



## Deputy Speakers endorse resolutions for peaceful co-existence

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*Hon. Hannah Lona Bona of WESLA and Hon. Nhial Enoch of LSLA sign peace resolutions.*

**T**he Deputy Speakers of Western Equatoria and Lakes State Legislative Assemblies on 29th March 2014 endorsed 16 resolutions to promote peaceful co-existence between farmers and pastoralists in the two States. A two day dialogue which turned to three days was organized by ONAD in collaboration with United States Institute of Peace (USIP) aimed at reducing violent clashes between pastoralists

and farmers in Yirol West and Mvolo counties.

In her closing remarks, Hon. Hannah Lona Bona of WESLA appealed to farmers and pastoralists to cooperate to promote mutual economic benefit for both communities and the country at large. She posed a questions to the participants, "what if pastoralists give some of their cattle to farmers for ox plugging to

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# Citizens' contribution in the peace process is paramount!



*ONAD Director, Mr. Moses Monday*

**F**or South Sudan to have sustainable peace, peace actors must consider inclusivity of the peace making process to ensure citizens contribute in conflict resolution and transformation to achieve a lasting peace. While encouraging people to people peace initiatives. As the country, IGAD and its partners and civil society strive to make peace to restore hope and prosperity in South Sudan, communities must transform their bitterness and build mutual relations through dialogue, forgiveness, reconciliation, peace and justice.

In its customary effort to promote peace and reconciliation in the country, this time ONAD brought together pastoralists and crop farmers to dialogue in order to come up with resolutions on how to transform the challenges that arise from the nature of work they do. Cattle keepers and crop farmers through such round table had opportunities to interact with their politicians and the government delegates in expressing their views. This issue focuses on the important role citizens can play in the peace making processes.

## Civil society calls for immediate stopping of armed conflict in South Sudan

Bearing in mind that peace processes are as important as the end result and considering the crucial role the civil society plays in peace building, more than 50 representatives of civil society including ONAD met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for a four day consultation 15-17th March 2014. The meeting held under the theme “sustainable peace is a collective effort” drew participants from national NGOs, faith based institutions, people with disabilities,

academics, professionals, youth, women and think tanks. Briefing the staff upon arrival, Mr. Moses Monday emphasized the recommendations calling on warring parties to immediately stop the ongoing armed conflict and open humanitarian corridors to deliver humanitarian assistance to the affected and needy people. He also reported that IGAD was urged to accredit and support involvement of representatives of the

civil society to the peace process as an important stakeholder among others. He added that “if the peace is for us, then it cannot be made without us.” The civil society has contributed indirectly in the signing of the Com-

prehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, but contributed directly in 2010 general elections and Referendum processes in 2011 which led to the declaration of the independence of the Republic of South Sudan on the 9th of July 2011.



*Civil Society delegates in Addis Ababa consult on how to contribute in the Peace talks.*

## ONAD donates pens to school girls and boys in Lanyi

By Flora Francis

When we arrived Lanyi a Boma in Mundri East County of Western Equatoria State, a small school girl having realized organization's vehicle approached us. It was not for a lift or some money. Surprisingly, the little girl Gyinigwa Sebit asked for some pens. "We lack school materials in our schools and local shops", she said. "We sell mangoes to buy school materials from Juba", she explained. Fortunately, we had some pens in our training toolbox. This was emptied to enable school children catch up with their schools as education is the way of peace. ONAD urges relevant partners to support schools in Lanyi and other needy rural areas in South Sudan.



Children and women express joy as they display the pens donated by ONAD

# ONAD staff and volunteers fast to support IDPs



ONAD, staff and volunteers

In less than three years of its independence, South Sudan found itself in armed and violent conflict.

The unrest which started in mid December 2013 displaced close to a million people all across the country. With the start of the rain season, the suffering of internally displaced persons (IDPs) increases.

Although ONAD has no mandate for humanitarian assistance or relief, the organization visited number of IDPs in Juba and Paloc in Lakes State to acquaint itself with situation of IDPs. After briefing in a monthly staff meeting held in Juba, All staff and volunteers decided to fast for ten working days and donated their launch money to assist the IDPs.

The fasting which started on 2nd to 15th April 2014 raised resources used to purchase some seeds, second hand cloths and food stuff for IDPs. The motion which was raised by Mr. Lupayi James was unanimously supported. Commenting on the decision, the Director of the organization Mr. Moses Monday hailed the spirit of solidarity with the needy adding that; the deteriorating humanitarian situation in our country appeals to all local and international organizations for help regardless of our mandates. He argued the warring parties to respect cessation of hostilities agreement signed on January 23rd 2014 and allow opening of humanitarian corridors to reach the needy in the affected areas.

