

18th -24th Mar. 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 affects human development and vice-versa.

Media Outlets:

1. Gurtong
2. Eye Radio South Sudan
3. Radio Tamazuj
4. This Day
5. Sudan Tribune
6. Juba Monitor
7. Daily Nation
8. The Daily Vision
9. The National Today
10. The Nation Mirror
11. The Dawn
12. Daily Nation
13. East African
14. Daily Monitor

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WEEKLY MEDIA ECONOMIC DIGEST SOUTH SUDAN



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PRICES AND MARKETS

Meat Prices Increase In Bor

Jacob Achiek: [Gurtong- 23 Mar. 2016](#)

The economic crisis in South Sudan continues to deteriorate as prices of commodities continues to soar in the markets. In Bor town the price of a kilo of meat now goes for 60 South Sudanese Pounds. Just last month a kilo was 40 South Sudanese Pounds. Manyon Ayuen who works at a slaughter house in Bor narrates to Gurtong why the prices of meat have increased. "The traders who come from Juba have destroyed the business because they buy bulls at high prices. If we the owners of the cows increase the prices of bulls then we have to increase meat prices as well," Mayuon Ayuen said. Prices for food and other basic needs have skyrocketed since the government of South Sudan devalued the South Sudanese pound against the U.S. dollar. Prices of imported goods have increased as well. Prices have risen to new heights causing difficulties to the ordinary citizen to afford three meals a day. Many have cut down on unnecessary budgets and now live on one meal per day.

Pound continues to weaken against dollar

Mabior Philip: [Eye Radio South Sudan- 22 Mar. 2016](#)

The South Sudanese Pound has continued to weaken against the US dollar in the parallel market, reaching a record low of 4,200 pounds for \$100 last evening. In the Central Bank, the US dollar is trading at about 3,300 pounds for \$100. The value of the pound has been reducing since December, when the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance allowed the rate to be determined by demand and supply. Since then, the rate of the US dollar has been rising from the initial rate of 1,850 pounds against \$100. This comes despite the auction of the hard currency by the Central Bank. "Actually the dollar is not available in the market and when something is not available in the market, those few people with little dollars are increasing the price of dollar against the pound," a dealer in the black market told Eye Radio. The hard currency is required to import basic food items from Uganda.

South Sudan commemorates water day amidst exorbitant prices

Ayuen Akuot Atem: [The National Today- 22 Mar. 2016](#)

The country today joins the rest of the world in commemorating world water day under the theme, "Water and Jobs: Better water, better jobs". This comes at a time when an ailing economy in the country has skyrocketed prices of essential commodities including water. Water prices have been exorbitantly high yet South Sudan is endowed with the longest river, the Nile passing through the length of its territory. In the press statement yesterday,

UNESCO stressed that the World Water Day is an opportunity to learn more about water related issues, calling for action to make a difference. "UNESCO is working to build the scientific knowledge base to help countries manage their water resources in a sustainable way and believes that fresh water is the most important resource for all mankind, cross-cutting all social, economic and environmental activities," it said.

South Sudan fuel crisis crippling services and drivers

[The National Today- 22 Mar. 2016](#)

Another widespread fuel shortage has hit South Sudan's capital, Juba rendering institutions ineffective amid hyperinflation after the country's central bank devalued the currency by about 84 percent last December. Fuel suppliers blame the shortage on a scarcity of foreign money. They say the lack of dollars is making it hard to import fuel from

neighboring countries. Some areas of the life hit especially hard are healthcare and public transport. A visit by Anadolu Agency to Juba Teaching Hospital revealed that the main health facility in the country struggled through last December, scaling down operations after it could not acquire enough fuel to run its single generator.

S. Sudan continue to suffer with economic dilemma

Oyet Alfonse: [Juba monitor- 23 Mar. 2016](#)

The dire food situation in South Sudan could deteriorate further as the economic situation continues to deepen. Apparently, the dollar exchange rate has gone up to \$1 for SSP 41-42 and forced food prices to hit up the roof. It is unpredictable whether the economic situation and market price will drop; the prices of common food items like beans and maize flour is on the serious increase. Many of the locals can no longer

afford to buy a sack of these commodities. Although many of these food items such as beans, local maize flour and daga fish (small fish) were considered as food for the poor, they have now become real consumer goods for the majority despite the exorbitant prices. [Also reported by Sasuk Taban in Juba Monitor- 23 Mar. 2016:](#) "Economic crisis has reduced us to beggars," Citizens say.

