

Sudan Business

**Port Sudan
Railway Link
to Ethiopia**

Another
Revenue
Stream

**\$1.8
billion
raised for
Sudan**
What
next?

UNITAMS Will
the Real
Estate market
recover in
Khartoum?

MTN
Launches
Telemedicine
Project

BUILDING SUDAN
Architect Murtada Maaz

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APPOINTMENTS

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INTERVIEWS WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS



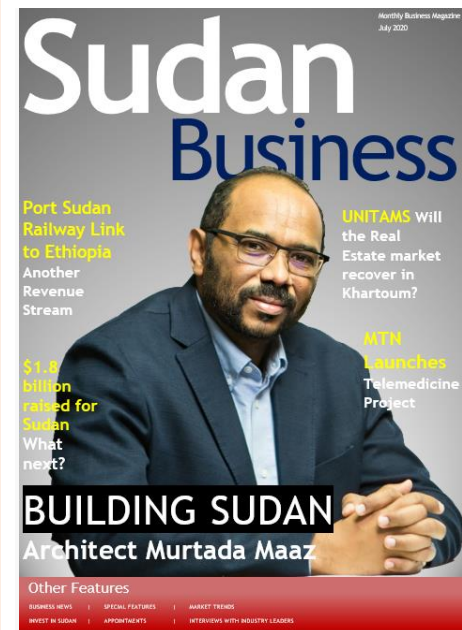
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COVERING SPECTRUMS

Humanitarian



Since the revolution began, the United States has committed more than \$478.6 million in assistance for Sudan. Of that amount, \$24.1 million will go to fight the Coronavirus pandemic in Sudan. The United States is yet to remove the economic sanctions on Sudan.

Aviation



UAE carrier Etihad Airways has announced the expansion of its hand baggage only 'Deal Fare' which allows travellers to purchase lower fares in Economy Class if no checked baggage is required, to include destinations to Khartoum. Etihad Guest members can continue to enjoy an additional free checked baggage allowance (Etihad Guest Silver – 10kg, Etihad Guest Gold – 15kg and Etihad Guest Platinum – 20kg).

Technology



Sudan is now transacting remittances through Visa credit cards opening access into US dollars, however online platforms which offer digital marketing have not yet listed Sudan on their list of target audiences.

Finance

BETTER THAN CASH ALLIANCE

The Government of Sudan will join more than 75 members of the Better Than Cash Alliance, a United Nations-based partnership of governments, companies and international organizations committed to accelerating the transition from cash to digital payments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

#TRENDING

Sudan Tribune @SudanTribune_EN · 19 Jul

The state-owned **Sudan National Petroleum Corporation (Sudapet)** is negotiating the construction of an \$ 800 million thermal power plant with a Norwegian company are continuing to build a thermal power plant.
sudantribune.com/spip.php?artic...



Magic Stats

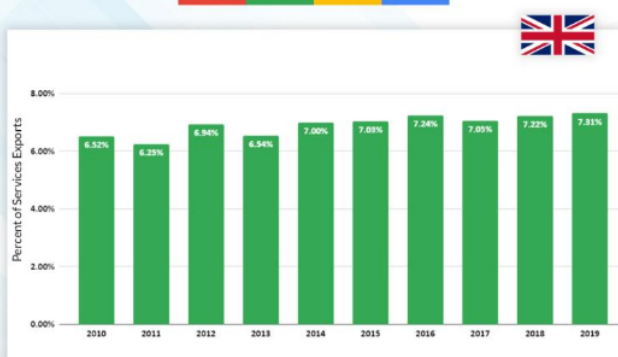
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United Kingdom ICT Services Exports rose **0.9points** year on year. At 7.31 Percent of Services Exports in 2019, the country was ranked number 69 among other countries in ICT Services Exports. United Kingdom is overtaken by Singapore, which was ranked number 68 at 7.34 Percent of Services Exports and is followed by Denmark at 6.8 Percent of Services Exports. Sierra Leone lead the ranking with 76.83 Percent of Services Exports in 2019, a growth of **5.1points** versus 2018. Niger, Israel and Kuwait respectively ranked number 2, 3 and 4 in this ranking. Trinidad and Tobago witnessed the best average annual growth at +70.7points per year, while Sudan recorded the worst performance at **-53.7points** per year.

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ICT SERVICES EXPORTS IN THE UK



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MAGIC STATS

Source: World Bank



Facts East Africa @east_facts · 17 Jul

FACT: **Sudan** has a weapons production company called the Military Industry Corporation, which was established in 1993. **Sudan** also has at least 3 weapons factories outside of Khartoum.

They produces a wide range of defence weapons like; armored vehicles, battle tanks, ammunition.



United Capital Bank

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#UCB just performed the first Visa transaction successfully.

Stay tuned for the details.

#HomeofTrust #Banking #financeindustry #Sudan #bankingsolutions
#bankingservices



Khartoum 21/7/2020 United Capital Bank "UCB" announced today that the bank has successfully processed and completed transactions through its new **UCB/Visa** International Card, thus becoming the first Sudanese bank to conduct transactions at merchants, online retailers, and ATMs.

The **UCB/Visa** card is the first card of its kind in the history of the Sudanese banking industry, as it allows Sudanese citizens to conduct financial transactions globally using the card linked with their US dollar accounts.



