

MY CAMPAIGN PITCH – PILLAR 1: ECONOMY

Akuechbeny Kuol Akuechbeny Chirong

SPLM Aspirant for Member of Parliament, Tonj East Constituency No. 11

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1. Modern and Traditional Holistic Economic Approach

I will champion agriculture, local food production, livestock, small businesses, minerals, savings, and investment, including 320 hand tractors for affordable rental, 120 grain and crop warehouses, and 8 licensed veterinary service companies, to create jobs, reduce dependence on cattle-based wealth, and make a practical transition to a **money economy**, while adapting our traditions of marriage and family to support economic responsibility.

My Vision: A peaceful, educated, healthy, productive, and economically empowered Tonj East, where we plan not only for today, but for the next five years, ten years, and generations to come.

Companion documents: this is Pillar 1 of 3. **Economy** | Services | Development.

CAMPAIGN MANIFESTO — PILLAR 1: ECONOMY

Akuechbeny Kuol Akuechbeny Chirong

SPLM Aspirant for Member of Parliament (MP), Tonj East Constituency No. 11

Introduction

As the next Member of Parliament (MP) for **Tonj East Constituency No. 11**, I strive to introduce **strategic shifts** in our economic, educational, health, judicial, security, social, and development systems. My vision is to build a society that values hard work, promotes local production, creates economic opportunities, strengthens justice and security, improves public services, and builds meaningful partnerships internally, regionally, and internationally.

My approach rests on a simple idea: we should combine the best of the **modern** with the best of our **traditions**. We keep the values that hold our communities together, reform the practices that harm us, and adopt modern systems that make us more productive, healthier, safer, and better educated.

This approach is not limited to today or tomorrow. It is designed for the next **five to ten years and beyond**. We must begin thinking strategically as a people about the future of our families, our communities, and our country.

My manifesto is organized around three pillars, each set out in its own document:

- **Pillar 1 (Economy):** Modern and Traditional Holistic Economic Approach
- **Pillar 2 (Services):** Modern and Traditional Education, Healthcare, and Judicial Services
- **Pillar 3 (Development):** Modern and Systematic Development

This document covers **Pillar 1, Economy**. It sets out the pillar, its costed budget and **10-year implementation plan (2027–2036)**, how resources will be mobilized, and a continuity plan for re-election or transition. The other two pillars are set out in the companion documents.

Aligned with the SPLM Vision

I am a member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), and this agenda is built to carry the party's vision into every Payam of Tonj East. The SPLM's stated objective is **“taking towns to people rather than to bring the people to towns”**, and its vision is a **“modern, professional, efficient and accountable”** party. This plan puts both into practice:

- **Taking towns to the people:** solar power and Wi-Fi in every school, clinic, hospital, and court; 20 clinics and 20 primary schools spread across the Payams; and four constituency offices, so that services reach people where they live.
- **Modern, professional, and accountable:** a costed 10-year plan, an annual progress report to every Payam, an end-of-term report, and an independent audit of all funds.
- **Peace and unity:** courts, security posts, rebuilding support, and economic alternatives to raiding, supporting the party's renewed commitment to peace and national unity.
- **Young people at the centre:** sports and youth centres, scholarships, skills training, and jobs, in step with the SPLM's drive to put young people at the heart of its mobilization.
- **Service delivery and sustainable development:** schools, health care, clean water, roads, and a productive money-based economy, delivering on the promise of the liberation struggle.

Dr. John Garang taught that **"the SPLM is a forum in which citizens shall have rights to ask their government representatives."** I will honour that by working through SPLM structures from the boma and Payam to the county, state, and national levels, mobilizing members and young people, and reporting back to the people every year, so that the SPLM remains the party of choice in Tonj East in December 2026 and beyond.

PILLAR 1

Modern and Traditional Holistic Economic Approach

From a cattle-and-crops economy to a productive, money-based economy that still honours our way of life.

1.1 Promoting Agriculture and Local Food Production

As a community and as citizens, we must take pride in productive manual work, particularly agriculture and food production. We need to change how we measure success, social status, and respect within our communities and across South Sudan.

