

28th Oct. - 3rd Nov. 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. Eye Radio South Sudan
2. Radio Tamazuj
3. Juba Monitor
4. The Dawn
5. This Day
6. Sudan Tribune
7. The East African
8. Xinhuanet
9. China

Disclaimer:

These are extracts from the news media outlets, they are NOT UNDP News.

WEEKLY MEDIA ECONOMIC DIGEST SOUTH SUDAN



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

BUSINESS

Equity Bank suspends Yei branch operations

Joakino Francis: [Eye Radio South Sudan- 2 Nov. 2016](#)

Equity Bank has closed its branch in Yei temporarily due to a low business in Yei River State, which it says made it fail to generate profits. The Managing Director of the bank, Paul Gitau, told Eye Radio that the branch has not been able to generate its operational cost for the last 3 months. Mr Gitau says the population in Yei town is now low because people are fleeing the area. "Business is very low because the population within the town is quite low and so we found the unit is not commercially viable to continue running," he told Eye Radio. He added that their staff will be affected by the decision. [Also reported in The Dawn- 3 Nov. 2016: Equity Bank suspends Yei branch operations](#)

Juba, Kampala discuss Ugandan traders' losses

Emmanuel Akile: [Eye Radio South Sudan- 30 Oct. 2016](#)

A Ugandan government delegation is in the country to renegotiate on how to compensate its traders who lost their properties in South Sudan since 2013. The Ugandan traders supplied goods and services to the government of South Sudan but were not paid due to outbreak of conflict in December 2013. In 2014, South Sudan entered into a mutual agreement with the Ugandan government to pay the debts owed to 22 companies, which amounts to around 45 million dollars. However, it failed to clear the payment. As a result, the Ugandan government agreed last month to pay, on behalf of South Sudan, but under some conditions. "This delegation is coming to find out whether the payment has to start or the plan of payment to start," said Ambassador Mawien Makol, spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "This is a responsibility that we have taken upon ourselves and we are going to do it." Details of the Ugandan government delegates and the duration of the visit are yet to be known. [Also reported by Joseph Athian in The Dawn-31 Oct.2016: Ugandan high level delegation in Juba for trade talks](#)

Juba: Reduced piped water supply blamed on fighting

[Hellen Achayo: Eye Radio South Sudan- 28 Oct. 2016](#)

An official at the South Sudan Urban Water Corporation says the recent violence in Juba has reduced their ability to provide clean water to parts of Juba. The Director-General for Planning and Projects says their main partner; the Japanese International Corporation Agency has suspended operations. Lawrence Muludiang says this means the government has to generate money from other donors to cover maintenance costs and expansion of the project. Before the fighting in Juba, Muludiang says 20% of Juba

residents were getting water supplied by the cooperation. He says this has now reduced. Eye Radio cannot immediately verify whether 20% of the residents had access to running water prior to the conflict. "By July next year, we would have covered more than 60% of the population of Juba," Muludiang told Eye Radio on Friday. "But we're hoping that they will come back because we have finished 50% of that work". The South Sudan Urban Water Corporation has other projects in Wau, Malakal, Renk, Bor, and Maridi.

Food prices skyrocket in Pochalla North County

[Radio Tamazuj- 30 Oct. 2016](#)

Authorities in the newly created Boma State reported high prices of food commodity in Pochalla North County. One small cup of sugar is sold at 50 South Sudanese Pounds while a sack of sugar of 50 kg costs SSP 7500, the equivalent of nearly \$100. The Commissioner of Pochalla North County says life is too expensive in the county citing high rate of hard currency in the

area. "It is a big problem... food is not enough... our people are suffering," he said. Pochalla area is only accessed by air, which makes it isolated from the rest of the states. Most traders in Pochalla import their food from Ethiopia but people complain that South Sudanese currency does not work in Ethiopia.

Radio Spirit resumes broadcast in Yei

[Radio Tamazuj- 31 Oct. 2016](#)

Radio Spirit 99.9 FM has resumed broadcast of its programs in Yei town over the weekend. The station went off air for at least two months over lack of fuel and breakdown of its transmitter. The station is being mostly used by the public and the government to communicate messages or information. One of its workers told Radio

Tamazuj that they have fully resumed their programs with a major goal of informing and entertaining listeners across the state territories. "Yes we have started our operations and we hope that the security situation will improve so that we can run our work very well without many challenges like what happened in the past."

