

1st -9th Sept. 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. Gurtong
2. Radio Tamazuj
3. Eye Radio South Sudan
4. Bloomberg
5. Uganda Radio Network
6. Africa News
7. Sudan Tribune
8. Daily News
9. Reuters
10. All Africa
11. The Star
12. The New Times
13. Xinhua Net

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WEEKLY MEDIA ECONOMIC DIGEST SOUTH SUDAN



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PRICES AND MARKET

Rising prices in South Sudan's northern border areas

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

Local officials in the contested area of Abyei between Sudan and South Sudan have complained of rise in price of consumer goods due to weakening of the local currency SSP against the Sudanese pound. Similar price rises are reported in Maban and other areas that depend in part on trade with Sudan. Speaking to Radio Tamazuj, Paramount Chief of Ngok Dinka Nyol Fagot Deng said citizens in the area are complaining of rise in price of consumer goods due to the weakened value of the South Sudanese pound against the Sudanese pound. He said 1000 SSP equal to 150 SDG. Given low incomes, the living conditions for people in Abyei area have worsened. "People of Abyei area are doing their best to cover the basic living needs. Some are working in restaurants and tea places and some are working in the farms to meet their living expenses," said Fagot. Similarly, Maban County in Upper Nile also witnessed rise in price of consumer goods, according to the commissioner Luk Sadalla. Luk told Radio Tamazuj a sack of maize flour has risen to 30,000 SSP, pointing out that this is the first time price of goods rise to such level.

Report: Alcohol use high despite economic crisis

[Memoscar Lasuba: Eye Radio South Sudan- 8 Sept. 2016](#)

A new research shows that the rate of use of alcohol in South Sudan is high, despite decades of civil war and poverty. The survey released this week shows that alcoholism in South Sudan is at the same level as in other countries in Southern Africa. It was carried out by the Norwegian University Cooperation Programme for Capacity Development in South Sudan, with funding from the Norwegian government. More than 500 people, mainly adults between 18 and 35 years of age, were randomly contacted in the north-western part of the country and in Juba. The participants

were put into three categories: “Low risk drinkers”, “Harmful or hazardous drinkers” and “Not current drinkers”. Surveyors used Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test to study the individuals. A questionnaire was also administered to all participants, which included their gender, age, areas, marital status, level of education, employment status, and income,

among others. The results indicated that over 14% of them were identified as harmful or hazardous drinkers. Its conclusion was that lack of regular income and psychological distress were the main risk factors for alcohol abuse in the country. However, the research did not relate traumatic events to high risk drinking.

CFC Bank to introduce Yuan

[Eye Radio South Sudan- 2 Sept. 2016](#)

The Kenya-based CFC Stanbic Bank says it plans to introduce Chinese yuan trading into its branch in Juba. This comes after its successful launch of the currency trading in Kenya. According to the CFC Stanbic Chief Executive, Phillip Odera, the bank is experiencing a lot of demand for Chinese yuan from traders in South Sudan. “South Sudanese business community who trade with China are forced to come to Kenya in order to

access RMB,” Odera told reporters in Nairobi. The availability of yuan is expected to help boost China-Africa trade by reducing transaction cost of converting between currencies. “We are therefore experiencing increased demand for the Chinese currency as traders travel to China to purchase goods for the festive season,” he added.

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Nile Petroleum Company to build regional fuel depot in Wau

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

South Sudan's Nile Petroleum Company is constructing a fuel depot facility in Wau town to curb fuel shortages in Greater Bahr el Ghazal region. Joseph Mayuol Bol, the director for maintenance and construction downstream for Nile petroleum said his company had identified Wau town as a strategic fuel depot for the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region. "Nile Petroleum is currently undergoing construction of a fuel depot facility; we are locating to Wau as a strategic fuel depot station which will be a regional site to serve the greater Bahr el Ghazal with fuel," Bol told Sudan Tribune. "This is the project Nile petroleum is implementing and is a project that will also go to other states at the level of the 10 states, other than greater Bahr el Ghazal. In the next coming months or next year, there will be no fuel crisis as we are now witnessing," he added.

