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Chancellor Jagan and the Senate Release Furnifold's Budget

- by Neve Amelia-Thomas

The Senate released their budget proposal for the next fiscal year and a half today, to great fanfare. Chancellor Faith Jagan and her committees have increased the budget proposal by about 400 million, to now retain a nearly 3.5 billion (SHD) budget. The biggest gain came from the Department of Defense, which comprises 16 percent of the new budget. Jagan's office stated that this increase was due to the naval buildup in Furnifold over the past year. Also receiving an increase is the Department of Infrastructure, which comprises about 12 percent of the total amount. "With the generous aid and development packages given by several nations, including the Oan Isles and Kuthernburg, the Chancellor believes it is best to advance in several needed infrastructure projects," a spokesperson for the Chancellor's office said.



1 Chancellor Jagan gives the announcement, surrounded by several aides

The largest percentages of the budget were again the Department of Welfare and the Department of Health, at 20 percent and 24 percent respectively. Other notable budget items were the Department of Foreign Affairs, which received an increase to fund embassies around Urth, the Department of Natural Resources, given more funds to investigate and protect the environment, and the Department of Finance and Economy, to regulate

and oversee the Global Furnifold Commodities Market. The only department that saw a decrease in their budget was the Department of Commerce, which the Chancellor's office stated was because the Department of Finance and Economy is absorbing one of Commerce's offices.

According to new hiring requirements in the budget, the size of government will be increasing, especially in the Department of Education, which expects to hire additional teachers and administrators. Furnifold's government employees will see a pay raise of 6.5 percent, which will grant them additional income above the rate of inflation in Furnifold.

The government will be funded without any tax increases, due in part to a larger-thanexpected surplus, and an increased tariff pool from other nations trading with Furnifold. The

average tax rate will still stand at 17.91 percent. Furnifold's tax base also increases slightly with the purchase of Gronmund Port. In addition, economists believe that the budget will produce a nearly 60 million SHD surplus, which the Chancellor's Office states will be used to finance military and port construction on Gronmund Port.



2 Construction of the port at Gronmund Port

Most interest groups in Furnifold applaud the budget as being conservatively sound, while also promoting positive impacts to Furnifold's people. The Magistrate's office released a statement, in which Magistrate d'Arrigo thanks the Senate for promoting several of his items, but wishes to work with the Chancellor to improve educational and health outcomes for Furnifoldians. Several socialism supporters did protest outside the Chancellor's office upon the release of the budget, but they were quickly removed from the public space by McLendal Security.

The Senate will have one week to debate and offer amendments to the budget, but analysts expect there to be no substantial changes or amendments coming, and the budget is believed to be unanimously approved by the end of the week.

THE WATCHDOG: What the Furnifold Patriotic Front Want

- by David Rezendes

Boonefield, Furnifold's largest city, has seen an unimaginable increase in population over the past ten years. Because of its location as a major transit node, the city functions as the clearinghouse for agricultural goods traveling from the north, and industrial goods from the east. People from all over Furnifold have come to this city as they look for new job opportunities. But, Boonefield does have a dark side, one that the Furnifold Patriotic Front (FPF) are taking advantage of in their drive to increase their standing and spark ethnic conflict.

The FPF

In 1996, the Furnifold Welfare Association (FWA) was formed in response to several central government measures that expired and were not renewed in the government. These measures discriminated against the Sahibu, who did not make as much money as the

Kfalme and were more likely to be denied opportunities because they were not Kfalme. The group was small at first, but due to the fervent passion by the members, were able to recruit heavily in the southwest and by 1998 had several candidates run for election.

Because they were a regional group, they were able to win and bring Faith Jagan into the Chancellor role. This placated the members at first, because they were able to get some anti-discrimination measures passed, but as time went on, the members of the FWA became more placated in their roles in government, and did not fight as hard for these measures.

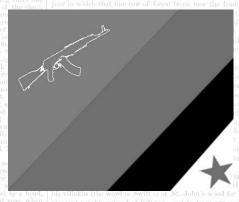
When Furnifold increased their agricultural production in the north, the money and investment went there, drastically impacting the communities in the southeast. Most other industries increased, and the communities descended into poverty. Many Sahibu moved to Boonefield, but could not find permanent jobs or housing. Slums abounded in the south, where an estimated one million people reside. The FWA lost influence and disbanded in the



late 2000s. Dissatisfied former members of the group formed the Furnifold Patriotic Front (FPF), a more violent group desiring to remove Kfalme influence and discrimination from their region. Clustered in the southwest of Furnifold, their message was facilitated by the clustering of the Sahibu in the slums of Boonefield. With a message to return to the south, hundreds of men left the slums (in some cases, their families too). The southern part of Furnifold is not very developed, forming rural communities with few road networks, and fewer methods to provide protection.

What they want

The FPF became more radicalized in 2013, after the election of the Senate. Sahibu Senators represented a very low proportion of total Senators, and the FPF believed this to be because of discrimination and bias by the media, as well as the Department of Justice and Courts for stalling or banning candidates from running because of financial disclosure or other issues. The area in the southwest had a noticeable uptick in crime, especially Sahibu on Kfalme crime. The FPF also issued several pamphlets around the region, advertising their cause, which helped galvanize some of the disaffected



Sahibu youth. In addition to attacking individuals, the FPF also went after businesses and government centers in the region, especially businesses that had international or Kfalme dealings.

Just this week several government offices were vandalized by what is believed to be the FPF. McLendal is attempting to collaborate with this area, but every attempt to do so has been sabotaged by the FPF. Magistrate Jacopo d'Arrigo, a native Sahibu, will be embarking on a listening tour this month, which he hopes will increase the access the people of Furnifold have with their government. He wishes to listen to the concerns of the Sahibu in the southwest, and desires that the FPF turn away from violence and intimidation to help him with the endeavor. Whether the FPF will do so is not known, as their demeanor in the past suggest that they do not want to work with this government, but want to strike out against it.

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GFCM Prices Update

- by Uche Markopolos

Current prices (in SHD):

Corn- 0.63 per bushel (up 22 percent)

Okra- 15.87 per bushel (down 17 percent)

Rice- 25.74 per bushel (down 17 percent)

Soy- 4.16 per bushel (up 1 percent)

Sugar Cane- 6.83 per bushel (up 12 percent)

Index total: 53.23 (down 13 percent)

Non-Index Commodities (in SHD):

Cotton: 0.67 per pound (down 8

percent)

Endemic Fruits: 10.17 per carton (down 19 percent)

Meat: 13.89 per pound (down 24 percent)

Milk: 36.62 per hundredweight (up 15 percent)

Endemic Vegetables: 9.08 per hundredweight (down 14 percent)

Wheat: 1.64 per bushel (down 16 percent)

Analysis: The market saw a sizeable drop over the past week, but stayed consistent with end of the month projections in May. The big winner was corn, but it has largely remained

stable since the IPO, with a slight increase from .60 SHD to .63 SHD. The big losers were okra, which has dipped to below IPO levels for the first time since May 1st, and rice, though in the grand scheme of things it has seen a meteoric rise since its IPO. Sugar cane has successfully rebounded after dreadful price drops until June. It is clear that this item will remain indexed for the foreseeable future. The index plunged slightly, but is still above 50, prompting continued investment.

In non-indexed goods, no item was a big winner. The important stories though are the rise of the price of milk, after seeing steady declines since the middle of May has turned the table, or at least stabilized. The other important story is the fall of the price of wheat,

which looks like it will be priced much lower than its IPO, and still continues to fall. This has prompted divestment from wheat sources, impacting companies and farms who produce solely wheat.