



Man with a Vision & Mission: Malawi's President Peter Mutharika On His Political Journey



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BLACK EXCELLENCE**

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BANK SEEKS PARTNERSHIPS
TO LIFT 1 BILLION PEOPLE
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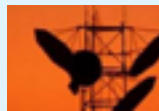
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Of "Doctor Miracle" and The African paradox

By Ajong Mbapndah L, Managing Editor



Ajong Mbapndah L, Managing Editor

For his good works and the reputation that trails him, Dr Denis Mukwege's name has featured on the Nobel Peace Prize nominees for close to a decade. Known as "Doctor Miracle" for his prowess in reconstructive surgery for women who have been raped, Dr Mukwege is finally a winner and shares the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize with Nadia Murad, the Iraqi Yazidi, activist.

"They have both put their own personal security at risk by courageously combatting war crimes and securing justice for victims," the Nobel Peace Prize Committee said, in justifying the choice of Mukwege and Murad.

For the good work he has been doing and the thousands of lives he has impacted, Dr Mukwege's richly deserves the award which sees him join the ranks of Chief Albert Luthuli; Desmond

Tutu, Nelson Mandela, and Frederick de Klerk of South Africa, and Wangari Mathai, amongst the winners of the prestigious prize from Africa. A spokesperson of the Congolese government hailed Mukwege's award despite accusations that his humanitarian work is often politicized.

As the continent joins Mukwege in celebrating his award, it is hard for one to miss yet another contrast in the potentials that Africa has and the baffling realities that one sees too often on the ground. Take a look at his country of origin the Democratic Republic of Congo. Filthily rich, yet its people are unable to enjoy the wealth. Dr Mukwege actually got noticed from his consistent effort in saving victims of rape which has been pervasive for decades as war tore ran riot in his country. For speaking out, he and his

family became a target and he had to go on exile for a few years before responding the unyielding calls from affected women in his country to come back and continue with his mission. Come back he did, and is actually said to live on the hospital grounds with protection from UN forces.

Dr Mukwege could have decided to remain in exile, and it is a safe bet to say there would not have been any shortage of demands for his services. Visit some of the best hospitals in Europe and USA and you will find Africans among the top Doctors. The story of Dr Mukwege is a reminder of the talent and brilliance that Africa has, it is a tale of resilience that Africans are capable of, a tale of people who even in sub consciousness can still adhere to the ubuntu philosophy of putting people first. While some leaders are in a rush to visit hospitals in the west even for mile ailments, people like Dr Mukwege and many others who may never attain his celebrity status toil to offer quality treatment to everyday Africans.

Coincidentally, Mukwege's award came on the heels of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly under the theme «Making the United Nations relevant to all people: global leadership and shared responsibilities for peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies.» Malawi's President Peter Mutharika did not mince words in reminding the United Nations that it is an illusion to talk about shared responsibility when Africans are denied the right to full participation in

decision making

"We cannot talk about global leadership of the United Nations when African leadership is not on the decision-making tables. In any political system, we cannot claim relevance to the people that we deny," President Mutharika told the United Nations. Of the 193-member countries of the United Nations, 54 are from Africa, and with a population of more than a billion people, President Mutharika struck a sensitive nerve in re-opening the debate on a permanent seat at the Security Council for Africa. Africa certainly deserves greater respect and a greater say especially in decisions that affect the continent. For the wisdom in President Mutharika's hard and frank talk; Africa again still has to do some soul searching with hard questions to answer. If Africa does not respect itself, how is the rest of the world going to respect the continent? If Africa speaks in discordant voices, how is the world going to listen or take the continent seriously? If African leaders shun African Union Summits but are quick to attend China -Africa Summits, Franco-Africa Summits etc, why will the world not play around with the continent? When business moguls like Aliko Dangote of Nigeria can use one visa to travel over Europe but needs a visa to go to each African country he wants to visit for business, is the continent not shooting itself in the foot? Talking about respect, when Libyans openly hawk fellow Africans reminiscent of the

slavery days, the image of the continent is battered, when with all the riches that Africa is blessed with, its youth still risks everything to cross the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean just to reach Europe, the continent has a problem.

In people like Dr Mukwege, Africa is hope. In messages like the one delivered at the United Nations by President Mutharika, the world is reminded that Africa may be down but not out. The continent just needs to get its act together, get its priorities straight; have the right leadership, learn to speak with one strong voice to the world, have more trade and interaction between African countries and the dynamics will change. In the last few months, it has been the French President visiting Africa, the British Prime Minister visiting, the German Chancellor visiting, Melania Trump visiting, and a heavily attended China -Africa forum. If Africa has nothing to offer, why all this attention from the rest of the world? If the continent does not get its act together, how is it going to get the best for its people from all the global attention it is getting? Combine the African genius and big heart espoused by the millions of Mukweges that are found across the continent and its diaspora with a healthy dose of leadership and the story will completely be different for the continent. It is a legacy that many hope elder statesmen like Prof Peter Mutharika will bequeath to the younger generation.

Peace a Universal Human Desire Which All of Us Should Seek- Malawi President

By Prince Kurupati



President Mutharika's speech at the UN received rave reviews

Speaking at the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, Malawian President Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika spoke widely on the topic of peace. In his speech whose main theme read, "A Quest for Global Peace: Including Africa" President Mutharika outlined the steps that the world has to take now in order to attain peace.

President Mutharika started by explaining how peace is a universal desire which everyone needs and which all of us need to jealously guard once we attain it. He, however, was quick to outline that while it's a great thing for the world to discuss how best to jealously guard peace, the first point

of discussion has to be about how to attain peace.

In his words, "human communities are being driven out of their homes, forced to abandon their countries and condemned to unknown destinies of homeless survival." All this he said is happening while the Assembly is sitting. Therefore, he called upon the Assembly as the leader of the world to act as a leader in defending "the defenceless, feed the hungry, and empower the weak."

In order to win the fight for peace, Mutharika said that the Assembly first and foremost needs to recognize that there are no minorities or small nations but rather, just "one United Nations." As such, the effort to fight

for peace should not be a preserve of the powerful only. However, though there are no small nations nor are there big nations, Mutharika stated that there will always be those nations who have more to give than others and it is the responsibility of such nations to give more. In light of this, he noted that power is not status but power is defined by responsibility. As such, those who have more power are seen by coming out and taking the responsibility to offer more.

In respect of his own country, Mutharika said that Malawi is doing its own fair share in terms of helping the world attain peace. Notably, Malawi adheres strictly to the United Nations' "values of democratic governance,

peace and security." Malawi is also a proud "active member in the UN peace-keeping operations across the world."

Participating in the UN peace-keeping operations across the world is Malawi's own way of defending peace in the world, peace which according to Mutharika is a "precious sacrifice."

To date, Malawi has participated in UN peace-keeping operations in Darfur, Lesotho, and Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, Malawian forces are also part of the current UN peace-keepers in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

As a way of showing what peace means to Malawi, Mutharika said that his country will be hosting the 2019 High-Level Forum on

SDG 16. The forum aims at looking for ways and solutions on how to attain SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) before 2030.

As a means of attaining everlasting peace, Mutharika said that the Assembly has to work on "eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions," significantly improving "maternal health; girl's education; youth empowerment; and gender equality." He also said every nation has a responsibility to ensure refugees' protection, safety and access to refuge. He said that Malawi for decades has been accommodating many refugees; as an active part of the initiative to develop a Comprehensive Refugee

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Response Framework (CRRF), Mutharika said Malawi has been working to develop a national development strategy aimed towards refugees in partnership with UNHCR.

The remarks by President Mutharika could not have come at a better time. In Africa, Ethiopia and Eritrea have set a good precedence as they have shown the world that it's possible to attain peace regardless of the underlying difference between parties. At the same time, they have been calls for the world to pay much attention to the ongoing Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon which has received little attention despite dozens of people including women and young children being displaced and thousands of others displaced from their homes.

Other Issues Discussed By Mutharika

President Mutharika also touched on other pressing issues in the world right

now. He touched on climate change on which he said that "Malawi is both a victim and a fighter of climate change." Mutharika urged "all governments, business leaders, investors and civil society to fight for the bending the curve of carbon dioxide emissions by 2020 and meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement" as "consequences of climate change are real, devastating and often tragic in large-scale proportions." He said that the only way to go is to "accelerate the green transition and create more jobs, provide sustainable transport, and clean energy systems."

He went on to state that his government is endeavouring to eliminate hunger and malnutrition by 2030. Given the hostile consequences of Climate Change, food insecurity and malnutrition are serious threats in a country that still relies on subsistence rain-fed agriculture. He said that their endeavours are likely to bear

fruit as his administration "stabilized the economy within four years in spite of the natural disasters of floods, drought and hunger that hit Malawi for two consecutive years."

Further emphasizing the immaculate work that his administration has been doing, Mutharika said that they have managed to reduce "inflation from 24 per cent to a single digit. We have reduced interest rates from 25 per cent to 16 per cent. We have taken our import cover from the lowest point to the highest point in our economic history. Our import cover has risen from below 2 months to 6 months. We have made local currency stable and predictable...We are improving these macro-economic because a bad economy is an injustice to its citizens."

