

# **Sudan**

## **Reportage on Activities Marking 3d Anniversary**

### **Al-Bashir Delivers Address**

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[Speech by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, marking the 3d anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution in Khartoum; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Bashir] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Excellencies, brother militants, president Yasir 'Arafat of the fraternal state of Palestine, revolutionary president Isayas Afewerki, president of the government of fraternal Eritrea, brother representatives of heads of fraternal and friendly countries, brother heads of delegations from fraternal and friendly countries, honorable citizens: God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you all.

On this great day we stand to recall God's bounty upon us and to thank him for it and the first we wish to thank and praise for is this great achievement of al-Sahat al-Khadra on which this blessed celebration is taking place and which was completed in a record time of no more than four months.

On a day like this three years ago we had a different state of affairs, but today, God be praised, we have a completely different situation. On the morning of 30 June, three years ago, we were on the brink of signing a document of surrender, which would have placed our affairs in the hands of our enemy who would have caused Sudan, as we know it today, to disintegrate and have erased its Islamic-Arab identity. Today our enemies are scattered, retreating, and divided, while our country has asserted its identity and maintained the spirit of the land.

We were all seized with fear and panic in the towns and the countryside. Towns and garrisons in the south fell quickly, one after another. The flames of war were sparked in Darfur and the ugly head of strife emerged in the east. [passage omitted]

Today, with God's blessings, we have doubled our production of sorghum, a production better than any in the last five years. Production has risen from 250,000 tons to 850,000 tons. Our sugar production has also doubled. With God's grace, we managed to reclaim unproductive lands neglected by their owners and abandoned by the peasants. The land under irrigation is now almost 1,000,000 feddans. The rain dependent land has doubled. Harvests and productivity of all crops have increased. [passage omitted]

In the past others chose what we grew, but today we choose what we grow and have thus achieved self-sufficiency. We have managed to export wheat, sugar, beans, meat, vegetables, and fruits. We used to be perplexed by our living conditions, but God guided us into thinking about liberating our economy and currency.

Our affairs were straightened out and so our budget leaped up by scores of billions of Sudanese pounds. We accumulated money for development, services, defense, and national security. We used to beg for oil, but now we extract our own. [passage omitted] We shall soon witness the export of our surplus oil, very soon, God permitting.

Our economy was suffering from a continuing recession, recording negative growth. Today, our development has astonished the world, for our gross national product has risen to 13.3 percent, the highest in the world [as received]. [passage omitted]

Brother guests, honorable citizens, the ship of salvation has crossed the seas of victory through the surging waves. There are those who refused to come on board because they were misled by their whims and deluded by false hopes. We say to them: Come on board with us to save yourselves from perdition. We repeat once again to all those who used weapons against their country or left it in anger that we shall overlook any conspiracies in which they might have been involved. We open wide the doors of amnesty to them so that they can come home feeling secure and confident. No one should remain outside the country other than the clique of those who sullied themselves by becoming agents and mercenaries—what bad companions they are to one another. [passage omitted]

In the new year, I will bring you good news about the implementation of the overall national strategy, a 10-year plan that will follow a revolutionary Islamic course to help us overcome circumstantial crises so that our homeland becomes a noble model for other societies. [passage omitted]

In the new year, we hope to forge ahead together, people and government, economy, so that we can become stronger. We shall grant every citizen the honor of participating in the digging of water canals. Let me inform you that we shall begin with the canals for the Rahad and Kinanah projects to double the area of agricultural land under irrigation. Every citizen will have the honor of digging these canals, to dig one cubic meter, which will be a source of pride and appreciation for the homeland. I shall, God permitting, begin the digging myself together with my brothers in the RCC and the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

We appeal to our sons working abroad to come home after contributing to the construction of their host countries. We call on them to build the new Sudan, the Sudan of free ideology, of leadership and guidance, the inspirational Sudan, God willing. [passage omitted]

**In the new year we shall work to build and promote our African, Arab, and Muslim relations in a spirit of openness, trust, and constructive initiative. [passage omitted]**

**In the new year, I shall bring you good news about a strong army which you will soon see before you, an army which will shake the ground beneath it. They will be the soldiers of God, who will always triumph, God willing. It will be an army feared by the enemy and others besides, quote, whom you do not know but God knows them, unquote. [Koranic verse] I shall bring good news about a strong and effective popular defense force. Its soldiers will be airport [word indistinct], heads of departments, managers of factories, university deans, professors and students [word indistinct] students of pharmacy and veterinary science. They will soon appear before you. They are the humble soldiers of God who will weigh heavily in his scales on the great day of resurrection.**

**In the new year, brothers and sisters, I shall bring you further good news of more victories. I beg you in response to all this to make even more and sacrifices. God is great, glory to God, his messengers and the believers. God is great, glory to Sudan. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all.**