Monthly Business Magazine
May 2021

Sudan Business

UAE TO HELP SUDAN
SECURE PETROLEUM NEEDS

SAUDI ARABIAN COMPANIES
RESUME DRILLING OF
500 WATER WELLS

UAE'S ZERO GRAVITY
EYES SUDAN MARKET

FRANCE HELPS SUDAN
CLEAR DEBT AT PARIS
CONFERENCE

SUDAPET PURSUES
SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Sustain, Maintain & Educate

DR. MOHAMED G. HASSAN SAYED EXPLAINS

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- BRAZIL & SUDAN DISCUSS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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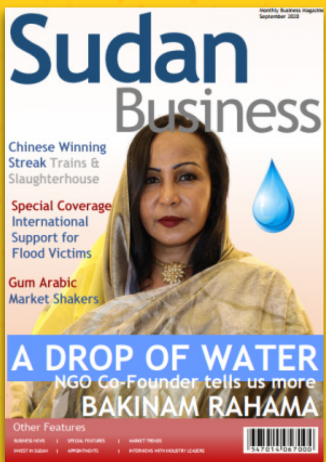

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UAE's Zero Gravity eyes Sudan market

Tariq Al Hosani,
CEO of Zero Gravity Multimedia & IT Solutions

UAE based Zero Gravity Multimedia & IT Solutions (Zero Gravity) announced its interest to operate in the Sudanese market, in line with Sudan's ambition to digitize its governmental, private and public sectors.

Zero Gravity is in the forefront of providing solutions for Mobile Security Penetration Testing, App Development, Web Development, and Software Development System Integrations.

Having already established a strong track record in the UAE, and since its inception in 2015, Zero Gravity has successfully executed projects for H.H. Sheikh Hamdan Court, Crown Prince Court, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, G42 and many other prestigious clients.

Having in-house multilingual capabilities, Zero Gravity can implement both Arabic and English platforms, credit to the successful systems already operating in the UAE. Sudan needs to reach the world for investors, therefore alongside Arabic, English must be an integral language available on Sudan's governmental online presence.

Furthermore, Zero Gravity's presence in Sudan aims to hire and train local talent to manage its projects, which provides support to the One Million Arab Coders program, part of the Mohammed bin Rashid Global Initiatives (MBRGI), the charitable foundation dedicated to empower one million Arabs with essential skills required for employment in the future of Coding.

For further information and collaboration, Zero Gravity can be reached on sudan@0g.ae

20 medical waste incinerators come into operation in the Abyei area

Photo source: Afrik21.com, by Inès Magoum

Twenty incinerators are improving the management of medical waste in the Abyei region, located on the border between South Sudan and Sudan. Designed by the British company Inciner8, the new equipment was recently commissioned by the United Nations (UN).

The authorities in Abyei, a region on the border between South Sudan and Sudan, are finding it difficult to manage their waste properly due to political instability. This is because the area, controlled by Sudan, is claimed by South Sudan. With the Covid 19 pandemic, the UN fears a massive infection of vulnerable populations in Abyei, due to the lack of resources and adequate medical waste facilities.

In March 2021, South Sudan received 132,000 doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine through the World Health Organization (WHO) Covax programme. The initiative aims to ensure equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines in low-income countries.

So, to protect not only the doctors but also the people of Abyei who come into contact with the waste, the UN has equipped the area with 20 incinerators. Designed by the British company Inciner8, the equipment is capable of handling four types of medical waste, namely Type I – Type IV red bag waste, biological waste and sharps, general medical waste and pathological waste.

Photo source: adnoc.ae Source: reuters.com

UAE to help Sudan secure all petroleum needs through flexible agreement

The United Arab Emirates has committed to supplying Sudan's full requirements of petroleum products through a contract by the UAE's state oil producer ADNOC, Sudan's cabinet affairs minister Khalid Omer Yousif told Reuters.

Sudan has had frequent troubles securing a stable supply of petrol, diesel, fuel oil, and cooking gas, which have resulted in frequent lines at gas stations, power cuts, and protests.

Yousif said Sudan received very favourable financial terms. Financing imports has frequently been an issue as the country has chronically low foreign reserves.

The country's transitional government has removed subsidies on petrol and diesel, part of a raft of reforms designed to attract foreign financing and pull the country out of a protracted economic crisis.

Fuel oil and cooking gas remain subsidized.

The UAE also agreed to help facilitate money transfers between the Gulf state and Sudan, which is rebuilding foreign banking linkages after decades of US sanctions, Yousif said.

The details would also be hashed out between Sudan's central bank governor and his Emirati counterparts next week, he added.

The agreements came during a two-day visit to Abu Dhabi by Yousif and Sudan's sovereign council head General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

ABCC HOSTS WEBINAR EXPLORING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN SUDAN AND BRAZIL

Source: zawya.com

The Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce (ABCC) recently hosted a webinar alongside the Afro-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce (AfroChamber) highlighting business opportunities between Sudanese and Brazilian companies. The webinar "Sudan: Technologies and Business Partnerships Opportunities for the Brazilian and Sudanese Companies" heard from the ABCC President Osmar Chohfi, Brazilian ambassador in Khartoum Patrícia Lima; and chargé d'affaires at the Embassy of Sudan in Brasilia, Mohammed Elrashed Sidahmed.

The webinar discussed various aspects of agribusiness development in Brazil in which Sudan can explore venture opportunities such as establishing agro-industrial complexes to process agricultural products, such as grain milling and production of food, manufacturing of fertilizers and pesticides, as well as seeds production. It further talked about prospects in animal husbandry as well as meat processing in Sudan.

Mamoun Dawelbeit, director of Agricultural Technology Transfer at the CTC Group, the largest private agricultural company in Sudan, shared the company's capabilities to provide agricultural equipment such as machine rental and other operations for farming.

Commenting on the proposed plans, Osmar Chohfi, President, Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, said: "Like Brazil, Sudan is a country with a strong agricultural potential due to its natural characteristics. Over a third of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is linked to agriculture. The country, however, needs resources and cooperation to drive the sector forward and sees this new economic phase as an opportunity for its agriculture to take off. In this sector, Sudan already has strong companies, such as the CTC group."

"The company operates on several fronts in agriculture, with seeds, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, seedling production, industrial chemicals, and spraying equipment; as a provider of technological solutions; with exports; bringing knowledge to rural producers; seeking new technologies and know-how for Sudan, among other activities," he added.

The Arab world and Brazil enjoy a strong ties which have been built over a long period of time through the many agreements and MoUs signed between various Arab countries and the South American nation. Both sides continue to harness economic relations which aim to create the most ideal environment for trade and economic cooperation to flourish among countries.

The latest webinar forms part of a series of special meetings that bring together Arabs and Brazilians to discuss highly relevant and current issues that demand urgent action. By organizing the sessions, ABCC aims to build and provide more positive, synergistic avenues for discussions that can lead to strategic partnerships and joint efforts in facilitating trade between Brazil and the Arab countries.

The successful development in Sudan lies in developing Sudanese individuals to be lifelong learners

Dr Mohamed G. Hassan-Sayed is an associate professor of Chemical and Sustainable engineering and the director of programmes at the university of Southampton UK. An experienced academic with a demonstrated history of working in higher education and industry for 20 years. Skilled in Chemical and Petroleum systems, a Chartered Energy Engineer by the energy institute, and a Chartered Engineer by the institute of engineering and Technology. Strong engineering professional with over 100 publications and several book contributions. Dr. Hassan holds a PhD in Energy and Chemical Engineering from Loughborough University and a diploma in engineering management and another in education focused on vocational Education.

His career has been shaped with developing and accrediting courses in energy and chemical engineering at universities in the Middle East, North Africa and the UK. Dr. Hassan has an interest in the academic development of Sudan and has worked in the past with several universities and charity organisations in providing lectures, resources and knowledge transfer.

