



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan

Ref: SRSR/POL.09.03/sk/10/004

24 March 2010

Excellency,

As the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan just arrived, I would like forward to your Excellency, fraternal greetings.

The Secretary-General acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 15 March 2010 in which you have claimed that UNMIS Electoral Assistance Division Chief Mr. James Ray Kennedy approved the local printing of ballot tickets for elections to the executive offices and that he had criticized opposition parties' demands in this regard in the media. I am responding to your letter on his behalf.

I would like to clarify that elections in Sudan are a nationally owned process and the United Nations' (UN) mandate remains limited to technical assistance and support only. Accordingly, the decision to print the aforementioned ballot tickets locally was taken solely, as it should be, by the National Election Commission (NEC). In this regard, I am attaching, for your information, a letter from the NEC to UNDP apprising the UN of this decision. With regard to Mr. Kennedy's criticism of the Opposition Parties' demands on the subject, Mr. Kennedy affirms he was clearly misquoted as his role in the elections is purely that of a technical expert.

Let me take this opportunity to assure you, Excellency, that the United Nations' position vis-à-vis elections in Sudan has remained consistent and will continue to be so. We believe these elections need to be free and fair and we will do all within our mandate to advise, encourage and assist that they be so.

Finally, I would once again reiterate the UN's technical support role in these elections and advise that all reservations on the process be raised directly with the NEC.

Please accept, your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Haile Menkerios', is written above the typed name.

Haile Menkerios
Special Representative of the Secretary-General
for the Sudan

H.E. Mubarak Elmahdi
Chairman – Umma Party Sudan