



NEWSLETTER



EDITION 2
October 2015

KAS UGANDA
KAS-UMU SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER

KAS Scholarship Holders from South Sudan – Developments in 2015

BUILDING A STRONGER NETWORK IN 2015!

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND EDITION OF THE KAS SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second edition of our KAS Scholarship newsletter. As outlined previously, the newsletter is aimed to spread information on the KAS Scholarship Programme, its alumni and current scholarship holders and any news from within that network that might be interesting for a wider audience. This edition focuses on the KAS Scholarship network in South Sudan. In 2009 KAS extended the offer of distance learning programmes at UMU to South Sudanese students and has ever since built some small of impressive network roots there. Therefore, this newsletter will introduce some members, the last meeting and achievements of the network in South Sudan to date.



Scholarship Holders formed a network during their meeting in South Sudan



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INTRODUCING A SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS FROM SOUTH SUDAN

Because of our recent KAS Scholarship Holders Meeting in South Sudan, we like to introduce some of our South Sudanese Scholarship Holders.

Mawa George Lazarous is a South Sudanese, born on 11th November 1985 in Yei County. He is undertaking a Bachelor Degree of Arts in Democracy and Development Studies in Uganda Martyrs University. Equally, he is a co-founder and Director of Community Empowerment for Rehabilitation and Development (CEFoRD); a Youth led Civil Society Organisation in South Sudan that is committed to empowering communities especially young men and women for self-reliance and sustainable development through participatory approaches that spark meaningful debates on core democratic governance and development issues. He is an active civil society activist and very committed to creating and identifying spaces of engagements that influence change in policy(ies) and practice for the common good of the people of South Sudan. Through CEFoRD, he has already participated in various advocacy platforms at local, national, regional, and continental levels. He feels honored for the scholarship offered to him by KAS to undertake this great professional Course in Democracy and Development at a time when his Country being new, needs it the most.

Kiden Lillian Ben is a South Sudanese and a new KAS scholarship holder 2015/2016. She was born in 1980 in Central Equatoria State, Kajo-Keji County. When in exile in Uganda, she went to school there and graduated with a B.A in Education from Makerere University Kampala in 2003. Since then she has worked with many rights organizations. Currently, she is working for an organization called South Sudan Women Empowerment Network [SSWEN] as the program coordinator. It is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, with a mission to empower South Sudanese women and promote human rights and build peaceful societies in the Republic of South Sudan. Currently she is doing her MA in Local Governance and Human Rights with the support of the KAS Scholarship Programme.

Boboya James Edimond, 32 Years old, is a manager and coordinator with extensive governance, human rights, sustainable development experience. James has worked for more than 11 years in program development and project management where he spearheaded several projects ranging from 1 to 3 years in duration. He has



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strong track record of managing people and teams with consortium managed projects. James has a Diploma in Public Administration, Bachelor Degree in Governance and Human Rights and Master Degree in Governance and Human Rights from Uganda Martyrs University. In addition; he has vast working experience on areas of media freedom, freedom of expression, good governance, and indigenous people's rights. He continues to be committed to promoting the legal frameworks on right to access to information, media regulatory system and the need for public broadcasting cooperation in South Sudan. He is interested in connecting with individuals and organizations committed to advancing human rights, social policy and poverty reduction.

Taban Kennedy Kwaje is a South Sudanese who hails from Yei River County of Central Equatoria State. He is currently working for a humanitarian nonprofit organization in Juba as a Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator. Taban believes that despite the long history of war and all the difficult moments South Sudan is going through, he is passionate and optimistic that South Sudan can overcome all these only if it embraces true democracy. This fundamental and democratic transformation process should have to start now with shaping the minds of the people through civic education and engagement because meaningful democracy can be attained if the people and the leaders are true democrats. He is delighted to be one of the KAS beneficiaries from South Sudan in the depart-

ment of Democracy and Development Studies. He thinks the need to come together as KAS current beneficiaries plus the alumni to collaborate and work together to bring about the desired lasting change is paramount.

Tombe Charles Zacharia was born in Kolye Lotorok Rejaf East, seven miles south of capital Juba in November 11, 1976. He joined St. Mary's Catholic Minor Seminary in 1989. Khartoum Government changed the syllabus from English to Arabic and the students protested and decided to venture to the bush in search of education in 1991. In the process, he and 12 student colleagues were arrested in January 8, 1992 and remained in Security Prison together with other 44 students political prisoners till March 15, 1992 and released. He was unhappy with the situation and joined SPLA in July 27, 1992 and remained in struggle till he got a chance to go to Uganda and join St. Mary Seminary Kochua for O-Level in 1994 Adjumani District, A-Level at St. Joseph College Layibi Gulu till 2000. In 2001, he joined Katigondo National Major Seminary and Graduated with BA (SOC&PHI 2nd Class Hons.) of Makerere University. In 2011, he enrolled for Master Program (Local Governance and Human Rights) at Uganda Martyrs University on self-sponsorship and thanks to KAS' rescue to sponsor the last year till 20th graduation. Tombe is currently employed at South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission.

Sebit Martin Cons; born in Yei, Central Equatoria State, South Su-



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dan on the 9th October 1979 and currently lives in Juba, South Sudan. He is a student at Uganda Martyrs University (UMU), distant learning program pursuing Bachelor of Arts in Local Governance and Human Rights year 4 finalizing this year 2015.

He completed primary study in refugee schools in Uganda 1995, and joined St. Augustine minor seminary in Metu, Moyo district 1996 supported by Yei catholic diocese, and completed only senior three level in 1998. His parents were separated from him due to the civil war in Sudan in 1990, and they reunited in the year 2000. In the year 2000 he decided and travelled to Yei town SPLM/SPLA controlled area from the Khartoum govern-

ment and became a teacher up to 2004.

