

# SOUTHERN SUDAN'S NEW GOATS BREED

**Radolo Livestock and Poultry Demonstration Farm, formerly known as MAFAO, has received 150 Mubende and boar breed of goats imported from Uganda by State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, Central Equatoria State, at the cost of US Dollars 10,000=.**

The Ministry aims to cross-breed the Mubende boar breed goats with the local breed in order to produce better quality goats to provide meat and milk for local communities, according to Acting Director General of State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, Mr. Soma Francis Wani.

Mr. Soma Francis Wani said Mubende and boar breed goats are suitable for meat and another breed known as sanin, which will be introduced to the farm later, is suitable for production of milk, adding that imported goats will help the local community to breed better quality goats for domestic use and commercial purposes.

Mr. Soma explained that after 20 peddle of the goats, the farm will receive, between 2011 and 2013, 20 cows for cross-breeding. He said project will benefit the local communities in a number of ways. "We shall build for them a school and a primary health care as the project grows. There used to be a primary health care in the area funded by UNICEF," the



Goats at Radolo Livestock Farm

Acting Director General of Fisheries said. "We shall Animal Resources and have enough meat and

milk from the goats. The new goats will breed with our local goats and produce better quality goats for meat and milk," Pozi Paulo, 38 explained.

Some of the youth in the area expressed appreciation for the project. To them the goats will improve the quality of the local breed, giving them better quality goats for food and commercial purposes.

Radolo Livestock and Poultry Demonstration Farm, was formerly known as MAFAO (Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Agricultural Organization). The two organizations ran the farm jointly.

MAFAO, now known as Radolo, was established in 1974, by the then Regional Government of Southern Sudan. ■

## WOMEN ASK MEDIA TO GIVE THEM A VOICE

By Poni Jeremiah

**Widows, orphans, women and children, have voiced out that they should be given a say by the media on issues that touch their lives. Severely vulnerable and disadvantaged groups appear to be hoping against hope since the end of the devastating two decade war. Apollonia Mathia, Executive Director of the Association of Media Women in Southern Sudan (AMWISS) stated, "my organisation must fight for the rights of women, children and severely vulnerable groups through the media."**

"This is the only way we can free women and other disadvantaged groups from all kinds of injustices", Mrs. Apollonia argued.

Apollonia appealed to the government and other stakeholders to support her initiatives financially to be able to cover the whole of Southern Sudan. Former Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Human Rights

Committee in the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, Mrs. Margaret Peter Abudi, urged media practitioners to be truthful in reporting and to advocate for the rights of the marginalized, especially women, children and the most dis-advantaged members of society.

Mrs Christina Jada, a widow whose husband was killed during

the notorious Juba massacre of 1992, has been struggling for the last 18 years. Said she "The War Disabled, Widows and Orphans Commission has inadequately addressed the plight of the victims of the 1992 Juba incident which claimed thousands of innocent lives, among them my husband." ■



# EDITORIAL

## LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF COMMON PEOPLE AND ACT

Common people, in any country, make up the majority of the population. Yet they are usually the most neglected by governments, NGOs and the agencies of the international community, especially in Africa.

In Southern Sudan, which has been at war for over half a century, there are many helpless people; widows, orphans, the disabled, illiterate, rural communities crippled by poverty and disease, employees going for months without salary; the list is long.

A close look at the media in South Sudan, especially the print media, reveals that the voices of such needy people are not sufficiently reflected. Most newspapers in South Sudan go for statements from the authorities and other powerful people who make headlines, but the silent majority remain unheard.

Even in many of the statements of people elected by the rural poor to represent them you hardly find a word that mentions issues that need to be addressed in favour of rural communities. Having no voice and nobody who has the courage to talk on their behalf, the needs and hopes of the most disadvantaged members of society and rural communities go unheard.

This situation is a challenge which has brought together the London based Media Diversity Institute (MDI) and the Union of Journalists of Southern Sudan (UJOSS), supported by the European Commission, to give a voice to the most disadvantaged people and the rural population and create a bridge between them and their leaders.

