SPLM party and have worked tirelessly in promoting women's rights under the New Sudan.

The electoral process was supervised by lawyer Perpetuwa Ajonye and former first lady and now presidential adviser on gender and human rights, Rebecca de Mabior.

The 60 selected council members are invited for supper in the house of the president by the first lady, including observers and state ministers.

Other posts went to Secretary-General Suzy Wasuki Sokiri from Warrap state, who was declared unopposed. Asha Suleman Yasin from Jonglei state was nominated unopposed as Finance and Administration Secretary. Secretary for Social welfare and Gender went to Mrs. Mary Rita from Bahr el Ghazal. Secretary for peace and reconciliation went to Hon. Payiti and Mama Rebecca de Mabior.

Secretary for Information and culture was given to the Equatorian delegation. Secretary for External Affairs was given to Equatoria. Secretary for Training and Research was also given to Equatoria.

As this story was filed, women were celebrating their success in forming the council, adoption of a name, and election of 60 councilors and 21 office-bearers.

The sixty elected council members of Southern Sudan Women General Association (SSWG) are:

Easter Equatoria state: Blassa Ibalu Hellen Siyam Pasquale, Rebecca Peter, Josephine Abala, Madelene Biaro Aiiol, Angela Achiro Onorio, Blasala Akongo James

Central Equatoria state: Easter Awete, Maka Mustafa, Pibona Yona, Jeneffa Yabu, Nadia James, Bethy Poni

Western Equatoria state: Jasimine Samuel, candidate for chairperson, Sicdonia Nobidior, Madelena Anite, Volet Sadia James, Grace Thomas Mustafa, Jackline John

Western Bahr el Ghazal: Angelina Paulino Rial, Cecilia Daniel Anei, Fatima Mohamoud Ashir, Mary Rita Sabastiano, Esterina Patario Darnas, Huda Haidors Saleh

Northern Bahr el Ghazal: Tereza Atong Deng, Nyiibol Achor Thdel, Zakara Mustafa Osman, Victoria Ayak Biet, Achol William Amoi, Elizabeth Ajok Atak

Lakes state: Mary Mathon, Marina Legge, Mary Ali Dani, Hellena Nybol Rin, Elizabeth Stephen, Asunata Majok

Warrap state: Suzy Wasuk Sokiri, Tereza Athian Bol, Kuei Toby Mawien, Abuk Yaac Arop, Mary Ariek John, Ayak Luka Ngor/Nyendeng Gang Guil

Unity state: Asha Suleman Yasin, Angelina William Wethakak, Halima Khamis Alnor, Nyataba Reur Garkek, Nyapouda Nhial Galwak, Sana Abdalla Hussien

Upper Nile state: Marin Awang, Mary Achol Thon, Elizabeth Nyawal Chol Sarah Nyabok, Tereza Mario Mack, Mary William Adhil

Jonglei state: Sarah Awel James, candidate for chairperson, Sarah Nyakouth Kauch, Julia Cladio Wani, Anna Yom Dau, Regina James Gathluak, Munira Abdel Waba John

GoSS Presidential Decree number 73/2009:Relieved officials, with effect from 29th May 2009,

State Advisors

- Mr Martin Anhiem Arier, Advisor for Security
- Mrs Asunta Bawude James, Advisor for Social Welfare and Gender

State Ministers

- Mr Awan Guol Riak, Deputy Governor and Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement
- Mr Jok Ayom Majak, Minister of Physical Infrastructure
- Dr Parmena Marial Akuocpir, Minister of Health
- Mr Chol Tong Mayai, Minister of Agriculture Forests and Animal Resources

County Commissioners

- Mr Benjamin Maciek Malek, State Headquarters
- Mr Gideon Chilur Mabele, Wulu
- Mr Santo Korac Domic, Yirol East
- Mr Chirril Majok Mading, Rumbek East
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GoSS Presidential Decree number 74/2009, Appointed officials, with effect from 29th May 2009:

State advisors

- Maj Gen Maciek Akuocpir Cyer, Advisor for Security
- Mrs Agum Ruben Maciir, Advisor for Social Welfare and Gender
- Mr Andrea Mabor Biar, Advisor for Peace and Reconciliation

State Ministers

- Mr David Nok Marial, Deputy Governor and Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement
- Mr Jok Ayom Majak, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Resources
- Mr Gordon Matot Tut, Minister of Finance
- Mr Chol Tong Mayai, Minister of Physical Infrastructure
- Mr Martin Anhiem Arier, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

County Commissioners

- Mr Mabor Mayen Wol, Rumbek East
- Mr Mabor Achol Kuer, Yirol East
- Mr Simon Waiwai Ali, Wulu

New gender minister chosen in S. Sudan cabinet reshuffle

By Isaac Vuni

June 2, 2009 (JUBA) – As part of a major reshuffling of his cabinet, the President of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit today appointed Hon. Agnes Kwaje Lasuba from Central Equatoria State as minister of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs, effective from June 2, 2009.

Hon. Lasuba is a career teacher who had been the chairperson of Regional and International Cooperation in the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly. She is the former wife of late Joseph Oduho, a founding member of SPLM/A.

Delighted, Hon. Abut described Lasuba's appointment as being very important for creating unity among the marginalized Sudanese voters particularly in Southern Sudan. Abut is chairperson for peace and reconciliation in the parliament.

The former minister, Mary Kiden Kimbo, was relieved by a decree effective from May 31, 2009.

Meanwhile, concerned politicians of Eastern Equatoria are appealing to majority communities of the state to allow a minority a chance at the governorship.

In addition to the previously reported changes at the ministerial level and within the SPLA command, there were appointments of several GOSS presidential advisors:

Michael Mili Hussien, presidential advisor on food security

Andrew Malek, presidential advisor for decentralization

Albino Akol Akol, presidential advisor for humanitarian affairs

Daniel Kodi, presidential advisor for the two areas of Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile

Salva Mathok Gengdit, presidential advisor for SPLA affairs