The official acknowledged that fuel had become a big problem, which had forced some people to abandon their cars and resort to walking, citing himself as an example. "Am now using boda boda because of the issue of fuel, 1 litter now is 350 SSP which is too much citizens cannot afford that, so we want to trim down the issue of fuel so that everybody get services," he said. According to the Nile Petroleum official, the project started since 2007, but political factors in the country delayed the project, which could finally take off and would be completed next year. [Also reported by James Deng Dimo in Gurtong- 2 Sept. 2016: Wau fuel depot to distribute fuel to Greater Bahr el Ghazal after Completion, by Moses Legge in Eye Radio South Sudan- 8 Sept. 2016: New oil facility to be opened in October.](#)

South Sudan Travel, Trade Picking Up

[Uganda Radio Network- 7 Sept. 2016](#)

Despite the ongoing conflict in South Sudan, many traders and travelers from Uganda are flocking there unfazed. In June, clashes broke out in the South Sudan, capital Juba pitting forces loyal to President Salva Kiir against his then, First Vice President Riek Machar under the now broken unity government arrangement. More than 300 people were killed and hundreds of thousands of other displaced. At the height of the conflict in Juba, many Ugandans were either evacuated or fled back to the country on their own. Although relative calm has returned to Juba, there are frequent skirmishes between the two forces especially in the Equatoria Belt where Riek Machar spent 40 days running from

government forces. The South capital Juba is located in Central Equatoria State and also acts as the capital of the state. Sources say as he escaped, Machar mobilized the Equatorians against the Juba regime that is dominated by ethnic Dinka bent on establishing a Dinka-dominated political framework known as Dinkism. Since then government has reportedly been involved in revenge attacks on communities perceived to have offered Machar safe haven, triggering the huge influx of refugees into Uganda. There have also been ambushes on vehicles on the Nimule-Juba Road, a major artery for trade with Uganda.

South Sudan seeks to improve trade ties with Ethiopia

[Xinhua Net- 9 Sept. 2016](#)

South Sudan is seeking avenues to bolster trade ties with Ethiopia through reopening of trade corridors and construction of new roads linking the two countries, an official said. Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, South Sudan's Petroleum Minister told reporters at Juba International Airport before his departure late Thursday for Ethiopia that a high level delegation dispatched by South Sudan President Salva Kiir to Ethiopia will discuss issues to do with trade, infrastructure development and regional security. "Ethiopia is a strategic neighbor and we want to make sure that while we are implementing the agreement, we also make sure that trade between South Sudan and Ethiopia is booming," Gatkuoth said.

Gatkuoth said the team led by the country's first vice President Taban Deng Gai, will meet Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and other government officials for negotiations on border demarcation and regional security. "We would like to make sure that the region is peaceful and all our neighbors are having good relations with us. So we will be normalizing relations with all the neighbors," Gatkuoth said. South Sudan share a long border with its eastern neighbor Ethiopia, but trade between the countries have been affected by South Sudan's civil war which started in December 2013 which concentrated in the Northeastern region bordering Sudan and Ethiopia.

South Sudan Knocks on Uganda's door for Technical Support

[Uganda Radio network- 1 Sept. 2016](#)

The Transitional Government of South Sudan faces tough times as revenue from oil continues to fall due to the ongoing fighting. It now plans to seek other sources of revenue to help revive the sinking economy. Uganda has agreed to send a team of technical people to help revitalize the sinking South Sudan economy. The decision was reached at after a two day closed door meeting between top Uganda government officials and those of South Sudan. Speaking to URN exclusively after the meeting, South Sudan Finance Minister Stephen Dhieu Dau, said that his delegation was in Uganda to seek technical support to help revive and diversify the economy. "At the present, the economy...is facing challenges because South Sudan is depending on oil and oil globally is in crisis; the price is declining

and that led to a big deficit in the government programmes. So South Sudan government wants to build the non-oil sector to be able to generate revenue," said Dau. While the minister could not say when the technical team from Uganda would arrive in South Sudan, sources say the team is expected to leave for Juba next week. "We are going to report to the leadership, who will decide when the technical support team should go to South Sudan or when to send a group here for training," said Dau. Uganda will provide technical support in the areas of central banking, budget preparation, budget discipline, in developing a strong system of revenue collection, monitoring and management and Agriculture.

