

10th – 16th June 2016

The digest provides highlights of economic issues in the print and electronic media on South Sudan. UNDP's interest is on how the economic issues affect human development and vice-versa.

Media Outlets:

1. Sudan Tribune
2. This Day
3. Radio Tamazuj
4. The Nation Mirror
5. All Africa

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WEEKLY MEDIA ECONOMIC DIGEST SOUTH SUDAN



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PRICES AND MARKET

Country to strengthen pound to avert total economy collapse: IMF Official

Dau Majok John: [This Day- 10 Jun. 2016](#)

The representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Dr. Philippe Benson said that the economy can collapse if the country has devaluated its local currency. He said the delegation of IMF were in South Sudan to discuss the economic crisis and to collaborate with the government to ensure that the economic gap is closed. He said the gap is about 1.1 billion dollars and to close this gap needs exerted effort between the government and international community, so that they are able to reduce the gap from 1.1 billion to 3.50 Million dollars. That will make South Sudan economy to be back to normal again. Benson uttered this statement during a workshop organized by the Ebony Center for Research and Strategic Studies yesterday in Quality Hotel of Juba. He alluded that massive auctioning of the hard currency by the Central Bank of South Sudan cannot help the economy to be stable but more frequently auctioning of the hard currency at the lower amount are preferably to fewer auctions with larger amounts. "Strengthening of the technical capacity of the Central Bank can ensure that policies of monetary are exercised adequately to provide a professional regulation of the system in the bank. [Also reported by Aurelius Simon Chopee in The Nation Mirror- 10 Jun. 2016: Auctioning fewer United States Dollars could mitigate decline in BSS Reserves](#)

UN supports construction of fish market in Jonglei state [Sudan Tribune- 16 Jun. 2016](#)

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) funded project, Quick Impact Project (QIP), which aimed to improve the fishery sector in Jonglei state, was launched in Bor after its completion on 15 June, 2016. Implemented by Humanitarian

Development Consortium, QIP created a fish market near the main fish landing site to improve the hygienic conditions associated with fish handling and storage. Speaking in Bor when the project was handed over to the community, the UNMISS head of field office; Debora Schein outlined the impact the project has achieved. "I am pleased that this fish market is an UNMISS quick impact project aimed at improving the sanitary conditions of the market, and the

hygienic conditions of handling, storing and selling fish which protects your health and that of the entire community", said Schein. She said the market was not only a place to buy food, but a place where people socialize, talk to each other and meet friends, which would promote peace among the people, as the function was attended by people living in town and displaced living in the POC in Bor.

BUSINESS

Lack of infrastructure harms service delivery, top official says

[Radio Tamazuj-15 Jun. 2016](#)

South Sudan lacks adequate roads and funding for service delivery, a top government official said on Tuesday. "The road sector currently in South Sudan lacks the infrastructure for effective performance in service delivery that includes AIDS services and poverty relief due to a decade of conflict," said Gabriel Makur, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Roads and bridges. Makur made the remarks at the Crown Hotel during a

workshop organized by Ministry of Roads and a United Nations agency. The workshop will discuss collaboration challenges, and ensure 'value for money', Makur said. "South Sudan has suffered from serious challenges including insufficient funds, lack of comprehensive road sector strategy and plan" Makur said. South Sudan has road network size of almost 17,900 Km according to the ministry.

Lopa County Commissioner accused MTN Company for falling to operate

[Taban Ayul: This Day- 15 Jun. 2016](#)

Lopa County Commissioner of Imotong State accused mobile Telecommunication Network (MTN) Company for its failure to operate in the whole of Eastern and Western Lopit area following its closure due to technical problem in February this year. The MTN booster was established in the area since early March 2015 to ease communication in the most remote part of Lopit area. In an exclusive interview yesterday with the Commissioner of Lopa County Severino Loful, he said that the MTN booster stopped functioning without MTN office informing the

County authority. The Commissioner stated that when they investigated the issue, they found that its fuel, dynamos, solar and batteries were taken by two MTN staff working identified as Emmanuel and Mustafa. He said when the two MTN staff were arrested for not taking legal procedures and when questioned, they told the county authority that the MTN Boss in Juba Main office told them to remove the solar and the batteries purposely to stop its operation because of lower traffic of MTN calling from that area.