You have an avid interest in the development of Sudan, in your view which key pillars of sustainability have been ignored and why?

From the independence of Sudan in 1956 till now; the country operated on a legacy system of the colonial era failing to modernise and keep up with development. This is a product of lack of stable governance from the onset, leading to several army lead totalitarian system that has taken from the development of civil based infrastructural society; In addition to the vast tribal and ethnic diversity of Sudan that has led many internal conflicts which drained human capacity and resources over the past 65 years. Consequently the investment in development of the Sudanese individual has taken a back seat, lading a deterioration in health, education, equality, and infrastructure, that has impacted o the economic growth in all walks on life leading to high levels of poverty, with no sufficing energy and water provisions impacting on growth in most sectors. The UN has set out 17 sustainable development goals in Fig 1 that provide a breadth of opportunity for society to identify meaningful ways of contributing towards making progress for sustainability. For the Sudan future development the SDGs must be viewed as in Fig 2 made up of environmental/ biosphere, social/society, and economic/economy factors. For any movement overseeing the strategy for Sudan in the future it must focus on the society pillar by eradicating poverty, firming commitment to education and providing the means to affable living standards

Fig 1 SDGs provide a breadth of opportunity for society to identify meaningful ways of contributing towards making progress for sustainability.

Critical discussion around the SDGs is positive and beneficial as although they may not be perfect they offer an inroad to thinking about and taking action for sustainability in a tangible way.

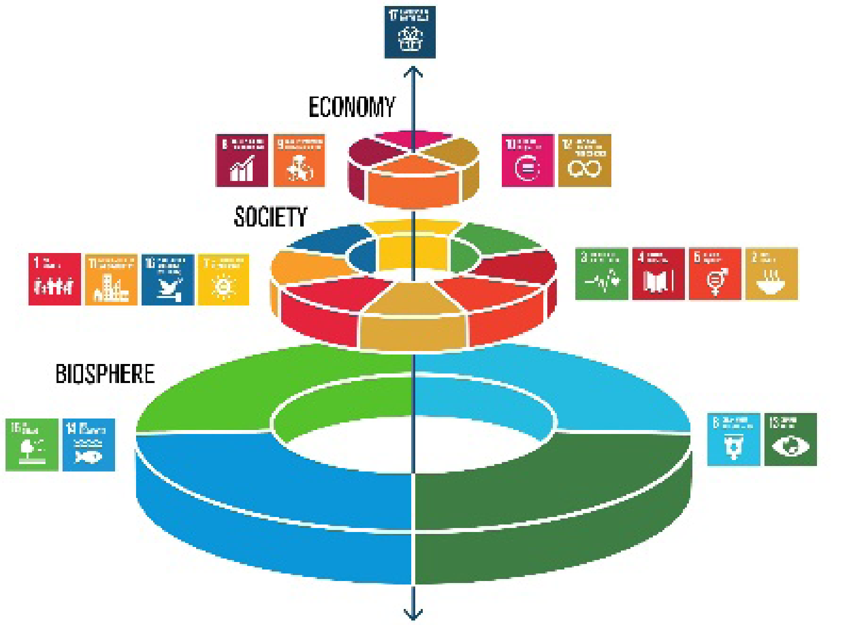


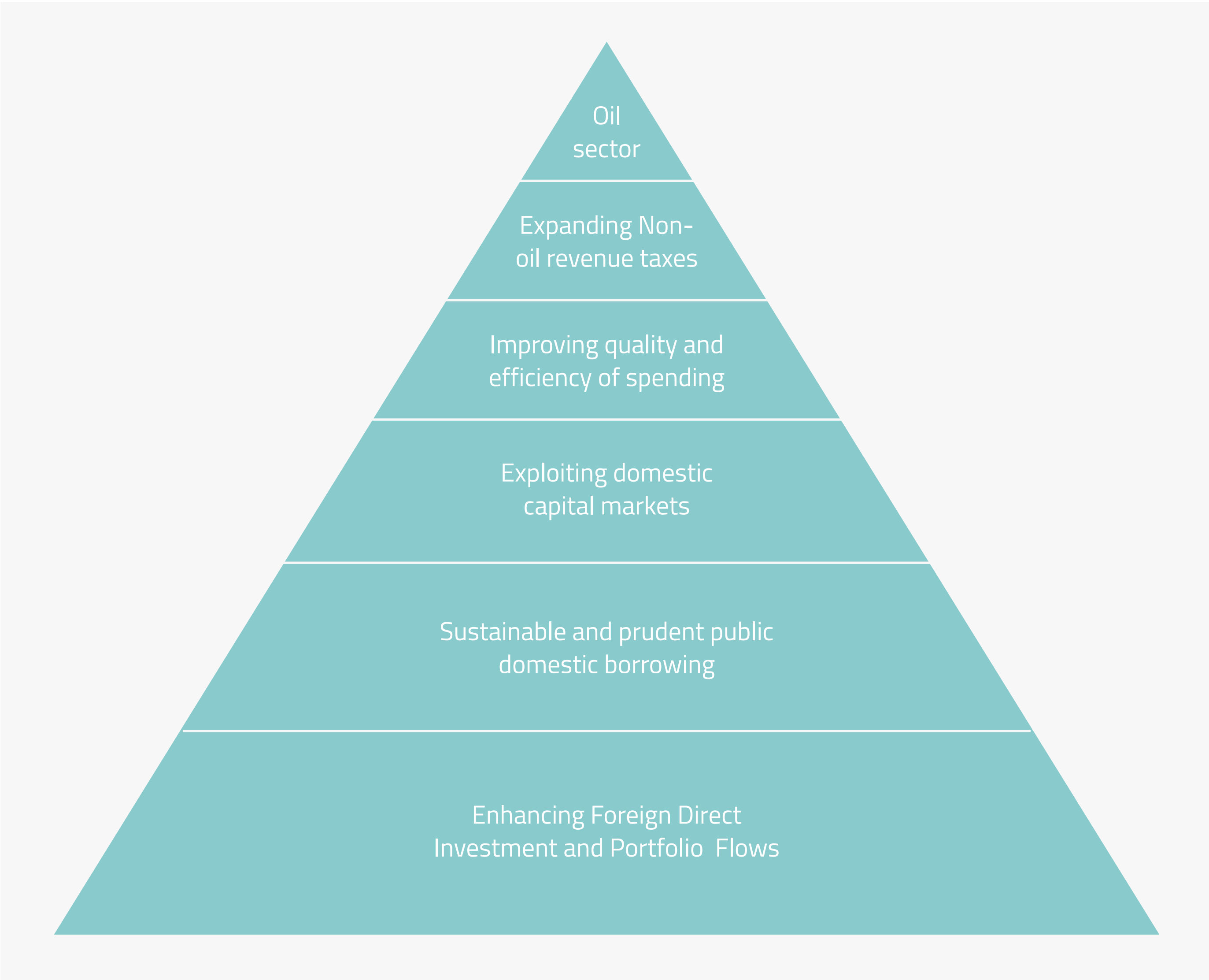
Fig 2 This way of looking at the SDGs links back to the three pillars idea and that sustainability is made up of environmental/biosphere, social/society, and economic/economy factors.

This also shows that the economy only exists within society, and likewise, society within a functioning biosphere – in the same way as we need all three pillars we also need a healthy biosphere and a healthy society to enable a healthy economy to exist

Partnership is shown as the 'golden thread' throughout all three pillers – much like Responsible Futures! Partnership is at the core of success in achieving sustainability aims.

Can Sudan afford sustainability programmes?

Sustainability is the heart of enhancing the quality of life as stated in the last question and should be viewed that economy is not the only success indicator but part of society, and likewise, society is a function of the living biosphere – in the same way as we need all three pillars we also need a healthy biosphere and a healthy society to enable a healthy economy to occur; with partnership between public and private sector as well and between governing and civil service as a 'golden thread' throughout all three pillars – much like Responsible Futures! Partnership is at the core of success in achieving sustainability aims. Sudan frankly speaking Is a failed state that cannot sustain its existence within the nations unless it adopts a comprehensive robust sustainability programme focusing on the pyramid of investment below



Sudan is going through a transition, and education for sustainable development needs to be implemented to build a successful nation. What challenges face society to develop Sudan?

