

ROLLOUT OF ICT EQUIPMENT TO SIX STATES

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On 13 August 2025, the United Nations Integrated Electoral Assistance Team (UNIEAT) successfully dispatched a consignment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment to strengthen electoral operations across the country.

The shipment included desktop computers, office printers, and Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems—essential tools for the smooth conduct of election activities.

This initiative is part of UNIEAT's ongoing commitment to enhance the technical and operational capacity of the National Election Commission (NEC) at the national level, as well as the State High Election Committees (SHECs) at the state level. By equipping these institutions with modern ICT equipment, UNIEAT seeks to facilitate efficient election administration and improved communication between the NEC and the SHECs.

The first phase of distribution covered six states: *Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal*. The remaining states will receive their consignments once renovation and construction of their offices are finalized.

The newly delivered ICT equipment is expected to play a critical role in improving preparedness at the state level, enabling electoral bodies to carry out their responsibilities more effectively. UNIEAT remains firmly committed to

supporting the NEC and SHECs as the country prepares for the upcoming elections.



Rumbek – Lakes State



Wau – Western Bahr el Ghazal



UNMISS Topping Logistics Base – Preparing to ship equipment to the States



Yambio – Western Equatoria State

ELECTION SECURITY COMMITTEE PRESENTS RESULTS OF THE JOINT ELECTION OPERATION CENTERS' ASSESSMENT

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On the 24th of July 2025, as part of preparations for the general elections scheduled for December 2026, the Election Security Committee (ESC), chaired by the National Police

Service (NPS), and includes representatives of the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the UN Integrated Electoral Assistance Team (UN IEAT) presented findings of assessments of NPS premises in 10 states and the Ruweng Administrative Area to the Acting Minister of Interior, the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission, representatives of civil society and the Senior Leadership of the National Police Service. The assessment exercises that began in February 2025 and that completed in July 2025 were to establish the requirements for the re-establishment of Joint Electoral Operations Centers (JEOCs) across the country. The assessment of the Greater Pibor Administrative Area is planned to take place in August 2025.



The establishment of JEOCs at the national and sub-national level are an important security, information sharing and coordination mechanism amongst relevant electoral stakeholders, namely the NEC, NPS, and the broader security apparatus of South Sudan. The assessments, conducted under the leadership of NPS, in partnership with the NEC and UN

IEAT, revealed that in all locations the pre-existing JEOC structures utilized for the 2010 elections and the 2011 referendum were badly damaged during the 2013 conflict, hence will require reconstruction and refurbishing.

The NPS and NEC expect the JEOCs to play an essential role as the key mechanism for election security coordination, including prevention of electoral violence and support election security operations. The recommendation of the ESC is to re-establish JEOCs in all states and administrative areas for election security coordination and support the building of trust and confidence for a credible, inclusive and peaceful electoral process across the country.

Under the auspices of the IGP, the Elections Security Committee presented the findings to raise awareness around the status of JEOCs and the need to allocate funding to the reconstruction and refurbishment of such electoral security structures.



NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION LAUNCHES MASTER TRAINER PROGRAM FOR CIVIC EDUCATORS

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On June 13, 2025, the National Elections Commission (NEC) commenced the rollout of a Master Trainers' Program for Civic Educators. This training program was rolled out in two sessions, from June 10-13 and 17-20, 2025, in Juba, and included 50 participants from the NEC, including representatives from the State High Elections Committees (SHEC), as well as state and non-state actors. The training was based on the NEC's civic and voter education strategy, with support from the United Nations Integrated Electoral Assistance Team (UN IEAT). In this context, the NEC training manual on civic education covers five topics: i) democracy; ii) governance; iii) human rights; iv) elections; and v) peacebuilding, and an additional program to support civic educators' presentation and training skills.



The training program aimed to assist NEC, SHEC, civil society, and other stakeholders in concepts, approaches, and activities on civic education to support a harmonized approach to civic education initiatives by the NEC and other electoral stakeholders in South Sudan.

The NEC has prioritized civic and voter education and sustained stakeholder engagement to bolster an electoral process that is transparent, inclusive, and peaceful. By the end of the program, two cohorts of master trainers were trained, a total of 50 trainers. Subsequent to this master training program, a training of trainers, composed of civil society, youth groups, and other stakeholders, will be rolled out at the state and county levels in order to support a nationwide electoral-focused civic education initiative.

