



NATIONAL COMMUNICATION AUTHORITY REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

Press Statement

The incident of the attack on the Telecommunication Convoy in GPAA

On Thursday 23rd of May 2024, Universal Service and Access Fund (USAF) dispatched a convoy consisting of six trucks to deliver telecommunications towers and construction materials to Gumruk. They were ambushed by armed youth in the village of Eeret, Manyabol Payam of Greater Pibor Administration Area (GPAA).

The drivers and construction engineers were physically assaulted. One law enforcement personnel escorting the convoy was killed.

USAF, mandated by section 73 of the National Communication Act, 2012, to develop and deploy communication services to cover the entire population of South Sudan, to include, urban, rural and remote areas to ensure universal service and access.

The National Communication Authority (NCA) unequivocally condemns this violent attack on development efforts in the region. The GPAA community is in dire need of communication services. Many are currently without access to basic amenities like roads and reliable communication.

The NCA is in communications with both local and national authorities to prioritise the protection of network engineers and experts who are working tirelessly to extend services to rural areas. Despite these challenges, NCA and their partners remain committed to the goal of expanding connectivity to remote parts of the country to alleviate the communities in need.

The NCA reassures mobile network operators (MNOs) that their assets are secure and collaborative measures with state governments are being taken to enhance the safety of network personnel and infrastructure.

With a steadfast resolve to improve connectivity in rural regions nationwide, the NCA urges network operators to intensify their efforts in expanding and enhancing the quality of services throughout the country.

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