We need to define the short coming of Sudan over the past 30 years and ever longer from impedance which lie in the following:

i. The view of education must change and be centric to any strategic development starting with shrinking the number of universities and bring more vocational training to establish a civil service that will lead to establishing a work force for development.

ii. Financing of education should be the dominant part in the next few years to help in capacity development, this in an opportunity for the private sector to invest in developing the next generation of work force and defined the gap in skills need to help Sudan develop.

iii. E-learning infrastructure should be centric to the new government strategy in preparing Sudan for a sustainable renaissance in development, this is also a good opportunity where the private sector and communication company can help in develop an educated Sudanese eradicating the need for demanding physical infrastructure to a cloud base system that will bring development to all Sudanese.

iv. Independence of education from political influence and affinity the autonomy to select leaders including the shaping of direction and strategy of ministries of education and higher education away from military and political ideology.

v. Restructuring in Education particular in higher education no political or military based influence that quenches creativity, voice, and passion. Bring back the vocational training as a centric part to development as an academic stage for school leavers and prerequisite to entering work force. Reducing the number of universities in the country to establish a niche university education that does not lead to the a labour force but to serving the civil society through a civil service system.

vi. Modernisation of the syllabus and removing redundant units

vii. Quality over all must be centric to the vision of the any government in charge of Sudan not only to eradicate illiteracy and ignorance but to stablish an enlighten civilised community that is the focus on development and the prevention of the current factors on decline such as tribal and religious fanaticism.

viii. Innovations, investment, and independence in education to eradicate corruption, to have an open system in governance for educational entities for autonomy transparency and control in generating and income to enable learning at all levels.

ix. Criteria for continues assessment in syllabus to develop a robust educational system at all levels that meets the needs of the work market today and in the future. One that creates a well learned society that has at the heart of it long life association with learning for continues improvement for bettering societal needs.

x. Ranking and international coloration to enable the development of the educational system to meet the moto of the revolution freedom, peace, and justice for all.

How would you execute such a challenging and broad development programme?

To execute a robust development program the governance in Sudan should focus on the following:

Enabling Environment: Security, Law and Order through Achieve political stability and security, establish a legal and regulatorily framework, and secure rights and enforce of contracts to encourage investment.

Good Governance and Capable Institutions Improving governance central to achieving economic development through combatting corruption and establishing adherence to rule of law. There is also a need to focus on reshaping values and norms of state and governance – Emphasis honesty, integrity and service to society, performance and results-orientation, transparency and accountability. The main element to the future success for Sudan which was demolished over the past 30 years is imperatives of reforming civil service the public sector capacity and institutional challenges would adversely impact policy design and implementation of change. Civil service reforms are crucial to re-professionalize the service, improve policy formulation/execution capacity as well as enhance service delivery.

Stable, predictable economic/financial Environment: The primacy of sound macroeconomic policies in creating an enabling environment through the Stable Prices; Competitive Exchange Rates; Buoyant External Reserves; Sustainable fiscal policy; as well as Effective coordination between monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policy. Another elements is Improving macroeconomic management and financial regulation strengthen fiscal rule, rebuild fiscal buffers and pursue counter-cyclical fiscal policies. Enhance access to financial services for productive sectors and to meet needs of micro-enterprises and SMEs.

Investment in Physical and Social Infrastructure Rebuilding and expanding physical infrastructure deficit, particularly in energy sector as major constraint to growth hampers productivity, raises cost of doing business and undermines competitiveness and trade. There must be a "Big Push" critical to securing future growth and economic diversification. Key efforts should focus on Energy, agriculture, transportation, and infrastructure. Improved government spending is a key, effective leveraging of private sector investment required (Public-Private-Partnerships).

<u>Proactive Support for Real Sector Growth</u>: Investment in health and education key to unlocking economic growth potential and supporting diversification through developing a productive work force; pay more attention to the neglected area of technical and vocational education, to impart relevant skills and bridge jobs-skills mismatch; promote science, technology and innovation to leapfrog into industrial revolution

Mobilization and Effective Utilization of Resources, Supporting Real Sector Growth Agriculture Boosting production and exports. Is a major source of employment and incomes as well as important for poverty reduction. Agriculture in Sudan is a High growth potential, with economic diversification butting in mind only 60% of 220 million ha arable land under cultivation, currently has a low yields per hectare (20-50% below that of other developing countries). Agriculture could be a gateway linkages to support industrialization and an integral part to that is essential for improving food security. Sources of agricultural growth should be captivated in technological innovation and productivity improvement, improvement of infrastructure for agricultural production and commercialization, Improvements in input supply and distribution systems, Improved access to finance. Strengthen value chain approach measures aimed at boosting agricultural production to be complemented with improvements in transport, storage and processing.

<u>Supporting real sector growth:</u> Industrialization as a key component to Sudan's economic diversification and structural transformation, major source of productivity increase and technological innovation. Key constraints to sector growth include inadequate power supply, high cost of inputs, high cost of doing business, infrastructure deficit, and limited access to finance. Crucial role for government in facilitating industrial transformation by taking advantage of emerging industrial opportunities to fill the niche created by graduation of China, India, Brazil, etc from low-skilled to more capital-intensive production. Provision of soft (skilled labor force) and hard infrastructure by the state key to actualizing potential. Cluster-based approach (Export Processing Zones, Industrial Parks).

How do you see Sourcing of Finance for investments to support economic diversification?

The Key element in to securing funds and developing Sudan is centric to a primacy of a neutral leadership that is Sudan centric independent of military intervention and away from local and international ambitions shaped by the following:

i. Focused, credible, trustworthy and effective leadership is key to achieving economic development.

ii. Leadership is not a one-person endeavour. A strong team needed that shares common ideals; a critical mass of credible leaders (cabinet, advisers, etc), men and women of integrity, ability and track record.

iii. Key leadership task is providing an inspiring vision and instilling in the mindsets of Sudanese a compelling need for change, anchored on a unity of purpose.

iv. Tough decisions which demand end to business as usual

v. Movement out of comfort zone – from transactional to transformational space.

vi. Trust-building measures needed in current trust-deficit environment arising from legacy of past leadership and misrule.

With the world turning away from fossil fuels, how can Sudan make use of its existing resources to produce and even export alternative products?

To answer this question we need to have a look at the history of activities in Sudan. Between the periods of 1956-1999 Sudan relied heavily on the agricultural sector for foreign exchange earnings, where cotton, sesame and gum arabica accounted for 42.8%, 12% and 14% of the total exports. In the period 1999-2010 crude oil accounted for 83% of the total nation exports leading to a decline in cotton production as per graph below. This was a result of many factors such OPEC increased the price of crude oil due to the first and second gulf war in the 1990's, coupled with the stiff economic embargoes on Iran & Venezuela and the resurgence of the Asian economies, mainly China and India meant that oil demand had peaked while supply was relatively short; a boom was to be experienced in full effect led to change in Sudan oil policy triggering a decline of the agricultural sector; in-terms of yearly production.

If we analyse the 1999 to 2010 period it becomes clear that the combined ratio of imports and exports to GDP increased by 22% points. This is up from a 17% average over 1970-99. In addition, the ratio of direct foreign investment to GDP also surged from the lowest in historical records to an average of 5.5% from 1998-2010. A measure of the total economic output of Sudan per person (adjusted to inflation) increased by 0.6% during the period of time in which cotton was the chief export material- between the period of 1960-1998, in comparison to an increase a 70% increase in real GDP per capita between the periods of 1999-2010 when oil production commenced in Sudan.

