

# Peace deal for Sudan brings opportunity

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — An agreement to end two decades of civil war in Sudan not only brings the opportunity for millions of people to return home and begin new lives, it also gives investors an opening in a needy country with large oil reserves.

Experts predict that oil and gas companies will rush in to expand Sudan's oil production from the 345,000 barrels a day recorded in June 2004. The country has proven reserves of 635 million barrels, much of which could not be accessed during the war because of fighting.

Under the peace agreement signed Sunday, oil leases signed by the government during the war will be respected. The largest lease holders include the China National Petroleum Company, Malaysia's Petronas, ONGC Videsh Limited of India and Sudan's Sudapet.

That doesn't mean there aren't still many opportunities

French oil giant Total announced in late December that the company had renewed oil agreements with Sudan that were abandoned in 1985 because of the war.



Sudan's First Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha (on the left) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement leader John Garang show the signed peace accord at a ceremony in Kenya's capital Nairobi, on Sunday. The accord will end years of unrest and insurgency.

Sudan's energy ministry also announced that oil production will increase to 500,000 barrels a day.

The United States has enforced sanctions against Sudan for being a state sponsor of terrorism, but in the run-up to the peace agreement, Secretary of State Colin Powell promised that an end to fighting in southern Sudan would speed up the normalization of relations.

The U.S. government has

also made it easier for major companies to get exemptions from the sanctions.

The southern accord does not apply to the fighting in Darfur, a vast western region where tens of thousands of people have died in an almost 2-year-old conflict, pitting rebels against government forces and allied Arab militias, known as the Janjaweed.

U.S. oil companies have recently begun to show interest in Sudan's undeveloped

oil fields.

Houston-based Marathon Oil recently received permission from the U.S. government to sign a revised exploration and production sharing agreement with the Sudanese government related to interests held since 1983 with Total, Kuwait-based Kufpec and Sudan's national petroleum company, Marathon spokesman Paul Weeditz said Tuesday.

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# Angered King suing ESPN for \$2.5 billion

NEW YORK (AP) — Boxing promoter Don King filed a defamation suit Wednesday claiming he was portrayed in a false light in an ESPN "SportsCentury" segment aired last May, and his attorney said King is entitled to damages of more than \$2.5 billion.

The lawsuit says the program accused King of being "a snake oil salesman, a shameless huckster and worse," claimed the flamboyant promoter underpaid Muhammad Ali by \$1.2 million and claimed King — convicted in a 1967 beating death and acquitted in another killing in 1954 — "killed not once, but twice."

Most of the material in the program had been printed or broadcast earlier about King, who has spent much of his career in court, but he said he had just had enough.

"I just felt that this was the straw that broke the camel's back and I can't take it anymore, and I'm going to fight back," King said at a news conference. "I seek justice."

King, wearing a garish American flag tie and two flag lapel pins, then quietly stepped back and let lawyer Willie Gary answer questions.

Gary called the SportsCentury segment "a story designed to orchestrate and create an impression that is not there," and said the network had refused to retract parts of the program that offended King.

The suit, filed in state court in Broward County, Fla., names ESPN and its parent company, Walt Disney Co., among the defendants. Also named are Disney-owned ABC Cable Networks, which actually controls ESPN, and Advocate Communications, a Florida-based cable and satellite system.

"We have not seen a copy of the lawsuit, so we are not in a position to comment on it," said Mike Soltys, ESPN's vice president of communications. "However, SportsCentury is a Peabody- and Emmy-award winning

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## THE BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

WILL BE HOSTING A TRIBUTE DINNER

IN RECOGNITION OF

*State Senator Joe Neal*

*for 32 years of public service*

Friday, January 21, 2005

Nevada Partners Academy Events Center

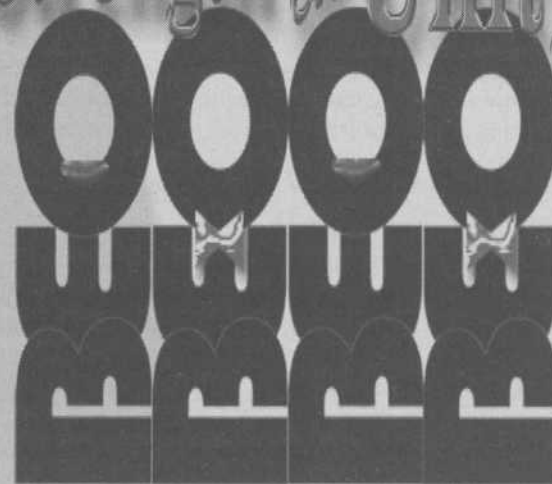
710 West Lake Mead Blvd.

6:00 p.m. - cocktails

7:00 p.m. - dinner

\$25 per person

Strength in Unity



Assemblyman Morse Arberry  
Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates  
Assemblyman Kelvin Atkinson  
School District Trustee Shirley Barber  
Commissioner Lynette Boggs McDonald  
Assemblyman William Home

State Senator Steven Horsford  
Regent Linda Howard  
Assemblyman Harvey Munford  
Councilman William Robinson  
Board of Education Trustee Marcia Washington  
Councilman Lawrence Weekly

Michael Chambliss, Executive Director

And the Dinner Host Committee

Bob Bailey  
Donald Clark  
Frank Hawkins

Steven Horsford, Chairperson  
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