

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN (RSS)

SOUTH SUDAN RECONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMISSION
JUBA - SOUTH SUDAN



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Ref:

“GO BIOGAS FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT”

**Opening Remarks By the Chairperson of South Sudan
Reconstruction and Development Funds (SSRDF) on the
Occasion of Launching the BioGas Project (1) at Gumbo - Juba**

Cde. Garang Diing

The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment,
Representative of H.E. The President
Of the Republic of South Sudan,

Cde Ministers and Chairpersons of the National and State Governments,
Your Excellencies the Ambassadors present in this hall,
Representatives of both indigenous and international NGOs
Distinguish guests,
Ladies and Gentleman

On behalf of the family of the South Sudan Reconstruction and Development Fund (SSRDF), I welcome all of you to this very important and remarkable day in our endeavour as a commission to support the process of achieving a viable economic growth and prosperity to our people - the people, of the newly born nation of South Sudan. His holiness Pope John Paul VI, in one of his pastoral messages in mid of 1980's said "Peace does not mean absence of war, but, peace means development". And I want to say that "development is the true meaning of

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independence". The translation of this dream into reality, in fact, remains one of our great challenges in the building of this young nation.

Mr. Minister, the representative of His Excellency the President, today, we are here to launch a Biogas demonstration project at Gumbo area, in Juba, under the theme **"Go Bio-Gas for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development"**. Whenever, we raise this theme, we are mindful of the plight of our people particularly the women in their search for firewood and long cooking hours under the heavy smoke of the firewood, in the far rural areas as well as in the urban centers. Sad things that we can honestly say here is that our women are subjected to respiratory and eye-diseases infections related to the unsafe firewood cooking. We are mindful, again more, of how many trees are felled daily and the volume of carbon emitted in the process of producing charcoal and its burning. Last week a documentary in the CNN revealed that a charcoal making company alone in Nigeria is cutting down an average of **450** well season trees. Simple arithmetic here tells us that about **162 000** trees are just mowed down by this single company, which does not have any tree replacement program. Indeed, there are high threats of desertification and its negative impact on our environment in our continent and country is in increase. Your Excellency, the representative of His Excellency the President, we are very mindful of producing cheap light through the biogas, which eventually will increase the productivity hours of our people particularly in the rural areas.

Your Excellency, the representative of His Excellency the President, the introduction of this biogas project which depends up to 96% on usage of cow dung is not just a discovery, but, it's a real economic value added to our benefits from our cows. Traditionally, we all know and enjoy the delicious meat of our cows. We get the milk and its products from same beautiful cows of ours. And today, we are assured that it is possible get energy source for cooking and lighting from same cow. Also, the final products of biogas installation are natural fertilizer that can be used with no devastation on the agricultural lands. Dear invited guests, this means that the long neglected cow dung will soon have a value that will be factored into