BUSINESS

Jonglei State launches farming project

[Radio Tamazuj- 21 Mar. 2016](#)

The Jonglei state government opened a large farm on Friday in Akur village of Baidit Payam. State governor Philip Aguer together with state officials went to the site in order to break ground for the project. The farm is meant to cover 1750 square kilometers of land from Akur to Gatdiang at the border of Bor and Pibor counties. "We have taken all our equipment there...it is not something that we will just finish overnight, it is

a project that may not be completed this year, it may take us this year and next year but we are starting today," said local acting SPLM secretary general Mawut Achiek. Mawut said they have given one Toyota Land cruiser V8 to the official supervising the farm and some tractors. Police, prisons, and wildlife officers are being deployed at the farm to protect the workers in the fields.

Kenyan company supplying Bor airport with fuel

[Sudan Tribune- 20 Mar. 2016](#)

Dalbit, a Kenyan-based Petroleum company, said it has in stock enough fuel to supply both commercial and humanitarian aircraft with its products stored in depots at Bor airport. An employee of Dalbit told Sudan Tribune that the company had stored enough fuel capable of refueling any plane in Bor and that future shortage of fuel will not affect them for the next six months. "We a capacity of 350,000 litres of fuel which is enough for us to operate even when there is fuel short in South Sudan. We mainly supply humanitarian and business aircrafts within the country", said the staff, who spoke on condition of

anonymity. Although the airport is lately not very busy, up to 20 aircrafts takes off or land per day, with at least 12 per cent of them refueling in Bor. The company's director, John Paul Ng'ondi, said his company invested in February over \$2 million to build the depot at Bor airport. Work started in September in 2015. The company reportedly has one firefighter that ejects strong water current, which is capable of putting off fire in case of any breakout. Dalbit also employs a number of local staff, ranging from cleaners to managers tasked with running the company.

States ordered to stop issuing work permits

[Mabior Philip: Eye Radio South Sudan- 21 Mar. 2016](#)

The Minister for Labor has directed all the state authorities to stop issuing work permits to foreigners. In a circular, Ngor Kolong Ngor says his ministry is the only entity mandated by the Council of Ministers to be issuing the permits. But he says the ministry has

observed with much concern that some state authorities are issuing the permits against the directive of the Council of Ministers. "State authorities are hereby requested to accordingly abide by this order," Mr Ngor said.

Phone Company blocks access to Radio Tamazuj website

[Radio Tamazuj- 24 Mar. 2016](#)

A telecommunications company in South Sudan has cut off access to the website of the news service Radio Tamazuj, according to Vivacell customers. The company is part-owned by South Sudan's ruling party SPLM. A user of Vivacell data service in South Sudan today explained that his browser told him that the Radio Tamazuj website "might be temporarily down or it may have moved permanently to a new web address." The user had no problem accessing another news website commonly visited by South Sudanese readers. Another reader of the Radio Tamazuj website said he noticed the problem last night while trying to

use Vivacell data to connect to the site. His web browser told him that the "server can't be found," while other websites loaded fine. The same user also said he had no problem accessing the website from the MTN network. Users of Wi-Fi networks in South Sudan, many of which are connected to the Internet by satellite connections known as 'VSAT', are still able to access the website. Radio Tamazuj broadcasts on shortwave radio are unaffected and will continue uncensored. The radio station announced recently plans to expand its broadcast airtime.

