

# Support to Southern Sudan Referendum Bulletin

October 2010



## Delivery of Referendum Equipment leaves Juba for the States

On 15<sup>th</sup> October the Deputy Chairman of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC), Justice Chan Reec Madut, officially received the referendum infrastructure equipment at the UNIRED warehouse in Juba, procured by the UNIRED 'Support to Southern Sudan Referendum project' (SSSR).



The event was attended by the UNDP Country Director, Mr. Claudio Caldarone (seen above with Justice Chan), representatives from the Netherlands Consulate, the Embassy of Japan and DFID (below left); and the media.



The equipment and supplies destined for the 10 State High Referendum Committee and 79 County Sub-Committee Offices in Southern Sudan include generators, motorcycles, computers, multi-purpose printers, office furniture and supplies.

The materials, worth a total of US\$ 7 million, are funded by the SSSR Basket Fund, a contribution of 9 international donors. Following remarks by the UNIRED Project Manager and the UNDP Country Director, Ms. Marjolein Jongman, head of office at the Netherlands Consulate in Juba, gave a short handover speech on behalf of the Basket Fund donors, explaining that this was not the only activity funded by the basket fund. Justice Chan expressed his appreciation of the timely arrival of the equipment and supplies, saying, "this help is indispensable ... and will go a long way in helping us achieve the referendum exercise." He thanked UNIRED and the Basket fund donors, referring to them as "our friends," and said "with this, the referendum is a now a reality."



**Examining a registration training kit during the tour of the warehouse**

Prior to the speeches, Justice Chan and the attending delegates were given a tour of the warehouse. UNIRED is also supporting the production and delivery of registration training kits for the referendum. The training kits have arrived and include training items such as indelible ink, thumb print pads, stamp pads, calculators, tunics for staff, tamper evident bags, and a barrier tape.

The **United Nations Integration Referendum and Electoral Division** (UNIRED) is providing integrated assistance to the referendum process as stipulated in UN Security Council Resolution 1919, which officially mandates the UN to provide technical support to the Southern Sudan referendum process. However, this remains a Sudanese process led by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission. The total budget of the UN SSSR project is US\$ 58 million and it is funded through the Basket Fund, a contribution from nine donors from the International Community, namely the Netherlands, Japan, United Kingdom, Canada, Norway, European Union, Sweden, Denmark and Australia. UNIRED integrates UNDP and UNMIS, who work closely with other UN agencies such as UNIFEM and IOM.



## Swearing-in of State High Referendum Committees and County Sub-Committees

The swearing-in ceremony of all ten State High Referendum Committees took place in Juba on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2010. The event was attended by the Chairman of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC), Dr, Ibrahim Khalil. The High Committees were entrusted to select the Sub-Committee members for all counties in their respective States, in collaboration with State and County authorities.



### Orientation workshop for State High Referendum Committees

The swearing-in of the members of the State High Committees was combined with a 2-day orientation workshop organised by UNIRED and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), in collaboration with SSRB. The orientation included a security briefing by Acting Inspector General of Southern Sudan Police, Lt. Gen. Gordon Kur, presentation of budget guidelines by the SSSR Project Manager, Azhar Malik, and an induction on voter education outreach, campaigning, domestic observation and monitoring, by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the International Republican Institute (IRI) and the Carter Center.



### Swearing-in of the County level Sub-Committees

The Deputy Chairman of the SSRC, Justice Chan Reec Madut, is currently touring the 10 States of Southern Sudan, accompanied by UNIRED staff, to witness the swearing-in of the county level Sub-Committees for the referendum. In his speech to the newly confirmed Sub-Committees in Malakal,

Justice Chan congratulated them and gave a brief update on progress of activities, including the arrival of office equipment and supplies for their offices, on its way to the States. He reiterated the importance of the Sub-Committees' task in ensuring that the "referendum is both impartial and peaceful, and freedom of speech is respected, be it for unity or separation".

In Unity State the High Committee have been forging ahead with their mandate, and presented to the Chairman a list of 285 selected registration centres and 855 registration committee members, for the Bureau's approval. They had also identified offices for all the 9 Sub-Committees in their State, and were in the process of negotiating the lease. A representative of the Netherlands Embassy Office in Juba, Mr. Robbert van Lanschot, also attended the swearing-in ceremony.



The dedication of the Referendum Committees in Unity State was also demonstrated by the efforts made by two county Sub-Committee members to attend the swearing-in ceremony. Abiemnhom County is inaccessible due to the rains, so the Sub-Committee members walked to the next County Mayom hoping to be picked up at Mayom in a vehicle to Bentiu for the ceremony. However when they got to Mayom, the vehicle had broken down so, together, the members of the two County Sub-Committees walked to the State capital, Bentiu, making it in time for the induction and ceremony.