# Deputy Speakers endorse resolutions for peaceful co-existence

## From page 1

increase food crop productivity and farmers in turn supply the pastoralists with enough food to ensure food security?”. She further told the participants to implement the peace resolutions so as to see changed relationships, assuring the meeting that she will inform the leadership of the State about the conference resolutions for immediate implementation. Mean while, Hon. Nhial Enoch of Lakes State Legislative Assembly expressed disappointment that cattle has become a source of insecurity instead of livelihood and economic growth. He added that pastoralists kill themselves because of cattle while others destroy crops of farming community. “This practice has to halt!” Both pastoralists and farmers need to modernize their livelihood to promote economic growth. He revealed that people need basic services and development. But he said that security and peace are keys to development. He thanked ONAD for facilitating the dialogue and assured his government’s support to implement the resolutions. It’s worth mention-

ing, that the dialogue adapted resolutions and formed early warning working group with representatives from



*Commissioners at dialogue*

both sides to review, follow implementation of March 2014 resolutions and proactively monitor the situation on the ground for timely conflict prevention and management. The dialogue urged inclusion of Terekaka County of Central Equatoria State in the dialogue since the county borders conflict prone areas and called for continuous capacity building for farmers and pastoralists to consolidate peace among others. The Lakes State delegation was led by Hon. Nhial Enoch Deputy Speaker of Lakes

State Legislative Assembly (LSLA), Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement Agency, Security Adviser

(Hon. Marial Amoum), Commissioners of Yirol West and Rumbek East, two MPs, Cattle Camp Chiefs, youth, women representatives and Church leaders. On the other hand, Western Equatoria delegation was headed by Hon. Hannah Lona, Deputy Speaker of Western Equatoria State Legislative Assembly (WESLA), Minister of Gender and Social Welfare, Deputy Secretary General of State Government, Commissioners of Mvolo, Mundri West and Mundri East, Bishop of Diocese of Mundri Rt.Rev. Bismark Mon-

day, Bishop Sylvester Sunday of Pentecostal Church, Chiefs, community leaders, women, youth, MRDA, Jaragalla Women Multi-purpose Cooperative Society, Farmers Union and other community based organizations. The dialogue was facilitated by Associate Professor Simon Monoja of Centre for Peace and Development Studies-University of Juba, Light Wilson and Moses Monday from ONAD. The dialogue was covered by South Sudan Television, Radio Miraya and Eye Radio among others.

It’s worth noting that increased human and livestock populations have resulted in increased competition for resources particularly land, pasture and water. This has contributed significantly to the inter-communal conflicts between communities of Mvolo and Yirol West and especially between pastoralists and farmers. However, the baseline assessment carried out by ONAD in December, 2013 has revealed that there is need to involve top community and political leaders to engage with pastoralists and farmers to peacefully settle the political, social and economic conflicts.

# Mabour lost all cattle to raiders



*Mabour, standing on the right wearing an African attire narrating his story to delegates*

"I thought raiding cattle is the only alternative to get back my stolen cattle, but it didn't work for me", confessed Mabur Mabour a youth and a herder who lost all his cattle to raiders in 2010. "It was while I was rearing my cattle along the river bank in Rumbek East that the raiders took all my cattle. I was left with nothing and made up my mind to retaliate by raiding cattle from Rumbek

East in the struggle to regain the stolen flock. I had thought that If am to pay bride price and get married, then I have to go raiding too". "I was arrested by police officers because information had immediately reached them that there was cattle raided. I was arrested and asked for the where about of the cattle. I admitted having raided cattle and revealed the bush where I had

hidden the cattle. Being escorted by two police officers, I returned all the cattle that I had raided, and was left with nothing. To this day, I am unmarried because I have no cattle to pay for bride price. And this is a long term memory that I shall never forget. 'Now that the police recovered the cattle I raided. What about mine?', he asked". Enforcement of law and

order and the Rule of law can reduce cattle raiding. However, Mabut's only hope for marriage is when her sister gets married. "If dowry is paid after my sister, then I will be able to clear the bride price for the lady I am engaged to", he told the participants while swinging the bids that hang on his neck. The three bids representing his position in the contest for the lady he intends to marry.

# Women (Participants) narrate their stories as they celebrate the International Women’s Day

## Mama Nyankouh’s testimony on forced marriage

**M**ama Nyankouch, a participant and a mother to a primary six drop out, tells the story of how her daughter got out of school. “When my daughter first experienced her menstruation circle in 2012 at the age of thirteen and in primary six, my husband woke up one morning and told me that our daughter is ready for marriage and therefore had to marry a

man of his(father’s) choice”, as she narrated the story, her continence fell.