In the year 2010/11 the Sudan changed significantly with the secession of South Sudan, and 75% of Sudan's oil fields and two-thirds of its economic revenue were handed over to the new nation. If we move forward in time to the year 2017/18 Sudan was suffering from the Dutch disease (curses of resources) for a second time the first one was due to cotton exports and investment during the condominium rule of the UK and Egypt. In 2017 Sudan Exported in the region of $4.6 billion, it's this value that makes it the 110th largest exporter worldwide. Although 32% of the exports were gold, Sudan contributes only 4% of the worlds gold exporters giving it a 4% share of the $37.9 billion industry. But Sudan was classed as the 120th most complex this information is gathered by ECI – Economic Complexity Index, in total Sudan imported $9.9 billion in 2017 making it the 91st largest importer in the world, although this shows both parts to the picture it doesn't show a true comparison of Sudan's trade balance.

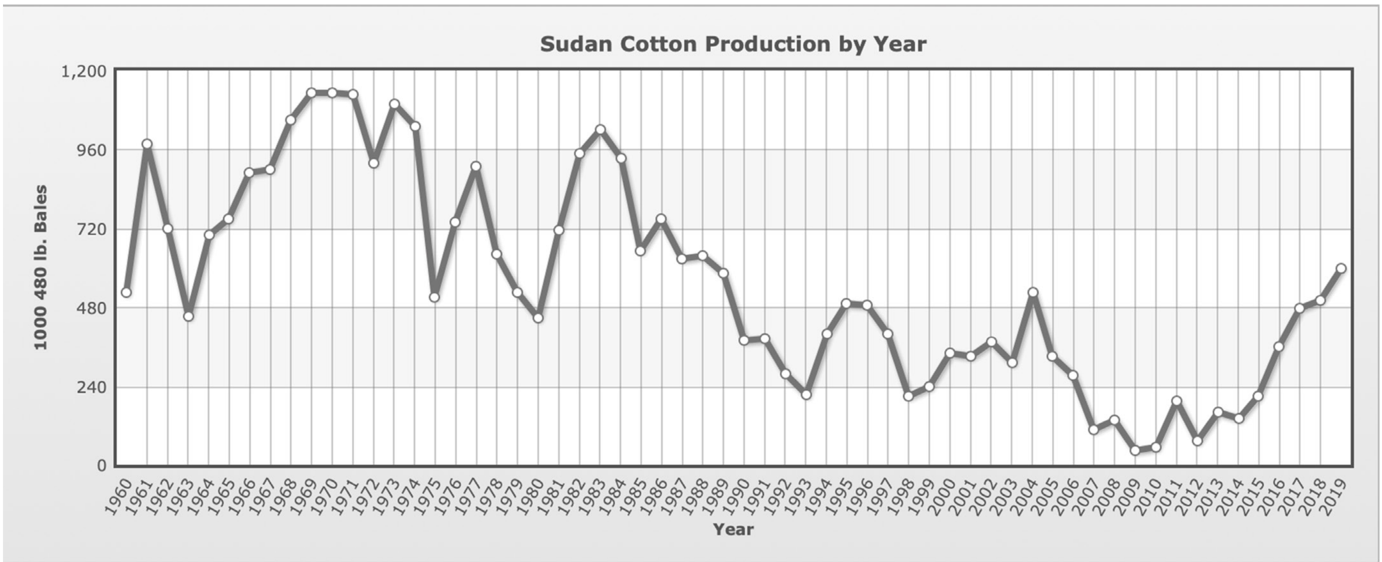


Figure 1: Sudan's yearly cotton production (Ib.Bales)

Sudan has a negative trade balance of $5.2 Billion in net imports, Sudan imports more than exports with a single exception in 2011 . Sudan as had a negative trade balance since before 1995 although it was considerable smaller at only $516 Million. Over the last 10 year, Sudan has had it's up and downs when looking at it's GDP

Leading to high levels of inflation and devaluing the currency and the welfare of Sudanese's. the Dutch disease is apartment in the fact the government invested heavily in the infrastructure of oil and gas/ mineral exploration with no apparent investment in education health and infrastructure. Capacity development was ignored over 30 years leading to decline in the Sudanese's enlightens, and morals. Bringing it back to my early point about redevelopment of Sudan through education.

Other factors of Oil dependency in Sudan is a depression of the agricultural sector; mostly cotton and the loss of economic diversification. Also total

Wheat	$978 Million – 9.9%
Refined Petroleum	$719 Million – 7.3%
Raw Sugar	$426 Million – 4.3%
Unpackaged Medicaments	$263 Million – 2.7%
Cars	$252 Million – 2.6%

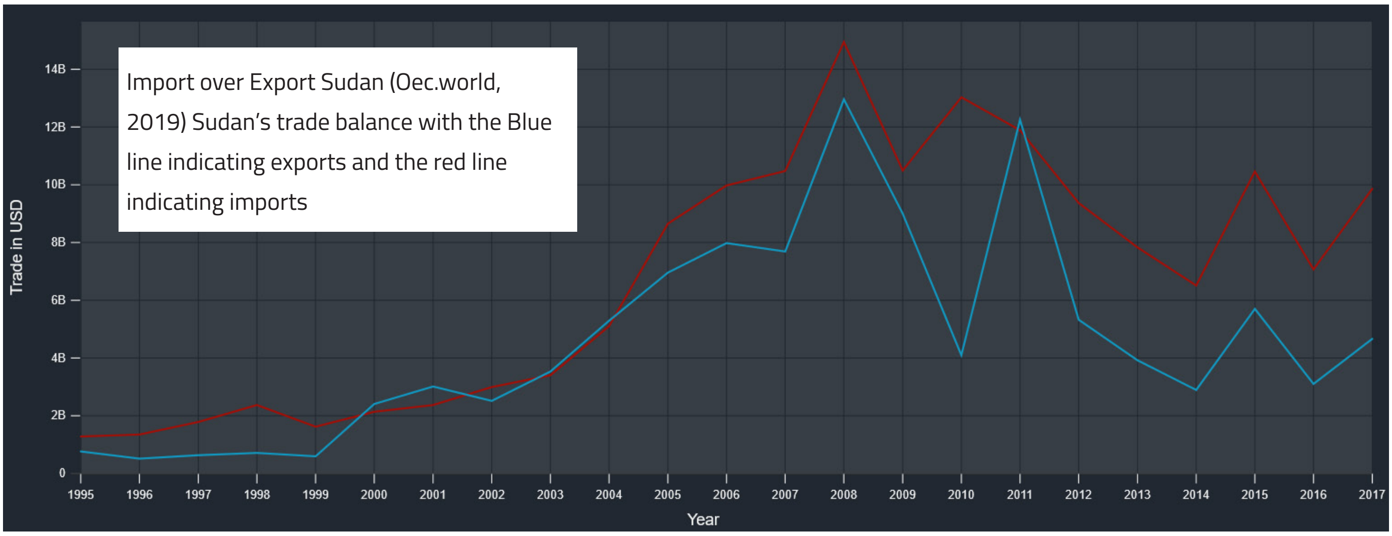
Major Exports of Sudan $4.6B

Gold	$1.51 Billion – 32%
Crude Petroleum	$720 Million – 15%
Sheep and Goats	$476 Million – 10%
Other Oily Seeds	$458 Million – 9.8%
Other Animals	$302 Million – 6.5%

Major Imports of Sudan $9.9B

factor of productivity and growth (TFP) has increased over time, it's readings have been negative throughout the period of oil production and hindered real growth and diversification through innovation. The appreciation of the real exchange rate while negative contribution to TFP growth were experienced, resulted in a loss of competitiveness.

So to come back to your question the economical decisions should be based on capacity development and education we should put all infrastructure decisions centric to health, water and energy needs. The global community supporting a new government should help in imparting knowledge and developing the infrastructure not provide donation. But also the government need to diversify its investment in all scoter in term of export and infrastructure development to avoid the repeat of the Dutch illness in economy.



