

SUDAN

On The Road To

PEACE • DEMOCRACY • UNITY • PROSPERITY

Peace is taking hold as Sudan pushes ahead on the path towards democracy; the result of the diligent implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005 ending Africa's longest running civil war between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

A component of the landmark agreement envisions the democratic transformation of the country and calls for nation-wide elections, the first in over 20 years, that cover all levels of government including the President of the Republic, the State Governors, Members of the National Assembly (Parliament), and Members of State Legislative Assemblies.

Registration of the Electorate was conducted across the country from November 1st through December 7th, 2009 with a historic turnout of the eligible voters that exceeded 80%. Included is a provision that enables the Diaspora Sudanese community to participate in the presidential elections including residents in the United States, some African countries and the Middle East.

PRESIDENTIAL

Twelve candidates mostly from the major political parties in the country are vying for the executive position, including nominees from the ruling National Congress Party, the junior partner Sudan People's Liberation Movement, UMMA, and DUP. Should there be no candidate amongst them that wins a simple majority of 51%, the top two will go head-to-head in a second round.

Among the candidates is a Woman, a development unprecedented in the country's history and one that clearly demonstrates the progress made in the social sphere.

Southern Sudan, a semi-autonomous region with a regional government will also hold presidential elections. Two candidates, from SPLM and the SPLM-DC are competing for the office.

PARLIAMENTARY & GUBERNATORIAL

The National Legislative Assembly has been dissolved and will be going through grassroots elections to fill the 450 seats in the National

Parliament. A similar exercise will also be held in Southern Sudan to elect the Regional Members of Parliament. Elections at the governorship level will also take place in all the 25 states of Sudan.

Having addressed the imbalance of power, the CPA, in its wealth sharing protocol, also addresses fully the imbalance between the center and the peripheries with regards to development. Thus by confronting the root grievances of the people, the CPA has ushered in this era of peace, democracy and prosperity by confronting the root grievances of the people.

REFERENDUM FOR SOUTHERN SUDAN & ABYEI

A National Referendum scheduled for next January is course, allowing Southern Sudanese to vote on whether to remain in a united Sudan or separate to establish a new State; and for Abyei area, a region that is a bridge between Northern and Southern Sudan, to also decide whether to be part of Northern or Southern Sudan, should the latter opt for secession.

This democratic exercise is meant to demonstrate the Unity of Sudan as based on the will of the people while also showing Sudan's adherence and respect to the cardinal tenet of democracy; Choice. The government continues to work hard to make unity attractive and will respect and uphold the results of the referenda.

WAR IN DARFUR IS OVER

The African Union, the United Nations, and international observers, based on the facts on the ground, have loudly proclaimed that the war in Darfur is over.

A historic agreement between the government in Khartoum and the main rebel groups in Darfur (Justice & Equality Movement) was recently signed.

Increased aid is being dispensed to internally displaced people in Darfur, and more people are returning to their homes.

Elections will also cover most of Darfur giving our citizens there the opportunity to have their voice heard.

