

4<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2016

## WEEKLY MEDIA ECONOMIC DIGEST SOUTH SUDAN



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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. The East African
2. The Star Online
3. The Citizen
4. The Monitor
5. The New Times
6. The Nation Mirror
7. The Daily Vision
8. The Star
9. The National Today
10. Sudan Tribune
11. Gurtong
12. Radio Tamazuj
13. Eye Radio South Sudan
14. Juba Monitor
15. The Dawn

### Disclaimer:

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

## PRICES AND MARKETS

### MPS alarmed at rising market prices

Oyet Alfonse: [Juba Monitor- 10 Mar. 2016](#)

The response of the market to the realignment of the official South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) exchange rate parallel to USD rate which unambiguously triggered drastic increase in prices of essential commodities has drawn parliamentarians into the fray. The Central Bank's decision to auction dollars to the commercial banks has apparently not yielded the desired result; this has prompted the Chairperson of Economic Cluster in parliament to come up with an idea to establish "Parliamentary economic Oversight Committee" to dig into the issue in order to come up with remedies to improve the current economic condition. Eight committees comprising of Finance, information, Committee of Security and Public Order, Petroleum and Mining, Agriculture, Public Account and Water Resource and Irrigation at the National Legislative Assembly met yesterday to look into the cause of skyrocketing market prices of essential commodities in the country.

### Fake Money Seized In Gogrial

Ayuel Santino Manut: [Gurtong- 6 Mar. 2016](#)

Two men have been arrested and close to half a million fake SSP seized in Gogrial East County. The duo apprehended are reported to have come from Juba and went to the remote part of county at Mayen-Jur locality where they bought unknown number of cattle and left before the authorities discovered them later. According to the Governor of Gogrial State, Abraham Gum Makuac, all the cattle bought are being traced and once they are found they will be given back to the owners. "The money was 340,000 fake money and they went to areas of Toch and started buying cattle, they went as far as buying cattle from. After the people of Mayen discovered I was given a call and I ordered for their whereabouts and arrest. From there a person called Mabuoch and Wol Diing Madut were arrested. They were found in possession of 40,000 SSP and the money collected at Mayen- Jur was 390, 000 SSP."

### **NBS: Statistics worrying**

[Dhieu Williams: The Daily Vision- 4 Mar. 2016](#)

David Chan Thieng, Director in the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has said the country's economic situation is fast shrinking because over 71% of the working class spends their earnings on basic commodities especially food, neglecting other fields. He was speaking in a one-day workshop organized by the Bureau and was attended by Undersecretaries from various line ministries, UN agencies and developmental partners. "As we speak from 2014 prices rose up and since last month in January prices of food have gone so high and the prices are skyrocketing day by day," he said. He broke down the

expenditure of income earners saying 71% of the earnings go to food, 4% to health, more than 4% on hotels and restaurants, and the rest is spent on alcohol and home furniture. "Food is too expensive for everybody. Every time you go to the market somebody will tell you a different price". He said. He put the consumer's price index at 22% and the inflation rate at 1.6% as of their records. [Also reported by Daniel Majack Kuany in The Nation Mirror- 5 Mar. 2016: NBS advocate for establishment of a strong statistical system](#)

### **Bus fares rise in Juba amid rise in fuel price**

[Radio Tamazuj- 8 Mar. 2016](#)

South Sudan's capital city Juba has witnessed since Monday morning crowds of people at bus stations waiting for public transports, some of which stopped working due to rise in price of fuel amid calls for the government to intervene to solve the problem. A number of citizens who spoke to Radio Tamazuj said they were waiting for long time at the bus station

before returning to their homes after the public transports stopped working. They said the price of one litre of fuel has risen to 32 SSP from 22 SSP which led the owner of buses to stop working. The citizens called on the government to intervene to find solution of the suffering of the people which has worsened following the crisis in the public transportation.