Import over Export Sudan (Oec.world, 2019) Sudan's trade balance with the Blue line indicating exports and the red line indicating imports

Finally, an all-rounder such as yourself, with such knowledge in improving Sudan's development, why are you not in an advisory position to support the government of Sudan?

"It is the duty of every citizen according to his best capacities to give validity to his convictions in political affairs." Albert Einstein.

I am not a politician, nor do I have an affinity to a political movement or party in Sudan. I am an academic and my career is shaped through my academic and scholarly activates. I am more than happy to commit time to the support the development of Sudan as an advisor and I already support the Sudan Knowledge Group and the World Association for Sustainable Development. Both organisations are a global forum that brings together experts from across the world to discuss issues relating to sustainable development, science and technology management in Sudan without promoting any kind of political views and/or ideologies among the different stakeholders in and outside Sudan.


Photo source: Orca Gold

Orca Gold Participates in Paris Conference on Sudan as the Primary Company in the Country's Mining Sector

Official Signing Ceremony for Air Strip Construction at Block 14. From left, Salah Al Hag Dafalla, the General Manager of Aerodrome Engineering Consultancy Company Ltd (AEC), Dr. Mohamed Bashir Abu Numo, Minister of Mines in Sudan and Rick Clark, President & CEO of Orca. (CNW Group/Orca Gold Inc.)

Orca participated in an official signing ceremony in Khartoum to mark the commencement of constructing an air strip at the Company's Block 14 Gold Project in Northern Sudan ("Block 14") – see Figure 1. In attendance were Mr. Clark, the Minister of Mines, Dr. Mohamed Bashir Abu Numo and Salah Al Hag Dafalla, the General Manager of Aerodrome Engineering Consultancy Company Ltd (AEC) along with other senior officials of the Ministry, SMRC and Orca. The airstrip will facilitate the development and operation of the gold mine at Block 14.

"We have made tremendous progress on this latest trip to Khartoum. We are in an ongoing dialogue with the new Cabinet to move forward with the Company's development plan of action and are pleased that Block 14 is being recognized as the leading mining project in Sudan and will set the tone and be the example of success to other foreign investors with an interest in the country's mining sector," commented Mr. Clark. "I personally, would like to thank his Excellency Minister Abu Numo and his ministry for their support and look forward to continue to work with the Minister, his staff and the Sudanese Government to ensure advancements are achieved to establish a commercial gold industry in Sudan.

Saudi Arabian companies resume work on water projects and drilling of 500 wells

The Water Harvest Department at the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources revealed the arrival of the delegates of a number of Saudi Arabian companies in June, to resume the projects financed by the Saudi Fund for Development.

According to the testimony of the Director of the General Administration of Water Harvesting, Eng. Ammar Mahgoub, the Water Harvest Department will hold an enlightening meeting for the Saudi delegation at the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources, before the delegation of Saudi company representatives begins a tour to stand on the ground on the proposed areas to dig 500 wells distributed in all states of Sudan.

Source: SUNA Photo source: guardian.com

Sudapet director confirms pursuit of self-sufficiency

Source: SUNA Photo source: oilprice.com

Director of Sudapet, Ayman Aboul-Goukh, confirmed that the company is working to provide mechanisms to support the economy through production, which has now reached 58,000 barrels in six squares divided into a number of fields, including the Rawat field.

Furthermore, Sudapet shall be working on the sovereignty in the "Street wants" program, which was devoted to talking about the Paris conference projects, the advantages that Sudan enjoys, especially ports and distinct transport lines that extend from production areas to export, in addition to the infrastructure and large oil reserves, qualified human cadres who provide their expertise in all countries of the world.

These advantages will achieve all the success factors for the investor and Sudan Aboul-Goukh said: We have phased plans for the local market that extend from self-sufficiency within a short period, stressing full readiness to increase production before the end of 2022 to reach self-sufficiency and then in 2023 we start exporting, especially since all studies confirm this.

He added that there are offers through which Sudapet shall qualify companies in order to provide their services according to specific standards, especially in the field of oil.

African Development Bank Group completes clearance of Sudan's $413 million arrears

Following approval of the proposal by the Boards of Directors of the African Development Bank Group to clear about $413 million in arrears on loans owed by Sudan, the Bank Group has completed the arrears clearance process, enabling Sudan to have immediate access to new financing.

The clearance of Sudan's arrears was made possible with the support of the United Kingdom government through bridge financing of GBP148 million to clear Sudan's arrears to the African Development Fund. Sweden provided grant financing of about $4.2 million to meet Sudan's burden-share for the operation. The Republic of Ireland has also committed to providing EUR150,000 towards Sudan's future debt service.

Consequently, the African Development Bank Group sanctions on Sudan have been lifted and a policy-based operation is being provided to the country as part of the Bank's full re-engagement with Sudan to complement its ongoing operations. Clearing of arrears with international financial institutions such as the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, is one of the preconditions for Sudan under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, which is paramount for clearing other debt owed to the Paris and Non-Paris Club creditors.

Abdallah Hamdok, Prime Minister of Sudan expressed appreciation to the Bank Group for its support. "After a long and challenging but fruitful journey, we look forward to an even stronger relationship with the Bank, post arrears clearance, that will enable us to achieve our development objectives," Hamdok said. He also expressed appreciation to the UK, Sweden and Ireland for their roles in facilitating the milestone achievement.

Dominic Raab, UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs said: "The UK has provided a bridging loan to enable the clearance of Sudan's arrears at the African Development Bank. This transaction unlocks important additional programming

Source: afdb.com.

to help Sudan's development and is another step towards Sudan's economic recovery and transition to democracy. I commend the work of the Government of Sudan and African Development Bank to make this happen."

Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation, Mr. Per Olsson Fridh said: "The Government of Sweden is a strong supporter of Sudan's democratic transition and reintegration into the global economy. The clearance of arrears to the African Development Bank is an important step for Sudan in this direction. Sweden is a proud contributor to this process. Sweden is pleased to see the AfDB's focus on gender and climate issues in the future cooperation with Sudan, both key to the long-term stability and development of Sudan".

Colm Brophy, Ireland's Minister of State for Overseas Development and Diaspora stated: "The people of Sudan have embarked upon an important political and economic transition. Ireland is pleased to provide support to this transition by contributing, along with Sweden and the United Kingdom, to the process of the clearance of Sudan's arrears at The African Development Bank."

Bank Group President, Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, expressed his congratulations to Sudan's government and appreciation to the U.K, Sweden and Ireland. "The perseverance and commitment of the government and people of Sudan has paid off, culminating in this historic moment that will open new financing opportunities to Sudan," Dr. Adesina said.

Khaled Sherif, Vice President for Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery, noted that while this gives the African Development Bank the opportunity to fully re-engage with Sudan, we will work with Sudan and other development partners to complete the HIPC process.

The Bank Group's current portfolio in Sudan comprises 19 operations for a total commitment of about $600 million, spreading across sectors like agriculture, water and sanitation, social and energy and the private sector.

SWEDEN, EUROPEAN UNION AND UN PARTNERS CONTINUING TO SUPPORT SUDAN'S STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Photo source: Sweden in Sudan (social media)

The Swedish Embassy visited the Village 6 refugee camp in the Blue Nile state together with UN partners. Sweden is in the forefront, supporting Sudan's humanitarian requirements, together with European Union countries contributing towards a stable Sudan.

BSV's Blockchain for Government Initiative completes historic first official visit to the Republic of the Sudan

ZUG, Switzerland – May 6, 2021 – The BSV blockchain ecosystem's Blockchain for Government Initiative recently completed a historic week-long official visit to Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan, at the invitation of and under the patronage of the Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Transformation. The visit centred around Sudan's first-ever Blockchain Summit & Workshop, a two-day event held April 8-9 and led by the BSV blockchain ecosystem. The conference and surrounding meetings explored how blockchain technology can advance digital transformation as the country rebuilds and re-emerges after 30 years of isolation from much of the world.

