



## SuNDE and SuGDE to Observe the Referendum with Over 3000 Volunteers Largest and Only Sudan Wide Domestic Observation Effort

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The Sudanese Network for Democratic Elections (SuNDE) and the Sudanese Group for Democracy and Elections (SuGDE) will train and deploy over 3000 volunteers to observe the Referendum polling, counting, and tabulation processes. Observers will be deployed in all 25 states of Sudan and in 76 out of 79 counties in Southern Sudan making the SuNDE and SuGDE the largest and only Sudan-wide domestic observation effort.

"Our observers will be present to observe the entire process from the beginning of polling through the tabulation of the results," said Lony Ruot, SuNDE Chairman. "We look forward to working and cooperating with all of the Referendum Officials during the polling, counting, and tabulation processes."

SuNDE and SuGDE will not release a statement on the conduct and outcome of the Referendum process until they have complete and comprehensive information from their observers for all 7 days of polling and counting.

All observers undergo extensive training on their roles and responsibilities and will record their observations using standardized forms. The information collected on the forms will be transmitted to a communication center in Juba where it will be entered into a database allowing SuNDE and SuGDE to quickly and accurately analyze their data and compare it across states and regions.

In addition, all SuNDE and SuGDE observers take a pledge of non-partisanship which commits them to staying neutral throughout the process and not actively advocating for either secession or unity.

"SuNDE and SuGDE would like to remind all voters that voting will take place over 7 days and that all votes will need to be tabulated before the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission can release official results," said Ali Mohamed Ali, SuGDE spokesperson. "Citizens and other stakeholders will need to be patient throughout this process."

SuNDE has set-up a Communication Center at Juba Raha Hotel where information from their observers will be processed and analyzed. All media inquires or requests for meetings should be directed to SuNDE's Policy and Advocacy Officer, Taban Silvio at 0477100295 or 095507407.

Visit the SuNDE website at [www.democracysudan.org](http://www.democracysudan.org) to find SuNDE's statements on the Referendum and other organizational information.

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