

**Sudan's Al-Bashir says atmosphere "suitable" for success of Abuja talks**

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Sudan's Al-Bashir says atmosphere "suitable" for success of Abuja talks

Excerpt from report by Sudanese radio on 28 November

The following are excerpts from speech by Sudanese President FM Umar al-Bashir to the two councils of the National Assembly in Khartoum's Friendship Hall. The speech was broadcast live on Sudan Radio and TV 28 November, at 0755 gmt.

In the name of God most gracious most merciful, may peace and blessing be upon Prophet Muhammad and all the messengers.

Dear brother, the Speaker of the respected National Assembly, the Speaker of the revered regional parliament, members of the National Assembly. I salute you all on this day when you are resuming the first session of the respected National Assembly, which represents a single gathering of the sons of the nation and an additional morale to confront the challenges facing the people of Sudan, who are keen to have a better tomorrow, realize peace and development. (Passage omitted)

Dear brothers and sisters, it is our duty to pursue the huge responsibility which is being placed on us at this historical time, when we are basically putting the pillar of peace in our country and signing the future pledges for the coming generations ... we fully understand that it is a great responsibility which cannot be pursued by either those hesitant or coward ... as we move towards reconstruction and development in a nation with unbroken unity and covered with endless peace.

I would like to refer to what has so far been achieved in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. I am happy to emphasize that the implementation work and process of the peace agreement and the constitution have taken a giant step despite the numerous problems which require from us all, more patience and perseverance to transcend them through association and unity.

By the grace of God the government has been formed with the participation of more than 15 political parties representing vast interests, which is the most comprehensive in the history of all the Sudanese governments.

This period has also witnessed ... by the help of God, the creation of the two national legislative bodies, the commission of evaluation, cease-fire, the issuance of a decree to create the National Oil Commission which started its work at the beginning of this week. Decrees were also issued on the laws governing the constitutional court, the National Judicial Commission and the Bank of Sudan. The coming days will witness the creation of all the commissions and committee as specified in the peace agreement.

The Legislative Assembly for southern Sudan was also formed and came up with the interim constitution for the south and in accordance with it the southern government was formed, which concluded the composition of the federal government and the southern Sudan government.(Passage omitted)

We praise God that oil has become one of the resources which we are keen on increasing its production in the field. We hope the year 2006 will be a new opening, God willing, in its production. Sudan's oil production is currently 600,000 barrel per day in the first half of the year. We hope this will increase to more than 10 per cent of the current production.

We shall intensify exploration activities in various areas specially in those that oil have not been discovered to date. These are the fields where operations have recently started, in the north, east and central parts of the country, in addition to completing the work of signing agreements in the two fields which have not been licensed.

Due to the economic development being witnessed in the country, and to provide its main requirements, the year 2006 will witness the start of the building of the new Port Sudan refinery which will be completed in the year 2008, God willing. The work started late this year and will continue in the 2006 in establishing a number of strategic sites. (Passage omitted)

Brothers and sisters, Sudan and most of its people will remain farmers. So let us salute our farmers. They are precious and committed people. This is why it is not a surprise that irrigation and agricultural programmes have an important role in the economic programmes. In irrigation and water resources, our plan is to rehabilitate the irrigation infrastructure and its programmes as well as rehabilitate the four existing water reservoirs and to provide clean drinking water in all states as well as support traditional irrigation sectors through increasing the number of wells and dams. (Passage omitted)

Brothers and sisters, Sudan is positioned in an important geographical location in the African continent. It is a position which provides a wonderful and exceptional

preference in trade. We hope that trade remains one of the focal points of the Sudanese economy through out history. (Passage omitted)

Brothers and sisters, tourism is one of the promising sectors of the economy. We shall work on it for the sake of development. Firstly, we will carry out studies and integrated surveys on tourism. The plan which we have taken into consideration, is the need to build the culture of tourism and encourage local sectors to establish the infrastructure, provide tourism services as well as make use of modern methods to publicize tourism.