This voice and bridge is the 'People's Voice' newspaper. So, let's listen and act. ■

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## STREETS IN YEI RIVER COUNTY TO GET NATIVE NAMES

By Agele Benson Amos

*Yei River County elders have decided to rename streets and local administrative units to conserve community cultural and traditional values. The decision to rename the streets and at least one payam came as a result of elders deciding to do away with what has been referred to as "colonial" names.*

The raging controversy over renaming and replacements of colonial street names with local ones has resulted to the formation of advisory committees to spearhead the exercise.

Michael Modi Apollo, who is Kakwa community Advisor living in Juba, is the chairman of the Street and Administrative Units Renaming committee in Yei River County.

He said that the six years plan will be completed once all streets are renamed on the basis of cultural richness of great mountains, rivers, trees,

men and women of Yei River County.

This, he insisted must be done before the end of the referendum exercise for the South scheduled for January 9, 2011.

Mr. Michael Modi Apollo warned indigenous Southern Sudanese people against giving foreign names to their children without knowing and understanding the meaning of the name and their connections to their historical background. "Local names and religious name with meaning must be used only", added.

The idea of renaming streets and administrative unit in Yei River County is not welcome by everybody in Yei River County. Mr. Ndole Ndoromo Kumama the chairperson for Yei River County Referendum Committee said the idea of renaming the streets and the Payam before the referendum is "pre-mature".

According to him those who started the programme must ensure that only names of credible people and martyrs be used in renaming the streets and Payams in Yei River County. ■

## EU REFERENDUM OBSERVERS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

By staff Writer

The European Union Referendum Observation Mission (EU EOM) to the Southern Sudan referendum 2011 has deployed 32 long term observers to the field as part of a comprehensive assessment of the Southern Sudan Referendum process. The observers are expected to spend nearly five weeks in their assigned areas.

They have to assess local political conditions, and the general environment, logistical operations and technical procedures. The EU Observation Mission covers the 10 states of Southern Sudan as well as 8 states in the northern Sudan where there are Referendum Centers. They will be joined by some 60 short term

observers for the period of polling and counting in January 2011.

Three experts and 16 EU Referendum Observation Mission observers were already in Sudan since last November, to assess the voter registration exercise and exhibition of voter lists. Their findings will contribute to the Mission's preliminary report to be released publicly two days after the polling ends.

The EU was invited by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission to provide an independent, neutral and comprehensive analysis of all aspects of the referendum process, and assess compliance with Sudan's legal framework and with the international standards

for democratic elections and referenda.

Nearly all observers in Sudan referendum for self-determination are apparently unanimous in their predictions that the majority of South Sudanese are poised to vote for independence on January 9, 2011.

A total of 3.3 million people, representing 96% of eligible voters have registered in Southern Sudan ahead of the region's independence referendum on January 9, according to officials from the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau (SSRB). ■

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# WATER SCARCITY BITES AS JUBA TAPS RUN DRY

Poverty Alfred Taban

**Acute water shortage within Juba town has left residents pondering their next move despite the general impression by the Urban Water Corporation that the commodity is in plenty.**



Bicycle instead of water tanks

But reality about the hard hitting water scarcity situation that residents have to contend with is clearly explained by the low water supply coupled by frequent delays, sometimes 4 days in a week.

Some residents say that they continue paying as much as the 1000 Sudanese pounds on a monthly basis regardless of water supply situation.

Mr. Mading Cienggan, a senior engineer for urban water cooperation blames the low supply of water in Juba on low power to supply to the city, use of old water filters and the increase of supply areas which were not included in the beginning.

Mr. Mading said "We are looking forward to improve and replace the old pipes and filters with new ones that will be done early January next year by JICA (Japanese International Cooperation Agency) which have already started survey in the whole of Juba".

According to Mading those who cannot afford to pay are considered and they get water but the issue is on the limited filters that need maintenance and also if the power goes off we use generator which is expensive to sustain in terms of fuel cost.

"The reason of restricting the citizens from getting water from the Nile directly is to reduce the risks of getting typhoid which had been on increase last year as an effect of this unclean water". Mading says.

Currently the water corporation uses pipes and the filters some of which trace their manufacturing dates to 1945 and so remain unworthy and very weak to supply adequate volumes of

the commodity to the clients.

Mading however appeals to residents to understand the state of affairs at the corporation insisting that plans were underway to sort ensure the situation resumed normalcy.

