D.R.CONGO: Can President Felix Tshisekedi Stabilize The Troubled East?

SPECIAL REPORT ON CORRUPTION IN AFRICA: UNDEMOCRATIC REGIMES UNDERMINE ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS SAYS TI

ACQUITTAL, INNOCENCE AND LESSONS FROM IVORY COAST

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CONTENTS

Akinwumi Adesina and the Race with Time to Unlock Africa’s Full Potential” ___________________________________________ 2
Can new DR Congo president stabilize the troubled East? __________ 3
"We are in a race with time to unlock Africa’s full potential” – Akinwumi Adesina, 2019 Sunhak Peace Prize Laureate ___________ 4
African Union Aims At Correcting Past Shortcomings ___________ 5
Acquittal, Innocence And Lessons From Ivory Coast ____________ 8
Q & A with First Female Ambassador of Namibia to the USA: -Namibia Remains an ideal country for trade and investment says Ambassador Monica Nashandi ____________________________________________ 10
Africa must resist dehumanizing conditions and exploitation – Akufo-Addo ___________________________________________ 14
President Bio Lets The Gate Open – Sharing Government’s Agenda with the Diplomatic Community. ___________________________________________ 15
Commemorating World Cancer Day - President Bio And Wife Bring Hope _______________________________________________ 16
President Bio Commissions Nationwide Airborne Geophysical Survey ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________ 17
Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Strives To Consolidate The Country’s Bilateral Relationships. ____________________________________________________________________________ 19
Sub-saharan africa: undemocratic regimes undermine anti-corruption efforts ____________________________________________________________________________ 21
"Corruption does not invest in the future, it kills the future” – Akinwumi Adesina, at World Peace Summit of Global leaders ___________ 23
Rwanda holds corruption in check _______________________________ 25
Corruption score card under Buhari ___________________________ 26
Corruption: A canker worm in Cameroon’s society ___________ 27
South Africa Making Inroads in Fight against Corruption But Still Far From Wiping It Out (2018 CPI Report) _______________ 29
Corruption, a giant, that Kenya has failed to slay for years ___________ 29
Malawi Improves Its Corruption Perception Index (CPI Report 2018) ____________________________________________ 32
Mozambique: a real failure in the fight against corruption ___________ 34
Zimbabwe among the Most Corrupt Countries in the World (CPI 2019 Report) ____________________________________________ 35
South Sudan women concerned over slow pace of peace implementation _______________________________________________________________________________________________ 36
PRESIDENT MNANGAGWA AND THE REALITIES OF GOVERNANCE IN ZIMBABWE _____________________________________________________________________________________________ 37
Post-Revolutionary Africa to New Modern Africa Of Pre-Economic Independence... Comedic and Tragically Perceived Experiences and Lessons Learnt. ____________________________________________ 41
Land and Water Grabbing In Sub-Saharan Africa: A Sign of Visionary and Transformative Leadership Deficiency ___________ 43
Zimbabwe's private sector organisations to embark on green jobs project _______________________________________________ 46
White Pearl Resorts: a paradise on earth ___________________________________________ 48
The kind of Africa we need today, is an Africa where the young people want to stay, not a place they want to move away from, an Africa that we can all be proud to call home,” Dr Akinwumi Adesina

Adesina’s annual food import bill of $35 billion is just about the same amount it needs to close its power deficit,” Adesina said at a 2017 Center for Global Development event in Washington, DC.

In his desire to move Africa forward, the vision of Adesina and his team at the AFDB is captured in the High 5s: Light up and power Africa; Feed Africa; Industrialize Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa. Independent analysis of these High 5s by the UNDP indicate that, with a focus on the High 5, Africa can achieve about 90% of its SDGs and 90% of its Agenda 2053.

While the sheer brilliance, vision, hard work, tenacity, and firm belief in African potentials by people like Adesina is most commendable, practical realities in the continent often times leave much to be desired. How can this vision be achieved in the face of the self-inflicted wounds that are so common in the continent?

It is hard not to ask questions when a government like that of Cameroon prefers brute force over dialogue in addressing conflict in its English-speaking regions. Yet, these regions are known to supply food not just to major parts of Cameroon, but all the way to countries like Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea. It is hard not to ask questions when the African Union remains so indifferent and disengaged when it comes to conflict resolution across the continent.

Adesina may run one of the most important and influential continental bodies in the AFDB, but when leaders in specific countries settle on a different path, there is little that he can do. The positive news is that, there is a growing generation of dynamic young Africans surging ahead and making a difference irrespective of what leadership obtains in their countries. In Cameroon, Roland Fonmundud, educated in the USA is making waves using Greenhouse technology to advance agriculture. In Nigeria, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Zimbabwe, there are many young Africans getting the idea that Agriculture could indeed be a game changer not just for them, but their countries.

As it does every year, Transparency International recently released its 2018 Corruption perception index. While the continent is globally perceived to be akin to corruption, it is heartwarming to see countries like Seychelles, Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, and Cape Verde doing better in rankings than many countries in the west. Yet, corruption remains a scourge that Africa must keep fighting. The cost is frightening, the actors powerful, and the impact ruinous.

“We are working hard with governments to improve transparency, governance, accountability, and project delivery across the continent. Corruption does not invest in the future, it kills the future,” Akinwumi Adesina, said at the World Peace Summit of Global Leaders. Most Africans will definitely agree with him that indeed, corruption kills the future even for those who think they are benefitting from it.

“The future of our youth must lie in a thriving, prosperous and secure Africa,” says Adesina, as he continuous to work tirelessly to change the fortunes of the continent. From the human to the natural resources, Africa has what it takes to make itself prosperous and secure. Visionaries like Adesina are articulating a good path forward, and it must now be backed by the political will from individual countries for results to follow. Building on the 2018 Transparency International index, this issue of PAV has a special report on the state of corruption in Africa using specific country examples. Some are making progress, others sliding, and others with the pandemic approaching alarming proportions. We also revisit the recent African Union Summit, prospects of lasting peace in D.R.Congo after the election of Felix Tshisekedi, the realities of governance for President Mnangagwa in Zimbabwe, a month of President Bio at work in Sierra Leone, and more. Happy Reading.

Managing Editor

Ajong Mbpndah L
Can new DR Congo president stabilize the troubled East?

By Jean-Pierre Afadhali

Following the highly disputed elections and the first peaceful power transfer in The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the new president Felix Tshisekedi faces a daunting task to bring peace and stability in the volatile East of the country.

Despite the controversy surrounding the results of long delayed elections, the new DRC leader ushered in a new era with high expectations on various fronts.

Security in the Eastern Congo, a vast territory bigger than neighboring Rwanda and Burundi is one of key challenge Mr. Tshisekedi inherited.

Africa’s Great Lakes region has experienced armed conflicts for more than two decades, involving local militias, government troops, and rebel groups that allegedly supported by neighboring countries.

While Tshisekedi’s predecessor, Joseph Kabila, managed to defeat some rebel groups using both diplomatic and military forces, it appears he has failed to stabilize the region as some rebels and militia groups continue to operate actively in both North and South Kivu.

Last Friday 8 Feb, Tshisekedi called on Congolese refugees to return home, during an official visit to neighboring Congo Brazzaville.

“All those who have left the country and who have been pushed into exile for political or ideological reasons are free to return home,” he said.

“Tony our compatriots of the diaspora, we will create favorable conditions to put an end to everything that made you flee abroad.”

There are approximately 60,000 Congolese refugees in Congo Brazzaville; however, most of those who fled the Eastern DR Congo’s armed conflicts went to Rwanda, Uganda and other countries in the region.

According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, more than a million people were internally displaced in North Kivu alone as of September 2018.

The National Congress of the Defense for the People (CNDP), one of the strongest militias in the region, was established by Laurent Nkunda in 2006. Nkunda was a former General in the armed forces of DR Congo.

The CNDP was engaged in the Kivu conflict, an armed conflict against the military of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) but in January 2009 it split and Nkunda was arrested by Rwandan forces.

The armed group was allegedly supported by neighboring Rwanda, accusations Kigali rejected several times.

The splinter group was to rejoin FARDC but later formed another rebel group led by Colonel Bosco Ntaganda who eventually surrendered himself after losing internal power struggle in M23 (the splinter group) in North Kivu.

Col. Ntaganda, also known as The Terminator, is now on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal. He is accused of war crimes.

While the Congolese Army with the support of UN intervention brigade defeated these two rebel groups; other armed fighters are still operating in the volatile territory; some notorious are foreign groups including Uganda’s Allied Democratic Forces, National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF NALU), and Rwanda’s Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), some of whose leaders are accused of involvement in the 1994 Genocide against Tutsis in Rwanda.

Despite the presence of UN peacekeepers, it appears FARDC have failed to eradicate those foreign rebel groups and other local militias who have been involved in violence against local civilians.

According to George Baleke, a resident of Goma, and former member of civil society from the provincial capital of North Kivu, the biggest problem is the management of Congolese armed forces.

“Our armed forces are now composed of soldiers from various former armed groups yet they were well organized with highly trained soldiers before,” said Baleke, adding that “with foreign troop’s intervention the security system weakened.”

Some former militia group fighters were reintegrated in FARDC, while others were disarmed and demobilized.

Baleke claims that the armed groups operating in Kivu are supported by “generals and their former comrades who are in the FARDC and who collaborate with arms dealers who smuggle weapons through Rwanda and Uganda.”

The claim has not been independently verified though some UN reports have previously implicated DR Congo’s neighboring countries namely Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi into the ongoing armed conflicts.

Foreign armed groups

The new Congolese leadership is tasked with pacifying a region rich in minerals which is also known as a food basket for much of the DR Congo.

According to the AFP, three militia members operating in the country’s east surrendered following the victory of Tshisekedi and...
end of Kabila regime.

Among those who gave themselves up, according to the report, is Muhiyi Dewayi. He is accused of publicly beheading the wife of a former administrator of Luebo territory.

Luebo administrator Joseph Mutshipayi was quoted as saying Mr. Dewayi « came out of the bush with 60 militiamen ».

However, some other foreign fighters appear to have stepped up their activities in both North and South Kivu province.

Late last year, Uganda’s ADF NALU disrupted elections by attacking a store for electoral equipment a few days before voting. They’ve continued to carry out atrocities in and around Beni, North Kivu, where they’ve killed innocent civilians in various towns and villages.

During electoral campaign Tshisekedi promised Congolese to move the military staff to Beni to stop the massacres of innocent population.

"It was his solution to the problem and the people had welcomed it but the president has not yet talked about it again," said Blaise Ndola, a blogger and communications consultant from Goma.

Ndola added the people from Beni, the wider North and South Kivu are eagerly waiting for the measure’s implementation. Although South Kivu has previously been relatively calm, it’s becoming volatile as new rebel groups emerge in the area.

In January 2019 a UN Group of Experts report accused the Burundian government of supporting a new Rwandan rebels group that reportedly operates in South Kivu and was planning to ‘attack’ Kigali.

Meanwhile DR Congo armed forces reportedly that they are fighting Burundian rebels operating in South Kivu called the Resistance for a Rule of Law (RED Tabara).

According to Adesina, “We are in a race with time to unlock the full potential of Africa.” Known globally for his dogged determination to reduce global poverty, Adesina declared “My life is only useful to the extent that it helps to lift millions of people out of poverty.”

Adesina immediately announced he was donating his $500,000 share of the prize money to fighting hunger in Africa.

"There is tremendous suffering going on in the world. While progress is being made, we are not winning the war on global hunger. There cannot be peace in a world that is hungry. Hunger persists in regions and places going through conflicts, wars and fragility. Those who suffer the most are women and children," Adesina said during the award ceremony.

"Female Genital Mutilation scars victims physically, emotionally, and mentally."

The World Health Organisation estimates that more than 200 million girls and women alive today have been cut in 30 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia where FGM is carried out on young girls between infancy and the age 15.

Adesina who believes a peaceful world will be a food secure world, pointed out that only 1% of the world’s richest own 50% of global wealth.

"Nothing is more important than ensuring that we feed the world and eliminate hunger and malnutrition. Hunger is an indictment on the human race. Any economy that claims growth without feeding its people is a failed economy. Nobody has to go hungry, white, black, pink, orange or any colour you can think."

The President of the African Development Bank told participants including global leaders:
“There must be accountability to the poor. We must reduce global income inequality. We need wealth, yes, but we need wealth for everyone not just a few. Today, the poor are stuck and only end up eating crumbs, if any at all, that fall from the tables of the rich. This sense of exclusion and lack of equity or fairness often drives conflicts. We have an opportunity to reverse the situation through sustainable agriculture as a business, and not as an aid program.”

More than 1,000 influencers from over the world including current and former heads of state and government, private sector leaders, investors, and development experts, attended the SunHak Peace Prize and the Peace Summit of Global Leaders. Each year, the SunHak Peace Prize honours an individual or organisation making significant contributions to global peace and the welfare of mankind.

**African Union Aims At Correcting Past Shortcomings**

*By Prince Kurupati*

Despite its mandate as the continental organization for the African people, the African Union (AU) has time and time again received condemnation over its reluctance to help the people it should be protecting. AU’s ‘reluctance’ has led many people to term it a ‘toothless bulldog’. In an effort to correct this, African leaders when they met at the 2019 AU General Assembly in Addis Ababa decided to correct the organization’s past shortcomings by outlining measures in which the organization would help the African populace.

Speaking at the end of the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (January 2019), African leaders decided on a number of issues chief among them is the treatment of the ‘African’ people in Libya.

Towards the end of 2011, Libya witnessed a massive revolution which ultimately led to the demise of the then leader, Muhammed Gadhafi. The deposition of Muhammed Gadhafi was supposed to usher in a new ‘peaceful and fruitful’ era for millions of Libyans. However, after the revolution, peace was one of the things that were missed in Libya. According to political scientists, the absence of peace in Libya was a result of the deposition of Muhammed Gadhafi. As such, from this, what was thought as the solution to Gadhafi’s despotic rule turned out not to be the perfect solution.

To this day, political scientists are still trying to work out the real reasons which would (will) have brought peace to Libya in the aftermath of the brutal Gadhafi regime. While working out the ‘academic’ reasons, millions of Libyans today are suffering the effects of the deposition of Gadhafi. In light of this, many countries across the African continent including Libyans themselves were pushing the AU to come up with a quick fix solution to help Libyans get back to normal living standards, for a long time i.e. from the end of the Libyan revolution, it seemed as if the AU was finding it difficult to help bring normalcy to Libya. African leaders noted concern over the poor living standards that Libyans have been exposed to after the death of Muammar Gadhafi. In light of this, African leaders urged the AU body to prioritize the living conditions and safety of Libyan people by setting up a commission which would hear, collect and report results on the living conditions of Libyan people after the fall of Gadhafi.