With regards to women and youth, Mutharika said that with support from the United Nations and other development partners,

particularly the European Union (EU), Malawi will from 2019 implement the Spotlight Initiative in a bid to eliminate violence against women and girls. He went on to further state that his government is empowering the Youth with skills for them to create jobs and businesses for themselves and others. His government has also prioritized giving legal identities to all the youths and as of now, "over 95 percent of my people aged 16 and above have national identity cards."

Mutharika also weighed in on the issue of Africa being granted permanent secretary positions. He said that "We strongly support the Common African Position calling for 2 Permanent Seats with Veto and 5 Non-Permanent Seats for Africa. Why should some nations be afraid of losing power by offering decision making space to Africa when you don't lose power by accommodating other continents? Is Africa that much of a threat? This

segregation of Africans must come to an end." He said that in order to preach democracy, the United Nations first of all has to practice internal democracy.

Kofi Anan and David Rubadiri Tributes

Mutharika also took time to pay his tributes to Kofi Anan and David Rubadiri. He said that David Rubadiri (Malawi's first ambassador to the United Nations Assembly) was "a conscience of the African continent and a pan-African poet who was adopted by East Africa as their son."

Paying his respects to Kofi Anan, Mutharika said that he "was an African inspiring spirit of the world. Kofi Anan was a voice of peace, a voice of the voiceless, the conscience and moral arbiter of the world. He decisively carried forward the flag of peace amidst turmoil when some of us were busy declaring war on peace."



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Key takeaways From African Leader's Presentations at the United Nations General Assembly

By Prince Kurupati



President Muhammadu Buhari Speaking At The United National General Assembly 73 Session In New York. Sept 25 2018

World leaders gathered in New York towards the end of September for the annual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The 2018 edition was the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly. As part of UNGA 2018 were African leaders from all 54 African nations. All 54 African leaders managed to present; their presentations touched on various issues affecting the world in general and Africa in particular. Most of them also took time to highlight their own successes in their countries while highlighting the challenges they are facing to meet certain goals and objectives. The following is a roundup of the key issues discussed by some African leaders who presented at UNGA 2018.

Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika (Malawi)

Malawian president Professor Arthur Peter

Mutharika's presentation largely focused on the issue of peace. Mutharika said that the world is currently far off from attaining everlasting peace but the onus is on world leaders to ensure that the roadmap to a prosperous and peaceful world is created today. In his own words, President Mutharika said that "The choices for human destiny, world over, lie with us in this Assembly...these challenges must be resolved by us or nobody else". When he stated this, President Mutharika was talking about the wars, political instability, violence, terrorism, radicalization, and endless migration caused by conflict in Africa in particular and the world in general.

Mutharika said that his country is playing its role to bring about perpetual peace, in the past, Malawian troops joined other troops from other nations to form UN peacekeeping missions in

Angola and other countries. Currently, Malawian forces are also part of the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He also stated that his country is wholeheartedly committed to the African Union's 2063 Agenda to "Silence the Guns" by 2020.

Apart from the subject of peace, President Mutharika also took time to talk about other pressing issues affecting the world such as global warming and one issue which most African countries (leaders) have been clamouring for i.e. the inclusion of some African countries in the United Nations Security Council. The Malawian president also took time to invite the world to Malawi stating, "We are ready to do business with the world."

Cyril Ramaphosa (South Africa)

South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa on his

maiden UNGA speech started by calling on all world leaders to seek peace in everything they do. In his own words, President Ramaphosa said that «Over the past seven decades, millions of people worldwide have been killed, maimed, displaced and starved as a result of war and conflicts. We are called upon to act decisively to end the exposure of women and children to untold suffering including displacement, torture, rape, mutilation and murder.» He "also called on the United Nations to act with urgency to resolve some of the world's most protracted and intractable disputes, particularly that of the people of Palestine who have endured occupation and suffering for nearly as long as the world body has existed."

Moving on from the subject of peace, the South African president also called upon the United Nations to become more democratic, inclusive,

responsive and transparent. He said that UNGA's theme for 2018 which reads 'Making the United Nations Relevant to All People: Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies' can only be brought to life if the United Nations itself is relevant to all people through becoming "what billions of people across the world want it to be - a representative and truly democratic global parliament of the people.»

President Ramaphosa also took time to talk about multilateralism. He said that it's crucial for world leaders of today to defend multilateralism and "resist any and all efforts to undermine the multilateral approach to international trade, which is essential to the promotion of stability and predictability in the global economy."

As was the case with most African leaders, Cyril Ramaphosa took time to market his country to the international world. He said that «We are reforming our economy and creating an environment that is conducive to investment, and have embarked on an investment drive to attract \$100 billion dollars in the next five years.» Ramaphosa allayed any fears over the abuse of property rights owing to the controversial land expropriation without compensation acts stating «We have started a comprehensive dialogue on the question of land reform,



President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa addressing the United Nations General Assembly. Photo by John Moore/Getty Images.

which is guided by our Constitution and the rule of law as we seek ways to ensure that the land is shared among all who work it, as set out in our Freedom Charter.»

Like most African leaders, President Ramaphosa called upon the United Nations to review and consider assigning African countries to the United Nations Security Council. In 2019, South Africa will start sitting in the UN Security Council for a period of 2 years as a non-permanent seat.

Emmerson Mnangagwa (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe's new leader, Emmerson Mnangagwa also made his first appearance at UNGA. In his address, President Mnangagwa primarily focused on marketing his country. Firstly, he touched on the issue of sanctions stating "We call for their immediate and unconditional removal."

He went on to talk about the recent harmonized elections in which he was elected the country's president (albeit after a Constitutional

Court challenge). He said that the country managed to hold peaceful elections "Following my deliberate and conscious decision to open up the democratic space and emphatic call for peace, unity and tolerance of divergent views amongst our people; political contestations, election campaigning, voting and counting processes were conducted freely, peacefully and transparently." Mnangagwa also took time to thank the United Nations stating "We are grateful to the UN and the other Member States for sending Election Observer Missions and for the Technical Assistance received by our Election Management Body. The recommendations will be taken into account as we deepen our democratic and electoral processes."

The Zimbabwean President also continued with his 'Zimbabwe is open for business' mantra stating "Zimbabwe is open for business and we are presently undertaking a raft of economic and political reforms to ensure an

environment that facilitates inclusive and sustained economic growth. We have put in place institutions and instruments that maximize land utilization and increase agriculture productivity... Equally, strategies are in place in the various sectors of our economy, to enable my country to enter the global value chains. The development and modernization of our roads, railways, airports, energy and ICT infrastructure are being accelerated in line with our regional and continental quest for enhanced connectivity and integrated infrastructure."

As was the case with other African presidents, President Mnangagwa also touched on the issue of climate change and the inclusion of African countries in the United Nations Security Council. With regards to climate change, he said that "Climate change presents a threat to all of humanity and its impact respects no borders. We, therefore, call for collective action and responsibility on

the matter. As a developing country, we seek support in the areas of adaptation, mitigation, technology, finance and capacity building as envisaged in the Paris Agreement." In regards to the inclusion of African countries in the United Nations Security Council, he said that "The United Nations and its organs require to be democratized. We join the call for Africa to be represented in the permanent category and to have increased representation in the non-permanent category."

Muhammadu Buhari (Nigeria)

Nigerian President started his address by paying tribute to the late 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan. He said, "We in Africa, while mourning the loss of this great son of ours and citizen of the world, take pride in the way he served humanity in a truly exemplary manner."

The main message from the Nigerian president focused on peace. He praised the leaders of the United

States, South Korea and North Korea who in the past few months worked hard in calming down the tensions in the Korean peninsula. Buhari also went on to thank these leaders for taking the first steps in demilitarizing the peninsula while at the same time taking the first efforts in creating a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

While acknowledging the good work done by the leaders of the US and both South Korea and North Korea, Buhari also stated his displeasure at the international leaders at the lack of efforts of addressing other pressing conflicts in the world such as the "continuing plight of the Rohingyas in Myanmar, the protracted Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the wars in Yemen, and Syria, and the fight against international and local terrorism such as Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab." While the UN has started doing some humanitarian work in these countries, Buhari asked for more especially on the side of

peacemaking.

Paul Kagame (Rwanda)
Rwandan president Paul Kagame who as the chairperson of the African Union was the first African leader to address delegates at the UN General Assembly. In his address, Paul Kagame largely focused on repositioning Africa in the international community. He said that there have been some positive developments on the continent hence there is a need for the international community to view Africa differently. Some of the key positive developments that Kagame touched on include the signing of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement, cessation of hostilities among countries in the Horn of Africa and the progress made by Zimbabwe to deal with political and economic challenges.

Kagame concluded his address by urging the United Nations Security Council to reform stating "The current two-track system of governance where some players are more important than others is not sustainable." This remark was made in line with the calls made by African countries to have at least two African countries afforded permanent status in the UN Security Council.