South Sudan officially inducted into the East African Community (EAC)

Ismail Akwei: [Africa News- 5 Sept. 2016](#)

South Sudan has now gained full membership of the East African Community (EAC) on Monday since it gained independence from Sudan in 2011. The country gained full and equal rights, obligations and privileges as an EAC member after it deposited the instruments of ratification on the Accession to the EAC Treaty at the bloc's headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The EAC Secretary General, Dr. Liberat Mfumukeko, congratulated South Sudan and President Salva Kiir for showing commitment to the bloc. President Salva Kiir will therefore be expected to attend the 17th Extra-Ordinary EAC Heads of State Summit in Tanzania on September 8, 2016. Days of violence in the country between rival forces of President Salva Kiir and former rebel

leader and recently relieved vice president Riek Machar have caused the displacement of thousands of people in the country. The UN Security Council authorized the deployment of a protection force in addition to the troops already on the ground to protect the civilians and help stabilize the country. [Also reported by James Karuhanga in The New Times- 6 Sept. 2016: South Sudan submits documents to officially join EAC, by Angwenyi Gichana in The Star- 5 Sept. 2016: South Sudan officially joins East African Community, by Zephania Ubwani in All Africa- 6 Sept. 2016: South Sudan Formally Joins EAC, by Junior Ali in Eye Radio South Sudan- 5 Sept. 2016: South Sudan submits instrument of ratification to EAC](#)

Tanzania Seeks EAC Delay Signing European Union Trade Pact

Joseph Burite: [Bloomberg- 7 Sept. 2016](#)

Tanzania wants the six-nation East African Community bloc to delay signing a trade agreement with the European Union to consider the impact the treaty may have on their economies. The countries have been negotiating the so-called Economic Partnership Agreement, or EPA, with the European Union since 2002, a pact that will give it duty- and quota-free access for produce including flowers, fruit and vegetables. The EAC groups Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. East African presidents are scheduled to meet on Thursday in Tanzania to discuss the agreement before a Oct. 1 deadline. Rwanda and Kenya initialed the EPA in Brussels last week, a move Tanzania's Foreign Affairs Minister Augustine Mahiga said was "insignificant" as all nations had

to be on board for the treaty to take effect. "Signing individually violates the EAC treaty because it requires such trade agreements to be signed as a bloc," Mahiga told reporters in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam. "Our friends have signed, but they know it won't take them far. Without the bloc, you are putting the cart before the horse." Tanzania wants the EAC to consider the impact the EPA may have on the region's weak manufacturing base and to discuss the bloc's customs union, Mahiga said. Kenya is the only nation that stands to lose access to Europe because it isn't grouped among the Least Developed Countries. The others can continue exporting to the bloc under a separate Everything But Arms treaty for LDCs.

Magufuli to host Kiir, other EAC heads of state

Marc Nkwame: [Daily News- 6 Sept. 2016](#)

President John Magufuli is this Thursday hosting his five East African Community (EAC) member state counterparts in Dar es Salaam for their special summit. The Extra-Ordinary EAC Heads of State Summit, which will for the first time include South Sudan's Salva Kiir, will be attended by Kenyan Uhuru Kenyatta, Uganda's Yoweri Museveni, Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi and the host Dr Magufuli. Speaking here during the Depositing of Instrument of Ratification on the accession to the treaty for the establishment of the EAC by the Republic of South Sudan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, East African, Regional and International Cooperation Dr Augustine Mahiga said the Summit is slated for Dar es Salaam on September 8, 2016. Dr Mahiga who also chairs

the EA Council of Ministers said South Sudan has officially become member of the regional bloc, noting that the ministerial sessions preceding the Dar summit will have representatives from Juba. Earlier, the EAC Secretary General Ambassador Liberat Mfumukeko commended President Kiir, the government and the people of South Sudan for their tireless efforts and commitments that enabled them to join the bloc. "Now that they have taken this step further, the Secretariat will seek guidance from the EA Council of Ministers on developing a detailed roadmap for integrating the Republic of South Sudan into ongoing EAC projects and programs," said Mr Mfumukeko, adding that the leadership in Juba will be informed on every step taken in that regard.

