

The Dream Gets Closer To Reality

-What The AfCFTA Could Mean For Africa



Towards One African Market



UNCTAD's Joy Kategekwa On The Game Changing Prospects of The AfCFTA



Cote d'Ivoire's Second Miracle & AGOA Forum With Ambassador Haidara Mamadou



What Can the D.R. Congo bring to the EAC Block?



Hero to Villain? President Weah and Realities of Governance in Liberia



A Legacy Dismantled: The Root Cause of Khama-Masisi Rift in Botswana

Travel has become easier with the launch of e-visa for tourists. Visit Ethiopia...

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER Ethiopian



SAA VOTED BEST AIRLINE FOR STAFF SERVICE IN AFRICA AND RETAINS 4-STAR RATING

Thank you for making it all possible



SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



CENTURION

Lawyers and Business Advisors

PAN-AFRICAN
PRO-AFRICAN

www.centurionlg.com

CONTENTS

A Harbinger of Hope In The AFCFTA _____	2	A Legacy Dismantled: The Root Cause of Khama-Masisi Rift _____	30
Dreams of a United Africa See Big Boost Continent Kicks Off World's Largest Trading Bloc _____	3	Rwanda France Honeymoon: Franco-Rwandan Cultural Centre To Be Reopened In Kigali _____	32
The African Trade Deal Could Boost Economies Despite Challenges _____	4	Six million people to face food insecurity in South Sudan – UN Agencies warn _____	33
The AFCFTA Will Have A Game Changing Impact The Whole Continent-Dr. Joy Kategekwa _____	7	South Sudan appeals for \$12 M to boost Ebola dispersal, preparedness _____	34
Head, UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa _____	7	Nigerians expectations from Buhari's "next level" themed second term. _____	36
In AGOA Forum Cote d'Ivoire Seeks To Cement Role As Regional Economic Hub _____	13	Role of Women in Conflict Management and Peace Building in Africa. _____	37
"To integrate Africa, bring down the walls," Adesina urges at 2019 African Development Bank Annual Meetings Open in Malabo _____	16	Swedish Journalist recounts her horrible experience in the Rwandan Genocide _____	39
MAKING AFRICA TRADE EASY (MATE) _____	17	Zoom On The Shocking Figures And Tragic Consequences Of Illicit Finance On Africa _____	40
"The African Diaspora linking U.S. and African businesses" _____	17	Federalism, local government autonomy and the crisis of identity in Nigeria _____	44
HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE _____	17	Liberia economic protest; First Litmus test for President George Weah _____	46
DR Congo seeks EAC membership: What could it bring in the bloc? _____	18	Africa and United Nations Peace Keeping Crisis _____	47
Despite challenges, Africa's debt is still under control says African Development Bank _____	19	Austerity Measures in Zimbabwe Should Be a Major Concern for All _____	49
The problem of Nigeria is not borrowing – Amaechi _____	22	Of Resource Looting, Power, and Corruption in the SADC In Mining Sector _____	52
Malawi: Opposition leaders keep protesting election results _____	25	What image best befits the Church in Kenya? _____	54
Why Rwanda-Uganda row would make ordinary citizens suffer longer _____	26	WorldRemit launches new product for business payments to Nigeria _____	56
-Rwandan-Ugandan relations will likely remain poor for the duration of 2019 _____	26		
Q & A with Rear Admiral Seth Amoama, Chief of Naval Staff, Ghana Navy _____	29		

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS

7614 Green Willow Court, Hyattsville, MD
20785

Tel: **2404292177**,
email: **pav@panafricanvisions.com**,
editor@panafricanvisions.com

Managing Editor
Ajong Mbapndah L

Contributors
Wallace Mawire
Deng Machol
Papisdaff Abdullah
Ajayi Olyinka
Prince Kuripati
Hategeka Moses
Asong Zelifac
Samuel Ouma
Primus Tazanu
Alexandre Nhampossa,
Ishmael Sallieu
Koroma,

Adama Makasuba,
Bah Uzman Unis,
Mohammed M Mupenda,
Pierre Afadhali
Teslim Olawore
Nevson Mpofu
Boris Esono Nwenfor
Amos Fofung
Jean d'Amour Mugabo

Advertising
Email:
**marketing@
panafricanvisions.
com**

Graphic Designer
Atemnkeng Jerry M,
(Young Jerry)
EC designs, Abudhabi - UAE
+971 52 863 7744
atemjerry@outlook.com

A Harbinger of Hope In The AFCFTA

By Ajong Mbapndah L

Unveiled in Kigali, Rwanda, in March 2018, the African Continental Free Trade Agreement went into force on 30 May 2019 following ratification by the requisite number of countries. Signed by 52 of the 55 African nations, the AFCFTA has been the subject of rave reviews. Experts say the agreement represents the biggest free trade area in the world since the advent of the WTO in 1995.

It is expected that the AFCTA will cover more than 1.2 billion people with a combined GDP of some \$3 trillion. Key components of the agreement include a single continental market for goods and services, free movement of capital, and a commitment by member countries to reduce about 90% of tariffs on goods they produce.

The agreement creates a single continental market for goods and services as well as a customs union with free movement of capital, and business travelers. Countries joining AFCFTA must commit to removing tariffs on at least 90% of the goods they produce. The Economic Commission on Africa estimates that with the AFCFTA, intra Africa trade could see a surge of some 52.3% by 2022 or so.

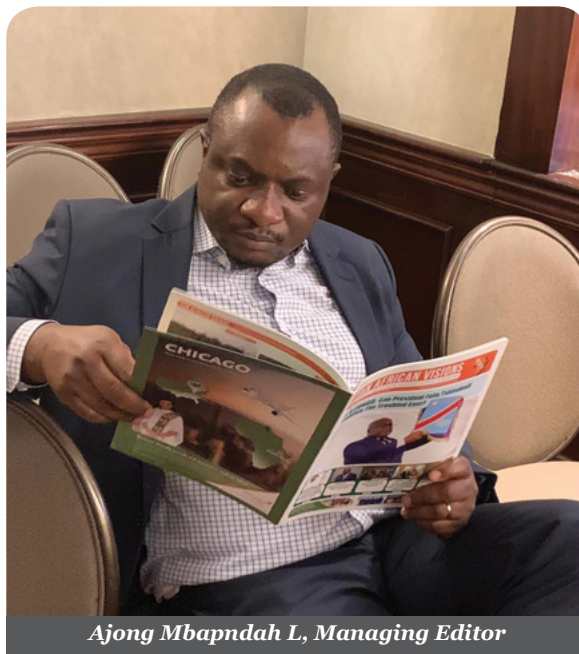
Indeed, going by the audacious projections, the AFCFTA has every potential to be the game changer that Africa has been waiting for. In a continent where even the simplest things are often

complex, and unbelievably cumbersome, the alacrity with which the AFCFTA was ratified gives a reason to hope. Between ratification and successful implementation, there remains a very wide gulf.

As of now, Nigeria the regional power in Africa, the most populous country in the continent and the biggest economy is yet to adhere to the agreement. It is yet another clear abdication of leadership from President Buhari's country. Should Nigeria not have been the one taking the lead in the negotiations? Should that country not have been amongst the first to ratify it and set the example for the rest of Africa? How much more time is needed by them to review the agreement before putting pen to paper?

In case Nigeria does not come on board, Africa has to move on. No one leader or country should hold the continent hostage. A look at the trends in the last decade or so will indicate that more often than not, the much-needed leadership has not come from Nigeria or South Africa which are supposed to be the continental leaders but from smaller countries.

Beyond lofty ideas and treaties, a bigger problem has been the absence of the political will to implement existing accords. A few years back, still in Rwanda, the African Union passport was launched and the first few copies distributed to a few dignitaries. As of today, not much progress has been



Ajong Mbapndah L, Managing Editor

made and even distinguished personalities like business mogul Aliko Dangote and former Nigerian Minister of Economy Ngozi Okonjo Iweala have had challenges using their own AU Passports in some parts of the continent. If Dangote with all the wealth and investments across Africa has difficulties moving freely within the continent, then there is a very serious problem, and this must be speedily addressed.

At the time the AFCFTA is going into force, two of the top signatories Rwanda and Uganda have been engaged in a battle of their own with its borders currently shut. In the Central African sub region, earlier accords signed for the free circulation of goods, services and people have remained fallow. There are a myriad of reasons to be skeptical not about the potentials that the AFCFTA represents, but the political

will of the existing leaders to see reforms that will move the continent forward. An agreement that has, from commencement of negotiations (February 2016) to adoption (March 2018) – taken a little over two years – is demonstration of strong political will says Dr. Joy Kategekwa, of the UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa. Hopefully this political will is sustained all the way.

As the continent basks in the glow of the AFCFTA, we must not lose sight of the enormous challenges that the continent still faces. When the government of President George Weah in Liberia orchestrates the shutdown of internet during anti government protests, we, have an issue. When the rest of Africa can afford to sit idly by while the Biya regime wreaks havoc in the English-speaking regions,

it is a serious problem. When African leaders are quick to send condolence messages when incidents take place in Europe, but no one says thing when tragedy strikes Zimbabwe, Malawi or Mozambique, there is a problem.

It is in the best interest of Africa to be proactive in seeking solutions to its problems. When this is done, the kind of outside interference that does not always put the interest of Africa first is avoided. If in the 21st century, the world football governing body FIFA can still take over the management of the Confederation of African Football because of poor leadership and management, there is something profoundly wrong somewhere.

In the AfCFTA, there is hope that Africa is approaching a new dawn, and this issue of the magazine has a fairly strong focus on trade. There are interviews with Dr. Joy Kategekwa Head, UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa on the meaning and potentials of the AfCFTA, and Cote d'Ivoire's Ambassador to Washington, Haidara Mamadou on the upcoming AGOA Forum, and the investment climate in his country. We explore what the D.R. Congo could bring to the East African Community, the travails of President George Weah in Liberia, the vicious feud in Botswana between President Mokgweetsi Masisi and his predecessor Ian Khama, and more. Happy Reading!!

Dreams of a United Africa See Big Boost As Continent Kicks Off World's Largest Trading Bloc

By Amos Fofung

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA CREATING ONE AFRICAN MARKET

#AfCFTA2018 | 17-21 March 2018 | Kigali, Rwanda



The African leaders during AU Summit for the agreement to establish the African Continental Free Trade Area in Kigali, Rwanda, on March 21, 2018. AFP, Getty Images.

The African Union has taken a giant step towards unifying Africa by successfully putting in place the world's largest trading bloc; The African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA.

As the continent gears up to launch the free market come July 7, more and more heads of states are cuing in to sign and ratify the agreement putting in force the market.

Once launched, Africa will enter into force as the single largest free trade market since the formation of the World Trade Organization, WTO.

"Historic milestone! #AfCFTA Agreement has today come into force. We celebrate the triumph of bold, pragmatic & continent-wide commitment to economic integration. We launch market on 7 July,

2019 & begin the journey of transformation to secure inclusive prosperity," said the African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry, Albert Muchanga.

As at now, some 52 out of the continent's 55 countries have signed the free trade agreement with the exception

of Benin, Eritrea, and Nigeria due to concerns raised by local businesses. However, in recent weeks, Nigeria has made known its intentions to join the roaring train, a much welcome gestures especially as the West African country stands as an economic giant in the continent.

Synopsis of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement, AfCFTA

According to its underlying documents, the AfCFTA will create a single continental market for goods and services; enhance free movement of business persons and investments;

enhance competitiveness at the industry and enterprise level through exploiting opportunities for full-scale production.

It will also enforce the establishment of the Continental Customs Union and the African customs union, expedite the regional and continental integration processes and exploit opportunities for scale production, continental market access and better reallocation of resources.

If successfully implemented, the AfCFTA will unite the over 1.2 billion African population with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of more than \$2.5 trillion to remove tariffs on 90 per cent of goods, with 10 per cent of "sensitive items" to be phased in later.

Experts on African economic affairs have



We need to summon the required political will for the African Continental Free Trade Area to finally become a reality says AU Chair Moussa Faki.



Ghana in 2007.

The agenda was to debate the creation of the Union Government that will lead to the formation of the United States of Africa as adopted by a 2006 study. The study proposed a single African military force, a single currency and a single passport for Africans.

Face2Face Africa writes that “the heated debate in Accra failed to institute the Union Government but the heads of state agreed to accelerate political and economic integration, strengthen the organs and institutions of the AU and then set a timeframe to establish a Union Government with the involvement of Africans and the diaspora.”

Though economist strongly agree that a successful implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement will

be a step towards a United State of Africa, many remain skeptical.

In 2018, leaders of 44 African countries met in Kigali, Rwanda’s capital city and endorsed the AfCFTA. Since then 52 countries have joined in.

The agreement creates a single market that removes trade barriers says Hafsatu Lawal Garba, one of the researchers who worked on the AfCFTA.

By removing barriers, it will allow Africa owned companies and businessmen to expand and enter new markets. This, in turn, widens their customer base, leading to new products and services.

«The agreement will result in the socio-economic development, industrialization, and diversification on the African continent,» Garba told CNN.

Economists believe that

tariff-free access to a huge and unified market will encourage manufacturers and service providers to leverage economies of scale; an increase in demand will instigate an increase in production, which in turn will lower unit costs. Consumers will pay less for products and services as businesses expand operations and hire additional employees.

Though all agree that the AfCFTA could change Africa’s economic fortunes, concerns remain that implementation could be the agreement’s weakest link.

“We need to summon the required political will for the African Continental Free Trade Area to finally become a reality,” said AU Commission chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat, at the launch in Kigali.

expressed optimism with the agreement that was first introduced in January 2012 during the 18th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The United State of Africa; AU’s overdue dream

Though the dream of a unified Africa has long lingered on AU’s agenda back when the institution was still

the Organization of African Unity, OAU, several setbacks prevented the realization of its objectives with some stating that the AU was “over ambitious.”

With the burning desire and a vision to maintain integration of all Africans on the continent, 44 years after the attempt to create a Union Government during the founding of the OAU, the opportunity came up once again at the 9th Ordinary Session of the newly formed African Union (AU) in Accra,

The African Trade Deal Could Boost Economies Despite Challenges

By Jean-Pierre Afadhali

The Africa’s landmark trade deal that has entered into force recently created the largest trade block in the world by member countries, it is expected to create single continental market, boost intra-African trade, and grows African economies.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is meant to form a single continental market for goods and services, boost free movement of business persons and investments to pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the continental Customs Union



and the African customs Union.

Next month African Union (AU) will hold a summit in

Niamey, Niger to launch of the implementation phase of

AfCFTA among other issues.

Data from the United Nation Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) show that AfCFTA will cover a market of 1.2 billion people and a gross domestic product (GDP) of \$2.5 trillion, across all 55 member States of the African Union.

The trade block will be the world’s largest free trade area by member countries since the formation of the World Trade Organization.

According to Africa Development Bank estimates (AFDB), AfCFTA will increase intra-Africa trade

by 15 percent and lead to a net increase of \$2.8Bn in real income for Africans.

Data from the Pan-African Trade observatory show intra-African trade is still very low in relation to other regions.

For instance in 2016 intra-African trade was estimated at 16 percent while in Europe it was around 67 percent.

Despite AfCFTA's potential to boost trade on the continent, some experts say the successful implementation will depend on the participation of business people, political leaders to deal with trade challenges that most regional economic blocks face.

Speaking on the ratification progress of the AfCFTA in March during Africa CEO forum, a continental business summit that brings together CEOs of leading companies in Africa, Rwanda's President Paul Kagame said skepticism that the CFTA may not work should be informed by the fact that CFTA does not solve problems until people make it work.

"We don't expect to put a mechanism and expect it to work; it needs an effort that people will have to undertake to make it work. Nobody is questioning whether CFTA is the right way to go or whether it is going to give us benefits. It is the only way to go if we



Led by President Buhari, Nigeria is still to sign and ratify the ACFTA.

want to maximize on the opportunities for the benefit of our continent. But we have to make it work and we know how."

The trade agreement has been welcomed by many on the continent with hope to transform regional trade that is often hampered by tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

According to Ines Escudero, Senior Market Analyst at International Trade Centre (ITC), other key obstacles AFCTA could face include the production similarities among countries, the lack of diversification resulting in a mismatch between supply and demand, inefficient transport infrastructure,

poor trade logistics, security risks and rising populism and nationalism.

Ms. Escudero noted that regional integration will play a key to the smooth operation of AFCTA, adding some countries who are member states in various economic communities don't respect the agreements they signed.

"With no regional integration the impact of any trade agreement will be minimal," Ms. Escudero said in an interview. "If countries do not compromise to integrate their value chains and facilitate trade at Tripartite, COMESA [Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa] or even EAC [East

African Community] level, what makes you think that they will do it at pan-African level?," she posed.

The agreement has been ratified by twenty-two African countries, but implementation will be gradual; according to media reports countries are negotiating tariff schedules, rules of origin, and commitments for service sectors.

AU hopes the progressive elimination of tariffs will help boost intra-Africa trade by 60 percent by 2022.

While the trade deal has raised hopes for the continent's robust economic growth, the absence of

Nigeria, the biggest economy on the continent could hinder AFCFTA.

However, there are actions to convince the economic giant to join the largest trade block.

"Nigeria was actually very engaged during the negotiations but made the mistake of not keeping its private sector on the loop." Ms. Escudero explained "A successful negotiation should also be done in close collaboration with the private sector."

Experts say the private sector is the major beneficiary of the trade agreement that's why it should be involved in talks.

Ms. Escudero believes the case of Nigeria to isolate private sector in AFCTA negotiations could be a lesson learned for many countries.

Standards harmonization According to the senior market analyst from ITC, working on the harmonization of standards will be the biggest challenge to concretely take the most of the AfCFTA.

"With the disparity of African economies and capacity development, this will not be easy but, if standards harmonization is not tackled in a practical way, the AfCFTA will probably be only a nice statement of intentions."



LUMEN CHRISTI
HEALTH CARE INC.

AT LUMEN CHRISTI INC.,
WE MAKE YOUR HEALTH AND WELL BEING OUR PRIORITY.

Phone : +1 (617) 479 0206

Email: lumen.christi.hci@gmail.com

1359 Hancock Street, Ste 6, Quincy MA 02169



Labacorp Power Company is an independent power producer and renewable energy development company that specializes in the facilitation, development, and operating of sustainable power generation projects in Africa with a growing portfolio of projects. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides solar energy solutions and services to residential, commercial & industrial power users in emerging and frontier markets.

Labacorp Power Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Labacorp Group**, a diversified portfolio of businesses and strategic investments in key economic sectors, with operations in five countries.

Labacorp Power conducts a wide spectrum of activities in the power generation industries through its subsidiaries and affiliates.

OUR POWER GENERATION SOLUTIONS

Solar Power
Hydroelectric Power
Wind Power
Biomass Power
Natural Gas Power

Through our dedicated staff/partners and intense market focus, we aim to develop and build some of the largest and most productive power plants yet seen in Africa. The company comprises **Labacorp Solar Solutions, Labacorp EV Solutions, and Labacorp Smart Solutions.**

With its **U.S headquarters in Houston, Texas, Labacorp Power Company USA, LLC** focuses on spearheading the Group's business activities across the entire power generation industry in Texas.

SERVICES

Labacorp Power provides services in development, design, construction, ownership, and management of power generation projects. We provide the following services through our highly experienced multinational team:

Project Origination
Feasibility Analysis
Project Facilitation
Project Development

We focus on all aspects of power generation from pre and full feasibility studies to project implementation; including power station conceptual design, planning and engineering of power transmission and distribution infrastructure and construction supervision. Our experience across the renewable energy solutions in Africa is unrivalled.

The AfCFTA Will Have A Game Changing Impact On The Whole Continent-Dr. Joy Kategekwa Head, UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa

By Ajong Mbapndah L

“I am optimistic, that we are on to a game changing page in the prospects of trade improving the lives of ordinary Africans and achieving progress on meeting Africa’s Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals,” says Dr Joy Kategekwa, Head of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Regional Office for Africa in Addis Ababa.

Responding to questions from Pan African Visions on the AfCFTA, Dr Kategekwa says its impact on the continent could be profound. Dr Kategekwa pointed to projections from the UNCTAD which indicated that should the AfCFTA lead to 100 per cent tariff liberalisation in trade in goods (alone), the continent would realise USD 16.1 billion in welfare gains, a 1 to 3 per cent growth in GDP, a 1.2 per cent increase in employment, a 33 per cent increase in intra-African exports and a 50 per cent reduction in trade deficit.

“An agreement that has, from commencement of negotiations (February 2016) to adoption (March 2018) taken a little over two years is demonstration of strong political will,” says Dr Kategekwa whose office has been a fulcrum of UNCTAD’s support to the AfCFTA

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement is now set to go into effect after ratification by the requisite number of



countries, what is your take on this?

My take is one of optimism – about the game changing impact of a whole continent that dismantles barriers to intra-African trade. For way too long have analysts decried the low levels of intra-African trade. These low levels are worrisome especially from the perspective of Africa losing out on the benefits of international trade changing ordinary lives through economic empowerment. The AfCFTA promises to set in motion the application of a new body of law that will require States Parties to eliminate restrictions – laws, regulations, administrative processes, that discriminate against the products originating from other AfCFTA States Parties. This will make African products

more competitive in African markets – once the hoop of high tariffs has been jumped through the AfCFTA.

The AfCFTA will also open markets for intra-African trade in services, a sector that plays a leading role in all African economies – evidenced in gross domestic product contributions, as well as the growing amount of services exports from Africa.

The AfCFTA has teeth – a regime on dispute resolution – which will strengthen trade governance and accountability in Africa. The AfCFTA will be overseen by a secretariat dedicated to it, which should help keep an eye on effective implementation.

More so, the AfCFTA is not only about goods and services. It foresees a second phase of negotiations to tackle regulatory barriers

that are key determinants to how markets can effectively function. These include competition, investment and intellectual property rights. The sum total is a scope that is comprehensive and suitable to the quest for boosting intra-African trade and strengthening African integration.

Overall, I am optimistic, that we are on to a game changing page in the prospects of trade improving the lives of ordinary Africans and achieving progress on meeting Africa’s Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

With the ratification, what next, and in concrete terms, what is expected to change for Trade in the continent with the AfCFTA?

What next is that countries will complete the unfinished business of market access negotiations on trade in goods and services according to the agreed AfCFTA negotiating modalities in order to come up with each country’s respective schedule of tariff concessions and specific commitments on trade in services. Such schedules of commitments, as well as finalization of the rules of origin, are indispensable for operationalizing trade liberalization processes under the AfCFTA.

In terms of what is expected to change for trade in Africa, once AfCFTA liberalization has become operational, it is a matter of volumes, value, and diversity in the export basket - which translate into diversity in production.

The AfCFTA is the world’s largest free trade area of our time. It brings together 55 African countries with a market of more than 1.2 billion people and a combined GDP of more than US\$3.4 trillion. It is expected that the AfCFTA will increase intra-African trade by 52.3 per cent through the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers. These numbers are results of simulations by senior experts at the United Nations – both at UNCTAD and at the UN Regional Economic Commission for Africa. At UNCTAD, we have estimated that if the AfCFTA leads to 100 per cent tariff liberalisation in trade in goods (alone), the continent would realise USD 16.1 billion



Dr Kategwa says the level of trade in services in Africa is growing.

in welfare gains, a 1 to 3 per cent growth in GDP, a 1.2 per cent increase in employment, a 33 per cent increase in intra-African exports and a 50 per cent reduction in trade deficit. This is the scenario for goods trade.

But as we know – the level of trade in services in Africa is growing. According to UNCTADstat, Africa's services exports grew by up to 14% in 2017, with figures ranging from South Africa's almost 16 billion US dollars to Lesotho's 2 million US dollars. The services sector plays a critical role in strengthening the continent's leapfrogging potential to attain the objectives of structural transformation. Services sector growth is inescapable in raising productivity and value addition in agriculture (a mainstay of the African economy) and industry. A trade agreement that creates new opportunities by removing discriminatory regulations and operational conditions for market access is an urgent intervention that will set the continent on a

better path to diversification and sustainable development.

What this translates to – is bigger volumes of trade – a first generation spill over of reduced tariffs/discriminatory regulations.

