

Sudan

Al-Bashir Addresses National Assembly

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[Speech by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, to the nation at the Transitional National Assembly, TNA, on 25 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Brothers and sisters, members of the TNA: I salute you as you meet for your third session, devoting all your time to God, in the service of creatures and the construction of the country. As you end a session, you prepare for the next. [passage omitted]

When the national salvation revolution [NRS] arrived, it did not resort to tranquilizers or placebos, but sought to diagnose the disease and cure it. It therefore laid down new ethics, made dialogue the *modus operandi*, and held conferences on all issues and subjects, conferences in which all sectors and groups were represented in all their colors, ethnicities, and religions. It treated the resolutions adopted by these conferences seriously and implemented them. [passage omitted]

The flag of peace and dialogue will continue to be hoisted by the revolution and the loyal people concerned

for the homeland's interests both in the north and in the south. In this context, the NSR will strive to render successful the initiative of the neighboring Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] member states. I wish them success in settling the matter. I must here record my gratitude to brother Presidents Daniel arap Moi, Meles Zenawi, Isayas Afewerki, and Yoweri Museveni. I hope their efforts are crowned with success so that we can confirm to the world that the sons of this continent are the most capable of dealing with their problems. Nor must I forget to salute former President Carter for his efforts to bring us together, reconcile us, and stop the fighting between the sons of the one homeland.

From this platform, I wish to appeal to all the sons of Sudan bearing arms to reconsider their stance and ponder long over the consequences of the actions they are now embarking on. I repeat my call to let reason and responsibility be the arbiters. I confirm that [word indistinct] of the revolution are principles we believe in and bases we respect. There will be no bargaining [words indistinct] or political maneuvers.

Brothers and sisters, I now return to the new stage we have just entered, namely that of the republican system. I want to begin my remarks with a special salute for the RCC, which prepared for this and strove to achieve it. The members worked day and night to bring out this pioneering national scheme. They were paragons in their lack of interest in power and pomp. They were free from whims and selfishness. They put the interests of Sudan above everything else. Sincere salutes and appreciation to them.

I wish to salute also the help the People's Defense Forces gave the Armed Forces, which themselves produced those men. They were the defending shields and firm [words indistinct]. They were the ones who stood by this system and preserved Sudan's territorial integrity and the people's creed. They will find in me, God willing, great interest, concern, and care from my position as president of the Republic and from my direct position as commander in chief of the Armed forces this interest will be pursued by the Ministry of Defense which, in its new phase, will absorb all the transformations affecting the system of government. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, the republican stage we are initiating now is based on clear vision. It is a nascent and (?impartial) republic that will take the best from the world's legacy of intellect and theory, link it with religious values and, God willing, it will be [word indistinct]. It will adhere to divine guidance and follow the course of the messengers of God. It will build its society on unity and cohesiveness and not on division and conflict. It will rise on balanced moral and material foundations. [passage omitted]

The Decree No. 7 acknowledges that Islam is the guiding religion, which is embraced by the majority of the Sudanese people. Commitment to it is obligatory and

resorting to it is a (?firm matter) and being guided by it is a pledge. There will be no bargaining over this matter, and there will be no negligence with regard to it because it is an obligatory trust and the faith of (?surrender).

The decree also confirms a koranic text, namely: there is no compulsion in religion. Every man is free in what he believes, and there will be no restriction on anyone concerning worship. We are saying this not to please or appease others. It is a basic matter in which we seek to obey God. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, as for authority, the Decree No. 7 referred to a number of principles that clarify duties and rights. It put duties first so that nobody demands a right without performing what is due from him, with an awareness of his responsibilities and out of faith in the values of giving and sacrificing.

Science is a modern necessity and no civilization or [word indistinct] can be without it. Moreover, acquisition of science is a religious duty. Science is the ladder which the citizen must scale to undertake the duty of research and the giving of advice. There is no good in a society where the learned remain silent and the ignorant follow the wrong path. Giving advice is part of religion, to be given to leaders and the common people [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, the question of institutions [words indistinct] was not a political maneuver. It is in conformity with what has been laid down in our strategy. The first stage between the year 1992 and the year 1994 should see political and constitutional structuring reaching its peak in the states. The following stage will be elections of the National Assembly and the president of the Republic. The constitutional decrees contain a number of schedules and time tables for the dissolution of the states' national assemblies and the Federal National Assembly. An election law will be issued which will define and regulate relationships between options. It will define qualifications, the right of nomination, the right of election, and the administration of the election process.