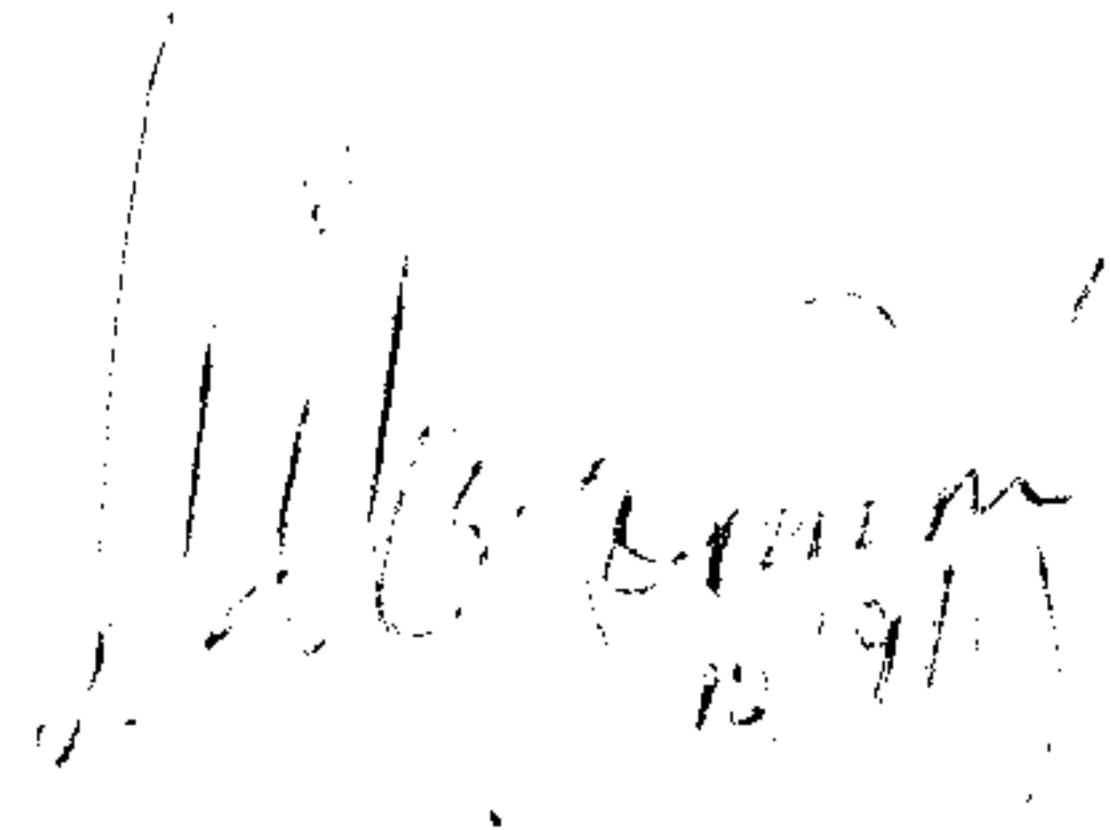
the equation of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). And I am confident that if only one million rural and urban houses and facilities such as restaurants, bakeries are supported with biogas installations, the biogas will play a pivotal role in stabilization of our economy and its growth. Above all, we will have happy and healthier communities.

Your Excellency, nonetheless, a large scale biogas schemes suitable to our schools, prisons and individuals who owns large herds can easily be industrialized and have their cylinders (LPG) transported to areas of consumption in the urban centers. Nodoubt that such projects, will tremendously save a lot of cash from our budgetary expenditures, meant for energy provisions in schools and prisons etc. It is an employment potential and income generating for families. Having advocating for such safe, clean and money making project, allow me your Excellency, to extend my call to our small/ medium indigenous investors, through you, to invest in this sector of energy. Also, I give my humble appeal to the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) to actively participate in the development of this very biogas sector which will have immense contribution to humanity and geo- environment in South Sudan.

