

21st -27th Oct. 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. Radio Tamazuj
2. Sudan Tribune
3. Gurtong
4. Juba Monitor
5. Eye Radio
6. Telecom Paper
7. Xinhua Net
8. Daily Times
9. This Day
10. The Dawn
11. News Ghana
12. The Star
13. Daily Nation
14. Catholic Radio Network
15. Radio Bakhita
16. SS UNDP
17. SS UNESCO
18. Partnerships for SDGs
19. Atlas Corps

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WEEKLY MEDIA ECONOMIC DIGEST SOUTH SUDAN



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BUSINESS

S. Sudanese urge communications networks to reduce tariffs charges

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

Phone users in South Sudan have complained of high rate increase of call charges per minute by communications network companies in the troubled nation, warning that many customers will stop using their phones. After five days that South Sudan operative communications network increased their tariffs charges, many people across the country who are unable to afford scratch card, said the decision should be reversed. Last week, all operative networks such as Vivacell, the largest phone network in the country, followed by Zain and MTN, announced charge increase by seven times per a call per minute from 47 piasters to more than 3 South Sudanese pounds (SSP) per minute while an international call ranged to 7 pounds per a minute. In Wau state, Western Bahr el Ghazal region, many network customers on Sunday complained that the rate should be reduced by the operative networks or they switch off their phones due to the high call rates. Gabriel Dhal Yak, one of the citizen and a regular customer of these networks, said the increase was seven times higher than the previous call charge per a minute, saying the companies would have increased the rate from the 47 piasters to 1 SSP maximum per a minute. Yak said his own regular calls and networks used have currently come under standstill since the increase, adding he has been forced to scale down the level of communications with his family that lives in neighbouring Uganda. [Also reported by James Deng Dimo in Gurtong- 24 Oct. 2016: Public urges Telecommunication Networks to reduce tariff charges](#)

Banks in Juba limit cash withdrawal to 50,000 SSP per week

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

Bank customers are complaining over a decision by all banks in South Sudan limiting cash withdrawal to SSP 50,000 per week. The move which has caused widespread complains is considered as a negative impact of the economic situation hitting the country. According many sources, individuals,

companies and NGOs will also be affected by the decision as well. "This is a negative indicator which we don't know what will be its result," one customer of Equity Bank said. The bank did not give reason as why they have taken this decision.

Currency depreciation causes poverty

[Sasuk Taban: Juba Monitor- 27 Oct. 2016](#)

The devaluation of the South Sudanese currency has greatly contributed to the high level of poverty and economic hardships to the civil population of the country. The Civil Society Alliance (SSCSA) has said that the devaluation of the local currency did not only affect the country's economy, but also citizens. Akuoch Ajang Nyanhom, the Chairperson of SSCSA said most civilians could only meet their daily basic needs. "Management of resources, theft and corruption are a number of factors that have greatly contributed to the economic crisis and the level of poverty affecting the country.

Despite the government enacting good policies and laws, what is lacking is implementation and this has caused South Sudan to find itself in this mess. There is no transparency on how resources are managed", he said. He emphasized that investing in agriculture, eradicating illiteracy among South Sudanese citizens by empowering them with knowledge and skills to be self-sustaining, respect for the rule of law and justice for all citizens are the best ways of fighting the high rate of poverty in the country. "We have vast arable land fit for agriculture, but we are not investing in it.

Oil prices may rise in 2017 – World Bank

[Emmanuel Akile: Eye Radio South Sudan- 27 Oct. 2016](#)

Oil prices may rise to more than \$50 per barrel next year, the World Bank has reported. The World Bank says the prices are expected to be \$43 per barrel on average this year, as the market continues to stabilize. South Sudan depends 98% on oil production as a major source of income. Palouch oilfields are currently producing 130,000 barrels per day, according to the ministry of petroleum. In 2016 quarterly World Bank report, production costs have fallen significantly with the collapse in oil prices over the past two years. It says the largest player in the global

crude oil market, known as the Organizations of the Petroleum Producing Countries, OPEC, has agreed to control oil production levels to stabilize prices. The World Bank made the projection of the prices in its Commodity Markets Outlook, which is published quarterly annually. In its report for this month, it says efforts to manage world commodity markets to achieve price objectives have not been unique to the oil market. Prices of other energy materials such as metals, Zinc, and lead are also expected to increase in 2017.