In Jonglei State, Justice Chan repeated the importance of ensuring a credible and peaceful referendum and asked the newly sworn-in Sub Committees to ensure that at least one woman is selected in each of the registration committees. In support of the referendum activities in the State, the State Governor for Jonglei promised to deploy all the State organs during registration and polling to ensure a "peaceful, free and fair referendum" and added that his government will provide protection for processions both for and against separation.



## 12,000 Police Trained on Referendum Security



**Formed police unit in riot gear**



**Acting Inspector General at the training closing ceremony**

UNIRED in partnership with UN Police (UNPOL) is supporting strengthening of referendum security as part of the SSSR project. Out of a target 16,500 police officers, 11,941 have already been trained on referendum security. The 3-day training, held at the Dr. John Garang De Mabior Police Unified Training Centre in

Rajaf, Juba County, is ongoing and expected to be completed by the end of the month

UNIPOL is also training 1,840 formed Police Unit (FPU) officers on crowd and riot control, and VIP protection. The 42 day training has already seen through 200 graduates. Another 2,400 FPUs who already received the training a while ago, will undergo a 5-day refresher training.

Other security specialist training ongoing include training of 450 joint operation centre police in radio operations, 400 Medical First Responder (MFR), 200 criminal investigation specialist and 200 border police. On 19 October, 21 officers graduated from the MFR training in Central Equatorial State and the graduates included 13 female participants. The training involved CPR, treatment of fractures, bleeding control, choking and patient assessment, among other topics.



**Susan E. Rice (far left) watches a SSSPS security demonstration**



**Trainer teaching CPR to police on Medical First Responder course**

The police training centre in Rajaf recently hosted the visit of the US Ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice, and accompanying Senior US officials, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2010, attended by the UNIPOL Police Commissioner and senior government police authorities.

## First batch of United Nations Volunteers for UNIRED field support arrive in Juba

28 UN Volunteers arrived in Juba as of the 17<sup>th</sup> October for deployment across southern Sudan as UNIRED field support for the State High Referendum Committees and county sub-committees.

Some volunteers will be filling gaps at the state level, such as the position of operational officer, supporting the state referendum advisor. Others are being sent out to the county level as teams comprising a team leader, logistics officer, and training/public outreach officer. The

team are currently attending a 4-day induction programme.



During the first 2 days the volunteers were briefed on the history and current context of southern Sudan, including the Referendum Act, the structure of the SSRC and the CPA.

UNMIS staff working on civil affairs, protection of civilians and human rights briefed the trainees on what to expect in the field and how to participate in UNMIS monitoring.

The training also covers operational issues such as human resources, logistics, communications and how to work with all partners involved in the referendum process. Finally, the new UNVs spend two days studying the security procedures for the field.

## Vice-President Joins Women Representatives at Referendum Conference

Dr. Riek Machar, Vice President of Southern Sudan, addressed over 150 women leaders on the first day of the Southern Sudan Women's Conference on the 2011 Referendum. He was joined by other guests of honour, including Madam Agnes Kwaje Losuba, the Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and John Luk Jok, GoSS Minister for Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development. Dr. Machar emphasised that the priority is for the process to be free, fair and transparent, referring also to the presence of female members on the Oversight Committee.



**Dr Riek Machar addresses the conference**

The Conference, held from 12 – 14 October at the South Sudan Legislative Assembly House, was organised by the Office of the President of GoSS in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, with funding from UNIFEM through UNIRED. The women engaged in plenary and group discussions of a wide range of issues and listened to presentations from high-ranking speakers, many of whom were women.



Priscilla Nyanyang, Minister without portfolio at GoSS told the conference that although women constitute over 60% of the population in Southern Sudan, a lack of education and control over assets have impeded their ability to influence decisions. The referendum is therefore empowering women to determine the future of Sudan.

### **An historical responsibility**

Awut Deng, the Minister for Public Service, declared that it was a "historical responsibility" of women to make this referendum a success. She urged the women to go deep into their communities to ensure women are well informed

on information such as the location of their nearest registration and polling station.



**Mary Jervas Yak, Minister for Human Resources Development with Ms de Sousa Felicidade Guterres, Advisor to the Minister of Economy and Development – Timor Leste**

Women representatives from Eritrea, Kenya, Timor Leste and Uganda shared their experiences of female participation in referenda and elections, after which the conference made a series of recommendations such as the inclusion of women in the task force at all levels, the use of drama, dance and song to raise awareness and training of trainers for women. They urged women to act together, utilising the capacity of their organizations.



**Mr. David Gressly, UN Resident Coordinator**

Conference participants were also reminded that women can be polling officers and that grants are available for women's groups to conduct domestic observation or community mobilization. UNIRED is providing these funds in light of the significant logistical hurdles in travelling to remote areas, as well as other costs, that the women face. Despite the challenges, the women remain determined. As Awut Deng put it: "I am preparing to walk."



*For more details on any of the information included here, contact Jacqueline George at [Jacqueline.george@undp.org](mailto:Jacqueline.george@undp.org)*

