



European Commission donates 22 Vehicles to North and Southern Sudan DDR Commissions

Khartoum, 11 August 2009 – The European Commission Delegation in Sudan together with UNDP handed over twenty-two vehicles to the North and Southern Sudan DDR Commissions (N/SDDRC) at an official ceremony today at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum. Senior governmental officials, representatives of North and Southern DDR Commissions, representatives of the international donor community and the United Nations attended the ceremony. Using funds from the European Commission, UNDP procured these vehicles to assist the N/SSDDRC to carryout their activities in each state as well as to monitor the DDR participants as they embark on their transition into civilian life.

The cars were handed over to H.E. General Bakri Hassan Saleh, the Chairman of the National DDR Coordination Council by H.E. Ambassador Carlo De Filippi, the Head of Delegation of the European Commission in Sudan, who addressed the audience reaffirming the European Commission's strong commitment to DDR implementation and the realization of the CPA.



In his address, UNDP's Country Director, Jorgen Lissner said, "The progress made in the past year on DDR has become one of the success stories of CPA implementation. As of last week, over 10.000 ex-combatants have been demobilized in Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan and Central

Equatoria States. Despite the successes of DDR thus far, numerous challenges remain. I call on the GONU and GOSS to ensure that their offices are adequately staffed and that their staff has the operational support to their jobs effectively. In addition, the international community as witnesses to the CPA must ensure that adequate funds are made available for reintegration," he added.

Acknowledging the significant contribution of the European Commission, General Bakri noted "The impact of this donation will be the actual results that will be achieved by the commissions in reaching the targeted beneficiaries and monitoring the concerned projects to ensure the success of the programme." General Bakri also called for increased support from international partners.

The objective of DDR is to ensure that demobilized combatants are properly reintegrated into civilian life. Once ex-combatants are demobilized they will receive reintegration packages such as livestock, small business, vocational training, and so forth. Afterwards the two commissions with UN support, must monitor them to ensure that they do not return to fighting and that they are making a decent living for themselves and their families. The donated vehicles will assist caseworkers to cover the areas in which ex-combatants reintegrate as well as provide logistical support for the day-to-day operations of the commission state offices across Sudan.

With support from the international community, a total of 180,000 participants from North and Southern Sudan stand to benefit from DDR by leaving military life and reintegrating into society. The Sudan DDR programme will be operationally managed by the North Sudan and Southern Sudan DDR Commissions with technical and logistical support from UNDP and UNMIS. Signed on 9 January 2005, the CPA ended the longest civil war in Africa. The DDR programme formed a key part of this agreement

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