Zain telecommunication reopens network services in Bentiu

[Sudan Tribune- 24 Mar. 2016](#)

Zain Telecommunication Company in South Sudan has re-opened its network services in Bentiu town, capital of Northern Liech State (former Unity state), after being dismantled due to the two and a half years

of conflict in the oil rich area. State minister of information and communication, Lam Tungwar Kueigwong, has confirmed to Sudan Tribune that the network has been re-activated through approval from

President Salva Kiir. "It is good news to the citizens of Northern Liech State that the ministry of information and communication has officially re-opened the telecommunication network. Now everyone could be able to access their loved ones and connect with the rest of the country and the world," said minister Kueigwong. He said Joseph Nguen Monytil, the

governor of Northern Liech State, petitioned President Salva Kiir, calling on him to authorize for re-activation of telecommunication services, which has resulted to the reopening. Ruai Peter, a resident of Bentiu town, told Sudan Tribune he is happy again to get reconnected with friends after two years of conflict

(CII) EXIM Bank Conclave to benefit S. Sudan

[Oyet Alfonse: Juba Monitor- 19 Mar. 2016](#)

With the signing of the recent IGAD agreement and slight security improvement in the country, government is now calling on investor and involve in boosting the economic meltdown. South Sudan has designated a free trade zone availing itself as one of the gateways to the region and the continent. Vice President James Wani Igga returned from New Delhi, India last Friday after attending the eleventh (11th) Confederation of India Industry (CII) Exim Bank Conclave. Upon his arrival to Juba, his Spokesperson David Mayen said many investors have agreed to come and take part in economic development of the

country. "Some businesses or Multinational Corporations have promised to come and invest in South Sudan. We are waiting for their coming and give the fact information is quite attractive," said Mr. Mayen. "Individual countries will provide their own opportunities; the visit of Vice President and his delegates to India will be seen in South Sudan inform of Investment in agricultural sector," he added. [Also reported by Oyet Alfonse in Juba Monitor- 21 Mar. 2016: South Sudan to benefit from \(CII\) EXIM Bank conclave](#)

ECONOMY AND PUBLIC FINANCE

Economic crisis needs foreign intervention

[Memoscar Lasuba: Eye Radio South Sudan- 22 Mar. 2016](#)

The economic crisis in the country may not be resolved without intervention from the international community, an economist has said. Since the devaluation of the pound in December last year, the prices of basic commodities have more than doubled. Ahmed Morjan, who is also a lecturer at the University of Juba, says the country will need two years to become productive in major economic sectors. "You need a year and or more to start production, but above all, you need still foreign support in order to put

the economy back on its feet," Mr. Morjan told Eye Radio's Dawn Show that fixing the situation immediately is going to be difficult. He called on the government to cut spending on foreign missions by reducing the number of its officials working abroad. The government announced last week it was downsizing the workforce in the foreign missions. However, some Eye Radio listeners said it is important to implement the peace agreement as part of resolving the economic crisis.

Oil ministry: South Sudan will never recover earlier production levels

[Radio Tamazuj- 23 Mar. 2016](#)

South Sudan's oil ministry has concluded that oil production is in quick decline, and future production will not reach even half of its peak 2010 levels even if all the oil fields began pumping again, according to ministry documents seen by Radio Tamazuj. South

Sudan has developed oil reserves in Upper Nile and Unity states, but only fields in Upper Nile are currently producing due to insecurity in Unity state. Even if the Unity fields started production this year, oil production would quickly peak at no more than 175

thousand barrels per day, less than half of its peak annual average, 360 thousand barrels per day in 2009. Production would then drop rapidly to less than 100 thousand bpd by 2021 and under 50 thousand bpd by 2026, if no new reserves are discovered and developed, according to production charts included inside South Sudan's annual crude oil marketing report produced by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mining, dated June 2015. Despite declining production, the

report notes that South Sudan still owes Sudan \$2 billion of the total \$3 billion it agreed to transfer to Sudan in exchange for passage of its oil through a pipeline to Port Sudan on the Red Sea. "As of the end of May 2015 the remaining balance on the Transitional Financial Arrangement obligation to Sudan is USD 2.02 billion," said the marketing report. [Also reported in This Day- 24 Mar. 2016: Oil Ministry- South Sudan will never recover earlier production levels](#)

S. Sudan feels pinch of economic crisis as prices of goods shoot up

[Daily Nation- 17 Mar. 2016](#)