Talk about the economic programme cannot be complete without discussing environment and reconstruction, which has become an important part and a condition for the approval of any economic programme. (Passage omitted)

The most important programme in the forthcoming phase is to improve the situation of the people and solve their problems. (Passage omitted)

Dear brothers and sisters, the media is an important tool for guidance, education, cultural and ideological development... We ask and hope that the media and its societies know their rights and duties of monitoring the state's performances and in observing the societies activities and participating in propelling and directing it towards spreading peace.(Passage omitted)

Dear brothers and sisters, our institutions working in foreign policies are making their best efforts to ensure Sudan's active participation in international arenas and with volatile ideologies, policies and economies. Our efforts will continue in this regard towards influencing international stances so as to strengthen peace and stability. In regard to international cooperation, we shall seek the coordination of foreign cooperation in the phase of comprehensive reconstruction and equal development in all states of Sudan. And to activate the bilateral agreements especially with friendly countries within the framework of economic and trade partnership.

We shall also make more efforts to solve the issue of Sudan's foreign debts and to ensure the pledges and agreements made by the international community in Oslo Donor Conference are fulfilled. Our plan include extending the scope of deployment and functional diplomatic representation. This also includes carrying out initiatives to join regional efforts for the sake of establishing integrated economic and political systems to unite stances on regional security. We shall also work to ensure the AU summit in January and the Arab summit succeed. This affirms Sudan's progressed role in both arenas.

Internationally, we shall work towards coordinating with our partners to take up proposals that will achieve justice in the member states and institutions.

In this regard, Sudan will continue to support the Palestinian cause until justice is done for the Palestinians to regain their occupied territories.

We also affirm our support to our brotherly Iraqi people to regain their full sovereignty and in dispelling the occupation from their lands and uniting its national force.

We welcome the efforts made by the Arab League in holding the conference which gathered Iraqi parties so that these efforts may lead to a national reconciliation that would achieve the unity and the aspiration of the Iraqi people.

We also affirm our support to Syria to confront the foreign pressure which targets the people of Syria and their leaders until they regain their rightful territories which were occupied.

Dear brothers and sisters, changes are taking place everyday inside our borders and within the regional context. This compels us to give high priority to our national security, mainly, the armed forces. We laud them, their leadership, the soldiers and officers. We give them all our appreciation. We shall work towards developing and supporting them in such a way that will give it high professionalism which allow them to protect peace and secure the nation.

In regard to internal security, the police force have always been carrying out their roles with dedication, with professionalism and protecting the society from chaos, aggression, crime, deviation and economic sabotage. For this reason we laud the police, its leadership and officers as an appreciation to the active role they played in protecting the society and establishing peace. (Passage omitted)

I once again reiterate and insist on seriously seeking and protecting peace and to fulfil its requirements as well as work towards completing its process by ending the crisis in Darfur and the east, through talks with political forces.

The government has shown high resilience in responding to the needs of the mediators in Darfur, be it through security, humanitarian or political arrangements.

Our commitment to negotiations will remain firm. Our policies will support any effort which is aimed at easing the political settlement and the way forward. However, we will not allow any attempts of taking advantage of the situation and complicating it, instead of resolving it. We will not allow participants who will use the problem to

impose tutelage instead of being concerned with the interest of the Darfur people and the life of its people.

Please allow me to present to you our proposals for a political solution to the Darfur issue.

1. Work towards ending violence and security violations by all parties.
2. Signing a peace agreement that will satisfy all the Darfur people based on decentralization of government and administration and equal sharing of power and wealth according to principles agreed to in the peace agreement and included in the interim constitution.
3. Respecting human rights and its groups according to the law and its governance.
4. Ensure the rights of members of all groups which will ensure social peace and harmony and takes care of its living interests and economic gain.
5. Safe guarding traditions and heritage which do not violate the constitution and law.
6. Pave way for all Sudanese people to take part and participate in its development.
7. Positive and serious cooperation with all political forces.
8. Coordinate with the international community and its organizations, mainly the AU which will help in arriving to a fast and comprehensive peace, God willing.

We are confident that the atmosphere is now suitable for making the forthcoming Abuja talks a success. I am sending a warm and honest message to the armed men from all parties and all the Darfur people inside and outside (Sudan), and to every honest citizen to work together for the sake of this noble cause.

In this regard, we shall forcefully seek to achieve peace in the east which will increase development and political and social stability for all the Sudanese people. (Passage omitted)

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