

PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme

For immediate release

Office of the President gets the tools it needs to work effectively

(14 May 2010 - Juba) Information and communication technology (ICT) has become the backbone of both public and private sector institutions. It enables organizations to manage and organize information more easily, monitor finances, and quickly interact with people all over the world, among other things.

With this in mind, 50 desktop and 30 laptop computers – along with supporting software and server units – were handed over to the Office of the President (OoP) today, to equip it with the tools it needs to function more effectively. A total of 40 staff recently completed a three month course on the use of Excel, Word, PowerPoint and the Internet, so this equipment will help them put this training into practice.

“I would like to sincerely thank the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) who are managing this project as well as the Governments of Norway and the United Kingdom who are funding it,” said H.E. Dr. Cirino Hiteng, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, at the hand over ceremony.

The initiative is part of a much broader programme to enhance the overall capacity of this important body.

Through the *Support to the Office of the President Project*, a number of key Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) strategies and policies are currently being designed and implemented. These include the National Vision as well the Millennium Development Goals attainment plan and a policy for Disaster Risk Reduction. Through training and mentoring, human resource capacity is also being improved and important financial management systems are being put in place, as well as building strategic communications capacity. An experienced policy advisor, Mrs. Liz Gaere, has been working in the OoP since 2009 to support these initiatives.

UNDP is also supporting GoSS in taking forward preparations for the 2011 referendum by: (i) planning for the conduct of a successful and peaceful referendum; and (ii) helping with post-referendum arrangements, and (iii) supporting GoSS to prepare for its future post-2011. A Southern Sudan 2011 Taskforce has been established to help co-ordinate this process and reach out to stakeholders at home and internationally.

“As the executive manager of the government, the role of the Office of the President is clear: it should facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to governance,” said Joe Feeney, UNDP Head of Office, earlier today. “My hope is that the support we are offering – both technical and infrastructural – will go some way towards strengthening this central state institution and achieving more creative, cross-sectoral thinking on key policy issues.”

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About UNDP

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.