But there is also the value proposition. Colleagues at the UNECA have consistently tracked the level of intra-African trade. In the period prior to 2012 (when African presidents took the decision to fast track the continental free trade area and adopted the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade); numbers floated at about 10-12 percent. In more recent studies, they range from about 16 (UNECA) even going up to about 18% (UNCTAD). And so, there is already an important improvement – on which the AfCFTA is expected to at least double. In this trade is an even more interesting trend. That in these higher levels of intra-African trade, the largest composition therein is of trade in manufactures – going as high as 46% (UNECA). This tells us two

important points: One that intra-African trade is already happening at encouraging levels (vis a vis the base period of 2012) and two: that within intra-African trade is the first evidence of Africa's diversification. Evidence of breaking away from the age-old pattern of low value, low volume products – mostly agricultural commodities of little, if any, value addition – as the proposition that Africa consistently brings to the global stage. This is very important, because a 46% intra-African trade in manufactures tells us that manufacturing is happening (albeit at the lower end); and that the promise of the AfCFTA can be a reality – if there is attendant investment in the enabling environment side of issues. Further, UNCTAD has indicated that intra-African trade has a higher technological content than extra-African trade. The share of products traded among African countries with medium and high technological content is about 27% as compared to a share of

15% for Africa's exports to the rest of the world.

Finally, there is a question of a diversified intra-African trade export basket – with the inclusion of services – which can only strengthen Africa's economy, and in that, its women, men, youth, SMEs, etc.

Building on advances in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) – the AfCFTA will deepen economic integration in Africa, creating a deeper integrated African market. This is particularly important when we bear in mind the fact that much of the existing intra-African trade takes place within these RECs. A new legal order that locks this in, not only vis a vis regional groupings but between and amongst them, is exactly where the first dividends of the AfCFTA may be visible – in creating opportunities for countries in Africa that currently do not have any arrangements, outside of the multilateral framework, to grant each other preferential tariff and regulatory treatment for

goods and services.

Countries of the continent are in all shapes and sizes from population, to economic potential, infrastructure development, and so on, what mechanisms does the Agreement have to ensure a level playing field for all countries?

The AfCFTA is designed in what we, at UNCTAD and within the UN system – call “developmental regionalism”. Simplified – it is an approach to designing regional trade integration agreements in a manner that meets the twin objective of opening markets while ensuring industrialization, more jobs, incomes and the attainment of sustainable development. In a continent of Africa's realities, there is no shortcut to adapting what is known as global good practices to a workable outcome in context. And so, in the case of the AfCFTA Protocol on Trade in Services for example, the calculus was less about how to liberalize trade in services for the sake of opening markets alone, but more about creating a pro-development loop in which the opening of services sectors was done in a manner that would provide real valuable and utilizable opportunities to SMEs, women and youth. It was about allowing countries to exercise their right to regulate and introduce new regulations (a right that often deals with seemingly conflicting objectives such as business opportunities on the one hand and consumer protection on the other). It was about a choice of initial priority sectors that

can unlock bottlenecks related to connectivity and infrastructure readiness – so that the nexus between agriculture and industry can be fully harnessed. And yet it is also about allowing AfCFTA states parties to pace their contributions; within those selected sectors – to determine how, when and on what conditions, such access is granted. It is about creating a one Africa by seeking to frontload some of the political momentum around mobility for Africans within Africa – it being well understood that there is no regional integration without effective free movement of Africans – traders, investors, service suppliers, industrialists.

Similarly in the case of the AfCFTA Protocol on Trade in Goods, it was about shooting for as high an ambition of liberalization as possible (90% in this case) - going zero for zero as soon as possible from the start of implementation such as in 5 years while accepting that there are sensitive sectors in which certain countries/regions require flexibility (allowing them to phase in their commitments slower). The so-called sensitive products – will have a slower pace of liberalization (or a



Dr Kategekwa believes that the level o commitment from African leaders has so far been strong.

longer transition period). The additional category of “the exclusion list products” (3% of tariff lines) is one in which countries cannot accept to liberalize at this stage.

Also within the Agreements consisting of the overarching umbrella treaty, the protocol on trade in goods and the Protocol on trade in services – is a variation of special and differential treatment – ranging from longer transition periods, provisions for capacity development for the least developed among the states parties, provisions leaving room for African governments to support industrial development (part of the rationale for

the sensitive and excluded products list).

This menu of options is the AfCFTA’s approach to meeting each country, or group thereof, where it is – in terms of its development concerns. Naturally, the benefits of this approach, itself not novel in trade agreements that respond to development challenges, will go to those countries that get themselves ready – utilizing the space granted to create and strengthen productive capacities for utilization.

For the trade professional that you are, how much of a game changer could this be for

the continent?

This is a dream come true for all trade and development professionals. Having spent all of my career seeking trade deals for Africa, supporting Africa to shape strategies and policies for utilization and building capacities for knowledge and sector development – I am honored to have been part of the process of shaping the AfCFTA. For us as African professionals in trade, it is greatly symbolic to see that Africa has attained that which continues to elude the world: a large scale trade agreement that aims for deep liberalization – one which will call for important

domestic reforms. One which will have costs in transition and implementation – yet one which enjoys the highest level political support across Africa. Its’ timeframe for entry into force is, arguably a world record, judged by the pace of ratifications, for an agreement of this scale. This speaks to Africa’s determination to get the promise of trade for its people.

It could be the start of creation of industries of all sizes, a rising and conscious African market that gets confidence in continental products and one that gets an empowered and independent path to development. The benefits will out pass economic gain. We are on the edge of a social and cultural transformation that will promote brands such as make in Africa (for investment attraction); made in Africa (for origin qualification) pride in African products; and ultimately, what, in the words of the AU’s own development blueprint, is aptly termed: “The Africa We Want”. A final point on my assessment as a professional in the field is that implementing the AfCFTA will create a new market for African Think Tanks – to support evidence-based policies and strategies

NKEMNJI
Tel: (608) 239-3994
ngt_press@yahoo.com
www.nkemnjiglobaltech.com
GLOBAL TECH
Graphic Design & Publishing



for implementation. It will create a new generation of African trade law specialists – who can support treaty implementation proper as well as the resolution of disputes. Linked to the latter is the need for a crop of jurists who will need to support the resolution process. It will have also created and strengthened the cadre of trade negotiators, skilled in the arcane field of negotiating tariffs, non-tariff measures and trade regulations, and being prepared for continued negotiations in the continent or outside in the international trade arena. Finally on the knowledge point, there will be need for more teachers to share knowledge in our institutions on the opportunities created in the AfCFTA and raise awareness. Curriculum development, training and capacity building on trade law, economics and development is now to be a hot career choice for professionals in Africa. This makes me particularly proud to see.

We noticed that there are a still a number of countries notable Nigeria that have not yet signed it, considered that this is the economic powerhouse of Africa, how does the absence of Nigeria impact the enforcement and effectiveness of the agreement?

Nigeria is yet to sign onto the AfCFTA and deposit its instrument of ratification. For reasons of effectiveness, it is desirable that Nigeria joins the AfCFTA – still hopefully as a Founding Member, not least because it



is the economic powerhouse in Africa. This would allow it to take advantage of the large opportunities to be created, yet also provide a market for African exports. The domestic consultations, we are informed, are ongoing and there have been pronouncements, including at the highest level, of support for the AfCFTA. After 16 years in the business of trade negotiations, I am more convinced than ever – that strong preparatory work determines a steady and effective path to implementation. In this line of argumentation, the delay of Nigeria, if hinged on getting the domestic consultations finalized as well as the reform agenda needed to faithfully implement the Agreement, is positive. It is true though that there has to be a price for accession – which will be difficult to avoid when countries are not ‘Founding Members’. Like others, the call from UNCTAD, is for all African countries to take the opportunity of the AfCFTA by joining – and use all of the available tools to support

implementation.

There has been no shortage of lofty agreements in Africa, but a missing ingredient has been the political will, how committed do you think African countries are to the effective implementation of the AfCFTA?

An agreement that has, from commencement of negotiations (February 2016) to adoption (March 2018) – taken a little over two years – is demonstration of strong political will. The fact that the approaches adopted for the design of the AfCFTA relied heavily on REC developments and dynamics is a vote of confidence (read political will) in integration in Africa. The pace at which ratifications have trickled in – is also unprecedented. Moreover, an extraordinary Summit of African Union Heads of States and Governments is scheduled for July 2019 to officially launch the operational phase of the AfCFTA with key support initiatives to be unveiled during the event.

The commitment of African leaders – from the top through to technocrats that shape the day to day work on the AfCFTA, is strong. Business and Civil Society have also been engaged. Across the board, you do get a sense of a great dose of political will – which will be central to ensuring that needed reforms are prioritized at country and regional level – for effective implementation.

Still on the level of implementation, let's take the example of Rwanda where its border with Uganda has been shut with unfortunate economic consequences for months now, how could situations like this impact the implementation of the AfCFTA?

The AfCFTA will create the needed momentum to remove obstacles to trade across Africa. At the forthcoming AU Summit, the AU will launch an Online Platform to report non-tariff barriers in the AfCFTA, that it has developed with the

support of UNCTAD. This will allow private sector and policy makers to identify and resolve such barriers in the implementation structures of the AfCFTA. The online tool will be accompanied by national institutions that would be geared to address the complaints raised and remove them, so trade is not unnecessarily hinder or obstructed by non-tariff barriers.

What impact do you think the agreement could have on trade with countries like China, Europe, the USA and other foreign countries seeking to bolster trade ties with Africa?

The purpose of the AfCFTA is to increase intra-African trade. New opportunities in intra-African trade will do for Africa what closer regional integration did for Europe and other large powers. African producers will establish channels of production to utilize these opportunities. These products will be of higher value, more diversified and in bigger volumes. Naturally, the focus on intra-African trade may be seen as an inward strategy. But the fundamentals of this being the approach that will support industrial development and structural transformation, are solid.

The AfCFTA gives countries like China, Europe, the US what they have asked for a while – clear, rules based environments of policy and legal predictability in Africa. Their support will be important in getting the capacity development agenda off the ground – to build productive capacity for intra-

African trade in Africa. It is important to note though, that it is not only countries but also global firms, that could be attracted to Africa.

Africa will be better positioned to engage with "third countries" – thanks to the AfCFTA – whose rules have particular provisions on how to manage such relations. In the case of the multilateral trading system embodied in the WTO, it is unquestionable that all of the important successes that have been registered for Africa within the work of the WTO have been achieved thanks to a united Africa – the so called WTO Africa Group. The AfCFTA stands to build on that progress by creating clarity to the African position on complex issues across trade and development. And this is important especially because much of the engagement of Africa in the MTS has been positioned around the call for flexibility, special and differential treatment. In the period of WTO reform, having a unified African position on tariffs and industry, on services regulation, on non-tariff barriers – (the core of trade policy etc.) will allow for the articulation of a stronger voice from Africa to the world. This will play a positive role in the beneficial integration of Africa into the multilateral trading system.

There seems to be a lot of optimism about the AfCFTA, at what point should everyday ordinary Africans expect to feel its impact in their lives?

The Agreement has entered into force and in the coming weeks, the African Union Heads of State will launch its operational phase. Ordinary

Africans should not wait to feel the impact on their lines – rather, they should create this impact- by engaging in production for export. Once the tariff books (or services sectoral regulations) are changed to reflect AfCFTA preferential treatment for its states parties – it will be visible. And yet it can only be visible for those who are ready to utilize. So, there will be no manna from heaven. For those that engage in production or have services to export, the treatment received thanks to the AfCFTA – will be the occasion to feel the impact. And one can imagine that such an impact would cascade down to communities, families, people – improving their lives with the dividend of new markets.

There will be revenue losses from implementing the AfCFTA. These, according to UNCTAD studies, will be in the short term. However, the long-term gains outweigh the losses. Moreover, there are in-built flexibilities to deal with tariff revenue and welfare losses. Some of these include compensatory measures, flanking policies and adjustment measures. It is also worth recalling that the loss of revenue and its magnitude would need to be calibrated to the reality of the still low levels of intra-Africa trade.

Is there any role your agency played in the build up to the treaty or a support role that you will be playing in its implementation?

UNCTAD's relationship of support for trade capacity development predates the AfCFTA. We have been involved, from the times of translating the political

decision into modalities for negotiations. We have provided technical studies and options for negotiations, working with the technical teams in the AU to prepare data, analysis and propose options for outcomes that support developmental regionalism. The Secretary General of UNCTAD took a decision to establish the UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa – which I have the privilege to head. The Office has been a fulcrum of UNCTAD's support to the AfCFTA –bringing some of the world's best minds on various complex trade topics, from headquarters, to advise the AUC Department on Trade and Industry – and to be available in negotiating institutions to provide study findings, data and analysis and overall technical support to AU Members. The AU designated UNCTAD a

Technical Partner to the negotiations – and this has allowed for a seamless flow of support – much to the appreciation of African Union Member States – who are on record in awarding UNCTAD a certificate of appreciation for the technical support in the AfCFTA negotiations.

As we move to Niamey, the Secretary General of UNCTAD and the President of Niger are poised to launch the continental non-tariff barrier reporting and eliminating online mechanism before Heads of State. For as any trade negotiations professional will tell you – there is one thing that is for sure – as tariffs go down, non-tariff barriers rise...

Looking ahead towards implementation, UNCTAD as the lead agency within the United Nations supporting countries in developing policies for trade-led growth,

will continue to support the African Union Commission, and the institutional structures in place for implementation. UNCTAD's Divisions – all of which have played a key role in supporting the negotiations – in particular the Division on Trade in Goods and Commodities, the Investment Division, the Statistics Branch, and the Africa and Least Developed Countries Division – will continue to support implementation – particularly as we get not only into phase II of the negotiations on which we are already working with the AU – but also as we shift focus to the pressing question of building productive capacities...In a sense therefore, we are very much at the early stages of a long road ahead...





THE ICT UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF TURKU

A JOINT DEGREE **Masters/PhD** in Public Health, Epidemiology & Health Information Technology/E-Health


Offered by The ICT University & The University of Turku, Finland

The tuition for the program is \$5,200 per year. The ICT-U Foundation USA (the funding organ of the University) provides partial scholarships to students from developing countries.

To express interest, contact: admissions@ictuniversity.org (ICT University); michael.l.wilson@utu.fi (University of Turku, Finland)

PROGRAM FEATURES & BENEFITS

- Job Security;
- Get rooted in the core foundations of Public Health;
- Dual Degree Option;
- Study Online (with real time interactions with faculty);
- Onsite research and interaction with research supervisors in Finland or any of our African campuses;
- Impact healthcare in your community and globally.

 Dispensaire Messassi, Yaounde

 admin@ictuniversity.org
admissions@ictuniversity.org

 www.ictuniversity.org



APPLY ONLINE

<https://ictuniversity.org/application-form>

ICT-U Cameroon: +237 651 060 049
+237 678 764 037

University Turku, Finland: +358 29 450 5000

ICT-U Foundation USA: +1 (225) 612-6994

Whatsapp: +1 (225) 288-8883

© 2019

In AGOA Forum Cote d'Ivoire Seeks To Cement Role As Regional Economic Hub

By Ajong Mbapndah L

Delegates and visitors to Cote d'Ivoire for the AGOA Forum will be pleasantly surprised at the progress his country has made under President Ouattara says Ambassador Haidara Mamadou. Speaking in an interview with Pan African Visions, the Ivorian Ambassador to Washington DC said there was a general air of excitement and positive energy in his country in the build up to the AGOA Forum coming up soon.

In addition to the vast tourism potentials of his country, Ambassador Haidara touted the enormous opportunities opened to investors. Located at the heart of West Africa, with easy access to neighboring countries, Ambassador Haidara said, the positive economic indicators, infrastructure, enormous potentials are an open invitation for investors to consider Cote d'Ivoire as a priority destination.

Pan African Visions: Ambassador Haidara Mamadou good afternoon sir and thank you for receiving us at the Ivory Coast Embassy.

Ambassador Haidara: Good afternoon and you are welcome.

Pan African Visions: First, we would like to start by getting the developments in your country, Cote d'Ivoire.



Ambassador Haidara says with its strategic location and potential, Cote d'Ivoire should be a favourite destination for Investors.

How is the country doing economically, politically and socially?

Ambassador Haidara: I will say the country is doing well. Economically, you know the president elected in 2010, has instituted an economic policy that is working well. Since then we have been experiencing growth and this is an indicator of the country. If we want to appreciate the economy, we have to take the growth rate which is around 8 or 9 per cent. One can say growth rate is in the average of 7 per cent per year for the past eight years. It is a tremendous achievement for the country because we are in the top five of growth rate worldwide. This has been consistent and stable.

Socially, the President has put a lot in improving our social environment as more than one hundred schools have been built, 200 high

schools built by the state, infrastructure, healthcare has been taken care of, roads and port development has all been taken care of under this new economic era. This is why some people are trying to tag it as the second miracle of Ivory Coast. The government is also taking care of some disparities, cost of living. From this indicator of growth, we did not experience any inflation; the rate of inflation in Cote d'Ivoire has been around 1 per cent per year. This means that we are handling the pricing and the cost of living well, and it has been stable, and affordable for people.

Politically I think the different political parties are doing their own businesses. I think there is a long way to go with reconciliation, but we are very optimistic about the direction of the country.

Pan African Visions: Currently, the country is led by Alassane Ouattara, how has he fared as president; if you were to cite some of the achievements he has recorded, what will some of them be?

Ambassador Haidara: I think there are a lot of achievements that one can talk about. In terms of infrastructure, I can say Cote d'Ivoire is one of the most powerful energy producers of the continent, and we are efficient in energy in terms of power. We supply energy to Ghana, Togo, Mali, Nigeria and we are helping these surrounding countries with our surplus. This is one of the biggest achievements.

For roads, we have been putting almost 600 km in terms of new paved roads, 2000 roads have been rehabilitated and this

programme is going on and people are surprised how the infrastructure network has been developed.

Investment has been done in the domain of education. Each major district of Ivory Coast now has a state university. From 5 state universities we are now heading to 10 state universities. It is a big achievement. Also in terms of health, each major district also has a major health infrastructure. These, and many others are some of the big achievements of the country with the president.

Pan African Visions: You have been Ambassador to Washington for a while now, how will you describe the state of relations between Ivory Coast and United States?

Ambassador Haidara: Not for a while, I was appointed in March 2018 for almost one year now. From that point to now, I can say we have been experiencing a very good bilateral relationship. First of all, we began by signing an MoU with the U.S. Under this MoU, Ivory Coast has put on the table of U.S investors a four billion dollars project that the U.S investors are very excited about this offer and they are doing their best to take advantage of this offer. It was signed by our Minister of foreign affairs and secretary of commerce of the USA in December 2018. We have been beneficiary of the

MCC; almost 524.7 million dollars have been granted to Ivory Coast to recognize its big political, social and economic achievements. MCC is not granted but come like an award to recognize your achievement.

We have also a good political relationship with the U.S. we are working together on the Security council; as we are one of the non-permanent members of the security council. We are very happy about the state of our relationship with the U.S.

Pan African Visions:
As you rightly pointed out, the AGOA forum is coming up in Ivory Coast. What does this event mean for your country and how is Ivory Coast preparing for the forum?

Ambassador Haidara: This event means a lot for our country because this is an opportunity for our country to introduce itself to the world. This is because in the AGOA forum you have many African countries coming to Ivory Coast, and you have the leading country in the world, USA also coming.



Cote D has undergone an economic miracle under President Ouattara, says Ambassador Haidara.

Ivory Coast will highlight its achievements, and it is a also big opportunity for Ivory Coast to promote itself as a big destination for tourism, economy, social matters and others. We are going to take advantage of this to attract more visitors, tourists and investments.

Pan African Visions:
Talking about

preparations, what is the mood like in Ivory Coast? Are the people very excited about this and if you have to give a word to the people who will be coming to Ivory Coast for the first time, what should they expect?

Ambassador Haidara: They will be very surprised, and I cannot have enough words to talk about what

have been done so far. I put some figures in terms of economic indicators. They will see for themselves what has been done in terms of infrastructure, social matters, and political matters. Being far from the country you can hear of different things but being on the ground is a different thing. I had a chance to talk to some investors and what I noticed is that all of them were surprised of what has been achieved. This is a country doing its way and Africa can be proud if you have good governance. It's a matter of leadership; responsibility and a lot will be done. This country has come a long way. 10 years ago, everything was almost lost. Coming from that point and what has been achieved in a short time, any African country would be proud of what has been done.

country. What are some of the exciting sectors that you think investors should take a look at?

Ambassador Haidara: Agriculture is very important. We are a big agribusiness country. We are a big producer and first producer of cocoa beans in the world and we produce almost four per cent of the world supply of cocoa beans. We produce around two million tons, while Ghana is produces one million tons. We are the first producer of the world in cash nuts. We produce more than 750 000 tons per year. 5 to 10 years ago, we were producing almost 100, 000 tons. There are opportunities for investors to come and take advantage of the availability of the processing of the products. In cocoa we are only processing 30 per cent of our output; we need to process more as there are rooms to improve the processing. In cashew, we are only processing 10 per cent of this output. There is room



Ivanka Trump (R) unveiled financial aid for woman cocoa farmers ahead of a recent West African summit on women entrepreneurs in Ivory Coast. AFP ISSOUF SANOGO.

Pan African Visions:
Let's talk a little now about investment opportunities in your

also in terms of investment. There are lots of things that can be done in Ivory Coast.

Ivory Coast wants to be a major player in the world. We have a goal to become an emerging country by 2020 and we are one year from there now. The need for investment is huge and there is also room for investment in terms of infrastructure. Investors do not need to be afraid because our debt to growth ratio is one of the lowest in the continent. We are only 47 per cent of debt to GDP. That's a very good figure. In the U.S, they are more than a hundred per cent of debt to ratio.



Ambassador Haidara presenting his credentials to President Donald Trump. Relations between Cote d'Ivoire and the US are in good shape.

Pan African Visions: *When we talk about investment in Africa, there are a number of complaints we hear from investors. We hear about corruption, a administrative bottleneck, insecurity, infrastructure problems and many others. So how is the investment climate like in Ivory Coast?*

Ambassador Haidara: We have been tagged to be one of the top 10 reformers of investment climate for two or three previous years now. That's a lot as work has been done to improve the investment climate. There is no perfect investment climate as you have to work and we are working on it. I think the investors are

very comfortable with the investment climate. Good policies attract investors to come to your country and I think we have been lucky to have that.

Pan African Visions: *Before Mr. Ouattara became president, he had this image of a good financial reformer with his background in the IMF, how much of credit does he get for the development that has taken place in Ivory Coast in the last ten years?*

Ambassador Haidara: I have had a chance to be at the place he came from such as the IMF and the World Bank and they are very respectful of his achievements. I think there

was a very big expectation for him to deliver and I think he did that and they way we have had investment opportunities and support from these institutions means a lot. Working with these institutions is an indicator that means you are running your country well. It is not like you have a good relationship or personal relationship with them but it is a matter of judgment of your economic health. That's important and I think they (World Bank and IMF) are very proud of him and we too are proud of what he has been doing.

Pan African Visions: *Ambassador Haidara thank you very much and as we wrap up this interview, can you make*

a last speech to investors. Why should they pick Ivory Coast as their investment destination?

Ambassador Haidara: I think Ivory Coast is a hub; the investment climate is very good. The asset of Ivory is located in the regions and Ivory Coast belongs to an economic zone such as WAEMU, ECOWAS. In ECOWAS, Ivory Coast is a leading country in terms of economic structure. So it is easy to do business with Ivory Coast, and it is easy to move in and out to all the surrounding countries. It means you have access to other markets. From Ivory Coast you can have a 2-hour flight to Nigeria, 45 minutes to Ghana, 2 hours to Senegal and 1 hour to Mali. It is easy

for investors to come to Ivory Coast and take advantage of the investment climate, take advantage of the good infrastructure, and the good living conditions. It is also an opportunity to expand your business from Ivory Coast to other countries; we are talking about more than 100 million inhabitants in the WAEMU, and 300 million for ECOWAS market. We want to invite the investors to come and see for themselves and especially during the AGOA forum.

Pan African Visions: *Ambassador Haidara, thanks for granting this interview.*

Ambassador Haidara: Thank you. Merci

Travel has become easier
with the launch of e-visa
for tourists. Visit Ethiopia...

