

**HEALING OF WOUNDS OF CONFLICT
THROUGH TOURISM
CULTURE & SPORTS**

BY

**ENG. JOSEPH MALWAL DONG
FEDERAL MINISTER OF TOURISM &
WILDLIFE
THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN**

Hon. Minister of state for Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities of the Republic of Uganda, Mr. Serapio Rukundo.

Hon. African Ministers and delegates to the 4 IIPT African conference.

Hon. Dr. Edward F. Brown TP, MP, Premier of Bermuda represented by Hon. Wayne Michael Caine, Chief of Staff to the Premier, Senator and Junior Minister of Transport, Tourism, Labour and Immigration government of Bermuda.

The distinguish chairman of IIPT international advisory board, Dr. Noel Brown.

Hon. Dr Louis D'Amore, IIPT Founder President Chairman, United Nations World Tourism Organization strategic group Advisor, Dr. David Devilliers.

Hon. Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Please allow me to thank H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for allocating part of his most valuable time to come and open our 4th IIPT African conference and peace through Tourism.

My thanks too goes to our host Hon. Minister Rukudo for his kind welcome hospitality he has accorded us since our coming to Kampala.

My thanks too goes to Dr D'Amore for extending invitation to me and made it possible to stand before you today.

Honorable Ministers, Ladies and gentlemen, the topic of this conference on which we are going to talk about has got a real bearing on our situation in Sudan. And for this reason, let me give you a brief historical background to the Sudanese problem between the Southern and Northern Sudan. It will shade light on the type of conflict, human rights violation and abuses committed by

both sides in the war and which shall lead us to our topic "Healing of wounds of conflict".

Sudan is in fact the first African country to have independence in January first 1956, although others take Ghana as the first Africa country to gain independence from the British colonial authorities in 1957.

Sudan was ruled by a condominium rule under the British and Egyptian authorities. They imposed closed Districts act which did not allow the citizens to move freely within Sudan. If a Northern Sudanese wants to go to the south or vice versa, this citizen must be given a permit to allow him to travel to the intended destination. This continued up to 1932.

The authorities had treated the northern in a better way than the southern Sudan.

Number of schools of various levels were opened in the Northern Sudan and there was hardly anything in the southern Sudan until 1948 when the only government secondary school was opened in Rumbek, southern Sudan.

There were only three missionary intermediate schools one in Bahr el Ghazal, 2 in Equatoria. The north which was better equipped than the south began to propagate for independence.

They had two political parties and these had always ruled Sudan by collusion.

One in the presidency and the other in the premiership. These parties were the Umma party lead by the grand son of the Mahdi who killed General Gordon of Khartoum as he was known in history. The other was the National unionist party now known as Democratic Unionist party. Also lead by the grand son of Ali Margani the one that formed Battalion no. 14 under the invading army of Lord

Kitchener which was sent to Khartoum to recapture it and restore law and order after the death of General Gordon.

The representatives of these parties went to Egypt and made an agreement to grant Sudan the right of self-determination. This was done in February 1953.

In these meetings no one from the south was present.

When they returned to Sudan with the agreement from Egypt, they were blamed by the southerners for going to decide on behalf of the Sudan without representing the south.

The southern position was that of opposition. The southerners said they were not ready to be given independence with the northern because it would tantamount to change of masters.

The southern Sudanese were lagging behind in education.

This was proven later when the independence was imposed on them and there were 800 positions to be filled after Sudanisation by Sudanese only 4 (four) positions were filled by the southern Sudanese.

In the light of this the southern Sudanese took the arms in August 1955 four months before the independence of Sudan.

This war lasted for 17 years and lots of war crimes were committed coupled with policies of Islamisation from General Ibrahim Abud the military ruler at the time.

This war ended in Addis Abba Accord signed in March 1972.

It gave the south a self government in which the south elects its leaders through their own representatives in the southern parliament.

To relate this peace process to tourism, it was immediately followed by a campaign all over the southern Sudan that the peace that has been signed has given the south a degree of freedom because the southerners could elect their leaders by themselves.

It was also followed by cultural activities all over the south Sudan. All the youth of the south were engaged in sports activities including culture traditional dances which were carried out at all administrative levels from District to provinces level.

Finally one big celebration was done annually in our three capitals of the south. These activities helped unite the citizens any young person was looking forward to this annual occasion.

This agreement was later dishonored by the signatory General Numeiri by introducing sharia Islamic laws all over the country including the south where the majorities are Christians.