“Forging partnerships and collaboration with key stakeholders such as state entities, civil society, media, and political parties will be instrumental in conducting a nationwide civic

and voter education program”, remarked Honorable Thabo Abosuh Ajang, NEC Commissioner responsible for civic and voter education.

Vice President for Economic Cluster, Dr. Benjamin Bol Mel meets with Chairperson of the National Elections Commission on Election Preparations

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On 13th May 2025, Vice President Dr. Benjamin Bol Mel held a consultative meeting with the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission (NEC), Prof. Abednego Akok Kacuol, to discuss ongoing preparations for the upcoming general elections scheduled in December 2026 – with particular focus on delivering credible and timely elections.



During the meeting, Prof. Akok presented a comprehensive progress report, outlining key milestones achieved over the past two years and the roadmap ahead as South Sudan approaches a defining moment in its democratic trajectory.

Vice President Dr. Benjamin Bol Mel reaffirmed the full support of the Government of His Excellency President Salva Kiir Mayardit in ensuring NEC is adequately resourced and empowered to fulfil its mandate.

He further emphasized the conduct of peaceful, fair, and credible elections is not only a national obligation but also essential to democratic growth and sustainable stability. The Vice President urged all institutions, stakeholders, and citizens to unite in the spirit of patriotism in this vital endeavor. The success of these elections depends on a collective commitment to ensure that every South Sudanese voice is heard, every vote counts, and that together, we build a future rooted in peace, democracy, and inclusive governance.

Stakeholders' Validation Workshop on Media Communication Strategy for General Election in South Sudan

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The Media Authority and the National Communication Authority (NCA) co-chaired a Stakeholders' workshop held on 7th May 2025 at Telecom House, Juba, under the theme "Unpacking Elections Media Communication Matrix". The event brought together key institutions including South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation (SSBC), the Information Commission and the Universal Service Access Fund (USAF), with guidance from the Competent Minister of ICT and Postal Services.



The workshop focused on the upcoming General Elections process to ensure transparency, inclusivity and credibility to reflect the democratic aspirations of the South Sudanese people. The program was centered around enhancing voter education to ensure that every eligible citizen is well-informed about their rights and responsibilities. It also aimed to promote peaceful participation by fostering an environment of tolerance and respect. Another strategy was designed to combat misinformation, providing accurate and reliable information to counter false narratives; and furthermore, to ensuring equitable media access to all political parties and empowering citizens to make informed decisions.



The workshop brought together representatives from a diverse range of stakeholder groups which included National Election Commission, Political Parties, Civil Society Organizations, Media Fraternity, UN Agencies, Donors, Academia, Government and Law Enforcement Agencies.

Opening remarks were delivered by senior government officials and stakeholders including Hon. George Lemi Yata (Spokesperson – National Election Commission), Hon. Oliver Mori Benjamin (Spokesperson – Transitional National Legislative Assembly), Hon. Elijah Alier Kuai (Managing Director, Media Authority) and Edmund Yakani (Executive Director – Community Empowerment for Progress Organization); among others.



This collaborative initiative demonstrated a unified commitment to strengthening media engagement and access to information during election.

NEC attends BRIDGE training on Boundary Delimitation and Voter Registration

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The National Election Commission (NEC) attended two customized modular workshops on Boundary Delimitation and Voter Registration in Juba supported by the United Nations Integrated Election Assistance Team (UN-IEAT). The trainings, held between 25-28 March and 1-4 April 2025, utilized the BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections), a comprehensive capacity development curriculum for election management bodies worldwide.



The two workshops brought together over 50 participants NEC Commissioners, members of the secretariat as well as members of the State High Election Committees (SHECs) from all 10 states.



The trainings were designed to equip NEC and electoral stakeholders with the knowledge to analyze implications of electoral boundary decisions and shed light on foundational principles of effective voter registration systems. The workshops are part of a capacity building series that provide platforms for electoral administrators to continue preparing South Sudan for its national elections scheduled in December 2026.