Pochalla North Commissioner complains of absence of telecommunication networks

[Radio Tamazuj- 28 Oct. 2016](#)

Commissioner of Pochalla North of South Sudan's Boma State Ogebe Omot has raised concerns over the absence of telecommunication network in his hard to reach

county. Located in the eastern part of South Sudan near the border with Ethiopia, Pochalla area is only accessed by air. The official is urging telecommunication companies to provide

network coverage in Pochalla area of Boma State. Currently there are no telecommunication networks in the whole area of Pochalla making communication difficult. The top official narrated that recently he was in contact with telecommunication companies to install the

networks there. However, the commissioner said that the recent conflict in the country is negatively affecting the process. "Yes, I want them to come to the county and deliver services to the people," Ogebe said.

President Kiir petitioned to re-open the Nation Mirror Newspaper in Juba

[The Dawn- 3 Nov. 2016](#)

The African Freedom of expression exchange (AFFEX), a continental network of freedom of expression organisations in Africa, together with 120 individuals from 20 countries in Africa, Europe and America has petitioned President Salva Kiir over the closure of the country's leading private paper, The Nation Mirror. The Petition which was submitted on October 20, 2016, urged the President Salva Kiir to impress on the National Security Services (NSS) to reopen the newspaper. On September 14, 2016, agents of the NSS ordered the indefinite closure

of the Nation Mirror Newspaper without any explanation. According to local media, the newspaper was shut down because it wrote an article on an investigation report on corruption in South Sudan released by a US-based anti-corruption watchdog. The Sentry Corruption report highlighted the link between alleged acts of public corruption and armed conflict in the country. The petition also highlighted the key role the media plays in giving practical meaning to the concepts of freedom of expression and right to information.

Business dealers call on Government to reduce border taxes

[Garang Abraham Malak: This Day-28 Oct. 2016](#)

Concerned businessmen and women are calling on the government to reduce border taxes so that their goods in the market can be bought. This complaint has been directed to the concerned authorities who impose taxation on foreign goods in various border points. They mentioned that inflation is growing higher and it has taken long without being solved hence they prefer taxes to be reduced when taxing foreign goods. The business dealers believe that too much taxation imposed on the borders makes the goods to be sold to them expensively. This

Day Newspaper managed to interview two business persons to find out how businesses are running. Mr. Sebit Habit who is a roadside seller and deals in selling of sugar, maize flour, sweets, soaps, etc. in Custom Market stated that there is a huge decrease in the number of customers he used to receive daily. "I used to have more than ten customers who could purchase in huge amounts but now I receive just three customers in a day hence making the business of no sense to me", he said.

City council upset with fuel selling on streets

[Morris Dogga: Juba Monitor- 3 Nov. 2016](#)

The rate at which petroleum product is being sold along the streets of Juba is alarming; Juba

City legislative council says it is disappointed with the continued selling of petrol product along the

road. Despite the existence of a law that bans the sale of fuel on the roads in the city; many people continue to sell fuel on the streets of Juba instead of the petrol stations. Speaking to Juba Monitor yesterday, the speaker of the council Hon. Michael Allah Jabu said the by-law of the Juba

city legislative council endorsed in 2013 requires that no person shall be allowed to sell petrol or diesel in bottles or Jerry cans along the streets or residential areas of Juba city without approval of the city council.

Ethiopian Airlines resumes flights

[Richard Jale: Juba Monitor- 3 Nov. 2016](#)

Close to two months after it shut down operations in Juba, Ethiopian Airlines resumes to and fro Juba flights, Jafar Hamid Country Manager has said. Jafar told Juba Monitor yesterday that the Airline will resume full operations on November 3rd since it was closed down in September 2016. "Ethiopian Airlines, the largest and the leading Pan-Africa Airline will

resume a scheduled operations to/from Juba as of November 3, 2016, and will keep on connecting Juba to more than 94 international destinations around the globe", Hamid said. He added, "Ethiopian Airlines is the fastest growing Airline in Africa. In its seven decades of operation.

ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

Kenya on 4th East Africa Oil and Gas Summit

[Eye Eadio South Sudan- 30 Oct. 2016](#)

Kenya says it will use a forthcoming summit to highlight its progress in implementing infrastructure projects aimed at boosting regional trade with South Sudan, Uganda, and Ethiopia. The fourth East Africa Oil and Gas Summit will take place in Nairobi between November 15 and 17. According to the East African newspaper, Kenya will inform participants about investment opportunities provided by the Lamu Port-South Sudan-

Ethiopia Transport Corridor projects or Lapsset. The Lapsset project features the Lamu port, standard gauge railway, roads, refined products pipeline, crude oil pipeline, airports, resort cities, and a crude oil refinery. The 26-billion-dollar project was launched by South Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit, Kenya's former President Mwai Kibaki, and former Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in 2012.