Insecurity affects market supply

Taban Gabriel: [Juba Monitor- 27 Oct. 2016](#)

Persistent insecurity and the continued devaluation of South Sudanese pound (SSP) against foreign currency resulted into the shortage of food items and essential commodities in the market. Traders at Gumbo market sad persistent road attacks on vehicles along Juba-Nimule highway which sometimes leads to the burning or looting of the commodities resulted into limited supply of goods in the market. They said some of their colleagues left business and have gone back to Uganda due to related incidents and high dollar

exchange rate. They usually buy hard currency from the black market. Nadia, who sells vegetables and fruits, told Juba Monitor that her goods were initially delivered every week and that the demand was also high. "Before the insecurity incidents, business was good and I could receive goods every week and sell up to four loads of mixed vegetables and fruits per month; but now both the demand and supply have gone down, I only sell one load in three weeks", she said.

Aweil fuel prices fall

Eye Radio South Sudan- 25 Oct. 2016

In Aweil, fuel traders say there is a reduction in fuel prices due to the end of the rainy season. Some fuel dealers say the price of 20 liters of diesel has reduced from 2,500 to 1200 Pounds. For petrol, the price has reduced from 3,500 to 1,500 Pounds. The traders say they received enough fuels supply from Sudan this month

because of a better condition of roads as the dry season begins in the area. Recently, bad roads reportedly caused the rise in prices over the past two months across Aweil. Local traders in the areas have urged the state authority to repair the roads connecting Aweil to neighbouring Sudan to make it easy to transport goods.

Traders Unhappy About Market and Bus Park Relocation In Torit

Peter Lokale Nakimangole: [Gurtong- 27 Oct. 2016](#)

Traders in Torit have complained to the Mayor of the municipality that the new Omoliha market where they were forced to relocate to has seen their business deteriorate significantly due to lack of customers in the area. Torit Municipal Council Mayor, Hon. William Eddy Ponsiano relocated both the old market and Kapoeta Bus Park situated along Torit Eastward to Omoliha market and bus Park. The traders were given an opportunity to construct structures in the old market but under condition that they pay 6,000

SSP for a period of 6 months. According to the Mayor, the move comes after his administration repeatedly noted an increase of crimes in the market as it was situated next to the bus park. He also said that the market was too close to the road and was affecting movement at the bus park. Many passengers in separate incidents on Torit-Juba, Torit-Magwi, Torit-Kapoeta, Torit-Katire, Torit-Loudo and Torit-Ikwoto, have been attacked and properties looted.

South Sudan to crackdown on counterfeit mobile phones

[Telecom Paper- 26 Oct. 2016](#)

South Sudan has started developing a system to verify all mobile phones entering its territory in a bid to weed out counterfeit handsets, reports Xinhua. The Director General of the National Communications Authority (NCA), Ladu Wani Kenyi, said the country is developing an online verification system to verify genuine mobile products and also deploy inspectors in all crossing points to lock out fake mobile devices. Kenyi said all mobile phone dealers will be asked to register with the NCA before being allowed to operate in South Sudan. Kenyi added that the initiative may be hampered by smugglers

sneaking counterfeit mobile devices into the country in small quantities to avoid law enforcers, adding that collective efforts are needed to enable total ban on fake mobile products. The Director General noted that South Sudan's telecommunication industry is under developed, with only 50 percent of the country connected to a telephone network as majority of infrastructure were damaged during years of civil war. [Also reported in Xinhua Net- 26 Oct. 2016: South Sudan plans to crackdown on counterfeit mobile phones](#)