Speaking at the AU General Assembly, a number of African leaders said that there was a great need to help bring normalcy to Libya. African leaders noted concern over the poor living standards that Libyans have been exposed to after the death of Muammar Gadhafi. In light of this, African leaders urged the AU body to prioritize the living conditions and safety of Libyan people by setting up a commission which would hear, collect and report results on the living conditions of Libyan people after the fall of Gadhafi.
Together. Notwithstanding considerations and work interests above all other their country’s supreme stakeholder to uphold to encourage all Congolese transition. They also went on for a landmark peaceful commended the people and of Congo (DRC) and also welcomed the peaceful organization of the elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and reaffirmed their commitment to peace and stability in Comoros. African leaders also welcomed the peaceful and the leadership of the DRC for a landmark peaceful transition. They also went on to encourage all Congolese stakeholders to uphold their country’s supreme interests above all other considerations and work together. Notwithstanding Somalia, African leaders also commended the Federal Government of Somalia for the continued progress made in implementing the Somali Transition Plan (STP) in its critical role in degrading the capacities of Al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups in Somalia.

In the area of peace and security, African leaders also congratulated the Government of Burundi on initiating the preparatory process for the elections, especially the establishment, on 31 August 2018 of an Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), according to the Burundian Electoral Code, as well as a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), in line with the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, signed on 28 August 2000. In this regard, the Assembly welcomed the statement made by President Pierre Nkurunziza not to stand as a candidate for the presidential election in 2020 and urged the Government and the political parties to work together for the smooth conduct of the next elections.

Other Areas
Apart from the peace and security arm, African leaders also reached conclusion on other areas. Most notably, African leaders endorsed the recommendations of African Union Ministers of Trade in terms of liberalizing trade and informing member states wishing to enter into partnerships with the Assembly with the assurance that their efforts will not undermine the African Union vision of creating one African market.

In addition, African leaders welcomed the growing acceptance of the legitimacy of the Common African Position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council; in particular, the full endorsement for the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration by a number of Interest Groups and Member States from across all regions during the Intergovernmental Negotiations at the United Nations in 2018. African leaders also reiterated the importance of the Common African Position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council in line with the relevant and previous decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and called upon the incoming presidency of the Conference of the Parties to continue with the consultations, with a view to reaching a decision in that regard by the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties, and requested the AGN to continue pursuing the issue. African leaders also urged developed countries to continue to scale up mobilized climate finance towards achieving the 2020 finance goal through private and public funds to deliver on the US$100 billion annually, building on the needs of developing countries and enhancing the country ownership of developing countries, and further enhance the provisions of predictable and sustainable finance building on the floor of the 100 billion USD annually. With respect to Africa, African leaders encouraged African countries to ratify the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol as a vehicle to strengthen efforts to tackle climate change.
The Embassy of the Republic of Namibia is planning a multi-sectoral Trade Mission to Namibia and is inviting all interested business people and companies to join H.E Ambassador Monica N. Nashandi on this Trade Mission. The Trade Mission will be multi-sectoral and aims to promote Agribusiness; Infrastructure; Mining, Oil and Gas Exploration; Renewable Energy; Manufacturing; Hospitality; Telecommunications; Health & Medical Services, Fishing, Construction, etc.

Meetings will include:

- Meetings with high level government officials;
- Briefing and presentations by various government ministries, agencies, and organizations (private and public);
- One-on-one meetings as may be requested;
- Site visits to Namibian factories.

Registration for participation is free, however; participants are expected to pay their own airfare and accommodation. The Namibian Government will provide ground transport and secure favorable rates at local hotels.

To participate: Please complete and return the registration form to commnamibia@gmail.com before April 5, 2019.

For Further information: contact Mr. Freddie !Gaoseb, Commercial Counsellor at 202-986-0540 or 301-204-6370
The acquittal of Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé by the International Criminal Court on 15 January highlights the paradoxical impact that legal proceedings can have on the political future of officials who are prosecuted and then acquitted. But one should not confuse acquittal with innocence, says lawyer and Professor Roland Adjovi, nor confuse an acquittal with the problem that plagues the prosecutor’s office.

On 15 January 2019, the Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) acquitted Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé by a majority, stating that the prosecution had not provided evidence of all the required elements of the crimes against the accused. All eyes focused on Gbagbo because of his status as former president of Côte d’Ivoire. An immediate question was the consequences of this acquittal for his place on the Ivorian political scene.

This reminds us of a recent precedent in Kenya, where two major ICC defendants, Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto, found in the proceedings against them a motivation for their political union, and made it a powerful electoral argument. Being able to present themselves as victims of external, even neo-imperialist intervention contributed to their victory in the presidential elections. Once elected, they were able to complain that the Court did not respect their immunity and they may have convinced the witnesses to stop speaking. Their reputation increased when the case was dismissed, so that they appeared as the heroes they are not.

The question is therefore, on the one hand, why an acquittal seems to improve the public profile of politicians and, on the other hand, what are the specific issues of the double acquittal in the Côte d’Ivoire case.

**ACQUITTAL IS NOT INNOCENCE**

The first question requires a simplified answer. Many people think acquittal means innocence and that if the prosecutor could not convince the court, it is because the charges were unfounded. However, nothing could be further from the truth. First, the prosecution may fail on technical issues, sometimes with private personal perspectives. I am thinking in particular of the Protais.
Zigiranyirazo case, a man considered central to the Hutu extremist movement in Rwanda, and prosecuted for genocide before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). The accused wrote a pamphlet expressing all his hatred of the Tutsi and it is difficult to doubt that his hatred did not lead him, in 1994, to participate in discussions on the identification of persons to be eliminated. However, the ICTR Appeals Chamber considered that the Trial Chamber was deeply mistaken about the burden of proof as well as the standard of proof. In such a case, it would have been logical to refer the case to another Trial Chamber. But no, the Appeals Chamber decided to acquit, opening the way for all possible speculation on this extreme option, which took no account of the merits of the case or the interests of the victims. It is difficult to infer from such an acquittal that the accused’s innocence has been established.

Shortly before Gbagbo, there was also the case of Jean-Pierre Bemba, a former Congolese vice-president accused before the ICC of crimes committed in the Central African Republic in 2003. Here, the decision of the Appeals Chamber to acquit was equally technical, with additional complexity due to the interplay of judges’ opinions: three out of five considered that he should be acquitted, but for different reasons. What a mess! Again, why not refer to a new Trial Chamber?

**HOW MANY SUBSTANTIVE ACQUITTALS?**

Acquittal is therefore not necessarily the restoration of innocence because it may mean that what the accused person did was simply not found out. But that is the way criminal justice works: the monopoly of violence against the individual does not justify establishing responsibility in the absence of sufficient evidence, and as a lawyer I respect this principle.

Some acquittals, however, are more strongly in the direction of innocence. This is the case of André Rwamakura, former Minister of Education during the genocide in Rwanda, where the prosecution case collapsed in its entirety, to the point that reading between the lines of the judgment one could wonder whether the case had not been fabricated. The reasoning of the Trial Chamber had been so harsh that the prosecution, despite an initial will to appeal, quietly gave up. But how frequent are these substantive acquittals?

**WAY OPEN FOR BLÉ GOUDÉ**

The second question, on the political consequences of the ICC’s decision in the Ivorian case, seems to me to have partly missed the point. Because the real question should not focus on Gbagbo but on his “co-acquitted”, Blé Goudé. Gbagbo comes out of prison with a new aura but his age – 73 – is not in his favour. He can be expected to set about healing the wounds in his party unifying its supporters while continuing the battle against age and legal procedures. There is no guarantee that he will want to get involved politically, at least not at the forefront. He has found a clean image that he may not want to dirty by entering the ring.

President Ouattara’s side is not in a better position. There are sparks between him and his former Prime Minister Guillaume Soro, and the risk of fire is not minor. Henri Konan Bédié, kingmaker but even older (84 years old), is mostly looking for a new alliance for him and his movement. Blé Goudé, by contrast, is young and dynamic, a force for the youth of the Gbagbo camp. The way has opened for him to throw himself back into the political ring and hope to capitalize, like others before him, on his judicial «martyrdom» and on Gbagbo’s aura, whose companion in misfortune he has been much more than any other. This is the real risk for the political scene in Côte d’Ivoire.

However, in truth, it is not the acquittal at the ICC that creates this risk but the loss of power of the Ouattara-Soro duo, in association with Bédié. The failure of this alliance, conceived in 2010, makes this acquittal an opportunity for Blé Goudé more than for Gbagbo. The future will tell us what he will do with it.

**DON’T GET THE WRONG TARGET**

International criminal justice must learn to play its part more effectively. Acquittal is not a problem in itself, but it should be rare if the prosecution did its job well. The prosecutor’s office should not proceed with a case if it is not sure of its evidence. The rate of acquittals and dismissal of charges at the ICC – 9 people (Gbagbo, Blé Goudé, Bemba, Kenyatta, Ruto, Sang, Ngudjolo Chui, Mbarushimana and Gharda) compared with 3 convicted persons (Al Mahdi, Katanga and Lubanga) – is raising the alarm. We should not be distracted by the possible political repercussions when the important fact is the failure of the prosecutor. The national political impact is just a coincidence.

* Roland Adjovi has been teaching since 2009 at Arcadia University in the United States. He was a lawyer assisting judges at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and then victim’s counsel before the International Criminal Court. He has appeared before various other courts, including the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the United Nations Dispute Tribunal. This piece was originally published in Justice Info
Q & A with First Female Ambassador of Namibia to the USA: -Namibia Remains an ideal country for trade and investment says Ambassador Monica Nashandi

By Ajong Mbpndah L

appointed as the first female Ambassador of Namibia to the USA, Monica Nashandi has settled in seamlessly into her new role. PAV caught up with her for a Q and A on her new assignment, relations between Windhoek and Washington, investment opportunities in Namibia and her perspective on the upcoming Presidential elections in her country.

We start the interview with developments in Namibia. How is your country doing economically, socially and politically?

Ambassador Nashandi: Well, first of all, thank you for taking interest in knowing our beautiful story. The story of Namibia, I know it’s not the first time that you are interacting with a Namibian, you have interviewed many others before me and most recently the Minister of Finance.

Basically, the Namibian economy is traditionally mineral based. We have different kinds of minerals. The major ones being diamond and uranium. So, we have been dominated by mining. Mining is the backbone of the economy. But since independence, we have diversified in other areas because we cannot just depend on one area for economic development. We diversified in fisheries because as you know, we have a long coastline and we have almost all the species there. We have also diversified into agriculture in terms of beef production. Our beef is one of the best in the whole world.

We are also promoting tourism that is actually growing at a very fast rate. So, the economy has been doing fairly well. At the moment, we are kind of on a downturn because of external factors. You know the trends across the globe are not really in favor of economic development and Namibia being a small economy is somehow affected. But definitely looking at the figures, I am sure thing are picking up, by next year I think we will improve.

And on social and political developments?

Ambassador Nashandi: The Namibian government from the very beginning invested a big chunk of our budget on education, health, provision of housing, and also expanding the social safety net. This means; the elderly pensioners get their monthly provisions. That has been increased almost every year. At the moment the pensioners, get something like one thousand three hundred Namibian dollars, and that is a permanent thing. If they are pensioners, if they are disabled, if they are vulnerable children, they have that income just to make sure that they also enjoy the fruits of independence. So, everybody at least knows that Namibia is free, and we are benefiting.

On Education, it has been the government’s policy that every Namibian child should have an opportunity to go to school, whether they can afford it or not. So primary and secondary education in Namibia is free. So that at least it encourages Namibians to go to school and they have been doing very well. And of course, we have institutions of tertiary education. Once the children have graduated from high school, they go into them. The only problem is that when they get into a higher institution of learning because the economy is so small, after graduating sometimes you have a very big number of them not getting employment because the government cannot employ everyone, and the economy is so small. But what I’m saying is that socially the government has invested a lot of money into making sure that at least the Namibian people enjoy the fruits of our independence.

And politically, Namibia given our background, we fought very hard for independence. In Namibia, Namibians were recruited in different armies by the South Africans. You could find a household with maybe three brothers or three sisters, or one brother, and they belonged to different groups. What the first president, the founding president in Namibia did was to preach and institute a policy of national reconciliation, from there we have consolidated our political stability in peace. That’s why in Namibia there hasn’t been any fighting. Peace, and stability in Namibia are the priority for the Namibian women to consolidate because we cannot afford to fight anymore. So, we have been doing very well politically and I think once you have a stable political environment, you have peace then investors will come. Because nobody wants to invest their money in an environment that is not politically stable.

You were at White House recently to present your letters of credence to President Trump. How did the event go, and what is a state of ties between Washington and Windhoek?

Ambassador Nashandi: Well, the event went very well. It was a short one. But of
course, I thank my President for appointing me as Ambassador to Washington, you know as they say, the capital of the world. It was challenging at first, but I appreciate the opportunity that I’ve been given. It’s a privilege for me to have been accredited. In the event, I presented my credentials.

With regards to the state of ties, Namibia has benefitted from a number of programs put in place by the U.S government. We have benefitted from the Millennium Challenge Corporation compacts, and other programs that have helped with socio-economic development in Namibia. Namibia has benefitted from support and resources to fight HIV/AIDS.

We have also benefited from AGOA. Some years back we had the opportunity of exporting some textile products that were produced in Namibia to the American market. We have benefitted from programs like the peace corps. Young Americans go deep in the villages to work with Namibians, especially in the education field. So, the relationship is very good but now what we want to do is to take it further.

Namibia has now been classified as a middle-income country which is really biting us very hard. That is based on the skewed makeup of income days before independence. So, it is not a realistic figure. We have fought that, but what we are planning to do is to engage the American government to reconsider that classification so at least we have an opportunity to benefit from other programs. Of course, AGOA is going to be extended. You have OPIC now in place. So, at least we will continue to benefit from these programs until such a time. I am not saying that we want aid, but we want programs that will actually be mutually beneficial. That’s why we talk about trade and investment if we can get those opportunities.

You are a first female ambassador of Namibia to Washington D.C. Is there any particular meaning that you are read into this appointment? And talking about gender, what is the situation in Namibia?