pepsi



TOYOTA



SHARP

SAMSUNG

Most Admired Brands in Africa operating in Sudan

Source: African Business Magazine

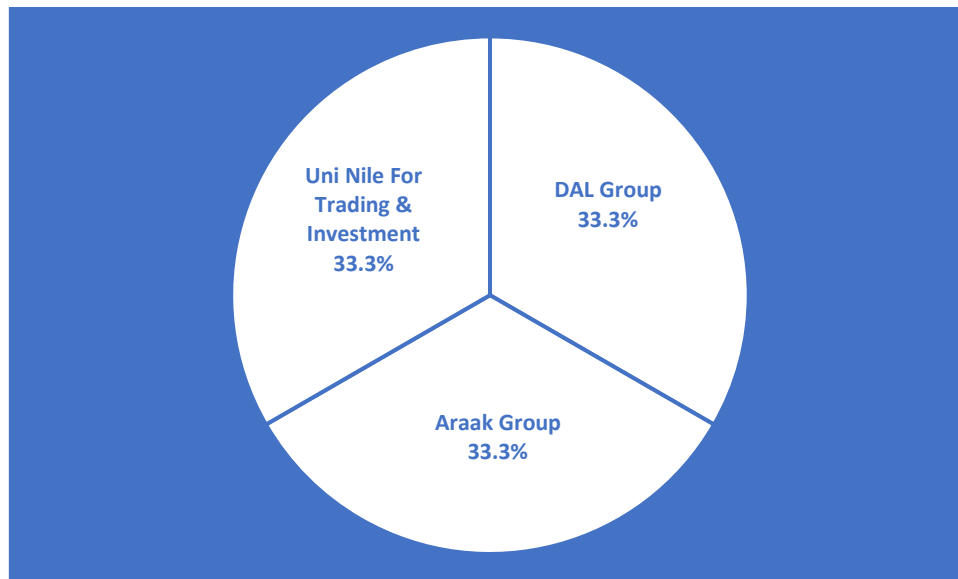
A survey conducted by African Business Magazine provided and in-depth knowledge of which brands African's recognize and their impact in the local African market. It is evident that multi-national brands have been dominating the rankings of the top 100 listed on the survey, concluding that a handful of African brands such as MTN have made it to Pan-African status.

Sudan Business Magazine examined the data and listed on the most admired brands operating in Sudan.

2020 Ranking in Africa	Brand	Sudanese Distributor / Entity	Category
3	Samsung	Haggar Group	Electronics
4	Coca-Cola	DAL Group	Beverages
7	MTN	MTN	Telecom Provider
11	Toyota	Golden Arrow Company	Automotive Manufacturers
12	LG	CTC Group	Electronics
17	Unilever	Uni Nile For Trading & Investment	Consumer, Non-Cyclical
18	Pepsi	Araak Group	Beverages
19	Mercedes-Benz	DAL Group	Automotive Manufacturers

2020 Ranking in Africa	Brand	Sudanese Distributor / Entity	Category
23	Sony	MIG Group	Electronics
40	BMW	BMW Bavarian Auto Sudan	Automotive Manufacturers
43	Fanta	DAL Group	Beverages
49	OMO	Uni Nile For Trading & Investment	Consumer, Non-Cyclical
51	KFC	Araak Group	Food
59	Colgate	Uni Nile For Trading & Investment	Personal Care
64	Toshiba	Elbarbary Group	Electronics
68	Always	Procter & Gamble	Personal Care
71	Close-Up	Uni Nile For Trading & Investment	Personal Care
77	Mirinda	Araak Group	Beverages
85	Sharp	Ahmed Hafez Elbarbary	Electronics
87	Lipton Tea	-	Consumer, Non-Cyclical
88	7 Up	Araak Group	Beverages
89	Dettol	Saeed Group	Consumer, Non-Cyclical
91	Ariel	Procter & Gamble	Consumer, Non-Cyclical
94	Nissan	Elnefeidi Group	Automotive Manufacturers
96	Hisense	Tara International	Electronics
100	Sprite	DAL Group	Beverages

*Sudanese distributor/entity data are provided from information available online which is not verified.



Market share of the Sudanese entities distributing 4 brands from the African Best Brands Survey

It is evident that the Sudanese market may be more linked to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, for example the automotive manufacturer such as Hyundai has not made it in the top 100 list, even though it is recognized as one of Sudan's top car brands.

The Sudanese market has historically followed successful brands launched in the GCC which raises the question, should Sudanese businesses pursue trends of African or GCC brands? And is Sudan considered as part of the Pan-African market with the same brand awareness such as South Africa and Nigeria? The economic shortfalls lead to the majority of Sudan's population being low income individuals to build trust in non-branded products which are unrecognized and can be additions as top brands on the top 100 list.