South Sudanese security operatives arrest bank manager

[Sudan Tribune- 27 Oct. 2016](#)

South Sudanese security agents have arrested the branch manager of Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) in South Sudan's Western Equatoria state, for reasons yet to be established. Eyewitnesses told Sudan Tribune that Oliver Domiano was arrested on Tuesday from his house and whisked to national security offices. His arrest, some say, could be directly linked to money transfers suspected by state authorities to have gone to armed opposition officials outside the state. Sudan Tribune was unable to establish the authenticity of these claims linking the Kenyan-owned bank to the armed opposition faction members.

MONEY LAUNDERING

KCB was recently accused of aiding money laundering by corrupt government officials in South Sudan, including senior military leaders

sanctioned by the United Nations in the wake of the country's civil war. The United States-based organisation, The Sentry, after a two-year investigation into corruption in South Sudan, money movement and assets locations, said it found that the Kenyan-owned bank took part in transferring money allegedly stolen by corrupt government officials. South Sudanese leaders, the report said, transferred millions of dollars of ill-gotten wealth outside the country during a civil war that left nearly half the country's people homeless or in urgent need of humanitarian aid. The 66-page report specifically mentioned South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and some of his top associates, along with the country's former vice-president, Riek Machar, as having invested millions of dollars in real estate in Kenya, Uganda and Australia.

Hipster coffee boom sends buyers to conflict zones

Emiko Terazono: [Daily Times- 23 Oct. 2016](#)

Roasters turn to war-torn regions such as South Sudan for unique flavours and stories. When Jennifer Poni Joel Donga introduced the stories of fellow coffee farmers in South Sudan to an audience in Paris last year, she was glowing with pride. In the French capital for the sales launch of Africa's newest country's first batch of coffee, she said: "The farmers are very excited and they are happy" about the prospect of cups of coffee being the first non-oil export from the war-ravaged country. Following last year's limited edition sale in France, her coffee community in South Sudan's southwestern city of Yei has in 2016 produced enough beans for Swiss capsule maker Nespresso, which has been working alongside the development non-government

organization TechnoServe, to offer capsules in five more countries. This year's launch, however, has been overshadowed by further violence in South Sudan, this time involving Yei, which had hitherto been relatively peaceful. TechnoServe has been temporarily forced to withdraw its staff and suspend farmer training, while Ms Poni, who is also an agronomist helping other farmers, has left her farm in Yei and is taking refuge in Uganda. Demand spurs search for different tastes: The coffee bean and conflict have historically gone hand-in-hand, but the surge in popularity of specialty, or premium, coffee over the past few years has spurred the search for different tastes.

Sudan seizes two commercial vehicles traveling to S. Sudan

[Radio Tamazuj- 26 Oct. 2016](#)

Sudan's military intelligence has allegedly seized two commercial vehicles on their way to South Sudan and imposed a fine on the vehicles. According to a source, Sudan's military intelligence service stopped two vehicles on Monday who were carrying goods on their way to South Sudan. They were each fined 50,000 SDG.

Tensions between Sudan and South Sudan have increased after both have been accused of funding rebel groups across each other's borders. At least 50,000 people from South Sudan have fled to Darfur due to hunger, according to the United Nations.

ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

Government calls for United Nations help to recover country's economy

Garang Abraham Malak: [This Day- 26 Oct. 2016](#)

Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) calls on the United Nations to help South Sudan recover its economy and also calls for support in implementation of the Peace Agreement. Minister for Federal Affairs Hon. Richard K. Mulla who presented the government side in the celebration of United Nations Day under the theme, "UN for the People of South

