

Construction of a Broadcasting and Telecommunications Tower in South Sudan



Overview

South Sudan turns to China for support to rebuild and South Sudan has opened talks with China to secure technical and financial support for the China hands.

Key Takeaways

South Sudan has recently developed modern broadcasting and telecommunications infrastructure with Chinese support, including a 100-meter broadcasting tower and upgraded studio facilities for SSBC.

Key Projects and Developments

South Sudan has been actively rebuilding its broadcasting and telecommunications infrastructure, which suffered from years of conflict and underinvestment. A major milestone was the construction of a state-of-the-art broadcasting facility for the South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation (SSBC) in Juba, completed with Chinese technical and financial support. The project began in 2018 following a Memorandum of Understanding between Juba and Beijing and included a 100-meter self-supporting broadcast tower, a new television studio, production studio, and transmitter facilities . The facility spans approximately 2,400 square meters and incorporates modern digital broadcasting capabilities .

International Cooperation and Technical Support



China played a central role in the construction, providing both funding and technical expertise. Over 127 Chinese workers and 726 South Sudanese workers participated in the project, ensuring knowledge transfer and local capacity building . The Chinese government also committed to training SSBC technicians and engineers to operate and maintain the new equipment independently, enhancing long-term sustainability . This collaboration aligns with broader Chinese engagement in Africa, supporting digital infrastructure, connectivity, and broadcasting projects through grants, concessional loans, and technical assistance .

Community Radio and Regional Expansion

In addition to national broadcasting, efforts are underway to expand community radio coverage. UNESCO has invited bids for the supply of radio broadcast mast towers for stations in Terekeka, University of Juba, and Malakal, reflecting a focus on decentralized media access and local information dissemination . These smaller towers complement the national infrastructure, ensuring broader coverage across South Sudan.

Regulatory Framework

The National Communication Authority (NCA) oversees the development and regulation of telecommunications and broadcasting in South Sudan. Established under the National Communication Act of 2012, the NCA manages frequency allocation, spectrum licensing, equipment certification, and ICT service expansion to underserved areas . Any construction of broadcasting or telecommunications towers must comply with NCA regulations to ensure legal operation and technical standards.

Impact and Future Outlook

The upgraded broadcasting and telecommunications infrastructure is expected to enhance national coverage, improve information dissemination, and support civic processes, including voter education ahead of elections . The combination of modern towers, digital studios, and trained local personnel positions South Sudan to expand its media reach and strengthen communication networks across the country. In summary, South Sudan's broadcasting and telecommunications tower projects represent a strategic partnership with China, a commitment to modern digital infrastructure, and a focus on capacity building for local engineers, while regulatory oversight by the NCA ensures sustainable and compliant development .

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