Establishment of Revenue Authority

[Richard Jale: Juba Monitor- 31 Oct. 2016](#)

The government should establish the national revenue authority to boost revenue collection says Hon. Goc Makuac Mayol, Chairperson of Economy, Development and Finance in the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) said the revenue authority if established

will diversify the sources of government revenues. Goc told Juba Monitor in an interview that unless government establishes revenue collection body, it will not diversify its revenue sources. "There is no way we will improve revenue collection unless we establish the

National revenue authority. The National revenue authority is a call. It is an important call that the government establish this revenue collection body such that all the revenue collecting agencies come under it”, Goc said.

S Sudan warned against joining EAC currency union

[Junior Ali: Eye Radio South Sudan- 28 Oct. 2016](#)

It may not be feasible for South Sudan to immediately join the monetary union, as a member of the East African Community, according to a research group. The East African Monetary Union is a stage in the process of East African Community Regional Integration which requires member countries to use the same currency. Before achieving a common currency, the EAC member states are required to unite their monetary and fiscal policies. They are also required to unite their financial accounting and reporting systems; standards on statistical information; and, establish an East African Central Bank. The International Growth Center says joining the East African Monetary Union should not be the priority of South Sudan at its beginning due to the current economic situation. In September this year, South Sudan deposited its accession instruments to the East African Community, making it a fully-fledged member. In this context, the International Growth Center

South Sudan’s main source of revenue is oil, but the crisis and the decrease of global oil prices have put the government under pressure to find alternative sources of revenue, one which is taxation.

says South Sudan will be required to implement the provisions of the Customs Union and Common Market Protocols. At the same time, it will now also partake in the negotiations on the forthcoming East African Monetary Union, scheduled to be implemented in 2024. In a report, the IGC says South Sudan is currently facing a continuously worsening economy. “Whilst the 5 (Kenya, Uganda Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi) other member states rely on commodity exports and import oil, South Sudan’s economy is nearly wholly dependent on oil export,” it says. “External economic shocks that affect the oil prices, therefore, will have the opposite effect on South Sudan compared to its member states,” it warns. It says South Sudan should focus on restoring stability in its macro-economy. [Also reported by Oketayot Santo in The Dawn-29 Oct. 2016: Joining regional monetary union not feasible for South Sudan, researchers say](#)

Igga tells governors to mobilize revenue

[Oyet Alfonse: Juba Monitor- 28 Oct. 2016](#)

Vice President James Wani Igga has called on the governors to start mobilizations of non-oil revenue so that they can raise their own budget to fund their projects and provide services to the people. Igga made the statement during the conclusion of the induction workshop for the interim chairpersons and governors of Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) of the 28 states on Wednesday. He said there is nothing

more lack of revenue. “We have already mentioned here that there are certain taxes that you can introduce in collaboration with the national ministry of finance because you cannot rely hundred percent (100%) on what goes from Juba”, he added. The Vice President said that the national government has been anticipating poor prioritizations of expenditure, saying the expenditure is on what you planned. He

emphasized that the governors should leave Juba with new spirit of change that will bring development in the country. "I believe that we are going to open a new page for the SPLM in the

states; the issue of finance is your biggest challenge, but we are going to see into it that we reduce the prices in the market, Igga said.

Awel State and UNDP join hands to boost recovery and stabilization

[Jean-Luc Stalon: This Day- 31 Oct. 2016](#)

Experience in countries characterized by protracted crisis such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, DRC and Mali has shown that the traditional model of sequenced interventions from lifesaving to recovery to development is not fit for purpose as people simultaneously need immediate humanitarian assistance and support for resilience and coping mechanisms. In South Sudan in particular, there are three main reasons for championing a balanced approach of inter-related and simultaneous humanitarian, recovery and stabilization responses to crisis: First, reaching a consensual political settlement and fixing the macroeconomic situation negatively impacts the budget of the federal government which, in turn, has resulted in South Sudan's states being deprived of budgets for

service delivery as they are barely able to pay their civil servant's salary, leaving the bulk of population to fend for itself to all kinds of shocks and stressors. In such a scenario, recovery & stabilization efforts must undergird and complement humanitarian interventions to build community resilience and reduce people's dependency on humanitarian aid. Second, for the relatively stable zones of the country, a concerted effort must be made to incentivize peace or as the Governor of Aweil state puts it: "We must be rewarded for peace, and thereby set an example for the rest of the country". This approach should help build effective firewalls and prevent a spill over of the conflict into areas that are simultaneously vulnerable and yet have managed to remain relatively stable.