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Ethiopian



"To integrate Africa, bring down the walls," Adesina urges at 2019 African Development Bank Annual Meetings Open in Malabo

Adesina urged African governments to work toward the elimination of non-tariff barriers

MALABO, Equatorial Guinea, June 12, 2019/ -- African leaders on Wednesday underscored the urgent need to fast-track the continent's regional integration process in order to accelerate Africa's economic transformation.

The call was made at the opening ceremony of the Bank's 2019 Annual Meetings, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, with the theme: "Regional Integration for Africa's Economic Prosperity."

"Apart and divided, Africa is weakened. Together and united, Africa will be unstoppable," the Bank's President Akinwumi Adesina told delegates at the packed Sipopo Conference Center.

Adesina urged African governments to work toward the elimination of non-tariff barriers. "Pulling down non-tariff barriers alone, will spur trade by at least 53%, and potentially double trade," he said.

The opening ceremony was presided over by the host nation's President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. Also in attendance were King Letsie III of Lesotho; President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo; and Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini, Prime Minister of eSwatini. High-level government officials from Rwanda, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Côte d'Ivoire were also present.

In his opening speech,



Apart and divided, Africa is weakened. Together and united, Africa will be unstoppable says AFDB President Akinwumi Adesina.

President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo recalled that Equatorial Guinea, once one of the poorest countries in the world, has since been radically transformed with one of the highest per capita incomes on the continent.

"For me, development is not about per capita income, it is about expanding the opportunities for the people to live a more dignified life," Obiang Nguema Mbasogo said.

"Equatorial Guinea is open for business. We are committed to regional integration for shared prosperity. We count on the African Development Bank to help us achieve economic diversification and the consolidation of social equality."

Regional integration is one of the Bank's strategic High 5 agendas to rapidly advance Africa's economic transformation.

In the past several years, the African Development Bank (www.AfDB.org) has invested over \$13 billion in the central African region. "And for every dollar invested, the region has leveraged \$36, an incredible rate of return of 36 times," Adesina noted.

The Bank's investments include the construction of the Central African fibre optic network that connects the population with faster

and less expensive access to the Internet, and is boosting businesses and regional integration.

In his remarks, Equatorial Guinea's Finance Minister Cesar Mba Abogo said: "Progress is the realisation of utopia. This is a country of utopia in Africa, with independence and the ability to control our own destiny. It seemed impossible at first in the last century but it was done. Now our utopia is regional integration."

More than 2,000 participants are attending the Annual Meetings, a unique opportunity to share the Bank's perspectives on the state of Africa's economy. The meetings also provides updates on the Bank's work and serves as a platform for the exchange of views on emerging issues shaping the future of the continent.

The Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea, the president of the Senate, members of governments, the diplomatic corps as well as the African Development Bank's Governors, Executive Directors, and other dignitaries attended the opening ceremony.

"There's excitement in the air on Africa's economic opportunities, and those opportunities are boundless. The newly ratified Africa Continental Free Trade Area will make Africa the largest free trade zone in the world, with a combined GDP of over \$3.3 trillion," Adesina said.

**Courtesy of AFDB*





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 16th, 2019

Contact Vincent Renee

Telephone: +1 571 552 1646

Cell: +1 703 855 5246

Email: info@believeinafrica.org

Website: <http://www.believeinafrica.org>

MAKING AFRICA TRADE EASY (MATE)

"The African Diaspora linking U.S. and African businesses"

HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE

September 5th to 7th, 2019

(Washington, D.C.)- 15 Mai 2019– BELIEVE IN AFRICA (BIA) is honored to announce its first and largest African diaspora gathering conference called “Making Africa Trade Easy” (MATE) scheduled from September 5th to 7th 2019 at the prestigious Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center located at 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NE in Washington, DC 20004, USA.

“MATE is a collaborative and nonpartisan effort between the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center and Believe in Africa to unleash the African Diaspora potential as a catalyst for trade between the U.S. and African economies. This first edition aims at promoting the new U.S. Africa

strategy “Prosper Africa” as well as advancing Africa’s economic integration,” said Mrs. Angelle Kwemo, Founder and Chair of Believe in Africa.

She added: “It is more importantly a platform that will allow two-way trade between African businesses and their U.S. counterparts, and therefore help strengthen mutually beneficial partnerships that create wealth, prosperity and lasting jobs on both continents.”

In attendance will be African Leaders from both the public and private sectors, U.S. Government agencies, African and American Business Leaders, the African Diaspora, potential investors and representatives of relevant international and global Institutions.

MATE’s program comprises a

three-day trade fair, high level discussions, seminars, workshops on how to do business with U.S. agencies, a fashion show and cultural activities. We are expecting 500 selected high-level delegates from the U.S. and Africa, dozens of speakers and exhibitors and 2,000 visitors.

Believe in Africa (BIA) is an African Diaspora-led initiative founded by former U.S. congressional staffers and African leaders in the U.S., to empower young Africans, promote the role of the African private sector, harness the power of the African Diaspora, educate policy makers and the public about African economic growth and highlight the continent’s gradual rise in the global community.

To learn more about BIA visit
www.believeinafrica.org

DR Congo seeks EAC membership: What could it bring in the bloc?

By Jean d'Amour Mugabo

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has set foot in a new era of relations with neighbouring countries since President Félix Tshisekedi assumed office in January.

Within less than five months, President Tshisekedi has visited five out of six member states of the East African Community (EAC), save the newly adhered South Sudan. And these visits undoubtedly aimed, among other intentions, to persuade EAC member states to consider favourably the DRC's application to join the bloc once it is formally submitted. Tshisekedi revealed it all in his letter to his Rwandan counterpart, President Paul Kagame, who is also the seating Chairperson of EAC.

"Following the exchanges we had in Kigali first and later in Kinshasa on the intention and interest of my country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, to join the East African Community, I have the honour of presenting to you today the express request of my country to be able to join the said community," reads Tshisekedi's letter dated of June 8.

The letter stated that the request follows the ever-increasing trade between the business operators of the DRC and those of the EAC member states. President Tshisekedi added that DRC has a fervent desire to join the bloc "so that we can work together for the development of our respective countries and stabilise this part of Africa."

Three days after this



letter, Rwanda forwarded the DRC's request to the EAC Secretariat in Arusha, Tanzania, according to Olivier Nduhungirehe, Rwanda's State Minister for EAC affairs.

Nduhungirehe told The New Times that Kinshasa's request is expected to be on the agenda of the next Summit of EAC Heads of State and Government. This summit is slated for November 30 but the EAC Chairperson can call for an Extraordinary Summit any time when there is an urgent issue of regional importance.

Political, economic benefits are huge

Analysts foretell political and economic benefits that DR Congo's adhesion to the EAC bloc would send to both parties, thus being a win-win scenario in various ways.

According to Dr Christopher Kayumba, an expert on regional affairs and professor at the University of Rwanda, DRC is likely to be admitted in the EAC as it is already in deals with member

states and the fact that, DRC being a huge country in size, it touches on four out of six EAC member states.

"The request is an initial positive initiative that shows DRC's interest in joining the EAC. However, that is only the expression of interest; DRC will have to submit a formal application that details its merits for the adhesion," he said, adding that the entire procedure may take two or three years for DRC to be an EAC member.

Once DRC gets into the bloc, Dr Kayumba said, there are crucial political benefits for both parties. They include better cooperation in line with the EAC treaty, free movement within a wider area, handing fugitives to one another among member states and disarming armed groups, mainly based in DRC, who are threatening to topple legitimate governments in the region.

DRC is also a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which brings together

16 states.

Teddy Kaberuka, an economic analyst in the region, told Pan African Visions on Friday that DRC's adhesion would be a potential asset to the EAC bloc as the latter also benefits from the bloc's better advancements.

"This would bring benefits on both parties. For EAC, member states already signed treaties such as common market, custom union... if DRC joins the bloc, there will be market expansion, free movement of people and goods will cover double of the current area, current EAC states will trade with DRC at ease and vice versa," he said, adding, "The EAC market's expansion will attract more investors for that bigger market with similar conditions."

EAC covers an area of 2.5 million km² with a population around 170 million while DRC has about 82 million people on an area of 2.3 million km².

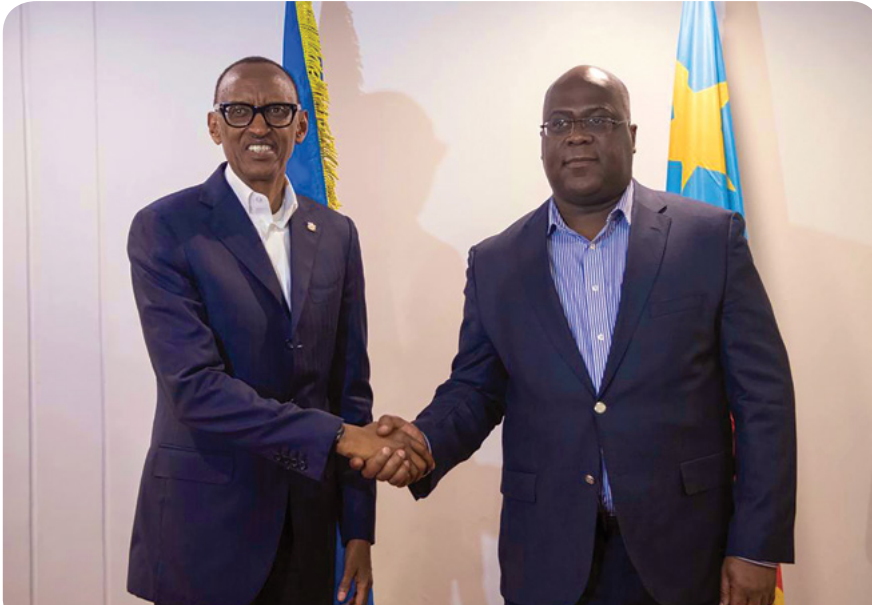
Commenting on the existing feud between

some EAC member states especially between Rwanda and Uganda, economist Kaberuka said that for EAC to be effective, member states need to solve internal issues and those between countries that have often slowed down the regional integration.

"It was amazing how a person was freely moving between Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya using and ID (identity card); that's what a mwananchi (citizen) needs. That would be beneficial to every citizen if the practice is extended to other member states including DRC once it gets in the EAC bloc," he remarked.

He added that EAC member states will reap bigger fruits from the integration if they harmonise their procedures in business to have tax cut, to create ease of exportation and importation, and more.

Kaberuka noted that with a touch on the Atlantic Ocean, DRC's adhesion would link the EAC to two oceans as the bloc maintains a link with the Indian Ocean. DRC is a



Rwandan President and EAC Chairperson Paul Kagame shakes hands with DRC's President Felix Tshisekedi. Photo KT Press.

deposit of natural resources and the second largest country in Africa. According to the World Bank, with its 80 million hectares of arable land and more than 1,100 minerals and precious metals, DRC has the potential to become one

of the richest countries on the continent and a driver of African growth if it overcomes political instability.

What the EAC Treaty says

Under Article 3 of the EAC Treaty, the matters to be taken into account by the Partner States in considering the application by a foreign country to become a member of, be associated with, or participate in any of the activities of the Community, include that foreign country: accepts the Community as set out in the Treaty; adheres to universally acceptable principles of good governance, democracy, the rule of law, observance of human rights and social justice; and

potential contribution to the strengthening of integration within the bloc.

Also important are elements of the applicant having geographical proximity to and inter-dependence between it and the Partner States; establishment and maintenance of a market driven economy; and social and economic policies being compatible with those of the Community.

If DR Congo joins the EAC, it will have to adhere to the Treaty establishing the EAC and signed protocols related to the Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and Political Federation that form the four pillars of the Community.

Despite challenges, Africa's debt is still under control says African Development Bank

In 2018, the Bank earned \$214 million in allocable income, 48% of which has been reinvested in the institution to reinforce reserves and its business growth capacity

MALABO, Equatorial Guinea, June 13, 2019/ -- The African Development Bank (www.AfDB.org) remains strong with growing operating revenues and allocable income generated since 2010 reaching \$2.5 billion, the Bank Group's Treasurer, Hassatou Diop N'sele, stated on Thursday.

In 2018, the Bank earned \$214 million in allocable income, 48% of which has been reinvested in the institution to reinforce reserves and its business growth capacity. The bullish numbers were revealed during the Bank's Financial



presentation Thursday, Bank currently underway in N'sele and Simon Mizrahi, a highlight of the 2019 Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. Director of Service Delivery, Annual Meetings of the The panel was led by Performance Management

and Results at the Bank.

During the presentation attended by delegates, Governors, Executive Directors and Bank staff, N'sele noted that the Bank could chart a new path on account of its ability to raise funds on the capital markets. "The amount of infrastructure financing covered by private sector could double if African countries harness the full potential of their capital markets."

According to N'sele, a number of African countries could save as much \$1 billion on a 20-year loan, if they borrow from the African Development Bank, instead of from the Eurobond market,

due to preferable lending rates.

Delegates were informed of the Bank's successful issuance of the first-ever NOK social bond sold in Norway and sealed in 2018.

Despite challenges, Africa's debt is still under control

On debt sustainability, Africa's debt has increased in recent years "but not to unsustainable levels," Mizrahi indicated but he pleaded for caution. "We need to continue to generate financing and spur growth without increasing debt."

Sharing insights on Africa's path forward, Mizrahi underscored the need to harness the continent's incredible potential in renewable energy.

Africa is the most vulnerable continent and suffers the most from climate change but "with the right vision, investments and political commitments, Africa can lead a global energy revolution and leapfrog to renewable technologies. This



is why the Bank is putting its money where its mouth is and investing more than any other development Bank in helping the continent transition towards more resilient and sustainable economies," he concluded.

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCTA) ushering a new era in intra-African trade

According to Mizrahi, AfCTA paves the way to the world's largest free trade area with an integrated market of 1.3 billion consumers.

"This is important because Africa will struggle to be competitive at the global scale, if it continues to operate as 54 fragmented economies. The continent needs to be more integrated, it needs larger economic spaces so that Africa can attract more

investors, create more and better jobs, boost internal trade and create continent-wide value chains that are globally competitive."

The panel moderated by the Victor Oladokun, the Bank's Director of Communication, noted that AfCTA is expected to boost cross-border infrastructure, drive competitiveness and make the continent a smaller place by integrating markets.

In her concluding remarks, N'sele expressed the Bank's appreciation for Canada's unwavering support to the institution with the recently announced \$1.1 billion callable capital. "This will allow to continue to meet our financial ratio" before a decision is made on the 7th General Capital Increase," she said.

We are, the continent's only triple-A rated institution. Our rating means that our bonds are the absolute safest in the world. It gives confidence to investors across the globe that their investment in African Development Bank bonds is secured."

The discussions included gender issues, especially the Bank's flagship Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) program, which seeks to mobilize \$3 billion to close the financing gender gap for women entrepreneurs.

*Courtesy ofAFDB



US-Africa Cybersecurity Group (USAFCG)

**2020 Pennsylvania Avenue,
NW #220 Washington, DC 20006
T: +1 703 831 7584**

**E: relations@usafcg.com
<https://usafcg.com>**

©2018. All Rights Reserved.

USAFCG is a registered Limited Liability Company in the District of Columbia, United States.



Since its founding in 2005, Global Specialty has operated in 36 countries in Africa, advising more than 12 private sector companies and representing more than 6 African governments to enable the unlocking of growth opportunities in Africa.

African Market Entry

- Advisory Service in East Africa Commercial Port Project Feasibility Study
- Pan-African Asset- Backed Securities Initiative Development
- Infrastructure Development Project
- Nigeria Market Access Strategy for Sumitomo Chemical, Ltd
- Specialty Commodity Imports to the United States
- Africa Market Strategy for AECOM
- Port Renovation in Africa

Country and Government Representation

We provide technical assistance to governments to help facilitate mechanisms and dynamics for unlocking value creation and opportunities. Assist in developing strategies and growth synergies with U.S., European and Asian governments and private sector

We plan and coordinate African government visits to the United States by the President, Key members of his cabinet and other senior Government officials, in collaboration with their respective Embassies in Washington, DC and country Permanent Missions to the UN in New York.

We monitor US legislative and trade policies that directly affect the country and provide analysis and guidance to country officials on the impact of those policies; Promote greater congressional knowledge and understanding of the country Government's policies, accomplishments and the achievements of the government.

We design Media and Public relation outreach campaign to reshape and enhance the government and the country public image in the US.

Global Specialty, LLC
2020 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW # 220
Washington, DC 20006
<http://www.globalspecialtyllc.com>

Global Specialty is a registered Limited Liability Company in the District of Columbia, United States
© 2018. All Rights Reserved

The problem of Nigeria is not borrowing - Amaechi

* Nigeria is one of the least indebted countries

* 2023 power shift; Igbo should have a shot at the presidency

* We are one of the least indebted countries

* The politics we are used to in Nigeria is 'Chop, I Chop' politics

* I know Nigerian politics up-side-down

By Olumide Ajayi

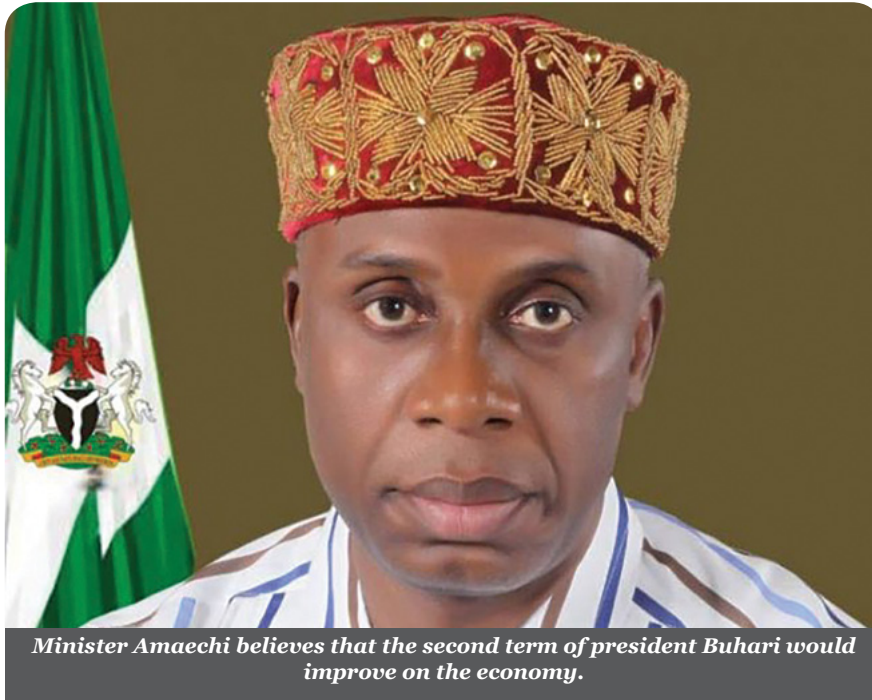
Chibuike Amaechi is the immediate past Minister of Transportation under President Muhammadu Buhari led administration. In this interview, the former governor Rivers State maintains that Nigeria's democracy would grow when weans its self from ethnic and religious politics.

On Nigeria's 20 years of Democratic?

It's a mix of success and failure, it a mix-bag of some expectation was met, some were not. But the majority of the Nigerian communities are disappointed because their expectation is very high. But what I will preach is that we should be more understanding. We expect that the leadership of the country especially the second term of president Buhari would improve on the economy and ensure that the economy would be able to create jobs and income for Nigerians so that they would leave a happy life.

Amid issues of lingering insecurity, what is your take on the new development of police reforms?

We have not heard what the program is about until the president reveals what the program is all about. But in term of insecurity, I think there is a need to deal with the issue of poverty. You



Minister Amaechi believes that the second term of president Buhari would improve on the economy.

know most of these crimes are committed due to lack of income. That is people who cannot fend for themselves. When I was the governor of Rivers state, I use to say people should be able to provide a legitimate source of income for themselves so militants engaging in kidnapping, oil bunkering, and damaging oil pipelines would desist from it. so while we create physical policies, we should make sure that we create an alternative policy that would make people create wealth for themselves legitimately.

But has this administration done enough to curb the issue of poverty you mentioned?

Not even three or four administrations in Nigeria can do that because the level of poverty is deeply rooted. look at it this way if an economy is running purely on agriculture and a new president comes and say no, that it won't continue, we have to re-gig the economy to create productivity. Before you can finish creating such productivity, it would take more than 15years because at that point you are not just talking about agriculture, you are talking about industrialisation, you are talking about power, you are talking about roads and transportation. Now what the president is focusing on roads, power, and transportation. Look at the railway, If we do Lagos

to Kano for \$8.3 billion, so \$5.4billion is equal to N2 trillion. So for \$8.3billion, you are talking about N5 trillion for just 1,500 km of railway meanwhile our budget is just N8trillion. If you remove N8.5 trillion from our budget on rail lines, what about salaries and other sectors of the economy. So not one government can fulfil all that. It is a gradual process and that is why we are taking the railway project in several segments.

And then we are under political pressure from everybody who wants rail lines in their side to be done. We have done Abuja to Kaduna, we are doing Lagos to Ibadan, we have asked for a loan for Port Harcourt to Warri and then Benin to

Onitsha while also trying to complete Ibadan to Kano so its not easy.

On the issue of humongous borrowing to fix the rail lines, do you think this borrowing is justified?

Definitely it is justified because we have not borrowed as huge as they think. The problem of Nigeria is not borrowing, its revenue. We don't have revenue. When they hear what we intend to borrow, they think we have borrowed. The only thing we have borrowed on the railway is not severe .We borrowed \$500 billion for Abuja to Kaduna which was borrowed during former President Goodluck Jonathan's administration. The only thing we have borrowed in Buhari's administration is \$1.3 billion which we borrowed from the China's state government , so what else have we borrowed? Other ones are proposals we are looking for funds for. So what I meant by that is that if I go to the press to announce that we need a loan of \$8.2 billion to fix Lagos to Kano, it would be reported that we have borrowed such amount but we have not. So that is how it has been. We have also proposed to the Chinese government that we need a loan of \$5.3 billion to complete from Ibadan to Kano, they have not given us, they said they are coming to

Nigeria to evaluate the loan. We have also proposed to them that need \$2.3billion to do Port Harcourt to Warri, Benin to Onisha but they have not given us. The only thing they have borrowed us is \$1.3 billion which we are using to build Lagos to Ibadan. So in term of the loan, Nigeria is one of the least indebted countries in the world. The problem we have is that we don't have revenue because if we have revenue we would be able to refund the repayment of our loan. So there is need to work on how to create revenue. People are not paying their taxes our revenue is only focused on oil. There is need to create Small and Medium Enterprises, SMEs, because if you create SMEs, you empower them to employ people and then they in return would be taxed and the people employed.

But what this administration has done sufficiently is to have created an avenue for us to feed ourselves. We imported virtually everything, the only thing we were not importing is Cassava. Now we are planting rice, it may not be sufficient for the demand but if we continue like this in the next three to five years, it would be sufficient for demand. So even if they smuggle in rice because we have enough it would be at the same price because it is cheaper and it is produced in larger quantity in other parts but here we don't have enough so we produce at a high cost. The moment we have several persons producing rice, the price of rice would fall. So, it is just like MTN, if you remember when they arrived, it was very high, now is very cheap. So if indeed we are able to produce all that we need in terms of food, because



Amaechi says the Buhari Administration is right in borrowing for infrastructure projects.

we import meats and other poultry materials now all those things were not banned but the government is not funding it anybody who want to go import it, is his business but we are encouraging Nigerians to via into poultry business so that we can feed ourselves. Why we were not able to feed ourselves is that the past government and I am not absolving myself were more interested in what the young men call 'jand' (foreign goods) so what you wear, what you eat, you brag about it that these rice is from London, that rice is from Thailand, that one is from America what about your local rice. Not because I want to be patriotic, I prefer Ofada rice to any other rice in the world now. What these government has done is to see how to sustain ourselves in term of feeding.

How far has this administration gone with regards to electricity?

The next thing the government is focusing on is power. We got 7000 megawatts and we are distributing 5000 megawatts, but we have a problem on the

contract of the sales of power. In that contract it appear there is a disagreement which the minister of power Raji Fashola was resolving by the time we left government, I am sure we had resolved the issue at the cabinet and by the time they get the payment they are looking for, power we go back to 7000megawatt. But in the history of Nigeria, this is the first time we are increasing from 3000megawatt to 5000megawatt then to 7000megawatt has it has never happened before. But our target is to sustain it till it get to 10,000megawatt then 20,000megawatt by the time we get 50,000 we would have reached our demand then it would be an issue of how to sustain it and ensure that we are able to create industrialisation. Once we get to 10,000 – 20,000megawatt there would be industrialisation. So, we have to also increase to meet the demand of the new industries that are coming.