Ambassador Nashandi: Well, I do not know whether there’s any particular meaning to read in this. But I appreciate that I’ve been appointed to Washington. The Namibians government policy is that of empowerment, and gender parity. That every Namibian should have an equal opportunity to participate in the activities that move the country forward. Whether it is with the government or not. We have that policy. At the level of the ruling party, they introduce the Zebra. The Zebra meaning that to each and every man there’s a woman. But Namibian women also say that they don’t want to be used. They tend to be wheel barrowed into those positions. It should be on merits, opportunities would be provided for them to participate. Also, we follow a solid protocol that talks to the empowerment of women and equal participation. So, when I sit in that office actually, maybe is only sometimes that I think about myself as a woman sitting in that office, but; I think about myself as Namibian who is representing my country and my president, who is capable of promoting my country. But of course, I’m a woman and I appreciate the fact that there have been so many men in this office.

A trade mission to Windhoek has been announced from 20th to 24th May. Can you shed some light on this?

Ambassador Nashandi: Well, the trade mission is coming up in May as you said. There have been trade missions before to Namibia from here. What we are actually emphasizing now is that we have to at some point make a difference with these missions. We are concentrating on quality as opposed to the quantity. What are we looking for in this? We are looking for prospective traders and investors. To participate in the activities of our economy. We are looking at people who can actually set up factories for processing. Because Namibia’s vision is for the country to be an industrialized economy by the year 2030. That’s the vision of the government. You cannot achieve industrialization without manufacturing. We have minerals, we have diamonds. There are processing factories in Namibia owned by Namibians. We have fishing. We need the processing of our fish products. In agriculture, we have leather. We need processing rather than sending it to somewhere else. We have marble that is processing somewhere in Italy. When you come to Namibia you don’t find Namibians with a house with marbles. We are talking about manufacturing, for them to set up industries for manufacturing, and processing for what we have in Namibia.

Also, we need SME development. You cannot also talk about industrialization without developing your SME’s, the medium and small enterprise. The big guys are already making money. So, they are not really bothered. We are also encouraging partnerships with the Namibian business people.
Joint venture partnerships. We also encourage them once they have set up their manufacturing, they should be able to devote a part of their profits to developing skills for Namibians. We don’t want people to come in then set up factories and then when they go it’s closed. That’s not what we want for Namibia. So, we are encouraging them to look at what they want to do in Namibia, and we will put them in contact with the Namibians who are able to do business.

Now; any tips for US companies that are willing to be part of the trade mission, what opportunities are there?

How is the investment climate in Namibia?

Ambassador Nashandi: The investment climate is very encouraging. We have an investment center in the Ministry that used to be the Ministry of Trade but now it is called Trade Industrialization and SME Development. We have an investment center, which is called the One Stop Shop, where they have investment incentives. One of the incentives is actually that once you do business in Namibia, and you have made money, you are able to repatriate your money, your profit. There are no restrictions, as it is in some countries, where you cannot do that. Namibians are trainable. Once you have them you can train them on the job, and they will do a good job and they are dedicated. Then you have the investment code, which talks on how the business is supposed to be. The investment environment is really good, because peace also plays a role. The Namibians are ready to do business. The government is playing a role by facilitating, in terms of putting policies in place. Nobody wants to operate where they are no policies guiding the activities, and policies are there for investors to come to Namibia and invest.

A word on some of the investment sectors that could be of interest to investors?

Ambassador Nashandi: They can set up textiles, they can set up food processing. We also have other minerals. They can invest in the exploration of other minerals. We are convinced that we have oil in Namibia. They can explore oil. The Ministry of Mines and Energy issues EPA exploration licenses like in the uranium and diamond industry. There are so many areas in which they can invest. They can invest in tourism, set up ports. It’s a lot of areas that they can invest in.

On politics, presidential elections could take place later in the year. How prepared is a country for elections, and how important would this particular election be?

A m b a s s a d o r Nashandi: Namibia has always been ready for elections. Namibians always look forward to elections, so that they can exercise their democratic rights as provided for in the constitution. The good thing is that elections in Namibia take place under very peaceful conditions. I’m sure you have been following our transitions from the very founding president to the second president into the third president. Very peaceful.

Obviously, you are a member of Swapo and a supporter of the president, Hage Geingob. What achievements has Namibia recorded with him during his first term? Do you think this would be enough to convince Namibians to give him a second term?

A m b a s s a d o r Nashandi: Well, I’ve gone back to where we started. After independence, the program was to build the nation in consolidating with independence and democracy. And then the second president was also to continue to consolidate institutions of democracy and ensure that there is socio-economic development. He carried that program as well. Actually, he’s carrying on with their program that was put in place from independence. President Hage Geingob has the responsibility to ensure the Namibian people. That’s why when he came into office, he started to put in place a plan called The Harambee Prosperity Plan that has five pillars. The five pillars are; effective government, economic advancement, social progression, infrastructure development, and international relationships. So, he has that agenda. This agenda is derived from the Namibian National Development Plan. We are now in our fifth National Development Plan. The others have been implemented during those years of independence. He has to make sure that he carries on by implementing the Fifth National Development Plan. He should be given a chance to do that because you cannot measure someone’s success by giving him five years. Because during the first three years, he was just putting that file together to do good. I think that he is a more than capable president.

He should be given the chance to go into the second term and Namibians should just give him that chance. He has been in Swapo leadership for a long time. He knows Namibia very well and people respect him. So, I’m sure Namibians will give him a chance so, that at least to ensure prosperity for the nation. He also actually declared this year as a year of accountability, fighting corruption. He has promised that everybody who has done something that smells of corruption, action will be taken. The law will take its course. So, let him be given a chance to fight corruption. Let him be given a chance to implement his programs. Let him be given a chance to ensure prosperity for the Namibian people. These are not going to be achieved in a short period of time, I’m sure whoever takes over after his second term will continue where he’ll end. Because socio-economic development is not something that can be done in one day. It is said that Rome wasn’t built in one day.
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Africa must resist dehumanizing conditions and exploitation - Akufo-Addo

By Papisdaff Abdullah

President of the Republic of Ghana Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, has said that Africa must resist all forms of exploitation and dehumanizing conditions. He says the commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the commencement of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade is recognition of the fact that never again should the African people permit themselves to be subjected to such dehumanizing conditions.

Describing the slave trade as “one of the most unfortunate and barbaric episodes of human history”, President Akufo-Addo noted that nearly 12.5 million Africans, from Central and West Africa, were sold into slavery, had their freedoms curtailed in order to build up forcibly countries other their own, and created wealth for the peoples of unknown lands to which they were sent.

“As though this was not enough, the continent had to endure centuries of being colonized by the same people who undertook the slave trade. The identity and personality of the African were assaulted, and the imprints of imperialism and colonialism woven deeply into the fabric of our lives,” he said.

As the continent commemorated the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first West African slaves in the Commonwealth of Virginia, in what subsequently became the United States of America, the President stated that “we have a sacred duty and an onerous responsibility to help restore the dignity and pride of the African.”

He continued, “We are a continent of some 1.3 billion people, more than either the populations of Europe or the Americas; we are an enterprising, hardworking and innovative people, and we must make it count.”

President Akufo-Addo was speaking at an event organized by the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, on the sidelines of the ongoing 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Ghana, according to the President, is using the symbolism of 2019, dubbed as the ‘Year of Return’, to bring together Africans, persons of African descent, and all well-wishers and lovers of freedom to strengthen the commitment to ensuring that this blot on the history of Africa never reoccurs.

It will be recalled that Ghana kicked-off the ‘Year of Return’, with its launch in Washington D.C., in October 2018, and continued with the December 2018 Full Circle Festival, involving over 70 African American celebrities visiting Ghana to reconnect with their African heritage.

They were able, in the words of the President, to view Ghana, and, indeed, Africa, from their own lenses, and were able to “Eat, Feel, See and Wear Ghana”.

The Back-2-Africa Festival, the Home Coming and Investment Summit, the African-American Investment Forum, and the Pan-African and Emancipation Day Celebrations are some of the activities that will be held to commemorate the year-long event.

The commemoration, President Akufo-Addo noted, “Should enable us, in the African Union, to consolidate and strengthen our links with our Sixth Region, i.e. the African Diaspora of the so-called ‘New World’, which have laid dormant, and make operational and extend the Free Movement Protocol to those in the Diaspora seeking to resettle in Africa.”

Looking forward to welcoming people from the continent and from the Diaspora to Ghana, he indicated that now is the time to engage each other more positively, and imbibe in ourselves a deep consciousness and understanding of the history of the African peoples.

“We, in Ghana, will ensure that the focus of activities commemorating the arrival of the first African slaves in Virginia showcases the achievements, creativity, ingenuity and resilience of the African peoples through the ages,’ he added.

Africans, President Akufo-Addo added, “must be proud of our rich heritage, a heritage which encompasses the ancient Kingdoms of Benin, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kongo, Mali, Mutapa, Songhai and Zimbabwe, and the world-renowned centres of learning of the University of Al Azhar in the 10th century, and the University of Sankore in Timbuktu in the 13th century. I am proud to be an African.”
A President and his Team At Work.

PAV shares stories on some of the recent high profile activities of President Bio and his team courtesy of Uzman Unis Bio

President Bio Lets The Gate Open - Sharing Government's Agenda with the Diplomatic Community.

By Uzman Unis Bah

His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio, at the State Lodge, shared his government’s priority programmes with resident and non-resident Ambassadors, High Commissioners and eminent Sierra Leoneans during a State Banquet at State Lodge, Hill Station.

Welcoming guests to the dinner, Her Excellency Mrs. Fátima Maada Bio, expressed happiness while receiving high-level personalities to their residence and disclosed that she was honored by the turnout of members of the diplomatic community, particularly those who were not residing in the country.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mrs. Nimatulai Bah-Chang, told the gathering that the essence of the State Dinner was to strengthen bilateral partnership that would nurture development amongst Sierra Leone and her international communities.

“We are here this evening to reflect on where we took this country from, to know where we are as a government and what we have achieved in just ten months of leadership under the New Direction of President Julius Maada Bio,” she said.

His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio profoundly thanked resident, non-resident and eminent personalities, on behalf of his government, for their diverse contributions to the national development of the country, reiterating the point that he inherited the worst economic situation since independence.

“This worst economic situation is characterised by double-digit inflation, low domestic revenue mobilisation, high domestic debt burden, unsustainable external debt and huge arrears to contractors,” he stated.

The President, however, assured the diplomatic community that his government had pursued a disciplined economic management trail, by tackling revenue outflows and streamlining income mobilization. He added that those achievements were to ensure that there was a prudent public financial management and expenditure characterised by an aggregate fiscal discipline and resource allocation that were based on strategic priorities for effective governance.

“Despite all the economic challenges, which I inherited, I have prioritised investment in Human Capital Development as the bedrock for my administration. It may interest you to know that I have coined a new definition for Human Capital Development. For me, Human Capital Development means three things: feeding the brain through Education; feeding the stomach through Agriculture and taking care of the body through Healthcare,” he maintained.

“As part of our government’s commitment to Human Capital Development, we are also scaling up investment in healthcare infrastructure services this year. My government is focusing on constructing well-equipped Peripheral Health Units, expanding free ambulance services to all districts of the country, rehabilitating healthcare facilities, providing healthcare personnel.

Responding to the statement of President Bio, the Dean of Diplomatic Corps in Sierra Leone, who also doubles as the British High Commissioner, Guy Warrington, said that, as head of Diplomatic Missions in Sierra Leone they were very pleased with the manner in which President Bio was governing the country, particularly in placing premium on Human Capital Development.
President Julius Maada Bio has joined the globe to commemorate the World Cancer Day, organized by the Office of the First Lady, at the Bintumani International Conference Center, Aberdeen in Freetown; the event brought hope for those grappling with the ailment.

In her presentation, Her Excellency the First Lady, Fatima Maada Bio, said that her office had continued working on building a dedicated cancer care center in Sierra Leone as a matter of urgency, noting that because of the magnitude of the cancer crisis among women in Sierra Leone, in particular, the construction of a diagnostic and treatment center was urgent.

“We have engaged architects who have designed and developed an architectural concept for a 300-bed facility. My office hereby presents both the concept and the architectural blueprint to the Government of Sierra Leone for consideration. We must dream big as a nation in order to solve our country’s most pressing needs.

“Merck Foundation is sponsoring the training of ten oncology specialists who will be trained at premier cancer-care institutions in India and Egypt. Upon their return to Sierra Leone after 1 year and two years respectively, local technical expertise around cancer diagnosis, treatment, and care will be strengthened. We will continue to advocate for additional training opportunities for our nurses and doctors,” she assured.

In his keynote address, President Bio stated, as a result of a severe lack of medical equipment, surgical oncology or chemotherapy services in this country were limited or nearly impossible, resulting in Sierra Leoneans spending $1.5 million US dollars every year flying mainly to Ghana for cancer diagnosis and care. He said that financial and emotional burdens were enormous for families and for the government.

“As a Government, we have closely examined the problem, analysed it, and undertaken purposeful planning. We believe that cancer is preventable and that Sierra Leoneans should be fully informed on risk factors. We also believe that because early detection and diagnosis save lives, we must intensify awareness campaigns. There is no place for misguided cultural notions about the symptoms of cancer or stigma for cancer patients.

President Bio also stated that his government had undertaken two initiatives of getting a National Diagnostic Centre and a Radiotherapy Cancer Treatment Centre, through a strategic partnership with VARIAN, a US-based organisation that was working in various African countries, adding that his government had already signed an MoU with VARIAN for the establishment of a National Diagnostic Centre to perform tests such as MRI, endoscopy, CT scan and other cancer-related diagnostic tests.
President Julius Maada Bio, commissioned a nationwide airborne geophysical survey for Sierra Leone, at the Presidential Lounge of the Lungi International Airport. Funded by the World Bank, under the succeeding phase of an Extractive Industries Technical Assistance Project (EITAP-2), the survey is the first step to help determine the full extent of the country’s mineral potentials, with a view of attracting foreign direct investments into the minerals sector.

Delivering the keynote address at the historic launch of the survey, President Bio recalled his earlier pledge to transform the minerals sector, and to ensure that it delivers maximum benefits for the people of Sierra Leone; “No Government can get a good deal from the exploitation of its minerals if it does not have and control geological information” he noted. He pointed out that unlocking the potentials of the mineral sector for economic growth and transformational development requires accurate geological information, and that lack of geological data has severely constrained effective policy choices regarding governance and management of the mineral sector.

President Bio maintained that the survey will provide useful information on the types of minerals that exist in the country and their quantity, grade, indicative value and location. This, he said, will put Government in a strong position when negotiating mining concessions with prospective investors and other interested parties in the mineral sector, and such information will also be an incentive to attracting credible investors into the minerals sector.

Earlier, the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Dr. Morie Manyeh, stated that the step in the direction towards acquiring reliable geological information is another indication that the mining sector is on the road to recovery, and noted that the history of the country will completely change after the survey.