She was disappointed by her husband’s decision. She could not wait any longer, but rather went straight to her daughter, and disclosed the father’s intention to her. “My daughter withdrew the smile

and replaced it with a frown. She gauged and saw how her future was getting ruined. Being forced to leave school, and marrying a man in his fifties yet

not of her choice” was painful. “This is too sad, my future has been ru-

“When my daughter first experienced her menstruation circle in 2012 at the age of thirteen and in primary six, my husband woke up one morning and told me that our daughter is ready for marriage and therefore had to marry a man of his(father’s)choice”,

ined by my father”, the girl often reiterated. The girl, now a mother of a baby boy cannot participate in any decision making process of the family, nor does she know how to do domestic work for the

family as deemed by culture. This was during an exclusive interview with ONAD in her residence in Mapourdit a Payam fifty miles away from Yirol West County. According to Mama Nyankouch, in her community and elsewhere in Lakes State, girls are viewed as a source of wealth and worse again “people have cultural belief that the younger a girl gets married the higher probability of giving birth to many children”, she added. We want empowerment to transform our culture to better. Parents must be educated on the importance of girl child education and the dangers of early and forced marriages.

*To be continued in page 8*



*Women delegates on panel discussion in Pastrolists-Farmers’ Dialogue in Mundri*

## Poem: I am Sorry

I cannot sleep; I cannot eat  
until I tell you I'm sorry.  
What I did wasn't right  
and I want to apologize.  
I hope we can go back  
to how we were before.  
Because I can't bear  
this pain anymore.

My heart is hurting, my eyes are red  
and I wish I could take it back.  
Please give me a chance to apologize  
and to make things right.  
I know that I have hurt you  
and wish I could take it back.  
I wish I could turn back the hours  
and do it all over again.

Those words should not have been spoken  
the deed should not have been done.  
But I realize that I was very wrong  
and that I hurt your feelings badly.  
So I ask you for your forgiveness  
and hope that we are still friends.

### FREE BUT STILL IN CHAINS

Love, yes. Hatred, no  
Respect, yes. Silence, no  
Friendship, yes. Rivalry, no  
Equality, yes. Racism, no  
Peace, yes. War, no.

Prepared by: Samuel Mabor Alit  
from Yirol West county of Lakes State

# Married to the dead

"I was married to the dead and now with seven children said Achol W. Deng. It all started with a woman befriending me who later on proposed to marry me to her brother which I later knew was her dead brother. With pressure from my family I accepted the marriage. One of their brothers then showed up and with him we bore seven children in the name of the late. I suffered living with some-

one I did not love. She was then interrupted by Nyinagock Atem who said "This type of marriage is culturally accepted but contradicts the bill of rights in the transitional constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (referring to article 15) which says; "every person of marriageable age shall have the right to marry a person of the opposite sex and found a family according to their respective family laws, and no marriage shall be entered into

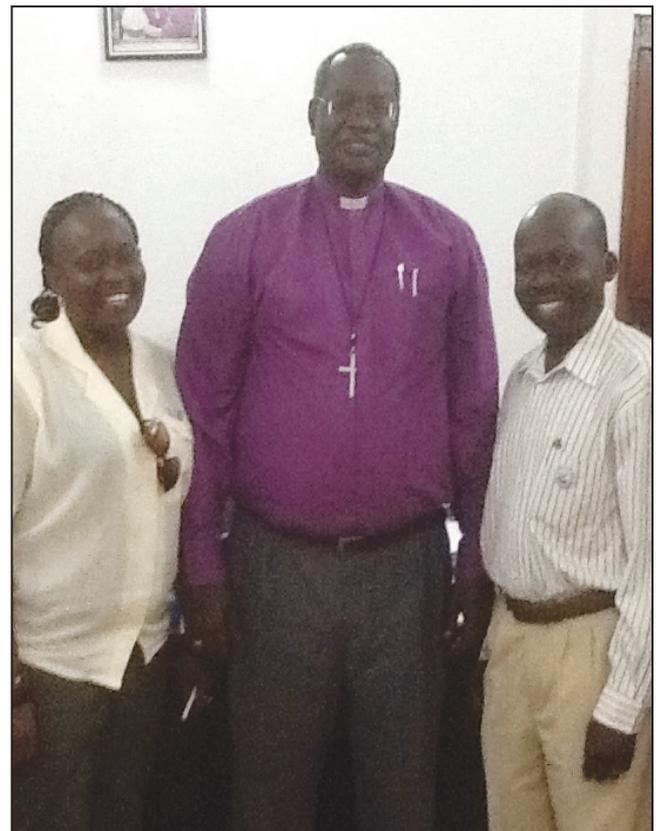
without the free and full consent of the man and woman intending to marry". We need family act to interpret this article and rescue women from cultural and customs abuse". Added Mrs. Atem who appeared to have undergone through some level of civic and formal education. This was during a trauma healing and nonviolence workshops, "Sorry for interruption!" She apologized and asked Mrs. Deng to continue

her story. I was a victim because I do not know my rights and after I attended ONAD's human rights and nonviolence trainings, I realized we women are so passive and that made us vulnerable for abuse. We have to speak up for ourselves against cultural and all forms of violence she added. I have learnt my lesson but my daughters will never again be married to the dead husband. I want them to live a happy life." She concluded.