Do you foresee Buhari's led government proffering solutions to the much agitated expectations of Nigerians in term of power, rail

among others?

Let be sincere with ourselves we can't solve all the problems. Don't forget that we have only four years, if the term was 20 years then I would say yes but because we have four years, what the president is doing is that he is focusing on infrastructure. What he actually did is that the free money politicians use to share in the past is what he is using to develop infrastructure. Those funds they were sharing in the past administration why didn't they build railway with it. By the time Obasanjo was leaving, he left about \$58billion in Nigeria's excess crude account, why did he not use the money to build the rail line because he was the one that awarded the contract for Lagos to Kano rail line because he did not execute that contract even though he left money, by the time Goodluck Jonathan came into office, the money vanished. I don't know who vanished it but what the Obasanjo regime left vanished in Goodluck's regime. But if they had used that money, we could have done the \$7.8billion railway project from Lagos to Kano without having to borrow.

But opposition has described these 'blame-game' as the only virtue this administration has for not being effective?

History is the study of past event, to discuss how to deal with the present and the future. We are not even blaming Goodluck or Obasanjo, but we are stating the history. I was part of that administration less you forget. What we are saying is that if the money that was kept in the saving was utilized for these infrastructures, why would president Buhari asked Rotimi Amaechi to go focus on Lagos to Ibadan rail line. So we are compelled to start afresh. Less you forget, majority of infrastructures in Nigeria was built in late General Yakubu Gowon regime, a bit of it was built by Obasanjo and the 3rd mainland bridge was completed by General Babangida (retired). So, tell me what-else we have done as a country? Port Harcourt -Enugu road bad, Lagos – Kano road bad, Ibadan – Lagos road bad. So, assume the blame game they accused us of is true, we are not blaming and not working.

I drove on Lagos - Ibadan road to Abeokuta, we are completing it. By the time we finish Lagos - Ibadan railway to Abeokuta it become an alternative route because the number of people that died on that road is unimaginable. So, it would take at most an hour and some few minutes to and from Lagos to Ibadan. So, what does it do for our economy, those who can't afford to rent an apartment in Lagos, could rent in Ibadan and come to work in Lagos. All they need to do is meet up with the 6.O'clock train express that would take them to Lagos in 1hour. So, we are expanding the economy and creating network. So, it not as if we are blaming everybody. If you saw my speech, I said let Nigerians and God judge us after we are done.

Despite this, how would you describe the kind of politics being played in Nigeria today?

As much as I can, I am trying to avoid issues that would hot people. The politics we are used to in Nigeria is what I would describe as <Chop I Chop politics> and the fact that President Buhari is trying to stop the <chop I chop kind of politics> is not been easy with politicians So they gang-up against the President in PDP because the free money is no longer there.

What is your take on the power shifting to the South come 2023?

I had made my views clear when I spoke before the election. I encouraged the Igbos in a lecture I had Awka where I said Nigeria's politics is not about merit but I think we can choose the best president from the Igbos this time because they have not been able to be



As Campaign Director, Amaechi has been part of big electoral victories for President Buhari.

elected as the president of Nigeria. That is the only part among the three majority tribe that have not produced the president and I feel its their turn. After election, I made another comment I said that if they had voted for President Buhari, it would have been easy for you as a people to make a demand on the presidency. These were the two comments I made and since then I had gone to sleep.

But should voting President Buhari in be the determinant for power to shift to the South-East?

It may not be the determinant, but it has a great role to play. Because its a lot easier to convince the ruling party that you people brought in your votes and therefore you should be considered to produce presidential candidate for the office. In the same way is it the best for Nigeria to produce zones for presidency either good or bad? I don't think so but since we have not grown to look for the best material that we have in any part of the country , it would have been right to say

let the Igbo have a shot at the presidency and that does not mean they don't have a good hand you would certainly see a very good material in that area for presidency.

But do you think the system of democracy is good for us as a nation?

As I said, based on merit, the best would have come from anywhere. In most part of the world they don't care who the president is once they have food on their table. Let us get to that point where we have food on our table. We should strive to get to that point because that that point we won't care if the President is a Muslim or a Christian or a Traditional worshipper.

But where did we miss it?

Its a difficult question to answer but we missed it from the first republic, when we began to play ethnic politics. If we do away with ethnic and religious politics we would have advanced as a nation. Where I can see an Hausa man as my brother , if you look at my 2015 campaign, I described my brother as anybody who puts food on my table even as against my blood brother who can't put

food on my table. When I was campaigning to the South, I defined my brother as the man who can build road in my village and can provide security for my parent and my community as against an inefficient brother who would be there and allowed my people to be killed.

What would be your charge to these raging oppositions?

They should consider Nigeria first.

Do you think your party is considering Nigerians first?

This is the first time in the nation's history that a minister would be passing and there won't be blaring sirens on the road. All ministers under Buhari's administration line-up to board planes, no police running after us, not because we cannot do it but because we don't want to do it and because we feel that is not the right thing to do. Nobody charged us not to it because four years after, you maybe excused as a minister. So, we are getting used to the street so when we pass on the street

people would get use to it.

We gathered the incumbent governor of Rivers Nysome Wike extended a hand of fellowship for peace in the state with you and the APC, what do you make of this?

But we replied. Didn't you read the statement by Andrew Uchedu. The party as a group met and I was in that meeting and we agreed that we should also extend our hand of fellowship back by addressing a press conference telling him death cannot continue in Rivers because lives are irreplaceable. So we asked them not to bother about our party but to address issues of lives lost in Rivers and we are ready to work with him. Later they said APC begged PDP. I warned the party about that press conference saying this man extending hand of fellowship is not sincere that he would spin these statement, so instantly they twisted it to APC begs Wike, APC surrenders. I have been a politician for 33years so I know Nigerian politics up-side-down so when I finished advising people, I see it happen.

Malawi: Opposition leaders keep protesting election results

... Court yet to make ruling on call for rerun
... Mutharika says his new term will revamp Malawi

By Joseph Dumbula, Zomba Malawi

Malawi President Peter Mutharika is in his initial first month as President this time out but faces a court in a case in which two opposition leaders are accused of 'conniving' with the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) to rig the May 21 elections which saw him beat second placed Lazarus Chakwera with less than 200 thousand votes.

The Constitutional Court is slated to make a landmark ruling for a rerun which Chakwera and another defeated candidate Saulos Chilima applied to court. The court has apparently added him as witness to the case which was made one after reviewing the complaints as the court felt Chilima and Chakwera had same stances.

The elections were marred by irregularities such as missing names of candidates on the ballot papers, disputes over transferred voters and the main one has been the use of erasing fluid Tipex. The fluid was used to alter all the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government in some districts in Malawi as seen in trending photos.

There have been massive vigils in the capital Lilongwe where the MCP boasts of support asking Mutharika to step down accusing him of ascending to power through a rigged poll which they feel was won by Chakwera. The MCP had led in the elections as preliminary results were made only for the tables to change as results from the Southern region, DPP's stronghold trekked in.

It was yet again evidenced that regional pattern of voting is still in full swing as two frontrunners the MCP accumulated huge numbers in the Central Region, with the DPP swinging the figures in the South and Eastern Malawi and the UTM, a new party in the poll had the Northern region in control.

The irregularities hit most of voting centers where the MCP felt Tipex was used to cook figures Mutharika's way. However, MEC Czar Jane Ansah who is accused by



As President Mutharika settles into his second term, the opposition is mounting a vigorous challenge to his election.

Chilima of reportedly urging fellow commissioners and top staff at the electoral body to make sure Mutharika won the elections admitted of receiving results changed using Tipex but defended the body by saying it never purchased the erasing materials and that the results were only but verified and authentic in the end.

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Defenders Coalition has set aside demonstrations against Ansah whom they accuse of being at the helm of the poll they are dubbing as fraudulent. She was also

seen jovial in photos at the swearing in of Mutharika posing with Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) supporters. The Constitutional Court met on 14th June for the scheduling conference of the trial only to adjourn the hearing to Wednesday 19th June.

Initially Chakwera had sought injunction restricting the electoral body from making the announcement of the Presidential elections only for it to be vacated as the legal eight days came to a wavering end. Chakwera had asked the Ansah led commission to first of all iron out all irregularities before the announcement.

However, Ansah in making the announcement stated that the results had been verified by all stakeholders describing the results as signifying the 'will of Malawians'.

On his part Chilima said the UTM has evidence that links Ansah to the rigging plot adding that she is on record as having directed all managers to ensure Mutharika wins.

Ansah has been quoted by local papers in Malawi as having said she will stop down because the poll was free and fair. Mutharika had last week only responded to the accusations as coming from cry babies. In his inaugural speech, the 79 year old called peace and asked Malawians to leave the elections behind them and join him to better the nation which is among world's poorest countries. He has also pledged to name a lean cabinet before 21st June.

Interesting in his second tenure will be the battle in Parliament as he faces the weight against the oldest political party, the MCP which has nearly neck to neck number of lawmakers against the DPP. In a bid to ensure more support in Parliament, Mutharika recent threw a luncheon at the state house with lawmakers that won on independent tickets.

Down but not out. opposition challenger Lazarus Chakwera says he was robbed of victory.



Down but not out. opposition challenger Lazarus Chakwera says he was robbed of victory.

His previous term was marred by corruption one of which a police ration scandal hovered around him as prime suspect because he was the sole signatory of the benefiting bank account.

The scandal involved up to MK145 Million.

Killings of people with albinism also defined his tenure as conspiracy theories that emerged aligned top DPP officials to the malicious act.

While two life sentences have since been laid out to people guilty of killing people with albinism in the country ever since the incidents came strong five years ago, Mutharika's regime has been accused of not placing many deliberate policies to halt the attacks.

The years ahead of him have now to bank on a court case for a rerun if he would win the elections or have the

opposition carry on accusing his party for secretly changing the figures their way.

There were seven contesting candidates against eleven last time out.

Around 6 million people voted in the elections.

Here is the breakdown of the results at Presidential level.

Arthur Peter Mutharika (DPP): 1, 940, 709 (38.57%)

Lazarus Chakwera (MCP): 1, 781, 740 (35.41%)

Saulos Klaus Chilima (UTM): 1, 018, 369 (20.24%)

Atupele Muluzi (UDF): 235, 164 (4.67%)

Peter Kuwani (MMD): 20, 369 (0.40%)

John Chisi (UP): 19, 187 (0.38%)

Reverend Kaliya (Independent): 15, 726 (0.31%)

Meanwhile, President Mutharika has named

his cabinet which has a few new names and core changes have been made on several Ministries such as Finance and Economic Planning, Sports and Local Government.

He now has a 24 member cabinet list against 20 in his previous term.

His previous Trade Minister, Joseph Mwanamvekha now is the Finance Minister replacing one of the longest serving Ministers Goodall Gondwe whose role now is Advisor to the President on Finance.

New names in the cabinet list are Dr Ben Phiri who is local government Minister, a post he has attained after making a maiden stint to the parliament so has Francis Phiso named as Sports Minister.

However, Mutharika is being slammed for



MEC Chairperson Jane Ansah.

appointing what the civil Society is terming as a gender imbalance cabinet.

There are just five female appointees. Two as Ministers and three as Deputies.

Posting on their Facebook Page, the Gender Coordination Network wondered why Mutharika being a 50-50 Ambassador would neglect women

representation in the cabinet.

The body was however quick to laud the appointment of the Southern African's nation first every female Speaker of Parliament, Catherine Gottani Hara.

Hara has since asked the lawmakers to rally behind her during her tenure.

Why Rwanda-Uganda row would make ordinary citizens suffer longer -Rwandan-Ugandan relations will likely remain poor for the duration of 2019

By Mohammed M.Mupenda

The row between two countries worsened when Rwanda government issued the travel warning advisory to Rwandans travelling to Uganda.

When Gatuna border post was closed and the business disrupted, no one thought it could take longer as it has taken now. "We are counting over three months from the time it happened," Rwandan traders recount.

Two countries have kept trading accusations while counting victims day-to-day; the smearing and provoking words are exchanged between the Heads of State, through the ministries of foreign affairs, on social media,



public addressing and in media exchanges while the ordinary citizens count heavy losses over the feud.

Implicitly hostile remarks were made at public events

in March, with President Paul Kagame of Rwanda stating, «You can attempt to destabilise our country, you can do us harm, you can shoot me with a gun and kill

me. But there is one thing that is impossible: no one can bring me to my knees.» while, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda remarked, «Those who want to destabilise

our country do not know our capacity. It is very big. Once we mobilise, you can't survive.»

The Ugandan government was seeking an additional USD100 million in military spending by June, effectively doubling the current defence budget. These were revealed in the meeting between the president and security chiefs which allegedly discussed «tensions with Rwanda», Local media reported on April 1.

Rwandans and a Ugandan have been shot dead trying to smuggle the commodities into Rwanda; this followed other scenarios that had happened on the border of Kyanika, where a pregnant woman

died on Uganda territory while Rwandan army/police officers were running after her when she passed through porous line, some Rwandan residents have reportedly fled the country to Uganda saying they could not resist the hunger at home.

In many incidents, the blame has always been put on citizens with warnings to not cross the border, while they need to outsource from across; families have been separated from their relatives because most of them fear to travel out of Uganda while they have no hope of returning soon. Rwandans marked it impossible to cross to Uganda unless they use porous lines to get into Uganda but fearing the repercussions, makes it difficult for them.

Rwandan Traders have left their goods in Uganda; debts keep increasing to those who acquired bank loans for business, losses have been incurred and few expect to recover from this fate. The transport and tourism industry has been hampered seriously as the passengers reduced on both sides and the exchange for tourists could no longer be easier as it used to be before the escalation.

Many observers speculate from the cold to clear war basing on recent shooting to

death of two businessmen by +Rwandan police saying they were trying to smuggle goods into Rwandan territory. Uganda issued a statement claiming that Rwandan troops had crossed into Uganda and shot two people dead, but Rwanda said the incident took place on its soil.

After the incident, Uganda government issued a warning statement which angered Rwandan leaders. Ugandan authorities accompanied by diplomats carried the Rwandan dead body to hand it over to Rwanda government, something most people perceived as an alert on what could follow if it happens again.

Last week, the manager of Horizon Bus company at Chanika border in Kisoro district was reported that he had been detained by Rwandan security before he could return to the Uganda side of the border, in the process of following up on him, the revenge was nearly happening where Kisoro residents were threatening to send away all Rwandans living in Kisoro, fortunately, he was later released by the Rwanda security organs without any harm.

Recently, There were allegations that many as 100 ordinary Rwandan traders,

business people engaged in export and import trade and others working with faith-based organizations have been illegally detained by the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI) and the Internal

Security Organization (ISO) on undisclosed charges and others have been illegally deported to Rwanda while others have had to endure inhumane treatment, according to Gawayi Tegulle and Aboneka Michael, the lawyers of the detainees, who were joined by the Secretary of Uganda Law Society, Francis Harimwomugasho calling for the international community to get involved in order to arrest the situation, which they said is spiralling out of control.

Three days after the allegations, Rwanda government welcomed over 20 Rwandans from Uganda where they had been illegally detained. Amb. Olivier Nduhungirehe, Minister of State in charge of the East African Community, expressed his sympathy to the deported Rwandans and their families for the pain and difficulties they faced, noting illegal detentions, mistreatment and deportations is the reason the Government advised the citizens



Uganda President Yoweri Museveni with his Rwanda counterpart Paul Kagame, both men hold the key to resolving the standoff.

not to travel to Uganda.

On the Rwandan market, prices of commodities outsourced from Uganda have almost tripled. Citizens argue that it does not affect officials of both countries because they can always fly to different destinations across the region to buy whatever they need; this instead affects ordinary citizens who need to go to the market daily to buy basic commodities; students who used to cross the border for studies in Uganda no longer think of Ugandan schools; some others missed on graduation party day and they don't know what future holds after spending a lot of money on their education in Uganda. All in the package reflects this saying: "when elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers," or "when the sea clashes with the rocks, it is the clams that suffer."

Observers believe two leaders have failed to find solution to the row in the interest for their citizens while everything is playing in their hands.

President Kagame, while addressing the residents in Burera district last month, cautioned leaders who have failed to deliver to citizens saying that it is unclear to hear citizens facing threats

out of Rwanda because they have crossed the border to look for the services available in his country.

"We have the capacity and skilled people in education and health; they should deliver to citizens without excuses and if they cannot deliver, I will see them out," he said adding "we cannot live with the problems we have the capacity and skills to solve, leaders are responsible and would be hold accountable. Rwandans should not cross to buy bread on Uganda side while our producers can make enough here."

He assured the residents to deal with the neighbouring country that threaten to cause them problems. "We cannot beg for our security," he said.

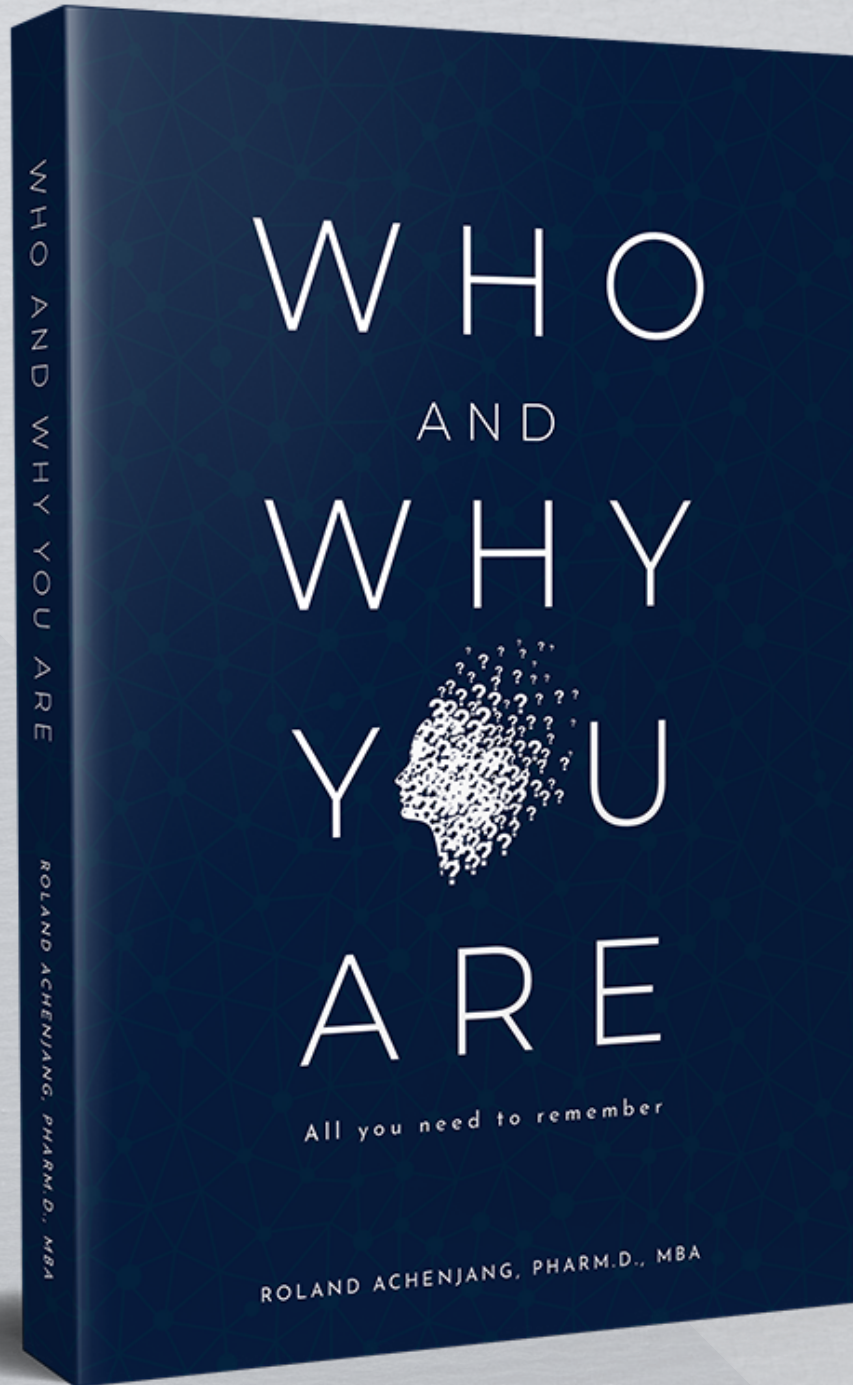
Both countries have deployed their armies across the common border in irritating contact with each other and this has kept the border citizens feeling uncomfortable.

Given the circumstances, a war between Uganda and Rwanda is possible and most likely inevitable. The incidents like these happening can easily and rapidly turn a tense situation into a military confrontation.



Business activities have greatly slowed down at the border.

REMEMBER *life's universal truths...*



available **FALL 2019**



@awake_ra



@awake_ra



fb.com/rachenjang

www.rolandachenjang.com/book

Q & A with Rear Admiral Seth Amoama, Chief of Naval Staff, Ghana Navy

Throughout his illustrious career, Rear Admiral Amomoa has held several positions that have earned him this noteworthy title including the Military Assistant to the Chief of the Defence Staff (1 Aug 13 – 31 Jul 14) and later the Commandant of the Ghana Armed Forces Command & Staff College.

Under his patronage, the International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEC) taking place 24-25 July 2019 at the Kempinski Gold Coast in Accra, Ghana will feature a 2-day strategic gathering of global maritime leaders and Africa's Chiefs of Naval Staff as they commemorate Ghana's 60 years of Naval excellence.

The event will focus on the increasingly volatile maritime threats of the region and the collective strategies and resources necessary to combat them.

Please tell us about yourself, your current role as the commander of Ghana Navy, and what are the key mandates of the Ghanaian Naval Force?

I am the 17th chief of the Naval staff and today I'm excited and feel highly honored to lead and represent the Ghana Navy as it celebrates 60 years of the Naval excellence. As chief of the naval staff I'm responsible to the chief of defense staff through the minister of defense to the commander in chief the President of the republic for the overall command and control of



the Ghana Navy. As well as proving strategic leadership, direction and guidance to the Ghana Navy. In addition, I'm also responsible for the formation operational, administrative logistics, technical training and welfare policies for the guidance of personnel of the Ghana Navy.

Last but not least I'm also responsible for strategic planning for the future development and expansion of the navy including new acquisitions. The Mandate of the of the Navy as it was when it was established and still today, is to protect and defend the maritime territorial integrity of Ghana from any form of aggression and maintain total freedom at the sea. Which is critical for Ghana's maritime security and economic prosperity

especially in the era of the blue economy. In summary the navy's mandate is in 3 areas;

1. War fighting role in defense of the maritime frontage of Ghana.
2. Policing and enforcing roles to curb ocean crimes.
3. Diplomatic roles to show the flag of Ghana to the international community in the same area we are also undertaking search and rescue operations and non-combat evacuation of Ghanaian nationals who are held in various situations in other countries. The above is the mandate of the Navy.

What are you most looking forward to with International Maritime Defense Exhibition

and Conference (IMDEC) What is the added value brought by IMDEC specifically?

60 years in any life of any organization is a key milestone worth celebrating in a grand style. We in the navy consider our 60 years anniversary as a new beginning. We want to use the occasion diamond jubilee to highlight the major contributions that the Navy has played in the development of the Nation for the past 60 years. In the past the Ghana navy has been hosting the conference on Coastal and Maritime Severance Africa – (CAMSA) Exhibition and Conference as part

fishing which is dominating our maritime domain. We hope to have a conversation on information sharing and capacity building. we will also talk about cyber and electronic warfare. We have the opportunity for participants and attendees to visit the stands and exhibitions put in place by major defense and maritime industry to showcase modern and advanced technology in maritime severance defense command and control and a whole lot of technology to be displayed during this conference.

A key focus of the event is to enhance maritime security and stability within the Gulf of Guinea. What are the key initiatives, exercises and/or programs in the region that you believe are best aiding maritime security?