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Khartoum | Sudan

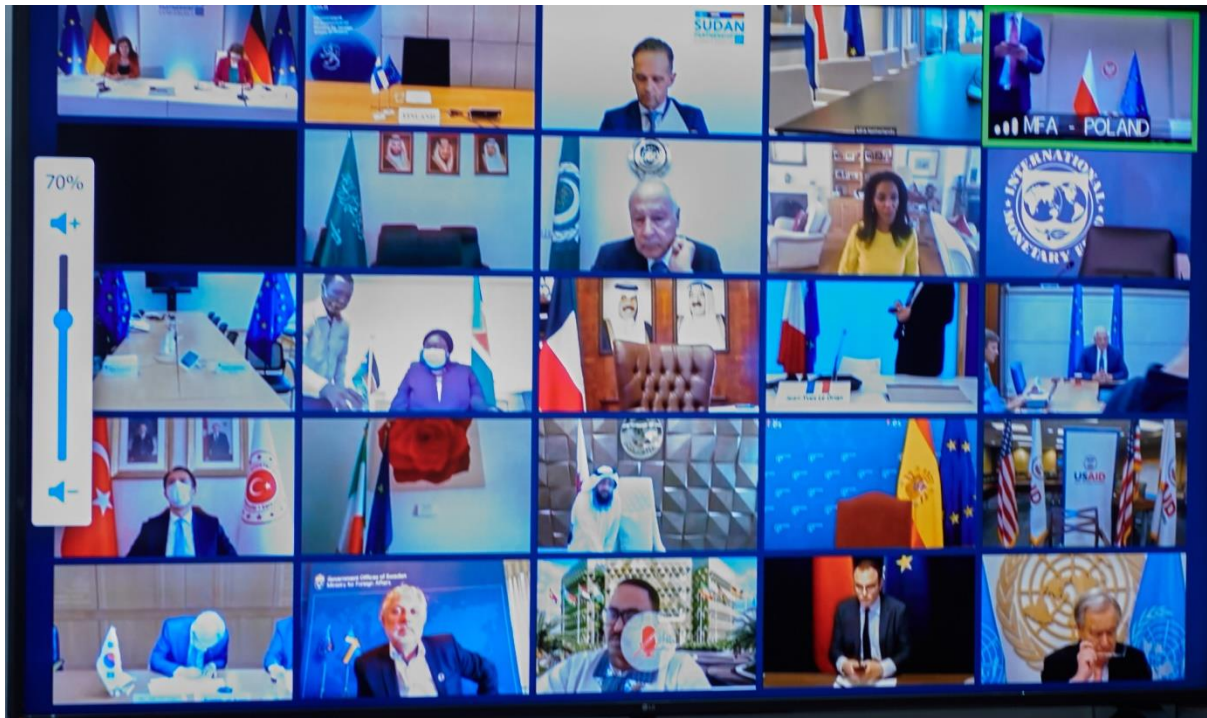
Email: acropolekhartoum@gmail.com

Tel: +249 18 377 2860



\$1.8 Billion raised by Friends of Sudan

Source: The National



Following seven 'Friends of Sudan' conferences, this looks to have changed as Sudan secured \$1.8bn in funding from a range of Western and Arab partners during a donor conference hosted remotely in Berlin.

The Sudanese government shall commit \$485 million of the \$1.8bn undertaken by foreign donor nations for a cash transfer programme to support poor families as subsidies are being phased out. Subsidies on petrol and diesel shall be removed however subsidies on medicine, electricity, bread and cooking gas would remain in place.

Foreign debt stood at more than 190 per cent of GDP is currently close to \$60 billion. The coronavirus pandemic has hit the economy hard, causing a loss 40 per cent of public revenues, acting Finance Minister Hiba Mohamed Ali said. Overall, the economy contracted 2.5 per cent in 2019 and is projected to shrink 8 per cent this year, according the IMF.

The IMF said last month that it reached an initial agreement with Mr Hamdok's government on a programme that envisages increasing government revenue and overhauling energy subsidies to create room for more spending on social programmes, including the health sector and assistance to the poor.



Does Immigration Guarantee Success!

Nowadays, the opportunities to work abroad has never been so attainable. The big planet Earth has become a small global village and sovereign barriers seem to have disappeared. This situation has both merits as well as demerits.

Well, we always wonder what makes a person leave home, family, the place they are familiar with, and beloved ones to work overseas and start from scratch!

No one can deny the fact that there are some positive and ne-



By Mohamed Mostafa

gative things about this trend, and in some instances, it could have more advantages. In essence, when you ask a young person from Sudan about the reasons for desiring to work overseas, the answer would fall under one

of the following: Firstly, many people believe that by working overseas, they will earn higher incomes. As a consequence, their families' standard of living and economic condition will improve, especially for people who migrate to advanced countries such as UK, Australia, Canada etc. Secondly, some people are moving to another country aiming for a better education for their children. Some people from Sudan are migrating to the UK & the US hoping that their children could have an opportunity to study in world-class universities. Lastly, working overseas will enrich and broaden the life experience of the migrants

and their families. Some local Sudanese strongly believe that overseas- particularly in developed countries- there is a well-established system which enforces a positive working environment and imposes good working ethics.

Despite all the positive things about working overseas bringing to the family members, there are some negative aspects that young Sudanese should notice. There is a chance of a culture shock, as there may be some traditions and customs that might not be fit with them. For example, many Sudanese migrants might not be accustomed to the culture of the western people who are quite open. And then, there might be some difficulties in adapting with the local foods, traditions and even a different sense of humor. This could be challenging at the beginning.

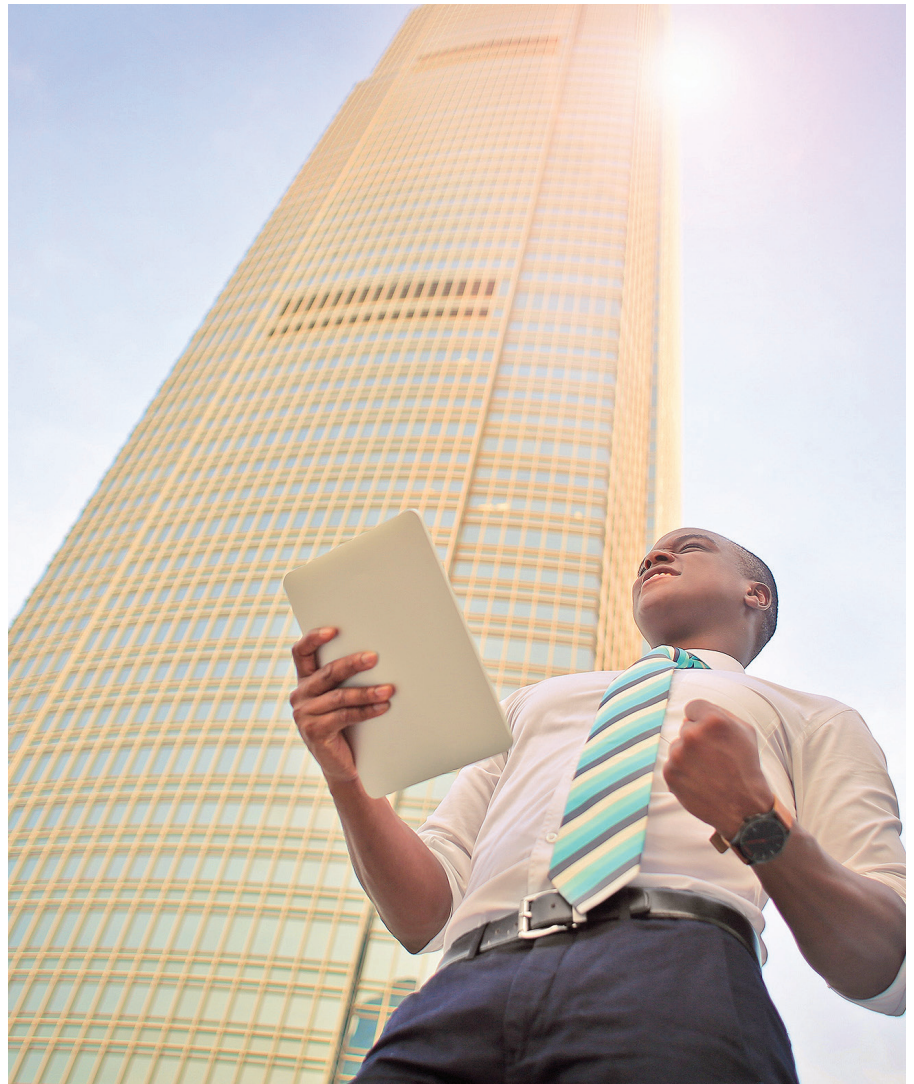
On the other hand, we have to ask ourselves a few important questions: What makes a person very sure that he or she will succeed in a new place, new culture, a new country?

