

RETURN TO SUDAN - SUCCESS STORIES

Bup Monykuany / English - May 2009

In cooperation with the governments of Denmark and Japan, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is implementing a Return and Reintegration of Qualified Sudanese Nationals programme (RQS) since 2005. This initiative seeks to support ongoing humanitarian and early recovery initiatives in Sudan by strengthening the human resource capacity of local authorities, the private sector, and civil society bodies.

Managed by the IOM mission in Sudan, the RQS programme has, to date, facilitated the successful return of 30 qualified Sudanese nationals living in the diaspora and interested in contributing with their skills and knowledge in the development of their homeland. In addition, over 300 professionals internally displaced by the Sudanese civil war have been able to return to their regions of origin with the help of IOM.

In order to mobilize participants, IOM missions around the world have assisted in reaching out to Sudanese professionals residing abroad. The IOM Regional Office in Helsinki - Finland facilitated the recruitment and return of Mr. Bup Monykuany. This is his story:

Qualified Sudanese national returns from Finland to contribute to the rehabilitation of Southern Sudan.

Fleeing Sudan's civil war, Mr. Bup Monykuany arrived in Finland in 1992. Throughout his seventeen years in exile, the hope of returning back home endured and his residence in Finland always felt temporary. His long-lasting desire was to return to Southern Sudan in order to contribute with his knowledge and commitment to rebuilding his country.

While living in Finland, Mr. Monykuany obtained a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Arcadia University of Applied Science and later graduated as a Master in Business Administration from the Aarhus School of Business in Denmark. Furthermore, he became a Finnish citizen.

After applying to the RQS programme, Mr. Monykuany arrived in Juba, Sudan in January 2009. Soon after, and through IOM's support, he received an employment opportunity with the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB). As a participant in the IOM RQS project, Mr. Monykuany will complete KCB's six month management training programme, and then receive a permanent contract with the financial institution. He hopes to become a KCB branch manager after completing his current training and following further preparation in Kenya.



Bup Monykuany at IOM Sudan

Four months after having returned home, Mr. Monykuany sees a bright future ahead not only for himself, but also for his country. He knows that returning to Sudan was the right choice:

"My motivation for returning to Southern Sudan was to help in the region's development process – rebuilding a nation from scratch is not an easy task. The four months I have spent here have proven that my instincts were right as my services are more needed in Southern Sudan than in Finland."

With IOM's assistance, Mr. Monykuany is now determined to build a career in Juba. In the near future, he also plans to relocate his family, still in Finland, back to Sudan. Re-building a life in his homeland is his ultimate goal.

Although conditions in Southern Sudan are still difficult and possibilities for employment limited, Mr. Monykuany sees important changes taking place as numerous civil society organizations are active and the private sector is growing. Able to offer proper wages, companies are now hiring highly competent professionals. In the optimistic words of RQS returnee Mr. Bup Monykuany:

"Opportunities are plenty in South Sudan!"

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