The Key Initiative in the entire Gulf of Guinea region that will address the maritime security issues is the Yawonde Code of conduct and its related cores integrated maritime strategy. As we know the Gulf of Guinea is rich in many resources, hydrocarbon various species of fish and mineral resources. Which will help to uplift the social economic development of the sub-region. But at the same time the region has a peripheral of trade

1. Piracy
2. Armed Robbery
3. Illegal unregulated and un reported fishing
4. Illegal smuggling of fuel
5. Drugs and a whole lot of maritime crimes.

These crimes are trans-

national in nature and no country has found a way to fight them. So, the Yawonde code of conduct and Ecowas maritime integrated strategies do is to pull the resources of these nations in a coordinated manner, share information, conduct preparations in a conducted fashion so that we can address the challenge of the Gulf of Guinea.

There is the annual exercise OBANGAMI Express which is led by the USA Army which brings all navies together. The 10th Alteration of the exercise will be held in March 2020. And I am pleased to announce that Ghana has graciously offered to host the next exercise OBANGAMI Express in Accra. There are other initiatives by the French Navy that brings the navies together we have collaborated with partners from Germany, Dutch, Portuguese, Italian and the Spanish Navy. These are a lot of initiatives in the sub region to curb the increasing maritime crimes or threats.

How do you foresee the regions' nations working together to curb illegal activity on the Gulf of Guinea? What are some of the challenges and requirements to improve regional coordination in the maritime domain?

There are challenges, host countries in the sub region have no level of maritime domain awareness. There are also weak legal and judicial systems to prosecute criminals that are arrested, weak infrastructure and funding. As the population in the countries of West Africa begin to be sensitized to see the importance of the sea and resources they have, maybe more resources will be channeled to resourcing the maritime security agencies then we can see an improvement in the level of coordination and operations in the navy and sub region.

Define the increasing importance of interagency (including



navies, coast guards, marine police, customs and ports) collaboration in securing regional seas? How has Ghana Navy spearheaded these joint operations within Ghana's EEZ?

The Implementation of the Ecowas Integrated maritime strategy holds the key to a source of any initiative or effort to cab the illegalities at the sea. In 2015 the pilot

zone was operationalized with the Head Quarters in Benin and that has Nigeria Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso. Currently they have established headquarters for zone F in Ghana which is yet to be operationalized with the deployment of international offices from the navies of Cote d'ivoire, Liberia, Guinea and Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso does not have a navy, but they are providing

an asset in support of the operations. The last zone in the ECOWAS sub-region is zone E which is being established in Cape Verde, it will include Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Cape Verde. When all these 3 zones are operationalized then the region will be able to coordinate very well through information sharing and coordinated operation

A Legacy Dismantled: The Root Cause of Khama-Masisi Rift

By Prince Kurupati

Botswana for the first time in its history, certainly since its attainment of independence is experiencing something that it has never experienced before i.e. power struggles at the top of the political hierarchy.

For years, Botswana has been an envy of many both on the African continent and abroad owing to its smooth power transitions. However, what looked like a smooth power transfer a year ago seems to have been



The divorce has been consummated between Former President Khama and successor President Masisi.

nothing but a smokescreen, orchestrated by a once Over a year ago, Ian Khama, a smokescreen beautifully 'bootlicker' cum 'strategist'. the man who had ruled

Botswana for close to 10 years stepped down paving way for longtime ally Mokgweetsi Masisi, a man whom he personally handpicked. In picking Mokgweetsi Masisi to be his successor, Ian Khama had liked one thing and one thing alone in Masisi - his loyalty. For years, Masisi was Khama's right-hand man at one point publicly accepting that he was a 'bootlicker'.

Unbeknown to Khama and the general public, however, was the fact that Masisi was only a 'bootlicker'

in so far as attaining his own personal goal - rising to the top political office in Botswana. Effectively, this, therefore, meant that Masisi was a 'bootlicker' on the outside but a cunning and manipulative strategist on the inside. Masisi's brilliance in plotting his ascension to power paid dividend when he was appointed to become the country's VP, a position which meant that he was next in line to become the president.

Unsurprisingly, Masisi's 'unrevealed and conceived' plans to rise to the top political office not as a way of blindly following Khama pronouncements but a machination of his own did not go down well with Khama when he finally came to know about it. However, it was well too late for Khama to do anything because he only came to know about Masisi's true intentions when he had already ascended to the post, he had always aspired for himself i.e. the presidency. Khama only knew about Masisi's true intentions when he in an instant soon after being inaugurated president took measures to dump and disband all that Khama had done during his presidency. This to Khama meant Masisi's ascension to power was not a move to advance both their interests but advance only his interests.

While Masisi's decision to conceal his true intentions certainly angered Khama, the real bone of contention between the two today is not down to Masisi's 'treachery' but rather the dismantling of a legacy that Khama built in his 10 years in charge. Masisi is determined to dismantle Khama's legacy while in the process building his own.



Masisi has emerged from the shadow of Khama and is now his own man.

Khama, on the other hand, is determined to ensure that his legacy lives to fight another day.

The 'Elephants' in the Room

Khama is well known and proudly calls himself a conservationist. Owing to his conservationist background, during Khama's presidency, he did all he can to protect Botswana's massive herd of elephants. This even though Botswana housed more elephants (over 100 000) than it could sustainably support.

All over the world, Khama was therefore known to be the protector of wildlife most notably elephants. In helping to protect wildlife, Khama banned the culling of elephants and other wild animals, banned and placed heavy penalties for poaching and ensured that all game rangers and others tasked with protecting wild animals are armed whenever on duty so as to effectively deal with any problem people notably poachers.

While Khama's conservationist stance is regarded as one of his legacies, that legacy has been put online by his successor Masisi who in his first year

in office has removed the ban on the culling of elephants allowing hunters to engage in trophy hunting in order to cull the ever-increasing elephant population. Not just this but Masisi also issued a decree stating that all game rangers and other like individuals be disarmed. The combined effect of this, therefore, meaning that Khama's legacy is being disintegrated bit by bit.

Purging of Khama Allies

While Masisi was certainly one of the more noticeable henchmen for Khama, Khama did, however, have other allies and friends most notably then tourism minister Tshekedi Khama and intelligence chief Isaac Kgosi. When he ascended to power, Masisi took the unexpected decision to demote Tshekedi Khama to the less important youth and sports portfolio while relieving Issac Kgosi of his duties. Just to demonstrate that he was doing away with Khama's legacy, Kgosi's replacement was none other than Peter Magosi, a man whom Khama had once fired.

On the International Front

On the international front, Masisi is also moving to reverse all that Khama was known for. In the southern

African region, Khama was known to be the only vocal president who was against ZANU (PF) and Mugabe's hegemony in Zimbabwe. Khama made his thoughts known as he time and time again criticized Zimbabwe for its acts of mis governance including human rights abuses. However, when he ascended to power, Masisi, took a different stance as he embraced the 'long history and ties' that exist between Harare and Gaborone. Masisi went further to invite Emmerson Mnangagwa to his country on two occasions first in signing a memorandum of understanding that saw Botswana diamond experts committing to help Zimbabwe polish its own diamonds and secondly during the Elephant Summit.

Besides establishing cordial ties with Zimbabwe, Masisi also took the unexpected step in embracing and warming up to China. During his time in office, Khama did not shy away from criticizing China. Khama berated China for the poor quality of its workmanship in a coal-fired power station it built in Botswana. He also defied Beijing's ultra-

sensitivities around granting any recognition at all to the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader. When he ascended to power, Masisi however quickly praised China for its role in Africa's development.

A Rift Clear for All to See

Khama and Masisi have certainly not been diplomatic in their intentions to hide their animosity towards each other. Khama has gone on record stating that Masisi is dragging Botswana backwards. Masisi has not in many words stated that there is a rift between him and Khama, but his actions say a lot. The actions include reversing a raft of Khama decisions and appointments as well as restricting Khama's perks and privileges, including reportedly curbing the former president's proclivity to commandeer and fly official aircraft whenever he wanted to.

While the two men may not clearly state the real reason behind their animosity, the threat of a legacy on the edge is certainly the one main thing that has angered Khama. This is brilliantly espoused by UB political and administrative studies lecturer, Adam Mfundo's who asserts that "What broke the relationship are statements that denigrated Khama's legacy as well as not fulfilling the promises the two men entered into. Khama had legitimate expectations that the incumbent will protect his interests. That abrogation which amounted to sheer betrayal, triggered a chain of events. Statements from the Office of the President attacking personal Khama and his associates prompted Khama to retaliate."

Rwanda France Honeymoon: Franco-Rwandan Cultural Centre To Be Reopened In Kigali

By Maniraguha Ferdinand

Rwanda and France are willing to reopen Franco-Rwanda Cultural Centre in the city of Kigali, which was demolished five years ago.

The centre had been there for years, it dates back before 1994 when Rwanda French relations where blossoming during Francois Mitterrand regime in France and Habyarimana Juvenal in Rwanda.

The cultural centre that used to be a place of artists and culture development, was demolished in 2014 when Rwanda French relations was in despair due to political tensions.

By the time French had reopened the enquiry into the shooting down of the plane that was carrying former president Habyarimana. Rwanda's current government officials have been alleged by France to be behind the incident, but Rwanda denies the allegations.

Cultural building was destroyed, with Kigali city council saying it doesn't respect the new master plan rules.

Early June this year, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo was in Rwanda in official visit to promote good relations between both cities.

During her visit, mayor of Kigali, Marie Chantal Rwakazina told press that they are planning to revive Franco-Rwandan cultural centre, but she declined to reveal when the project is going to start.

She said that "Rebuilding Franco-Rwandan cultural centre is one of the project we are working on with French embassy in Kigali. Discussions are going on. We are looking for the place on which where they can resume their activities soon".

Franco-Rwandan cultural centre used to house a big library, French teaching room, cultural trainings, small concerts etc.

Macron's freshness into Franco-Rwandan politics

The move to reopen comes after six months French judges closed definitively investigation in the shooting of Habyarimana plane.

Relations between two countries took another



President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Macron of France. Relations between the two countries have not been the best.

direction after the coming of Emmanuel Macron as president of France two years ago.

In March last year, Rwanda president Paul Kagame was welcomed by his counterpart Macron in Elysee palace.

In October the same year, Kagame told France 24 that "President Macron has brought some freshness into politics, not only in France, but in Africa and the rest of the world. he represented something new and different".

Analysts say reopening cultural center is a good sign the normalization of relations between both countries.

Dr Frank Habineza, Democratic Green Party of Rwanda leader, an opposition party lauded the move, adding that he hopes this will lead to re-strengthening French as a strong official

language in Rwanda.

In 2008, Rwanda switched from French to English in its entire education system. By the time, Rwanda stressed the move was driven by the fact that it was joining the East African Community whose members are almost English speakers, however analysts said it was political.

French language was replaced amid bitter relations between Kigali and Paris. Some Rwandan officials were accused of shooting down Habyarimana plane while Rwanda was accusing French of its involvement in genocide against the tutsi in 1994.

"This is a good sign. It follows the decision recently take by president Emmanuel Macron of forming a commission that will look into his country's involvement in genocide." Habineza told Pan African Visions.

He adds that reopening the centre will also promote French as language and he hopes that someday it will be brought in schools as it were before.

"Removing French from

our education system delayed our quality of education. Many of our teachers were taught in French however they are now have to teach in English which they don't master." Habineza said

Dr Ismael Buchanan, a senior lecturer at University of Rwanda and political analyst told Pan Africa Visions that French business people tend to flourish into Rwanda due to the reopening of cultural centre.

"Many French tourists will come to Rwanda and boost tourism revenue. It will also open doors to other French investors who want to explore potentials in Rwanda", Buchanan said.

Habineza finds reopening the centre as a good message to Rwandan French speakers, who want to look for jobs in other French speaking countries.

"Nowadays, chances for Rwandan nationals to get jobs in French speaking countries have reduced. Cultural centre revival will boost opportunities for them." He said



The former structure was shut down in 2014.

Six million people to face food insecurity in South Sudan – UN Agencies warn

By Deng Machol

Juba – More than six million people will face a critical lack of food in South Sudan, the highest ever, 61 per cent of the country's population, three United Nations agencies have warned

According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) update released recently in Juba by the Government of South Sudan in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), an estimated 6.96 million South Sudanese will face acute levels of food insecurity or worse (IPC Phases 3, 4 and 5) by the end of July.

In the joint statement, the IPC phase projected that 21,000 people will likely face a catastrophic lack of food access, while about 1.82 million will face Emergency and another 5.12 million people will face Crisis – levels of food insecurity respectively.

Though, compared to last January's forecast for the period May – July 2019, 81,000 more people than originally projected are facing food insecurity or worse, particularly in the Jonglei, Lakes, Unity and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states respectively.

South Sudan split from Sudan in 2011, following decades of scorched – earth conflict, but the world youngest country returned into another civil war in late 2013, after a political disagreement between



president Salva Kiir and his designated deputy Dr. Riek Machar, disgraced an unwavering sacrifices and contributions of the citizens for the decades.

In the process, through the regional blocs' effort, the warring parties reached a fragile ceasefire and peace deal in September, 2018, promising to ended the civil war that has claimed nearly 400, 000 lives and uprooted 4 million people from their homes, before ruined the country's economy.

But, the plans to form a power sharing government in May 12, returned Dr. Machar as the president Kiir's deputy,

a position he held before a conflict broke out were delayed after there was no funding to disarm, retrain and integrate militias and rebels, until November 12, 2019.

The UN food agencies says the effective implementation of the peace agreement and political stability are imperative to allow urgent and scaled-up humanitarian assistance to protect livelihoods and boost agricultural production across the country to save lives.

"This update to the IPC reveals that much work needs to be done. The recovery of

food production and increase of yields in South Sudan are reliant on the maintenance of peace, and must be given a chance," said Meshack Malo, FAO Representative in South Sudan. "FAO is working with returning farmers to assist them to resettle, build assets and adapt to changing rainfall patterns," he added. "But there is still much work to be done to increase their ability to deal with such shocks in a sustainable manner."

"With greater stability in the country, access to those in need has improved, allowing us to treat more than 100,000 children suffering from severe malnutrition in the

first five months of the year, with more than 90 per cent of those children recovering," said Mohamed Ag Ayoya, UNICEF's Representative in South Sudan. "But malnutrition levels remain critical in many areas and our fear is that the situation could worsen in the coming months."

Delayed rains, high food prices

The UN agencies further argued that the ongoing lean season started early following record low stocks from the poor 2018 harvest and has been extra extended by the delayed onset of 2019 seasonal rains.

This, combined with persistent economic instability, the effects of previous years of conflict and related asset depletion and population displacements, have contributed to the disruption of livelihoods and has reduced people's ability to access food.

Also, high food prices caused by last year's poor harvests, market disruptions due to insecurity, high transport costs and a depreciated currency are also contributing to the high levels of acute food insecurity in South Sudan.

"The hunger season coincides with the rainy season and that's a perfect storm in South Sudan," said Ronald Sibanda, WFP's Country Director in South Sudan. "As we ramp up our response, the race is now against time and nature – we must act now to save the lives and livelihoods of the millions on the brink of starvation."



South Sudan appeals for \$12 M to boost Ebola dispersal, preparedness

By Deng Machol

Juba - South Sudan urgently needs US\$ 12 million to sustain and improve Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) preparedness and prevention measures to protect people in the conflict-affected country following reports of Ebola cases in neighboring Uganda.

On Thursday, the Ministry of Health together with the United Nations and its partners launched an updated plan on how to prevent the disease spreading from neighbouring countries and to adequately prepare for a possible outbreak in South Sudan.

This came a few days after the first Ebola cases were confirmed in neighbouring Uganda, while in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) the number of EVD cases has surpassed 2,000.

However, the World Health Organization says it has assessed the risk of the disease spreading to the world youngest country as "very high".

"The confirmed cases

in Uganda are sobering reminders that the Ebola virus has no respect for borders," said the Minister of Health Hon. Dr Riek Gai Kok in Juba. "With the outbreak in DRC not yet under control and spreading, we have to take urgent steps to further protect people in South Sudan and make sure we can respond quickly if the virus crosses into our country. On behalf of the government of South Sudan and our implementing partners, I appeal to our donors to bridge the funding gap and help us stay Ebola-free," he added.

South Sudanese Ministry of Health, the UN and partners have been working collectively since August 2018 on prevention and readiness.

The new plan builds on achievements from the previous period, identifies gaps and prioritizes activities for another six months. The most urgent steps going forward are improve the existing surveillance system with a greater focus on community-based surveillance; scale up training



Ebola is no respecter of borders says Minister of Health Dr Riek Gai Kok.

for front-line health workers; improve and increase number of isolation units and expand risk communication and community mobilization. In addition, a 72-hour outbreak response and containment plan and vaccine readiness strategy will be put in place.

"The cases in Uganda were detected early thanks to the preparedness measures in place and sends the message that investing in prevention and preparedness is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do," said acting Humanitarian

Coordinator for the UN in South Sudan, Dr. Olushayo Olu. "The cost of a fully-fledged outbreak is staggering compared to prevention, and would include immense human suffering, long-term economic damage, further depletion of an already weak healthcare system. We cannot allow it to happen."

Since August 2018, generous and timely donor contributions have enabled a number of prevention and preparedness activities to take place, including setting up 25 screening

sites at border entry points; the establishment of four isolation units with dedicated ambulances; the training of 900 frontline health care workers and community volunteers on signs, symptoms and protective measures, including infection prevention and control; the training and equipping of 28 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) to respond to alerts; and the pre-positioning of personal protective equipment (PPE) in high-risk locations including screening and surveillance points.

South Sudan which gained her independence in 2011 from Sudan, has six bordering entries in East Africa. Due to the five-year conflict, which has killed nearly 400,000 people and uprooted four million people from their homes – there is daily movement of the people between the Uganda and Congo's borders entries, which draw fear that Ebola is easy to spread to South Sudan if preventive measures are not given serious attention.



Dr Olu at a public function with Minister for Health, Dr Riek Gai Kok.

MATE

Making Africa Trade Easy
FAIR 2019

Venue: Ronald Reagan Building
& International Trade Center.
September 5 - 7, 2019
Washington D.C.

“The African Diaspora Linking the U.S. and African Private Sector”

ABOUT THE EVENT

- 50 Speakers
- 60 Countries
- 200 Exhibitors
- 2000 Visitors

AGENDA

- Trade Show
- Conference / Workshops
- B2B / B2C / B2G
- Fashion Show
- Believe in Africa Award Dinner

GET IN TOUCH

www.believeinafrica.org
info@believeinafrica.org
+ 1.571.552.1646

Media Partner :

Institutional Partners :

Organizer :



Nigerians expectations from Buhari's "next level" themed second term.

By Teslim Olawore

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari was sworn in on Wednesday 29th of May for a second term at a low-key inauguration ceremony in which he surprised many by not delivering a speech. Nigerians have begun to set agenda for him, in his second term that has been themed the "Next Level," signalling his determination to build on programmes initiated in the first term.

The septuagenarian and former military leader faces a long list of expectations from Nigerians, this include resetting a sluggish economy, creating employment opportunities and combating a decade-old insecurity, among many others.

Buhari has failed to address poverty in his first term. Nigeria overtook India as the country with the largest number of people living in extreme poverty. About 87 million Nigerians, or half the population, live on less than US\$1.90 per day.

News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported that a recent interview of prominent Nigerians shows that many expect the president to pay greater attention to reset the economy. This is more important considering that an economy that was growing at an average annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rate of about six per cent, prior to when the president was elected in 2015, has continued to totter, as it managed to achieve 1.93 per cent annual growth rate



Mr Buhari was recently sworn in for his second and last term of office.

in 2018, after slipping into recession in 2016.

Nigerians expect the government to continue with diversification of the economy as it largely accounts for why Nigeria was able to exit from a recession imposed by the crash in oil prices and the megalomania of the past regimes. Before Buhari, Nigeria had solely depended on petroleum, neglecting the rich natural endowments the country is blessed with. Nigerians expect that more impetus should be given

to the exploration and exploitation of many other fonts of revenue in the second term of this government. Buhari should prioritize programme and projects that will boost the economy, generate employment and promote inclusive growth of the common Nigerian.

Nigeria's high unemployment rate has created a bloated and unproductive informal sector, replete with millions of underemployed youths. Buhari's response in the first

term was to create jobs by providing credit to micro and small enterprises, especially in the agro-processing sector. But job creation by small enterprises usually takes time. And the number of jobs is never on the scale of large enterprises. The end result has been that most Nigerians feel economically marginalised in spite of Buhari's best efforts.

Buhari's second term should be characterised with different bold social intervention schemes such

as the N-Power employment scheme, the Trader Moni scheme, the Cash Transfer scheme etc. that directly target the unemployed.

Tackling insecurity in the north-eastern part of the country is already a priority. The military is fighting the insurgency in the northeast, while contending with communal violence over grazing land in central states. However, a sudden surge of bandit attacks and other violence in the northwest needs an urgent intervention.

Nigerians want President Buhari to firm up the security of the country in his second term. The government should show clear decisiveness and intolerance to both the perpetrators and sponsors of insecurity in the country to send clear messages to all, that life would not be allowed to be cheapened for the ulterior interests of a few selfish bloody hawks in the society.

There are many other expectations Nigerians have of President Buhari in his second term, one of which is the anti-corruption battle he started in his first term which is expected to be sustained, another is the problem of power supply, which is very important to industrialisation and well-being of the people. Nigerians expect Buhari to solve the problem of epileptic power supply and also introduce new set of interventions that will truly take Nigeria to the "next level".



As Buhari starts the second term, many of his first term promises remained largely unfulfilled.

Role of Women in Conflict Management and Peace Building in Africa.

By Papisdaff Abdullah



The African continent has for decades been reported to be notorious for political instability and conflicts spanning years in certain parts. The situation has greatly affected development on the continent said to be endowed with vast deposits of natural resources. Recent developments in Western Africa and the Sahel with increasing level of instability due to insurgencies, terrorist attacks and communal conflict among others, is resulting in a seeming state of insecurity among nationals and to wit, accompanied worry for the international community.

Women, like their male counterparts on the continent have proven capable of advancing development through individual efforts and or collaborations. This happens with or without the contribution from men. Just recently, female Soldiers of

the Ghana Armed Forces were celebrated to have performed ground breaking roles in the ongoing peace operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Ghana Battalion (GHANBATT) Female Engagement Team (FET) deployed in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Congo (MONUSCO) epitomizes such an evolution with the deployment of female soldiers in combat roles. The Team composed of female soldiers with vast experience have developed trust-based and enduring relationships with women and children in the local communities they encounter during patrols in the GHANBATT area of operations in the DRC.

The combatant's gradual shift from service support roles as previously undertaken to a more complex operational roles is one of many instances that supports convictions that they are key in peace operations.

This give credence to the position that women, when engaged in peacemaking and peace building as planners, implementers and beneficiaries, help prevent deadly conflicts and restore peace in fragile parts of the world. It also accentuates the fact that the role of female soldiers have evolved within the modern concept of Multi-Dimensional Peace Operations.

The international communities evolving recognition that conflict affects men and women differently is an essential first step in developing gendered responses to conflict, empowering women in the prevention and ending of conflicts, and the rebuilding of communities after conflict.

It has been established that men and women who are often tasked with different roles within conflict settings, are affected uniquely by the conflict and may be

differently able to contribute to preventing and stopping conflicts, as well as rebuilding communities afterward. This is a radical departure from decades of thinking and policies that rendered both crimes against women and women's roles in conflict situations invisible.

Head of Political Affairs and International Cooperation Division ECOWAS Dr Onyinye Onwuka said "ECOWAS has recently taken additional steps to strengthen its institutional capacity to deliver on its Peace and Security mandate." "Such giant steps include the establishment of the Women Peace and Security Unit under the new Human Security and Civil Society Division and the Women Peace and Security Advisory Committee within the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security," she noted.

According to the UNWOMEN, sexual violence

against women and girls is widespread in conflicts and continue to be used as a tactic in war especially in Africa. Therefore the UN has adopted international commitments and by set goals of protecting women during periods of conflict and supporting their full participation in the process of peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction.

This interest has been partly motivated by questions of justice and fairness – a rights-based approach that addresses past grievances against women, who are the main victims of conflict. Most peace agreements on the African continent and other parts of the world do not require the participation of women in the Peace Building process, thus the commissions are almost always male dominated. This imbalance quiets women's voices on the issues of internal displacement, trafficking

in women and girls, sexual violence, abuses by security forces, and the rebuilding of maternal health care and girls' education, issues that are given less attention, if addressed at all by the male dominated working groups.