Sidiki Kaba (Senegal)

Speaking on behalf of the Senegalese president, Macky Sall was Senegal's Foreign Minister Sidiki Kaba. The main message from Senegal called for the reformation of the United Nations particularly the Security Council. Kaba said that it's high time that the United Nations reform itself so as to be inclusive and representative of all the people in the world. In line with reformation,

Kaba also said that multilateralism is important and the United Nations must remain committed to multilateralism as it is the only thing that can enable the world leaders to lay the foundation of future peace and development. He also went on to state that multilateralism does possess the potential to tackle the conflicts that are currently bedevilling the world.

Below is a list of the African leaders who presented at UNGA 2018

H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda
H.E. Mr. Danny Faure, President of Seychelles
H.E. Mr. Muhammadu Buhari, President of Nigeria
H.E. Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa
H.E. Mr. Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of Malawi
H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, President of Egypt
H.E. Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of Zambia
H.E. Mr. Joseph Kabila Kabange, President of DR Congo
H.E. Mr. Adama Barrow, President of The Gambia
H.E. Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of Mozambique
H.E. Mr. Saad-Eddine El Othmani, Prime Minister of Morocco
H.E. Mr. Hage Geingob, President of Namibia
H.E. Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana
H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of Mali
H.E. Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of Angola
H.E. Mr. George Manneh Weah,

President of Liberia

H.E. Mr. Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, President of Cape Verde

H.M. Mr. Mswati III, Head of State of eSwatini

H.E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya

H.E. Mr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of Zimbabwe

H.E. Mr. Faustin Archange Touadera, Head of State of Central African Republic

H.E. Mr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of Botswana

H.E. Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea

H.E. Mr. Julius Maada Bio, President of Sierra Leone

H.E. Mr. José Mário Vaz, President of Guinea Bissau

H.E. Mr. Azali Assoumani, President of Comoros

H.E. Mr. Rivo Rakotovo, President of Madagascar

H.E. Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Vice-President of Ivory Coast

H.E. Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister of Uganda

H.E. Mr. Ismael Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mauritania

H.E. Mr. Lejeune Mbella Mbella, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon

H.E. Mr. Augustine Phillip Mahiga, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tanzania

H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti

H.E. Mr. Workneh Gebeyehu Negewo, Minister for Foreign Affairs

of Ethiopia

H.E. Mr. Robert Dussey, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Togo

H.E. Mr. Taban Deng Gai, First Vice President of South Sudan

H.E. Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Khemais Jhinaoui, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritius

H.E. Mr. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, Prime Minister of Lesotho

H.E. Mr. Mahamat Zene Cherif, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration of Chad

H.E. Mr. Mamadi Touré, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Siala, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Libya

H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Messahel, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria

H.E. Mr. Ezéchiél Nibigira, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Burundi

H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh Mohammed, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

H.E. Mr. Urbino José Gonçalves Botelho, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sao Tome and Principe

H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Senegal

H.E. Mr. Kalla Ankourao, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration of Niger

H.E. Mr. Jean-Claude Gakosso, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Congo

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Awad Issei, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia

H.E. Mr. Alpha Barry, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Burkina Faso

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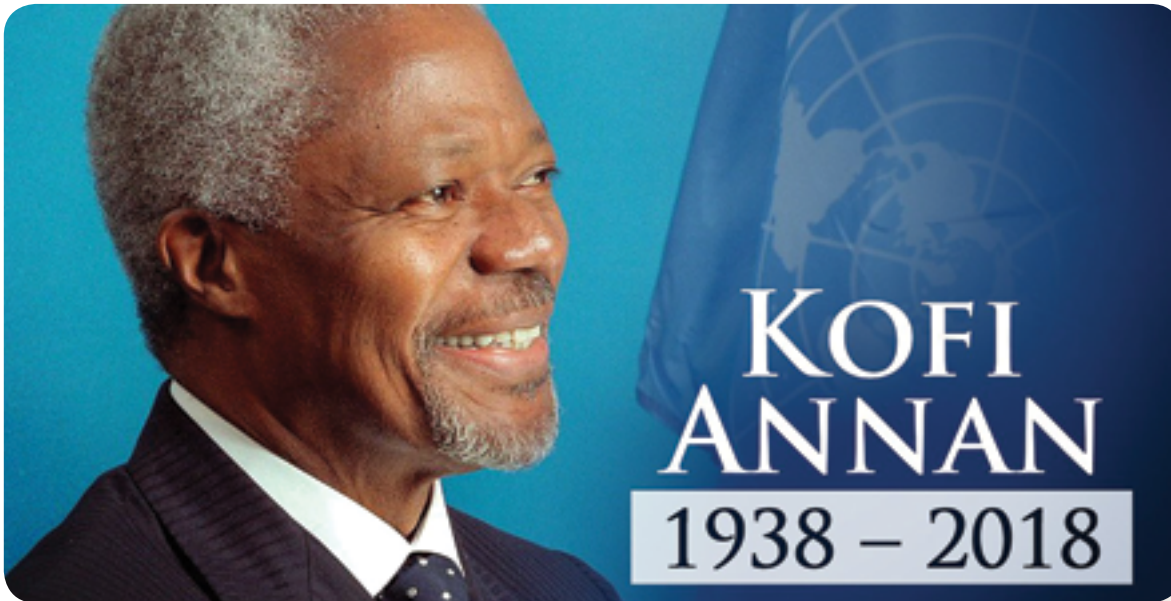
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Kofi Anan: A Symbol of Black Excellence

By Prince Kurupati



On 18 August 2018, Africa lost an icon in Kofi Atta Anan. For many, Anan was the former Secretary General of the United Nations. While this is indeed true, Kofi Anan was much more than just a former UN Secretary General, he was a humanitarian, a diplomat, a listener, a father, a husband and above all, a man who was driven by the burning desire to bring peace to a world that is deeply divided.

Kofi Anan's journey started all the way back in 1938 in Ghana's second populous city, Kumasi. During his school years, Anan through his grades showed that he was not ordinary but an individual destined for great success. Shortly after completing his educational studies, Anan joined the United Nations in Geneva Switzerland in 1962. Unknown to many (and probably himself too) this was the start of an illustrious journey.

While his professional journey started in 1962, Kofi Anan in 1965 started another journey as a husband and

father when he married Titi Alakija. The two had two children, a boy and a girl. However, as he was to experience many years later in his professional journey, life is not always smooth sailing, there are ups and downs; in 1983, the union between Anan and Titi Alakija ended. A year later, Anan however met and married Nane Lagergren who was his partner up to his death.

Having joined the UN in 1962, Anan rose through the ranks to become the head of the UN peacekeeping operations in 1993. His appointment as the head of the UN peacekeeping operations coincided with two of the darkest moments in modern history. It is at that time that the Srebrenica massacre took place in Bosnia and also it is at that time that the Rwandan genocide took place.

As the head of the UN peacekeeping operations, Anan had the mandate to spearhead the actions/decisions of the UN in relation to these two major

events. However, history is not kind to Anan in relation to both events as he is accused by many of reacting slowly to life-threatening events.

To his credit, Anan took all the criticism labelled against him both negative and positive. To him, this was a learning curve, one which he needed to pay particular attention to so as to do the right thing in future.

Speaking in an interview, Anan said that "It was a painful and very traumatic experience for me personally and, I think in some way for the UN. It's not something that you forget. It's an experience that if you go through becomes part of you and part of your whole experience as a human being."

Anan duly learnt a lot from the criticism he received and it helped him to come up with more robust response strategies later on as he managed to spearhead successful peacekeeping operations in Liberia (United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia), Angola (United

Nations Angola Verification Mission III), Sierra Leone (United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone) and Central African Republic (United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone) among many others.

For his commitment, Kofi Anan was duly rewarded as he was elevated to the position of the UN Secretary-General in 1997. Anan was the first and to this day remains the only Secretary-General to hail from sub-Saharan Africa. A few years down the line, Anan was also rewarded for his work in promoting world peace when he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001.

Another test was to come for Anan when he was implicated in the Oil for Food program. The implication tested Anan's mettle but he was resolute and finally, he was exonerated for any wrongdoing.

In 2006,

Anan stepped down as the UN Secretary General but that did not stop him from fighting for world peace. In 2012, he was appointed the UN/Arab League Joint Special Envoy on the Syrian Crisis. In 2013, he was made the Chair of the Elders, a peace and human rights advocacy group formed by the iconic former South African president, Nelson Mandela. In 2016, he was appointed as the Lead of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, Myanmar.

In the wake of the death of Kofi Anan, several world leaders sent their tributes. Below are some of the tributes.

Cyprus President

"Despite the fact that his efforts to solve the Cyprus problem and the plan which bore his name were not met with success, his name has been linked to the issue of occupied Cyprus."

Raila Odinga- Kenya Opposition Leader

"A great African, a great leader of the world. We here in Kenya remember him for the role that he played in presiding over the process of reconciliation following the crisis that followed the 2007 general elections. Kofi Annan



was able to bring the different factions in our country together.”

France President

“France pays tribute to him. We will never forget his calm and resolute approach to matters, nor the strength of his commitments.”

British Prime Minister

“A great leader and reformer of the UN, he made a huge contribution to making the world he has left a better place than the one he was born into.”