What makes a person certain that life in this new place will be much easier, taking into account the challenges highlighted earlier?

What are the skills an individual acquires during their lifetime in their home country to warrant success in a foreign place?

Can this success, big dream & aspired life be attained in their home country?

To answer the above questions, firstly we need to agree on the fact that success is not an easy task. Otherwise majority of people would have become successful.



“To achieve what only 5% have on the planet you need to do what the remaining 95% are not willing to do”

There are few factors that contribute to your success, and those set of skills will help anyone to attain & maintain success - whether it is in your home country or overseas. The bottom line is, are you willing to sacrifice your time, exert more effort to change your bad habits, to be one of the unique 5% on this planet?

In Sudan, in spite of the enormous challenges the country

faces right now, there is still a lot of opportunities to leverage and enable you to make a difference.

In this article I will tackle some of the imperative skills which can help you to convert challenges into opportunities, enables you to gain the success you aspire in Sudan.

1) Rising up early sets the tone for a productive day

During my study of successful peoples' lives, including our pride Mo Ibrahim -the founder of Celtel, they all have one thing in common, they rise up early and have a fixed morning routine. I call the first three hours in the morning between 5-8am the “Golden Hours” where you have the most will power and the clearest mind. In order to be

ahead of your game, you need to have clarity. In this time, where most people are asleep, you can plan, think and schedule your priority tasks. If you use those early hours in the morning wisely, you can literally achieve what other people can achieve in days within the “Golden Hours”.

“If you do what is hard your life will be easy, if you do what is easy your life will be hard”

2) Don't be shy. Be daringly innovative and try out some new, creative ways

When you face a challenge, you should fight the natural tendency to “pull back”. Unless you have addressed a similar crisis in the past and have a game plan that works, this is a time to express your creativity. Be innovative and willing to try new techniques. Your willingness to try innovative approaches to meet new challenges displays your internal strength. In tough times, a person's ability to compromise shows a sign of power. For instance, you may accept a job that you are overqualified for in the way to reach to your mountain top. You have to look at your ultimate goal and pursue every way to reach it. In contrast, the shame is to stay idle and hope that circumstances will change itself.

“You may lose a battle in order to win the war”



3) Embrace challenges as opportunities to learn, grow, and improve

Get out of the rut. Challenging experiences not only help you grow, but they can also help you break out of your comfort zone and put past mistakes behind you. If you are not challenging yourself by taking certain calculated risks in your life, you may actually be limiting opportunities for yourself in the long run.

“The only difference between comfort zone and the grave is the depth”

Now What? You are waiting for me to give you a magic pill, a straightforward direction whether to work overseas and leave your beloved Sudan OR stick around and work harder on yourself in order to find success. Well,

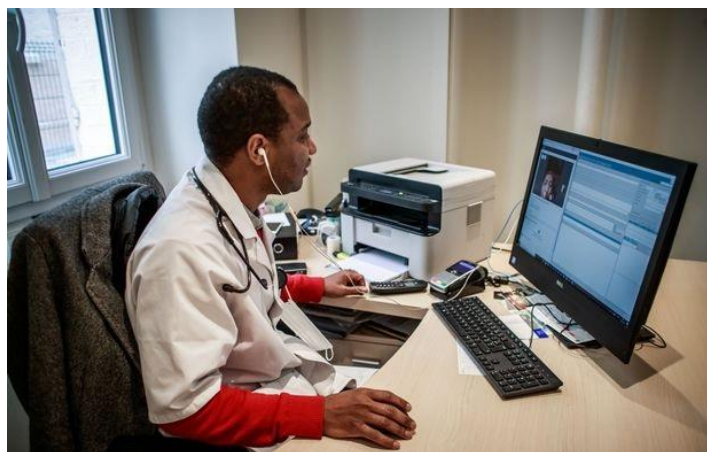
I wish I could tell you that if you just picked one option you would have a great successful life.

In reality, there is no straight answer to this question. Your way to the mountain top to achieve the great life you aspire definitely depends on your rituals and your mind-set. Until you start changing your bad habits, seriously work hard on yourself to replace them with good habits, success will be hard to achieve -whether you stay in your home country or going somewhere else.

If you are really keen about having success in your life, you must kick it off NOW and employ one of the above rituals and make it part of your routine. I guarantee you will see big difference in your life. Later, it is your decision to make a move or be part of a movement that shapes the future of Sudan. The choice is yours!

MTN Launches Telemedicine Pilot Project

Source: MTN



In cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Khartoum and Charity, MTN Sudan is carrying out a pilot project for the telemedicine system at Jabra isolation center.

MTN Sudan, the Ministry of Health of Khartoum state and Charity have signed a contract for the implementation of the project "Telemedicine System" as part of the company's continued support for national efforts to combat the corona pandemic, Engineer Abdullah Al-Fayette, Director

General of MTN, Dr. Hamdan Mustafa Hamdan, Director General of the Ministry of Health, Khartoum state, Mr. Hussein Ali Abdul Latif, about charity organization, and Dr. Sameh Ayash from the Council of Medical Specialties.