### **East Africa: South Sudan to Boost EAC Market**

[Dorothy Nakaweesi: The Monitor- 4 Mar. 2016](#)

Going by the saying that big is better, the admission of South Sudan to the East African Community (EAC), is destined to enhance trade within the region, experts say. The world's youngest nation was admitted to EAC at the 17th summit held in Arusha, Tanzania on March 2. The summit was attended by four regional presidents, including Uganda's Yoweri Museveni, Kenya's Uhuru Kenyatta, Tanzania's John Magufuli and Rwanda's Paul Kagame. The admission makes South Sudan the sixth nation of the EAC bloc thus creating a common market of about 162 million people. Commenting yesterday about South Sudan's admission to the community, Amb James Mugume, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kampala, said: "... South Sudan comes with a bigger market, bigger investment and bigger tourism

into the region." Amb Mugume, however, said there are some legal steps and procedures that South Sudan has to work on that will help them build the capacity to meet some of the obligations within the treaty. "... the challenge for the rest of the member states is to make sure that South Sudan complies with all the legal procedures within the next 12 months," he noted. [Also reported by James Karuhanga in The New Times- 9 Mar. 2016: S. Sudan EAC admission historic, says Minister, by Daniel Majack Kuany in The Nation Mirror- 4 Mar. 2016: Vice President Wani Igga welcomes S. Sudan's joining of EAC, by Aurelius Simon Chopee in The Nation Mirror- 4 Mar. 2016: What you should know about East African Community Membership.](#)

### **Public transport crippled, citizens stranded**

[The Daily Vision- 8 Mar. 2016](#)

It was the “first bird catches the worm” yesterday morning as people rushing to work and other businesses were stunned after they got to the bus and taxi stops but found no vehicles. To get on board the few vehicles that were available was another tag of war as people dashed and in the process hauled and pushed one another to get in- it was survival for the fittest. Rumors by the end of last week spread like wild fire of a government plan to raise the cost of fuel from

SSP 31 per litre of fuel to SSP 35. Many petrol and gas stations immediately closed and the few that remained open faced the menace of long queues with rowdy customers. The Daily Vision visited some locations yesterday morning and found marooned passengers waiting for transport but to no avail. Residents of Gurei, Gudele 1 and Gudele 2, and Custom Park felt the heat as time to go to their various works passed swiftly.

### **South Sudan parliament investigate central bank auctions**

[The Daily Vision- 4 Mar. 2016](#)

A committee from South Sudan 's National Legislative Assembly has been formed to carry out investigations into how more than \$60 million auctioned by the Central Bank has been used. This comes after the central bank itself announced it will question commercial banks about how they used dollars that they purchased in the recent auctions. Agany Deng Kawac, a member of parliament from Aweil East said the parliament has been alarmed by the soaring consumer prices after the government had released more than sixty million dollars to stabilize the pound after the devaluation in December. According to

Agany, the objective of floating the currency was to make it easier for importers to bring in essential commodities such as corn meal, wheat flour, beans, oil, sugar, salt, tea and other basic items. It was also to strengthen the value of the local currency but it has instead continued to weaken reaching a record low in less than two after the exchange policy was introduced by finance and central bank officials. [Also reported by Dhieu William in The Daily Vision- 7 Mar. 2016: Committee to oversee dollar allocation formed, by Oyet Alfonse in Juba Monitor- 5 Mar. 2016: Gov't to tackle misuse of dollars](#)

## **BUSINESS**

### **East Africa businesses post mixed results, blame forex losses, devaluation**

[Allan Olingo: The East African- 7 Mar. 2016](#)

East Africa's publicly listed companies posted moderately positive performances despite the challenging business conditions that prevailed last year. Businesses shrugged off the weakening of regional currencies against the US dollar, the currency devaluation in South Sudan, inflation and high interest rates to post profits with the exception of retailer Uchumi Supermarkets. Executives attributed the performances to cost cutting and increased reliance on technology to deliver services to consumers.

#### **Banking**

KCB announced a 16.4 per cent increase in its profits to \$196 million, even as it booked a \$61 million foreign exchange loss, mainly from its South Sudan operations, where the national currency was devalued by 84 per cent in December. The bank saw its total interest income grow by 18.7 per cent to \$56.3 million, with the loan book rising by 21.9 per cent to \$345.9 million. KCB bank chief executive Joshua Oigara said that the lender saw a 14 per cent dip in net profit largely attributed to lower non-interest income and a drop in earnings. Maurice Oduor, an investment manager at Cytonn, said that the bank would have

posted better results had it not been for the devaluation of currencies in Juba. "This devaluation will hit most firms' books as it was done late last year

and they have to book it. But going forward, we expect a rebound in this market because it was a one-off thing," Mr Oduor said.