Experts are therefore advocating for UN and individual states to improve their capacity to measure the impact of actions on women and meet their commitments to develop gender-sensitive responses, including through the deployment of specialized police units and the training of peacekeepers in areas of gender-based violence and protection. Women and women's organizations must also be engaged in the process to end the conflict, including early negotiations between parties.

Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel continues to reiterate the vital role of women in peace building and conflict resolution across the continent, and the world at large. Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas said "as the UN SG Special Representative, I am committed to promoting gender parity through my good offices in the region. Without women's inclusion, peace is not sustainable."

Dr Chambas added "protecting human rights is enshrined in national and regional protocols and laws. Civil society is dynamic, dedicated and stronger. At the same time, insecurity is growing in many places in the region. In recent months we have witnessed increasing attacks by terrorist and armed groups in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and the Lake Chad Basin." "To address these challenges, we need to deepen our understanding



The Ghanbatt Fetin Full Combat Dress In A Group Photograph With The Special Representative Of The Secretary General Ms Leila Zerrougui.

of the underlying causes and drivers of conflict. The role of women is crucial in this regard," he noted.

The UNOWAS head revealed that "Some of the women trained have been engaged in formal mediation processes but not all. A few women were involved in the political dialogues in Guinea in 2013 and 2015. Many women were engaged during the Mali peace processes in 2012 and in 2015." "Some

women also contributed to the Cote d'Ivoire peace process. For the most part, their support involved promoting gender-sensitive language in peace agreements and other negotiation documents," he said.

Recognition of the gendered nature of conflict was codified in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000),

two key documents outlining the rights and obligations of the international community, governments and civil society with regard to women in conflict.

Austrian Director for Africa and Cooperation with African Union Special Envoy for Relations with Africa, Ambassador Dr. Andreas Melan during a working visit to the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping and Training Center told

panafricanvisions.com "women also do a very good job in peace building. So in line with the resolutions of the United Nations on women empowerment, it is critical to prioritize women involvement in conflict management". The envoy emphasized "we think that African women are strong so if empowered, they will really make a difference in this area. They need to be empowered with duties and capacity building programs as well as given the chance to take over responsibility in conflict management and peace building"

The deployment and use of more women with expertise in psychology, medicine and bilateral negotiations among other fields is, therefore, an essential operational strategy that has to be considered to adequately achieve set objectives of the missions in armed conflict like protection of civilians'; especially the vulnerable third party victims like women, and to also mitigate risks before, during and after any military operations.

Sadly, courageous and talented women peace builders face discrimination in legal, cultural and traditional practices; hostility from men in power, often translate into threats of violence; and widespread sexual violence used as a weapon of war. In this light, it has become for the mobilization of women across international borders to share experiences, provide mutual support, and increase visibility. The more women are engaged in peacemaking and peace building as planners, implementers and beneficiaries, the more deadly conflict we will prevent and resolve in the world.



A Ghanbatt Female Soldier Interacting With School Children At Mutiene Commune During A Tree Planting Exercise Organised By Ghanbatt.

Swedish Journalist recounts her horrible experience in the Rwandan Genocide

By Jean-Pierre Afadhali

A Swedish writer and photojournalist who covered 1994 Genocide against Tutsis in Rwanda has recently given unpublished photos to the Kigali genocide Memorial Museum for archiving to preserve memory and educate future generations.

Ms. Gunilla Von Hall, one of foreign journalists who witnessed the Genocide was recently in Rwanda to mark 25 years anniversary of the Genocide against Tutsis and given 112 photos she took during the genocide to the Genocide memorial managers to be used as archives.

As Rwanda marks 25th anniversary of 1994 Genocide against Tutsis, there are still needs of archives of the tragedy to document tragic events for Rwandans and the World.

The Genocide memorial has physical repository for archives as well as website accessible around the world.

The photojournalist who works for Svenska Dagbladet—a Swedish international newspaper narrated how a story on Rwandan refugees in Tanzania led her to Rwanda during the massacres that became the Genocide against Tutsis and how she end up taking horrible photos that were never published.

It all started in Tanzania where Ms. Hall was covering refugee story in Benaco camp for Tutsis who had fled when the Genocide started. The photographer and her American colleague



Gunilla at Kigali Genocide Memorial.

then saw bodies floating down in Akagera / Kagera River between Tanzania and Rwanda side.

“I don’t know how we saw [the bodies] but I remember that is how it started,” said Gunilla in an interview. “That’s when we realized that there was something really horrible going on in that country, we have to get in,” recounted Ms. Van Hall

Ms. Gunilla informed an American journalist who had a contact in Rwanda Patriotic Army (former rebels who were fighting the Rwandan government in 1994 responsible for the Genocide).

The soldier from the rebel movement took them into Rwanda. “We had a driver from Tanzania and he took us to Nyarubuye church,” recounted Hall. Nyarubuye church is in Kirehe district, Eastern Rwanda.

According to the

photojournalist it was in April, but she can’t remember the exact time. “It was hard to say when the massacres were perpetrated from the bodies,” she said.

On arrival in Nyarubuye, the journalists were shocked after witnessing the massacres that had happened in the area.

According to official data around 59,000 people were killed in Kirehe district where the church the journalists visited is located.

“We stepped out the car and there were just piles of dead people around us.” The Swedish journalist narrated.

Journalists did not know what was going on. “We thought it was some kind of civil war that was going on but did not know who was killing who.

“We just took pictures and I am also a writer, took notes as much as I could and I tried to register everything

as much as I could.” Noted Ms. Hall

At the time she took my pictures with the old-fashioned camera and then they left. The bodies were decomposing.

According to the Swedish journalist, there were many women, children and men killed with machetes, others shot. “It was really like a ritual killings almost,” She recalled

“It was killing an ethnic group but we did not understand what was going on.” The photojournalist added.

They then went to Nyamata, in Eastern Province; they were travelling with the RPA rebel. That was the time the RPA rebels had taken Nyarubuye and Nyamata.

“We went to a church where the massacres had taken place, bodies were everywhere then we went to Gitarama (Southern

province) the time it had just fallen.” Recalled Von Hall

Journalists reached Gitarama when then government had fled.

Photos were never published

She then wrote a story and sent to her newspaper but the pictures were not published because they were too brutal.

“Ethically it is wrong to do that, because people have to had dignity in death,” explained Ms. Hall

“We discussed it a lot in a way I said we had to show what happened,” she said, adding that the time they were in Nyarubuye they did not know that it was the genocide.

“I had no idea this is what genocide looks alike,” said the journalist.

Opposing arguments

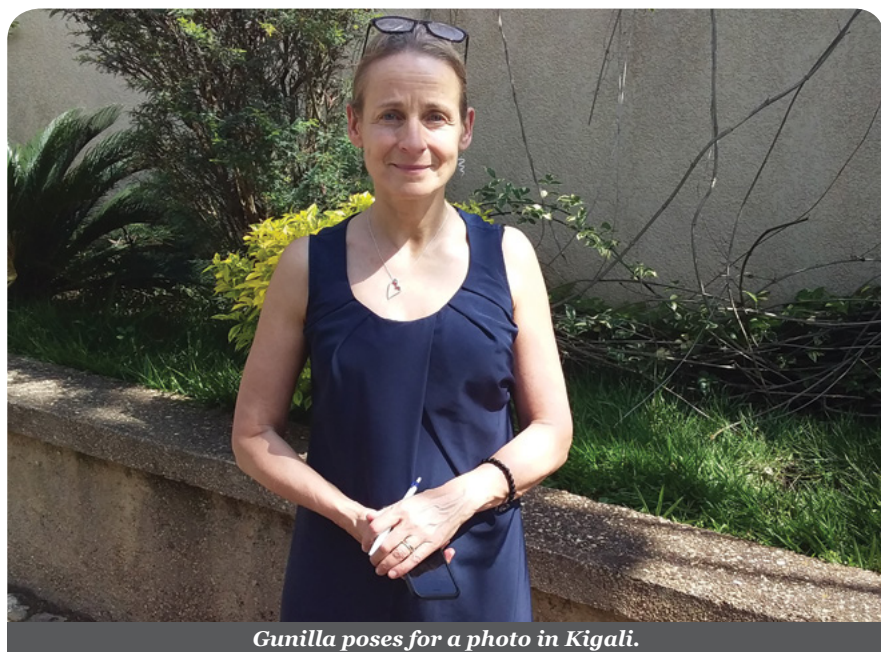
Twenty five years after the 1994 Genocide the Swedish publication run a story on the sad anniversary but again pictures were not used.

There were two arguments, one saying pictures should be published to show their audience that it was not usual killings.

On the other hand there was another argument that photos should not be published to protect the victims and their families.

The return to Rwanda

The Swedish education television was doing two documentaries on 25th Anniversary of the genocide focusing on Rwanda after the



Gunilla poses for a photo in Kigali.

Genocide.

The documentary was screened at the Kigali Genocide Memorial during functions to hand over photos, and in Sweden.

The TV had invited Ms. Von Hall to travel with them to Rwanda in January to shoot the film. They then asked if she had pictures of the Genocide.

"They (Pictures) were all negative, I scanned and print and we went back to Nyarubuye. They did a documentary," she narrated. "For me Nyarubuye was like another planet. I was there during the Genocide now it

was another planet."

I could not believe Nyarubuye it was all clean, there were students in schools, people singing, the church was beautiful; she noted.

Ms Hall gave photos to the Genocide memorial through the Swedish Embassy in Kigali that informed the national commission against the genocide.

"Pictures are now where they belong. I am proud to give them to your country [Rwanda]," the Swedish journalist said.

Zoom On The Shocking Figures And Tragic Consequences Of Illicit Finance On Africa

By Nevson Mpofo

Illicit Finance Flows cost Africa \$50 billion a year. This is more than the total sum of Direct AID the continent receives in form of Bilateral and Multi-Lateral AID .Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development [OECD] Report reveals that between 1980 and 2009 Illicit Finance Flows from the continent over the 30 year period ranged from \$1, 2 trillion to \$1, 4 trillion. This could be continuing if Accountability and Transparency continues to fall out of control.

Illicit Finance Flows is money illegally earned, un-receipted, transferred and utilised in violation with the Law. Africa has over the past decades lost heavily to illicit finance flows. It is money of private individual transfer to private accounts in and out of the country. According to the Global Financial Integrity Report, Africa is top. Illicit Finance Flows

Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) originates mostly from commercial activities as follows:

\$50bn

Currently, Africa is estimated to be losing more than \$50 billion annually in IFFs.

65%
Commercial Transaction

30%
Organized Criminal Activities

5%
Corruption

\$1 trillion

Over the last 50 years, Africa is estimated to have lost in excess of \$1 trillion in illicit financial flows (IFFs).



This sum is roughly equivalent to all of the official development assistance received by Africa during the same timeframe.

were between 7, 5% and 11, 6% of total Trade in 2014. These translate outflows into \$36 billion to \$69 billion. This Research is Just the 1st drop of statistics in an ocean. Much of it was destroyed by those suspected.

A Mathematical Finance Expert, Zimbabwe's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning and Development, Former Vice President of African Development Bank and Witwatersrand University Head of Business

Studies and Lecturer Mthuli Ncube caught up with this Pan-African Visions Journalist .He cites several painful reasons in line with negative finance illicit rackets which have lowered down African Countries in Gross

Domestic Product rise.

PAV Journalist –"As an Expert in Finance can you play around with figures to confirm this?"

Professor Mthuli Ncube--"Note. It is painful that African countries lose \$50 billion a year then you multiply by 10 years it gives you \$150 billion lost in a decade. You then multiply by 4 decades from 1980 to this decade, it gives you \$ 600 billion lost so far .This is far the amount in total needed to develop the continent. This in Growth and Development terms range from Industrialisation, Infrastructure development, Food Security, hunger eradication, developing Health and Education to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

" More to it Africa itself in 2014 lost \$ 469 billion. This is more than total annual financing required

to meet African Energy and climate Adaptation needs of \$66 billion [\$55 billion for Energy, 11 billion for Climate Adaptation. At least 2/3 of Africans, 645 million people need Energy in form of Hydro-Electricity and Solar Energy”.

PAV Journalist---“What are Impacts in Terms of the Economy?”

Professor Ncube ---“Africa has missed several Development opportunities from many donors through illicit activities. These have negative impacts on the development of the economy. Imagine Africa recently had a corruption burden of \$148 billion yet it needed about US 93 billion for Infrastructural Development. There are several draw-backs and loop-holes in the whole story. This has made Africa lose opportunities from multi-lateral big, reliable donors like the World Bank and IMF. The biggest Human impact is on basic services delivery loss, food-Insecurity, hunger, Extreme Poverty and Vulnerability.” Noted Professor Mthuli .

The Extractive Sector is the most productive one in the continent. Good Example is in Oil Industry, Mining, Agriculture, Forestry and Wild- Life. From 2001 to 2014, 2/3 of World exports from African countries, oil and gas made close to 50% of total exports. This led to increase in Foreign Direct Investments which rose from \$10 billion to \$50 billion between 2000 and 2012.

If the funds were wisely used then Africa would have grown by almost 5% by the end of 2018. It is then sad



Illicit financial flows have taken a devastating toll on Africa says Zimbabwean Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube.

to note that the Extractive Industry, the best in Africa is prone to illicit. Many countries have suffered a big blow yet to be put on Accountability. In his words Professor Ncube commented that the Extractive Industry is siphoned through many channels in the Region and the World at large.

PAV Journalist----“You have hinted on the Extractive Industry.. Explore more on this..

Professor Ncube---“The Extractive is the most productive sector in the African Region. The sector is just under difficulties and mounting challenges. It is expropriated through cross boarder supply chains, Revenue generating and technological specialisation.

PAV-“what are the other Sources?”

Professor Ncube ----“There are other financial mal-practices like Trade improper-invoicing, in-proper tax collection, grant corruption from the top level and issue of nepotism biased contracts not well managed because of lack of expertise. These are true bottle-necks on Economic

Growth and Development. The problem goes deep to as far as un-receipted tax collection, un-handed over tax to the Revenue Authority and corruption itself on the boarders.

“There are sources of illicit finance flows. These are related to trade mis-pricing, trade –transfers, thin capitalisation, stolen goods and bribery. Get idealistic that some Companies lie about the value of their Imports and exports to avoid taxes. There are Under-Invoicing and Over-Invoicing. This reduces Government Revenue. It denies Customs duties, VAT and other taxes. Wealth runs out of the country.

Mthuli Ncube cited several solutions related to addressing policy inequalities and promotion of Inclusion in African Business Activities. He pointed out the need to create decent work for workers, good living wages and access to good services. This! He emphasises, eliminates poverty in Africa .Above all he explains that fragility in Africa is the biggest challenge hampering Development.

In his conclusion

Ncube stresses a point on championing Inclusive Growth as the main measure Africa can move on with in the next decades. This, he extends, takes in participation and involvement which stands crucial in mapping Economic Growth and Development. On top of good measures put in place, Conflict Management in conflict aftermath countries could improve Economies.

Stephen Yeboah a Research Consultant at African Natural Resources Centre of the African Development Bank added that Transparency is above anything in-terms of managing Natural Resources . This can lead to the empowerment of all people in need of support for Economic growth and development in the Region.

PAV-“what can You Say about AFRICA in terms of Illicit Finance Flows?”

Stephen Yeboah--- AFDBANK “Africa by now must have gone higher than any other continent in the World. Still, we are on the recovery track from illicit Finance Flows. In 2018 Africa’s GDP was at 4, 1% from 3, 6% in 2017. We had

6 fastest growing Economies in the World. These are South Africa, Nigeria, Angola and Zambia at the top.

“We are hampered by illicit finance flows. Because of this, the total amount needed for Infrastructural development has gone high as \$130 billion to \$170 billion. A few years back it was at \$93 billion . What it means is times are fast changing. Therefore we need to adjust by making new changes to develop on some areas like in Health, Education and the Environment.

“The Accelerated Delivery Agenda of AFDB has made strong strides to meet Borrowers Financial needs. Secondly it has launched the New Deal on Energy. It installs an average of 460 MW of New Power capacity. 1511 MW is on Renewable Energy capacity. 1/2 million people are connected to the GRID. The Feed Africa Strategy has supported 8,4 million farmers who got support . Half of them are women .1, 900 Kilometre of feeder roads have been lined up.

“Pro-Active Stakeholder relations and good governance anchored on transparency. This is critical to growth of the African Development Bank”, we have done quite well with all our programs”. Concludes Yeboah .

Zimbabwe - Is among the countries more exposed to illicit finance flows. Several reasons have been cited why. The strong hold of Dictatorship, lack of Democracy, Social Justice and Liberalism in countries with totalitarian rule answers why illicit finance flows



Impact on development is staggering says Stephen Yeboah.

are more in Africa. The other reason is long time lack of transparency and accountability.

Zimbabwe ranks number six [6] in Africa. According to Tafadzwa Chikumbu, ZIMCOD Policy Officer the country lost \$12 billion to illicit finance flows between 1980 and 2003.

PAV—"As an Expert in the Systems Accountability. Tell Us More.

ZIMCOD Policy Officer ... "Audited to the surface, the exact amount lost will never surface because there are shady deals which occurred. Actually it is higher than this figure. These were done by top Government officials, Private sector and Business Executives, dealers. Money illegally earned, transferred and utilised in violation with the law defines illicit flows but with other countries it is more than anywhere".

"This illicit of money transfer from private individuals to private accounts constitutes of 5%. Drugs and weapons is 35%. Commercial transactions through Multi-Companies is 60%".

According to Kimberly Process, Zimbabwe in 2010 alone sold diamonds worth \$2, 5 billion. Out of this amount with the Public Accounts only \$300 million appeared accounted for. From 2005 to 2015, it is of clear evidence that if there was transparency in the mining of Diamonds in Zimbabwe, the country could have realised \$15 billion dollars. The detrimental fact lies with the fact that the Military had partnerships of 30% with Chinese companies like Anhui Foreign Economic Construction Group.

To worse audits surfaced, from 2007 to 2013 Zimbabwe lost \$11,335,964 to Zambia through Fisheries. In 2009 it lost \$17,3million in Timber. Farai Matonho of Transparency International added that main sectors accounted for illicit finance flows. They range from the Mining Sector, Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Wild-Life. Wild-Life lost \$17, 423, 952 through poaching, ivory, trophy hunting fees from 2011 to 2013. In 2009 in Zimbabwe, there was over-invoicing which totalled \$2, 79 billion of mineral wealth of

which South Africa was part of in contribution. There are 97, 4% illicit

Flows from Zimbabwe in racket link with China, USA, Germany, Japan and South Africa.

PAV---"Why is this ill-practice more in AFRICA?"

Transparency International "Money in AID is less than money lost to Illicit Finance Flows in Africa. There are reasons why we have these high figures in the Region. There are no illicit finance flows tough laws adhered to strictly because most of the activities occurs during times of political conflicts, civil strife, wars and political election motivated violence.

"This also explains why countries fail to sit and do audits because there will be much wave of fear, intimidation and terror. There is much hidden information, truth and display of information related to financial scandals and rackets.

NIGERIA - In Nigeria, 90% foreign exchange earnings and ¾ Government Revenue comes from Oil. Oil and Gas

sector tops US\$218 billion. According to the High Level Report US\$ 217 billion flowed out of the country Fiscal Deficit is at -1,5% .Under-Invoicing of Oil from Nigeria to South Africa was worth \$69,7 billion equivalence of 24,9% of oil to USA . It is pathetic to note that according to One Campaign , Nigeria Extractive Industry Initiative , High level Report titled "Averting Illicit Finance Flows in Nigeria Extractive Industry and the Thabo Mbeki Report , the country is losing \$15 to \$18 billion annually . By 2014 the Net Total lost by the country had reached \$1 trillion.

South Africa -----GFI REPORT

Lost R37 billion in Revenue to Trade mis-invoicing in 5 years, 2010 and 2014. This is the largest component of illicit. It has drained developing countries in much needed finances for Infrastructural Development especially in Health and Education and denying some Development Goals. This has been proved so because Trade Invoicing costs SA \$7,4 billion/year in Tax .[GFI Report] ..Statistics of Trade mis-invoicing between 2010 and 2014 are as follows..

Under Invoicing= R16,3 billion Annually ..

Over-Invoicing=9,8 billion Annually..

Exports Under-Invoicing=11,6 billion

Net Total=37,7 billion in 5 Years between 2010 and 2014 ..

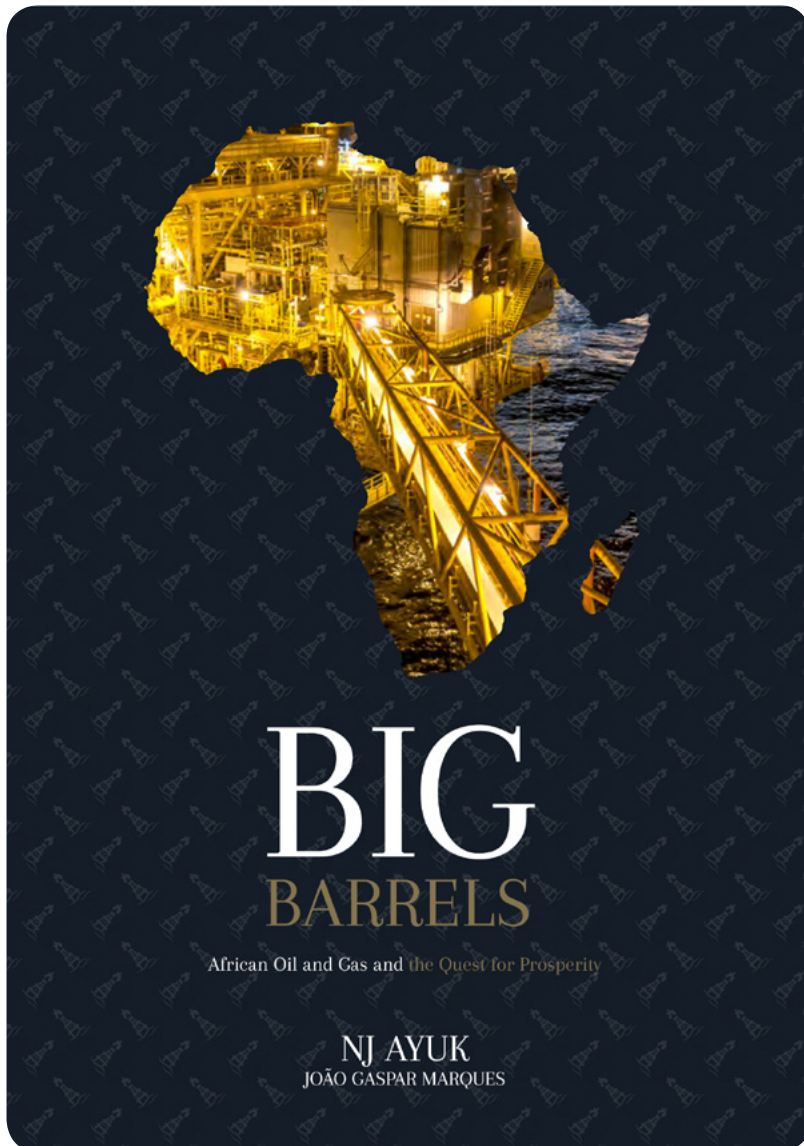
ZAMBIA.. Oil importing under-Invoicing in Zambia reached \$45,6 billion between 1996 and 2014 period . Records of \$28,9 billion of copper exports to Switzerland which constitutes more than ½ of all its copper exports did not reflect in Switzerland

Import Statistics .

In bid to end illicit finance flows AFRODAD in partnership with churches is running a number of workshops in the SADC Region. It has done a number of these workshops with the Civil-Society, Parliament and Community Based Organisations. Their focus is on emerging issues in finance flows , Illicit and the digital economy , , tax base erosion , profit shifting , Link between debt and Illicit Finance Flows , challenges of illicit -finance flows in the context of service delivery and the link between Illicit Finance Flows and Corruption .

There are some Laws used in the African Region to reduce crime. Some of these are Anti-Money Laundering Proceeds of Crime Act, Criminal Law Codification Act and Whistle Blowers Protection Act.