I assure you that we will adhere to the implementation of what has been stated in the decrees. We earlier assured you that every individual in this nation will be free and responsible for his choice. The state assures him his freedom and responsibility so that he can choose with clarity. There will be choice in nomination. [Word indistinct] in accordance with ethical controls. Representation is a responsibility and a trust [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, [word indistinct] there is no going back on freedom. There will be no return to hateful party fanaticism and moribund sectarian politics. That is a page that has been turned over for ever, God willing, in the history of this country. This does not mean that the revolution will prevent anyone from participating, or hold anyone responsible for past history. The door is open for anyone to enter public service with the concept of good works and worship.

I address an appeal from here to all the sons of Sudan, inside and outside the country, including those who have doubts or who are opponents, to return to a situation where we are all equal, and where we will not worship anyone besides God, and will not ascribe partners unto him [koranic saying].

I assure you that the revolution under the republican system believes in unity and cooperation. There will be no bias in favor of any political, sectarian, or party group, whatever name it carries. The revolution extends its clean hand to all the sons of the homeland who believe in its heritage, values, and civilization, and in working for its elevation and [word indistinct]. Come, let us extend our hands to one another [words indistinct] so that we can uplift this generous land with impartiality, self-denial, and readiness for sacrifice. [passage omitted]

I wish to announce that there will be new measures to combat unlawful enrichment. There will be corrective organs and systems to call people to account in the administration. Brothers and sisters, constitutional Decree No. 7 has confirmed that the judiciary is based on evidence and judgment and the dispensing of justice. Its supervisor is God Almighty, for he is the all-knowing and all-seeing, aware of everything. The dispenser is the learned judge, working, just, and worthy of emulation, who strives in a good way among the people. I assure you that we at the Presidency of the Republic will persevere for the independence of the judiciary as an act of worship and make people equal under it.

We will strive to provide all enabling factors to allow judges to discharge their duties in preserving rights and redressing injustices. To confirm this independence a Higher Judiciary Council will be set up, God willing, which will foster this institution, develop it, and push it forwards everywhere. The judge will be able to sit before litigants to determine a case for them. Our care and fostering will include the auxiliary justice institutions, such as the prosecution arm and the police, so that the pursuit of justice can be performed in its ideal form.

Brothers and sisters, to achieve greater justice, on the basis of our faith that it is a strong pillar and a secure way to gain goodness and as a door through which come blessings from heaven to produce the good things of this earth, I will work to convene appeal sessions and direct meetings in the capitals of the states, where I will meet all those who have grievances and listen to all complaints.

I will endeavor to understand the conditions of the subjects because they are my responsibility, for which I have to account to God. I now direct the brothers in the Office of the President of the Republic to issue a circular about this matter and to announce it to the people, those in near and remote areas, the rich and the poor. This should ward off injustices and preserve rights in a balanced and coordinated manner, in harmony with the state's right to maintain public service and to keep away corruption and unfairness. To implement the recommendations on justice and legal reform and to achieve

completion of the structure of justice, we will work to set up a justice council under the chairmanship of the president of the Republic.

The council will undertake planning for justice and coordination of [word indistinct], and it will supervise the establishment of a national center for legal reform and training. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, following the progress achieved in economic activities and the persevering movement in different sectors of the economy, the NSR will continue its reform programs by implementing its development plan, taking into account the fact that the agricultural sector is the leading sector. It is determined to reach its announced goals in achieving self-sufficiency and surpluses in the strategic crops such as sorghum, wheat, sugar, cotton, and oil seeds. It will continue its support for this sector by announcing encouraging prices, which should provide incentives for the real producers. The NSR confirms that it will review all the loopholes that accompanied previous pricing and marketing policies. This should ensure fair distribution and compensation in accordance with the effort invested. The brothers in the economic sector should pay special attention to that sector. It is no good for a nation to keep importing its food. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, the revolution will continue its efforts to extract oil, which has become a reality after being a dream and a hope in our minds. This course is the only way of tackling satisfactorily the emergency hardship that we believe will not end as long as we depend on imports. The revolution will also proceed, as it has pledged, in fostering the textile sector as a leader in Sudanese industry. We will give ample opportunities to the private sector to move extensively into the industrial sphere so that we can build a state of science and technology. To this end, the private sector must reconsider its priorities, to harmonize them with the priorities of society. It should dispense with easy and quick profits, which are soon consumed by the fires of inflation. It should make practical contributions to industrial development that should bring in money even if it takes longer to harvest. [passage omitted]

