

# P R E S S R E L E A S E

September 2, 2010



## Seminole Vice-Mayor Leslie Waters Attends Woman's Conference in Sudan

Waters speaks on the Floor of the Southern Sudan Parliament

Last month, Leslie Waters, former State Representative and currently serving as Seminole City Council Vice-Mayor, was one of several international speakers to present to over 100 attendees of The Southern Sudan Women Legislator's Conference in Juba, the Country's Capitol. The goal of the conference was to develop and expand the capacity of women legislators to contribute to effective governance of Southern Sudan.

Waters joined keynote speakers from South Africa, Uganda, and Nigeria. They discussed how to empower women in Sudan, how to prioritize issues impacting the health and security of women and families, how to promote gender-sensitive legislation, and the basics of gender-budgeting.

The Conference was attended by top level government officials including Dr. Riek Teny Machar, Vice-President of Southern Sudan, James Wannu Igga, Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, Michael Makuel, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and several other Government Ministers. Each spoke at the conference in support of the evolving role of women at all levels of Southern Sudan government.

The Conference was hosted by the Women's Democracy Network, a division of International Republican Institute ([www.iri.org](http://www.iri.org)), a non-profit organization based in Washington DC, and USAID, UNIFEM, and the government of Southern Sudan.

Councilor Waters said she *"was overwhelmed and impressed with the conference attendees' eagerness and desire to learn how to make a genuine impact on the quality of life of women in Southern Sudan"*.

Since 2004 IRI has sent Waters on other assignments to work with newly elected officials, political parties, political activists and political candidates in Southeast Asia, the Mideast and Africa.

Leslie Waters, Vice Mayor, City of Seminole

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