African Parliamentary Net-Work against Corruption and the UNITED NATIONS Convention against Crime. These are two organisations working towards eradicating problems related to illicit finance flows in the African Continent. A good example of how such problems are reduced is of how Uganda does it. When Public Accounts are being done and auditing taking place, Parliamentary committees sits together with members of the Central Investigations Department who then follow to do arrests to those implicated. Several Civil Organisations have since time memorial from the beginning of this century talked about making African Governments accountable and transparency through death sentence like in Asian countries.



AVAILABLE ON
amazon

Federalism, local government autonomy and the crisis of identity in Nigeria

By Austin Emaduku

Local government councils, counties, prefectures, cities, boroughs, municipalities, etc., the world over, are regarded as vehicles of grassroots development because of their closeness to the people. It is for this reason that it is often argued that they be granted enough financial strength and space to operate. However, the question of municipal autonomy—the extent of autonomy that they should be granted—remains a key question in public administration and governance the world over.

In some countries that operate a proper federal system, local government councils are granted enough powers by the federating units to establish and maintain their own local courts, fire service and even police. The general practice in federal systems all over the world is that the councils are often granted enough autonomy, especially financial, which enables them to manage their affairs, establish schools, build roads, clean the environment, build and maintain parks, and provide necessary developmental projects. This is in line with the general recognition of the role of local government as engines of grassroots development.

However, local governments in Nigeria have not lived up to their bidding in this regard. Many reasons are accountable for the pathetic state that the councils find themselves.

First is that the Nigerian state operates a quasi-unitary



Austin Emaduku.

system of government which likes to call itself a federal system. So, like the nation itself, the local government system is mired in the contradictions arising from this national misnomer.

Second is the confusion caused by the constitution which grants “autonomy” to local government councils with one hand and withdraws it with the other. Section 7(1) of the 1999 constitution, for example, provides that: “The system of local government by democratically elected local government councils is under this constitution guaranteed; and accordingly, the government of every state shall, subject to section 8 of this constitution, ensure their existence under a law which provides for the establishment, structure,

composition, finance and functions of such councils.”

This is a typical example of the contradictions inherent in our quasi unitary constitution masquerading as a federal constitution. Thus we have a legal framework which in one breath establishes the local governments as units of government at the grassroots level and in another, positions them as appendages of the states to administer as they wish. This confusion is further acerbated by the fact that the same constitution recognizes the local government councils as units of revenue allocation from the centre but falls short of guaranteeing their existence as an “independent” tier of government.

Third is the overbearing, paternalistic and sometimes predatory oversight functions

of the state governments (emboldened by the provisions of Section 7(1) of the 1999 constitution) which have been at the heart of policy summersaults and crises of identity affecting governance at the grassroots level.

Fourth, perhaps most crucial and central to the entire issue of nation building is the Nigerian psyche. The military coup of 1966 and the subsequent promulgation of a unitary decree by the General Aguiy Ironsi regime which effectively replaced our erstwhile federal system with a unitary system of government and the long period of military rule that followed did a lot of damage to the Nigerian psyche. As Prof Wole Soyinka once noted, you can take the hippopotamus

out of the swamp, but you cannot take the swamp out of the hippopotamus. We have been able to chase the military out of government, but we have not been able to take the military out of our minds. The practice, structure and ideas of the military’s command and obey system are still ingrained in our psyche and have tainted our federalism and practice of democracy. Thus, federalism as currently practiced in Nigeria is paternalistic, feudalistic, tokenistic and executed with military fiat.

The local government councils have been worst hit by these systemic contradictions and military style governance because of their unfortunate position as the weakest tier of government. The constitutional provisions effectively put them in a position of orphans. Added to this is the fact that people today are still under the wrong impression that the local government councils lack the human capital to manage their own affairs. Hence, most often, decisions and policies affecting local government administration are made without the input of the critical stakeholders or people with practical experience in local government administration. Rather, what has been the practice is that we have people with a sense of entitlement, without any knowledge of intricacies of local government administration; people who for selfish or political reasons, rather than the public interest, take decisions

for local government councils that end up being merely academic because they lack the practicality of implementation.

All these, in addition to our flawed federal structure and constitution, have been the reason for the failure of past reforms aimed at empowering our local government councils.

It is in this light that I view the recent directive by the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit with suspicion. Has it come to stay? Can it be legally enforced within the present constitution and the type of federal structure that we practice? Was there a stakeholder engagement with actual practitioners of the system to ascertain the practicality of the directive and possible outcomes and how to tackle them?

For example, all the states of the federation presently operate a unified local government system wherein staff are centrally employed, trained, promoted and generally managed. Ditto for pension administration and payment of primary school teachers' salaries. All these functions are performed by state agencies funded through the contentious Joint State Local Government Account (JSLGA) whose activities the NFIU directive intends to curtail because of the general notion of it being the avenue through which the state governors misappropriate local government funds. It is yet unclear how these functions and others crucial to local government administration will be handled under the NFIU directive.

I will be the first to agree

Politics

State governors by party

■ APC ■ PDP ■ APGA



without any reservation that the local government system as we currently have it is fraught with tremendous contradictions that must be resolved if Nigeria must attain grassroots development. I also agree with the popular view that a major way to do this is to empower the local government councils financially for them to be able to carry out their primary functions, hence the push for financial autonomy. I guess this is what the NFIU directive aims to achieve.

The fact, however, remains that financial autonomy is not all that the local government councils need in our current political structure to succeed. It might not be enough and might backfire if all possible outcomes are not taken into

consideration and contingent measures put in place to address them. Therefore, with the benefit of hindsight of repeated reform failures, any solution that is geared towards solving the problems of local government within our present set up must be rooted in rigorous systemic analysis that is not artificial nor contrived in other not to produce defective outcomes.

The local government councils need financial autonomy, but what they need most is political autonomy: the freedom to be able to choose freely who to preside over their affairs through a process of free and free elections rather than selection. This is the only way to attract high quality

representation at the local government level, those whose loyalty will be to the people.

It is noteworthy that the NFIU directive has been received with popular acclaim by the public. This an indication of the direction which the public wants local government administration to go in order to attain better service delivery, which in their perception—wrongly or rightly—the current system does not allow.

The state governors have always complained of the non-viability of most councils and the huge financial burden they have to bear by augmenting the income of the councils to enable them meet their salary obligations. I have no reason to doubt

them. The NFIU directive might just be the opportunity to prove them right and erase the wrong public impression that they misappropriate local government funds.

The apprehensions and expectations that the NFIU directive has generated is expected in a polity and system like ours where contradictions, selfish power play and mutual suspicion are a currency in public administration. But instead of being adversarial, I urge all stakeholders to see it as a clarion call for all to join hands to proffer solutions towards empowering the local government councils for better service delivery.

There is no doubt that the implementation of the NFIU directives will throw up some major problems under our confused legal framework, but as a believer in Marxian dialectics, I have the assurance that whatever contradictions that are thrown up in the course of implementing the directives will be resolved within the general system that threw up the directives in the first place.

Pending when Nigeria decides whether to operate a two tier or a multi-tier federal system of government or to embrace full blown federalism as against the quasi unitary-federalism it currently operates, local government system in Nigeria will continue to suffer a crisis of identity.

Austin Emaduku is a public affairs analyst based in Eket, Udu Local Government Area of Delta State. He can be reach through: canoways@yahoo.com

Liberia economic protest; First Litmus test for President George Weah

By Amos Fofung

George Weah, former football star rated by many in the sports domain as Africa's greatest footballers of all times will have to prove that he is a "skillful" and "tactful" president as he was a footballer.

Barely one year into his presidency, Monrovia, capital city of Liberia has "fallen", fallen to civil protest. A sad tale that has robbed most leaders of the confidence their voters had in them.

As thousands swamped the streets against the country's sickening economic impasse, Liberia's 25th president, George Weah is presented with his first litmus test. And how well he manages this crisis will determine his faith and stay at Liberia's executive mansion.

Though Liberia's creeping economic situation dates back to the country's post-civil war days, the response by the government of Weah to the protest might be what will "swallow" him.

Thousands of Liberians gathered in the capital Monrovia Friday June 7 to protest «corruption, failures to tackle corruption allegations, economic mismanagement and injustice» in the country.

Social media sites were later blocked to quell the protests, according to the internet monitoring platform NetBlocks. A major setback to Weah who is just 18 months into his presidency after taking over from the country's first female president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

WhatsApp, Instagram,



The honey moon is over and President Weah is now confronting the realities of governance.

Snapchat, Facebook, Google's Gmail service and the website of The Associated Press were among the sites affected, NetBlocks said.

Bai Sama G. Best, managing director of Liberia's Daily Observer newspaper, told CNN most journalists and some citizens are using virtual private networks (VPN) to bypass the restrictions.

Liberia's Minister of Information Eugene Nagbe confirmed that social media platforms were shut down temporarily because of «security concerns.»

The protests organized by a group called the Council of Patriots, which says it is a conglomeration of citizens, civil society activists, youth workers and major political parties is said to have presented a petition to the government.

The document stated that Liberians are suffering «harsh economic conditions being

caused ... and encouraged by bad governance, deliberate and wanton collapse of integrity systems...»

Though many attribute the nations stalemate to Weah and his inability to tackle the Liberia's pressing needs, many exonerate him.

Nagbe told CNN that Weah inherited a «dire economic situation,» and accused the country's opposition of driving the protests.

«Mr. President is working to restore some of the issues that he inherited,» he said. «The opposition is now using the streets to get what they didn't get at the ballot box.»

Weah, FIFA's World Player of the Year 1995, took the West African nation of 4.8 million people at a difficult time. With numerous economic challenges coupled by mismanagement and the issue «missing» newly printed bank notes amounting to \$102m, Liberia's real

challenge is present in the health sector. The country has had its fair share of the Ebola epidemic.

In a stark contrast to the wild celebrations that greeted Weah's election victory in 2017, throngs of chanting demonstrators bearing signs calling Weah a «traitor» gathered near the president's official residence during the June 7 protest. Telling signs that President George Weah needs to act, and fast.

«Weah is not governing our state the right way,» said Ishmael Hassan, who voted for Weah in 2017 but has since become disillusioned. «The economic situation in our country is going down the drain.»

Liberia's economy was hit hard by a 2014-16 Ebola outbreak that killed thousands, and the low prices for its chief exports, iron ore and rubber further handicaps the economy.

The International Monetary Fund in March revised down Liberia's economic growth forecast for 2019 to 0.4% from 4.7%. Inflation peaked at 28.5% in December, pushing up the price of everyday items.

Many believed Weah, who grew up in a Monrovia slum before becoming a celebrated striker in some of Europe's biggest football teams, would bring a new dawn. Instead, he faces the same criticisms of corruption that dogged his predecessor Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

A petition circulated by the protest's organizers on Friday accused the administration of misusing public funds, violating press freedoms, and failing to adequately fund health and education programs.

The petition accuses Weah himself of constructing «scores of luxury homes» after he declined to publicly



President Weah playing football in Monrovia, the former iconic soccer player is facing a different reality in running the country.

declare his assets.

As Liberians continually lose hope in his leadership, many say he is nonchalant.

“President Weah has undoubtedly overlooked the enormity of Liberia’s economic challenges and the level on incompetency among his officials is troubling, Chu-Chu Alex Jones, who kinly follows Liberia’s economic recovery writes.

“He has also underestimated the will of the Liberian people to want

to do better economically by doing away with corruption in government and society. Clearly, his administration is swimming against the tide”; he warns adding that “but all is not lost.”

“With the right economic plan and a heart as big as his, he can stop the economic bludgeoning and weather the financial storm that’s brewing of the country.”

Africa and United Nations Peace Keeping Crisis

By Nevson Mpofo

The end of the Second World War of 1945 in Europe brought to the ground the Universal Declaration for Human Rights of 1948. This was upon formation of the International Organisation to date with 192 countries. Under this International Protocol, the UN had the overall mandate to maintain peace owing special attention to post conflicts which had records of massive atrocities to humanity.

Apart from the 1948 protocol there came in 1966 three integral Instruments. These comprised of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The last one related to Universal peace prevalence to women was the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Abuse against Women of 1978.

Women and children became subjects of International security. They had suffered unprotected



blows from the impunity of the war which claimed millions of innocent souls. In the event of any up-risings and escalation of human abuses, these instruments had to secure all troubled souls at equal levels despite differences in race, tribe or

creed.

The 1st FIRST UN Peace-Keeping Mission was in the case of Arab – Israel cease-fire 70 years ago. There has been 70 operations established in the World. Only 14 remain up to now in deployment. Since the beginning of the operations,

peace has finely prevailed.

UN Peace-Keepers exercised the best to their capacitated and professional ability. The atmosphere of peace World-Wide has constantly prevailed despite some arising conflicts ignited by Dictatorship and Leadership avarice in Africa, parts of Asia and Yugoslavia

in Europe.

The BIG 5 Missions are countries like Mali, Central African Republic, DRC, Darfur and South Sudan where Peace-Keeping is in real Crisis. The situation currently in Africa tells a story of Peace-Keeping that has totally failed if critically

analysed. The Big Question roving the microphone in Africa is; Shall Sustainable Peace be there in the Big 5 Missions where there are UN Peace-Keepers violating humanity.

This is one question I had to pose to Patrice Lumumba on Africa Day through a call I made to congratulate him though Africa and All its people are still in search of everlasting peace .Lumumba gains weight of a positive comment .In a slice of a piece of peace tongue spiced, he marvels in full bloom of his open heart and mind to speak Africa.

"Africa is still a dinner plate on the table surrounded by Western powers", he poses with a faint breath." We must move forward with the heart in mind to think of those still in the dark shadows and marginal doldrums. Let us pray wisely, diligently for those not in peace. Remember as we go on, those who violate peace of others want to see a World of peace themselves. We are not yet Independent. We celebrate to be more sovereign and more peaceful in mind as we move on."

"There are true stories of child abuses, corruption, torture and sexual exploitation in war-torn African countries. This is all done by Peace-Keepers. In other words, they are de-legitimising the work of the UN on ground. They face no punishment. There are deficiencies in in Laws governing Peace Keeping operations in the whole Continent. Truly, Peace-keeping is in real crisis to say the truth".

The Pan-African Journalist



dived deep into the case of abuse gleanings which are a rife story now to be told in gush of tears. UN Peace Keepers have Legal immunity from prosecuting in host state. The prosecuting country prosecutes its soldiers. Many countries if not all do not act to conduct trials committed abroad. Others fail to up-hold their obligation to prosecute. Is it then the UN to blame? No, but what then to say. The answer is, it has to act immediately.

Further Research bares that these peace-Keepers commit crimes because the Jurisdictional gap provides them with Immunity. DRC Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mwana-Nanga Mwana WaPanga confirms this in his full knowledge of how such acts of atrocities go on like. He took no side with any of the crimes though he has once saved in the Army in DRC.

"When a country is in chaos , Army , Police , Civilian Personnel from UN Member States are drafted to contain conflict , protect civilians and under-take peace-building

activities . They must fulfil total obligations of the UN to bring lasting peace at the same time creating relations between post conflict nations once in turmoil , but alas , there is a big challenge in the whole system ."

"If UN Peace-Keepers commit atrocities, then it means there is someone to guard the guard. Once such a scenario arises it means the systems of nation and community building are dead. These Peace-Keepers are supposed to support Governments in post conflict state building. That is an enormous duty we as the people of Africa must cherish, emulate and take for praise what is good for us", he says.

A follow up to the proceedings in the continent documents 300,000 peace-keeping personnel World-Wide accused of human rights abuses. There has been sexual exploitation of women in Kosovo, Cote d Voire and Haiti. Most peace-Keepers have been accused of corruption, beer-drinking, and man- slaughtering and stealing from the

communities they work in where they are deployed.

In the shift of politics in the World for the past two decades, peace-keepers have gained a tarnish to their name through practice of various activities which need to be accounted for. There has been Reformist Movement on sexual violence. This brought a small change in the African Continent. UN Resident Co-Ordinator in Zimbabwe Bishow Parajuuli added his voice in line with what is taking place.

"Yes. There has been Reformist Movement on Sexual Violence but there was slight change. There has also been the UN High Level Independent Panel on Peace operations meeting. I know there are plans to overhaul Laws governing peace-keeping operations culture of Impunity. This will make the situation look better in the continent but there is more to it."

"Secondly, there is need to look at the changing nature of conflict. This will open up discussions on the Human Rights and Civilian-

Rights. It will end with peace in the whole of Africa. However there is much to focus on regarding how peace prospects stand in the continent as a whole. This is a long way to take as UN has to make several shifts towards building a new Africa with one voice of Peace"

"International criminal Law covers heinous crimes like genocide , war-crimes , crimes against humanity and crimes of aggression There are however solutions to come up with like to use International Human Rights Laws to sue peace-keepers. These work with others to be put in place at a Global level. There-fore the UN must foresee first shadows ahead as we go on". He said.

In these countries where peace-keeping is in crisis women and young girls are facing severe challenges related to sexual abuse as has been mentioned earlier on. Comments from some women are that there must be increase in the number of female peace keepers .The need to integrate women in peace keeping gives confidence to civilians receiving security and protection.

The people centric approach to security becomes more of a respect to those peace-keepers, their country of origin and dignity and integrity to the UN itself. South Africa is one of those countries with high Conciliatory approach to security. It recognises and places the gender aspect at the par level of gender equality by orienting and integrating women in Military. It has 24% of women in the Army.

Among them 15% are deployed for peace-keeping in the African Region and some parts of the World.

In an interview with the Director of the Centre for Conflict and Management Transformation SITHEMBILE MPOFU, the coming out point is that though, women are a small number in the Army, some countries have far less the smaller number. Domination of masculinity then cultivates an impunity military culture in favour of those negative abusive activities.

"Some countries have few numbers of women in their National Armies. This has led to strong patriarchy building therefore more creative minds of several abuses towards women themselves. Apart from abuses to women and children there are several crimes off-course we have heard. It tells a lot about what needs to be done to make such criminal activities come to an end.

"What it means is that



countries must recruit and train more women. They must be part of the Peace-Keeping Military in host countries where there are conflicts. It means then these abuses against women can be ended. The UN itself must take note of several solutions towards mending up of such problems faced in war-torn countries where there is the Peace-Keeping force," she expresses her views.

With the over-throwing

of Omar al Bashir in Sudan, Khartoum's ability to continue peace guaranteed process is long term in the future. The fragile peace deal delay and ultimate failure is expected to lead to more abuse of human rights. UN Peace -keeping mission is to intervene in the Sudan Crisis. It means there are going to be more fresh abuses.

The civil war which began in 2013 is still continuing in South Sudan where civil

war has killed 400,000 civilians, 4 million displaced, 200,000 under protection and 100,000 given AID, especially those poor and vulnerable. As the civil war continues, more security is needed in Africa's Big 5 COUNTRIES of conflict, civil strife and civil wars. These are South Sudan, DRC, CAR, Mali and Darfur.

UN has wave of solutions like to use the International Human Rights Laws related

to the Universal Declaration for Human Rights. Those abused will have the right to access the courts. The sending country will retain Jurisdiction over those troops sent. The sending country has to pursue the matter at hand and punish, prosecute its mission troops in line with their own Laws of their country.

In 2013, UN came with the HUMAN RIGHTS UP-FRONT ACTION PLAN. This is a basis for new approach to end all forms of abuse to civilians during conflicts. Around the late 80's in 1989 a group of musicians from USA came together formed the USA FOR AFRICA. They amassed their resources and composed the song called we are the World. They channelled their support to Ethiopia which was in political and social crisis. Many people died of hunger. Some were maimed and others died during that time of Haile Mengistu.

Austerity Measures in Zimbabwe Should Be a Major Concern for All

By Prince Kurupati

Among the many things that Zimbabwe is known for, it's the country's stubbornness and a general unwillingness to take heed of advice from foreigners. Former president Robert Mugabe wholly symbolized the country's stubbornness during his time in office but even after his departure, the country is still finding it hard to take heed of 'foreign' advice and lessons.

Zimbabwe's stubbornness has paid dividends in some

quarters but largely, it has brought untold suffering to the millions of its citizens. Talk about the Fast Track Land Reform which began in earnest at the turn of the millennium in 2000. The Fast Track Land Reform saw a few locals mostly the politically connected take land away from the whites often in a violent nature. The result was that the country was 'sanctioned' and isolated leading to internal strife and economic meltdown. Zimbabwe decided to take



the Land Reform route in the manner it did even though there were many examples of countries who had taken that route with zero success.

Zimbabwe's inability to take heed of lessons from other countries led to the suffering of its citizens and it seems the country has not yet learnt a lesson on why it's important to take lessons from others. The reason why we are stating this is down to the fact that Zimbabwe has adopted to adopt wholesale austerity measures although other countries near and far who have taken this route before having had little success. Greece in recent history is one such example; since 2010, Greece has been implementing one form of austerity measures after the other with little progress.

When it comes to austerity measures, they largely come in two parts i.e. those that have to do with restructuring the government expenditures and tax reform measures (concerned with revenues). In its plan to implement austerity measures, Zimbabwe has decided to go all out adopting both the austerity measures aimed at restructuring government expenditures and tax reform measures.

With respect to restructuring government expenditures, the government has limited the terms of pensions (pension benefits have remained stagnant although civil servants have had their salaries slightly raised in recent times).

The government has also extended eligibility age for retirement to defer the payment of lump sum exit packages to workers who would have attained the age of retirement (this is particularly seen in the case



President Mnangagwa faces a herculean task to turn the economy around.

of high-ranking government officials).

Moreover, Zimbabwe has also taken steps to reduce the government wage bill by laying off youth officers and freezing recruitment even to replace workers who would have departed be it upon retirement, resignation or death.

Additionally, Zimbabwe has embarked on a drive to reduce programs meant at cushioning the general public from paying exorbitant prices for key products such as fuel. The reason behind all this is to limit expenditures as much as possible and use the saved money in investing in key economic areas.

On the tax reforms front, Zimbabwe took the unpopular decision to implement a 2 percent electronic money transfer tax. With this new interest, the government receives 2 percent of any money that's electronically transferred between two locals. The government also revised upwards excise tax levied on fuel which played a key part in causing the prices

of fuel to shoot upwards.

Still, on the issue of tax reforms, Zimbabwe also took a decision to privatize some of the state-owned enterprises. By selling the enterprises, the government hopes that it will raise revenue to pay off it's domestic as well as foreign debt.

While austerity measures are lauded by some, case studies from different countries have shown that they rarely work and in the few instances that they bring about positives, the positives can only be realized after a long time often spanning 10+ years.

As concluded by The Balance, austerity measures rarely work despite their intentions. In actual effect, they tend to worsen debt. In 2012, the IMF released a report that stated the euro zone's austerity measures may have slowed economic growth and worsened the debt crisis. But the EU defended the measures. It said they restored confidence in how countries were managed. For example, Italy's budget-

cutting calmed worried investors, who then accepted a lower return for their risk. Italy's bond yields dropped. The country found it easier to roll over short-term debt.

The above illustrates one positive about austerity measures. However, what we also learn from the above is the issue of timing. The timing of austerity measures is everything. It's not a good time when a country is struggling to get out of recession. Lowering government spending and laying off workers will reduce economic growth and increase unemployment. The government itself is an important component of GDP. Likewise, raising corporate taxes when businesses are struggling will only cause more layoffs. Raising income taxes will take money out of consumers' pockets, giving them less to spend.

The best time for austerity measures is when the economy is in the expansion phase of the business cycle. The spending cuts will slow growth down to

a healthy 2-3 percent rate and avoid a bubble. At the same time, it will reassure investors in public debt that the government is fiscally responsible.

The expansion phase which is the opportune time for implementing austerity measures is characterized by a growing economy whose gross domestic product is increasing. The GDP growth rate is in the healthy 2 to 3 percent range. Unemployment reaches its natural rate of 4.5 to 5 percent. Inflation is near its 2 percent target. The stock market is in a bull market. Zimbabwe is nowhere near the expansion phase hence it's certainly not equipped and ready to be implementing austerity measures.

With the country implementing austerity measures at the wrong time, the probability of these measures returning positive results is next to zero and as such, everyone in Zimbabwe should be concerned with the measures.



The Africa Gas Association

THE LEADING VOICE OF AFRICA'S NATURAL GAS & ENERGY INDUSTRY

WHO WE ARE: The Africa Gas Association sponsors and participates in a number of forums, partnerships and coalitions to foster dialogue on energy policy and achieve a better understanding of natural gas in Africa.

