

Sudan Business

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- + Chinese firm to build electrical substation in Sudan's state

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Council of Arab Economic Unity Meets in Khartoum, Discusses Food Security +

MTN SUDAN ESTABLISHES SUBSIDIARY FOR FINTECH BUSINESS

Managing Director Shehab Salih provides insights



Who We are

RIDA Group has been founded since March 1993 in Sudan, and ever since we have been consistently thriving and working toward excellence in our products and services. The group has a set of products and services related to Natural Resources, including Mining, Engineering and Construction. The company has an extensive experience and knowledge in the field of Natural Resources Exploration, Exploitation, Engineering and Development.



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OUR MISSION

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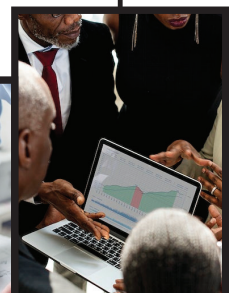
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249 STARTUPS ORGANIZES FORUM - INVESTING FOR THE NEXT DECADE

Article Source: 249Startups social media

The attention of foreign investors these days is directed towards Sudan, to explore the investment opportunities available in it, because of the resources it possesses in several fields, especially after removing the obstacles that stood as a stumbling block to investment in this country, the most important of which is the removal of the name of Sudan from the list of countries sponsoring terrorism, and the unification of The official and parallel exchange rate of the local currency.

In view of the above, the session started the discussion with how banks perceive SMEs and start-ups, and mentioned some of the best investment practices in the region.

This led to a discussion of how development agencies and influence investors can reduce investment risks for banks to provide access to financing in less developed countries. The session also discussed foreign investors' perception of local entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship, and the investment climate in Sudan as a whole, where the participants had the opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing foreign investors.

They also gave an overview of areas for improvement and work that needs to be done such as issues of legal aspects, legal structure and importance of due diligence.

The panelists discussed the various investment instruments and tools used globally and how investors can exit and achieve returns.

The speakers agreed on the importance of innovation in such tools to meet Sudan's context and ecosystem and to find the best structures for financing in Sudan.

A high-level brief was given on an upcoming fund opportunity to be implemented by AECF (African Enterprise Challenge Fund) that will focus on the renewable energy, agriculture and ICT sectors, and panelists were advised on how to prepare for this and similar opportunities in the future.

Special thanks to the speakers : Mohamed Yousif , Aya Zaghnin , Dr. Mohamed Abdeen , Amin Shibeika, Sanjeev Debipersad and moderated by Ahmed Elmurtada



Photo Source: jic.ac.uk

PROSPECTS OF PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF SESAME CROP IN SUDAN

Article Source: Suna

Khartoum, Nov. 24 (SUNA) - Suitable climate and environment for cultivating sesame crop in Sudan give it preferential feature over that produced by other international producers, Professor of Field Crops at Agriculture Faculty, Khartoum University, Dr. Ghazi Hamed Badawi said.

Dr. BADAWI explained the light clay soil, bright light and high temperature are suitable environment to produce sesame crop, which are more available in Sudan than other countries as they also provide the Sudanese sesame special features of high rate of oil and less rate of acidity.

A gathering of more than 150 local and international companies discussed in Khartoum recently issues of cultivating, trade and marketing of oilseeds, including sesame crop.

Chairman of the National Exporters Chamber Omar Bashir Al-Khalifa said in press statement that the conference was like international conferences that were held in China and India.

The current season found great chances to achieve high rate of production which needs promotion to facilitate process of export and to enter new markets, Al-Khalifa said, adding that oilseeds exports are still less than expectation, but he expected more production to meet the increasing demands.

Dealers in this trade expect that sesame trade would increase to 18 billion US \$ in the near future.

Sesame is one of the important oilseeds in Sudan after sorghum and millet as it is considered as a food crop, an important raw material for manufacturing of fodders and significant cash crop for exporting.

Sudan ranks second of nine Arab and African states which export sesame in the world, as Sudan produces 80% of the crop cultivated in the Arab World and 40% of African production.

The local consumption of the crop amounts to about 60% of the annual product.

Expert Dr. Abdulattif Al-Ojeme explained that Sudanese sesame is distinguished as it is an organic product without any chemical or fertilizers a matter that enables the country to expand cultivation of the crop to be the leading exporter internationally, thus increase its contribution to the social and economic development of Sudan.

Sesame is one of oldest agricultural crops in Sudan. It was the only vegetable oil which locally produced and used widely. It ranked third regarding the cultivated area after sorghum and millet and in some seasons came second after cotton pertinent to export revenues.

Sesame production in Sudan faces some challenges including high cost of production, lack of scientific research, scarcity of skilled labour, and lack of funding for cultivating the crop because of its high risk.

ZAIN GROUP TO PUMP \$800M INTO SUDANESE UNIT OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS

Article Source: datacenterdynamics.com

Kuwaiti operator Zain Group is to investment \$800 million into its Sudanese mobile unit over the next five years.

