
From: Fuchs, Michael H <FuchsMH@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2010 4:35 PM
To: H
Subject: Kenyan Vice Foreign Minister bio

Madam Secretary,

As requested, below is a brief bio (compiled by DRL, INR, and AF) of Kenyan Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Richard Momoima Onyonka, who you met in Krakow at the Community of Democracies. Please let me know if you would like any further information or follow up on this.

Thanks,
Mike

Richard Momoima Onyonka is a Kenyan politician and belongs to the People's Democratic Party. Born in 1962 and hailing from the Bogeka clan, VM Momoima has lived in Otamba, Nyamataro, Mosochi and Nairobi. In 1982, following the failed Kenyan coup d'état attempt to overthrow President Daniel Arap Moi's government, VM Momoima was among the 900 people that were jailed. However, in 1984, he returned to the University of Nairobi and graduated with a Bachelors degree in commerce a year later. After graduation, VM Momoima attended North Carolina State University where he graduated with a Masters degree in management. He returned to Kenya in 1992 during the first multi party elections to help his father (then incumbent MP for Kitutu Chache and Minister for Planning and National Development) who was seeking re-election on a KANU (Kenya African National Union) ticket. VM Momoima's first political opportunity arose when his father passed away in 1996, which prompted an election in which he lost to a new comer during the party (KANU) nominations. Since the Kenyan parliamentary election in 2007, VM Momoima has represented the Kitutu Chache Constituency in the National Assembly of Kenya.

A financial economist by profession, VM Momoima currently runs personal businesses in Nairobi and Kisii and has held positions in the Kisii KANU branch. His priorities include economic empowerment, particularly for youth and women, education, and poverty reduction.

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B6