German Chancellor

“Kofi Annan never gave up working for the good in the world. (He) knew how to get people engaged, and became a role model, especially for young people all over the world.”

US Ambassador to United Nations

“Kofi Annan devoted his life to making the world a more peaceful place through his compassion and dedication to service. He worked tirelessly to unite us and never stopped fighting for the dignity of every person.”

Nigerian President

“Annan’s humility, nobility and love for humanity set him apart for global greatness, achieving recognition and commendation for the reform of the United Nations’ bureaucracy and multiple interventions to bring peace to the world.”

Barack Obama- Former American President

“Kofi Annan was a diplomat and humanitarian who embodied the mission of the United Nations like few others. His integrity, persistence, optimism,



Akufo Addo at Kofi Annan Funeral

and sense of our common humanity always informed his outreach to the community of nations. Long after he had broken barriers, Kofi never stopped his pursuit of a better world and made time to motivate and inspire the next generation of leaders

George Bush- Former American President

“Kofi was a gentleman and a tireless leader of the United Nations. His voice of experience will be missed around the world.”

Bill Clinton- Former American President

“Kofi Annan was a truly great UN Secretary-General. It was an honour to work with him in his efforts to reform the UN, strengthen global health and peacekeeping, and reduce poverty. He made the fight against AIDS and the responsibility to protect civilians in conflict zones true priorities for the UN.”

Russian President

“Many years of the life of this remarkable person and great politician were devoted to the service of the United Nations. Heading

the UN at a difficult time, he did a great deal to realise the purposes and the goals of the organisation, strengthening its central role in world affairs. His personal contribution to building the UN’s peacekeeping potential, as well as in the settlement of a number of regional conflicts, was particularly significant.

I sincerely admired his wisdom and courage, his ability to make balanced decisions even in the most difficult, critical situations.”

Ghanaian President

“C o n s u m m a t e international diplomat and highly respected former Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Kofi Annan was the first from sub-Saharan Africa to occupy this exalted position. He brought considerable renown to our country by this position and through his conduct and comportment in the global arena.

He was an ardent believer in the capacity of the Ghanaian to chart his or her own course onto the path of progress and prosperity.”

UN Secretary-General

“In many ways, Kofi Annan was the United Nations. He rose through the ranks to lead the organisation into the new millennium with matchless dignity and determination.”

Anan Family

“No call, email, or text went unanswered.

No personal crises unaddressed.

No major family milestones or celebrations unattended, no matter what was happening in the world.

So while we shared him with the world, we were never poorer for it.”

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The Story Of My Political Journey

By Arthur Peter Mutharika

I noted that the overarching challenge with African countries is the problem of state capability. I was concerned with the lack of capacity of African states to act independently and determine their economic autonomy. I saw my country in the same situation.

I thought this incapability was conditioned by two major factors. First was colonialism, which used education to destroy Africans' belief in themselves. It created a collective inferiority complex, a negative self-concept by making Africans to believe that there was nothing good about them. As I speak, the biggest challenge in my country is the problem of mindset. We think too negatively.

The second problem is that we have been caught up in a global economic system that is tilted against our favour. The system is organized to marginalise Africa from the global decision-making processes. The decision to pump aid into Africa as opposed to bringing investments and industries has never been in favour of Africa. In fact, it has only destroyed Africa.

Again, my university job in international economic law made me understand different economic systems and their foundations. I also learnt to appreciate challenges nations face and how they resolve them.

I concluded that Malawi needs five things:

1) We need to move from



President Mutharika delivering his remarks at Washington University, titled *My Political Journey*.

aid to trade. But we can only trade if we produce goods. Therefore, we need to industrialise.

2) We need foreign direct investors who must inject in capital, create industries and create jobs.

3) We however needed to be democratic to create an environment for foreign direct investment.

4) We need to create a skilled labour society in order to empower the Youth to be productive agents of the industrialisation process.

5) We need infrastructure such as roads and energy to support the investment and industrialization process.

Since I came to power in 2014, we have focused on:

a) Moving from aid to trade using direct investment.

b) Mobilizing foreign direct investment. And Malawi is rising on the Global Index of Doing Business. Malawi has become the investment haven of Southern Africa.

c) Ensuring that the foreign investors together with our rural communities begin serious industrialization. At the same time, we are improving agriculture to provide raw materials.

d) Establishing community technical colleges to turn the Youth into a skilled productive force. I have seen community technical colleges support economic growth, including here in the US. In fact, here in the US it is community colleges that have moved minority communities upwards.

e) Building new

infrastructure by constructing new roads, taking electricity to rural communities and investing in power generation.

This is what I set out to do when I left Washington University to go back to my country.

But it has not been easy.

• One day, on 5th April, my brother died. I suddenly found myself in the Opposition. I was arrested and charged with treason. But we fought and got into Government.

• In 2014, I inherited a country that was collapsing in an economic crisis.

• There was no money because the previous Government had engaged in massive looting of government resources.

• We inherited a deficit

that was almost equal to our annual national budget. The country was going bankrupt.

• In the first year of my Government, we had a national-wide disaster. There were floods that were followed by drought. Crops failed and there was famine.

• In the second year of my Government, there was drought and crops failed again. There was famine again.

• Meanwhile, there was no donor budget support to support the economy due to the looting that took in the previous administration. We had to run the country with our resources, and we did!

In that tight and hard situation, we managed to turn around the economy:

• We have reduced inflation



President Mutharika received an honorary doctor of humane letters during a special ceremony on Sept 30 at the Washington University.



President Mutharika, on Sept 30 at the Washington University.

from 24 per cent to a single digit.

- We have reduced interest rates from 25 per cent to 16 per cent.

- We have taken our import cover from the lowest point to the highest point in our economic history. Our import cover has risen from below 2 months to 6 months.

- We have made local currency stable and predictable.

- We have raised economic growth above the Sub-Saharan and IMF global average growth. I found GDP Growth Rate at 2.4 per cent

when I started leading Malawi four years ago. Now we expect growth at 4 per cent in our 2018/2019 financial year. And we expect this growth to rise to 6 percent in 2019.

Mr. Chancellor, I believe we have begun to take Malawi from poverty to prosperity. But much of the tribute to all this progress goes to the people of Malawi. The people of Malawi have contributed to my career far much more than I can say.

One of the most important things I did when I left Washington University was to represent my community

in Parliament. I have also worked with different communities and local leader across the country. I have learnt one important political lesson from the people. I have learnt to be accountable to the people.

As a Law Professor I had always thought the essence of democracy is the Rule of Law, as most scholars do. But my people changed my political philosophy.

I have learnt that the essence of democracy is accountability. The essence of democracy is that everybody must be accountable to

someone else or somewhere – and let God be accountable to nobody. The Law exists to enforce accountability.

Mr. Chancellor, I always believe the best professors must be the best learners who are willing to learn even from those they teach.

I have learnt many lessons from my time of being a professor in this place. And I have also learnt great lessons from the people of Malawi – lessons that define my leadership.

And I have learnt to lead my country with a passionate determination to take it out

of poverty. The time is now or never. It must be by us or nobody else.

I know we can do it! And we will do it!

I thank you for your attention!

* Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika is President of the Republic of Malawi. This speech was delivered on Sunday, 30 September when Washington University conferred upon President Peter Mutharika the Doctor of Humane Letters in St. Louis, United States



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President Mutharika Believes Firmly in Africa's Potential and Future-Communications Director Bright Molende

By Ajong Mbapndah L



Dr Bright Molende.

Of the African leaders who spoke at the 73rd General Assembly of the United Nations, no one grabbed bigger headlines than President Peter Mutharika of Malawi who reminded the global body of the merits of Africa having a seat at the security council. With about a third of member countries, Mutharika pointed out the irony in this year's theme of the General Assembly considering that for everything it represents, Africa does not have a seat at the table when key decisions are made. While the long term impact of the fiery speech from President Mutharika remains to be seen, it certainly made him stand out as one of the elder statesmen's who can effectively speak on behalf of Africa. From the United Nations, President Mutharika was guest at the Washington University where he received an honorary doctor of humane letters during a special ceremony. PAV's Managing Editor

Ajong Mbapndah L caught up with Executive Assistant to the President, and Communications Director Dr Bright Molende to get more insights on the Presidents UN Speech, honors from Washington University, and developments in Malawi.

President Mutharika grabbed headlines with a fiery speech at the United Nations in which he said the United Nations cannot be free when Africa faces segregation with no permanent seat at the security council, can you shed more light on this for us?

President Mutharika joins other prominent African leaders in advocating for a proportional representation of Africa in the UN Security Council.

This is a position consistent with African Union Executive Council position of the Common Africa Position of 2005, also known as the Ezulwini Consensus - in Swaziland. Under the

Ezulwini consensus, the 53 AU member states agreed to ask for an increase of UNSC seats.

In order to effectively address the challenges of the 21st century, Africa has found it necessary that the UNSC gives more focus to the position of the continent, so as to enhance its representativeness. There is no «big or small» nation in the United Nations, Mutharika is lobbying for inclusion and representation of the developing nations, especially from the global South.