### **CfC bets on Juba stability to reverse profit fall**

**Constant Munda:** [The Star- 4 Mar. 2016](#)

MID-TIER lender CfC Stanbic is banking on political stability in South Sudan to reverse its Sh780 million slide in net earnings last year compared to 2014. The bank is among four Kenyan lenders with exposure in the southwest-neighboring country that descended into intense civil unrest in December 2013, hurting businesses in the oil-dependent economy. CfC Stanbic, owned over 60 per cent by South Africa's Standard Bank Group, said yesterday Wednesday's admission of South Sudan into the East African Community bloc after a five-year wait, gives a glimmer of hope for a return to stability. The bank's chief finance officer

Abraham Ongengo was also hopeful the warring factions of President Salva Kiir and his sacked deputy Riek Machar will honor a January agreement to share ministerial positions. CfC operates a branch which is heavily dependent on transactional banking in the war-torn country, and the unrest partly weighed down its non-funded income in 2015. "We hope there's is going to be a return to stability this year and this will boost our business in South Sudan," Ongengo told an investor briefing in Nairobi yesterday. "They have just been admitted into EAC and they recently agreed to form a united government."

### **Kenya: Local Traders Eye Big Gains as S. Sudan Joins Regional Bloc**

**Brian Ngugi:** [Daily Nation- 7 Mar. 2016](#)

The admission of South Sudan into the East African Community bloc is a boon for Kenyan businesses as they seek to widen their business horizons. The bloc's market size has now jumped to a massive 162 million people. EAC members are now six. Others are Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi. In Juba, the decision was reportedly received with excitement with the troubled nation taking the move as a vote of confidence. Analysts see South Sudan's admission as an opportunity for Kenyan traders to sell their goods and services on a bigger platform. "It is very good for

Southern Sudan to be admitted into the EAC in as far as Kenya is concerned. The ultimate aim is to make EAC a free market for goods, services including financial services and labour," said Mr John Kirimi Sterling Capital executive director. "Kenya has a more developed and diversified market for all the three and it will therefore stand to benefit most." A huge number of Kenyan corporates already have operations in South Sudan. They include several banks and small scale enterprises all of which have set up base in Juba and other areas.

### **Business Community in Rumbek holds a meeting with Governor**

**Mabor Riak Magok:** [Gurtong- 8 Mar. 2016](#)

The Governor of Western Lakes State, Abraham Makoi Bol Kodi last Friday held a meeting with the business community in the State on issues pertaining prices of commodities and security in the markets. The prices of commodities have since last year shot up due to the shortage of the US dollars. Many have also complained that the presence of insecurity in markets in Rumbek is affecting their businesses owing to the lootings and

robberies that are carried out in the market during night hours. A representative of the business community in Rumbek, Ahmed Bushair during their meeting with the Governor raised concerns over the shortage of the dollars and the poor state of roads which has left the business community to increase prices in order to cut down on losses. "Traders are also facing robbery not only on the way to Rumbek but also

inside the market here. So we are calling upon the new Governor, Abraham Makoi Bol to make sure that these unknown gunmen stop looting our money particularly

at night. This is affecting our business in Rumbek and our lives sometimes are under threat.”

### **Economic tides pinch small businesses in Juba**

[Joseph Oduha: The Dawn- 7 Mar. 2016](#)

South Sudanese are finding themselves in a hard economic position especially after economists at the Central Bank of South Sudan devalued the country's local currency in December 2015. The sole reason given for the decision to devalue the worth of the SSP against the dollar was that, there was need to realign it to the market held rate, otherwise now known as the black market rate. This evidently led traders to also hike commodity prices, since access to the dollar which most traders use in purchasing the commodities

was hard to access, as was anticipated by the Central Bank. Since the decision was taken in December, prices in the market have never lasted over a week without changing to a higher rate, making livelihoods almost a nightmare for the common citizens. Joice Yiki, a female retailer who sales beans in juba's konyo konyo market has already considered closing her business when she sold out all what was in her stock due to high rates of the dollar to enable her purchase more goods from Uganda.