The revolution will proceed with firm steps in the service sector, God willing, and will give an impetus to the moves toward rehabilitation which have begun in the transport sector—land, sea, and air. There will be an increase in the number of different transport units. Here I must commend the clear leap forward in the railways regarding the transport of goods, improvement of services, and access to stations where services have been suspended for many years. As for air transport, the state will open this sphere to the private sector to strengthen and develop it. The spirit of competition should drive all to improve performance and services.

Brothers and sisters, the revolution considers the efforts started in the sphere of communications as a step that must be followed by others, in order to link people and

not break contacts between them. Communications should strengthen relations. There will be expansion because we believe that there will be no development or investment without effective means of communication. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, we have a country with ample resources, rich in manpower and diverse in resources both above and below ground. We are responsible for its development and this is a religious duty, as God says: He created you from the earth and gave you power over it. The authorities concerned must plan and invest. The investment laws should be reconsidered so as to provide the proper environment for investors, through encouragement and incentives. The requirements of everyone should be satisfied and every worker should enjoy the fruits of his labor.

To expand the utilization of resources and increase the country's revenue in foreign exchange, we look forward to our brother expatriates understanding the country's situation and investing their savings in private and public companies, following the example of their brothers within the country who offered their work, for little in return, to elevate this country and uphold its values. This should be apart from their direct contributions through compulsory payments that are levies for the dignity of their country and its strength and the independence of its decisions and freedom in what it says. I appeal to them once again to return home so that they may not miss [word indistinct] the rehabilitation of the country, and their reward will be from God. [passage omitted]

The revolution will provide the forces for general security that ensure the basic security of the homeland with all its means of development, to ensure the homeland's security in a world lacking in freedom and complete peace. In this regard I want, brothers, to refer to one of the important concepts that the revolution has worked to establish, namely, society's security. At the beginning, the revolution adopted a number of exceptional measures to ensure the security of the country and the people and to protect the nascent revolution. It was aware that the country, being in a state of war, was experiencing [words indistinct] and hour by hour to the extent that no one was safe in his home. The curfew measures that were initiated for military security were continued for society's security and to combat social evils. However, today we are proud and thank God that we have one of the safest capitals [words indistinct].

From here I direct the relevant authorities to lift the curfew measures...[prolonged applause] throughout the homeland with immediate effect while taking into consideration the regulations which prevent (?the breakdown) of security as a result of that. [passage omitted]

The revolution will renew its interest in the Muslim scholars [ulema] who are the descendants of the prophets. It will provide meetings for them to exchange ideas and advice and to foster Islamic scholarship and

the call to Islam. The coming stage will see an extensive interest in mosques, which are houses for the worship of God. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, constitutional Decree No. 7, which laid down the foundations of the Republic of Sudan, stressed that the country's foreign policy will be managed with dignity, and independently, without isolation or national bigotry, through regional and international relations for mutual understanding and cooperation and human unity, in a spirit which guarantees justice and removes injustice from the world order. This will be the basis of our foreign policy which should see, in the coming phase, confirmation of this concept. [passage omitted]

We will embark on strengthening relations with our neighbors, and we will support regional and bilateral relations—IGADD, the PTA [Preferential Trade Area], and the OAU. [passage omitted]

We will continue our cordial relations with our Arab brothers at the state and peoples' levels. [passage omitted]

I declare that we welcome the evacuation of international forces from fraternal Somalia and support a political solution to the problem. We declare our readiness to participate effectively to find a just solution so that peace can be restored to that dear fraternal land. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, Sudan will continue to support the causes of Muslims in the world because this is an obligation dictated by religion and imposed by the (?voice) of human justice. We address an appeal to all the Muslims of the world that the time has come to unite our voices and strengthen our determination to remove the injustices imposed on any part of the Islamic body. [passage omitted]

This is my way, and let us pray to God to give us and those who come after us insight. God be praised and God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all.