

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID Deputy Chief and DRA Chair Meet South Darfur Community, Assess Security



UNAMID DJSR Joseph Mutaboba delivers a speech in Buram, South Darfur, during an event to inaugurate several development projects undertaken in the area. The DJSR urged all combatants to put down their arms and to heed President Bashir's call for national dialogue. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

UNAMID DJSR Joseph Mutaboba travelled with Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) Chair Tijani Seisi on 12 May 2014 to Buram, South Darfur, to meet with members of the local community, hear their concerns, assess the security situation and discuss progress on the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).

As part of the trip to Buram, where UNAMID has an operating base, the DJSR and the DRA Chair met with South Darfur Governor Adam Mahmoud Jar El-Nabi, the Nazir of Habaniya and Buram's Commissioner. They inaugurated several DRA projects, including a technical school and the foundation for what will later become Buram Hospital's Maternity Ward, and held discussions with local leaders, including members of native administration and tribal elders in the area.

In a speech delivered at the locality's headquarters, DJSR Mutaboba welcomed the DRA's work to restore harmony and peace in the area through im-

plementing such projects, and highlighted the importance of the Government of Sudan, the DRA and UNAMID working together to rebuild communities and create a stable security environment for peace to flourish.

"UNAMID is ever willing to extend logistics and substantive support to all initiatives and efforts in accordance with our mandate and within our limited resources," said the DJSR, who noted that the people of Darfur have suffered a decade of misery, with conflict and mutual mistrust blocking lasting and peaceful solutions. "Negotiations and dialogue are the best means to resolve disputes," he said. "Many African nations have gone through similar conflicts, but peace has only come through dialogue."

The DJSR urged all combatants to put down their arms and to heed President Bashir's call for national dialogue. "Dialogue is the best opportunity to secure the future of Darfur and Sudan," he said, noting that while UNAMID is mandated to support the DRA in the imple-

mentation of the DDPD, the pace of the Doha Document's implementation has been slower than expected.

"It is imperative that the backlog in the implementation of the DDPD is taken care of as soon as possible," he said. "UNAMID is willing and ready to support all DDPD-related activities."

DRA Chair Seisi, also addressing those gathered at the locality's headquarters, stressed the need for reconciliation. "People must embrace peace

and social coexistence, and must forget their grievances," he said, noting that weapons have been proliferating in Darfur, and threatening peace. "We call upon all armed movements to join the peace process," urged the DRA Chair.

"The Darfur Regional Authority and the citizens of Darfur are partners for achieving peace and development," the DRA Chair concluded. "We must concentrate on projects, in line with the DDPD, to meet people's needs."

Buram, a multi-ethnic locality situated approximately 50 kilometres from Sudan's border with South Sudan and located at the intersection of several travel routes, not only is a hub of international trade, but also is an area where residents frequently have been caught in the conflict between armed movements and Government forces.

With different tribes living in and around Buram, sporadic conflict related to competition over natural resources has emerged from time to time, but most residents have been living peacefully in recent months, thanks in part to local - level mediation initiatives supported by UNAMID. ■



Members of the Buram community celebrate the arrival of UNAMID DJSR Joseph Mutaboba and DRA Chair Tijani Seisi, who travelled to the South Darfur locality to meet with the Buram residents, hear their concerns, assess the security situation and discuss progress on the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

UNAMID Head Inaugurates Rural Courthouse, Meets Community Leaders

On 1 May 2014, UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSR) Mohamed Ibn Chambas visited the Malha and Mellit localities in North Darfur to inaugurate a new rural courthouse in Malha and meet with community leaders in Mellit.

In Malha, UNAMID's Rule of Law Section had partnered with Jibal Midoub Development Organization to build the new courthouse and bring judicial services closer to the people living in the remote area. The inauguration ceremony, attended by Chief Judge Taj El-sir Othman, Head of the North Darfur Judiciary, and Judge Alhadi Ali Abdallah, Head of the North Darfur Legal Department, drew hundreds of people from the locality.

In his speech at the event, JSR Chambas commended the partnership between UNAMID and the North Darfur judicial authorities. "Facilitating access to justice for remote and rural communities is the main purpose of this project," he said. "Today, we hand over this project to you to provide the opportunity for every man, woman and child to receive judicial services under Sudanese Law."

The JSR called the new courthouse "a significant step toward achieving peace, security and stability in Darfur," and noted that easy access to justice services promotes and reinforces the principles of rule of law, ensuring that ordinary individuals have readily available methods of addressing their grievances through peaceful and legal means.

Chief Judge Othman also delivered a speech during the inauguration ceremony, and said that justice is the fundamental basis of ruling nations and is indispensable for the peace, stability and prosperity of countries and communities. "I hope that this step will speed up the elevation of the rural court to a permanent courthouse for the locality very soon," said the Chief Judge, noting that UNAMID's contribution has led to the North Darfur Judicial Authority approving the creation of the offices of Prosecutor General and Attorney General in Malha.

In Mellit, JSR Chambas met with local leaders, including representatives from women's groups and civil society organizations. During his meetings, he emphasized UNAMID's role



On 1 May 2014, UNAMID JSR Mohamed Ibn Chambas visited the Malha and Mellit localities in North Darfur to inaugurate a new rural courthouse in Malha and meet with community leaders in Mellit. In his speech at the Malha inauguration, JSR Chambas commended the partnership between UNAMID and the North Darfur judicial authorities and called the new courthouse "a significant step toward achieving peace, security and stability in Darfur." Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

in peacekeeping and his role as Chief Mediator in relation to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).

"The DDPD remains the main framework for achieving hoped for peace in Darfur," said the JSR. "I welcome President Bashir's national dialogue initiative and encourage all parties to engage with it in a serious and determined effort toward achieving peace not only in Darfur but also in the whole of Sudan."

Additionally, the JSR briefed the Mellit community leaders on the outcomes of the Implementation Follow-up Commission meeting that was hosted on 28 April 2014 at UNAMID headquarters, where Qatari delegates signed a US\$88 million grant agreement to finance the recovery and reconstruction priorities of the Darfur Development Strategy launched at the International Donors Conference in Doha in April 2013. ■

UNAMID Supports Darfur Communities, Development

On 24 April 2014, UNAMID's Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) section, in collaboration with nongovernmental organization Child Development Foundation, inaugurated a Voluntary Testing and Counselling Centre at El Geneina's Teaching Hospital.

The centre, designed to support efforts to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS, was funded as part of UNAMID's community-based, labour-intensive projects (CLIPs) programme.

The centre is expected to

provide community members with specialised services, including confidential and voluntary testing, psychosocial counselling and treatment for those already living with HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases.

In addition, DDR officers, with support from the Jebel Marra Charity Organization for Rural Development (JMCO), a nongovernmental organization, launched a project to build a secondary school in Greida, South Darfur. The construction project will involve 60 young

people, who will receive on-the-job vocational training in masonry and electrical work.

One aspect of this project, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is focused on community security and arms control (CSAC). As part of this programme, local committees will form to resolve conflict, improve community security and raise awareness about the danger of small arms.

UNAMID's CLIPs programme focuses on peace and security at the community lev-

el, ensuring the involvement of these communities in the peace process. These projects are designed to support the efforts of the Government of Sudan in addressing the needs of at-risk young people and other vulnerable groups in communities and in camps for displaced people.

The projects focus not only on developing vocational skills, and in many cases facilitating on-the-job training through community infrastructure rehabilitation and construction, but also on fostering reconciliation across Darfur. ■