ECONOMY AND PUBLIC FINANCE

Economic crisis cripples trade between Sudan and South Sudan

[Radio Tamazuj- 16 Jun. 2016](#)

Traders from the Meiram border area between Sudan and South Sudan say cross border trade has ground to a halt due to floundering economic conditions and intimidation from government forces. "The reason is the weakened South Sudanese Pound (SSP), and the pursuit of traders along the border by Sudanese government

forces" said Suleiman al Sharif, a trader in the area. He also said high taxes had been imposed on goods, which has limited trade. Trade between the two countries was officially opened this year for the first time since South Sudan gained independence in 2011.

South Sudan admits running short of cash to pay salaries

[Sudan Tribune- 16 Jun. 2016](#)

South Sudan government has grudgingly admitted falling short of cash to pay civil servants and for essential services, raising fears that such an open admission may lead to uncertainty and insolvency. Information Minister and government's official spokesperson, Michael Makuei Lueth, announced on Friday in a statement broadcasted by the state-owned South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation (SSBC) that the government has no money to make prompt payments to the employees, claiming he

himself has not been paid for the last three months and "did not complain." Lueth argued that people should not demand payments for months which were not paid but rather wait for the months ahead, asserting the government has no money to pay for accumulated and unpaid months. "There is no money, even myself I have not been paid for the last three months," said minister Lueth, in a statement broadcasted by the state-owned media.

South Sudan Fragile Economy Threatens Nascent Peace Gains – Experts

[Denis Elami: All Africa-12 Jun. 2016](#)

South Sudan's ever widening budget deficit and high inflation in the aftermath of two-year civil conflict and drop in global oil prices are threatening its nascent peace gains, experts have said. Analysts say the country is caught between a rock and a hard place after its foreign reserves

plummeted as President Salva Kiir's administration prioritized financing military operations against former rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement- In opposition (SPLA) led by now First-Vice President Riek Machar.

Exploration of Gum Arabic is alternative to economic crisis

[Dau Majok John: This Day- 13 Jun. 2016](#)

South Sudan government has resolved to start exploration of Gum Arabic and other natural resources which have got an international commercial potentiality in order to boost the

economic crisis that the country is in it now. "The government has therefore decided to start with those products that have a long history of commercialization like Gum Arabic. The trade in

Gum Arabic is thought to be dated back to 5000 years ago where it was transported as an article of commerce to Egypt and it was introduced by British during the colonial period through Arab ports thus acquiring the name Gum Arabic.” He mentioned that Agriculture is the potentially and most important sector in South Sudan but currently, it is largely traditional and predominantly subsistent and characterized by

the low productivity and low cash crop income. The Minister of trade and industry Stephen Dhieu Dau released this statement during workshop organized by the Ministry of trade and industry which was attended by government officials from the line ministries, companies that are specialized with the knowledge of Gum Arabic exploration and South Sudan developmental partners like UNDP.

Gogrial Governor roots for agriculture as solution to economic crisis

Garang Abraham Malak: [The Nation Mirror- 16 Jun. 2016](#)

Abraham Gum Makuach the Governor of Gogrial state has urged people to embrace agriculture to avert the rampant food insecurity in the state. Makuach was speaking upon his arrival from the state on Tuesday at Juba International airport. “I call on all the citizens of Gogrial to prioritize agriculture particularly the youth as the state can overcome the shortage of food,” Makuach told Journalists. He said he is in Juba to consult with the SPLM Chairman President Salva Kiir

following his appointment as the state interim ruling party chairman few days ago. “I am coming to meet with SPLM Leadership and to brief the President about activities of the ruling party (SPLM) of the newly created state of Gogrial” said Makuach. Governor described state general situation as normal. Adding, “We have settled the conflict between the Aguok communities as per now; there is relative peace within the communities.”