For Mutharika, who is a Pan-African leader through and through, it is under this paradigm that he has strongly lobbied for African position on the UNSC. Africa, he said in his speech, represents almost a third of the UN members states, it is only fair that Africa is also on the table when Africa Agenda is discussed in various forums.

The President reminded the United Nations to adopt the

common African position on two permanent seats for the continent on the security Council, how was this received by member countries and what are prospects that his call will be taken seriously?

The position of the developing nations, especially the global South has always been consistent on the inclusion and representation of their countries in the UNSC. And it is in line with the sentiment echoed by President Mutharika.

The UN received it very well, and it was in their conclusive remark when they say: "But it was Malawi's President Arthur Peter Mutharika who perhaps best captured the true essence of the UN." Their statement was following the sharp message that President Mutharika made that "every nation is important and we all have something to offer. There are no minorities here. There are no small nations here. There are only nations in the United Nations."

With his pointed critique of the hypocrisy that stood in contrast to theme of this year's General Assembly President Mutharika seems to have taken a different dimension in speaking up for Africa and advocating for a more just and equitable international system, what gives him leverage to take on this role?

President Mutharika is a Charles Nagel Professor of International and

Comparative Law. He is an expert on international economic law, international law and comparative constitutional law. Throughout his distinguished career in academia, he has taught International Comparative Law, and Constitutional Law. He has worked in the area of international justice worldwide, and has fought for global justice.

His position on advocating and fighting for Pan African issues has been consistent as seen at his address at COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), FOCAC (Forum on China-Africa Cooperation) as well as domestic forums. His position at the UN was a continuation of the strong position Mutharika holds on a just and equitable treatment of Africa, including the youth. Africa as a whole holds a unified position on the matter as outlined in the Ezulwini Consensus. The position and approach adopted by President Mutharika especially his fight for Africa demonstrates his passion for this continent, especially its great potential and future.

The President said Malawi will always be a team member of the international and supports initiatives in fighting global threats like terrorism and climate change, may we get some precise examples that back this assertion?

Malawi is a signatory to regional, continental, as



Commissioning a project, thanks to President Mutharika, Malawi is on a road to recovery says Dr Molende.

well as global treaties. The country closely collaborates and cooperate with other countries in the areas of peace and security (especially the fight against terrorism). Through Malawi's National Security Policy, the country addresses and deals with both domestic and international security issues in areas of finance, cyber-security, as well as human security. The country also has a dedicated structure called the National Security Council that deals with the constant monitoring and management of security both domestically, regionally, and globally. At the launch of the National Security Policy, President Mutharika was very succinct when he said - «progress and prosperity for any nation works best if there is peace and security.»

In Africa, Malawi also participates in UN peace keeping missions in various countries.

In December 2015, Malawi was part of the 195 countries met at the Paris climate conference called (COP21). The countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal known as the Paris Agreement.

Africa's mainstay of the economies is Agriculture.

President Mutharika painted a clear picture when he said that the hostile consequences of Climate Change, food insecurity and malnutrition are serious threats in a country that still relies on subsistence rain-fed agriculture.

President Mutharika has ensured that Malawi implements domestic policy on climate change and environmental sustainability to respond to this global challenge. This year, as part of the commitment, the government has embarked on a bold government supported programme whereby thousands of youth participate in Tree Planting throughout the whole country.

In his address at the General Assembly, he urged all governments, business leaders, investors and civil society to fight for the bending the curve of carbon dioxide emissions by 2020 and meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement.

With regards to the peace keeping role of Malawi that the President spoke of, can you share more information on this, in which countries have Malawi contributed to peace keeping?

Malawi has served in peace-keeping missions in Darfur, Lesotho, Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Besides President Mutharika's tough talk at the United Nations, what are some of the other activities that he engaged in during the recent General Assembly?

President Mutharika is a UN Women Champion for HeForShe. He spoke at the HeForShe Summit along with the Queen of Jordan.

President Mutharika is also a Co-Convenor of the Global Education Commission. The President is taking a leading role in mobilising resources for financing global education. He co-chaired this year's conference together with former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown. President Mutharika also spoke at the commission and said it is our mission as a generation to ensure that every child gets education.

President Mutharika also holds other international roles such as being UN Global Champion for Youth.

The Washington University of St Louis School of Law conferred an honorary

degree, what did this mean to him considering his long history with that institution?

In his speech, President Mutharika shared the background that Washington University is a place that has made almost half of his life. Receiving the Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters was a great personal honour to him. The gallery was filled with so much appreciation and emotion during his acceptance speech in which he shared his humble story of his personal Political Journey. «This conferral today has however touched me most personally, and humbled me the most», President Mutharika said when he opened his address. Worldwide, prestigious universities such as the Washington University offer this honour to a select few people.

This honour followed him receiving the Charles Nagel Professorship at the same University ten years ago, receiving a Doctor of Humane Letters from the Addis Ababa University – the oldest university in modern Africa, as well as receiving another Professorship from the University of International Business and Economics – a well leading Chinese university of our times.

What made this moment most humbling and emotional is that when President Mutharika arrived at the Washington University in 1972, he was in search of political refuge. His political journey began with the fight against colonialism. The colonial government arrested him at the age of 19. But the British were conquered, and Malawi got our Independence.

But in no time, as the President puts it, the country

«entered a dark tunnel of death and darkness. Malawi became a dictatorship within one year after Independence. I disagreed with the President at the time, and the government hunted my life.»

He fled the country together with his brother. But he paid a painful price. One day, Government agents came and killed his father by beating him to death because he couldn't tell them where they had gone. So, he was «escaping from political persecution» when he came to work in this University that bestowed the honour to him.

He used the event to talk about his political journey, how can you sum up how Malawi is doing today economically, politically and socially?

Today, Malawi is on a road to recovery.

- In 2014, President Mutharika's administration inherited a country that was collapsing in an economic crisis.

- There was no money because the previous Government had engaged in massive looting of government resources.

- The administration had inherited a deficit that was almost equal to our annual national budget. The country was going bankrupt.

- In the first year of Government, we had a national-wide disaster. There were floods that were followed by drought. Crops failed and there was famine.

- In the second year of my Government, there was drought and crops failed again. There was famine again.

- Meanwhile, there was no donor budget support to support the economy due to the looting that took in the

previous administration. We had to run the country with our resources, and we did!

In that tight and hard situation, the administration has managed to turn around the economy:

- We have reduced inflation from 24 per cent to a single digit.
- We have reduced interest rates from 25 per cent to 16 per cent.
- We have taken our import cover from the lowest point to the highest point in our economic history. Our import cover has risen from below 2 months to 6 months.
- We have made local currency stable and predictable.
- We have raised economic growth above the Sub-Saharan and IMF global average growth. I found GDP

Growth Rate at 2.4 per cent when I started leading Malawi four years ago. Now we expect growth at 4 per cent in our 2018/2019 financial year. And we expect this growth to rise to 6 percent in 2019.

Today, the country has invested heavily the infrastructure development, and resolution of the energy challenge to drive industrialisation. There has been a lot of investment and implementation of programmes targeted at women and the youth, especially the Community Technical colleges, road infrastructure and agriculture programmes.

As the President heads back, what are some priority areas that he will be working on for the rest of the mandate?

The overarching challenge the country faces is economic. Which is why the president has put focus on poverty reduction, reduction of hunger, and industrialisation.

President Mutharika is passionate about industrialisation of Africa and also Malawi. Domestically, he is continuing with creating the right economic environment for industrialisation. The successful Community Technical Colleges programmes is meant to equip the youth with the skills to be the drivers of positive economic development. One of the key focus of the country is building new infrastructure by constructing new roads, taking electricity to rural communities and investing in power generation.

The vision of President

Mutharika is to move Malawi from being an importing and consuming nation, to and exporting and producing nation. Hitherto the economic problem has been that Malawi has been a consuming and importing nation. What Mutharika is doing is making the country as producing nation.

President Mutharika outlines the key priorities with the five-point plans at the Washington University address when he said "Malawi needs five things":

- 1) We need to move from aid to trade. But we can only trade if we produce goods. Therefore, we need to industrialise.
- 2) We need foreign direct investors who must inject in capital, create industries and create jobs.

3) We however needed to be democratic to create an environment for foreign direct investment.

4) We need to create a skilled labour society in order to empower the Youth to be productive agents of the industrialisation process.

5) We need infrastructure such as roads and energy to support the investment and industrialization process.

President Mutharika would continue the process of lobbying and persuasion of the African partners to drive for the implementation of the proposals presented at the United Nations. He is very much dedicated to driving the Pan African agenda.

In 2019, Malawi is also hosting the High Level Forum on SDG 16 – so this is going to be one of the key focus areas.

Raila Odinga, The President Kenya May Never Have?

By Samuel Ouma



Nasa presidential candidate Raila Odinga casts his vote at Old Kibera Primary School on August 8, 2017 during the General Election. PHOTO Credit JEFF ANGOTE

The opposition Chief Raila Odinga's contribution to the country cannot be downplayed. The son of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, Kenya's first vice president has shaped the East African country from

the days of the one-party state to multi-party politics.