The Blockchain for Government Initiative is led by Bitcoin Association, the Switzerland-based non-profit organisation that works to advance use of the Bitcoin SV blockchain, protocol and distributed data network. The Initiative works with government bodies, NGOs and public sector agencies to advance large-scale implementations of blockchain technology for the benefit of citizens, including through the delivery of e-government services, tools for greater financial inclusion and improved transparency, as well as applications that foster public good for municipalities and entire countries.

BSV's Blockchain for Government Initiative brought an international delegation to Sudan, led by Bitcoin Association Founding President Jimmy Nguyen (USA) together with Ahmed Yousif, co-founder of Black Stone Data Solutions (Yousif was born in Sudan and now lives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). They were joined by CEOs and founders of blockchain businesses working across a range of industries, spanning healthcare, supply chain management, financial services and smart cities, along with senior representatives from Bitcoin Association, including:

- Muhammad Salman Anjum - Chief Mate at InvoiceMate and Head of the BSV Hub for the Middle East & South Asia (UAE/ Pakistan)
- Mohammed Ibrahim Jega – co-founder of Domineum Blockchain Solutions (Nigeria)
- Stephan Nilsson - CEO of UNISOT and Abendum (Norway)
- Robert Rice - CEO of Transmira (USA)
- Phillip Runyan - managing partner of Veridat (USA)
- Patrick Prinz – regional manager for Europe & Head of Operations at Bitcoin Association (Switzerland).

BSV's Blockchain for Government Initiative organised the Republic of the Sudan's historic first-ever Blockchain Summit & Workshop, which was held at the Al Salam Hotel in Khartoum on April 8-9 under the patronage of the Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Transformation. The event welcomed government officials, business leaders and university students to learn how blockchain technology can build better digital infrastructure and grow the domestic economy through diverse use cases - including identity management; e-government services; public records; financial inclusion; Islamic finance; auditing; natural resource management and sustainability; smart cities; supply chain and cargo tracking; health care data; educational/ professional certifications; and better transparency.

A prestigious line-up of speakers included the visiting BSV delegation together with senior figures from both the Sudanese government and multi-national NGOs with a permanent regional presence - including the United Nations Development Programme. They were joined remotely by experts from many international BSV and related businesses from around the world – including Centbee; EHR Data; Elas Digital; Faiā; nChain; Predict Ecology; Smart Systems; VXPass; Weather SV; and Metastreme.

In addition to the two-day Blockchain Summit & Workshop, the BSV delegation was also invited to separate meetings in the offices of the Central Bank of Sudan; the Ministry of Telecommunication & Digital Transformation; the Ministry of Interior Affairs; as well as at SudaTel (one of Sudan's leading telecommunication companies) and the 249 Startups hub for entrepreneurs in Sudan.

Speaking during an interview at the conclusion of the two-day Blockchain Summit & Workshop, Hashim Hasabelrasoul Hashim, Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Transformation for the Republic of the Sudan, said:

The event was very great, very informative. The first-ever time in Sudan to have a blockchain ecosystem team to visit the country. People were very interactive, very excited about the event and I think that there will be many more to come after this event.

Having the blockchain ecosystem in Sudan itself is a huge success for us. Having the engagement with the experts with our team members - with the ministry, with the industry - private and government entities to promote working together in different groups to work out what is next.

Minister Hashim also explained why blockchain technology can be so impactful for the Republic of the Sudan during this present period:

'In Sudan, we are in a transition period after thirty years of sanctions and thirty years of a bad regime. Now we are in a transition period in which we want to reform our country and reform the government. Digital transformation is a key pillar in this reformation. We are working on building a national strategy for digital transformation that aims to change the government from manual to digital, to make sure that the government will be more efficient, more smart, more in control and more transparent,' he said.

'I can clearly see a role for blockchain throughout different verticals within the government; digital identification is one of many, financial inclusion, digital certifications and many more to come, where we can benefit from blockchain. We want to be the first and lead on this technology in the country because it will enable us to really depend on real data that is secure.'

Bitcoin Association Founding President Jimmy Nguyen, commenting at the conclusion of the trip, said:

'Blockchain can help us to build a better world and our trip to

Sudan left us feeling even more inspired to make that vision a reality. On behalf of the global BSV ecosystem, we were honoured to lead this first-ever blockchain delegation to the Republic of the Sudan and extend our sincere thanks to Minister Hashim and the entire team at Sudan's Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Transformation for their warm hospitality and ambitious vision for the digital future of their country. As we explore opportunities for initial blockchain projects in Sudan, we know that BSV's massive scaling and focus on data network capabilities can provide the blockchain power needed to advance digital transformation for Sudan and greater Africa.'

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About BSV's Blockchain for Government Initiative

BSV's Blockchain for Government Initiative provides education and drives global adoption of blockchain technology by government bodies, NGOs and public sector agencies in order to accelerate digital transformation and ignite economic growth.

The Initiative supports use of BSV because it is a massively scaled blockchain that handles high transaction volume and enables greater data capacity at fast speed for low fees – capabilities necessary to deliver distributed ledger applications at nationwide and multi-national levels. As a public ledger, BSV also enables transparency, auditability and more honesty for governments, citizens and enterprises.

The Initiative is led by Bitcoin Association, the Switzerland-based global non-profit industry organisation that supports the BSV blockchain and use of Bitcoin's capabilities as a protocol (similar to Internet protocol) and powerful distributed data network. The Association regularly engages with global lawmakers and industry participants to build a regulation-friendly ecosystem that fosters lawful conduct while facilitating innovation using all aspects of blockchain technology.

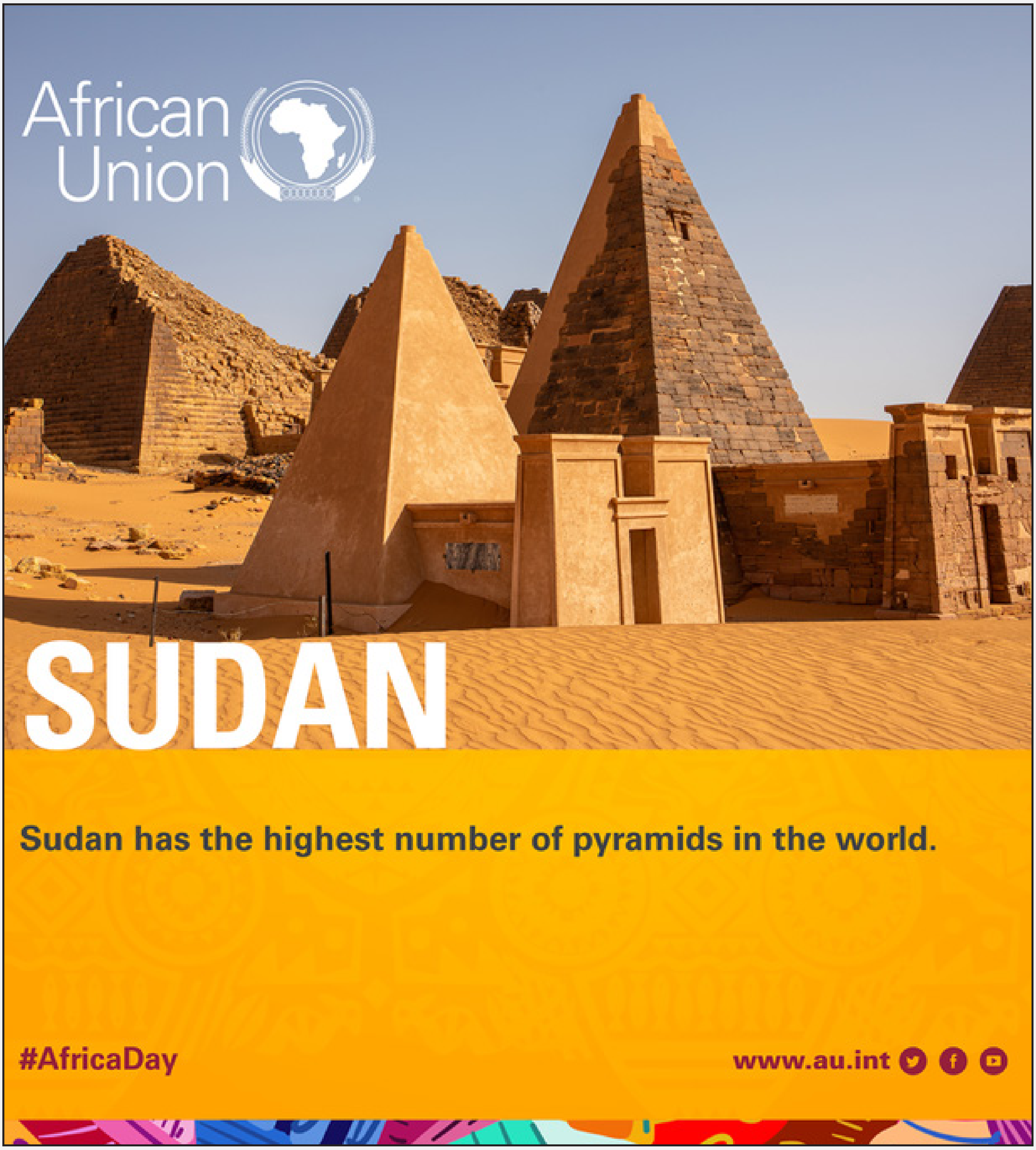
Qatar discusses investments in solar energy projects in Sudan


