



**SOUTHERN SUDAN REFERENDUM BUREAU
JUBA**

DATE: 13th JANUARY 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUBA – The Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau would like to take this opportunity on the fifth day of polling to address the concerns of the public and make a few announcements.

The first five days of polling have been conducted remarkably smoothly thanks to the professionalism of the staff and the thorough training they have received. The calm and peaceful atmosphere we are experiencing is also thanks to the people of Southern Sudan and their commitment to maintaining the peace and allowing all interested voters to participate in the process.

At the end of the fourth day of polling, with 86% of Referendum Centres reporting 2,360,922 people are confirmed to have voted in Southern Sudan. This exceeds the 60% threshold figure of 2,359,553 and therefore the Bureau is confident the threshold has been met.

The Bureau would like to make sure all voters in Southern Sudan are aware that the hours for voting have been extended. All Referendum Centres will be open everyday from 8am to 6pm until January 15. We encourage all interested voters to get to the Referendum Centres and vote as they have only two days left before the close of polls.

Bureau would also like to remind the people of Southern Sudan that we need to be patient and maintain calm while waiting for the results. While, we are enthusiastic to hear the results it is very important that the results be verified and checked to ensure the credibility of the process. Counting will begin in every Referendum Centre after all voting has concluded on the final day of polling and the results for each Referendum Centre will be posted for the public to view.

The results from every Referendum Centre will be brought to the County Sub-Committees, State High Committees and the Data Centre in Juba. I would like to explain that the results declared at the Referendum Centre, county and state level only apply to that geographical area and will need to be verified and checked through the data entry process. Additionally, any calculation of the overall results based on figures released at the county or state level are unofficial. Official announcements of preliminary results can only be made by the Commission after all results have been verified. Currently the results for Southern Sudan are expected on 30th of January, and the preliminary results for the entire process are scheduled to be announced by the Commission on the 2nd of February, 2011.

Once again, the Bureau would like to remind everybody that you must have your registration card to vote and that you can only vote where you registered. Finally, the Bureau calls on all the people to remain calm and patient while the results are being processed.

For more information please see our website: ssrbureau.org