

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO OF BANK OF KHARTOUM



**FADI AL FAQIH**  
CEO, Bank of Khartoum

It's with great pleasure and honour for me to be part of the sponsoring and launching of this edition of Global Islamic Finance Report, which sheds light and focuses on leadership in Islamic banking and finance.

Established in 1913, Bank of Khartoum (BOK) is the oldest bank in Sudan. Having celebrated its 100 years in 2013, it has witnessed an array of changes and has evolved to what is now one of the reputable top performing Islamic banks in the African region, not to mention its lead in the Islamic finance industry in Sudan. The BOK, since 2008 to date, has experienced continually positive rapid pace of progress. The Bank's equity as of December 2016 stands at SDG2.7 billion. Moving forward, based on current growth momentum, BOK's strategic focus has expanded to the Africa and Gulf region, capitalising on its significant business presence in the market and reputability.

The expansion of the industry has been displayed by a widening geographical outreach. Started initially in Sudan, being the home base of BOK, the Bank's market outreach covers the vast country with over 100 branches and cash offices and over 230 ATM's in addition to all electronic banking services and products. This is to assure that our clients' diverse needs are being met. Our endeavors shall continue to expand serving the needs of both sovereign and corporate clients. Our appetite to provide and serve our clients remains strong, thus leading us to where they are and where they would want to be. With that vision in mind comes our aptitude and willingness to innovate products and service offerings, and widening our footprint and presence, thus increasing its relevance across many economic sectors with different financing needs and potentials to mobilise the BOK model as an engine of growth.

Our investment in the finance sector comes in a showcase of the models adopted by our subsidiary companies from Islamic Microfinance (Irada Company), to Cash In Transit (CIT) and custody of valuable assets services (Al Fahad Company), to financial securities services (Sanabel Company), Export Import business (National Trade and Services Company), foreign currency exchange (Sudakash) & real estate business (Al Waha Mall and offices) and the recent acquisition of (Canar Telecommunication Company) a company acquired from Etisalat .

Despite the challenges that besets Sudan's economy that have created some undeniable hinders, we believe progress is possible and obstacles can be overcome and must be overcome as it is a promising country with a wealth of recourses and great potential.

The key lies in financing these potential investments and hence, creating employment and business opportunities through innovation and knowledge enhancement. All this against a backdrop of continuously challenging the impact stemming from unjustified sanctions and their ramifications through the appropriate means while utilizing current available business strategies and maintaining a compliant transparent reputable banking model. Achieving economic sustainability through financial inclusion is a must, but requires a sound healthy banking environment and an equivocal set of stable businesses and projects. With combined efforts from all relevant stakeholders, the Sudanese economy has the potential to reach new heights, and ultimately achieve the truly deserved development, inclusion and sustainability. We spearhead our role as a leader in the banking sector in Sudan through our work, innovations, initiatives, compliance and leadership to assert our clients, correspondents, and partners of our standards, ethics and ingenuity through our operations and activities.