Source: SUNA

The Minister of Energy and Oil, Jadin Ali Obaid Hassan, discussed in his office, with the delegation of the Qatari Gulf Petroleum Company, offering to invest in solar energy projects in Sudan. He referred to the development that the world is witnessing in the field of solar energy to take advantage of natural resources, especially in a country like Sudan. For his part, the Minister welcomed the company's desire to invest in Sudan in this field, explaining that his ministry is aiming to supplement the shortage in electricity generation with solar energy, directing electricity to accelerate and reach tangible results in the field of solar energy. "We have formed committees for energy in general and for solar energy in particular, due to its importance," he said, revealing ready-made plans that include all of Sudan to implement renewable energy projects through which he identified the geographical locations that target solar energy projects. He emphasized that solar energy is still a recent experiment in Sudan, and it needs to review some legal legislation with other relevant parties, including the Ministry of Justice.

Jadin Ali Obaid Hassan promised the Qatari company's delegation to reach quick technical understandings about the proposal submitted for investment in the field of solar energy in the country after studying it with technicians in the electricity sector. It is worth noting that the Gulf Petroleum Company is the agent in the Middle East of the German company Siemens, Samsung and Energy Canada, which specializes in the field of solar energy.

Africa Day & African Union recognize Sudan's rich history



Asafco Group, We Provide Basic Needs

Asafco Group (Associated African Companies) operates in Sudan since 2017,are a diversified and fully integrated conglomerate. The Group's interests span a range of sectors in Sudan and across Africa. The core business focus of the Group, which started operations in 2017, is to provide local, value-added products and services that meet the 'basic needs' of the populace.

Asafco are committed to quality and delivery representing brands such as Hensellduidag , Asafco factory for food industry, owner of rabya foods brand, Pergon Global Logistics , Extended medical care (EMCO), Le Mouette Resort and Spa Khartoum , Arjuna Soap Factory, Aleissa Motors and Khatroum Economic for Real Estate Devolpment Company,

Chairman & CEO of Asafco, Wadah EL-Fadil Eisa ELFadil affirmed "Our imagination knows no boundaries. We aspire, we design, deliver, execute and succeed, and God willing - our success is not restricted even by the limits of our knowledge and the physical reality of the world in which we live. Our innovation takes a giant leap forward under the challenges surrounding all the world and Africa in particular. We want to create a new concept for investing in natural resources and technology inside and outside Sudan, looking for the future to make Sudan a better place to live and work. We are fully aware that Sudan is the best location for real estate and agricultural investment and even in human resources. We will work and dedicate all efforts to exceed all the expectations of the group and vision of the management, with a strategic and sustainable mindset to serve Sudan, Africa and the world. "

THE ASAFCO GROUP WAY

At Asafcogroup , our approach to sustainability goes beyond compliance with regulatory expectations. The desire to contribute to the development of the projects' host communities drives us, the companies that we own, shares in them and society as a whole, and positively influence them by allocating 20% of the project's profits to the development of the region.

Darfur/Kordofan Warehouses

Sudan clears final hurdle for debt relief at Paris conference

Source: reuters.com

IMF member countries have agreed to clear Sudan's arrears to the institution, France's president said on Monday, removing a final hurdle to the African nation getting wider relief on external debt of at least $50 billion.

Hosting a conference for Sudan in Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron also kick-started the broader debt relief effort, saying his country was in favour of fully cancelling the $5 billion it is owed by Khartoum.

Sudan is emerging from decades of economic sanctions and isolation under ousted former President Omar al-Badri.

It had built up huge arrears on its debt, but has made rapid progress towards having much of it forgiven under the IMF and World Bank's Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) scheme, which wouldreopen access to badly needed cheap international financing.

A transitional military-civilian power-sharing government is trying to pull the country out of a deep economic crisis with inflation at over 300% and shortages of basic goods fuelled by a lack of foreign currency reserves.

In order to reach the "decision point" that would unlock the HIPC process in June, Sudan recently cleared its arrears to the World Bank and the African Development Bank with bridge loans from Western states.

The remaining step was to clear Sudan's arrears to the IMF, which France confirmed it would facilitate through a $1.5 billion bridge loan, and for that loan to be covered by member state pledges.

Those pledges were made during the Paris conference, paving the way for HIPC to proceed and boosting the prospects of broader economic reform in Sudan, Macron said.

Key recent reforms under an IMF monitoring programme, a requirement for HIPC, include lifting fuel subsidies and sharply devaluing the currency.

"The reduction of Sudan's debt that we are going to soon initiate is a first result of these reforms, and this trajectory ... should be consolidated, both economically and politically," Macron said.

With arrears to multilateral lenders settled, Sudan can move forward to settling its estimated $38 billion debt to bilateral creditors. Of the country's bilateral debt, about half is with Paris Club members. An additional $6 billion of its external debt is commercial debt, an unusually high proportion.

Sudan's ministry of foreign affairs said in a tweet that Italy and Germany had committed to clearing their shares of Sudan's debt, which total $1.8 billion, according to IMF estimates. Norway's ambassador to Sudan said on Twitter her country would cancel its debt, listed at $100 million.

The HIPC process operates by consensus, whereby debt is restructured along similar terms for all creditors.

Kuwait, Sudan's largest creditor by far at $9.8 billion, said in a statement it would support debt "resolution" discussions.

Saudi Arabia, another major creditor, has also said it will press strongly for a broad agreement on debt.

China has reduced and forgiven some debt and will push for the international community to do the same, said Hua Chunying, a foreign ministry spokeswoman.

The first part of the Paris conference was dedicated to promoting investment, with officials touting reforms in the banking sector and showcasing projects worth billions of dollars in energy, mining, infrastructure and agriculture.

LEGAL VIEWPOINT

Are you an agent or a distributor? What are the Pros and cons of each?

All multinational companies or international enterprises are normally keen, enthusiastic and very interested in finding markets for their products or services all over places, including Sudan. This is simply, because their products and or services cannot be available everywhere anywhere, whereas there are potential interested customers and or regular consumers to their marketable produce and services on regular demands. As we know, everyone nowadays needs a mobile, a TV, a car, cloth and shoes, cosmetics, perfumes, medicine and medical equipment, education services and the like.