Sudan", on Monday at Nyakuron Cultural Center stated that South Sudan government calls upon the United Nations to help second us in recovery of our country's economy and also help us in the implementation of peace agreement. "We are glad for having attended the 71st anniversary of United Nations in South Sudan, as South Sudan has benefited a lot from the United Nations, right

from the humanitarian agencies which are saving the people of South Sudan, United Nations hard work of delivery of services to South Sudanese in their respective areas, awareness of grassroots levels and promotion of food stuff to grassroots levels and promotion of gender empowerment” Richard explained. Mulla mentioned that the government of South Sudan is working hard to

overcome the problems affecting the people especially bringing peace to its people, the President has issued several decrees which aims at bringing peace to its people. [Also reported by Dhal Malual Dut in The Dawn- 26 Oct. 2016: Government seeks economic recovery through UN assistance](#)

Kenya mulls stimulus package for South Sudan

[News Ghana- 26 Oct. 2016](#)

Kenya is discussing an economic stimulus package for South Sudan, which has been hit by an oil commodity shock and an economic crisis, Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich said Tuesday. “We had preliminary discussion for a loan. They were hit heavily because of the oil prices. A lot of Kenyan businesses are heavily involved in that economy,” Rotich told a news conference. South Sudan sent a delegation to Nairobi for talks on the possible loan of 60 million U.S. dollars to help Juba meet urgent costs including for food needs to plug income gaps. South Sudan’s oil production has dropped from 240,000 barrels per day in 2013, the peak oil

production period before the start of conflict, to 120,000 barrels per day, currently selling at 50 dollars a barrel. The drop in oil earnings has affected state expenditure and forced governments to cut spending on key sectors. Responding to questions about the potential expenditure cuts by the Kenyan government, Rotich said the government was forced to make “one-off expenditures to finance next year’s Presidential and Parliamentary elections. He said a government debt management strategy was meant to curb public spending and loans to 7.5 percent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Taban Deng says public funds wasted through ‘negative attitudes’

[Obaj Shago: Eye Radio South Sudan- 21 Oct. 2016](#)

First vice President Taban Deng Gai has urged undersecretaries in the government of national unity to come up with development plans for the country. Taban says a lot much money has been wasted without developing the country since 2005. He says the waste of money is because people are thinking negatively. Taban says majority of government budget goes into salaries and assistance, but without any development projects. “You could see from 2005 up to day we have used a lot of money because

we are thinking from hand to mouth, we just go to undersecretary of finance, he gives us money for salaries and assistance,” Mr Taban says. “Now look since 2005 how much money we have wasted, do we have roads? Do we have universities? Do we have electricity? All these money have just gone,” he says. “And we are relaxed like there is no problem. Actually we should be disturbed.” The Cluster meeting was also meant to discuss the plans of the ministries towards implementing the peace agreement.

Fifa money row

Elsheikh Ajeing: [Eye Radio South Sudan- 25 Oct. 2016](#)

South Sudan Football Federation has directed Qatar National Bank to send back \$19,800 to Fifa. The development comes after a disagreement between SSFA board of directors and electoral committee on how to distribute it among the national associations. SSFA, in its letter to FIFA, said there was no logic to give a committee, which is consist of five members, \$10,000 to travel to the states for the elections. And \$9,800 to the SSFA extraordinary general assembly which will be attended by over 37 members from different states. On Friday, the spokesperson of SSFA Gabriel, Geng Geng, said

a national federation will search for its own funds to facilitate the election for local football associations and SSFA extraordinary general assembly. Mr Geng claims FIFA has violated its own status article 19 which prevents the existence of a third party in correspondence of FIFA with the national associations. However, on Saturday the spokesperson of electoral committee denied the collapse of the FIFA road map on resolution of South Sudan football crisis, adding that his committee was ready to do their job any time when they get funds.