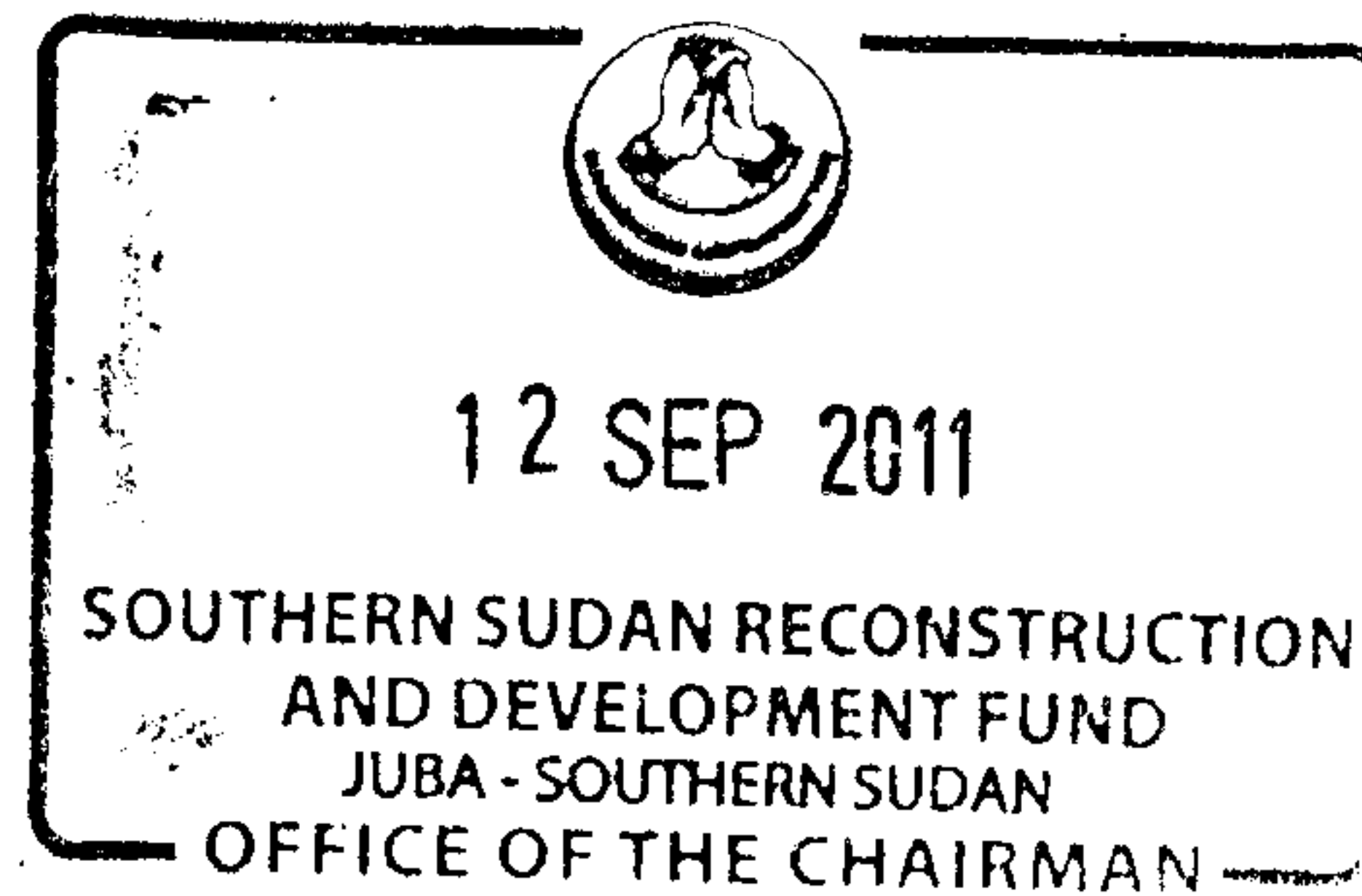
Notwithstanding, I would like to appeal to fellow architects and planners of the Republic of South Sudan to realize the potentialities and benefits of the biogas and eventually coax it into the planning and development of the various neighborhoods, particularly of the low-income groups. It has less fire risks and health hazards. So, open up and establish progressive building codes with fresh standards that ushers realistic housing development. The biogas is not a contemporary discovery; in fact, its history of invention goes beyond three centuries back from today. Unfortunately our unhealthy cultural prejudices became a detrimental obstacle on the way of inviting such noble concepts into our socio-economic development and progress. We must conceive and embraced such safe and environmental friendly innovation if we genuinely endeavour to create and promote a favourable eco-system atmosphere for all Gods' living creatures and plants. .

Finally, Mr. Minister, the representative of His Excellency the President, I would like to seize this opportunity, to acknowledge all technical and material support given to us by our partners in development, and, honestly, we appreciate and enjoy the good working relations that binds us together. And, I would like here also to humbly appeal to our donor partners to support our programs particularly on the areas of safe green energy.

Thank you all for coming and together we will build a happy nation. Thank you very much.



Eng. Alikaya Aligo Samson



Chairperson,
South Sudan Reconstruction and Development Fund
Republic of South Sudan