## Peace and reconciliation is needed in S. Sudan; says Archbishop Daniel Deng

The Chairperson for the Committee for National Healing, Peace and Reconciliation (CNHPR) Archbishop Dr. Daniel Deng Bol said "peace and reconciliation is needed in South Sudan" adding that; this can only happen with collective efforts. As a Chairperson of the committee, I welcome ONAD and civil society organizations to contribute in both CNHPR and National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation "NPPR" a platform I co-chair. He made this remarks while meeting ONAD team in his office on 12th March 2014. The meeting discussed how civil society and faith based groups can work together to contribute to the ongoing

peace talks. ONAD on her part, briefed His grace the Archbishop about its work as a branch of International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) in South Sudan that works for a nonviolent, peaceful and democratic Country through trainings and advocacy in; nonviolence and peacebuilding, governance and civic education, community empowerment and gender and organizational development. ONAD has been working on reconciliation in South Sudan and Sudan for the last 19 years across ethnic and religious divides as well as with the youth in the Republic of South Sudan. The organization's team which was headed by Mr. Moses John and



**Archb. Daniel with ONAD team**

membership of Ms. Rose Isaac and Moses Taban also handed to the Archbishop a draft baseline assessment on pastoralists-farmers dialogue between

Yirol West and Mvolo counties. The meeting also updated His grace about the forthcoming 100 anniversary of IFOR early August in Konstanz, Germany.

# Coherent Peace building Policy discussed

On invitation of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), a Regional Civil Society organization based in South Africa, ONAD participated in a 2-day seminar under the theme; "Towards a More Coherent

Peace building Policy Community" from 19th – 20th, February 2014 Johannesburg, South Africa. The seminar brought high profiled personalities from the UN systems; Academic and Research Institutions, various government Ministries and Commissions, civil society

different frameworks and reduced interdependence between actors that unite the peace building system. Commenting about the success and way forward for the seminar; Mr. Light Wilson Aganwa, a Board member who represented the organization said

**Most pastoralists cultivate and produce food crops and few farmers keep livestock**

In a similar meeting with Chairperson of Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPRC), Hon. Chol Ram-bang, ONAD briefed the Chairperson on its pastoralist and farmers dialogue for sustainable peace in South Sudan. On his part the Chairperson, commented the role being played by ONAD in promoting peace and reconciliation in the country urging the later to continue fighting tribalism and promote ethnic tolerance. He added; that pastoralists and farmers need to understand their interests and live in harmony with each other; he said "most pastoralists cultivate and produce food crops and few farmers do keep livestock. Both groups need to understand and protect their economic interests without harming each other".



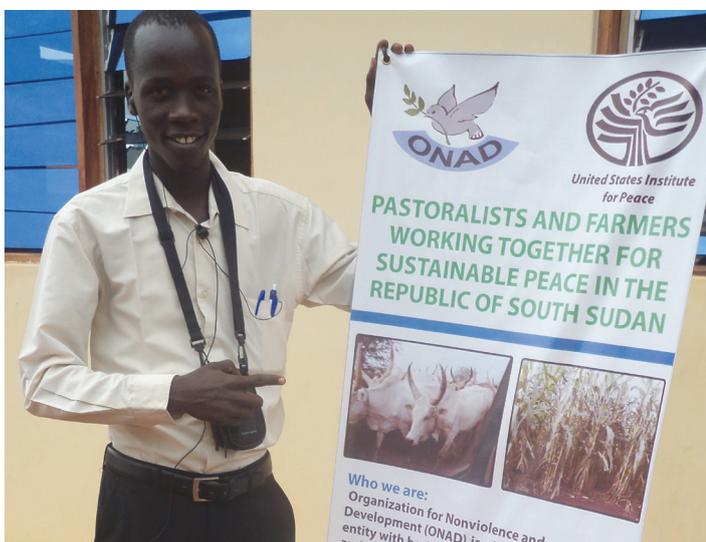
**Mr. Light Wilson, ONAD Board member**

and political parties. The seminar discussed opportunities for coherence and coordination of peacebuilding interventions for greater success and sustainability. At the heart of dialogue was discussions on challenges to change and adapt actions of other actors, lack of a shared understanding of positive relationship between

" the seminar agreed that the engagement of various stakeholders in formulating a more coherent peacebuilding policy community is important and will bring about security, political stability, socio-economic development and reconciliation, and laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development not only in Africa but the world at large".

"An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind"  
-Gandhi

"Peace can not be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding"  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson



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