Importing food is an insult, says Minister

[Kidega Livingstone: Juba Monitor- 28 Oct. 2016](#)

Government should create conducive environment for its citizens especially farmers, pastoralists and fishermen to produce more food. The Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, James Janga Duku said citizens should use the available resources such as land and rivers in order for them to produce enough food in the country. He said it is an insult to South Sudanese to import food from the neighbouring yet the country has enough resources. He said South Sudanese should translate the wealth they have

into products that sustain lifespan. "As the government we need to upgrade the resources, we need to put the strength to our people and we need to create conducive environment for the exploitation of these resources, look at the Nile for example, we have plenty of fish and yet we get fish from Uganda, look at our land very rich, even white aunts we get from Uganda, is this not an insult to us?" asked the Minister during World Food Day Celebration at Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) compound, Gurei.

Secretary General suspended in Gok State over financial irregularities

[Radio Tamazuj- 2 Oct. 2016](#)

The Deputy Governor of Gok State Kangor Deng Kangor has issued an order suspending the Secretary General of the state government Santino Ater Mon Wantok from his duties on Tuesday this week over financial irregularities at the state general secretariat. Salaries of two months (May and June) for the Commissioner of Malou Pec County were reportedly missing. The official was also accused of impeding the proper functioning of the structures of the General Secretariat. Kangor also issued another order for the formation of a committee headed by the Minister of Local government and Law Enforcement Agencies and other four members to investigate the State Secretary General on

missing of two months' salary for the Commissioner of Malou Pec County and his negligence for not giving a financial report of unpaid salaries since January 2016 up to date. The order says the committee shall complete its work and submit a report to the office of the Deputy Governor within five working days. For his part, Santino confirmed to Radio Tamazuj that he has received a suspension letter signed by the Deputy Governor and he added that he didn't touch money of the commissioner but he blamed the cashier for causing him a problem. He said that he will go to the state high court to prove him right or wrong.

Ethiopia and South Sudan agree on trade, border and military cooperation

[Radio Tamazuj- 28 Oct. 2016](#)

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir and Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Friday on bilateral trade, borders and military cooperation. Speaking on Friday after the signing ceremony at the State House, President Salva Kiir said that the agreement will benefit the two countries and he's hopeful that many things will change soon. "We have discussed very important issues and especially the bilateral issues and we have signed several MoUs and these are things to be implemented. We have agreed on security issues that we will not allow any negative force to use our territory to launch hostile activities on the other," Kiir said. Kiir added that the agreements will improve roads

from Ethiopia to South Sudan. He stressed that South Sudan will build a refinery in the near future and Ethiopia will also benefit from the oil. The two leaders discussed building roads and bridges in Gambella-Joukou, Nasir, Malakal roads. Dima, Raad Boma, Bor roads, and the third one is Pagak, Maiwut, Paluoch road, and finally Tergol, Akobo, Ayod roads. "Upon signing the MOU, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan shall immediately provide the required engineering data and any relevant information for the implementation of these projects," the communiqué stated. [Also reported by Juma Peter in The Dawn- 3 Nov. 2016: Egypt expresses interest to stabilize South Sudan](#)

South Sudan directs oil companies to reinstate former employees

[Sudan Tribune- 1 Nov. 2016](#)

South Sudan's ministry of Petroleum has directed the Joint Operating Companies (JOCs),

a consortium of oil companies operating in the oil sector in the country, to reinstate all their former

employees who previously abandoned their jobs due to the outbreak of civil war on 15 December 2013. In a letter dated 28 October 2016 signed by the Minister of Petroleum, Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, and addressed to presidents of the oil companies including the Greater Pioneer Operating Company (GPOC), Sudd Petroleum Operating Company (SPOC) and Dar Petroleum Operating Company (DPOC), the minister explained that the directive came in accordance with the presidential order which called for reinstatement of civil servants to their former jobs which they left due to the war. "Reference is also made to the Republican Order NO: 25/2016 for the

Reinstatement of the Civil Servants at the National and State levels who had abandoned their positions following the crisis in the Republic of South Sudan on 15th December 2013 A.D.," partly reads the letter seen by Sudan Tribune. "In the light of this, I am directing all the Joint Operating Companies (JOCs) to reinstate all the employees who abandoned their jobs," Minister Gatkuoth said. While many former employees in the private oil sector left their jobs in the aftermath of the civil war, others were systematically laid off by companies when their operations were disrupted by war.