The Director of Geological Survey at the National Minerals Agency, Prince Cuffey, gave a brief background to the project, noting that it was conceived out of the urgent need to address the huge gap in geological knowledge that was affecting the development of the minerals sector in Sierra Leone. He noted that the previous Department of Geological Survey suffered from neglect over the years, which limited its ability to collect geological information.

World Bank Representative, Kemoh Mansaray, assured the President and people of Sierra Leone of the Bank’s continued support to assist Sierra Leone in addressing the major challenges to national development.

The survey will be conducted by Xcalibur Airborne Geophysics, a South African firm, using specialized aircrafts equipped with medium resolution magnetic and radiometric technology that will be flying at an altitude as low as 50m and in straight lines at 150m line spacing nationwide.

A demonstration flight by the Xcalibur crew formed the high point of the launch.
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Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Strives To Consolidate The Country's Bilateral Relationships.

By Uzman Unis

Sierra Leone Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Corporation, Dr. Ali Kabba, has presided over the African Union Committee on African Candidatures in the International System, a committee which reviews and approves African candidates for positions in international organizations like the UN.

Dr. Kabba has held multiple engagements, engaging heads of states and colleague ministers in a bid to unfreeze Sierra Leone's relationship with other states. Addressing the Africa-China Dialogue on Peace and Security Initiative, Dr. Kabba highlights Sierra Leone's experience in the consolidation of peace and security as well as the contribution to peacekeeping mechanisms in Africa, demonstrating the country's unwavering commitment to the quest for an Africa without conflicts, an Africa that is united and well-off.

The minister has engaged resident and non-resident Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Sierra Leone; in a diplomatic engagement to share the country's foreign policy goals and priorities of government in the areas of education, agriculture, energy, fisheries and marine resources, tourism, mining, healthcare and infrastructure. Attracting foreign direct investment to accelerate the wheel of national growth.

Briefing the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Minister shed light on the plans to vigorously pursue economic diplomacy through trade and investment as well as the transformative recalibration of Sierra Leone's diplomatic landscape through a reform agenda that focuses on structural, functional and organizational capacities of the Ministry and its overseas missions. According to the minister, one pillar of the transformation will be the establishment of our Foreign Service Academy in the near future.

Signing the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of Sierra Leone and Government of the People’s Republic of China; the minister achieved for the country, $29.8 million gratuitous assistance which will be used to support the core priorities of the
government.

The minister has engaged Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia. They discussed a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues, and the minister outlined opportunities for Russian investment in priority sectors in Sierra Leone. “Looking forward to a strong foundation for cooperation in the interest of the two countries and peoples. . .” the minister said.

Dr. Kabba held a Meeting with Inchad Razaaly, Head of West Africa Division of the European External Action Service, to push for solution to issue of Schengen visa the country faces; thus the Minister is counting on the support from the Secretary General, Helga Schmid to have one Schengen member country issue visas in Sierra Leone. The minister also held a fruitful meeting with Sven Mikser, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, discussing areas for cooperation based on mutual benefits and reciprocity. The Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Office of the President and the Estonia Governance Academy (e-GA) will sign a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in e-governance architecture and share lessons to enhance service delivery.
Sub-saharan Africa: undemocratic regimes undermine anti-corruption efforts

A continuous struggle in fighting corruption across the region

**SNAPSHOT OF THE REGION**

This year’s Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) presents a largely gloomy picture for Africa – only eight of 49 countries score more than 43 out of 100 on the index. Despite commitments from African leaders in declaring 2018 as the African Year of Anti-Corruption, this has yet to translate into concrete progress.

Seychelles scores 66 out of 100, to put it at the top of the region. Seychelles is followed by Botswana and Cabo Verde, with scores of 61 and 57 respectively.

At the very bottom of the index for the seventh year in a row, Somalia scores 10 points, followed by South Sudan (13) to round out the lowest scores in the region.

With an average score of just 32, Sub-Saharan Africa is the lowest scoring region on the index, followed closely by Eastern Europe and Central Asia, with an average score of 35.

**CORRUPTION AND A CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY**

Sub-Saharan Africa remains a region of stark political and socio-economic contrasts and many longstanding challenges. While a large number of countries have adopted democratic principles of governance, several are still governed by authoritarian and semi-authoritarian leaders. Autocratic regimes, civil strife, weak institutions and unresponsive political systems continue to undermine anti-corruption efforts.

Countries like Seychelles and Botswana, which score higher on the CPI than other countries in the region, have a few attributes in common. Both have relatively well-functioning democratic and governance systems, which help contribute to their scores. However, these countries are the exception rather than the norm in a region where most democratic principles are at risk and corruption is high.

**IMPROVERS**

Notwithstanding Sub-Saharan Africa’s overall poor performance, there are a few countries that push back against corruption, and with notable progress.

Two countries – Côte d’Ivoire and Senegal – are, for the second year in a row, among the significant improvers on the CPI. In the last six years, Côte d’Ivoire moved from 27 points in 2013 to 35 points in 2018, while Senegal moved from 36 points in 2012 to 45 points in 2018. These gains may be attributed to the positive consequences of legal, policy and institutional reforms undertaken in both countries as well as political will in the fight against corruption demonstrated by their respective leaders.

With a score of 37, Gambia improved seven points since last year, while Seychelles improved six points, with...
a score of 66. Eritrea also gained four points, scoring 24 in 2018. In Gambia and Eritrea, political commitment combined with laws, institutions and implementation help with controlling corruption.

**DECLINERS**

In the last few years, several countries experienced sharp declines in their CPI scores, including Burundi, Congo, Mozambique, Liberia and Ghana.

In the last seven years, Mozambique dropped 8 points, moving from 31 in 2012 to 23 in 2018. An increase in abductions and attacks on political analysts and investigative journalists creates a culture of fear, which is detrimental to fighting corruption.

Home to one of Africa’s biggest corruption scandals, Mozambique recently faced indictments of several of its former government officials by US officials. Former finance minister and Credit Suisse banker, Manuel Chang, is charged with concealing more than US$2 billion dollars of hidden loans and bribes.

Many low performing countries have several commonalities, including few political rights, limited press freedoms and a weak rule of law. In these countries, laws often go unenforced and institutions are poorly resourced with little ability to handle corruption complaints. In addition, internal conflict and unstable governance structures contribute to high rates of corruption.

**COUNTRIES TO WATCH**

Angola, Nigeria, Botswana, South Africa and Kenya are all important countries to watch, given some promising political developments. The real test will be whether these new administrations will follow through on their anti-corruption commitments moving forward.

With a score of 27, Nigeria remained unchanged on the CPI since 2017. Corruption was one of the biggest topics leading up to the 2015 election and it is expected to remain high on the agenda as the country prepares for this year’s presidential election taking place in February. Nigeria’s Buhari administration took a number of positive steps in the past three years, including the establishment of a presidential advisory committee against corruption, the improvement of the anti-corruption legal and policy framework in areas like public procurement and asset declaration, and the development of a national anti-corruption strategy, among others. However, these efforts have clearly not yielded the desired results. At least, not yet.

With a score of 19, Angola increased four points since 2015. President Joao Lourenço has been championing reforms and tackling corruption since he took office in 2017, firing over 60 government officials, including Isabel Dos Santos, the daughter of his predecessor, Eduardo Dos Santos. Recently, the former president’s son, Jose Filomeno dos Santos, was charged with making a fraudulent US$500 million transaction from Angola’s sovereign wealth fund. However, the problem of corruption in Angolan goes far beyond the dos Santos family. It is very important that the current leadership shows consistency in the fight against corruption in Angola.

With a score of 43, South Africa remains unchanged on the CPI since 2017. Under President Ramaphosa, the administration has taken additional steps to address anti-corruption on a national level, including through the work of the Anti-Corruption Inter-Ministerial Committee. Although the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) has been in place for years, the current government continues to build momentum for the strategy by soliciting public input.

In addition, citizen engagement on social media and various commissions of inquiry into corruption abuses are positive steps in South Africa. The first commission of inquiry, the Zondo Commission, focuses on state capture, while the second focuses on tax administration and governance of the South African Revenue Service (SARS). Given that previous commissions of inquiry produced few results, the jury is still out on whether the new administration will yield more positive change.

Another example of recent anti-corruption efforts in South Africa is the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) report on corruption in the Gauteng Department of Health. While the report never saw the light of day under previous administrations, under President Ramaphosa it exposed several high profile individuals, including members of the ruling party.

In both Kenya and South Africa, citizen engagement in the fight against corruption is crucial. For example, social media has played a big role in driving public conversation around corruption. The rise of mobile technology means ordinary citizens in many countries now have instant access to information, and an ability to voice their opinions in a way that previous generations did not.

In addition to improved access to information, which is critical to the fight against corruption, governments in Sub-Saharan Africa must intensify their efforts and keep in mind the following issues, when tackling corruption in their countries:

- **Demonstrate visible commitment to anti-corruption from political leaders, notably in Burundi, Congo and Mozambique.**
- **Protect human rights defenders, political analysts, anti-corruption activists and investigative journalists and enable them to speak out on corruption issues.**
- **Improve the health of democratic institutions.** This includes supporting participation, transparency and trust, along with necessary checks and balances.

*Source Transparency International.*
"Corruption does not invest in the future, it kills the future" – Akinwumi Adesina, at World Peace Summit of Global leaders

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Rwanda has maintained a positive trajectory in fighting corruption over the last 10 years. The smallest but least corrupt east African country was ranked the 48th globally with the score of 56 in 2018 while it was the 66th with the score of 40 in 2010.

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) released by Transparency International (TI) a fortnight ago indicated that Rwanda improved by one score compared to the CPI 2017 but the 48th position remains the same in the ranking of 180 countries and territories.

Rwanda Bribery Index (RBI) 2018, an annual survey by the local chapter of Transparency International, also indicated a decrease in bribe likelihood from 4.5 per cent in 2017 to 3.24 per cent in 2018.

Albert Rwego Kavatiri, the programme manager of TI-Rwanda, said that Rwanda is performing averagely but a lot more needs to be done for further improvements. "With the score of 56/100 while there are countries scoring 88, you can understand that we are scoring averagely and need to make good steps to reach up to the best levels," he told Pan African Visions on Tuesday.

Kavatiri said, however, that improving by even one per cent in CPI does not come easily as it takes a lot of efforts and teaching the population towards integrity and avoiding the graft.

The share of bribery by institutions, according to RBI 2018, shows that local governments take the largest portion with 30.9 per cent, traffic police come second with 29.69 per cent while the judiciary is third at 16.23 per cent.

Speaking to Pan African Visions on Tuesday, the Rwanda National Police Spokesperson, Commissioner of Police John Bosco Kabera said the corruption in the force results from some officers who behave unprofessionally but measures have been adopted to curb the vice. "A police officer who is suspected of engaging in corruption faces penalties and is dismissed when the case is confirmed. We have also put in place a unit for inspectorate of services and ethics to ensure the good conduct of our personnel," he said.

The force is digitising services to avoid service provider and seeker contacts which increase the likelihood of corruption.

CP Kabera said the body is also considering the welfare of officers by offering them living houses, study scholarships and peacekeeping mission opportunities in order to protect them from falling into bribery temptations resulting from poor living conditions.

Thousands of police officers have been dismissed in the last few years and CP Kabera could not rule out the bribery involvement as one of the reasons of the sackings.
Fifty-eight years on after Nigeria’s independent, corruption remains one of the most significant challenges facing the nation. Corruption in virtually all aspects of the nation’s socio-economic life is said to be one of the reasons why poverty level remains high irrespective of her position as one of the top ten highest exporters of oil to the whole world, and also a possessor of numerous other human and natural resources.

Following a triumphant return to democratic rule on May 29, 1999, there was immense domestic and international pressure on the new administration to fight corruption, this led to the establishment of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Independent Corrupt Practices & Related Offences Commission (ICPC) among others bodies to curb this societal illness by the society.

Ribadu immediately took Nigeria. The Agency under the chairmanship of Nuhu Ribadu immediately took corruption head-on in its fight against the social menace and recorded some degree of successes in this respect then.

Sixteen years after, Buhari won the 2015 election, fighting corruption was the most clearly articulated and the most effective in winning him the votes of millions across the country. He correctly labeled corruption an «evil» and affirmed that it «is even worse than terrorism.»

Then, he promised Nigerians that «corruption will not be tolerated» by his administration and gave us all the hope that «it [corruption] shall no longer be allowed to stand as if it is a respected monument in the nation.» If we fail to kill corruption, corruption will kill Nigeria, Buhari declared. In addition to his clarity on the nature of the problem of corruption in the Nigerian milieu and the specific commitment to zero tolerance of corruption under his watch, he also enjoyed a reputation for integrity.

Without wasting much time, Buhari introduced Treasury Single Account (TSA) in August 2015 to promote transparency, accountability, and efficiency in managing public finance. TSA requires that all public sector revenue receipts and payments are done through a consolidated revenue account at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) intending to blocking revenue generation leakages. By early 2018, N8.9trn was in the TSA. However, the National Assembly and the Judiciary have continued to operate outside TSA.

The Whistleblower Policy was also introduced in December 2016 to help fight mismanagement of public funds and financial embezzlement. The policy provides for citizens who provide tips (blow whistle) about corrupt practices and financial crimes to be rewarded with between 2.5 and 5% of the money recovered. From the 534 investigations concluded (out of over 1000 tips received) by April 2018, N7.8bn, USD378 million and GBP27,800 has been recover. It’s important to add that the Policy will only become institutionalized when the Whistle Blower Protection Bill that is pending in the National Assembly is enacted.

In the quest to quench corruption, the anti-graft agency, EFCC arrested Senator Ali Modu Sheriff, the former governor of Borno State on June 2015, on alleged misappropriation of 300 billion naira received from the federation account during his tenure as governor of Borno State, between 2003 and 2011. Sheriff was released on bail on 4 June 2015.

Diezani Alison-Madueke, the former minister of Petroleum resources, was also arrested for illegal oil deals over the failure of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation to deposit the sum of $20 billion of oil revenues into the federation account during the administration of President Goodluck Jonathan. Diezani named Jide Omokore and Kola Aluko. Jide Omokore had volunteered to return the $2 billion arms deal, a case whereby the money supposed to be spent on defending ourselves, nation and neighbors was shared among individuals. The investigative report indicated that a total sum of $2.2 billion was inexplicably disbursed into the office of the National Security Adviser in the procurement of arms to fight against insurgency, but was not spent for the purpose for which the money was disbursed. Investigations on this inappropriate deal led to the arrest of Sambo Dasuki, the former National Security Adviser under former President Goodluck Jonathan, who later mentioned prominent Nigerians involved in the deal. Those that were said and arrested included Raymond Dokpesi, the Chair Emeritus of DAAR Communications Plc, Atahhiru Bafarawa, the former Governor of Sokoto State, and Bashir Yuguda, the former Minister of State for Finance, Ajuibike Ihejirika, the Chair of Army Staff, Adesola Nunayon Amosu, the former Chief of the Air Staff, Alex Badeh among several others.