We should value and respect farmers and local food producers in Tonj East, Warrap State, and South Sudan as a whole. Farming is essential to feeding our families, strengthening our economy, and building a more self-reliant society.

As an MP, I will promote local food production by encouraging people to produce what they consume, and by demonstrating the value of this approach through practical examples. As production improves, particularly of organic and locally grown foods, we will establish trade arrangements within the state, neighboring states, within the country, the region and beyond to help our farmers market and sell their produce.

To make farming more productive, we will mobilize resources to provide **320 hand-driven tractors** for farmers across Tonj East, each costing about \$8,500. The tractors will be available for cheap rental rather than given away: rental fees will pay for maintenance and repairs, and the savings will be used to buy more farm equipment for the area, so the scheme grows over time. Delivery will be phased: 60% (192 tractors) in the first four years, 20% (64) in the following three years, and the final 20% (64) in the last three years.

1.2 Transitioning from a Cattle-Based Economy to a Money Economy

Over the medium term, we will work to reduce excessive economic dependence on activities that have harmed our communities, particularly cattle-related competition and the economic pressures associated with bride wealth and fattening competition. We need to think beyond immediate needs and plan for the next year, the next five years, the next ten years, and generations to come.

Our society can be organized to make the transition from a cattle-and-crops economy to a money-based economy easier and more practical. This includes promoting:

- Current accounts for everyday financial transactions.
- Savings accounts for individuals and families.
- Emergency funds to protect households during difficult times.

- Investment funds to support businesses and productive activities.
- Public-private partnerships that manage financial systems and serve local populations.

Investment requires savings, and savings require us not to consume everything we earn. We must therefore promote financial discipline, responsible spending, saving, and reinvestment.

1.3 Community-Based Financial Services

I will advocate for locally accessible financial services, including community-based teller banks and other suitable financial institutions, to help people participate in the money economy through savings, business transactions, and investment.

With support from national, state, and county governments, we will seek the equipment, tools, training, and investment needed to establish reliable financial services. We will also advocate for appropriate insurance coverage, with government contributions shared according to agreed arrangements. The objective is to make financial services accessible, reliable, and useful to ordinary people, helping households move towards more secure and dignified livelihoods.

1.4 Modern Food Storage and Market Systems

We will mobilize resources to build 120 warehouses for grain and crop storage across the county, each budgeted at \$35,000, to improve food storage and marketing. These warehouses will let farmers store their produce safely while waiting for favourable market conditions. They should be professionally managed, adequately secured, and equipped with modern storage tools and equipment.

Better storage will reduce food losses, improve market access, and give farmers greater control over when and how they sell their products.

The warehouses will follow the same phasing as the rest of the plan: 72 in the first four years, 24 in the following three years, and the final 24 in the last three years.

1.5 Livestock Health and Veterinary Services

Livestock remain central to our economy and our way of life, and their health is closely linked to ours. We will work to bring **eight licensed, professional animal-treatment (veterinary) companies** to provide services across Tonj East County. They will vaccinate and treat animals, keep herds safe and healthy, and protect people from diseases that pass from sick animals to humans, such as tuberculosis (TB) caught from the meat of infected animals. Healthier animals mean healthier families and a stronger livestock economy.

1.6 Jobs and Economic Alternatives to Conflict

Over time, some conflicts have become economic opportunities for a few individuals and groups. We need to replace the incentives that sustain conflict with better opportunities that reward peace, production, and enterprise. As an MP, I will advocate for access to economic opportunities based on people's skills, abilities, and willingness to work, including:

- Farming and livestock production.
- Small businesses and local entrepreneurship.
- Employment through cooperation between humanitarian organizations and government institutions.
- Training and employment for young people at local and national levels.
- Jobs that provide meaningful and sustainable incomes.

Our employment initiatives will aim for average monthly earnings of approximately SSP 1,000,000 (equivalent to \$150–200) where economically and financially feasible, recognizing that wages must be assessed against prevailing economic conditions. Improved incomes can help families save, invest, and acquire productive assets, including cattle. We will also develop practical avenues for saving and reinvesting income in businesses that local people already understand and operate.