## **ECONOMY AND PUBLIC FINANCE**

### **South Sudan: Beyond the dangers of today to the hopes of tomorrow**

[Eugene Owusu: The East African- 5 Mar. 2016](#)

Violence and conflict in South Sudan arise from the failure of development to reconcile and manage political differences and grievances. The UNDP report concludes that conflict is development in reverse. The greatest drain on human development in South Sudan is the absence of peace. February 24, 2016 will be remembered as a historical day for South Sudan and indeed for the East African region. On this day, Vice President James Wani Igga launched the first National Human Development Report for South Sudan with the theme “People, Peace and Prosperity.” In his foreword, President Salva Kiir Mayardit affirms that the theme reflects what the South Sudanese as a people, aspire to. For more than 50 years, the good

people of this country have endured a brutal conflict that only few can even begin to imagine. Almost five years ago, against all odds, the country triumphed over marginalization. Two years ago, the optimism of Independence and the hope for a better future suffered a setback because of conflict. Today, the economic situation of South Sudan is not what the country aspires to. Its society is polarized and the delivery of public services is a serious challenge. Despite these challenges, I have absolute faith in the indomitable spirit of this country and its people. If there is one thing that I have learnt from the history of our people, it is that you can never count them out. South Sudan will bounce back.

### **S Sudan economics professor criticizes joining East African Community**

[Radio Tamazuj- 4 Mar. 2016](#)

The announcement of South Sudan's accession to the East African Community (EAC) has not been universally welcomed among South Sudanese intellectuals. The EAC is a group of nations that cooperates in the areas of trade, travel, tourism and harmonization of tax

regimes and other regulations. EAC includes Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. Leaders of the EAC nations, meeting at a summit in Arusha, Tanzania on Wednesday, decided to approve South Sudan's membership application. Reacting to the news,

Professor Marial Awou, the Dean of the Faculty of Economics at University of Juba, said South Sudan should have not joined the East African Community at this time, describing the decision as “unfeasible”. He further said South Sudan currently cannot compete in a common market with its products, saying its membership in the EAC nations will instead weaken local products against imported products. The

economist pointed out that South Sudan is an unproductive country compared to East African countries and that this will create imbalance in trade cooperation. Marial stressed that South Sudan will never benefit from joining the EAC bloc at this time despite the fact that its accession can create new policies with those countries in terms of trade.

### **‘Economy is worsening’**

**Mabior Philip: [Eye radio South Sudan- 9 Mar. 2016](#)**

The Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission has warned that the economy is worsening and is mostly affecting the less fortunate. The chairman, Festus Mogae, says it is not realistic to expect world powers to restore the economy to what it once was. The South Sudan economy has been relying heavily on oil exports. But the prices of oil have fallen in the world market from more than \$100 before the conflict to around \$25 per barrel. Sudan also requires \$24 from the sale of each barrel of crude as payment for transit fees and to compensate for the separation in 2011. In his opening remarks at the JMEC meeting in Juba today, Mr Festus said oil prices may rise, or may not.

And irrespective of the price changes, solutions must be found from within. “A poor economy hurts everyone, but those that suffer most are of course, the poorest,” the former Botswanan President said. He said the formation of the government of national unity alone will not be enough to ensure international economic assistance. Help would be dependent on the competence of those who are appointed to key economic management positions, the respect for the agreement and the seriousness in pursuing relevant economic policies and reforms. [Also reported by Sworo Charles Elisha in Juba Monitor- 10 Mar. 2016: Mogae calls for Quick economic reforms](#)

### **Can gum Arabic generate revenues?**

**Junior Ali: [Eye Radio South Sudan- 8 Mar. 2016](#)**

Other sectors of the economy such as the harvesting of gum Arabic will get the required attention when peace is restored to the country, opposition leader Dr Lam Akol has said. Dr Lam Akol says the government should have used income generated from the oil to improve agriculture and commercial forestry, especially the gum Arabic. The gum Arabic, also known as acacia gum, is a natural gum made of hardened fluids of various species of the acacia tree. The cash crop has several uses but it is mainly known for its universal usage as a soft drinks stabilizer. It is been widely used in beverages such as sodas like coke,

pepsi, and others. In South Sudan, large quantities of the gum Arabic trees are found in the Upper Nile region, particularly Wadakona, Lul, and Maiwut areas. “If we had used the money from oil to develop agriculture and forestry like gum Arabic, we would have now ended up with a lot of [oil] reserves,” Dr Lam told Eye Radio. “When peace comes then people will pay the required attention to gum Arabic and as we all now move towards agriculture and forestry as the main state of the economy, what should have been actually since 2005.