Kapoeta taxpayers demand accountability

Ijoo Bosco: [Eye Radio South Sudan- 26 Oct. 2016](#)

Traders in Kapoeta Town, Namurnyang State, have called for accountability for taxes they pay to the municipal council. The traders have told the mayor that their shops are not protected despite their commitment to pay taxes. They counted their challenges in a meeting in Kapoeta Town on Tuesday. The traders think the 70 pounds they pay monthly is not helping improve the safety of their shops. "Thieves start breaking

into their shops as soon as the light goes off," said one trader, Juliet Amelia. Mayor Martin Lorika acknowledges the complaints and promised to discuss the matter with the security organs. Mr Lorika also said it is difficult to send a quick response when thieves are breaking into shops due to port holes on the roads and congestion of stalls in the market.

Interpol arrest warrant for ivory trade suspects

Calvin Onsarigo: [The Star- 22 Oct. 2016](#)

Interpol yesterday issued an international warrant of arrest for two main suspects behind international ivory syndicate in Kenya. The red alert notice was issued for brothers Samuel Jefwa and Nicholas Jefwa for dealing in wildlife trophies. They are suspected to be hiding in South Sudan. The photographs of the two brothers, who had rented a house in Nyali, Mombasa, were also released. They are wanted in connection with the Sh570 million ivory haul seized in Singapore. It was in 40-foot containers

disguised as tea consignments in April 2015. Interpol Nairobi Central Bureau senior officer Vitalis Okumu says they are working with the National Police Service to track down the suspects. The agency has already dispatched a team to Nairobi to help fight illegal ivory trade. The Star has established that the Unit is assisting Kenya with information and supporting intelligence analysis on ivory cartels in the region. According to Interpol, the two Tanzania nationals are key suspects in smuggling of ivory

from Tanzania to Kenya through the porous Lunga Lunga border, before shipping it through the Port of Mombasa. [Also reported by Galgalo](#)

[Bocha in Daily Nation- 23 Oct. 2016: Brothers suspected of ivory trade could now be in S. Sudan: Police](#)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

How can S Sudan realize the 17 UN SDGs?

[Ray Okech: Eye Radio South Sudan- 26 Oct. 2016](#)

On September 25 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has

specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

Ray Okech filed this brief report.... [\(Audio- Ray Okech: Eye Radio South Sudan- 26 Oct. 2016\)](#)

Activist says Sustainable Development Goals crucial for South Sudan's economy

[Radio Bakhita: Catholic Radio Network- 25 Oct. 2016](#)

Civil society activist says working to achieve United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals could improve South Sudan's economy. SSuNDE Director, Rajab Mohandis tells workshop participants in Juba on validation report of Sustainable Development Goals that achieving the goals means poverty reduction, hunger reduction and security improvement, Radio Bakhita reports. He says the participants in the

validation report on Sustainable Development Goals recommended that some top priorities of the 17 goals should be achieved in the country at least before 2030. The workshop brought students from seven universities, members of civil society, women groups and the media. South Sudan Network for Democratic Election, SSuNDE initiated the agenda with support from United Nation Development Programme.

Women Organizations, Universities, Private Sector, Civil Society and Media validate consultations on Sustainable Development Goals in South Sudan

[SS UNDP-27 Oct. 2016](#)

The United Nations Development Programme and the South Sudanese Network for Democracy and Elections (SSUNDE) are organizing a series of validation workshops in Juba together with the aim of raising awareness and engaging on the global goals for sustainable development. After undertaking a consultation with students from seven universities across the country, the private sector, civil organizations, women organizations and the media, the workshops are meant to reflect on the outcomes of the consultation with each group and forge a way forward. During the consultation, all the

participants were asked three questions in regard to the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals to their own aspirations, as well as to the aspirations of their nation and their continent: Which of the 17 goals speak to your Own Goals that you recommend should be pursued? Which of the 17 goals speak to the South Sudan you want that you recommend should be pursued? Which of the 17 goals speaks to the Africa you want that you recommend should be pursued? The results of the survey indicate that all the groups prioritize SDG16 – Peace, Justice and Strong institutions – as one of

the top goals for sustainable development that speak to the context of South Sudan. The other goals in the top 3 are SDG4 – Quality Education, and SDG1 – ending poverty. The first validation workshop took place on 19th October 2016 with women organizations. UNDP Country Director, Mr. Kamil Kamaluddeen, inaugurated the event

highlighting the important role that women play to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. “No one does a better job supporting development than the women do. Every woman in this room has mentioned peace, and peace is the foundation of development,” said Mr. Kamaluddeen.