South Sudan finds itself in a severe economic meltdown, after it devalued its currency last December in an effort to stabilize the prices of food commodities. Joice Yiki, who sells beans at Juba's Konyokonyo main market, has considered closing down her business due to the high dollar exchange rates. Raising sufficient hard currency to buy imports from Uganda remains a big challenge for her. "If I exhaust my current stock, I will go home and rest because I have no choice, since I purchase the beans from Kampala, Uganda," she said. Most of the goods

sold in the South Sudan capital are imported from neighboring Uganda, Kenya and Sudan. A 12kg bag of beans currently costs SSP450, compared with SSP70 before the local currency took a beating. A 50kg of flour now goes for SSP800, compared with SSP75 previously. The official exchange rate stood at \$100 for SSP295, at the Central Bank and \$100 for SSP360 at the commercial banks. The black market sold \$100 for SSP400, the rate Ms Yiki said was preferred by ordinary citizens like herself.

South Sudan in major economic meltdown

[Joseph Oduha: The East African- 19 Mar. 2016](#)

South Sudan has been experiencing a severe economic meltdown since it devalued its currency last December, in an effort to stabilize the prices of food commodities. Joice Yiki, who sells beans at Juba's Konyo Konyo main market, is seriously considering closing down her business due to the high dollar exchange rates. She said that mobilizing hard currency for imports from Uganda remains a major challenge. "If I exhaust my current stock, I will go home and rest; I have no choice since I purchase the beans from Kampala," she said. Most of the goods sold in the South Sudan capital are imported from neighboring Uganda, Kenya and Sudan. A 12kg-bag of beans currently costs SSP450 compared with SSP70 before the local currency took a beating. A 50kg bag of flour

now goes for SSP800 compared with SSP75 previously. The official exchange rate then stood at \$100 for SSP295, at the Central Bank and \$100 for SSP360 at commercial banks. The black market sold \$100 for SSP400. After the devaluation things changed drastically. "Imagine! You know what the rate of the dollar against the pound is today? It is hurtful to buy \$100 for SSP3, 200 at the Central Bank and SSP3, 600- SSP4, 000 on the black market," she said. Catholic Bishop Santo Laku Pio said the problem is "the cost of living caused by this erratic exchange rate." "Everything is going up daily. If the dollar goes up today, you are forced to raise your prices and the cost of food goes up," he said.

Oil ministry: South Sudan will never recover earlier production levels

[Radio Tamazuj- 23 Mar. 2016](#)

South Sudan's oil ministry has concluded that oil production is in quick decline, and future production will not reach even half of its peak 2010 levels even if all the oil fields began pumping again, according to ministry documents seen by Radio Tamazuj. South Sudan has developed oil reserves in Upper Nile and Unity states, but only fields in Upper Nile are currently producing due to insecurity in Unity state. Even if the Unity fields started production this year, oil production would quickly peak at no more than 175 thousand barrels per day, less than half of its peak annual average, 360 thousand barrels per day in 2009. Production would then drop rapidly to less than 100

thousand bpd by 2021 and under 50 thousand bpd by 2026, if no new reserves are discovered and developed, according to production charts included inside South Sudan's annual crude oil marketing report produced by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mining, dated June 2015. Despite declining production, the report notes that South Sudan still owes Sudan \$2 billion of the total \$3 billion it agreed to transfer to Sudan in exchange for passage of its oil through a pipeline to Port Sudan on the Red Sea. "As of the end of May 2015 the remaining balance on the Transitional Financial Arrangement obligation to Sudan is USD 2.02 billion," said the marketing report.

Questions around missing teachers' salaries in Aweil East

[Radio Tamazuj- 22 Mar. 2016](#)

Both the ministries of education and finance in Aweil East State say they are not responsible for missing salaries of teachers. Teachers in Aweil East have not received their salaries for two months. Last week, some teachers stopped teaching, demanding their pay. This led to the closure of some schools. Garang Malong Awan, the minister of education in the area, said that the former Aweil East County education and state finance offices are responsible for the missing salaries. "I am only responsible with the teachers and if there is any missing salaries for the teachers, it is my responsibility to question, so in this situation, I will fight for their rights to make sure they are given

money, and now someone from finance ministry will be responsible," he said. However, the former deputy County Education Director Lual Dut Kur says he does not know where the money is. He said the money is not with his office, and the matter needs to be investigated. Athian Athian Dut, the Acting Director General in the finance ministry says he is not aware of the loss of the money since the Ministry of Education has not reported to him about missing salaries. "We have not received any information about the loss of the money as the ministry of finance, how much money gone missing."