### **JMEC chairman says South Sudan needs economic solutions “from within”**

[Radio Tamazuj- 9 Mar. 2016](#)

The Chairman of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) Festus Mogae says that South Sudan needs to undertake economic reforms on its own and not expect salvation from outside donors or partners. In written remarks prepared for the JMEC meeting today, Mogae pointed out that the economic situation in the country is deteriorating, saying that this will hurt the poor the most. He cautioned, “The idea that world powers will restore this country’s economy to what it once was, is unrealistic. Oil prices may rise, or they may not. Irrespective of whether they do or not, this cannot be counted on. Solutions must be found from within.” Mogae then referred to the parts of the August 2015 peace agreement that deal

with economic reforms, pointing out that these require the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity. “But formation of the government will itself be insufficient to ensure international economic assistance. Help will be dependent on the competence of those who are appointed to key economic management positions, on the degree of adherence to the agreement’s provisions, and the seriousness with which appropriate economic policies and necessary reforms are pursued,” he said. [Also reported by Robert Nyawanda in The National Today- 10 Mar. 2016: Don’t expect external solutions to economic woes- Mogae](#)

### **South Sudan oil production pollution threatens thousands: monitors**

[The East African- 4 Mar. 2016](#)

Dangerous heavy metals used in oil production in war-torn South Sudan have leaked into drinking water sources used by 180,000 people with life-threatening health risks, a rights group said Friday. Toxicological tests carried out on hair samples from 96 volunteers living around the Thar Jath oil processing plant in South Sudan’s northern Unity region revealed they were “highly intoxicated with pollutants such as lead and barium,” said Klaus Stieglitz, from the German-based Sign of Hope organisation. “There is a direct link between the contamination of the people and the activities of the petroleum industry working in this

area,” he said, adding that the research built on six years of hydrological tests by the group in the region. “The total toxic stress — as found in the hair samples — of the human population of the area is life-threatening,” said Klaus-Dietrich Runow, from Germany’s Institute for Functional Medicine and Environmental Health, one of two separate independent toxicologists who assessed the samples. [Also reported in The Star Online- 4 Mar. 2016: South Sudan oil production pollution threatens thousands, In The Citizen- 7 Mar. 2016: South Sudan oil pollution ‘threatens thousands’](#)

### **Juba now allowed to play barefoot in the big league**

[Charles Onyango: The East African- 5 Mar. 2016](#)

South Sudan was admitted into the East African Community last Wednesday, at a summit of the region’s chiefs in Arusha. It was an admission that was made possible because the bar was lowered for it. When Rwanda and Burundi were formally admitted in 2007, they were made to sweat for it. They had to pass a series of business and financial laws to meet the EAC requirement of members having a free market economy of some sort. South Sudan, on the other

hand, applied to join shortly after its Independence from Sudan (Khartoum) in 2011, when there was a lot of hope about its future. It has now been admitted at a time when the civil war that erupted in December 2013 has turned what was a promising country into a basket case. The thinking in South Sudan’s case thus seems to be that EAC membership will civilize its politics and bring peace. The Burundi case — it joined when it was at peace and has now relapsed into civil

war — suggests that EAC membership cannot immunize a country against madness. Kenya too had its post-election violence in 2008 long after the revival

of the EAC, and after last month's chaotic election in Uganda, the country at one point came perilously close to political disaster.

### **Editorial: South Sudan, e-Passport significant progress for EAC**

[The New Times- 4 Mar. 2016](#)

Nearly six years since South Sudan applied to join the East African Community, they finally got to dine at the table for the bloc. For South Sudan, it has been a long, arduous journey. To EAC, it has been all about formality. With South Sudan's acceptance, the now six-nation bloc's market size has now grown to 162 million people, up from 145.5 million. Already, the world's youngest nation has been active in pushing for Northern Corridor projects, making its admission to the bloc a milestone that should boost the region's integration ambitions. Many have been asking, what does South Sudan bring to the table? Valid probing but, at the moment, it is like putting the cart in front of the horse. Blocs are there to foster socio-economic

and political transformation of all member states. Through trade, regular meetings, opening of borders and many others, every member state becomes a salient player in the quest for transformation. No nation is an island; every one of the six needs each other to boost transformation as long as the goals of the Community are given the necessary push to impact the citizens. The good news for South Sudan came at the same time with the development on e-Passports for regional citizens. This is yet another significant development that can change the way things are done in the region and thus, impact socio-economic transformation.