This Buhari’s administration has worked more closely with the US, the UK, and various Middle Western countries to seize and repatriate assets from public officials that are suspected to have been purchased with stolen funds. The EFCC has also become more active through its series of investigation into former top government officials, especially from the previous administration.

However, despite a number of high-profile prosecutions in the early days of the this administration, investigations have seldom led to significant convictions. And the recent convictions of two former governors, Jolly Nyame and Joshua Dariye, have failed to convince the public of any improvement. The slow pace of court cases and financial settlements made by wealthy individuals and entities outside of the courtroom have also impeded...
Corruption: A canker worm in Cameroon's society

By Boris Esono Nwenfor (Cameroon)

Corruption is a canker worm that has invaded the Cameroonian society. It cuts across all sectors in Cameroon, be they public or private sector and not even the church is free from corruption. It is an age old phenomenon that has plagued the Cameroonian society notably in the Health; Education, Judiciary, Finance, Military and in the Law and Order Departments.

Transparency International in its corruption index for 2018 ranks the country amongst the world’s most corrupt countries. The country is ranked 152 with a score of 25 over 100.

Compared to the end of the 90s, Cameroon has really progressed in this ranking even though the phenomenon has decreased compared to the 90s, thanks to the establishment of structures fighting against this social evil. Corruption however remains one of the biggest challenges to the social and economic development of the country. For example, in its activity report for 2013, the National Anti-corruption Commission acknowledged that “2013 saw the evolution and sophistication of corruption techniques in the country”. In 2017, Cameroon was ranked 153rd most corrupt country.

The index which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. More than two thirds of countries score below 50 on this year’s CPI with an average score of just 43.

Cameroon has twice topped the chart of the most corrupt states in the world-1998 and 1999 as per Transparency International indices. Corruption is manifested in several forms including; bribery, nepotism, fraud, speed money, theft, embezzlement, falsification of records amongst others. Corruption has been identified as a serious drawback to Cameroon’s quest for emergence in 2035 and the president went on to stress that, “It is corruption that for a greater part of it compromises the success of our efforts... The embezzlement of public funds whatever form is a crime against the people who are deprived of the resources that belong to them.

The fight against corruption has seen high profile embezzlers sentenced such as Professor Titus Edzoa, former SG of the Presidency and Michel Thierry Atangana. On April 16, 2012, Ephraim Inoni, Cameroon’s Prime Minster between 2004 and 2009 and Marafa Hamidou Yaya, former SG at the presidency and Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization were arrested for their alleged role in the misuse of public funds relating to the acquisition of US $31 million presidential plane, The Albatross in 2004. The aircraft encountered technical problems on its maiden flight with the president on board. On investigation it was noticed that it was an old plane just repainted.

CONAC, a tool against corruption or surprising opposition politicians

In a bid to fight off corruption in the Cameroon system, various anti-corruption organs have been created and allowed for meaningful and durable development. These organs have however been criticized as a tool to silence opposition personalities who go against the government in power.

The National Anti-Corruption Commission better known by its French acronym CONAC was created in 2006 after the fall of the National Anti-Corruption Observatory that was created in 2000 following pressure mounted on the Cameroon government by the US State Department.

Since its creation, CONAC has led the fight against corruption mainly through investigation of corrupt officials and transmitting the findings to the president to visa the prosecution. This system some say gives the president the power to visa the prosecution of those who he doesn’t have faith in them any more while “forgiving” others.

According to the penal code, Criminal penalties for corruption include a prison term of five years to life, a fine of up to USD 4,000 and asset seizure. In cases of theft and embezzlement of public funds, corruption charges can be dropped if the money is repaid to the government within six months of their conviction.

Article 66 of Cameroon’s Constitution requires government officials and civil servants to declare their assets and property. This is however not enforced as government officials even the President do not declare their assets.
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South Africa Making Inroads in Fight against Corruption But Still Far From Wiping It Out (2018 CPI Report)

By Prince Kurupati

According to the CPI, the cleanest country scores 100 points out of 100 while the highly corrupt scores 0 points out of 100. While South Africa’s 43 points on the surface seem to be a great cause for concern considering that it is lying closer to the highly corrupt (0 points) than the cleanest (100 points), experts say that South Africa is stable. According to many experts, South Africa’s 2019 score is rather impressive and it shows an improvement from the scores of the past. In 2011, South Africa scored its lowest with 41 points out of 100. Against this background, one can note a slight increase in the country’s corruption perception levels. The highest score that South Africa has ever recorded is 56.80 points in 1996.

Dr Petrus de Kock, the General Manager for Research at Brand South Africa while commenting on the 2019 CPI report said that South Africa’s slight movement upwards on the corruption perception index has largely been necessitated by the moves that have been taken by the President, Cyril Ramaphosa in fighting corruption. Dr Petrus de Kock said that the establishment of the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture and the setting up of the Anti-Corruption Inter-Ministerial Committee to ease the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS)’s work in fighting corruption significantly helped in painting the country in a positive way.

In his words, Dr Petrus de Kock said that “At the time of conducting analysis of the Corruption Perceptions Index, the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture is unearthing significant news regarding corrupt activities involving the private- and public sector. It is in this context, therefore, striking that South Africa’s corruption perceptions score remains quite stable at 43/100 in 2019. The score translates into a ranking of 73/180 nations measured through the CPI, the country’s ranking in 2017 was 71/180.”

He went on to state that the country’s democratic space has also helped in boosting South Africa’s standing on the corruption perception index. He said that South Africa ranks 2/115 nations in the Open Budget Index, an indicator that clearly illustrates that the South African governance system is a world leader in terms of transparency and accountability within a constitutional democracy. It is necessary to reinforce this message on an ongoing basis to contextualize the reasons why revelations of unethical behaviour, and corruption, occur in the South African context.”

Transparency International says that there is a direct correlation between strong democracies and low levels of corruption. The graph below illustrates this.

Corruption, a giant, that Kenya has failed to slay for years

By Samuel Ouma | @journalisst_27

Corruption cases have been making the front pages of newspapers and being plastered on televisions for decades. Kenya and sleaze are inseparable. Since 1956 Kenya has employed various means to slay down the dragon but much has not been achieved. The first law to address graft was the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1956. Sad enough, the law did not achieve its purpose. It was christened as ‘a horse without rider’ due to scares persecutions that were carried out.

In 1991 the Prevention of Corruption Act was amended to add more criminal sanctions for the vice, however the little was achieved. In 1993 made further changes by creating a special anti-corruption investigative unit within the police which was separated from the rest of the force. What the unit achieved was nabbing few junior traffic policemen who were caught taking bribes before its office burnt under mysterious circumstances.

Four years later the Act was amended again and the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority (KACA) was formed. It was headed by John Harun Mwau, former policeman. Mr. Mwau was suspended a year later over his conduct. A tribunal was constituted to investigate him. He was accused of robust temperament by the tribunal and he was called on to resign.
Hewas succeeded by Justice Aaron Ringera. KACA made a tremendous progress for the first time in Kenya history. He combined effort with white Kenyan paleontologist Richard Leakey, then the head of the civil service. They investigated 135 cases and prosecuted one individual. Other achievements are; hired of competent staff, laid down well Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority’s strategies initiated training programmes and cooperated well with civil society.

His reign did not last for long. In December 2000 High Court unqualified him to head the outfit because he was a judge. His predecessor Harun Mwau and Law Society of Kenya had challenged his appointment on the ground of separation of powers since he was the then second High Court judge.

In April 2003, the National Assembly established Kenya Anti-corruption Commission to replace KACA Justice Aaron Ringera was re-appointed to head the agency and other three assistants. Ringera bowed out because of the pressure from the parliament and advocate Patrick Lumumba took over. The legislators alleged that he had failed to perform his duties.

During his time at KACC, he and his team investigated and recommended for persecution of 8 ministers, 4 Members of Parliament, 11 permanent secretaries, 65 directors and Chief Executive Officers of the public institutions and 96 other senior level management officers of public bodies.

“My reappointment as the director of the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission and that of the two assistant directors has raised a national storm and led to a parliamentary debate hitherto unwitnessed in our country. The deputy director and I have considered all the happenings and have come to conclusion that it is in the best interest of Kenya, KACC as an institution, staff as well as in the best interest of us individuals and our families to exit from the leadership of the commission,” reiterated Ringera.

Lawyer Patrick Lumumba did not last at the helm of KACC. The legislators ganged out after he allegedly went after them for engaging in corruption. They were unhappy over what they view as Lumumba’s treacherous acts of inciting the public against them and damaging their credibility.

“Lumumba must go home,” said Jakoyo Midiwo the then legislator.

Rachael Shebesh, the then nominated legislator added, “The man whose name I cannot mention, was vetted by this House and selected because of an impression he created that he speaks good English and can articulate issues. We can now see where that has taken us.”

In line with the 2010 Constitution, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission instituted to fight graft. It was mandated to facilitate investigations on matters concerning unethical conduct, undertake preventive measures against corruption and to educate and create awareness on matters against sleaze.

Cost of corruption
Kenya has borne the cost of corruption for several years ranging from insecurity to inequality. Despite existence of recent constitutional provisions, the fight against corruption is yet to reach half way. Unlike in the past when the institution fighting the menace officers were destabilized when they began crackdown on corrupt individuals, the current are more established to reign in corruption.

Unfortunately, much has not been done to curb the vice which has eaten the East African County.

Recently, copious scandals have been brought to the limelight. They include National Youth Service, National Hospital Insurance Fund, Kenya Pipeline Company, Kenya Power and Lightening Company scandals and National Produce Cereals Board maize scam.

Security underimation
Kenya is battling with security threat posed by terrorist groups especially Somalia based militants group, Alshabaab. The country has been hit on several occasions with the latest being Riverside Complex attack which claimed 21 lives. Loop hole in the security department has encouraged the terrorists to stage multiple attacks in different parts of the country. The extremists use explosives that are majorly planted in public places and guns to kill and injure the ordinary citizens and police. Police have been accused of accepting bribes at the border to allow in terrorists.

“There is laxity along the Kenya-Somalia border. Security officers take bribes, they have been compromised,” alleged Mandera South Member of Parliament Adan Kullow.

Deadly road crashes
Kenyan lives on roads are at risk. The public vehicle is not roadworthy, but the owner bribes the police to skip inspections and acquire a road license. Thousands of lives are lost when the vehicle, driven at high speed in total violation of traffic rules, keels over and slaughter its passengers.

Increased taxation
Billions of shillings looted by leaders end up becoming an indirect tax to taxpayers through levies on some products and directly on pay as you earn. It is barely six months since the government increased value added taxes on petroleum products by 8 per cent and as a result ordinary citizens are struggling to meet their daily needs.

Public services
Provision of public services such as education, water, health and housing by the government has been hampered tremendously. Many of these sectors have suffered multiple scandals in recent years.

Low quality education
Education has lost value in courtesy of corrupt individuals. Students and lecturers are to be blamed. Students bribe lecturers with money or sex or both to be awarded pass marks. After the graduation, students are inefficient and incompetent and are unable to deliver as required.

Resource distribution
Corruption impedes equitable distribution of national resources across the population. Those in charge take more than enough for themselves, their families, friends and their
tribesmen. This weakens the effectiveness of social welfare programmes, resulting in lower levels of human development.

Rapid unemployment

Jobs in Kenya are not based on meritocracy but nepotism, tribalism or on the basis of connection on the part of a job seeker. The poor and the minority communities are marginalized and suffer the consequences of graft.

Regardless of the heightened campaign against graft by President Uhuru Kenyatta, a report by Transparency International last week indicated Kenya has further slipped down in the global corruption index of 2018.

Kenya scored 27 out of 100, a decline from 28 scored in 2017 with zero perceived corruption in 2015. The country was ranked 144 out of 180 countries.

Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Somalia were the leading most corrupt countries in East Africa while Rwanda and Tanzania are perceived to be doing good in fighting the scourge according to the report.

Transparency International Kenya Executive Director Samuel Kimeu attributed the malpractice to lack of law enforcement.

“Kenyans have been calling for the punishment on those involved in corruption as well as recovery of the assets they acquire through the practice but that has not happened,” noted Mr. Kimeu.

Transparency International also revealed police, ministry of land and Judiciary as the most corrupt institutions in the country. Kenyan police scored 81 per cent corruption rate, as well as being in the top ten bribery prone institutions in East Africa.

The Judiciary has in the receiving end of criticism for alleged hampering of fight against graft.

The Director of Public Prosecution and Directorate of Criminal Investigations, (Investigative agencies), heads had taken a swipe at the Institution for conniving with the wealthy suspects to subvert justice.

The Director of Public Prosecution Noordin Haji and his Directorate Criminal Investigation counterpart George Kinoti have blamed the courts for being lenient on the suspects despite provision of irrefutable evidence pointing at looting of public funds.

“Why can’t everyone be treated the same, ordinary Kenyans and those who stole? You have stolen billions and then the Government is asked to pay for it because the Constitution says so. This Constitution only serves those who steal,” said Haji.

“Some of the frustrations that pull us down are some strange orders we receive. We are stopped even before we record a statement from somebody whom we know very well has stolen from Kenyans, and all Kenyans know we have pursued this person,” said Kinoti.

In his speech during the 55th Independence Day celebration on December 12, 2018, President Kenyatta accused the Judiciary of damping Kenyans’ spirits by releasing suspects on ridiculous low bail terms and use of court process to delay justice.

“I agree that the suspects deserve trial but nothing more than that. I am calling on our Judiciary to ensure its procedures not used to protect impunity,” said the Head of the State.

The opposition chief Raila Odinga had also attributed inequality to corruption. The former Prime Minister castigated the Judiciary for failing to fully support the government against graft.

“It’s unfortunate that the Judiciary has not been helping Kenya as a country to fight corruption in our systems. We have seen people being arrested and taken to court where evidence is presented but our courts end up releasing these people on bail,” noted the ODM party leader.

Many have expressed their dissatisfaction with the courts. They argued that Kenyan Judges are very corrupt. These claims seem to be true after the deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu was alleged to have engaged in graft corruption.

Mwilu is accused of abuse of office, accepting money in the form of a gift, failure to pay taxes, and obtaining by false pretense security belonging to imperial Bank which is under receivership.