Embrace addition of South Sudan to EAC

[Ronnex Tendo Kisembo: Daily Monitor- 21 Mar. 2016](#)

The 17th East African Community Heads of State Summit admitted South Sudan as a new member of the East African Community partner states. This historical endorsement was made on March 2, 2016 in Arusha- Tanzania. Negotiations to South Sudan's accession to the EAC began in November 2014 and truly there has been an accelerated timeline to their conclusion. This clearly shows the willingness of all stakeholders to have the world's newest nation join the East African community. The whole idea of the EAC

integration is largely about creation of a wider market base, infrastructure development and guaranteed security within the region. The inclusion of South Sudan as an EAC partner state certainly provides a much needed push for both a wider market base from 150 million people to 162 million and ultimately a beam of light in our regional security angle. A key feature of South Sudan's membership is undoubtedly the thrust on strengthening the already existing market especially for agricultural produce.

Auditor testifies to court that South Sudan presidency without proper financial controls

[Radio Tamazuj- 22 mar. 2016](#)

South Sudan's presidency operated without proper financial controls and without proper procurement practices, an expert witness testified to the high court in Juba on Monday as the prosecution made its case against 16 officials at the president's office. Sixteen administrative officers from the presidency went on trial last month after losing favor with President Kiir, including his top administrator and his office director. The trial has opened a window into the functioning of the president's office. In testimony yesterday, senior auditor Vanancio Logunu, the prosecution's second witness, told the high court that he and some of his colleagues in the audit chamber were asked by the Office of the President to audit financial transactions, including payment to companies, made by the chief administrator and executive director in the president's

office. "We were able to establish that financial procedures were not followed... There was no record of procurement procedures," he told the court. Logunu said they have found that Mayen Wol, Yel Luol, Nomad Agoth, Francis Yaki and other officials from the Bank of South Sudan were involved in the financial transactions. He further explained that the method of procurement of goods and service for the Office of the President were found to be single source. He said these procurements did not follow proper guidelines for single source procurements. The auditor also said they found evidence of "forgery of stamps and documents, cash payments for undelivered items in the office of president, duplication of payments based on fake documents using forged stamps."

Gov't stops paying for peace partners' hotel bills

[Ayuen Panchol: Eye Radio South Sudan- 23 Mar. 2016](#)

The Minister of Finance has notified the Former Political Detainees that the government will not continue paying for their accommodation in a hotel in Juba. David Deng Athorbei says the government has no funds to continue paying indefinitely and will end the accommodation tomorrow. In a letter dated 19th of March, Mr Athorbei said the government has been accommodating the former detainees since December as a first step towards implementation of the peace deal. He said this was done in the hope that the implementation would be effective in the shortest time possible, but for the last three

months, no concrete steps have been taken to implement the deal. "Over three months have passed and we are seeing no concrete steps taken for implementation for peace agreement," Mr Athorbei said in the letter. "In light of the above quoted reality, the government has no funds to continue paying accommodation in hotel indefinitely," it read in part. "Therefore this letter is to convey to your honor that the government will not pay for the accommodation of Former Detainees Team with effect from 24th March 2016."

Low salaried workers get pay rise

[Mabior Philip: Eye Radio South Sudan- 21 Mar. 2016](#)

The Ministry of Labor, Public Service and Human Resource Development has issued a circular raising the minimum wage for unskilled workers in the private sector to 2,000 pounds. This is a rise from roughly 250 pounds that workers in low grades and the unclassified staff had been earning. The Undersecretary for Labor and

Industrial Relations, Mary Hillary Wani, says the minimum wage agreed upon during meetings with the employers association and Workers' Trade Union Federation last month. The three parties say the rise is in response to the high cost of living. The minimum wage for skilled laborers is 3,000 for starters. For the lower management,

the minimum wage for starters is 4,000, while the middle management would be paid at least 6,000. The circular says the wages for top management will be determined according to the academic qualifications, experiences, nature of

work and the scope of the responsibility. [Also reported by Sasuk Taban in Juba Monitor- 19 Mar. 2016: Salary increment is not solution to economic crisis](#)