### **South Sudan EAC bid was rushed- CEPO**

[Paska Alfred Akwoch: The National Today- 8 Mar. 2016](#)

South Sudan became the 6<sup>th</sup> member in the East African Community Trade Bloc in March ending five years since it applied to join in 2011, but analysts want the decision was hurried and could cost the young country. Edmund Yakani the executive Director for Community Empowerment for Progress Organization told the National Today in an interview that South Sudan needed to first rebuild its shattered economy before heading into the competitive EAC. "South Sudan should not be like Greece that needed bail out less than two years after rushing into European Union without having strong economic policy," said Yakani. Due to poor timing and lack of clear economic policy,

the country is likely to call for bail out in a few year, he said. Yakani added that the EAC will benefit much from South Sudan because it lacks exports compared to the other five countries that at least have wide sources of income. Oil Dependent South Sudan relies on its export of crude oil to finance 98 percent of its fiscal expenditure with only 4 percent of its arable land under cultivation. [Also reported by Chuty Anyar Michael & Daniel Majack Kuany in The Nation Mirror- 5 Mar. 2016: Joining the East African Community is the biggest mistake ever- Dr. Lam Akol, by Dau Majok John in The Daily Vision- 8 Mar. 2016: CEPO calls for EAC referendum](#)

### **S. Sudan preparing to resume oil production in Unity state**

[Sudan Tribune- 6 Mar. 2016](#)

South Sudan says it is preparing to resume oil production in the its new states of Northern Liech and Ruweng, amidst optimism move would boost the struggling economy over the course of the three-year

interim government period. The country's petroleum and mining minister, Stephen Dhieu Dau exclusively told Sudan Tribune Saturday that the young nation was in a dire economic situation because its economy



heavily relies on oil since government has not yet diversified into other sectors. "Frankly speaking, we were unable to diversify our economy. We relied on the oil and this is why we are much more disadvantaged by the lower oil prices", said the minister. The government's main priority, Dau said, would be to utilize proceeds from the oil sold during the interim period to support development projects such as agricultural, physical infrastructure and other projects which would help in reinvigoration the economy. "When peace holds and the transitional government of national unity is formed, the priority of

the government would be designed to support agricultural projects. The proceeds of the oil will be used to support implementation of activities with positive economic impacts. The government will invest in physical infrastructure. There is strong need to build roads which would connect communities to farming areas", said Dau. [Also reported by Daniel Deng Bol in The Dawn- 10 Mar. 2016: Petroleum Ministry to increase oil production, by Deng Machol: The National Today- 10 Mar. 2016: Oil price rises and South Sudan seeks to gain- Minister](#)

### **Over SSP 210,000 raised for Jonglei state road project**

[Sudan Tribune- 6 Mar. 2016](#)

Over SSP 210,000 (about \$10,000) was recently collected at a fund raising campaign organized in Bor by the Twic East county commissioner, Dau Akoi. At least SSP215, 000 was pledged in both cash and pledges on Saturday. The cash counted amounted to SSP33, 000 at the end of the fund raising drive. Majority of people, however, vowed to fulfill their pledges for the campaign by 7 March. Dau, who addressed the gathering during fund raising campaign on Saturday, said the money would be used to complete the road linking the county to the state

capital of Bor. "Our priorities in Twic East are road and dyke this year. We have started the roadwork, and a half of it was completed. But to complete it to the border of Bor county, we need you to contribute for the remaining part", said the commissioner. "The state has no funds in its development treasury and so citizens must contribute to solve some problems they face," said Akoi. "We must work to solve our problems. Road is the major issue that would help us in solving insecurity and other problems, once it is completed", he added.

### **S. Sudan's wildlife and natural resources under threat: report**

[Sudan Tribune- 7 Mar. 2016](#)

South Sudan army, its various armed groups and civilians should halt all wildlife poaching and trafficking activities, conservationists warned. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and its partners said South Sudan's wildlife and other natural resources were under immediate threat from an alarming expansion of illegal exploitation as well as trafficking. "These illegal activities are being perpetrated by local as well as international individuals and actors, including members of the various armed forces active in the country," WCS said in a report released on 2 March. All sides currently involved in the South Sudan conflict, according to scientific monitoring and investigations undertaken by WCS and partners in the past months,

have documented a sharp rise in illegal activities in various areas of the young nation. Over the past two years of armed conflict, WCS said, the various armed forces across the country have been implicated in cases of large-scale wildlife poaching (both for consumption and commercial trafficking). Last month, WCS said in its report, 19 government soldiers and 11 civilians were arrested for commercial bush meat poaching and trafficking by government wildlife rangers, with sacks of dried meat of more than 60 antelopes. "There has also been increased ivory trafficking registered both within the country and across its borders", says the report.