The former Prime Minister is one of the most influential opposition leaders in the world and Kenya might not have any other

leader like him in future, some believe. He has done more to raise living standards of people by fighting for justice and equality than any president since 1963. He commands huge crowd of people from every part of the country especially from western, coastal, Eastern regions and some parts of the Rift Valley and North Eastern.

Raila, who has contributed to Africa and globally, beat renowned Africans scholars to emerge the most influential African in the whole world according to Smithrise.com. He trounced Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Nigeria's Head of State Buhari and his current bosom ally President Uhuru

Kenyatta. He scored 98 out of 100 marks. His closest challenger, Rwanda President Paul Kagame scored 67%. The research was conducted on social media between June and July 2016. The report showed that he has huge followings in both twitter and Facebook across the globe compared to others.

«On Social Media ,87% of these African leaders are on Facebook, with a combined following of over 18 million, while 87% have over 1million followers on twitter as at July 2016, when the data was compiled. Odinga topped the list,» read the.Smithrise.com. statement.

In 1991, Raila together with other leaders such as Prof. Wangari Maathai, James

Orengo, Charles Rubia, Martin Shikuku, Masinde Muliro played a pivotal role in agitating for the repeal of section 2A of the constitution to enable Kenya return to multi-party democracy. He was detained and tortured at the expense of a better Kenya by the authoritarian government headed by President Moi.

Kenya is close to being rated as a paragon of democratic fountain because of one man's policy, Raila. Due to his role in the Saba Saba (Revolution Movement) that resulted to multiparty politics, we now enjoy freedom of expression, movement and association.

The ODM party leader put to an end the 24 year rule of Daniel Moi who had appointed inexperienced Uhuru Kenyatta as his successor. He united the opposition leaders under the umbrella of National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) and dislodged Kenya African National Union (Kanu) party dictatorship rule by backing up Mwai Kibaki in the presidential race.

As the minister of roads, works and housing in Kibaki government, he rehabilitated the country's road network that had turned to be impeding to economic growth. He ordered for the demolitions of structures and buildings that were erected in road reserve areas. He brought quality management of the sector through reforms in policy, financing arrangements and institutional networks.

"I can confidently say that road users now obtain value for money. We have also decentralized funds, decision making and implementation to the District Road

Committee which are now working reasonably well and provide an important level of local decision making," reiterated Raila.

The ministry also hosted an historical National Roads conference in 2004 in a bid to review achievements, operations and receive feedback from stakeholders on performance improvement measures and to formulate policies aimed at improving service delivery in the transportation sector.

"On arrival we found a ministry which was a den of corruption, we put measures to ensure zero tolerance to this vice," he added.

During his tenure in the road ministry the government embarked on roads improvement nationwide. Over 200 roads were constructed and rehabilitated for a short period of time. One of the most outstanding specimens of a road is Thika Highway which still stands and has offered solutions to transportation problems.

In 2005, he led a campaign against a draft constitution by the Kibaki government to award president more powers. His outfit, known as NO (Orange) beat the government, which backed the changes. Orange outfit trolled the government side. It garnered 57% of votes casted.

Following embarrassing defeat to the government in November 2005 referendum, president Mwai Kibaki sacked all his Cabinet Secretaries, then known as ministers and later reassembled his cabinet minus Raila and his allies which led to formation of Orange Democratic Movement party.

The former premier



Raila Odinga and African leaders attend a meeting at Golf hotel in Abidjan to address the post elections political crisis of 2011 in Ivory Coast.

contested against Kibaki in disputed 2007 polls which were marred with chaos and ethnic division. Over 1000 people lost their lives and about a half a million were displaced. When the country was about to crumble as a result of continuous standoff, he shelved his leadership ambition and agreed to form a coalition government with Kibaki as a Prime Minister.

He led the coalition government successfully and he did not hesitate to protect the government from corrupt individuals. For instance, he removed the then agriculture Minister William Ruto when he was caught in mega maize scandal. In 2010, his call for new constitution became a reality when led Kenyans in voting for new constitution which brought devolution.

If you want a leader who has kept governments on toes, the son of Jaramogi has done that. He has been in forefront in fight against graft. Raila has unearthed mega scandals that hinder the country's economic progress, from Eurobond, the National Youth Service scandal where more than Ksh.800 million (\$80,000) disappeared, Mexico maize scandal, the health scandal where containers were imported from China at an estimated price of Ksh.10

million (\$10,000) each but true value was Ksh.250, 000 (\$2,500) each, to vaccination programme administered by the Ministry of Health which he alleged had caused mass sterilization to women.

When President Kenyatta ordered for lifestyle audit in crackdown on graft, he threw his weight behind him saying the move is good for Kenya. He announced he was ready for it in line with efforts to fight corruption.

"We have changed tacts and assured the government that we are together in the war on corruption. We are no longer whistleblowers; we are one with the government in executing corruption," said Raila.

The opposition leader once again saved the nation from plunging into crisis following August 2017 bungled elections by signing peace deal known as 'famous handshake' with President Kenyatta in March 9, 2018. He salvaged Kenyan economy which was on the verge of collapsing due to political tension after the disputed Presidential results.

He appealed to his supporters to use goods and services from Safaricom, Bidco oil and brookside milk, which he had ordered them to boycott in fight against electoral injustices. After the

handshake, businesses boom, tourists thronged into the country and Kenya entered into major business deal with their trade partners.

"There was tension all over the country after the August 2017 elections and subsequent repeat elections. It was against this background that dialogue took place. These talks produced a memorandum of understanding as the basis of our relationship going forward," the former Prime Minister added.

He showed commitment in changing the lives of Kenyan while he was as a Member of Parliament. Having served Lang'ata residents, Nairobi, for 20 years, his development records is conspicuous. He established 'Raila Education Center' to ensure disadvantaged children are given access to education. He also initiated an ICT center at Lang'ata High School and Raila Education Center among other achievements in education sector.

He has also been at the forefront in ensuring empowerment of women and youths, and has been advocating for equal distribution of resources through devolution which came with the new constitution.



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Zimbabwe's New Administration To Leapfrog Economic Development

By Wallace Mawire



President Mnangagwa has pledged to prioritise economic development

Zimbabwe's President, Emmerson Mnangagwa has said that his new Administration has committed to prioritise economic development as a strategic response to the pressing need to leapfrog the country's economic development in line with national aspirations as well as the regional, continental and international trajectory.

Mnangagwa made the remarks on the occasion of the state of the nation address and the official opening of the first session of the 9th Parliament of Zimbabwe.

"As such, this particular period in our country's history and the advent of the second republic herald brighter prospects and resolutely focuses towards rapid modernisation and industrialisation of our country's economy," President Mnangagwa said.

He added that united by a vision to be a Middle Income Economy with a per capita income of USD3 500, increased investment, decent jobs, broad based empowerment, free from poverty and corruption by 2030 Zimbabweans must all individually and collectively

put shoulders to the wheel and play their part in the rebuilding of the great country.

"My Government, cognisant that the world is not one basket and encouraged by the goodwill and support we have received to date, will continue to accelerate the international engagement and re-engagement policy, underpinned by mutual respect, peaceful development, shared principles and common values," he said.

He added that comprehensive plans will be put in place to expedite the desired outcome towards the external debt arrears clearance strategy, under the LIMA Plan.

In a bid to ensure that the nation realizes value from its external relations, the new government says that it is with immediate effect revisiting all MOUs signed with other governments which are idle, gathering dust and unimplemented by various ministries.

"In addition, Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements will be reviewed to promote investments from across the

world," Mnangagwa added.

"Though we have made some progress over the last ten months, some challenges still however continue to face our country's economy. I urge us all, the Executive, Legislature and the public and private sectors alike to be partners. Partners in bringing about economic order and growth; job creation; an end to corruption; improving our social services; and in the provision of requisite infrastructure, water and sanitation, education, healthcare and good environmental practices. This is a goal we must all share," he said.

He added that his government will accelerate ongoing effort towards stabilising the macro-economic environment, creation of fiscal space; currency reforms and enhancing foreign currency availability; improving liquidity; increasing the country's investment attractiveness; reducing the budget deficit and ensuring gradual growth of all sectors of our economy.

He said that the government shall continue with the use of the multi-

currency system up until the current negative economic fundamentals have been addressed to give credence to the introduction of the local currency.

"The economic fundamentals that need to be met are a sustainable fiscal position, foreign currency reserves of between 3 to 6 months of import cover and sustainable consumer and business confidence. These economic fundamentals are yet to be met to justify the introduction of our own currency," he said.

In order to bring sanity in the foreign currency market, the government through the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, has negotiated a number of foreign exchange facilities amounting to USD 500 million that are intended to meet the growing demand for foreign currency by business and the public in general.

"Some of these facilities shall be disbursed soon to meet the expanding demand for foreign currency that continues to be sustained by fiscal imbalances which my Government has made a great commitment to redress," Mnangagwa said.

He said that government

will, with renewed urgency, continue to drive a high performance culture within all public entities.

"All public servants are hence forth required to change their work ethics to ensure the efficient and prudent use of public resources; responsiveness, accountability as well as timely, impartial and equitable delivery of goods and services to our people," he said.

He added that the lethargic and non-implementation of government policies, projects and programmes will not be acceptable.