1.7 Marriage, Economic Responsibility, and Family Sustainability

Our traditions of marriage and family remain central to who we are, but they must be considered within the context of economic responsibility and the ability to provide for a household.

We will engage communities, especially young people, in productive economic activity. A young person who has a farm, has built a house, and is of marriageable age should have the opportunity to marry based on their ability to establish and sustain a household, whether or not they own cattle for dowry.

I also propose a public discussion and legislative consideration of a framework allowing men to marry a maximum of four wives, provided they demonstrate the economic capacity to support their families. This proposal draws on practices associated with the broader historical Sudanese context and practices found in other societies.

My objective is to encourage responsible family formation, economic sustainability, and the ability of households to meet their needs. I propose that this issue be considered through appropriate public consultation and legal processes, with the aim of developing a binding legal framework within five years.

10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN – ECONOMY

Indicative Budget and Implementation Plan, 2027–2036

This indicative budget covers the priority projects in Pillar 1 (Economy) over a **10-year strategic plan**: buying, delivering, and maintaining farm equipment and building grain and crop storage. It is a planning estimate for mobilizing government, partner, and community resources, not an approved or funded budget.

The plan is delivered in three phases, measured by the value of capital works completed:

- **Phase 1, Years 1–4 (2027–2030): 60%** of capital works: 192 hand tractors and 72 warehouses.
- **Phase 2, Years 5–7 (2031–2033): a further 20%** (64 hand tractors and 24 warehouses), bringing the total to 80%.
- **Phase 3, Years 8–10 (2034–2036): the final 20%** (64 hand tractors and 24 warehouses), completing the plan.

Assumptions

- Labour is added at **30% of all project costs** (hand tractors and warehouses).
- A **20% contingency** is added to all costs to cover price changes, transport into the constituency, and unforeseen needs.
- Equipment and warehouse figures are **campaign estimates** and should be confirmed with suppliers and the relevant ministries.
- **Hand tractors and warehouses** are budgeted at \$8,500 per hand tractor (320) and \$35,000 per warehouse (120), spent 60% / 20% / 20% across the three phases.
- **Hand tractors are rented, not given away**: rental fees pay for maintenance and repairs, and the savings buy more farm equipment, so these running costs are not in the budget.
- **Veterinary services** are not costed in this budget; the eight licensed companies will provide animal vaccination and treatment as service providers.

A. Budget Summary (10 Years)

Component	Amount (USD)	Share
Capital: 320 hand tractors (plus 30% labour)	\$3,536,000	33%
Capital: 120 grain and crop warehouses (plus 30% labour)	\$5,460,000	51%

Component	Amount (USD)	Share
Veterinary services: 8 licensed companies	Not costed	—
Subtotal	\$8,996,000	83%
Contingency (20%)	\$1,799,200	17%
GRAND TOTAL (10 YEARS)	\$10,795,200	100%

Of this total, \$7,192,380 falls in the first five years (2027–2031), the first parliamentary term. A 30% labour cost is included in every capital line, and a 20% contingency is added to everything. Together with the Services (\$35,188,363) and Development (\$13,673,040) documents, the full 10-year plan for Tonj East totals \$59,656,603.

B. Phase Summary

Phase	Period	Capital works	Share	Cumulative	Total spend
Phase 1	Years 1–4 (2027–2030)	\$5,397,600	60%	60%	\$6,477,120
Phase 2	Years 5–7 (2031–2033)	\$1,799,200	20%	80%	\$2,159,040
Phase 3	Years 8–10 (2034–2036)	\$1,799,200	20%	100%	\$2,159,040
Total	2027–2036	\$8,996,000	100%	100%	\$10,795,200

“Capital works” covers hand tractors and warehouses. “Total spend” adds the 20% contingency in each phase.

C. Capital Costs by Project

Project	Qty	Construction	Labour (30%)	Equipment	Solar	Total
Hand tractor	320	—	\$816,000	\$2,720,000	—	\$3,536,000
Warehouse	120	\$4,200,000	\$1,260,000	—	—	\$5,460,000
Total capital	—	\$4,200,000	\$2,076,000	\$2,720,000	—	\$8,996,000

Labour is 30% of construction and equipment. Unit costs: hand tractor \$8,500; warehouse \$35,000.

