Tensions building ahead of Sudan referendum

Port Sudan o

Picture: Getty Images

The United Nations will move peacekeeping troops to the border between northern and southern Sudan and consider creating buffer zones to deter violence ahead of a referendum that could break up Africa's largest nation

EGYPT

▶ Jan 9 referendum:
Oil-producing South due
to vote on whether it will
remain part of Sudan or
become independent
▶ Abusis Pasidanto of

▶ Abyei: Residents of disputed oil-rich district will also vote on same day whether to stay with North or join South ▶ Delays: Preparations

for votes are seriously behind schedule, raising fears of conflict between two sides

Divisions: Mainly Christian and animist

southerners are widely expected to vote to secede from Muslimmajority

North

CHAD Khartoum **ERITREA** DARFUR Region in conflict since Abyei 2003 **FTHIOPIA** SOUTHERN CAR 400km SUDAN 250 miles Autonomous since 2005 Juba D R KFNYA CONGO **UGANDA** Peacekeepers: UN has about 10,600 troops

and police monitoring Sudan's 2005 peace agreement that ended two decades of civil war and called for vote on southern independence

LIBYA