The system allows critical and intensive care consultants to supervise and take care of remote patients and provide advice and guidance to medical staff inside the isolation center through high precision monitoring devices installed in the center and networked with Remote control center.

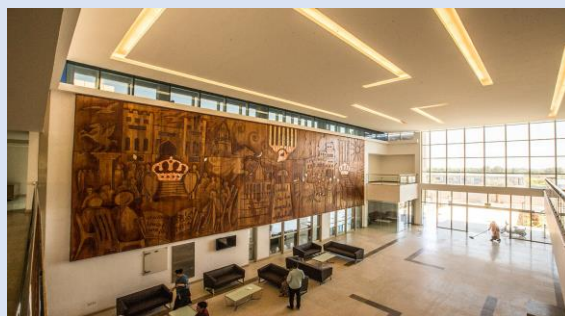
The project aims primarily to protect medical staff and reduce their vulnerability to the virus as an experiment at the main isolation center in Jabra, so the experience can be based on and circulated as rare medical staff are being used on a large scale and increase protection for it To provide services to more patients in hospitals in the capital and regions, hopefully in the near future.

Ms. Abda Fadil, Director of sustainability, emphasized that facing the pandemic requires greater awareness and awareness of the seriousness of the virus, and adhere to all the guidelines issued by health authorities to reduce the spread of the epidemic.

Abda pointed out the need to seize the opportunities presented by communication and information technology and provide globally tested solutions to many of the problems we face in the country insuring the great benefits of the project: "There is no doubt that protecting medical staff, especially rare ones, is rare as Intensive care consultants and reducing their mixing of patients, thus reducing the percentage of infections among them is a key factor in the success of the pandemic efforts, as we know that there are a number of cases between them, so we did not hesitate to adopt this project under the community responsibility of MTN and based on being providing services and solutions for communication and information technology"



Murtada Maaz Consultancy



World Class Engineering Consultancy Firm Architects & Engineers



Sudan Business Magazine interviews Architect Murtada Maaz about his consultancy and focus on leading Sudan's construction industry.

Murtada Maaz Consultancy was established in the 90's completing thousands of projects in Sudan. Tell us more about your journey to date.

Murtada Maaz Consultancy started in 1995 and to date it has completed more than 2000 diversified projects of design, supervision and management. Projects include residential, commercial, industrial, healthcare, educational, infrastructure and other buildings and in the field of asset evaluation.

We are a member of the Federation of Sudanese Consulting Bureaus, African and Arab Consultants, and the Union of Consultants from Islamic Countries. The family of Murtada Maaz has more than 200 employees.

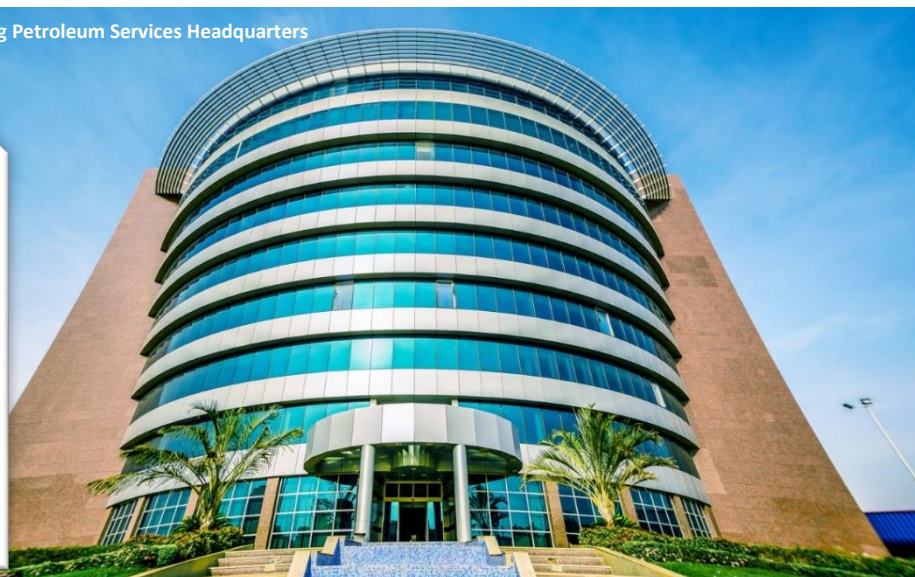
In 2016, the company obtained ISO 9001:2008 certification. In 2019, we received the Quality Certificate ISO 9001:2015 from SGS Britain.

The company endeavors to develop a practical environment that adopts and fosters creativity and excellence and is interested in training and development of engineering professionals starting from graduates through customized training programs as part of the company's social contribution.

Murtada Maaz Consultancy was able to compete with global consulting offices in Sudan on prestigious projects, how distinguished is your Sudanese company from the competition?

We were distinguished by architectural designs, with creative ideas, distinguished engineering solutions and most of the engineers in the company have international experience.

Hegleeg Petroleum Services Headquarters



Private Villa – Khartoum

The company is training many of its employees overseas to gain knowledge to provide the same standards as global consultancies, global in modern designs and the adoption of international professional references, especially in specialized projects such as health, industrial and infrastructure.

We believe in a company which challenges success, and access to globalization can be achieved through training, continuous development, sound and technical planning.

What is your advice for engineers and consultants in Sudan in achieving international standards in their work?

I advise them to pay attention to vocational, practical training and continuous knowledge in the profession, in order to develop capabilities and discover features of career orientation in the future. I advise consulting offices to pay attention to training, as the success of the project depends on the success of qualifying and training engineering talent, especially graduates.

Such talent would need to emphasize in learning from mistakes, work towards the completion of a project which develops the person further, enhances the qualification of the Sudanese engineer, consultant or contractor and further upgrades the Sudanese market and the staff technically.

Name a memorable project and why was it eventful?