THE investment will see Zain upgrade existing network infrastructure, while also deploying new infrastructure in the country, including fiber-optic services.

It will also be used to drive digital acceleration in the country, reports Ecofin Agency.

Zain Group Executive President and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors Badr Nasser Al-Kharafi revealed that Zain will invest in digital services and digital banking services, noting that Zain has kicked off steps towards obtaining a license from the Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation.

Zain has been operating in Sudan since 1996, and as of Q1 2022, the operator has 16.6 million subscribers in the country.



Photo Source: gmsa.com

Shehab Salih Managing Director of MTN Sudan Fintech explains benefits of MoMo service

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF MTN SUDAN FINTECH SUBSIDIARY AND WHERE DID IT ALL START?

MTN established a new subsidiary for FinTech business, it is the first licenced financial institution for Mobile Money in Sudan. It aims to support the country towards the digital financial services transformation and encouraging financial inclusion, since only less than 20% of the population has access to financial services. The subsidiary was established in 2021, and it launched its mobile money service "MoMo" in February 2022 using Ericsson's wallet platform utilizing the co-operation protocol between MTN Group and Ericsson company, the platform is stable and secure as it enables introduction of new features and services to the market.

HOW USER FRIENDLY IS THE MOMO SERVICE AND WHAT ARE THE KEY FEATURES?

MoMo service is an alternative means of dealing with money and it targets the unbanked segment, through enabling them to send and receive money, store funds, make payments and do a number of transactions simply using any mobile phone by dialling *200#. It's fast,

simple, convenient and affordable. MoMo service also enabled donations and collection of funds from many NGOs and corporates.

HOW WILL MOMO IMPACT THE FINANCIAL SECTOR?

We can clearly see the change to the financial sector in Sudan MoMo has to offer as it has a wide network agents across the country, more than 14,000 agents that facilitate money deposit and withdraw. In addition there is a high percentage of the population use mobile phones, and MoMo is a service provided to all type of phones and it can even be accessible without internet. The service also contributes to the global SDGs and specially goal 1,8, 9, &17.

WHERE DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE OF MOBILE MONEY?

Mobile Money is in the midst of changing the way people deal with their finances, for consumers MoMo gives

everyone with a mobile phone a safe and secure way to transfer, deposit, withdraw their money, and buy and use a wide range of utilities and services, and soon users will be able to receive money international from the globe, beside other services that are under development. MTN Sudan FinTech is committed to ensuring that every Sudanese can seamlessly access for their personal and business needs.





QATAR CHARITY PROVIDES BAKERY EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN SUDAN

Article source: dohaneews.co

Qatar Charity currently sponsors 13,000 orphans in Sudan.

QATAR Charity's office in Sudan provided bakery equipment to support women in need as part of ongoing economic empowerment projects. Some 17 women, who are mostly mothers of Qatar Charity-sponsored orphans, will benefit from the bakery projects. Ovens, mixers, kneaders, and gas cylinders were delivered to each family.

Women also received training at the Saeed Center for Vocational Training, which is affiliated with the University of Khartoum's Mycetoma Research Centre (MRC).

"We welcome the humanitarian co-operation with Qatar Charity for the benefit of the most vulnerable groups in society – mycetoma patients whose limbs have been amputated,"

said Professor Ahmed Hassan, director of the MRC, and supervisor of the Vocational Training Centre.

Umm Muhammad, a mother of three orphans, said the economic empowerment project will generate more income for her household, which will allow her to afford her children's education.

Sondos Mudawi, a mother of three orphans, said that before receiving all the new equipment, she was only able to produce and market baked goods with very basic tools, but now she will be able to increase production.

"I hope this project generates income for me to help meet the requirements of life and that of my three orphan daughters," she added.

Qatar Charity began projects in Sudan in the early 1990s in partnership with local organisations.

In 1994, the organisation opened its office in Khartoum to contribute to sustainable

development, provide support to the marginalised communities, and provide relief to the distressed.

Sudan is one of Qatar Charity's oldest and most prominent offices. Projects have benefited over 180,000 Sudanese people in 2013 alone, at a cost of more than QAR 15 million.

Just last week, QC's office in Sudan organised different events to celebrate Qatar National Day as well as the World Cup final match.

500 orphans and their families participated in scout performances and competitive events.

Qatar's ambassador to Sudan, Mohammed bin Ibrahim al-Sada, also met orphans sponsored by Qatar Charity at the Nile International Club to watch the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 final between Argentina and France.

Qatar Charity currently sponsors 13,000 orphans in Sudan.



Sudan, Libya agree on construction of new road linking El Fashir to Kufra



Article Source:
libyaobserver.ly

The Sudanese governor of Darfur region, Minni Arco Minawi, has confirmed the intensive meetings of the joint chamber of commerce between Sudan and Libya to

reach agreement on opening the borders between the two countries with the aim of stimulating trade.