UN agency in Juba says 'committed' to working with South Sudan finance ministry

Radio Tamazuj- 6 Sept. 2016

The United Nations Development Programme has met with Minister of Finance Stephen Dhieu Dau and called for the UN and South Sudan together to "remain focused on economic stabilization and sustainable development initiatives." The agency also says that there is 'momentum' toward progress on recovery efforts. UNDP has been arranging international donor support for the SPLA-led South Sudanese government throughout the nearly three years civil war through various grant-making mechanisms. It has consistently advocated that donor governments should keep funding development projects rather than diverting all of their donations into humanitarian relief. UNDP Acting Country Director Jean-Luc Stalon said after meeting Dhieu today, "Today's meeting

highlighted the mutual understanding between UNDP and Ministry of Finance, and the momentum at the present moment to make progress on recovery efforts in South Sudan," according to a UNDP article on the agency's website. The meeting comes after the United Nations Security Council visited South Sudan over the weekend and pledged the UN's cooperation with the government of President Salva Kiir. Development support will be a part of that cooperation, according to the UNDP Acting Country Director. "UNDP advocated for balanced approach of inter-related humanitarian and development responses in South Sudan, emphasizing the Ministry's role in critical recovery and stabilization efforts," reads the article.

Aweil East State Governor Forms Committee To Oversee Tax Collection In State

[Agoth Abraham: Gurtong- 4 Sept. 2016](#)

The Governor of Aweil East State Hon. Deng Deng Akuei on Friday formed a four-man committee to oversee cases reported on illegal tax collection in his State. The decision follows last week's orders to remove all illegal checkpoints along the Sudan-South Sudan road which traders have complained of being fleeced of money. The Governor made the decision based on reports he had received from communities and traders last week when he visited the scenes with his accompanying ministers and head of organized forces. About 19 illegal checkpoints that were set up along the Wany-Jok to Merrhem were removed. "It is not good to tax traders in such away, last week we removed these unrealistic offices and only those

recommended by the Revenue Authority and National Custom unit will remain. There is no reason for other organized forces to tax vehicles. Only recognized institutions at the National and State Level will continue to do their work otherwise all different types of police National Security, Municipality will stop doing these activities" he said upon the formation of new committee. Deng assured the people that his government will monitor the roads and those who will be caught taxing traders illegally will face the law. "I will keep monitoring the situation through this committee; I don't want people to setup all these illegal road blocks. Should one attempt to resist, then the law will take its course" he said.

More than 20 teachers quit in Juba PoCs due to low pay

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

About 25 teachers at Hope Primary school have quit the field of teaching because of lack of pay, leaving a school of over 6000 pupils short-staffed. Simon Kai Yak, the head teacher of the school, says only 72 teaching staffs manage the school, which he says has 6578 students. "We have 6578 pupils the teachers are 72 of them but now most of those teachers have left for better jobs," said Simon. He says NGOs that support education only pay each teacher 900 SSP which is about 12 United States dollars per month. He added that with the economic crisis teachers who have better educational background look for NGOs who pay them better to support their family. "Because the work they do every day does not benefit them, they have families and

children when they come to school and get paid 900 SSP at the end of the month what will that money do." Civil servants' salaries generally do not reach people inside the UN protection sites in South Sudan. Simon also blamed humanitarian organizations supporting education saying they are excluding the protection camp in Juba from their support. Simon claimed this was part of a plan to keep this generation illiterate. "The NGOs also do not support secondary education in the protection camp in Juba," he said. However, Yak appreciated partners for their support to education especially on provision of exercise books, chalk and other materials. Hope Primary School has been supported by Norwegian Refugee Council and UNICEF.