Government urges investors to provide clean water

[Sworo Cjarles Elisha: Juba Monitor- 23 Mar. 2016](#)

The Government of South Sudan has urged the private sector and investors to join in the provision of clean water to the citizens of the country. Speaking on the celebrations of World Water day which is celebrated every year on 22nd March and Nile water day which was set by the ten Nile Basin countries on 22nd February 1999, the Minister of Electricity, Dams, Irrigation and Water Resources Jemma Nunu Kumba called on development partners to support the government in the provision of clean drinking water. "We call upon more development partners to join us

in this sector because it is a very important sector as we intend to provide clean drinking water to all the people of South Sudan," she said. [Also reported by Parach Mach in Juba monitor- 23 Mar. 2016: 50-60% of South Sudan lacks access to clean water, by Parach Mach in The National Today- 23 Mar. 2016: Sixty percent of households lack access to clean water, by Taban Ayul in The Daily Vision- 23 Mar. 2016: Minister emphasizes on water development, by Odiongo Clement: The Daily Vision- 23 Mar. 2016: Torit gets clean, safe, cheap water](#)

Gov't should guarantee Economic certainty, MP

[Oyet Alfonse: Juba Monitor- 24 Mar. 2016](#)

As South Sudanese continue to suffer with sky rocketing market prices of essential commodities, parliamentarians are now calling on the Government to clear the economic predicament, which has caused panic amongst local citizens. Speaking to Juba Monitor yesterday, the Chairperson for Economy, Finance and Development in the National Legislative Assembly, Hon. Goc Makuac Mayol said parliament has made some study analysis and came out with issues they (parliamentarians) believe they are the

causes of the economic downturn. In the resolution of the analysis, Hon. Makuac said government should revisit their economic measures of realignment of currencies. "The Government should look at this issue of realignment because it has not achieved the objective; we want the Ministry of Finance to revisit this policy; the government should bail out the hardship the citizens are experiencing," said Hon. Makuac.

Economic improvement centered peace implementation, Akol

[Oyet Alfonse: Juba Monitor- 24 Mar. 2016](#)

Under the spotlight of the continued withstanding of the harsh economic situation, government officials say unless the peace agreement is implemented the country will continue to suffer the economic hardship, Hon. Eng. Akol Paul Kordit, the Chairperson of SPLM youth League at the National Legislative Assembly made the statement yesterday. "Implementation of this peace agreement is vital for economic recovery. Whether has a fixed rate or it is floating, as long as

there is war, we will have no economy; and people will suffer, people will die of hunger," Hon. Akol said. "Tell me which country in this world that has prospered because it is fighting another country? Whether you are fighting yourself or another country, then know the economy is slowing down. Livelihood of the people will be affected; prosperity will not be there, commitment to peace agreement is central for economic improvement," he continued.

Unlucky diplomats to be transported back to Juba

[Oyet Alfonse: Juba Monitor- 24 Mar. 2016](#)

The persistent current economic situation in the country is tremendous. The government cannot attain it. The situation has forced South Sudan government to downsize numbers of staff in the alien embassies. Last Friday, in its extra ordinary meeting number eight, the Council of Ministers said as the crisis continued, some unproductive staffs from South Sudanese embassies in foreign countries should be returned to Juba. Michael Makuei Lueth, Minister of Information and Broadcasting told journalists after

the meeting. There has been a media report that South Sudan government wanted to shut down some of its embassies, but Makuei dismissed the report saying the government did not announce shutting down its embassies but will only downsize the number of staffs. "As you might have heard lots of wild rumors that the embassies of South Sudan has been closed down; the response of the embassy was that yes, we are not shutting down but we are downsizing; this was normal procedures," he stressed.

The real issue of Impending Peace Implementation is lack of financial resources!