The project of the Hegleeg Petroleum Services Company Headquarters, Obaid Khatem Street, represented a real challenge for us and a turning point in the company's challenges with the competition and winning the project against international and foreign companies, achieving successful completion. Furthermore, we carried out the design in record times and to specifications. The project contributed to raising the efficiency and development of the company's technical departments, especially the electro-mechanical structure and building services systems as it was adopted for this project using the latest project management systems to ensure project success withing budget.



“I advise consulting offices to pay attention to training, as the success of the project depends on the success of qualifying and training engineering talent, especially graduates. “

Murtada Maaz



Sudan is in the stage of transition, what do you think about the aspects in improving the infrastructure and how can your consulting office implement these plans?

economy and development, as they are considered the most important elements of success which stimulates investments in particular foreign affairs and contributes to linking and supporting markets, emerging industries and agriculture. Obtaining a strong infrastructure depends mainly on sound, methodical and technical planning processes for all infrastructure projects roads, bridges, railways, alternative energy projects and advanced irrigation systems to support agricultural and water projects and dams.

Sudan currently suffers from lack of infrastructure. This requires an orientation to adopt smart studies and solutions to build multiple partnerships with a track record in consulting experience which will support the preparation of plans and studies of projects in Sudan for the near future.

What do you think of the future of construction projects in Sudan?

Contracting is an essential economic pillar for achieving economic growth. The country should pay attention to the local contractor and contribute towards its development, especially infrastructure contractors for roads and bridges. The success or failure of any Sudanese project also depends on the economic feasibility studies which require a high level of detail and professionalism, credibility, and interest.

The local consultants and contractors in this aspect will have the biggest impact on the success of engineering and construction projects. It is of utmost importance for the assessment and pre-qualification of credible construction companies in Sudan, similar to international standards, in order to ensure the success of projects during the construction phase looking at elements for timely project delivery, meeting quality standards, as well applying transparent principles and fair competition in engineering tenders.

Infrastructure projects are considered one of the most important pillars to support the

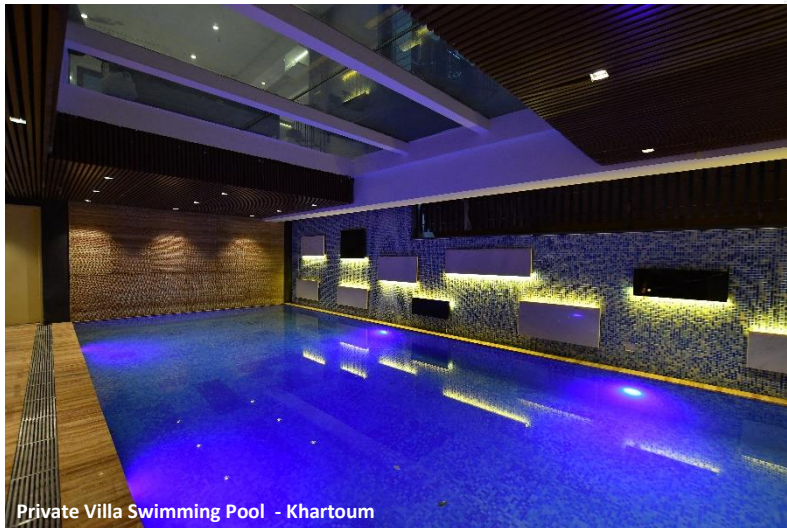
Murtada Maaz Consultancy Completed Projects



NISS Academy



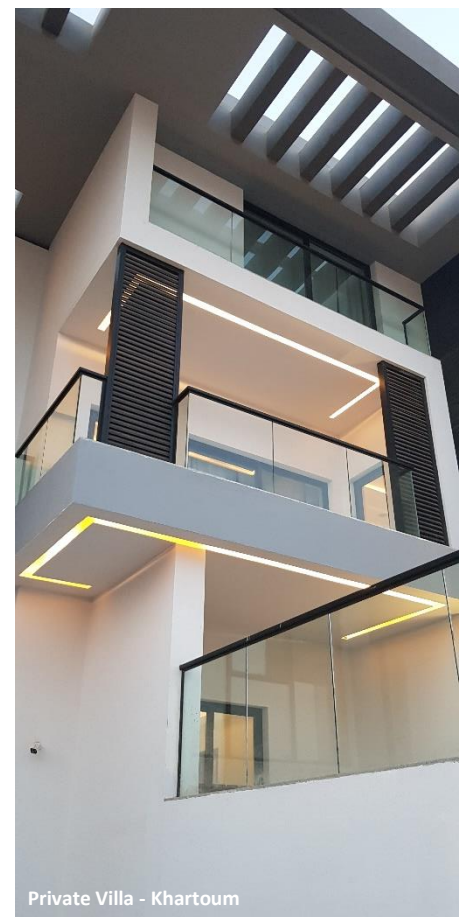
Al Salam Bank



Private Villa Swimming Pool - Khartoum



Presidential Palace Interiors



Private Villa - Khartoum

For more information on Murtada Maaz Consultancy visit www.murtadamaaz.com

Sudanese Achievers

Dennis Mendoros

Editor's Choice



Dennis Mendoros was born in Port Sudan, son of a Greek family working as shipping agents who eventually moved to Greece where Mendoros completed his high school then eventually completed his further studies in aeronautical engineering in Perth, Scotland.

Mendoros's interest for aviation dates, he says, from his childhood in Port Sudan, when he used to get taken up in the helicopters servicing Italian-operated drilling rigs.

After working in Greece and the UK in the corporate world, Mendoros started his own company Euravia in the North of England.

The company found a niche slot in repairing gas turbines for aircraft, cutting costs for aerospace firms. It may remain one of only three 'overhaul' companies in the UK.

Mendoros was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's Millennium honors list for services to industry and commissioned a deputy lieutenant for the County of Lancashire.

It is claimed that Mendoros sold Euravia for over \$55 Million and he currently sits on the board of several reputable organizations.

Mendoros has been publicly vocal about his Sudanese roots throughout his business journey and Sudan would openly welcome him back with open arms to his birthplace and to the country which inspired him to pursue a business in aviation.