South Sudan Conducts National Consultation on Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals

[SS UNESCO- 28 Sept. 2016](#)

With the support of the co-conveners of the Sustainable Development Goal 4, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MOGGEI) organized a three-day consultative conference on Sustainable Development Goal 4. The conference started on 27 September 2016 and brings together the Ministers of Education and Directors General from all the states, development partners, civil society, the

academia, and the United Nations agencies and mission in South Sudan. The conference aims to build a common understanding of SDG4- Education 2030 to ensure high political commitment of the national government; to examine education policy priorities and challenges, and indicators, in light of SDG 4- Education 2030; to identify emerging education areas and themes of particular relevance to the country; and to identify capacity development needs based on agreed priorities. The National Consultation is expected to result in the identification of priorities and opportunities for policy development (from early childhood development to tertiary education, including skills development and TVET).

The Republic of South Sudan commits to increase the percentage of government budget allocation to the Ministry of Health from 4.2% to 10% by 2015

[Partnerships for SDGs](#)

The Republic of South Sudan commits to increase the percentage of government budget allocation to the Ministry of Health from 4.2% to 10% by 2015; to increase the proportion of women delivering with skilled birth attendants from 10%- 45%, through the construction of 160 Basic Emergency Obstetric Care facilities by 2015 and training of 1,000 enrolled/registered midwives by 2015; and to establish 6 accredited midwifery schools or training

institutions/colleges; increase the contraceptive prevalence rate from 3.7% to 20%, and increase the percentage of health facilities without stock-out of essential drugs from 40% to 100%. South Sudan also commits to reduce the prevalence of underweight among children under five from 30% to 20%; increase the percentage of fully-immunized children from 1.8% to 50%; and increase the percentage of under-fives sleeping under bed nets from 25% to 70%. Finally, South

Sudan will develop and implement a range of national policies that will strengthen its response to women and children's health, including policies on national family planning, on provision of free reproductive health services, especially Emergency Obstetric care services, on decentralization of budgeting, planning,

management of health services, and on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights. By constructing 160 Basic Emergency Obstetric Care facilities and training of 1000 enrolled/registered midwives. South Sudan will also establish 6 accredited midwifery schools or training facilities.

South Sudan Youth & Sustainable Development Goals

[Atlas Corps](#)

I was overwhelmed by an article shared on Atlas Corps' Face Book page few days ago, written by Nicole Goldin a professor lecturer at George Washington University in the United States. The article came under the title (Youth in the SDGs: Getting Beyond the Rhetoric). She was drawing the attention of the World Leaders ahead of the UN General Assembly in September this year towards the role of young people in the global framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She focused on what the leaders could do to include youth in this framework and look beyond the year 2015. As part of the goals; good education, better healthcare and job opportunities for young people should be include as priorities in their agenda. But I don't know how much have been achieved in the previous Millennium Development Goals which was initiated since 2000 targeting 2015 as period to achieve the eight Millennium goals. I reflected on

the article and the message that Professor Nicole wanted to put across, I was trying to figure out the impact of the MDGs on South Sudan population. Looking at the current situation in the Country, I don't see any impact on the success of the goals in the community of South Sudan. Since the Country's violence broke out in December 2013, we hear a lot of controversial reports from different Humanitarian organizations operating in South Sudan about health situation, expectations of famine and the huge illiterate percentage that is categorized by UNESCO AS 80%. On February 6th, 2015 aid agencies reported on OCHA official website that more than 4.1 million people in South Sudan will be in urgent need of humanitarian assistance as health, food and shelter is concern. The figure confirms that more than half of the population of South Sudan is hungry and are in need of help of food and other aid assistance.