"Our bureaucrats must be committed to deliver. We will vehemently fight bureaucratic red tape and bottlenecks," he said. He added that, state owned enterprises have an obligation to operate profitably and cannot continue to be a burden to the fiscus.

"We will therefore be implementing the Cabinet decision to streamline some of our public entities to bring about greater focus, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, ease and cost of doing business and better service delivery to our people," he said. He added that, the creation of a more competitive and business friendly environment must be given greater impetus by all relevant institutions.

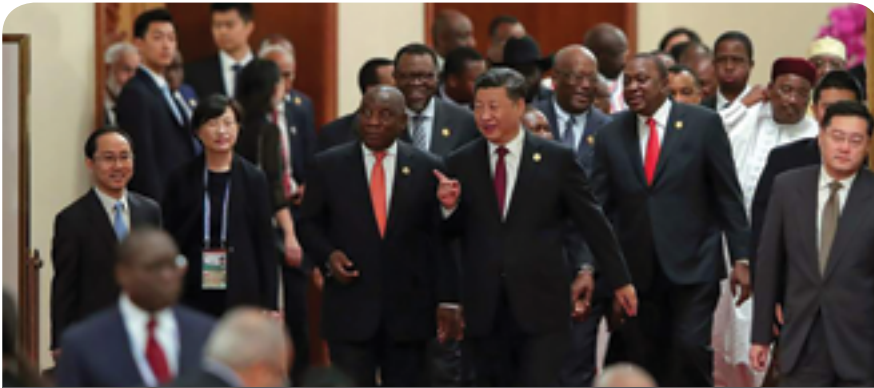
"We will not pay lip service to this matter. Reforms must be real. Meanwhile, I challenge the private sector to be honest, ethical and honourable in their business dealings," he said.



President Mnangagwa wants to see Zimbabwe a middle income country free from poverty and corruption by 2030.

China's Offensive in Africa: Who is winning?

By Prince Kurupati



Chinese President Xi Jinping, centre, with South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa, centre left, and other leaders behind, attend the 2018 Beijing FOCAC summit (AP)

At the turn of the millennium in 2000, China together with the aid of 44 African states established the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Focac). At its establishment, China stated that it wanted to advance the economic interests of Africa by increasing trade between China and African countries. Fast forward 18 years later, China has applied over 200 Billion USD in investments in the African continent and most of Africa's vital infrastructure today exists because of Focac.

In spite of China's heavy investment on the African continent, she faces increasing criticism from various circles alleging that her generosity towards African countries is not out of pure love but rather, out of a propensity to further its own selfish agenda of entrapping African countries in debt traps. As such, this paper seeks to explore the major contributions that have been initiated by China towards Africa since 2000 while at the same time highlighting instances in which China can be seen propagating her self-interests on the continent. Ultimately, the piece wants the reader to make his/her

conclusions on the question of 'Who is Winning' in light of China's offensive in Africa.

The main aim of Focac is to strengthen economic ties between China and Africa. Looking back at the relationship between these two actors, it's vividly clear that the relationship between these actors has been mainly economical. To get a better appreciation of this, let's explore some of the main figures of trade and economics between China and Africa.

In 2009, 45.7 percent of China's cumulative foreign aid went to Africa. That same year, China eclipsed the United States as the biggest trader with Africa. Three years' later in 2012, China's trade with Africa almost doubled that of US' trade with Africa; China's trade reached \$198 billion while the US reached \$99 billion.

The above clearly illustrates how huge trade has risen between China and Africa and according to the Chinese Foreign minister Wang Yi, this is a "win-win situation" for both parties. These sentiments have been echoed by African expert, Zeng Aiping who said that "the relations are developing at a tearing pace and at the highest level." Both these diplomats justified their

statements with the recent United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report which stated that in 2000, trade between these two stood at \$10 billion but has exponentially risen and now stands at \$200 billion.

In China's defense and also favour, massive infrastructure projects in Africa that have been funded and fronted by the Chinese government and other Chinese groups in the private sector bear testimony to the fact that economic ties between China and Africa are flourishing. In Nigeria, Djibouti, Angola, Ethiopia, and Kenya, the Chinese government has been at the forefront in resuscitating railway networks in these countries. China also fully funded the construction of the new African Union headquarters in Ethiopia, the

ECOWAS headquarters in Nigeria, and it is currently in the process of building a new parliament in Zimbabwe. There are many other infrastructure projects in Africa being spearheaded by China.

However, the seemingly 'good work' being done by China in Africa has been criticized by some. An economist at the University of Leipzig said that Africa "should criticize China because it has destroyed African markets with subsidized exports, especially with the cheap exports by state companies with cheap consumer goods – from bicycles to flashlights, from the candle to the fridge." The economist went on to state that while the volume of trade has increased hugely between China and Africa in recent times, Africa would have benefited much more if China was not solely pursuing self interest in its offensive.

Others have argued that China through its 'help' is actually creating, entrenching and fostering a culture of dependence which will only hurt Africa in the future. Already, some African countries such as Djibouti and Zambia have fallen prey to the debt trap as they have failed to repay their loans resulting in them losing some of their

major resources to the Chinese.

While the relationship between China and African countries has mainly been economical, there are few instances in which it has transcended into political. There are reports which state that China through its military base in Djibouti is exerting political power in the country. This has also been said in respect of South Sudan where China is part of a peace mission and it is also one of the main providers of aid in that country. As China herself does not want to involve herself in the internal affairs of other countries (at least according to the pronouncements of the Chinese government), she has managed to stealthily shield her political involvement in African countries as best as possible.

However, at a larger scale, the political power of China in Africa is demonstrated by the fact that it has managed to influence all but one (Eswatini) African states not to do business with Taiwan, an island which continues to resist Chinese rule.

Conclusively, it's difficult to pinpoint who is winning between China and Africa but what is clear is that each actor is giving something and in return receiving something.



Ancestral land a bone of contention in the Namibian land question

By Andreas Thomas



recognised in the Namibian Constitution. However, the right to property and the right not to be deprived of such property including land that was acquired in the course of colonial injustice are enshrined in Article 25 (1) of the Constitution. However, Article 16 makes provision for expropriation of property by the State “in the public interest subject to the payment of just compensation, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be determined by Act of Parliament”. Meanwhile, South Africa’s governing party, the African National Congress has taken drastic measures to push for constitutional amendment of Section 25 that deals with property rights and land expropriation. The party wants to change the law to allow for land expropriation without compensation. A Parliamentary constitutional review committee has been conducting public hearings regarding the issue of land expropriation without pay, and is expected to report to the National Assembly.

Housing has also shunned the land summit. The pressure group led by youthful professionals including academics, lawyers, engineers, quantity surveyors, has accused President Geingob of lacking political will to resolve land issue.

In 2015, the AR forced Geingob to the negotiation table over urban land, during which he promised to accelerate servicing of land to resolve housing crisis in Namibia. “Since 2015, whenever he speaks about the land question, he speaks of our meeting with him, abusing us saying that we met and resolved the land question through dialogue. While he repeatedly makes these comments to the international community,

the agreed resolutions remain unimplemented. Rent Control, agreed with him, remains unimplemented despite the existing law. Estate Agents Tariffs, agreed with him, remains unprescribed four years later,” AR said, claiming the President has reneged on his promises. As was the case with 1991 land conference where urban land was not discussed, AR said the second land conference also sidelined the issue off urban land, “a more serious concern than farms that are owned by absentee landlords”.

According to a government discussion paper that leaked prior to the summit, the urban land crisis was only accorded three paragraphs. Meanwhile, the white farming community remain unapologetic amid calls to

reclaim ancestral land. Roelie Venter, the executive director of Namibia Agricultural Union has called for proper definition of ancestral land and its possible ramification. “Expropriation without compensation is no option under present legislation and any steps to change the legislation will have severe consequences in terms of foreign investment and economic development in Namibia,” Venter is quoted as saying in the local media.

LAND RIGHTS During the course of colonial period, indigenous communities did not only lose their ancestral

land, European settlers also introduced a new form of land ownership. The concept of private land ownership replaced communal land usage that has been practiced by the indigenous communities with demarcated boundaries. Right to land is not



Namibia's President Hage Geingob has been under growing pressure to speed up land reforms.

EnergyWeek Morocco to welcome 400 energy decision-makers to Marrakech this November to discuss power projects in North & West Africa



EnergyWeek Morocco will take place from 14-15th November in Marrakech. The event is a platform for decision-makers in the energy sector to discuss the progress of regional power projects in North & West Africa

Two separate investment meetings will be hosted within this week - the 4th annual Africa Renewable Energy Forum and 2nd annual Gas Options: North & West Africa - to explore opportunities for gas and renewable energy project development.

The event is endorsed by Hon. Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy, Mines & Sustainable Development in Morocco, with the support of leading private sector companies MASEN, Cheniere, Fieldstone Africa, Skypower, ENGIE and Wartsila.