Feasibility study secures funding for Ethiopia-Sudan rail link

Source: Railway Pro



The African Development Bank has approved a USD 1.2 million funding for a feasibility study on the Ethiopia-Sudan railway connection.

The awarded grant covers 35% of the total cost of the study which is estimated at USD 3.4 million. The remaining funding will be provided by the NEPAD

Infrastructure Project Preparation facility* in the form of a USD 2 million grant. The two countries will also provide a contribution of USD 100,000 each. The financing scheme was approved in January.

The new railway line will link Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa with Khartoum, Sudan capital, with an extension to the Port Sudan on the Red Sea. This route was agreed by the governments of the two countries.

It is estimated that the railway line would have a total length of 1,522 km from Addis Ababa to the Port Sudan. The route will be connected to the Horn of Africa transport network.

The comprehensive feasibility study for the Ethiopia-Sudan railway connection will be completed within two years. It will assess its technical, economic, environmental, and social viability, and alternative financing arrangements, including a public-private partnership scheme.

This line is part of the 2030 transport strategies of the two countries seen as a vital connection which will facilitate freight and passenger movement.

The railway line will help to the development of the region and it will provide new opportunities and support for 110 million people living in Ethiopia and the 43 million inhabitants of Sudan.

The line, which is a missing link of the regional arterial route linking Ethiopia, Sudan and other countries in the Horn of Africa, is an intra-regional brake on the growth of trade and regional integration.

Currently, the freight and passenger services between Sudan and Ethiopia require the use of several modes of transport which increases costs and lengthens journey times.

Sudan Downgraded to Low Income by World Bank

Source: World Bank

The World Bank assigns the world's economies to four income groups—low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high-income countries. The classifications are updated each year on July 1 and are based on GNI per capita in current USD (using the Atlas method exchange rates) of the previous year (i.e. 2019 in this case).

The classifications change for two reasons:

1. In each country, factors such as economic growth, inflation, exchange rates, and population growth influence GNI per capita. Revisions to national accounts methods and data can also influence GNI per capita. The updated data on GNI per capita data for 2019 can be accessed [here](#).
2. To keep the income classification thresholds fixed in real terms, they are adjusted annually for inflation. The Special Drawing Rights (SDR) deflator is used which is a weighted average of the GDP deflators of China, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Euro Area. This year, the thresholds have moved up in line with this inflation measure. The new thresholds (to be compared with GNI per capita in current USD, Atlas method) are as follows.

Group	July 1, 2020 (new)	July 1, 2019 (old)
Low income	< 1,036	< 1,026
Lower-middle income	1,036 - 4,045	1,026 - 3,995
Upper-middle income	4,046 - 12,535	3,996 - 12,375
High income	> 12,535	> 12,375

Sudan Category Downgraded

Economy	New group	Old group	GNI/Capita/\$ (2019) as of July 1, 2020	GNI/Capita/\$ (2018) as of July 1, 2019
Algeria	Lower-middle income	Upper-middle income	3,970	4,060
Sri Lanka	Lower-middle income	Upper-middle income	4,020	4,060
Sudan	Low income	Lower-middle income	590	1,560

For Sudan, the GNI series for 2009-2018 has been revised as a result of revisions to the exchange rates. The 2018 GNI per capita figure has been revised down to \$840 from the previously published figure of \$1,560 (which is listed in the table). Algeria, Indonesia, Mauritius, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Romania were very close to the respective thresholds last year.

Minister of Energy discusses Sudanese-American cooperation

Source: SUNA

Minister of Energy and Mining Eng. Adel Ali Ibrahim discussed the prospects for cooperation in the energy field with the Deputy Chargé d'Affaires Ellen Thorbernett in the presence of the Director General of Sudbet Engineer Ayman Abuljugh, and the Deputy Chargé affirmed the support of the US government for power generation projects in Sudan.



The meeting dealt with the possibility of implementing an agreement to exploit the gas associated with oil and gas production from the Sudanese fields with the Norwegian American company (MPS).

The project was previously designed by Sudapet and is working to take advantage of the burned gas in the two blocks (4) (6) in Al-Foula.

And the US Deputy Chargé d'Affaires affirmed her support for investment and cooperation between the two countries in practice after the partnership between Sudapet and MPS company for a period of 20 years, to finance and implement the project of benefiting from the burned gas by assembling it with pipelines and converting it to a treatment plant to extract three products working to produce 460 megawatts of Electricity in Al-Foula, 350 tons per day of cooking gas, and three thousand barrels of condensed gas.

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Port-Sudan - Solar Powered Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plant



UAE based Green Thumb Contracting are leading the industry by solving a problem that remained unsolved which is the Port-Sudan water supply. Port-Sudan the port of Sudan and the city that lays on the Red-sea without benefiting from its resources.

Green Thumb Contracting's Managing Director, Mafawag Elmansoor issued the following statement: "We initiated 30 MLD

Seawater Reverse Osmosis Plant Phase-1 which is planned to be upgraded to 50 MLD in phase-2. Because the energy is a crucial factor to desalinate water we initiated the project to be powered by 10 MW Solar Power Plant, the approach is aligning both our company philosophy and the project needs. This project will be the first of its kind in Sudan, it will raise the awareness of exploiting the renewable energy which will result a positive impact on reducing the carbon emission footprint. The project is in initiation phase as we are developing the project stakeholders."

Green Thumb was founded to help governments & institutions to enhance general quality of living and economic growth via providing energy-saving and cost-effective solutions. Hence, it has emphasised its efforts to serve the emerging markets in Africa by optimizing the resources to maximize the benefit of those communities.

The focus continues to providing solutions by utilizing up to date technologies to easy accessing to clean water and affordable energy, our solutions are designed to purifying rivers and surface water, desalinating ground and seawater and treating, recycling & reusing of municipal wastewater.

