
My Potential to Become a Member of Chevening Scholarship

I always aim to meet goals and help others excel in their selected duties through my leadership and influencing skills. I proved this when I got appointed as a Program Manager, Don Bosco Radio 91.0 FM under the Catholic Radio Network. Before joining, one of the burning issues at the station was salary increment which the director refuted saying he cannot add anything till the end of the year. I sat with him and explained the economic hardship staffs were undergoing and the impact it could bring to work if they were motivated. My kind approach made him to accept the idea and introduced "add on" saying we shall go back to the first contracts if economy improves. In our next general meeting, the director announced salary raise by fifty percent which the staff welcomed with applause.

As a leader, I used a chance of motivation and instructed staff to strictly follow programming, news gathering, equipment usage and presentation guidelines to attain quality work at the station. This resulted to rise in news articles from twenty to seventy-five a month and broadcast of daily programmes on peace building which were very important for our warring communities. Currently, Radio Don Bosco 91.0 is where other radio stations under the Catholic Radio Network (CRN) rely on for news.

In South Sudan, it is difficult to sleep without hearing gun shots and sometimes death. This must change, and it is only the future leaders, with good education background as shall be provided by Chevening Scholarship Programme can change these precarious situations, for the better. As a change maker, I don't go to bed without thinking how to normalize fighting among illiterate youth who are humiliating and killing each other for obscure reasons, like tribalism. I have been trying to do what I can. For instance, in 2017, I took part in forming Youth Empowerment Mission (YAM) in Tonj with the goal of restoring peace among youth at the cattle camps. While with the other ten members; we reached to the cattle camps and invited their leaders to take part in talk shows, debates, forums and interviews on their common conflicting issues. The leaders vowed to collaborate with the government in reporting cattle thefts and respect to the state's government memo which prohibited them to drive their cattle to Luo farming areas. As a result, peace and tranquility existed for the whole of last year and the initiative was heavily appreciated by the state government. At the moment, YAM is still active in achieving peace building programmes.

Chevening Scholarship will enhance my knowledge so that I will be able to solve complex issues in my country and beyond. The idea of creating a long-lasting network, engage with

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communities, influence and lead others in their chosen fields in my view is embedded in Honesty, truthfulness and polite approaches to all categories of people. These are some of natural qualities I have been successful with in using them to achieve networking with others around me and elsewhere. This was manifested in my previous role as a Program Manager, Don Bosco Radio 91.0 FM- Tonj. In my first two months, I initiated Cattle Camp Program which covers issues of cattle thefts, rustling and revenge attacks to discuss issues in the community. The program was recorded in form of dramas and interviews in all local languages. As a networker, I engaged United Nations Mission in South Sudan for funds and it was approved without hesitation. I travelled to different places in the state with UNMISS team preaching peace messages and more than one thousand people followed the program on radio and other social media.

While for my studies in 2015, I was appointed as Secretary for Finance, Greater Bahr El Ghazal Students' Association (GBSA) in the university. The Association was in bankruptcy and it was up to the new elected body to mobilize resources to facilitate its activities. I used my techniques and networking skills to collect contacts of businessmen and government officials whom I thought of financing our Association. My team and I formed five fund mobilization committees to be dispatched to different places in the country. I headed one of the committees to Juba in which we collected 50,000 SSP (1,000 USD) from business community, government officials and well-wishers. The other teams gathered 65,000 SSP (1,500 USD) from other towns while under my supervision. The money helped the Association in executing its activities by welcoming first year students and facilitation of three members to attend business conference in Juba. It was even possible that GBSA financed some students who were unable to cater for their medical care.

I enjoyed the process because it helped me in strengthening my business networking skills by talking with different people of high-caliber. Till now, I do communicate with businessmen and government officials I met in person appreciating my networking, honesty and social way of talking and I am proud of myself. It has been my dream to study in the UK, a place with people of wonderful cultures also hosting different nationalities on the planet. If I become a Chevening scholar, I will play a great role in connecting the people of UK with the newest nation on earth. I am an outstanding networker who likes developing apprentices in their professions and I believe Chevening Scholarship will be a wonderful path for me to gain more experience which will help me in linking my country to other Chevening communities. Despite its richness in oil fossils, South Sudan has never achieved economic excellence due to lack of good economic policies and senseless war which erupted in December 2013. This has influenced my wish to embark on postgraduate studies in an economic related discipline to supplement my background in economics.

Through my bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance, I have gained robust knowledge on

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calculable subjects like economics, statistics and mathematics which are the requirements needed to succeed in my chosen courses.

Firstly, I have selected MSc in Economics and Finance, University of Leeds because of its quantitative subjects which are in line with my bachelor degree. I want the continuity in my field and it will be wonderful to advance my knowledge to become a great quantitative analyst in my country. Leeds University being ranked in the top 10 in the UK for research power in 2014 by Research Excellence Framework will be the best place to meet this mission. The most intriguing thing to me about the course is the use of statistical, econometric techniques and experience in using a range of software applications which are directed by outstanding staff in the University like Dr. Peter Phelps.

Secondly, MSc in Economics, Swansea University structured to finish me with a deep career as a professional economist by conducting pioneering research in both theoretical and applied situations. The course is very unique for me because of its research method module with introductory parts in mathematics and statistics which will top up my skills in calculable subjects. I am enthused by Swansea University research intensity being 1st in Wales for International ranked research.

Thirdly, I have taken MSc in Economics, Accounting and Finance University of Bristol ranked in the top 50 universities in the QS World University Rankings 2018. The course encompasses evaluation of international financial standards, financial statements and understanding of microeconomics, macroeconomics and how to apply economics theory in real world problems. I love its formative work on weekly basis which I think will give me confident and consistent studies throughout the program.

Generally, studying in the UK will give me the chance to build global proficient partnerships to restore South Sudan's diminished economy. It is in record that South Sudan is one of the most corrupt nations in the world placing it in second place after Somalia by Transparency International in 2017. This corruption is attributed to the poor banking system, weak government institutions and inconsistent regulation of commercial banks. Misappropriation of public funds is always the dream of the day in both government and private offices in South Sudan. Auditors are not given free environment to do their work so that they can release reports based on "True and fair view".

However, upon returning from the UK I will join the Central Bank of South Sudan (BOSS) or ministry of finance to share my knowledge and experience with staff in refining economic policies. I believe that strengthening the national bank will help boost the collapsed economy in directing and regulating all the financial institutions while carrying out their activities.

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South Sudan needs an economist like me with strong academic background as shall be provided by the UK Universities to help in setting up solid government institutions and overall change in the system for the better. Chevening scholarship will help me in fulfilling my wish of establishing international friendship and share their experience in improving the country.

I want to be a constant friend of the UK in achieving its target of supporting Girls' Education South Sudan (GESS), health and other inbound programs. I will be able to support by all means so that the aid reaches the vulnerable people in free and transparent way. In the long-term, I aim to become an economic analyst, serving on the editorial financial journals and taking advisory role in the government. I want to do my doctorate in economics so that I become quantitative analyst and researcher a very rare qualification in South Sudan.

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