Christina Kaku is a resident Konyokonyo a local market cannot afford to foot the bills of clean water supplied by the urban water corporation.

Kaku who hosts an old woman and five young children in her makeshift shack located besides the grave yard concedes that she too like any other ordinary resident, cannot afford to buy clean drinking water.

To Kaku just like majority of poor people living in her neighbourhood, poverty continues craving its ugly neck to define who owns what and who drinks clean water.

The compounding situation has compelled her to literally source for her domestic water supply from the untreated River Nile just to save her extra coin for something other than water.

The government should at least drill more bore holes to allow us the poor to access the clean water to reduce the risk of being involved in diseases like diarrhea which expose us the poor to risks of contacting the other diseases". Kaku says

Mr. George Gadi is the secretary of Kator payam water tape and just like majority of Juba town residents, wonders the next move out of the water scarcity situation.

"Without water how can we survive since water is life? They should supply, supervise the water flow and

consider our complains of paying and getting insufficient water. "George says. Most of us depend on water business to sustain their families", if there is no supply and we pay money every month, what shall we get or benefit.

He insists that the commodity can only be made affordable to everyone if cost implications and the people's living standards are put into considerations.

"We pay 1000 Sudanese pounds each month but we only recover 700 Sudanese pounds which remains unaffordable to most families who have to survive on such kind of businesses.

Mr. Mahamed Mogga resident of Malakia said that there is no equal supply of water in Juba because some of the areas get full and constant water supply.

He says that the selective system of water distribution used by the

corporation had drawn a major poverty line between the rich and the poor and called for fairness if any tangible development was to be realized for the common good of all.

"The government restricts us from getting water directly from the Nile and if they still cannot supply, where are we going to get the water from since some of us cannot afford to pay the price given?". Mogga says.

Mr. Rimam Morero a resident of Kator said that, he had been selling water in Juba for the last four months but faced major threats of attacks by marauding youth who targeted water vendors by grabbing away their hard gotten money.

Ramadan advises the youth to play a leading role community development by engaging in economically constructive and especially money generating activities. ■



Water tanks queue for water



# ALLOCATE PLOT TO CITIZENS TO AVOID CONFLICT, CALL

By Friday Gift

*Over the past few months, controversy surrounding the delay in demarcation and allotment of residential plots has led to the rise of tensions between residents and local authorities in Yambio County.*

Past efforts by the authorities to demarcate plots in the County have remained fruitless. The delay in plot demarcation coupled by fear amongst residents has been blamed for the confusion surrounding plans to undertake the exercise.

In the wake of all this confusion, residents, most of who have been temporarily operating on the undemarcated plots have expressed fears of possible demolition of their structures without prior notice.

Mr. James Renzi, Chairman of Naduru Youth group operating in a residential area in Yambio County, said, "locals have the capability of constructing concrete buildings on their plots, but restrictions from the County authorities have made it impossible."

Previous attempts by the County authorities to demarcate roads have been characterized by demolitions of illegally constructed buildings. Affected residents have had to contend with counting of huge losses as they helplessly watch their buildings come down tumbling.

Earth movers, bulldozers and graders, all roaring on Yambio roads, define some of the heavy machinery deployed by the county authorities to explain the magnitude and seriousness attached to the exercise.

The sudden rise in the number of corrugated iron and tiled-roofed buildings marks a clear departure from the traditional grass thatched houses referred to as tukuls.

Atoroba James, one of those recently affected by the ongoing road reconstruction work said, "My five rooms fell along the road and I was instructed to demolish all of them."

Like many affected residents, Atoroba cannot tell whether they would be compensated for the damages incurred or even define his next move.

Earlier, the County Engineer Baira Christo Bakosoro issued a directive, banning any further construction of permanent buildings without approval by the concerned authorities.

"The reason of issuing local orders was to allow the residential areas to be demarcated according to the town planning committee," he explained.

The Engineer said no construction would be allowed in the town without the approval by the town planning committee.

This process includes acquisition of land lease and legal papers. He attributed the delay in the survey and demarcations of plots to acute shortage of qualified technical staff in the Survey department.



The demolition of house built in undemarcated plot

*The Editorial Team of People's Voice  
and all members of the Union of  
Journalists of Southern Sudan wish  
you a Merry Christmas and  
Prosperous New Year 2011*



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