In response to public claims, the Director of Public Prosecution Noordin Haji imported Queen’s Council Khwara Qureshi to lead the cases involving state and public officers including Mwilu.

Her lawyers’ attempt to block him from handle the case hit a snag after High Court ruled in favour of the London based lawyer. They wanted him stopped from handling the case on the grounds that he did not produce a certificate of practice. However, Judges refuted the claim saying Qureshi does not need a Kenyan Advocate Practicing Certificate or a work permit to practice law in Kenya.

Haji expressed confidence that Khwar Qureshi will look at the law independently without any external interference. He also believes Mr. Khwar will maintain relations within the three arms of government and different justice agencies.

“In order to ensure transparency and independence in dealing with these cases, to build jurisprudence, to allow pragmatic interpretation of the Constitution and to avoid conflict between the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution and the Judiciary, we deem it prudent to engage private foreign counsel to deal with these matters,” he said.

Apart from Mwilu, Judge Phillip Tunui, former Supreme Court Judge in 2016 was accused of receiving Ksh.200 billion (US$2 billion) bribe from ex-Nairobi Governor Evans Kidero to rule in his favour in an election petition filed by his opponent.
Malawi Improves Its Corruption Perception Index
(CPI Report 2018)

By Prince Kurupati

Global corruption watchdog, Transparency International recently released its Corruption Perception Index (CPI) report for 2018. The report showed that Malawi improved its ranking falling two places down from number 122 (2017 report) to number 120 (2018 report).

CPI Figures

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is a report that’s conducted by global corruption watchdog Transparency International every year. The index is based on how corrupt the public sector in specific countries is perceived to be. Transparency International uses a number of indicators to reach their conclusion and according to many economists and industrialists, the CPI report is a good measure of the perceived levels of corruption in a specific country’s public sector in particular as well as the whole country in general. 

Transparency International releases its results in two formats. Firstly, it releases the results in points scored format. In this format, Transparency International states how clean or corrupt the public sector in specific countries is perceived to be. Taking the case of Malawi for 2018, Malawi scored 32 points out of 100. According to Transparency International, a country that scores 0 points out of 100 is highly corrupt while the country that scores 100 points out of 100 is the cleanliest. With Malawi scoring 32, it means that it is in the bracket of countries that are highly corrupt.

Secondly, Transparency International also releases results in the overall ranking format. In this format, Transparency International ranks all countries from the least corrupt to the most corrupt. A total of 180 countries were surveyed in 2018 by Transparency International and from those countries that were surveyed, Malawi ranked as the 120th least corrupt country in the world.

What Malawi’s 2018 CPI Ranking Mean

Experts say that Malawi’s fall by two places from number 122 in 2017 to number 120 in 2018 shows that there are real efforts being taken by the authorities in the fight against corruption. Experts say that the effort being taken are noticeable but they are not as ‘effective’ as they ought to be hence the reason why the country slightly improved its CPI ranking.

To put this into perspective, experts say the actions that have been taken by the Peter Mutharika administration in trying to restore confidence in the public sector after the Cashgate scandal of 2013/14 is showing that the right steps are being taken to address corruption. However, the lack of convictions on the part of those judged to be the frontrunners in the Cashgate scandal is the main reason that is projecting Malawi in a bad image.

As Malawi gears up for the 2019 general election, Peter Mutharika has been praising himself for the stellar work he has done in his first term in office towards the fight against corruption. Recently, the Malawian leader said that “We are doing more development than at any time in the country’s history. If there was so much corruption there would be no money to do what we are doing.” To demonstrate his commitment to fighting corruption, Mutharika has also made the fight against corruption one of his main campaign message. All of these ventures according to experts have helped in portraying Malawi in a positive manner in the fight against corruption.

What’s needed?

Malawi’s improvement on the CPI rankings is a small victory to celebrate according to experts. However, they also caution against the cycle of personality-driven patronage politics that feeds graft. In light of this, they state that it’s important for the country to work on improving its democracy so that patronage politics is wiped out.

Corruption Rank in Malawi averaged 90.81 from 1998 until 2018, reaching an all-time high of 122 in 2017 and a record low of 43 in 2000.
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For the third consecutive year, Mozambique has again registered a fall in Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index, a situation that has been registered since 2016, when the scandal of so-called «hidden debts» was discovered.

Between 2013 and 2014, the Mozambican Government obtained loans of over two billion dollars without parliamentary approval to set up three state-owned companies: Proindicus, Mozambique Tuna Company (Ematum) and Mozambique Asset Management (MAM). The loans were arranged by Credit Suisse and a Russian investment bank. The discovery of these secret loans in 2016 led the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and international donors to halt financial support to Mozambique resulting in the collapse of its economy.

It was even after 2016 that the country recorded the greatest variation in the fall, taking into account the year of 1995 when the index began to be published. Between the years 2017 and 2018, the drop remained in two points, considering also that in the last two years, the number of countries evaluated did not change. These figures also reflect the fall in «score - punctuation», where it is observed that the annual variation / fall in the last three years is 2 points, consecutively.

Among the SADC countries, Mozambique also saw a drop compared to the CPI of 2017, that is, the country fell from 10th to 11th place, changing position with Madagascar. This is a bad sign and indicates the fall in the index that the country has been facing, not only at the global level, but also regional. Among the African countries that were evaluated at the CPI - 2018 in 51 states, Mozambique remained in 39th place, below Madagascar and above Zimbabwe. This is below average, compared to the CPI of 2017, where Mozambique stood at 37°, where 51 African countries were also evaluated, a decrease of 1 place.

In all situations, both in the global index, as between the SADC countries and at the level of the African continent, Mozambique has registered falls in this important index of corruption, which calls for a deep reflection on the alleged actions that the Government says is taking to combat corruption.

For this particular case of hidden debts, since the scandal was unleashed to date the Mozambican authorities have not yet done anything concrete to clarify it. This prompted the US authorities to initiate a parallel investigation that culminated in the arrest of Mozambican finance minister Manuel Chang, who is in the custody of the South African police and should be extradited to the United States if Mozambique fails once it is also interested in him.

The Mozambican President has publicly defended the condemnation of all who practice acts of corruption, but his will has ended in words. There is nothing concrete being made for combat, making this evil widespread.

It manifests itself mainly in public institutions, with concrete examples of health officials selling drugs, teachers who sell notes or exams, immigration officials who falsify passports, police who accept bribery to avoid fines among others. It is common in Mozambique.

Just to give an example, with the lack of places for students in schools, parents and caregivers are required to pay teachers about 45 dollars for the child to be enrolled for the academic year 2019. It is a normal practice in Maputo city, capital of the Country. Parents who do not have money, their children do not study.

On Wednesday 19 December Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi announced that he is exercising his constitutional prerogative to pardon prisoners deemed to have been rehabilitated before the end of their sentences, and to release prisoners who need medical treatment that the prison service can not offer. He said the pardon covers approximately 1,948 prisoners, and that specialized groups would be created to select such prisoners.

In January it was reported that the presidential pardon has created opportunities for corruption. Reports of prisoners indicate that the selection criteria had nothing to do with what the president announced, but it was released who paid the most. In general, in the chains of the Maputo City, it was released who paid about 30 000 meticais equivalent to 500 dollars.

There are even more serious cases of high corruption at higher levels of government and state-owned companies such as the so-called hidden debts. The Mozambican leaders, including Nyusi, invented a scheme. They created three public companies allegedly for the purpose of maritime security by making the companies profit. The total investment was more than 2 billion.

The Mozambican state has secretly issued guarantees to international investors who have bought the debt securities of Russian and British banks, but to date such projects have not been implemented. The reason is that all money was in general used individually and not applied in such projects.

The current Mozambican president, Filipe Nyusi, is implicated in the scheme because he was a defense
In his few public appearances commenting on the case, Nyusi has said that his government is available to cooperate and has appealed calmness and patience, claiming that justice institutions are allowed to work respecting the separation of powers.

However, Edson Cortez, head of public probity think tank Public Integrity Center, CIP, told Pan African Visions that this declaration is "fallacy."

"It’s clear that President Nyusi is covering up the thieves," Cortez said. "This statement is just a fallacy because since 2016 the case has been launched, but to this day no member of his government has been brought to justice" he added.

In addition to the lack of concrete actions to combat corruption, the Nyusi’s government has been authoritarian. It does not allow the realization of actions of questioning of its government by the civil society.

On 4 February, CIP had planned to distribute T-shirts with slogans protesting the payment of illegal debts. The police knew and surrounded the NGO’s offices. They confiscated many T-shirts and banned people from dressing. The person who was found on the street with the T-shirt was told to undress. By this type of attitude and many others, the British magazine The Economist Intelligence Unit listed Mozambique in its 2018 Democracy Index to the category of «authoritarian regimes», after having occupied the 115th place by 2017, when it was considered a «hybrid scheme».

Thus the country joined Angola and Guinea Bissau, countries historically known as intolerant and full of corruption cases.

To further worsen the situation, the rating agency Moody’s keeps Mozambique at the lowest level of the investment recommendation due to its track record of defaulting on debt coupons.

The classification of the country reached the levels of «junk», level Caas3.

These are indicators that do not rule out the issue of corruption in Mozambique, which is reaching more worrying levels due to the impunity of the violators, negatively affecting what is good in this coastal country as is the case of good places to practice tourism.

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**Zimbabwe among the Most Corrupt Countries in the World (CPI 2019 Report)**

*By Prince Kurupati*

The latest Transparency International CPI (Corruption Perception Index) report has placed Zimbabwe among the most corrupt countries in the world.

Global corruption watchdog annually releases the Corruption Perception Index report. The CPI report ranks countries (last year a total of 180 countries were ‘tested’) according to their perceived levels of public sector corruption. After doing their research, Transparency International releases results in two formats. The first format outlines a specific country’s score out of a total of 100 points with 0 being the highly corrupt country and 100 being the very clean country. Secondly, the report ranks country according to its number on the list of the most corrupt countries.

Using the first format i.e. points scored, Zimbabwe scored 22 points out of 100. In essence, this therefore means that Zimbabwe is close to the highly corrupt (0 points) than the very clean (100 points). As such, this on its own demonstrates that Zimbabwe is among the most corrupt countries in the world. To further justify this, one needs to consider the second format. In the second format, Zimbabwe ranks as the 160th most corrupt country in the world out of 180th countries. This therefore puts the country in the top 20 list of the most corrupt countries in the world!

A Bad Omen for the Country

Speaking after the release of the CPI 2019 Report, several analysts said the recent CPI report is bad news for Zimbabwe. Analysts who commented said that the Zimbabwean president since he took over power in 2017 has prioritized re-engagement with the West through his ‘Zimbabwe is Open for Business’ mantra. However, the 2019 CPI report dampens any progress the country has made thus far in re-engagements efforts as the Transparency International corruption index is one of the measures used by some investors to gauge a market.

Against this background, the Zimbabwean government therefore needs to work extra hard if it is to see the fruits of its re-engagement efforts.

Solutions for Zimbabwe

Acknowledging that there is still a long way to go for Zimbabwe before it can effectively put an end to
public sector corruption, analysts said there are a number of steps that the government has to take.

First of all, analysts said the steps taken by the President, Emmerson Mnangagwa to put in place policy and institutional frameworks to fight public sector corruption such as the establishment of the anti-corruption unit in the President’s Office as well as the establishment of special graft courts are commendable. However, they went on to state that it’s not enough to put in place such policy and institutional frameworks, there is need for the government to see to it that these institutions operate effectively.

To do so, analysts say that the government has to allow the special courts as well as the anti-corruption unit to work without any interference from the executive. Not only this but these bodies also ought to have tangible results. Just to put this into perspective, Zimbabwe has tried a number of top government officials (mostly those who served under the Mugabe administration) for graft offences since the start of 2018 but none (apart from former energy minister) have been convicted and sentenced. The only top government official to be convicted, former energy minister Samuel Undenge was soon released after serving less than a month. This ‘lack of prosecution’ has thus derailed Zimbabwe’s fight against corruption something which paints the country negatively.

Zimbabwe’s performance in the 2019 CPI report is worrying considering that in the 2017 CPI report, the country recorded the same score i.e. 22 points scored out of 100. As such, this therefore shows that the country remained stagnant in its fight against corruption.

South Sudan women concerned over slow pace of peace implementation

By Deng Machol

Juba - South Sudanese women groups says they are concerning over slow pace and lagging schedule of the implementation of the signed revitalized peace deal.

The women groups voiced out this disquiets on Thursday, February 7, 2019 during the launching of the ‘national peace campaign’ in Juba.

The ‘national peace campaign,’ the women owned initiative aims to disseminates the signed peace truce to the communities and as well as contribute to confidence building, and national healing and reconciliations across the country.

Reading the statement on behalf of women groups, Ms. Nyankuir Garang De Mabior, late daughter of Dr. John Garang, called on the full commitment of the parties, IGAD and partners to ensure that the agreement is implemented in letter and spirit to end the five – years conflict.

Despite the commitment, Garang said the peace process is at the slow pace due to delays in the security arrangement.

“Concerned over the slow pace and the lagging schedule of crucial aspect of the R-ARCSS, such as the security arrangement, the formation of the Independent Boundaries Commission (IBC) and the reconstitution of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) commission,” Garang said in part of the statement.

“Express deep concern that there are still parties that have not signed the agreement and the violation of the permanent ceasefire continues in other parts of the country. Deeply troubled that although the guns have gone silent in most parts of the country, the vulnerable population particularly women and children still suffer levels of insecurity including sexual violence,” said late Garang’s daughter.

She further calls on all the citizens of South Sudan to be vigilant and embrace peace, engage and closely
follow the implementation of the agreement, reaffirmed women continue unwavering support for the cause of peace.

Guest of the honor, Gabriel Changson Chang, who is also the chairman of SSOA said “what we need here, we are disseminating peace, what we need here, we are building confidence among ourselves for peace to have a chance and to have a space in our hearts and in our minds.”

Changson told women to united under one umbrella so that they can be peace ambassador for signed deal.

“You aim are to send the peace to all our people and that message must be war is enough, peace must prevail because we bring so of us together, peace make us to one another – peace make us to care for one another,” Changson said. And I think, this is a stage we are in today, that we must hold this peace in our hearts – with all our efforts so that South Sudan does not revisited the old bad days.”

IGAD Envoy to South Sudan, Islamy Wais described as another significant milestone toward the implementation of peace process.

“The national women, this campaign is initiative undertaken by women of South Sudan that to sustains momentum of the confidence building, consolidate a public trust, building social connection of the communities, promoting peace co-existence to the Republic of South Sudan,” Wais said.