OUR VISION: The Africa Gas Association is the leading voice of the natural gas and energy industry in Africa. It seeks to become one of the most influential and respectful organizations in the global natural gas & energy industry.

OUR MISSION: TAGA's mission is to influence and support policies which promote a strong, viable and sustainable natural gas industry in Africa and beyond in an efficient and environmentally friendly manner.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS: When you join THE AFRICA GAS Association, you join a community with thousands of leaders in the industry. THE AFRICA GAS Association provides many opportunities to get Involved, learn and network in various settings – from intimate dinners to the annual conventions & exhibition, the new big Africa conference featuring experts and partners from all over the world.

ACCESS: We are your direct line to Africa, Washington, Europe, and Middle East and to other industry benefits.

Advocacy: THE AFRICA GAS is your voice in Washington, Africa and other industry. We work on national, regional and international policy that will help your business grow.

Event Discounts: Members receive generous discounts on registration and exhibiting at the industry's conventions and meetings.

Contact: info@theafricagas.com

Of Resource Looting, Power, and Corruption in the SADC In Mining Sector

By Nevson Mpfu

SADC- Capital Flight in the SADC Region through qualitative researches and investigations by the Southern Africa Resource Watch and Centre for Natural Resource Governance is on the top of the charts. The sources are ready to take action against Governments in SADC Region. The most implicated countries are South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, DRC and Angola.

Spat of symposiums attended at Regional level by Mine Experts, Unions and Civil Society Human Rights activities conducted by Southern Africa Resource Watch reinforced that Governments of SADC must be held accountable. Rising corruption, abuse to mine workers, lack of rule of Law and transparency in the whole system is rife in SADC. Together with the civil society, there is Collective Action need to take off with a bang in advocacy, sensitisation and awareness to the general public.

"There is a very strong but bad link between Resource Looting, Power and Corruption. This has created problems in the whole of Southern African Region. No, wonder why looting has increased. What needs to be done is to weave a strong, robust and aggressive policy base to curb all the malfeasance activities.

"There are a number of incidences in terms of ongoing corrupt activities involving top Government officials, Foreign Companies



, Private Companies and some prominent Business individuals. We have all the evidence related to several cases of rising prevalence of corruption. We have no ROUND figures of the total amount of costs of the mineral resources so far expropriated in the SADC Region' Claude Kabemba says, SARW Director.

Ibbo Mandaza of Southern Africa Political Economic Series added that corrupt activities are growing up on a daily basis. He lamented that this is impinging the people on ground to a certain extent that Extreme and Absolute poverty has increased in SADC. He bares all that a local Mining Company Metallon Gold and Foreign based companies were involved.

"Metallon Gold is one of the Mining companies involved. Apart from, Chinese, South African and British companies are involved in shady deals of exuding out millions in total financial costs of SADC's precious minerals like Gold, Diamonds, Chrome and

Lithium."

"Still there is clear evidence on the ground. In 2017 on 15 July South Africa Metallon Gold based in Zimbabwe was sued for externalising US\$ 30 Million out of the Country. Another case was that it was taken to court for failure to pay back US\$ 12,000. In 2012 It was involved in paying a dividend US\$25,000, total amount of money which was below its operating profits".

"SADC has vast wealth of Mineral Resources than any Region. Its surprising that its own people are in dire straits of poverty. In the SADC, Diamond is 73%, Gold 40% in production. DRC produces 65% of World Copper. Zambia is one of the leading countries. Zimbabwe and South Africa produces 80% Chrome. Countries like Botswana, Angola and others does the same. Where is all the Wealth going?

SADC COUNTRIES
-----SOUTH AFRICA,
ZIMBABWE, ZAMBIA,
BOTSWANA, ANGOLA,
MOZAMBIQUE AND DRC

Claude Kabemba got another chance to air out his

views of which he pointed out that top Government officials and foreign mining firms were implicated as well in these corrupt activities around the country. He said the SADC Region GDP is steeping low because of several corrupt activities. He pointed out that those in power in the Government, Mining Captains and their Business Dealers and Bankers were involved.

"Mining Workers are not given Rights and freedom of their expression in relation to several abuses they see. Actually the Law of the country is not protecting them in terms of Labour Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility."

"There are several incidents to talk about mainly looking at Mine Workers Rights in terms of their salaries and working conditions. We are the voice of the people who are suffering in darkness yet those who claim to protect them are far rich.

"Mzi Khumalo, Owner of Metallon Gold is aware of these issues. He even once sued the Reserve Bank

of Zimbabwe and Fidelity Printers for US\$132 million after the National Bank failed to pay for the Gold it got from Metallon".

"Workers Rights are still a long way to go. Imagine the Eldorado Mine case where there are 150 people who were recorded to have entered into the Mine. After the danger, they claim only 27 Miners were killed. That is not the actual figure. The total is higher than that. This is abuse of people's Rights", he pointed out.

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe Diamond and Allied Minerals Workers Union [ZDAMWU] President Chinhema lamented on how SADC countries have become loose in shady corrupt mining deals especially the Zimbabwe Government.

"Zimbabwe losses US16 Billion per/Year in potential Revenue. In past it has lost US144 Billion since 2009. This was due to power supply problems, punitive tax regime and Investor fatigue. The country has a potential capacity of earning 18 billion a year from its total of 800 mines. The problem is related to poor policies. No wonder why 83% total revenue was lost in 2015. However Zimbabwe attracted US500 Million Foreign Direct Investment in 2018. Other neighbouring countries attracted US5 to US6 Billion. But where is tangible development after this?"

, he said.

Centre for Natural Resource Governance has information related to failed and current deals in which

Foreigners are taking more of Zimbabwe's Resources. The US\$4 Billion Platinum Deal between Zimbabwe and Russia is going on silently without the knowledge of the people of Zimbabwe.

Chrome Ore is taken to China in bulk, but the people are not given any information about this. This is raw Chrome Ore from Shurugwi and Mtorashanga. The other mineral is Lithium. Much of Lithium ore is exported in partnerships with buyers outside. By the end, it is those Foreigners who gain at the expense of Zimbabweans.

Maguwu taking another shot snap said coal is one such mineral on the line-up of this corruption.

"Just imagine Coal is sold in kilograms and tonnes like say from US\$20, 00 to US\$400,00 per tonne but the surprise story is, it is all then receipted at lowest price like US\$20, 00 per tonne. Just imagine. What kind of corruption and theft is that? The whole system is severely corrupted without anyone taking accountability of it. Mine workers are going for long periods of time without salaries".

BOTSWANA

A visiting Botswana Miner who had a political security reason to hide his details in the story uttered the same sentiments pointing out that

the same corrupt activities were also practised in Botswana.

"We have the same problem in Botswana. It is undergoing silent corrupt activities involving high rank people in Government. There is actually no Democracy at all. The moment you want to talk about it they kill you.

"Actually this is the main problem in the SADC Region. There is no proper or no accountability and transparency at all. There is no Democracy at all because people are not engaged in the deal. Secondly, they have no access to the information. We have Conglomeration between DeBeers and Setswana Mineral Resources. They share the minerals 50/50 but the people are not shared the information in relation to the exporting of these minerals."..

South Africa

Capital Flight was rife between 1960 and 1995 during the White Rule of Apartheid Era. Much wealth was flown from the Mines of SA to Foreign based countries with White Race Influence. There is more research work undergoing in the country. The work has been done by Fedderck and Liu.

ANGOLA..

Manuel Pembele a visiting



Delegate from Angola said in Angola looting of much of Mineral Resources is normally at its extreme when contracts are given to certain Mining Companies. He said all the contract deals are done secretly sometimes.

"Even when this is done openly, publicised through the media, one thing to note is the public is not involved. There are several corrupt activities which have involved top Government officials during Savimbi's time of office.

"Much to say is done between the time of contracts and explorations by those who get the contracts. As Explorations are done, there are deals that take place involving the contracted Mining Company and the Government Officials in the responsible Ministry. There has been massive corruption between 1992 and 2008 in Angola.

DRC- Its highest peak of resource looting is between 1996 -2001. This was the time Mobutu Seseseko was almost close to ouster. The Western African country was close to regime change by Joseph Kabila Laurent. In 2000 Mineral exploitation and expropriation was mainly done by Foreign based companies in the presence of DRC top officials. There

were 85 foreign companies in the country. These were Zimbabwe, India and European countries who played the dirtiest part in illicit. According to a source mining contracts were done in corrupt manner. The total cost of resource looting is US 5 Billion lost between 1996 and 2001 then 10 billion between 1996 and 2018. Contracts who did not pay tax for long during Kabila's time costs the Government 1,5 billion in total

Mozambique

Has a US2 Billion debt. IMF suspended AID to lift up the Natural Gas Deposits Mining Project discovered in 2010. This was after Manuel Chang Former Minister of Finance during Armando Guebuza was involved in multi-million dollar bribes. This involved 3 Credit Suisse Bankers and Lebanese Businessman Jean Boustain. The other two are Bankers, Andrew Pearson and Surjan Singh [Bankers] The Three face charges related to bribery, securities, wire fraud and money laundering.

ZAMBIA

A Zambia Delegate Maxwell Mumba bares out the truth that 2 Billion in Zambia is lost through tax invasion in the country. Most of the looting

in the country is done by Civil Servants, top Government officials like Directors of Departments over-worked by top Government Ministers. The worst scenario is of Mineral Inspectors employed at the borders who are not taking more seriousness with their work. Secondly and thirdly respectively there are no enforcement measures related to Export of Minerals. There are no Area Charges paid to the Government by Mining Contractors.

"Zambia is losing 2 billion Kwacha through tax invasion every year. It is pathetic to note that some big mining contractors do not pay the money directly to Zambia Revenue Authority. This is usually done in a way not accountable to the State. Much looting is done by top officials.

"This looting involves minerals like Copper which is plenty in the country. It leaves the country every day through back door. This is done mainly by Mining Companies bosses and those contracted. There is massive illegal takeover of Mining Licences done without any accountability, transparency and credibility. Such is the challenge in the country.

"Currently there is 1, 7 Billion and 795 million kwacha in arrears. On top



Mzi Khumalo ,Owner of Metallon Gold.

of the top scandal is the fact that there is 450 million kwacha in arrears missing in the country. There are about 701 Licences not paid for in the country. In 2011, there were about 637 Mining Licences which were issued to contractors in Mining. In

total, there are 2,400 Mining Contractors not paying tax.” Claude Kabemba continues in his reiterative speech to retrogress on the issue of Resource Looting, Power and Corruption in the SADC Region. He however points out and lines up solutions to

the challenges in the Mining Sector. Mining Democratic Process, Reformed Legislation, phasing out Corruption, collaborative efforts to fight Illicit through CITIZENS PARTICIPATIVE INVOLVEMENT is crucial. “THE ONLY SOLUTION

FOR AFRICA IS FOR ALL AFRICAN CITIZENS TO GET PARTICIPATED , INVOLVED , ENGAGED AND CONSULTED IN ISSUES AFFECTING THEM . LET US FOLLOW THE CHINA WAY OF GOVERNANCE, POLICIES

AND LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK WHEN IT COMES TO CORRUPTION, CAPITAL FLIGHT AND ABUSES OF POWER AND FINANCE ”, CONCLUDES KABEMBA .

What image best befits the Church in Kenya?

By Samuel Ouma |@journalist_27

Despite the economic crisis in the country, churches are the only departments that are doing well. Several of them have been reported to be making billions of shillings annually. They have been categorized as the biggest financial enterprises as per the analyses of audited financial statements 2017.

Establishing a church is the easiest thing to do in the East African country since the constitution does not have any restriction on religion. Name of the church, draft constitution, names of the officials and their postal addresses, proposed physical address of the church and copies of the national identification cards, Kenya Revenue Authority pin and passport photos of the officials are the only requirements.

There are over 4000 registered churches in Kenya according to the National Council of Churches in Kenya, a regulatory body for all places of worship.

The images shown by majority of these churches are wanting. A number of men and women in cloth start churches with an aim of fleecing their flock of sheep. When it comes to giving, congregants are being forced to give instead of being allowed to do so willingly as the Bible commands. At



times intimidation tactics are employed to get offerings from the sheep.

The current situation in church of Kenya is alarming. They are no longer safe and secure. Pastors are veering from their core functions of offering spiritual nourishment to their followers. Repentance is no longer preached and prosperity gospel has taken over. The preaching has been reduced to inheriting the kingdom of earth and not Heaven. A number of priests have been adversely mentioned in a dubious fleecing scheme.

A viral video about a renowned apostle hurling insults at his members in May 2019 showed exactly what is going on in churches. Apostle James Ng'ang'a, founder of

Neno Evangelism Centre was captured hitting out at his bishops for disrespecting his wife.

“If you are not going to respect my wife I will kick you out of my ministry. This time «round I will show you my power,” Mr. Ng'ang'a said.

“Any lady in this ministry who will not respect my wife can leave this church, fools. You bishops found me when you had nothing and now that you have made some money... stupid, arrogant,” he roared.

“You came to this church in rags and unkempt hair. I want full respect. Whenever I cough you should answer,” added the apostle.

Sex scandal

There is a thin line between the church members and Sodom and Gomorrah. Sexual purity is a forgotten

story from the top leadership of the church to the ordinary congregant. Defilement cases involving preachers and minors have hit news headlines; members engaging in illicit sex with their spiritual fathers and mothers or amongst themselves have become a norm.

Catholic priests who are under oath of celibacy sleeping with nuns and other women is the order of the day. A number of priests, pastors, bishops have been accused of raping and sodomising young girls and boys who are under their care.

Last month a court handed a former pastor of Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG) 25 years imprisonment after being found guilty of defiling, impregnating and brutally killing a secondary school

student in 2011. The deceased was a Sunday teacher in his church.

In another scenario, in December 2018, Kisumu court sentenced a priest to 75 years in jail for defiling three minors and deliberately infecting one of them with HIV. The court was told that the preacher lured the vulnerable minors into the act after promising to cater for their education.

Leadership crisis

Churches are embroiled in vicious leadership wrangles. Tussles arise and simmer in churches to the extent that the armed police officers are called to maintain peace and order.

Church has become a ground for hate, wrangles and physical fights. It has turned out to be a business venture. Bone of contention in church began due to thirst of power control of church funds.

A number of faithful have resorted to seeking judicial intervention to resolve their difference. Examples of the most affected churches are Methodist Church, Seventh Day Adventist (SDA), and African Independent Pentecostal Church of Africa (AIPCA) among others.

In April 2019, two opposing groups clashed over leadership wrangles at one of the African Independent Pentecostal Church of Africa (AIPCA) branches in central

Kenya.

Ten worshippers including a priest sustained injuries and property worth thousands of shillings was destroyed. Trouble began when the two warring groups led by their respective deacons disagreed on who should conduct the service. A bitter exchange of words ensued which degenerated into a physical confrontation. They exchanged blows and pelted each other with stones. It took the effort of anti-riots police to quell the fracas.

Last year four members of Methodist Church went to court seeking an order to ouster the head bishop alleged office illegally, harassment of staff, financial misappropriation and illegally leasing church property.

The irate members claimed the bishop did not have the needed requirements to lead the church. According to the church's regulations, a bishop should have master's degree and basic degree in theology plus at least ten years' experience.

The bishops denied the claims leveled against him. The four rebels paid the price by being excommunicated; however, they refused to leave, stirring more troubles in one of the old churches in the country.

In 2015, Salvation Army Church, Nairobi central branch was shaken after a group of members were barred from entering the church compound after being



excommunicated on the ground of disrespect to the top leadership. The church leadership deployed heavy security, police officers, to deal with the rebels. In rejoinder, the alleged rebels staged protests at the entrance of the church accusing the leadership of misappropriation of funds and discrimination on tribal grounds.

Corruption

Church has been faulted of keeping silent on fight against graft and instead benefit from politicians gotten-ills.

Clergy men have been on the receiving end of criticism for allowing corrupt leaders to defend their loots on pulpits.

Ekuru Aukot, 2017 presidential candidate, once said that the church has failed to guide people on good morals. He claimed church gain billions of shillings from corrupt politicians through fundraising. Mr. Aukot challenged the preachers to stop pretending that they are non-partisans in politics yet they engage in campaign when electing their officials.

"Politics is a way of life

and you cannot convince me that you are not politicians. When you preach to your congregation you talk of them leading a good life. How can they enjoy life when money is being looted?" posed Mr. Aukot.

Pulpits have been turned into citadel of hatred politics. Men of God have taken backseat as politicians rule. The opposition Chief Raila Odinga has continuously slammed church for abetting and aiding corruption. Odinga has accused the church of accepting hefty

donations from corrupt leaders without questioning the source.

William Ruto, the deputy president, leads a group of politicians who have a cordial relationship with the Church over their massive giving every weekend. Ruto dish out billions of shillings to churches every week despite his monthly salary being Ksh.1 million (\$10, 000).

"Every weekend this church 5 million, that church 5 million, the other church 5 million. Every weekend 15 million yet your monthly salary is only one million," said Odinga.

Churches are being used as avenues for money laundering. Funds earmarked for development end up and individual pockets and part of it finds its way to church as gifts, donations and tithes.

"Churches are being used to launder money acquired through corruption. Those who launder money come to churches on weekends for fundraisings and people clap for them without questioning where the money is coming from," said the ODM party leader.

Church suffers a crisis of legitimacy. It has lost respect and popularity it used to enjoy. A number of people especially men and youths are finding their way out of church. Stage managed miracles, fraud among other scandals majorly occur in churches.



INFINITY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES
In Pursuit of Excellence



8611 Lugano Road, Randallstown, MD 21133
Phone: 443-982-3052 | Fax: 410-680-6598
Email: infinityhealthcareservice@gmail.com,
info@infinityhcs.com, | ceo@infinityhcs.com

Infinity Health Care Services, LLC
www.infinityhcs.com

WorldRemit launches new product for business payments to Nigeria

Through the WorldRemit website and app small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can now quickly and securely transfer money to pay employees and contractors in 140 countries including Nigeria

LONDON, United Kingdom, June 13, 2019/ -- Leading digital money transfer company WorldRemit (www.WorldRemit.com) has launched WorldRemit for Business, a new service that enables small and medium-sized business owners to quickly pay employees and contractors in 140 countries worldwide, including fast-growing markets such as Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa. The platform will first be available to U.K.-registered businesses.

WorldRemit's low fees and exchange rates are shown up-front and customers can send money easily via the company's website and app. By extending its money transfer service to SMEs, WorldRemit will save businesses time and money when they make international payments.

Each year, the UK imports \$2 billion in goods and services from Nigeria, where SMEs account (<https://pwc.to/2Re1abj>) for 96% of businesses and 84% of employment. WorldRemit for Business will make it easier individuals to receive payment by UK-based partners via bank transfer to GT Bank accounts. While some banks can take up to one week to process payments, WorldRemit transfers to Nigeria are processed instantly.

Customers sending funds abroad can easily track their transfers in real-time on the WorldRemit app and opt-in to receive daily exchange notifications to send money abroad at the optimal time.

Ismail Ahmed, Founder



and Executive Chairman at WorldRemit, comments: "When I first started WorldRemit, I was frustrated with the high charges and long delays in sending money abroad both as a business owner and consumer. Over the past 9 years, we've made it easier for 4 million people around the globe to send and receive money.

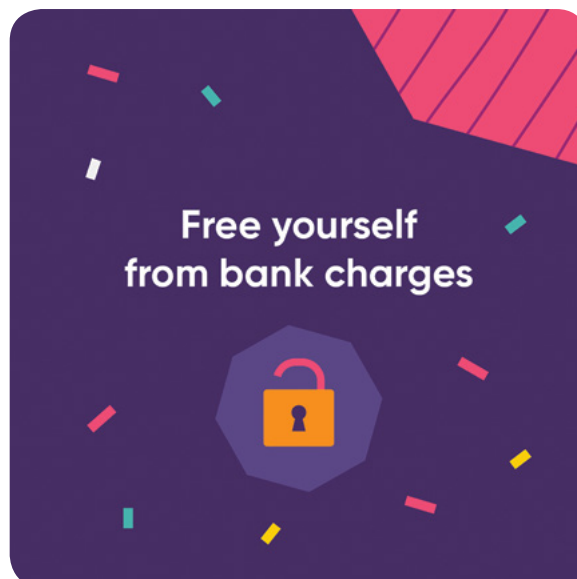
Today, we're pleased to extend that service offering to businesses, and put an end to the steep fees that many businesses have to pay, especially when sending to Nigeria. We're committed to making it quick, safe and easy for you to pay individuals across borders, leaving you to focus on growing your own business."

Shane Lennox, Senior Product Manager for

Business, comments: "With more people moving and settling across borders, the nature of business is becoming increasingly global. This new product offering is catering for those in need of a digital service that solves a

number of pain points faced by SMEs with international staff and contractors. This new product launch will enable millions of SMEs to benefit from our award-winning convenient service."

WorldRemit customers



complete over 1.4 million transfers every month from over 50 countries to over 140 destinations using its app or website and remains committed to providing innovative solutions to meet money transfer needs across the world. In addition to partnering with Nigerian Banks including First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Access Bank Plc, Fidelity Bank Plc for instant digital money transfers. In April 2019 the company launched international transfers to Paga mobile money accounts.

Visit the WorldRemit website for more information on how to send Business payments (<https://bit.ly/2XI2GVN>).

WorldRemit (www.WorldRemit.com) is the leading digital money transfer service that makes sending money as easy as sending an instant message. We currently send from 50+ countries to over 140 receiving destinations, leading the shift to online and mobile money transfers and improving speed and convenience for users. On the sending side, WorldRemit is 100% digital. For those receiving money, the company offers a wide range of options including bank deposit, cash collection and mobile airtime top-up, and mobile money. Backed by Accel, TCV and Leapfrog – early investors in Facebook, Netflix and Slack – WorldRemit's headquarters are in London, UK, with a global presence including offices in the United States, the Philippines, Poland, Colombia, Uganda and South Africa.

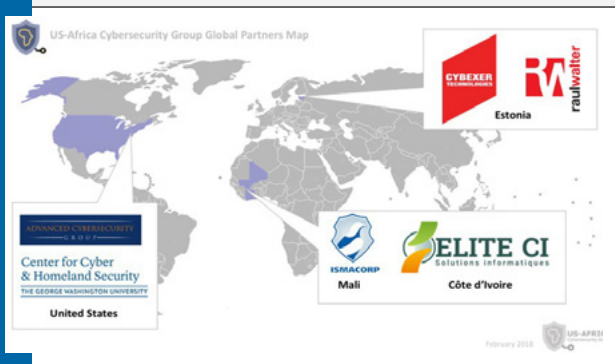
US-Africa Cybersecurity Group (USAFCG)

Effective catalyst for the harmonization of cybersecurity policies and the implementation of practical solutions in Africa.

USAFCG is a collaborative organization designed to foster the development and implementation of cybersecurity strategies and initiatives in the public and private sectors taking into account scientific, technological, economic and financial, political, and sociocultural dimensions of the “whole of society” in Africa. Spanning across three continents, Africa, America and Europe USAFCG’s partners stand ready to bring the required expertise and resources to help your organization’s specific cybersecurity challenges.

Cyber Hygiene Program

The Cyber Hygiene e-Learning Course is an important part of our portfolio which specifically targets the critical aspect of human risk behavior in the field of cyber security. Our experts bring together decades of unique experience in the field of cybersecurity exercises, penetration testing, risk assessment, and cyber security capability development. Our experts have experience in responding to real-life cyber emergencies in both the government and private sector.



US-Africa Cybersecurity Group (USAFCG)

2020 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW #220

Washington, DC 20006

T: +1 703 831 7584

E: relations@usafcg.com

<https://usafcg.com>

© 2018. All Rights Reserved.

USAFCG is a registered Limited Liability Company in the District of Columbia, United States.



BRING YOUR **A**-GAME IF YOUR **A**-GAME IS AFRICA

Centurion Law Group is a **pan-African corporate law conglomerate**, with a specialised focus on cross-border business and energy law. We are a stand out firm for investors that are starting a new business or looking to expand their footprint across **Africa**.

We provide a full-scope **legal, tax, government relations and management advice for clients and regular advice** on some of the most complex and market-first deals.



CENTURION

Lawyers and Business Advisors