Minawi said in a press statement that the meetings, which were held in Tripoli, agreed on the construction of a 1,000 km road linking El Fashir to Kufra, in addition to opening Libyan consulate in El Fashir, the capital of North Darfur, and Sudanese consulate in Kufra. According to Minawi, the Libyan authorities allowed Sudan to use Libyan ports in a free area estimated at 15 kilometers, with customs exemptions.

JOHN DEERE BOOSTS SUDANESE PRIVATE SECTOR SAYS US AMBASSADOR

As part of the US Ambassador John Godfrey's tour in Sudan, he visited several states, including Al Gedaref, Sudan's major farming hub.

contributes to boosting private-sector agriculture production.

American machinery has had a positive impact on Sudan's agricultural industry. Establishing a new civilian-led government could open the door to more opportunities to improve the business and investment climate for the agricultural industry and beyond."

THE ambassador stated on social media "Today I toured an agricultural machinery market in Gedaref and met with members of the local business community to understand how John Deere, an American agricultural machine company,

Dal Group are the appointed dealers of John Deere in Sudan, providing sales, after-sales, spares and workshops with nationally distributed centres.



Photo Source: elmasarenglish.com

COUNCIL OF ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY MEETS IN KHARTOUM, DISCUSSES FOOD SECURITY

Article Source: aawsat.com

The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) kicked off in Khartoum on Monday its 144th session with the participation of Arab ambassadors, representatives of Arab federations, and undersecretaries of ministries in Sudanese officials.

THE Council will hold its meetings until next Thursday under the slogan "Towards Closer Cooperation to Sustain Arab Food Security."

Sudan's Finance Minister Gibril Ibrahim said the meeting is being held under extraordinary economic circumstances due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Russian-Ukrainian war, climate change and its impact on food supply chains, economic growth, unemployment, and other factors.

Ibrahim explained that the challenges require solidarity and joint efforts to counter their impact.

The Council played a role in coordinating and mobilizing efforts of the public and private sectors to collectively face these challenges, taking advantage of the available opportunities and resources to create an attractive environment for Arab and international investments, he added.

The minister noted that in light of the regional and global economic conditions, collective action was the only way to resolve the issues, stressing that the public sector alone cannot face these challenges.

He called for empowering the private sector to play its role in leading Arab economies and activating and representing the economic effort.

Ibrahim called on Arab countries to seize Sudan's unlimited opportunities and potential in agriculture, livestock, agricultural industrialization, and infrastructure related to food supply chains.

Sudan is fully prepared to receive investors and facilitate all obstacles, he stressed, calling on Arab countries to invest in electricity.

Meanwhile, CAEU Secretary General Ambassador Mohammadi Ahmadi al-Ni urged

the Arab private sector to invest in Sudan, saying the Council is seeking to achieve Arab food security given the socioeconomic crises and climate changes.

Sudan has all the agricultural potential and expertise that qualifies it to provide food security in the Arab region.

He called for legislative reforms to address the obstacles that are hindering the Arab private sector and foreign investors and adopt policies to strengthen the national economy in partnership between the public and private sectors.

In November, the Arab League summit in Algeria adopted Sudan's food security initiative.

The Council is one of the specialized technical bodies that assist in the administrative work of the Arab League concerned with the complete economic unity of the Arab countries.

The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) was founded by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Syria, UAE, and Yemen in 1964, following an agreement in 1957 by the Economic Council of the Arab League.



Photo Source: xinhuanet.com

CHINESE FIRM TO BUILD ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION IN SUDAN'S STATE

Article Source: china.org.cn

China XD Group signed a contract with the Sudanese government to build an electrical substation in Al-Fula, the capital of Sudan's West Kordofan State, to connect cities in the state with the national power grid.

SUDANESE Finance Minister Jibril Ibrahim, representatives of the Chinese Embassy in Sudan and officials from West Kordofan State attended the signing ceremony in Sudan's capital Khartoum.

"At the recent China-Arab States Summit in Riyadh, China promised to expand the relationship with Sudan. We hope that this relationship will help us develop the country's infrastructure and achieve development in various fields," Ibrahim said at the ceremony, describing Sudan's cooperation with China as "productive."

For his part, Guo Hu, the commercial counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Sudan, pledged to continue encouraging Chinese companies to invest in Sudan.

Zhang Yanwen, general manager of China XD Group for North Africa and the Middle East, said the project undertaken by his company in Sudan will contribute to "upgrading the local people's living standard and enhancing the region's economy, development and cooperation."

The project is set to be completed in six months at a cost of 9.4 million U.S dollars.

Considered one of the strategic projects increasing electrical generation in Sudan, the Al-Fula substation is expected to produce 450 megawatts of electricity and provide electricity for large areas in West Kordofan State in southwestern Sudan.



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