NEC engages Civil Society Organizations

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The National Elections Commission (NEC) held a stakeholder engagement consultative meeting on 17 January 2025 with a diverse group of civil society organizations (CSOs) including faith-based organizations, academia and media from South Sudan. The objective of the half-day engagement focused on raising awareness on the electoral process and key updates related to the electoral timeline and preparations.

Over 60 CSOs participated in the event who welcomed NEC's initiative to strengthen dialogue with electoral stakeholders and exchange crucial information about the progress of electoral preparations and challenges, such as proposed timelines for constitutional review, population census and elections, electoral legal framework and budget constraints.







This series of stakeholder engagements form part of the Commission's action plan adopted during a retreat in Entebbe, Uganda, in December 2024. The consultative meeting was NEC's

second stakeholder meeting, following a similar one held with political parties on 17 December 2024.

NEC Engages Political Parties in Crucial Electoral Preparations

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The National Elections Commission (NEC) held a stakeholder engagement consultative meeting on **17 December** with diverse political parties from South Sudan to discuss electoral

timelines, electoral preparations and enabling decision-making for credible elections. Twenty-six (26) registered political parties attended the event.

The NEC provided a detailed briefing to the participants on electoral achievements and challenges related to the National Election Act and the electoral timeline. Several issues were highlighted to the plenary, including but not limited to: (i) the outcomes of the recent operational planning workshop from 3-5 December 2024 in Entebbe; (ii) adoption of the two regulations on observers, media and party agents and election campaign; (iii) adoption and signing of the NEC Code of Conduct; (iv) development of a NEC civic and voter education strategy; and (v) updates on the refurbishment of the new State High Election Committee offices.

In an interactive spirit, political parties engaged in discussions with the NEC, and the latter appealed to the parties' support in taking critical decisions required to advance the electoral process. There was consensus among the group that while the Commission relies on legal frameworks to guide its mandate and work, collaboration with the political parties remained essential for progress. It was also encouraged by NEC Commissioners for all political parties to be well informed with the National Election Act. Several questions were raised at the conclusion of the event on a number of issues relating to the gaps in the legal framework, decisions on the population census and constitution-making process, the question of IDPs and refugees, NEC budget and fundraising efforts. It was agreed that more forums with political parties will be convened to foster relations and build civic and political space for effective citizens' engagement with democracy and elections.

NEC Press Conference and Website Launch

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Juba, South Sudan—NEC held a press conference to announce the outcome of the NEC Operational Planning retreat and launch the official website for the NEC. 56 participants from NEC, Media houses, international partners, and others attended this event.



During this press conference Honorable Professor Abednego Akok

Kacuol, the chairperson of the National Elections Commission (NEC), and Deputy Chairperson Honorable Gabriel Gabriel Deng briefed the participants on the outcome of the Operational Planning, adoption of regulations, and signing of the code of conduct. The Spokesperson of the NEC spokesperson, Honorable George Lemi Yata launched the website and took the participants through its contents.

The commission then answered questions raised by the media about the legal framework, budget and finance, and the website.

NEC Concludes Operational Planning Retreat in Entebbe

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The National Elections Commission held a successful operational planning retreat in Entebbe Uganda, attended by nine commissioners, two Secretariat Staff, and eight UN Integrated Electoral Assistance Team advisors.

The objective of this operational planning retreat was for the Commission to calibrate its priorities and establish an overall strategy for advancing its institutional readiness towards managing the electoral process that would enable the holding of the anticipated elections to be held in December 2026. Some of the objectives of the planning retreat

included:

- Review of R-ACSS extension timelines and identify key political decisions required for NEC to be able to deliver the December 2026 elections
- Define NEC's strategies and priorities.
- Define the method for drafting of the operational plan.
- Discuss Voter Registration and boundary delimitation processes and their implementation.
- Discuss the way forward towards Civic Voter Education and Education and Engagement
- Define the way forward for the review of the budget.

The outcome of this retreat was a ***communiqué*** and a set of action points that presented a coherent position that would guide the next set of engagements with the Government and other stakeholders. This engagement is aimed at strengthening the understanding of the challenges around the organization and conduct of the electoral process under the current conditions and it is expected that this understanding will foster informed and timely decision-making.