Kenya to market oil, gas projects

[Kennedy Senelwa: The East African- 29 Oct. 2016](#)

Kenya will use the East Africa Oil & Gas Summit to highlight its progress in implementing infrastructure projects aimed at spurring regional trade by linking the country with Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Kenya will inform participants about investment opportunities provided by the Lamu Port-Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor (Lapsset) projects at the summit, which kicks off from November 15 to 17 and held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre. The Lapsset project will feature the Lamu port, standard gauge railway, roads, refined products pipeline, crude oil

pipeline, airports, resort cities and a crude oil refinery. The \$26 billion The project was launched by Kenya's former President Mwai Kibaki, former Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and South Sudan President Salva Kiir in 2012. Lapsset Corridor Development Authority director-general Silvester Kasuku will give an update on the projects structure and funding. Other speakers will be KenInvest managing director Moses Ikiara, African Development Bank Eastern Africa regional director Gabriel Negatu and energy, mineral and oil ministers from Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

66 pct of South Sudan population living in poverty: World Bank survey

[Xinhuanet- 1 Nov. 2016](#)

Poverty levels in war-torn South Sudan have reached a new high with 66 percent of the population living in poverty, a World Bank survey launched on Tuesday reveals. The survey, dubbed Adding Human Touch to Poverty Data in South Sudan, says a slump in oil prices coupled with renewed violence since July deprived South Sudan of its main source of foreign exchange,

triggering a severe fiscal crisis. "Securing livelihoods has become more and more difficult with 66 percent of the population now living in poverty, a new peak," Utz Pape, a senior economist and the lead researcher wrote in an article posted on the World Bank website. He revealed the World Bank has started collecting short video testimonials from ordinary citizens to

ascertain their daily struggles as economic hardships escalates in the country. "All of this information drawn from a real-time dashboard is without doubt helpful for the government in making decision and also sheds light on the reality of market prices," he added. More than two years of civil war have led to economic

disruptions and skyrocketing cost of basic commodities. The South Sudan Bureau of Statistics estimated in August that 51 percent of the country's population was living in poverty. [Also reported in China- 1 Nov. 2016: 66 pct of South Sudan population living in poverty](#)

Immigration vital for economic growth in South Sudan

[Kidega Livingstone: Juba Monitor-3 Nov. 2016](#)

South Sudan is facing the economic hardship which has led to high prices of the basic needs and food, transport fare and school fees. A UN expert said a good immigration policy could contribute to growth of the economy in order to avoid it from drastic collapse of the country. Speaking to Juba Monitor yesterday, United Nations Expert in development, Okafor Christian said that encouraging more people in the country to help themselves would help in the growing economy because every single United States dollar, pound

and shilling immigrants invest in the country will be as a source of income after using it in the local resources such as tourism, hotels and land. He said such resources need to be packaged very well in order to attract those entering the country. "When you have more people coming in the country then every single money they bring into the country will dribble (drop) down and it helps the economy to grow, so it is important to encourage more people coming to the country than those who go out and spend their money outside the country", he said.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDGs reports finalized

[Taban Gabriel: Juba Monitor- 28 Oct.2016](#)

South Sudan Network for Democracy and Election (SSuNDE) on Thursday organized a workshop to finalize the validation of the reports of previous consultative meetings held in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Chairperson of SSuNDE Rajab Mohandis said the groups that met at the workshop will validate the report and agree that it reflects the voices of the participants. He said once the groups agree on the reports SSuNDE will publish and disseminate them to the public. Mr. Rajab said the reports will serve as a source of information and knowledge to policy makers but broadly to the South Sudanese public on what citizens say about the SDGs, the peace agreement and other development framework like

the South Sudan vision and the African Union Agenda 2063. Rajab calls on South Sudanese to concentrate on discussing opportunities they have in the SDGs, South Sudan Vision and some of the most important development framework to contribute to the development of the country rather than discussing conflicts. He said they are not doing the validation in isolation of the government, but he said first they wanted to get the voices of the citizens to form an agenda for the policy makers. He said they have programs to engage with the government both at state and the national level. [Also reported by Oketayot Sato in The Dawn- 28 Oct. 2016: SSuNDE condemns hate speech](#)