

WORLD
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Sudan swears in civilian-majority ruling council

Khartoum, Sudan

Sudan took further steps in its transition towards civilian rule yesterday with the swearing in of a new sovereign council, to be followed by the appointment of a prime minister. The body replaces the Transitional Military Council (TMC) that took charge after deadly street protests brought down longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir in April.

As a result of yesterday's move, it was the first time that Sudan was not under full military rule since Bashir's coup d'état in 1989.

The first steps of the transition after the mass celebrations that marked the August 17 adoption of a transitional constitution proved difficult however.

The names of the joint civilian-military sovereign council's 11 members were eventually announced late Tuesday after differences within the opposition camp held up the process for two days.

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who already headed the TMC, was sworn in as the chairman of the new sovereign council in the morning.

Wearing his usual green beret and camouflage uniform, Burhan took the oath in a short

ceremony, one hand on the Koran and the other holding a military baton under his arm.

He will be Sudan's head of state for the first 21 months of the 39-month transition period, until a civilian takes over for the remainder.

The council's 10 other members were sworn shortly afterwards and Abdalla Hamdok, who was chosen by the opposition last week to be prime minister, was to be formally appointed later Wednesday.

The sovereign council includes two women, including a member of Sudan's Christian minority, and it will oversee the formation of a government and of a legislative body.

The inauguration of a civilian-dominated ruling council was welcomed by Khartoum residents but many warned the people would keep their new rulers in check.

The transition's key documents were signed on Saturday at a ceremony attended by a host of foreign dignitaries, signalling that Sudan could be on its way to shedding its pariah status. Sudan's new rulers are expected to push for the lifting of the suspension from the African Union and to have the country removed from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism.



Aisha Mousa (C, front), a civilian member of Sudan's new sovereign council that will head the country during its three-year transition to civilian rule, speaks while flanked by other council members Raja Nicolas Abdel Massih (L), Mohamed al-Fakki Suleiman (C, behind), and Hassan Sheikh Idris (R) during a press conference after being sworn-in, in the capital Khartoum



General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the head of Sudan's ruling military council, during a swearing in ceremony

Mind the doors

Japan bullet train runs with door open at 280 kph



Representative picture (Courtesy of Outlook)

Tokyo, Japan

A Japanese bullet train hurtling along at 280 kilometres (174 miles) per hour ran for nearly a minute with one of its doors completely open yesterday, its operator said.

The accident, due to human error, was a rare mishap for the Japanese "Shinkansen" bullet train which has a world-famous safety and punctuality record.

The Tokyo-bound Hayabusa No. 46 train screeched to an emergency stop in a tunnel shortly after leaving Sendai station in northeastern Japan when the conductor saw a warning light that the door of the ninth carriage was open, East Japan Railway said.

"The conductor checked the carriage and found that the

door was completely open," a company spokesman told AFP.

"Some 340 passengers were on board but no one was injured," he said, adding that the train resumed its journey after a check-up.

"The incident occurred after a janitor mistakenly left the carriage door unlocked so that they could manually open and close," he added.

"We sincerely apologise for the incident," he said, adding that the company will take steps to prevent it happening again.

Japan is a pioneer in high-speed rail networks, hailed for their punctuality and safety measures, including the emergency stop system, which can automatically slow trains down before a major earthquake strikes.

AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY BAHRAIN BRANCH

Condensed statement of financial position As at 30 June 2019

	30 June 2019 (Unaudited) BD	31 December 2018 (Audited) BD
ASSETS		
Right-of-use assets	11,401	-
Property and equipment	7,095	7,882
Loans to policyholders	1,229,085	1,130,097
Investment securities:		
Available-for-sale	40,509,240	37,043,851
At fair value through profit or loss	27,833,375	25,668,807
Statutory deposits	150,228	147,730
Reinsurance contract assets	731,002	371,328
Premium debtors and other receivables	1,138,221	973,963
Cash and bank balances	3,603,790	5,234,784
Total assets	75,213,437	70,578,442
HEAD OFFICE EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Head Office equity		
Head Office account	8,568,607	7,127,027
Available-for-sale investments fair value reserve	1,128,817	(527,606)
Total Head Office equity	9,697,424	6,599,421
LIABILITIES		
Provision for employees' end of service indemnity	10,112	29,870
Insurance contract liabilities	61,441,935	60,659,021
Due to policyholders	1,061,133	978,211
Lease liabilities	11,541	-
Accounts payable	2,991,292	2,311,919
Total liabilities	65,516,013	63,979,021
Total Head Office equity and liabilities	75,213,437	70,578,442

Country Manager
Fadi Abou Ghali

About MetLife

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Condensed statement of profit or loss (unaudited) For the six month period ended 30 June 2019

	2019 BD	2018 BD
Income		
Gross insurance premium	7,366,010	7,087,825
Insurance premium ceded to reinsurers	(1,582,838)	(1,797,866)
Net insurance premium	5,783,172	5,289,959
Interest and other investment income	881,953	865,619
Commission income	128,564	163,202
Allowance for doubtful debts no longer required		
written back	13,849	17,377
Net income	6,807,538	6,336,157
Expenses		
Insurance claims and loss adjustment expenses	(1,648,433)	(1,733,693)
Insurance claims and loss adjustment expenses recovered from reinsurers	547,034	700,039
Insurance benefits	(3,221,756)	(2,773,560)
Expenses for the acquisition of insurance and investment contracts	(147,419)	(399,384)
Other operating expenses	(552,060)	(540,651)
	(5,022,634)	(4,747,249)
Profit for the period	1,784,904	1,588,908
Condensed statement of comprehensive income (unaudited) For the six month period ended 30 June 2019		
Profit for the period	1,784,904	1,588,908
Other comprehensive income/(loss):		
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Net changes in the fair value of available-for-sale investment securities	1,656,423	(1,147,836)
Total other comprehensive income / (loss) for the period	1,656,423	(1,147,836)
Total comprehensive income for the period	3,441,327	441,072

Auditors
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