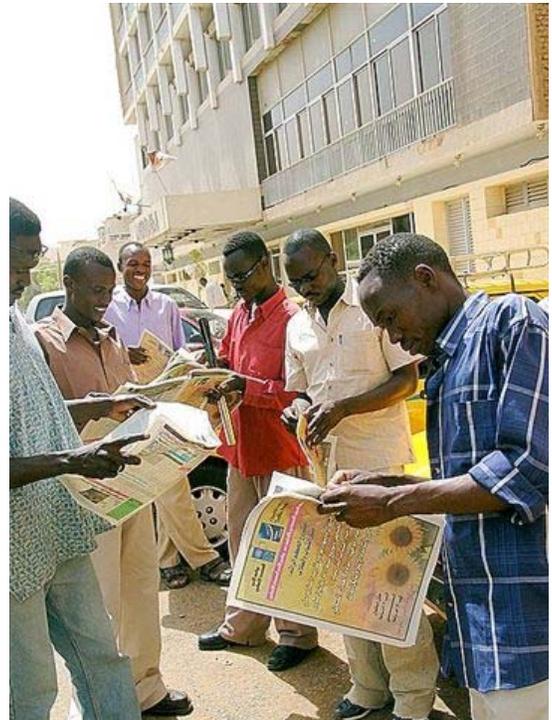


**Launch Of '*Minbar Al-Shabab*', The First Youth Newspaper In Sudan  
Success Of A Strong Partnership Between UNDP, The Netherlands Embassy, Teeba  
Press And Sudanese Youth**

**Khartoum, July 2 2006** - The '*Minbar Al-Shabab*', the first newspaper written and produced by Sudanese youth promoting the principles of good governance, was launched yesterday by the Minister of State for Information, Farah Ibrahim Agar, the Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Jerzy Skuratovicz, the Royal Netherlands Embassy's representative, Petra Hofs, and Teeba Press Director, Mohamed Latif. The launch also celebrated the successful completion of a comprehensive journalism training programme for the 50 students who founded the Arabic-language monthly newspaper.



For each issue, Teeba Press, the journalism training center that trained the 50 young students will print and distribute 5,000 copies of *Minbar Al-Shabab* (*the Youth Forum*). For five months, students from journalism departments, student unions, and a UNDP-supported youth forum, received training in all the skills of the trade; writing, editing, computer use, photography, image treating, and management, in addition to one-month in-house training in major Sudanese newspapers. The free newspaper is distributed in Khartoum State's schools, universities, youth NGOs and cultural centers.

"We support every effort that strengthens the capacities of media and press professionals. It is the media and the press that echo the pulse of the nation, and reflect its feelings, aspirations, customs and traditions. As Sudan is undergoing a transitional period through peace agreements - Naivasha, Cairo and Abuja - we believe that a competent and responsible press helps greatly in consolidating the peace processes", said Minister Agar addressing the launch ceremony.

"Today we celebrate the launch of the first monthly newspaper created by Sudanese youth. This publication is the happy outcome of the partnership between UNDP, the Dutch Embassy, without whose support this initiative would not have been possible, Teeba Press



and the promising young journalists. This partnership has produced a professional newspaper reflecting the new voice of young Sudan contributing to the growing trend towards public participation and debate on good governance and the importance of inclusiveness. I wish them every success in their important task”, said Jerzy Skuratowicz.

This journalism training programme is part of UNDP’s good governance and equity in political participation project which is fully funded by the Dutch Embassy (\$2,7 million). The broad objectives of the project are to increase the participation and leadership of Sudanese women and youth in political and public life, raise the awareness of the Sudanese public of good governance principles and the importance of the political participation of women and youth, and the improvement of the conditions for gender-sensitive policy reform.

All the articles in *Minbar Al-Shabab* focus on good governance, development and peace, and cover a wide range of issues from education, economy, gender, democracy, health and the ongoing implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

“*Minbar Al-Shabab* is written by Sudanese youth, for youth, about issues that matter most to us. For all future journalist like myself, it’s a dream that came true and we could’ve never done it alone”, said Rania Awad, a 22 year-old journalism student who benefited from the training and is now a contributing writer to the newspaper.

This media training programme and the birth of a youth newspaper are part of a broader partnership between the media, including print, Radio and TV outlets, and UNDP’s Good Governance and Equity in Political Participation project. The project is currently supporting the broadcast on both radio FM 100 and Blue Nile television of programmes addressing women and youth issues and encouraging their full participation in public life.

This year alone, at least three national newspapers, Al-Sudani, Al-Intibaha and Ray Al-Shaab, joined the Sudanese media landscape.

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