Since the conflict broke out in 2013, women are primary hit-back by the political violence, victims of sexual violence. IGAD Envoy strongly urges women to maintain this similar campaign in the future, further urges the government to facilitate the active participations of a women in the post – conflict time.

In the statement, women call on the incumbent TGoNU to take the lead and double its efforts to provide the necessary to enable NPTC achieve its mandate. They also urge the international partners to join a game by commit resources for the implementation of the peace deal.

The women called on IGAD to reach out to non-sig.signatories and engage them through dialogue, to join in the implementation of the agreement.

Despite the decrease in political violence since the signing of the peace pact, conflict is still ongoing in the south part of the country, as the fighters of Gen. Thomas Cirillo’s National Salvation Front have been involved in clashes with government forces and the SPLM – IO forces.

Peace at last?

The peace agreement brokered by Sudan reinstates Machar as vice-president and is aimed at ending the brutal five-year war, but there are some tricky issues still to be resolved.

Opposition members once at war are now in the capital of Juba participating in the peace process.

South Sudan descended into war in December 2013 when Kiir accused Machar, his former deputy, of plotting a coup.

Fighting has killed almost 400,000 people, displaced four million people from their homes - in “dire need” of humanitarian aid - has seen horrific levels of sexual violence along with brutal attacks on civilians.

Many peace agreements have failed, but since the September deal was signed, the previously warring parties have been trying to rebuild trust.

Under a previous deal, Machar returned from exile with a group of bodyguards in July 2016, sparking a major battle in Juba that forced the rebel leader to flee the country after being targeted by government troops, ended up in the detention in South Africa before the IGAD ended his house arrest last year.

The security arrangements for Machar’s return from Khartoum had not yet been decided. Machar briefly returned to Juba in October to attend a peace ceremony.

PRESIDENT MNANGAGWA AND THE REALITIES OF GOVERNANCE IN ZIMBABWE

By Nevson Mpofu

The darkest gloomy outlook of the shadows of deep crisis have climbed highest in Zimbabwe’s living memory. This has proved itself to be the most pain-stacking year as President Mnangagwa was looking towards positive optimistic to climb high. It is astounding to note of calamitous political events weaving sharp economic fall-outs in economic solving, solutions and directions. The Economy of Zimbabwe now mud-slinking to its bottom.

Crippled by hyper - Inflation since 2000, worse from 2004 up to 2008 and continuance to 2019 through dirty sordid roads of loopholes, the atmosphere of the economy stands to scratch to edges of a dry ocean. The greatest loss of time in living memory in World history to the Southern African nation dates back to year 1998.

In that year, Zimbabwe joined hands to help DRC in its civil war. It lost 100 million dollars. All of a sad sudden its economy shrunk causing 95% unemployment. Up to the year 2008, Hyper-Inflation had risen to 231 million% This was the highest peak ever in the World. What might have gone wrong?

The World has questions since this is now towards a Global Crisis ever unseen. The country is disturbed. The World comes to be like that as well.

The big Question is on the Land Reform. This is the –centre stage according to political and economic experts. Those who took over the land from Whites had no collateral security. This made it hard for them to access Bank Loans. Ultimately it led to 51% Agricultural
The resonating challenge lies on Zimbabwe having a debt with the International Monetary Fund it has been struggling to pay. The other problem lies with large funding from multi-lateral donors failing projects on poverty reduction. Many projects on ground have failed in the country. The country reflects on Economic Structural Adjustment Program which failed because of several reasons pertaining to massive Grant Corruption. This kind of corruption robbed ZIMBABWE, billions of dollars since 1980.

One good example is the Willowgate scandal which led to former Minister Nyagumbo's suicidal death. Several policies put in place failed to lift up the country out of poverty and vulnerability. These were in line with poverty reduction schemes sustained at large billion dollars which sank in the muddy soil without accountability and transparency. The World has tried several times to salvage Zimbabwe out of its poverty with failure. With some, some organisations managed to win by funding Zimbabwe's free, fair, credible elections. UNDP is among these organisations.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa is acting against 3 forces at a distance like related to politics, economy and military. His slogan, Zimbabwe is open for Business hit a snag twice now before and after elections. His gobbling of state money looking for Investors is as well costing the Economy millions if not billions in US dollars. He is on migraine headache with the outcome tragedies of military killings pending with investigations. Now twice since 2018, EU has heavily condemned this. His chances of becoming part of the Common-Wealth are falling and hitting a snag all the time. However, Mnangagwa has called on the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, Political Parties and Churches to carry on dialogue bringing peace, unity and relief to the aching economy.

He has aligned Public Order and Security Act (POSA) with the Constitution. However there arises a problem weaving a dilemma. Section -59 looks at the Right to protest. Section 86 of the Constitution provides limitations to freedom. He preaches Unity and peace to secure his position. At the same time he allows secretly those who persecute him be punished. After the death of 12 people and 78 injured he prayed and preached peace, unity and dialogue holding.

"What unites us is Stronger than what could divide us. Let us begin a dialogue and build the nation. Let us put Economy first. Let us put people first."

"There is no going back on Economy. We have done away with Indigenisation Laws. We also had to do away with Command Agriculture."

"There are also policies restricting Investors of which we have looked at and come with conclusion on doing away with some Laws unfriendly to Economic Development."

Zimbabwe will this year come up with the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Authority. The idea was taken from Rwanda. This is meant to increase Investor confidence in the country. At most before anything, it is meant to reduce bureaucracy in Government and Private sector departments.

"This Board will start operating by April. We want to create a conducive environment for Business in the country by giving Investors room, freedom and way to operate friendly and freely in the country.

"Let us look at it, like this. An Investor comes with money and machinery. He opens the Industry, He does everything then employs. Why then do we have to talk of 49%, 52% in the country. That will scare the Investor, he said."

The Minister of Finance and Economic Development speaks on reducing public spending. He dwells as well on fiscal imbalances, domestic borrowing and high public sector spending. Fiscal deficit rose to 10% of Gross Domestic Product in 2016 to 23% in 2018.

In a move to stretch muscles of a better economy, there is need to balance powers of the military, police and security Intelligence in the country. Experts, points out that the Zimbabwean story still told unto this day may be a ticking time bomb likely to cause further Social, Economic and Political Crisis in the World.

A Civil Society Director of the Zimbabwe Rights Organisation, ZIMBABWE-HUMANKIIGHTS FORUM, Blessing Gorejena said the Zimbabwean issue is likely to burst with time leading to creation of several Social, Economic and Political challenges for the World.

"A number of events easily show that the country has demanded much from other countries in terms of Financial Resources given, donated by Non-
Governmental Organisations.

"Besides, on the aspect of Human Rights, a lot has gone recorded. More is to be looked at like, how people were affected in terms of their Rights.

"This has gone for long. There is likelihood of certain divisions in the World. It comes with losses as well as the World is robbed of its financial resources."

Another source from the HIV and AIDS Organisation said the country has gobbled billions of dollars in effort to save 2,5 million population living with HIV and AIDS.

Deep further, much has gone towards programs on Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation with farmers on the ground heavily affected. This has also been done in the whole of the Southern, eastern and some Western countries to fight climate change, eliminate hunger and eradicate POVERTY.

UK COMES WITH EVIDENCE OF ZIMBABWE’S SECURITY FORCE DIVISION.

Stephen Chan a Professor of Politics presented evidence to the UK Parliamentary Committee on Development in London. The evidence is that Zimbabwe’s Security Forces are divided in the country. This, he noted could lead to deeper crisis in the country.

This was also proved by Jocelyn Alexander Professor of Commonwealth Studies at Oxford University. Alexander speaks that President Mnangagwa is not in control of the security system in the country. This, she notes as well could cause deeper crisis as verified as well by Professor Stephen Chan.

"Looks like the Government has been clumsy on certain issues of security in the country. President Mnangagwa is not in control of the security system. Security forces are divided. It is not about the issue interest rivalry, but the reflection of the division within the system. Mnangagwa’s regime has challenges with political consistency."

"There are some who are pushing for Reforms. Some are fighting for subsidies. This has impact to economic development. The Committee invited academics together with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Harriet Baldwin and Annabel Gerry Head of International Development in Zimbabwe and South Africa to brief Zimbabwe and make appropriate decisions after adopting soft stance on Mnangagwa Government”, reported Baldwin and Gerry.

Simukai Sigudu Associate Professor of African Politics and Fellow of St Antony’s College said the International Community hailed Mnangagwa forgetting it was the old regime taking over the same torn Government of Robert Mugabe.

“The International Community hailed Mnangagwa forgetting that it was the old regime. That is why you see old systems coming to take the old shape. This has totally done harm to the Zimbabwe Economy. He said.

"At a glance, the Zimbabwean problem is politically up-rooted. The fact is that there is need for reflective practice visit to its History so as to come up with stronger solutions on ground. It was wise to form a Government of National Unity, but its end wove more strength of crisis."

"This is the problem with Africa. DRC had previously the same issue which led people into several social, political and economic conflicts. This is the biggest challenge in the midst of African politics. However, there is strong need to re-visit the past, solve bone issues of concern and bury differences."

"If Kwame Khurumah , Patrice Lumumba , Julius Mwalimu Nyerere were to rise and walk throughout Africa , what would they do . Africa tells its own story that internally it is not yet fully satisfied with its Independence."

Lumumba believes Africa needs Intellectual Hygiene. This is where-by Africa breeds its own Academic Intellectuals smart and perfect to lift up their continent by utilising their knowledge, build the continent with new wisdom and fortify new developed economies of scale.

He pointed out that, the Pan-African vision is hold, halted and destroyed by conflicts. Formerly, there have been wars, but he points fingers at conflicts. Also the issue of ill-management and corruption pulls everything down in the African continent.

DEVASTATING COSTS OF AFRICA’S WARS.

Conflicts in Africa costs lives of civilians’. Sorely it affected Africa with almost its ¾ population in sheer poverty and vulnerability. The continent has a total population of 1,7 billion people who need aid. Conflicts costs Africa 150 billion pounds equivalent to foreign aid received over the same period.

OXFAM’s Report and study titled Africa’s missing Billions elucidates 50% Infant death. There is 15% undernourishment. Life Expectance has been reduced to 5 years. Indirect death it is 14 times higher. UN calls have over the past decades since 1960 criticised weapons of mass destruction which decimates Africa’s population, leads to orphanage life, double, paternal and maternal orphans, disadvantaged and poor, poverty stricken families. A study by International Network on Small Arms –London International Network of Non- Governmental ORGANISATIONS predicts conflicts have shrunk economies by almost 15% on average.
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The Developing African Continent with a Gross Domestic Product of $2, 19 trillion, GDP Growth rate of 3.7%, GDP per capita of $1,720 by 2017 has a total population of 1 and half billion people. It has provided the World, the largest Labour Market, among them experts developing outside their home. The Economy of Africa is relying on Agriculture, Trade and Industry. It wrecks in profits for Economic sustainability from commodities, Services and Manufacturing of exported goods to countries around the World.

At greater height of economic view, its raw – materials getting out of Africa are making other countries rich. This has made Africa become a dumping ground of the Western and Eastern economic powers. In other words the navel of the theme lies here. Post-Revolutionary Africa fed the West. The modern Africa feeds the east and west. It is serving two Worlds all with eyes on it.

Africa is as well straddling to clean its debt with the World Bank. According to AFRODAD, African Forum on Debt and Development statistics are 20% external debt owed to China, 17% payments debts are made to China, 32% owed to Private Lenders and 35% to multilateral institutions like the World Bank. Its huge debt drives it backwards rather than forward to focus on new economic developments. In fact there is need for Africa to put politics aside and focus on economic future.

The Economy is growing at 6% per annum from 2013 to 2023. For 2018 it was 4, 3%. Africa’s GDP is one third of USA’s GDP. This is a sign of a continent that needs more expertise, capital and humanitarian aid to boost all the basic sectors ranging from Agriculture, Mining, Manufacturing Industry, then on Health and Education for Human Development. Worse still Africa needs US 90 billion for Infrastructural development yet it has a bouncing debt of US125 billion.

A leading Political Commentator, Former Legislator and Zimbabwean Opposition Supporter Eddie Cross, puts more weight of criticism on the origins of Feudalism, Imperialism and Colonisation. These are the three most brutal Ideologies which pulled down Africa to reach where it is today. Cross further points that Africa is still not fully Independent because of its Economy still in the hands of White people. This hegemonic control, he says will remain a challenge for the futurity.

“The Economy of Africa is still in the hands of the Whites. Look at a country like South Africa reeling under economic hegemony of Boers and the British. Very few people are indigenous because they are no proper or no policies at all on Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment.

“There is fear of what they have experienced from other African countries trying to move on their own like dad dying, mumming babies learning to walk on their own. There are lessons learnt in the chagrin of failure to their plans.

“This applies to many countries in Africa South of the Sahara. Africa is still in the struggle. It has struggles like attaining its Independence, and getting out of Slavery. There also came time of moving on to reach levels of High Gross Domestic Products to become a First World. However, this is hard task in hands of current leaders.

“Above all, Africa must review and analyse its History. Revolutionaries were concerned about Independence, yes but political Independence is the one they only gained. That could be the main reason why Josiah Tongogara was killed on the eve of Independence on 26 December 1979. He had planned to move towards both to Political and Economic Independence. His death was also pushed by the Whites”

In Reflective Practice, Africa is encouraged to revisit its History and correct errors. From Feudalism, to Imperialism until the time of Colonisation in the 18th century Africa was moving in a band wagon of extreme poverty of Africans undermined rights to their resources. What Whites avoided to Africans as a problem was hunger. However, Feudalism exposed people to severe penury and vulnerability. The coming of the White men to Africa was the root factorial cause of political and economic challenges.

During the earliest days of the coming of the white people, blacks who owned their land and resources were forced to pay tax for the small land they occupied. The master that is the Land Lord owned the largest piece. The serf worked for the master. The master paid very pitiful emoluments of which they would pay land tax from. In fact they was no salary. This was the main cause of poverty and Under-Development like written by Walter Rodney in his Book, How Europe Under-Developed Africa.

This exploitation, slavery and colonial despotism led to Africa’s poverty and vulnerability. Such a brutal move wove a political troop of earliest Revolutionaries like Charles Leonard of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso a Marxist and Pan-Africanist, 1983 to 1987 and Kwame Khurumah of Ghana who is the Father of Africa. Imperialism came with slight change. The serf or servant had to work under employment conditions, with slightly improved land size and no stiff conditions. Colonialism then came as...
a result of the scramble and partition of Africa. Revolutionary political parties later grew. Europe wanted then to take full control of Africa.


