

International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

TOWARD A SUDAN FREE OF LANDMINES

On the 19th April, Sudan celebrated the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action at the Friendship Hall at Khartoum. The event was hosted by the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) in collaboration with National Mine Action organizations and was honored by the participation of the Vice President of the Republic of Sudan, Mr. Hassabu Mohamed Abd-El Rahman.

The day started by an exhibition where National and International Mine Action organisations displayed materials/videos and performed live demonstrations to raise awareness on the risks of Landmines and ERW. Contributing agencies include National Demining Units-NDUs, Friends of Peace and Development Organization-FPDO, JASMAR for Human Security, Global Aid Hand-GAH, Tawasol Alamal Charity for Patient Care and Rehabilitation of Disabled TACO-CORD in addition to two international Mine Action NGOs AAR Japan and The Development Initiative (TDI).

The formal session of the event held in the Presidential Hall was attended by Vice-President of the Republic, State Minister of Defense, Mr. Yahya Mohamed Khair, Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Humanitarian Affairs Commissions (HAC) and Military Engineering Unit of the Ministry of Defense in addition to representatives from the Republic Palace and National Assembly. The Ambassadors of Japan, Italy, Qatar and the African Union were also present as well as a representative from UNDP Crisis and Prevention Unit.



Vice President of the Republic of Sudan reiterated Sudan's commitment to meeting the Ottawa Treaty obligations.



"We extend our invitation to International Mine Action NGOs to assist us in our efforts to free Sudan from the impacts of Landmines and ERW" National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) Director, Salah Haj Bashir.

In his speech the Vice President thanked the United Nations and the international community for their efforts in Mine action in Sudan and praised the progress made last year in the East with declaring Togan and Hamdaite localities of Kassala State free of mines. He affirmed the government and the president commitment to support Mine Action, as an integral part of post conflict recovery, both politically and financially.

The Government of Sudan honored Italy, Japan, Qatar and the African Union for their support to Mine Action in Sudan. The honor emblem was received by the Ambassador of Japan, H.E Mr. Ryoichi Horie, the representative of Italy, the representative of the Embassy of Qatar, and the Ambassador for the African Union.

The event programme included speeches from Director of NMAC, Salah Al-Haj Bashir, UN Senior technical advisor to National Mine Action Center, Habibulhaq Javed and Representative of National Mine Action NGOs, Zaki Jack, FPDO Director.

The event ended with a segment of singing from Ahfad University of Women Coral and dancing from the public.