Additionally, and from the logic that clean water cannot be accessed without energy, the focus was extended to renewable energy including solar and wind power as well as waste-to-energy for the best healing of the environment by ensuring safe recycling and disposing of municipal & industrial solid waste. Mafawag Elmansoor further stated "Utilizing the renewable energy is a key factor for solving many sectors production problems that are resulting due to unavailability of cost-effective energy. In conjunction with solving the immediate problem of water needs, using solar/wind renewable energy in this project will open doors for other sectors including but not limited to pumping water for farming and livestock, fruits & vegetables cold storing and industrial sectors which will relocate people and settle them in their economic production areas.

Will the Khartoum Real estate Market Recover with the Deployment of UNITAMS?

The real estate market in Khartoum experienced boom days since 2005 upto 2011 when South Sudan declared its independence. An oil rush, gold rush, donations from humanitarian and development projects coupled with investors pumping money into one of the fastest growing economies in the world resulted in an inflated real estate market.

Villas in leafy neighbourhoods in Al Amarat, Riyadh, Khartoum 2, Kafouri and Manshiya were being rented to the newly arrived foreign expatriates achieving monthly rents reaching \$20,000 per month, with even one year advanced payments to comfort the landlords. Khartoum was buzzing with life, and it was evident that the expatriate workers from UN missions in Khartoum and their supporting agencies were occupying the properties in the mentioned prime locations as these neighbourhoods provided security, close proximity to the airport and were surrounded by embassies, modern malls and restaurants.

Since the secession of South Sudan, the UN missions and their supporting agencies reduced their staff levels in Khartoum and focused more on the rebuilding of South Sudan. Apartments & villas rental values declined by upto 70%, many properties remained unoccupied for years and landlords have not yet refurbished any of these properties.

In June 2020, the United Nations Security Council authorized the creation of the UN Integrated Transitional Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), a special political

mission that is expected to anchor UN support to Sudan during its political transition. The Council also extended the UN Assistance Mission in Darfur's (UNAMID) mandate until December 31.

Khartoum is expected to receive another wave of UN workers, perhaps not on the same level as in 2005, however a recovery in the real estate market is imminent.

Landlords shall need to recognize that their outdated properties with no appreciation to modern Western interiors shall have no space in the real estate market to attract these foreign currency paying tenants.

Newly constructed neighbourhoods such as the Musheireb project are considered the highest grade of apartments in the country, providing security, modern interiors, private parking and a view of the Nile meeting the demanding standards.



Musheireb Buildings

Khartoum properties need refurbishment, modernization and realistic rental expectations from landlords. UNITAMS may not be operating on large cheque books, however an opportunity is coming.

New UK aid support to tackle devastating locust swarms in Sudan



The new funding follows GBP£8 million provided by the UK earlier this year to the FAO appeal, supporting Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Tanzania and Pakistan to destroy these pests. A supercomputer funded by UK aid is also helping countries in East Africa to track the insects' movements around the continent.

With UK aid backed funding, the FAO is spraying pesticides on the ground and by air to prevent further damage to crops and protect livelihoods. The supercomputer is being provided through the Department for International Development's Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) programme, in collaboration with the Met Office and the Africa Climate Policy Centre.

Micron Group is a leading manufacturer of specialist sprayers and weed control equipment for applications worldwide. Their portfolio also includes hand-held, vehicle and aircraft-mounted sprayers, weed wipers and applicators.



Sudan to Establish Trade Financing Fund

Source: Reuters

Sudan will create a trade financing fund with a portfolio of \$2 billion to aid the import and export of key commodities such as wheat, the Finance Ministry said, as the supply of foreign currency in circulation dwindles.

Sudan's economy is at risk of freefall, hammered by an inflation rate of more than 100% and frequent shortages of bread, fuel and medicine. The country's currency has also fallen to a record low of 150 Sudanese pounds to the dollar on the black market compared with 55 at the official rate.

The exchange rate on the black market strengthened to 141 on Wednesday following the news, traders said.

The trade fund will pool resources from a number of banks and private companies to support the export of gum Arabic, livestock and gold while funding the imports of staple commodities such as wheat and fuel as well as medicine, the official state news agency said late on Tuesday.

It was not immediately clear what incentives the fund would offer to encourage importers and exporters to circumvent the black market and seek financing from its portfolio instead.

The fund, which appears to be the latest in a series of proposed reforms since Sudan began negotiating a non-funded programme this month with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that could pave the way for international financial support, is set to begin operating by next week, the news agency said.

Laboratory opens to test and certify 30 solar systems per day

Source: Afrik21

Sudan's first solar laboratory has recently opened its doors in the capital Khartoum. The building was constructed by the Sudan Standards and Metrology Organization (SSMO) and UNDP (the United Nations Development Programme) with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The laboratory will mainly help ensure the quality and longevity of imported solar systems and support the country's electricity transition.

Sudan is acquiring a solar laboratory, the first of its kind in the country. The building is located in its capital, Khartoum. It was inaugurated on July 6, 2020 by the Sudanese Standards and Metrology Organization (SSMO) and UNDP (the United Nations Development Programme). The environment fund (GEF) and the Sudanese Ministry of Energy and Mines provided financial support for the construction of the solar laboratory.

The SSMO, which will manage the solar laboratory, and the Sudanese Ministry of Energy and Mines have provided a team of technical experts and engineers trained by UNDP. The solar laboratory will provide testing and certification services for solar energy technologies in Sudan.

“As many solar systems imported from Sudan are being renovated, the testing will ensure the quality, authenticity and reliability of these products, which will provide clean energy to Sudanese users for at least 20 years. Sudan has the opportunity for a solar revolution, transforming agriculture, transport and many other sectors,” says UNDP.

The construction of a solar laboratory in Sudan follows the establishment of national and global technical standards for solar energy by the Sudanese Standards and Metrology Organization (SSMO). The new laboratory will be able to test between 20 and 30 solar panels, systems and solar water pumps imported into the country every day, thousands of which are already destined for Sudan's agricultural sector. The solar laboratory will also support research and provide technical improvements in solar technology. One of the projects that will benefit from the expertise of the new facility is the project of 1,469 solar-powered

irrigation water pumps to be implemented on farms in the north of the country by 2021. The project will be financed by the UNDP and the GEF.



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