The southerners went back to the war in May 16th 1983. This war lasted for 22 years and it was concluded by the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) on 9th January 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya.

When this (CPA) was signed, what was done in the case of 1972 agreement was not done.

That is to say the touring of village, towns and cities to explain the peace and its benefits to the citizens.

It resulted in an outrage and destruction of property and life after the news of the death of Dr John Garang in a helicopter crash 30th July 2005.

Similar incident happened when the southern Sudanese Minister of interior went and delayed in returning to Khartoum after visiting Torit in the south in October 1964.

It resulted in lost of lives and property become it was assumed that he was killed by the northern Sudanese soldiers in Torit, the capital of Eastern Equatoria State now.

Your Excellencies, ladies Gentlemen, Sudan is not only the largest country in Africa but also is richest country in the field of Tourism attraction. Its unique geographical location on central East Africa created many climatical zones extending from the desert climate to equatorial one.

These varieties in climatical zones created many eco-tourism destinations. Tourism destination in the Sudan can be classified as follows:-

Cultural Tourism destination:

Most of the archaeological and historical sites are located in the Northern Part of the Sudan on the bank of the river Nile. The earliest Sudanese civilization is linked to the old Egyptian civilization yet there are many monuments that dated back to about 2500 BC located in modern Kerma area. The site of Kerma is a huge complex with large amount of small findings which will be exhibited in a museum taking the name of Kerma culture located in the Northern State by the end of this year. Moreover, there are some other sites to the north of Kerma which are related mainly to ancient Egyptian civilization. These monuments are Sulib Sai, Sadinga. Most of them are temples and fortress.

In the mid of the eight country a new civilization flourished at the fourth cataract region named Napatian Kingdom.

The remains of this kingdom were pyramids temples and palaces build by kings and Queens.

They are located at Barkel Mountain, Nuri Meroe, Zuma, Kawa Sanm Amdoum and Alkurru.

In the four century B.C the capital moved from Jebel Barkell to Begrawwya. where Many temples, pyramids and palaces were constructed mainly in Begrawwaya, Royal city, Mussawarat Elsufra, and Naga which are considered to be the Main cultural tourism destinations. After the fall and collapse of the Meroitic civilization a new era of civilization was established. For about nearly 1000 yeas Sudan was Christian. Many Cathedrals were built mainly in Faras which is now under the waters of Aswan High dam. Fortunately all the mural paintings and other small findings were excavated and transferred to Sudan National Museum in Khartoum. There were other Cathedrals which are still in situ located at Donogla with very magnificent granite columns and mural paintings most of tourists come to Sudan to visit Donogla to see these cathedrals. There is also another cathedral located at the edge of the desert at the fourth cataract area which shows the impact of Christianity at the fourth cataract area.

The movement from Christianity to Islam had come gradually and peacefully. The historical buildings showing transition to Islam in the Sudan are still in Situ specially mosque and Dome under which sheikh and teachers of Holy Quran were buried. Moreover, there are some Religion centers at which teaching of Holy Quran used to take place.

The remain of ancient Sudanese civilization which is deeply rooted and extended up to now has been considered as a main tourism destinations. There are mainly pyramids which are found in many different places and they are more than four hundred pyramids but

are small in size. All of them were used as cemeteries for Kings Queens, Noble and Princes Princess. There are also some temples, palaces, cathedrals mosque and religion centers.

Our cultural heritage destinations are being excavated at these sites. Some of these missions came mainly from Germany, Italy France, Poland and England. So there are many tourists from these counties coming to Sudan as tourists interested in cultural Tourism.

Eco-tourism destination:

The eco-tourism destinations in the Sudan are located in different part of the Sudan mainly at the Red Sea region where we have coral reef, colored fishes and other marine life. There are also some protected areas like Singanaib and Dandonab Islands. Most of the Red Sea areas attract tourists who are interested in Scuba Diving, under water photographing and viewing plus others who are interested in wildlife Safari, hunting, viewing and photographing.

Dinder national park is one of the most important protected park which is now growing well especially after the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement. Tourists who visit this site can view the big five, birds' different types of plants and traditional music and dances of local tribes living at this area.

In the southern parts of the Sudan there are about 13 reserved games and parks protected areas. However, there are reports that there is movement of lots of elephants and other wildlife seen moving in the in Eastern part of Eastern Equation and recently in one of the Islands in the Sudd region in Southern Sudan.

In conclusion one can say that tourism, cultural and sport activities are essential factors and can play a key role in healing the wounds of conflict if they are carefully exercise and perform.