[Ms. Kuyang Harriet Logo Mulukwat: The Nation Mirror- 21 Mar. 2016](#)

Aid is conditioned partly because it is taxpayer's money. The South Sudanese peace implementation is extremely slow and frustrating as the economic situation worsens. Late last week, I listened to an interview of the UK Ambassador to South Sudan on radio Miraya, in which he noted that both signatories to the peace agreement have shown tremendous indication that they are committed to the full implementation of the peace agreement. UK being part of TROIKA is doing the best they can to ensure that the obstacles to the implementation of the peace are resolved to pave way for the formation of the

government of national unity. He said something that was obvious to me and not to too many others and that is why I write this particular article. He said that, if the transitional government of national unity is not formed, the TROIKA will not provide financial assistance to South Sudan. That was the bare truth, said in an honest manner, but had implications for the struggling nation. As both parties are working on the security arrangements, the formation of the transnational government is a priority for both South Sudanese and the donors supporting this nation.

CEPO warns against illegal tax collection

[Joseph Oduha: The Dawn- 19 Mar. 2016](#)

Community Empowerment for Progress Organization- CEPO has revealed that the checkpoints along the main road of Western Lakes State were no longer for security purposes but those involved in administering them were using the checkpoints across the country for money collection (illegal tax collections). In a press statement to the media on Friday, Edmund Yakani, the Executive Director of the organization said the illegal practice has brought negative impact on commercial and

humanitarian trucks. "Citizens in the town outside Juba are really suffering from the high commercial prices of the commodities. The checkpoints' illegal taxes (cash) collection has contributed greatly to making the traders increase prices of the commodities. The checkpoints are made for security purposes but now they have become hindering factors for humanitarian delivery and fueling increase of commercial commodity prices," Yakani said.

South Sudan Gold Siphoned Abroad

Okech Francis: [The National Today- 21 Mar. 2016](#)

The country is failing to profit from its huge gold deposits with large amounts being siphoned to neighboring countries, while insecurity has impeded exploration for commercial purposes, the Undersecretary for Mining in the Ministry of Petroleum and Mining, Dr Andu Ezbon Adde said. Artisanal mining is rife in the central, Southern and North- Western regions and extracts are finding markets in Uganda and Kenya among other neighboring states, Adde, flanked by Director Generals in the Mining Department at the Ministry,

said in an interview with the National Today last Wednesday. "We know much gold is going out and we can estimate the worth between \$500K and \$1M annually," he said. Sixty investment companies which showed interest in gold mining in the country during a 2013 investment conference have not turned up and exploitation of gold only remains in the hands of artisanal miners, who sell directly to buyers, mainly unlicensed dealers Adde said. "We asked dealers in April last year to come and get license but up to now, only one person has responded," he said.

Prolonged conflict takes toll on S. Sudan economy: experts

Denis Elamu: [This Day- 22 Mar. 2016](#)

The economic situation in South Sudan seems to be getting out of hand despite the devaluation of the South Sudanese Pound by 84 percent in 2015 under the managed floating exchange rate, experts have said. Since 2011, the country had been operating under a fixed exchange rate, but the outbreak of conflict in 2013 halted its oil production, distorting macro-economic stability. Despite attempts by the central bank to rein in soaring prices of goods by auctioning of 70 million U.S dollars to commercial banks, the economic situation seems to be getting out of control as fuel and food prices continue to rise.

According to Nhial Tiitmamer, Programme Manager for Environmental, Energy and Natural Resources at the Sudd Institute, a Juba- based research organization, despite being locally produced, coupled with drastically plummeting global crude oil prices, fuel costs more in South Sudan than elsewhere in the region. "The prevailing shortage and high cost of living are consequences of hard currency shortage, high taxes and duties, absence of refineries and depots, growing demand for oil from electricity producing and consuming sectors, and inefficiency in energy use," Tiit mamer said early this week.