Now the opposite of Colonialism lives and gets divided into two, political and economic Independence. We gained Africa politically. There is less doubt that Africa is still economically colonised in the Modern World we live in. Secondly, Western Powers are in control of Africa’s Resources on political economy grounds. Some countries which tried to move out white farmers out of their land have taken those chased away by Zimbabwe.

African countries cannot control their own resources into a weave of production to raise high Gross Domestic Products, Growth Per Capita and Economic Sector development. It has emerged like that with the infiltration of White farmers from Zimbabwe getting in Zambia, South Africa and Mozambique for Agrarian Land.

Black Indigenisation hasn’t quite well worked in countries it was implemented like in Zimbabwe. It has been experimented that economic search for total emancipation never brought liberal piece of Independent mind to an ordinary person on the street. However Political Economy lessons are being learnt from countries like Tanzania during Mwalimu Nyerere , Zambia during Kaunda and Zimbabwe under Mugabe . In the long History from years back, Africa has learnt that Civil Wars, strife and political insurgency leading to displacements leads to economic downfall and ultimate poverty.

Africa has experienced loses, risk of colonial, frontal and civil wars which led to economic downfall. Africa during the highest peak of civil wars lost 150 billion pounds equivalent to foreign aid received the same period. Loss is equivalent to total foreign aid it received since 1990. This was a heavy blow on Health, Education and Human Rights. Owing attention to Health, there arose 50% Infants death and 15% Undernourishment. A good example of close details is DRC with 4 million deaths, loses of 9 billion pounds equivalent to 29% of its Economic Gross Domestic Product. Lessons have been learnt from since the time African States took their Independence. They have failed to work out stamp out poverty and corruption.

There is a possibility that Africa can have a number of Countries to become Middle Income Countries by 2030 if no Civil Wars disturb. These are those Africa’s top economies of 21st Century, South Africa, Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Gabon and Botswana. Zimbabwe and DRC have sunk to become the poorest ones because of civil wars, political vices and Dictatorship. These countries are yet to move towards making corrections after seeing mistakes they did in recent decades at post-Independence.

South Africa has learnt lessons from its neighbour Zimbabwe in deep political doldrums. The land Reform in South Africa is failing to be a stepping stone forward to move to economic freedom. A source with the Nigerian Community In Zimbabwe Benson Babs giving a detailed story on Africa describes Africa still in hands of est.-while colonisers.

“You really know young man, Africa has come a long way up to this day we live in. Revolutionaries liberated Africa politically not economically like how you think of it. Africa has its voice in little geographical location of resources like small pieces of land for their subsistence farming only. “At the moment the only Economically Independent State is Zimbabwe, but it is in practice but not successful. Secondly, wealth is in very few hands. Libya is the only country which gained economic Independence during Mmurur Kaddafi’s time. You have to dance to the tune to get what you want and develop yourself.

WORLD ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.

At a Global level Cuba is the only country in the World which survived USA sanctions. Fidel Castrol introduced good economic policies. Cubans enjoyed huge amount of foreign currency because majority of their products were exported as finished products like fuel, minerals and gas. A strong political source, Mike Mbuta from Angolan Embassy based in Harare pointed out that Revolutionaries had the mind to liberate the people only without looking at what kind of Independence. Revolutionaries had the greedy to rule, creating family Leadership, some to enjoy wealth and some to remain totalitarian. This Bourne Dictatorship in minds of Revolutionaries who lost touch with Human Rights and People’s freedom of everything made themselves sit pretty and forget others out there.

“ Dictatorship was Bourne out of totalitarian rule, monarchism and political avarice. Even Leaders like Robert Mugabe who later looked at the Land Reform Program, the move was to garner for votes.

“That is the main reason why we have 99 year lease agreements. The point is to take land from the whites who had favour with opposition political parties. It means you remain on state land for ever but the land does not belong to you. In simple, it is the retention of party candidature ”, he commented. Revolutionary Africa is dying slowly as its fathers have gone into oblivion. Africa in the next two decades Analysts assume will be free of some practices of past. This will create a new wave of either political and economic comedy or tragedy.

Africa of the Revolutionary era was marred by mis-management, malfeasance, corruption and nepotism which made it lose billions of dollars. An Expert in the field of Accountability and Good Governance with Transparency International Obert Manyeka said corruption was mainly driven by several factors like African
customs, culture, tradition and values which respect the one who in return does good. "Corruption was caused by our culture, tradition, customs and values of respecting those who do better for others. In the same way, a thank you to someone who has done good work in return, he or she deserves a thank you. "As culture, tradition and Customs move out in the modern circle in the World, Corruption dies slowly with time into the future. We no-longer have a lot of those beliefs. However, besides the above, political greedy leading to Dictatorship has caused problems. Modern Africa is supposed to move towards economic empowerment, but, alas it seems the whole set up of the situation is disturbed by the Zimbabwean issue which has driven out the spirit in many countries. A young Leader like Nelson Chamisa asked questions about his thoughts in Pre-Economic Independence talks of African young people owning their resources. If asked whether these people will get empowerment he talks of the West as supposed to call for Investors to solve the whole issue. So where are we economically independent?"

WESTERN AND EASTERN HEGEMONY IN PRE-ECONOMIC INDEPENDENT AFRICA.

A leading Economist Eric Robertson argues that Africa is not economically independent with special focus on Zimbabwe’s failure. Robertson says Africa economically is under Western control. He asked questions in line with this as he said, "Zimbabwe wants to indigenise its people, economically empower them but the Government of the day cannot do that in a way. Why then talk about Investors from the West yet you want to economically empower black people. The west is still coming to Africa, not because they just like it, they are called to open business. The East is also coming, Japan, China and Russia ".

"African Leaders are confused after failure to fulfil the Indigenisation and economic empowerment gap. Calling Western Investors to Africa has been the call of tired African Leaders with no solutions to the problems faced", he said.

The new path of Africa to economic growth and development is only possible with financial support, empowerment of its people and getting Potential Investors. Zimbabwe signed the Look East policy calling in China. Still they want more Investors in the light of the Economy. China with a total population of 1, 4 billion bigger than that of Africa has finally come to AFRICA to open businesses.

Land and Water Grabbing In Sub-Saharan Africa: A Sign of Visionary and Transformative Leadership Deficiency

By Moses Hategeka

"My son, before BIDCO and other palm oil production investors came to acquire vast tracts of land on this Island, (Bugala Island), for palm oil production purposes, we and other local communities around shores of Lake Victoria, used to live a good life, as fishermen, our fish catch, especially species like, Haplochromines, Tilapia, Nile Perch, and Lung fish used to be good, enough to make us get money to pay schools for our children and to cater for other our family needs, we also used to grow food crops, such as bananas, beans, cassava, maize, sweet potatoes, among others, which we would transport and sell in Kampala and other towns. When BIDCO and other palm oil investors came, the government of Uganda, convinced us to give in our land to the investors, on a promise that, we would get good compensation packages and be given land else where, this did not happen, as we were given very little money not even enough to make one buy land else where. We tried to remain fishing but to our surprise, the fish..."
Land and water grabbing continues to skyrocket in Sub-Saharan Africa, hunger, famine, and malnutrition resulting into stunted growth of millions of African children continues, to be an everyday song in millions of homesteads across the continent, yet the continent possesses 62% of world’s remaining arable land. Why is it that Africa has for decades relied and
continues to rely on food aid from developed countries yet it possesses the potential to produce enough food for her citizens and to be a net food exporter? Can Africa feed itself?

In 2003, the Heads of State and government of African Union, adopted Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and a Declaration of Agriculture and food security in Africa, with the major aim of helping small holder farmers, pastoralists, and women, to fully and meaningfully engage in Agriculture, and use agriculture, as a gateway to poverty reduction in their homes, many years down the road, we are instead increasingly witnessing these groups of people being evicted from their ancestral and communal lands in a non-transparent manner, usually through, trickery, coercion, and intimidation, by land and water grabbers, supported by government functionaries.

Africa’s comparative advantage in today’s global economic and social dynamics is in Agriculture, but instead of leaders, to heavily channel big part of their National budgets, to agriculture sector and stimulate its development, by enabling and empowering their local farmers, to acquire agricultural inputs and implements, at subsidized price, they are using big part of their resources, to buy more guns and for personal wealth accumulation, to the detriment of local masses.

The Maputo protocol, in which Heads of state committed themselves, to put 10 per cent, of their National budgets in agriculture sector, is not being implemented in almost all Sub-Saharan countries, this coupled, with the fact, these countries, have not cared, to establish National agricultural Development Banks, to spur agricultural and rural development, is to me, an indicator, that, their priorities for their countries, is upside down.

In sum, for development to be sustainable, it has to be locally generated and driven, the development you are today witnessing across Sub-Saharan Africa, in which selfish tribal chiefs and elders, and corrupt politicians, have and are conniving with foreign investors and governments, in cheaply and freely dishing out Sub-Saharan African land for large scale food and bio-fuel production, for exporting abroad, in total disregard of locals protests, is simply cosmetic. As land and water grabbing skyrockets, millions of Sub-Saharan Africans, are increasingly becoming landless and food insecure, as thus, there is need for rightful thinking and visionary Sub-Saharan Africans, this writer inclusive, to begin brainstorming and craft transformative mechanisms, how to save millions of our people from becoming landless and beggars, in their own countries.

Moses Hategeka, is a Ugandan based independent Governance researcher, Public affairs Analyst, and Writer Email: moseswiseman2000@gmail.com
Zimbabwe's private sector organisations to embark on green jobs project

By Wallace Mawire

Private sector organisations in Zimbabwe have intensified an ambitious drive to promote green jobs initiatives as the global drive to adopt renewable energy and go green initiatives gather momentum.

According to Tawanda Muzamwese, Executive Director of the Business Council for Sustainable Development Zimbabwe (BCSDZ) with the support from UNICEF Zimbabwe the BOOST Fellowship is seeking to implement a Green Jobs project in collaboration with the Business Council for Sustainable Development in Zimbabwe (BCSDZ).

Green projects are generally described as “projects that are committed to the conservation of natural resources, the production and discovery of alternative energy sources, the implementation of clean air and water and/or other environmentally conscious business practices.”

Green jobs are therefore jobs that contribute towards environmental preservation and restoration, “be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction, or in new, emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.”

According to Muzamwese, the project seeks to create internship opportunities for third year University Students with a strong academic interest in environmental issues.

The aim is to place the students in organisations that have a commitment to the same issues and are either running a green organisation or implementing green projects that the interns could benefit from and make a meaningful contribution.

“The long term view of this program is that it would create an excitement about developing more environmentally sustainable programs for communities as well as widen the knowledge base for young people and organisations about green innovations,” Muzamwese said.

The overall goal of the programme is to ignite creative ideas and unlock young potential to environmental sustainability and renewable energy innovations.

The BOOST Fellowship’s contribution to the overall mission of the Green Innovations program will be realized through the fulfillment of some of the following objectives such as identifying 10 third year university students from seven provinces across the country through clearly articulated selection criteria, to participate in the Green Jobs Internship program, collaborating with the Business Council for Sustainable Development Zimbabwe (BCSDZ) to identify progressive business and institutions that can benefit from having green employees and at the same time ensuring that the young professionals are capacitated to have an impact and to contribute to a more sustainable and greener environment, while gaining valuable work experience, creating employment and remunerating 10 young people with a 60% female representation, providing work readiness and Life Skills Training to all selected interns prior to their placement in the different institutions, facilitating the capacity building of interns on environmental and systems management and developing parameters and tools for monitoring and ensuring the effective implementation of the programme by both the intern and the employer.

“Ten organisations will be considered in the programme on a first come first basis provided they are members of the BCSDZ,” Muzamwese said.

It is reported that green interns are drawn from different Universities in Zimbabwe where they are studying in the fields of Environmental Sciences, Natural Resources Management, Safety, Health, Environmental (SHE) Management, Environmental Engineering and related fields.

The BOOST Fellowship is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help young men and women to discover their potential for leadership and to develop successful futures for their communities and countries by adopting a possibility-oriented approach to life.

BOOST is an acronym which stands for “Building Opportunities on Student Talent”. The BOOST Fellowship was founded in the year 2000 through the support of a dynamic team of enthusiasts from Zimbabwe, the UK and the USA.
About

130 min from Maputo city, the Mozambican Capital, lies the «White Pearl Resorts», at the Ponta Mamoli, a place that has become a destination for tourists who come from various quarters of the world to exchange fatigue for a greenish rest. Imagine a quiet place with pure air, surrounded by a greenery offered by Mother Nature, with access to a blue sea. It’s a real piece of paradise where guests feel special.

The resort offers luxurious rooms that have direct access to the beach with a magnificent view of the sea. And because it is placed in dunes, other suites have a panoramic view of the sea. Each room has its own personal bar, living area, stylish bedroom with king-size bed and luxurious en-suite bathroom, unlimited wi-fi access, air conditioning and much more.

The white and brilliant sand by the sea, has its true sound to each floor. Meanwhile, it is possible to see the crabs abusing the sea waves as they weaken on the shore. For those who want to venture further, there is a specialized team for guided tour to whales and turtles. There are other activities, from the beginning of the day to the end, and from summer to winter.

For all stays it has town tour, beach sports, picnic beach, snorkelling, kayaking, stand-up paddling, shoreline fishing, local drumming performance, fatbike, stargazing, beach bot field, while mine 4 night stay: Turtle walks, ocean safaris, Lake Piti wildlike outing, Maputo Special reserve trip, Lake Piti wildlike outing.

Tired of the activities? The 5-star beach resort, which has won international awards from Conde Nast and Traveler magazines as one of Africa’s top 10 boutique beach hotels, has a SPA equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and highly qualified and competent personnel, all to create relaxation conditions for guests.

This accommodation is recommended for its quality, calmness and preservation of privacy. The use of on-site drones is prohibited. These are some of the reasons why great personalities spend some days on the eco-friendly resort and promise to visit again.

In early January the place was visited by the famous British model Naomi Campbel. Fascinated with the resort, she posted on her Instagram account that the beach at the foot of the place had a divine air and the resort seems godsend. Croatian model Nina Vagic was also fascinated by the resort placed in the dense vegetation.

The secluded shrine is set in a protected marine reserve with an impressive coastline.

White Pearl Resorts also has space services for weddings, closed conferences and related events. It is just 16 miles north of the South Africa Kosi Bay Border. If you do not want to drive from Maputo to the place, it is possible to catch a helicopter at Maputo International Airport.
Enjoy.

Direct access to sea.

For Helicopter

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car
Gallery

Reception

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Rooms

Pool Before Sea

Sea Crabs

Wood
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