Based on such imminent situation, multinational companies are mostly ready to have somebody else to sell their produce on their behalf "while they are far away", or as many persons say "while they are sleep others are working for them". From marketing, logistical, economical and legal perspectives, of course, there are various solutions to help in facing or easing such situation. However, two scenarios of the more common available instances are the employment of commission agents or distributors. Which is which, in your case? Legally, you better know.

Having said that, many asked, but what are the differences between an agent(s) and or a distributor(s)? On the face of it, essentially, the difference is one of product ownership. To explain, while a commission or sales agent sells product on behalf of another who continue to own and invoice the ultimate customer. Whereas, the distributor(s), takes ownership of the product and sells on to their own customers. On the one hand, this can mean that, while the business builds a relationship with the customer, on many times you may not even know where your product ends up.

To mention, the differences between agents and distributors, the key point to remember when choosing between selling via agents or distributors, is that, in the case of distributors the supplier / manufacturer sells his product to the distributor, who in turn sells the product on to his customers adding a margin to cover his own costs. Distributorships are used as a low risk means of expanding business into new markets in far and scattered places. In this case, the distributor assumes liability, i.e. legal responsibility for one's acts or omissions. Failure of the distributor's business entity to meet that responsibility leaves him open to a lawsuit for any resulting damages or loss, which may occur to the other party. Legally, as the distributor has taken ownership of the products, he is incurring a greater degree of risk than an agent in the course of his business. The customer's contract and its related obligations, in this case, lies with the distributor.

On the other hand, an agent is a self-employed intermediary who has continuing authority to negotiate the sale of goods on behalf of another entity – the supplier / manufacturer (legally known as the principal). The agent may negotiate and conclude the sale of goods on behalf of and in the name of that principal. As he does not take ownership of the goods, the agent does not take on responsibility. The responsibility totally remains and vests with the supplier.

To speak about agents and distributors, there are some pros and cons which we advise you to consider and take into consideration. For distributor, we can say, the supplier is able to pass on risk associated with the products, the distributor is motivated to sell the stock he has purchased from the supplier. The supplier will not incur any liability except in defective products, the appointment of a distributor will avoid the need for a supplier requiring an established place of business, reducing administrative costs, the supplier has also avoided the cost of employing a salesperson and only needs to monitor accounts with the distributor. No compensation is automatically payable to a distributor upon termination of the distributorship agreement. This is very sensitive point you should consider. There are many tough litigation cases in this area.

On the other hand, the supplier has limited control over the activities of distributor, under an exclusive distributorship arrangement, the supplier's entire credit risk in respect of sales is concentrated on the distributor, the distributorship arrangement is likely to be governed by domestic legislation and the supplier lacks information on the ultimate customer who buys from his distributor. Given the large degree of autonomy granted to a distributor, it is critical that the selected distributor is and should be financially and commercially sound and trustful person.

Regarding agents, the supplier has more control over the activities of an agent, the financial and commercial background of the agent will not be as critically important to the principal who wants to ensure the integrity of the sales agent, since the principal will in the normal course be bound by the actions of the agent. The principal keeps in direct contact with the customers without jeopardizing the duties of his agent.

On the other hand for agents, the principal will incur liability as a result of the agent's activities. In most instances, the principal will be obliged to take on the expense of training the agent staff to keep them up-to-date and also the principal will still be obliged to monitor the accounts of all customers.

An agent would normally carry several products from several manufacturers. If the supplier's product is not selling well, the agent will typically divert more attention and energy to other products.

Above instances show pros and cons for both activities, which should be taken in consideration before taking a final decision of being a distributor or an agent. The same points should be taken in consideration by the other party being the principal or the supplier, taking in consideration what is beneficial to boost his trading activities all over. Special point, the parties are obliged to pay special attention in drafting the contract which must contain all necessary legal points that are to be applicable, including the necessary duties of each party and continuing obligations, the presentations and warranties, the governing law and relevant jurisdiction. An expert drafting is highly required and beneficial for good business in Sudan and likewise for both parties. Take utmost care.

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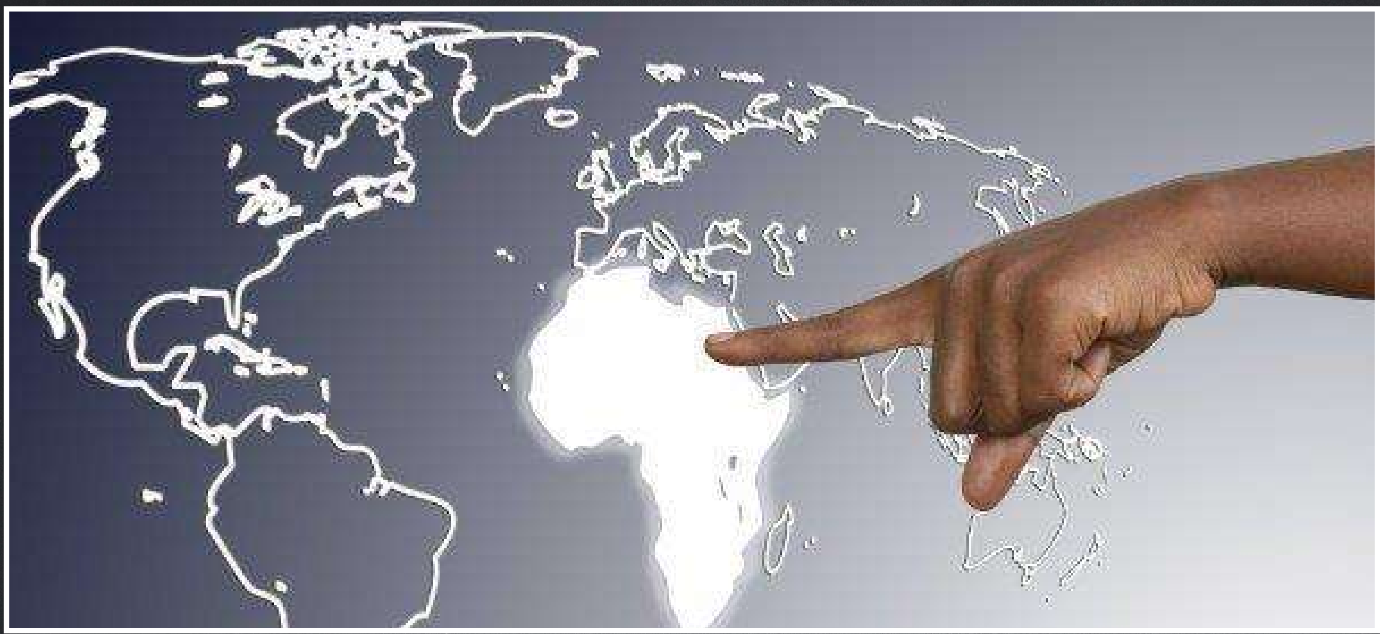
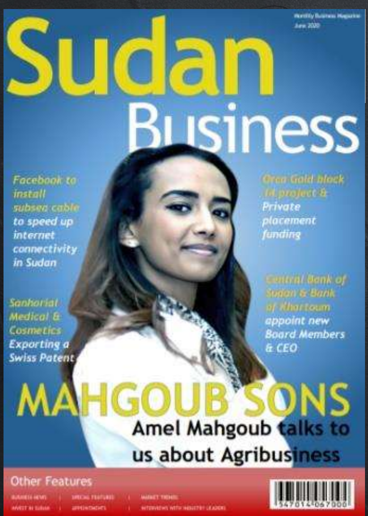
Does your business have a story to tell?





A profile in our executive interviews section places you among Sudan's most successful and prominent business leaders. The experience provides you and your company with a number of benefits, including:

- allow you to develop an engaging and inspiring article.
- an opportunity to boost your company and profile and associated your business among our influential subscriber and distribution base.
- a chance to share your insights and ideas with the next generation of executives and Entrepreneurs.

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