D. Implementation Timeline (Units Completed per Year)

Project	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
Hand tractors (320)	48	48	48	48	21	21	22	21	21	22
Warehouses (120)	18	18	18	18	8	8	8	8	8	8
Capital works complete	15%	30%	45%	60%	67%	73%	80%	87%	93%	100%

Y1 = 2027 ... Y10 = 2036. Phase 1 = Y1–Y4, Phase 2 = Y5–Y7, Phase 3 = Y8–Y10.

Phase milestones

- **Phase 1, Years 1–4 (2027–2030), Foundation and scale-up – 60% complete:** 192 hand tractors delivered and the low-cost rental scheme running, with rental fees paying for maintenance and repairs; 72 warehouses built, secured, and professionally managed; work begun to bring eight licensed veterinary companies into the county; community-based financial services, savings, and investment promoted; public consultation on marriage, economic responsibility, and family sustainability.
- **Phase 2, Years 5–7 (2031–2033), Consolidation – 80% cumulative:** 64 more hand tractors and 24 warehouses; savings from tractor rentals reinvested in more farm equipment; trade arrangements for local produce within the state, neighbouring states, and beyond; a legal framework on marriage and economic responsibility considered within five years; public review of Phase 1 results with communities and partners.
- **Phase 3, Years 8–10 (2034–2036), Completion – 100%:** the last 64 hand tractors and 24 warehouses; handover of the warehouses and the tractor rental scheme to community and county management; and a 10-year report to the people of Tonj East.

E. Annual Spending Plan

Year	Hand tractors	Warehouses	Contingency	Total
Year 1 (2027)	\$530,400	\$819,000	\$269,880	\$1,619,280
Year 2 (2028)	\$530,400	\$819,000	\$269,880	\$1,619,280
Year 3 (2029)	\$530,400	\$819,000	\$269,880	\$1,619,280
Year 4 (2030)	\$530,400	\$819,000	\$269,880	\$1,619,280
Phase 1 total	\$2,121,600	\$3,276,000	\$1,079,520	\$6,477,120
Year 5 (2031)	\$232,050	\$364,000	\$119,210	\$715,260
Year 6 (2032)	\$232,050	\$364,000	\$119,210	\$715,260
Year 7 (2033)	\$243,100	\$364,000	\$121,420	\$728,520
Phase 2 total	\$707,200	\$1,092,000	\$359,840	\$2,159,040
Year 8 (2034)	\$232,050	\$364,000	\$119,210	\$715,260
Year 9 (2035)	\$232,050	\$364,000	\$119,210	\$715,260
Year 10 (2036)	\$243,100	\$364,000	\$121,420	\$728,520
Phase 3 total	\$707,200	\$1,092,000	\$359,840	\$2,159,040
10-year total	\$3,536,000	\$5,460,000	\$1,799,200	\$10,795,200

Capital figures include 30% labour; contingency is 20% of all costs. Hand tractors are rented, not given away, so their maintenance is paid from rental fees and is not in this table.

F. Resource Mobilization

This plan will be funded by mobilizing resources from many partners, not from a single source. Resource mobilization has two parts: funding the campaign itself, and funding the projects we will advocate for and implement in Tonj East County over the next five to ten years.

Campaign resources

The campaign budget is **\$56,000**, to be mobilized through contribution support from:

- Romic.
- Kuacjok.
- Juba.
- East Africa.
- Canada.
- The United States.
- The European Union.
- Australia.

Implementation resources

For the projects in this 10-year strategic plan, we will seek support from:

- **Local communities:** annual contributions from chiefs, wealthy elders, and local business people.
- **Business people:** local and national businesses.
- **Payam administration.**
- **County administration.**
- **State government:** direct support and contributions from state MPs.
- **National Government:** the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and support from national representatives.
- **Humanitarian partners.**
- **The diaspora:** North America, Europe, and Australia.
- **Regional and continental partners:** East Africa and Africa.
- **Partnership projects:** implementation support with community-based organizations and sports organizations.
- **Project proposals:** applications for funding of specific projects.