### **Cabinet Conclude Inter-Ministerial Dialogue on Economic Challenges**

**Jok P Mayom:** [Gurtong- 7 Mar. 2016](#)

The Council of Ministers chaired by President Salva Kiir on Friday concluded an inter-ministerial dialogue and agreed to lay strategies to address the economic challenges in the country. Dr. Martin Elias Lomuro, Minister of Cabinet Affairs told reporters after the meeting that the council of ministers concluded the inter-ministerial dialogue on how to subsidize further some of the commodities including transport of students to schools as means to fight economic crisis. "The most important thing was the economic security citing the grave suffering of our people in various parts of the country into high prices of basic commodities including water and food items" Dr. Elias said. He said, "We confirm that we have been conducting research on the influence of the dollars that we are auctioning for the commercial banks to supply traders in order to

import essential commodities and we have identified areas where there must be improvement so that this money goes to the right course of usage." Dr. Elias further said the President reaffirms his wavering commitment to implement the agreement of conflict in South Sudan in order to enhance economic recovery. "The government has already undertaken a number of critical steps in the implementation of the peace agreement" he said. Dr. Elias noted said the President is aware of the economic situation in the country. ".....the President recognizes the severe suffering occasions of the people by the continuous grave economic crisis that is costing unaffordable prices in essential commodities, the high upturn in various essential needs of the people of South Sudan" said the Cabinet Affairs Minister.

### **Tonj State Government Sends 10 Sacks of Sorghum for Warrap Inmates**

**Ariik Atekditi:** [Gurtong- 7 Mar. 2016](#)

The Governor of Tonj State said about 10 sacks of sorghum have been sent by the State government to Warrap town prison after learning that the 166 inmates are facing hunger due to lack of supply of food to the prison. Governor Akec Tong Aleu said that the prison has not been supplied with food by the contractor since last year. "This is a national duty. It is the national government that is responsible for feeding the inmates. There is always coordination made between the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Finance and the contractor who then supplies food directly to locations of inmates," Akec explained. Last week the Commissioner of Tonj North County in

Warrap town expressed that the situation of inmates is deteriorating and the health state of the prisoners worsening. Mr. Sigin Ayindit urged the concerned authorities including the State administration to quickly find ways of getting food to the detained individuals under different kinds of crimes in the County. However, the Governor said, "The contractor claimed that he has not been paid for the last 5 years and for that reason he has stopped supplying food to the prison. I am not quite sure whether he is right or wrong but it is the national government who has the full details of the agreement and payment."

### **SPLM-IO worsens economic crisis**

**Dau Majok John:** [The Daily Vision- 4 Mar. 2016](#)

South Sudan Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture authorities and partners have said that the return of Dr. Riek Machar to Juba will help solve the current economic crisis. Speaking to reporters at a press conference yesterday the Chairman of The

chamber, Benjamin Bol Mel said Dr. Machar's return to Juba with his group will allow the formation of the government of national unity as stipulated in the peace agreement signed between the government and the rebel faction, SPLM-IO. According to

Benjamin, the full implementation of the peace agreement will allow donors to increase their efforts in ensuring that South Sudan's economic crisis is rescued and the economic situation will return to normal. He also asked the international community to pressure Dr. Machar to ensure that he comes to Juba

as soon as possible. He said that the government has put tremendous efforts in making sure peace is implemented by redeploying army outside the capital, pointing out that SPLM-IO have done less in the implementation of the peace agreement.

### **Bridges to be reconstructed**

Mawa Moses Kenyi: [The Daily Vision- 7 Mar. 2016](#)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has funded the reconstruction of Kaya, Koni and Kayibu bridges. Four million dollars have been handed to UNOPS for the reconstruction. According to UNOPS Country Director, Paul Crichang, the organization is ready to build a better bridge than the initial one that collapsed. He said a new management and design from Copenhagen and Nairobi will be brought as a measure in replacing the previous design with a modern one that will be long lasting and be at work standards. UNOPS said these bridges will be

operational by mid-November to ease transport between Morobo and Kajo-Keji. They also said the reconstruction will be a source of employment since the builders of the bridge and manual laborers will be from the population in the surrounding area. Several Government officials were present during the ground breaking ceremony. Officials from the government, both from the National and State were present. The local government was represented by the two Commissioners of Morobo, Jacob Toti Fenosa and Lokonga Julius of Kajo-Keji.