Currently, he is working for United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in South Sudan based in Juba. Previously he worked for Mercy Corps organization supporting civil society organizations (CSO). He is also a membership of St. Augustine Family Organization (SAFO) a newly initiated and registered local organization by St. Augustine minor seminary alumni with objective of supporting humanity. Therefore, he appreciates if alumni of KAS also encourage and develop such developmental initiative of creating one organization with objectives of strengthening governance and promoting rights of people in South Sudan, Africa and in the globe.

SUMMARY ARTICLE OF THE KAS-UMU SCHOLARSHIP MEETING IN JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN, IN AUGUST 2015

As part of the push to build a stronger Scholarship network, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung held a meeting in South Sudan with their KAS-UMU Scholarship Holders there. The meeting aimed to build stronger connections within the network of scholarship holders and alumni of South Sudan and cementing their relationship to KAS. The event took place in Juba, South Sudan, on Thursday 6th of August 2015.

The meeting was opened by welcoming all participants who came from within Juba and Yei, working in various fields of civil society and government as journalists, NGO workers in the fields of women

empowerment, democracy and development, and government inspectors (Anti-Corruption Commission). The introductions were followed by a lively discussion on the current challenges and opportunities for Civic Engagement and Democracy in South Sudan. The discussion was meant to shed light on the perspectives of the young generation in South Sudan and possibilities for meaningful engagement of a political foundation. It was a chance for South Sudanese KAS scholarship holders to share their experience and highlight the relationship between citizen and state, the levels of civic engagement and all key players in and outside of government.



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The meeting in Juba though small was highly fruitful with lively discussion and engagement by all scholarship holders and alumni there

Background to the discussion was also that KAS is in the process of considering strategies to expand their operations in South Sudan specifically, regarding three key components for KAS: (1) governance, (2) social market economy, and (3) media. In regard to the opportunities and limitation regarding this endeavor, the overarching consensus between participants was that every political issue in the country is sensitive and must therefore be approached by external organizations and foundations with caution. The need for the protection of women's rights was brought to attention by more than one participant, especially highlighting the need for a comprehensive family law and gender policy.

The problem of stability in the country and peaceful conduct of security agents was linked to the engagement opportunity for security forces to build capacity in dealing with the media and civil society in general. Moreover, the myriad of NGO's in South Sudan and the lack of engagement between government and civil society were brought up, with suggested approaches being effective dialogue, through an NGO forum for example, and a clear set of rules and guidelines governing NGO's in order to gauge standards and meet policy goals within the rules. It was highlighted that only in this fashion will it be possible to overcome the hostility between civil society and government. In conclusion, the

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unanimous recommendation on the part of scholarship holders was that engagement to be fruitful should not just through on the high level, but also on the grassroots level – only by balancing between both levels will it possible to overcome the caveat of national security.

The debate was followed by a discussion on the programme and alumni network in South Sudan. Scholarship Holders from South Sudan committed to active engagement in the scholarship network and strongly supported new

media such as the newsletter to also get closer acquainted with their Ugandan counterparts. Two strong comments on the side of the programme itself was that the introduction of clear guidelines for reporting and accountabilities from KAS was helpful to clarify standards, and that KAS would try to engage with UMU on some concerns about the ease of the administration of the distance learning programmes. Lastly, the newest member of the KAS-UMU scholarship programme for 2015 - Ms. Lilian Kiden - signed her contract and formally joined the network.



The Welcoming of our newest Scholarship Holder from South Sudan, Lilian Kiden

RESEARCH PAPER OF A KAS-SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH SUDAN

One KAS-Scholarship holder from South Sudan, Boboya James Edimond, published a paper on the "Context of Youth Civic Engagement and Leadership in South Su-

dan". We appreciate his scientific contribution and are very grateful that he shares his work with us. Following you find an abstract of his very informative work.

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Assessing the Context of Youth Civic Engagement and Leadership In South Sudan

Coexistence and Tolerance in South Sudan will be achieved through Youth Civic Engagement and Leadership

Author: Boboya James Edmond Barnaba

ABSTRACT: ASSESING THE CONTEXT OF YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP IN SOUTH SUDAN

Youth civic engagement and leadership is becoming a real serious concern for many societies today and as it is also the case in South Sudan. The concern is based on the reality that youth are now not benefiting from a number of societal changes. Youth are also not benefiting from the impact on employability, upward mobility and community engagement, especially for poor and at risk youth. Youth in South Sudan present 70 percent of the country population and majority of the youth are under the age of 30. This paper is to assess the context of youth in civic engagement and leadership in South Sudan. The paper is written based on review of literature as well as data collected from interviews from key informants who are engaged in the area. The assessment mainly looked at the youth situation both in rural and urban areas, the kind of policies that drive youth in South Sudan, existence of youth organizations that drive policy on

civic and leadership. The paper argues that when youth are equipped to fully participate in decisions that are affecting their lives through access to resources, knowledge, and opportunities for engagement, they become self-confident, strong, healthy, productive, and secure persons. Investing in youth brings about youth political representation and voice. This could promote community agenda which increases community coexistence and social change.

It is noted with concern that it is not the oil or the gold in South Sudan that will make us wealthy but only in the young population that we have the world's most precious resource. Therefore, investing in youth in South Sudan is strongly needed as this will led to youth providing productive labour which will bring about strong economic growth hence transforming vibrant ecosystem. Investing in the youth also contribute to coexistence and tolerance so thing the South Sudanese society desperately needs.

The whole paper is published in the following link:

https://www.academia.edu/12795257/Assessing_the_Context_of_Youth_Civic_Engagement_and_Leadership_In_South_Sudan