



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit

Communications & Public Information Office

PRESS RELEASE

Juba, 17 September, 2013

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Graduation Ceremony Mapel Training Center

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG) and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Hilde F. Johnson, and H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit, along with the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (NDDRC) will attend a graduation ceremony tomorrow for 290 ex-combatants at the DDR Training Center of Mapel, Western Bahr el Ghazal. This pilot phase of the DDR program will be the first to be completed under the new DDR program in South Sudan.

“The pilot phase is a key component of the new South Sudan DDR program and represents an important step in the process of deepening peace and stability in South Sudan, Hilde F. Johnson said. This Graduation ceremony marks the beginning of DDR in independent South Sudan, she added. Ex-combatants will now begin the process of going back to their States and communities, return to civilian life and participate in building their new country.”

Graduates have followed an intensive three-month residential vocational training aimed at helping them return to civilian life. The program includes life-skills training in agriculture, masonry, plumbing, mechanics and construction as well as classes in English literacy and numeracy. Participants were selected from the greater Bahr el Ghazal region - 18 of them are women.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) provided much of the design, development and provision of the vocational trainings while UNMISS Chinese Engineering Contingent supported the construction of the buildings on site.

UNMISS has also assisted local communities with the building of an Administration Office for the Payam, a police station with detention cells, a catering center and a market place in addition to seven shallow wells for potable water as well as agriculture and animal watering.

DDR is a government led program with support from key donors, and implementing partners.

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For further information or media enquiries,
Spokesperson: Ariane Quentier - quentier@un.org +211 912 177 770

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www.unmiss.unmissions.org

UN House Juba 03, P.O. Box 29, Juba, South Sudan