BEYOND THE FIRST TERM

Continuity Plan: Re-election or Transition

The 10-year strategic plan belongs to the people of Tonj East, not to one person. My first term runs from 2027 to 2031 (Years 1–5). Whatever the result of the next election, the projects we start must be finished, and no school, clinic, or court should be left half-built. This section sets out what will happen in each case.

Preparing for Either Outcome (Year 5, 2031)

Before the end of my first term, and regardless of the election outcome, I will:

- **Publish an end-of-term report** to the people of Tonj East showing every project: what is complete, what is under construction, what has not started, and what it has cost.
- **Commission an independent audit** of all funds mobilized and spent through the constituency.
- **Keep a complete project register**: sites, contracts, contractors, funding sources, partner agreements, staffing, and outstanding obligations for every facility.
- **Strengthen community oversight committees** in each Payam, made up of chiefs, elders, women, youth, and church leaders, so that communities can monitor projects independently of any MP.
- **Hand completed facilities over** to the relevant county and state ministries so that staff, running costs, and maintenance are on the government budget and do not depend on the MP.
- **Run a constituency needs assessment** in every Payam to identify the priorities for the next five years.

Scenario A: If Re-elected (Second Term, 2032–2036)

1. Complete the 10-year plan

- Deliver the remaining 128 hand tractors and 48 warehouses in Phases 2 and 3, completing the plan by 2036.
- Keep the tractor rental scheme self-financing, with rental fees paying for maintenance and new equipment.

2. Add new projects based on the needs at that time

The Year 5 needs assessment and community consultations will decide what is added. Likely candidates include:

- **Economy:** more warehouses and farm equipment beyond those in this plan, markets, community-based teller banks, and support for agro-processing (juice production, fishing, and local mining).

3. How new projects will be added

- Each new project will be costed using the same method as this plan (construction, 30% labour, equipment, solar, Wi-Fi, staffing, running costs, and 20% contingency).
- New projects will be added to the plan only when funding sources are identified, so that existing commitments are completed first.
- The updated plan will be presented to constituents for consultation before it is adopted, and progress will be reported every year.

Scenario B: If Not Re-elected (Transition Plan)

If the people choose a new MP, I will support a smooth and respectful handover so that development continues without interruption.

Transition steps

When	Action
Before the election	Project register, end-of-term report, and audit completed and published, so the handover file is ready whatever the result.
Within 2 weeks of results	Congratulate the MP-elect publicly and request a first handover meeting.
Within 30 days	Formal handover of the full project file: project register, contracts, partner agreements and contacts, financial records and audit, staffing records, and community committee lists.
Within 60 days	Joint introductions with the MP-elect to key partners: ministries, county and state governments, development partners, and contractors, to keep funding and agreements in place.
Within 90 days	Joint site visits to projects under construction and a public community meeting in each Payam to explain the status of every project.
After handover	Constituency offices, equipment, and records transferred or closed as agreed; I remain available as an adviser to the new MP and to community committees.

Commitments during transition

- No ongoing project will be stopped, hidden, or withheld for political reasons.

- All funds, assets, and records belonging to the constituency will be handed over in full.
- Community oversight committees will continue to monitor projects under the new MP.
- I will continue to support the development of Tonj East as a citizen, whoever holds the seat.

My Long-Term Vision for Tonj East

My vision is to help transform Tonj East into a community that produces more of its own food, values productive work, provides greater opportunities for young people, strengthens justice and security, improves healthcare and education, and builds a sustainable money-based economy, combining the best of our traditions with the best of modern systems.

We must stop thinking only about today and tomorrow. We must plan for the next year, the next five years, the next ten years, and beyond.

As your Member of Parliament, I will advocate for these strategic shifts, mobilize resources, work with government institutions and development partners, and engage our communities in building a better future.

The realization of these goals will depend on public resources, institutional responsibilities, partnerships, and the collective commitment of our people. My responsibility will be to represent the constituency, advocate for these priorities, promote accountability, and work persistently towards their implementation.

SPLM Aspirant: Akuechbeny Kuol Akuechbeny Chirong
For Member of Parliament, Tonj East Constituency No. 11

Our future requires long-term thinking, productive work, peace, education, and collective responsibility.

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