Salary increment is not solution to economic crisis

Sasuk Taban: [Juba Monitor- 19 Mar. 2016](#)

The Executive Director of South Sudanese Network for Democracy and Elections (SSUNDE), Rajab Mohandis has said that salary increment is not the solution to the current economic crisis in the country because it was not the cause of the economic downfall in the first place. He made this remark in an exclusive interview with the Juba Monitor yesterday. "Salary increment for civil servants is a bonus but it cannot address the economic crisis affecting the country at present. The value of the pound depreciates continuously and so if we are going to increase the

salaries of the civil servants to alleviate their suffering, then it means we are going to increase their salaries each week as the pound depreciates. At the end, we shall have a lot of money circulating and again it will lead to an even greater devaluation of the currency," Rajab stated. He reiterated that the economy is on meltdown not due to the 2013 conflict, "where there is political instability, there is economic crisis because investors lose trust in investing in the country. We have to stabilize the country and improve on the political situation," he said.

Editorial: No One is immune to this economic meltdown

[The Nation Mirror – 19 Mar. 2016](#)

We must confess that the current economic hardships know no borders; whether you are a minister, public institution or private institution. We are all prone to economic failure. How financially strong one could imagine himself to be, no economic institution, individual or any other entity operates independent of other factors. The economic crisis that has befallen this nation has taught us yet another lesson after we have failed to learn from our past experiences. Before we could continue to look on our collective roles to salvage the economy, there is one fact that dear readers of The Nation Mirror Newspaper ought to

understand; it is a confession that no single individual or institution is immune to economic meltdown. Within the course of this week, we did not print the newspaper for our esteemed readers. Somebody could ask why we did not come out on Thursday. The answer is simple. The Nation Mirror is not immune to the economic meltdown. We were forced to cease printing after our generators could not be operated due to fuel shortage. Does it sound similar to what happened to the South Sudan High court? Or does it sound like what happened to the National Legislative assembly?

Central Bank and the Missed rules of operation of our trembling economy

[Chier Akueny Anyithiec: The Nation Mirror – 19 Mar. 2016](#)

Literally, "the history proves that a smart Central Bank can protect the economy and the financial sector from the nastier side effects of a stock market collapse". It is not simple as you may know that "the bottom line of the economy is that monetary policy should react to rising prices for houses and other assets only insofar as they affect the Central Bank's goal variability such as output, employment and inflation." The Central Bank has been described as "the lender of last resort", which means that it is

responsible for providing its economy with funds when commercial banks cannot cover a supply shortage. On the other side, the Central bank prevents the country's banking system from failing. However, the primary goal of central bank is to provide their country's currency with price stability by controlling inflation. A central bank also acts as the regulatory authority of a country's monetary policies and is the sole provider and printer of notes and coins in circulation.

Presidential employees open one million SSP business cooperative Initiative

[Ayuen Akuot Atem: The National Today- 19 Mar. 2016](#)

Employees in the Presidency have opened a business cooperative initiative fund, to a tune of one million South Sudanese Pounds, to invest in the small and medium entrepreneurship line with economic empowerment. Speaking to journalists yesterday, the acting Chief Administrator in the office of the President, Ambassador Bol Wek Agoth, said the program is the staffs' initiative. "We are aiming at the economic welfare of our staffs more especially in the area of business. In this initiative the staffs of the

presidency with the help of business entrepreneurs will decide good and profitable businesses to invest their funds," Agoth said. He said it was an initiative started since 2012. "Staffs themselves generated over one million South Sudanese Pounds through their salaries. We have been cutting agreed amounts of money from every staff monthly since 2012," Agoth said. According to him, the cooperative is purely a business initiative and anybody working with government or business can borrow the idea.

Phase Two Salary Increments Ready

Taban Ayul: [The Daily Vision- 23 Mar. 2016](#)

Ngor Kulang, the Minister of Labor, Public service and Human Resource Development yesterday said they have already worked out the salary increments of the second phase. In an interview with the Daily Vision Newspaper, the Minister said the salaries increment issues of grade ten to seventeen have already been ironed out. Kulang added that the salary structure of grade five to nine is already done and now will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval; the results he said will be out probably next week. "This is what the Government has planned because a civil

servant is to get the salary increment according to phases as arranged before," he added. He continued that he has already sent a circular of salary increments to the private sectors to also increase the salaries of their staff as the government has done for their civil servants. "If the private sector do not take matters serious, we are going to take serious steps against them so that they too comply with this order because they as a citizen are also affected by this economic crises which the country is experiencing now," he said.