The rise of renewables across Africa

Recent estimates from IRENA indicated US\$32 billion is required each year from 2015 to 2030 to fully exploit Africa's renewable energy potential. With many North & West African countries harbouring significant untapped natural resources, vast potential exists for the continued development of and investment in renewable power projects. Ambitious goals have been set by governments to increase renewable energy generation, such as Morocco's targets of achieving 52% clean energy from sources such as solar and wind by 2030, or Nigeria's vision of renewables accounting for 10% total energy consumption by 2025.

Milestone projects are now driving forward this

momentum, such as Morocco's 580MW Noor Ouarzazate IV power station, scheduled to be fully commissioned by October 2018, or Senegal's 29 MW Senergy 1 solar PV plant – currently the largest solar farm in West Africa.

The future of gas in Africa

With gas widely considered the most affordable and clean base-load energy source, new discoveries in the gas sector are stimulating sector growth and infrastructure development, paving the way for the emergence of new players such as Senegal and Mauritania. With African countries both importing and exporting gas, the development of regional projects is set to benefit both gas producing and non-producing countries by supporting industrial and economic development.

For more information about EnergyWeek Morocco:

Event dates: 14-15 November 2018

Event location: Marrakech, Morocco

Organisers: EnergyNet, part of Clarion Events Ltd

Email: ARF@energynet.co.uk | **Tel:** +44 (0)20 7384 8068

Visit: <http://www.africa-renewable-energy-forum.com> | <http://www.gasoptions-nwafrica.com>

African Development Bank seeks partnerships to lift 1 billion people out of hunger globally

By Andreas Thomas

"We must not get carried away: we are not winning the war against global hunger"

INDIANAPOLIS, United States of America, September 26, 2018/ -- The African Development Bank called on global partners to join hands to lift one billion people worldwide out of hunger and said it was leading the way by investing US\$24 billion in African agriculture over the next 10 years in the largest such effort ever.

"We are not winning the war against global hunger," Bank President Akinwumi Adesina told an agriculture conference at Purdue University in Indianapolis on Tuesday, 25 September.

"We must not get carried away," he added, referring to statistics showing a decline in the global population living on less than two dollars per day. In reality, the number of hungry people in the world had increased from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016, he said citing the latest World Food Security and Nutrition data.

Adesina told the audience that included researchers, implementing organizations, business leaders, policymakers and donors that simple technical and scientific methods were already making a whole difference to farm yields and income in Africa. While such technologies to deliver Africa's green revolution exist, they are mostly just sitting on the shelves, he said.



AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina.

"The release of water efficient maize varieties now allows farmers to harvest good yields in the face of moderate drought," he noted. "Today, rice varieties exist that can give yields of 8 tonnes per ha. Cassava varieties exist with yields of up to 80 tonnes per ha. Heat tolerant and disease resistant livestock and technologies for ramping up aquaculture exist."

Bank experts put current comparative yields at 1.5-2 tonnes per ha for rice and 10-15 tonnes per ha for cassava.

What was needed urgently was deployment of supportive policies to ensure technologies are cascaded down to millions of farmers. "All Africa needs to do is to harness the available technologies with the right policies and rapidly raise agricultural productivity and incomes for farmers and assure lower food prices for consumers."

The Bank has launched its Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation

(TAAT), a \$1 billion initiative to extend the use of farm technologies. TAAT is currently engaging seed companies, public and private entities, and financial institutions in 27 countries to make technology available to a total of 40 million African farmers.

Combining targeted subsidies for farmers with a market-based system for rapidly expanding access to financing for farmers and agricultural value chains is the fastest way to get many people out of poverty to a sustained pathway for economic growth, Adesina added.

The conference on "Scaling Up Agricultural Technologies for Transformation" marked Adesina's fond return to his alma mater.

"It was here, as a graduate student, that I began the journey of searching for ways to get technologies into the hands of millions of farmers," he said. Adesina was to go on to make a huge impact on the transformation

of agriculture in Africa, including implementing game-changing policies in his years as Nigeria's Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development before taking up his post at the Bank in September 2015.

Adesina said the situation in Sub-Saharan Africa needed particularly urgent intervention due to the ravages of climate change. The International Food Policy Research Institute estimates that Africa will add 38 million to its number of hungry people by 2050 as a result of climate change. The Institute forecasts that Africa will experience major food shortages by 2020 and beyond, while malnutrition will be on the rise over the next 20 years.

The Bank's ongoing initiatives had the objectives of growing income for farmers, stabilizing prices for staple crops, reducing losses and stimulating multiplier effects in local economies. With its Staple Crop Processing Zones and

other initiatives, the Bank is demonstrating how this can be done.

"The African Development Bank put feeding Africa as one of its topmost priorities when it launched its Feed Africa strategy in 2015 and is investing \$ 24 billion in agriculture for Africa over 10 years – the largest ever such effort," the Bank President said. Across Africa, the Feed Africa Strategy is supporting the development of policies, markets, infrastructure and institutions that will ensure that agricultural value chains are well developed and that technologies reach several millions of farmers.

Adesina called for global partnerships to establish Staple Crop Processing Zones across Africa.

"The SCPZs will provide several advantages for rural economies. They will create markets for farm produce. Raw materials will no longer be moved out of rural areas, but as finished value-added products. Post-harvest losses will be substantially reduced. Well integrated agricultural value chains will develop, with supportive logistics, especially warehousing and cold chains," Adesina added.

The African Development Bank has already started investments to develop these SCPZs in a number of pioneering African countries, including Ethiopia, Togo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique. It expects the processing zones to be active in about 15 countries in the near-term.

Aiteo Founder, Benedict Peters Wins Forbes Oil & Gas Leader of the Year Award, 2018

NEW YORK, USA, September 30, 2018/ -- International business leader and founder of Aiteo Group (www.Aiteogroup.com), Benedict Peters was awarded Africa's Oil and Gas Leader of the Year at the Forbes Best of Africa Gala which held at Forbes Headquarters, New York City on September 27, 2018.

The award is an acknowledgement of Peters' significant contribution to oil and gas development in Africa by visionary leadership, distinguished service and transformational realignment of a sector dominated by International Oil Companies. The Forbes Award also recognised Mr. Peters' commitment to bettering the lives of people and societies across Africa by philanthropic engagement.

On presenting the award Mike Perlis, CEO and Vice-Chairman of Forbes Media said, "recipients are singled out for their work in bringing prosperity to all 55 countries of the African continent".

According to the Editor, Emerging Markets for Forbes, Paul H. Trustfull, "Peters' ascendancy in Africa's Oil and Gas sector has been exemplary as well as revolutionary. His company, Aiteo, has thrived for about two decades – going from a downstream start-up to becoming a leading integrated energy conglomerate with strategic

investments in hydrocarbon (or commodities) exploration and production."

Peters reinvented himself in times of great personal challenge. He resurrected his identity and reputation while battling injustice. He proves that inspirational leadership in a difficult industry is possible." Trustfull added.

Dedicating the coveted award to all Aiteo employees worldwide, Benedict Peters said "The acknowledgement by Forbes as Oil and Gas Leader of 2018 is inspiring. It means a lot to me and the entire Aiteo Group. I am delighted that the International community recognises our contribution towards Africa's self-sufficiency in energy and our aspiration to become a reference point for indigenous capacity in oil and gas. This award motivates us to broaden our vision for the continent, despite all odds, and accelerate her economic transformation. We believe that Africa has what it takes to lead the world and we will continue to push the frontiers of development through our investments in people and technology. The success of our Oil and Gas Upstream subsidiary proves that the future we envision in Africa rests to a large extent in the hands of Africans."

Mr Peters ventured into the oil and gas sector as an entrepreneur in 1999 and initially traded mainly in the downstream sector.



Benedict Peters, Nigeria Aiteo founder.

Aiteo is currently the highest producing indigenous oil E&P company in Nigeria.

In 2015, Benedict Peters consolidated Aiteo's asset portfolio with a \$3 billion acquisition of sub-Saharan Africa's largest onshore block (OML 29). Subsequently, Aiteo optimised the asset's yield from 17,000 barrels of oil per day (bopd) to almost 70,000 bopd within the year of the asset's acquisition. The largest indigenous energy provider currently peaks production at around 100,000 bopd, doubling its initial asset value to \$6 billion within three years. The company plans to invest another \$4.3 billion acquiring additional offshore assets with a projected total output of 250,000 bopd in the short to medium term.

Beyond oil, the Aiteo Group

has investments in mining, agriculture, infrastructure development, electricity generation and distribution, with a fast-growing retail distribution network. It is focused on serving the needs of communities across the continent by leveraging a unique combination of a strategic asset base, technology, innovation, and some of the best technical and business minds across the industries it operates in. The group has been expanding rapidly, to extend its operations to different countries across Africa and beyond with emerging international presence in the DRC, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Zambia, Zimbabwe as well as offices in Geneva and Paris.

Peters is passionate about youth empowerment and has donated generously

to support football on the African continent. Through Aiteo, he sponsors the Nigerian Football Federation, CAF Awards, Aiteo Cup (the Federation's foremost tournament in Nigeria) and a football team in his company's host community. He has also assisted thousands of internally displaced persons in northern Nigeria while supporting clean water sanitation initiatives in Africa, in partnership with Face Africa, improving the lives of over 25,000 people in rural Liberia. Peters addresses social and environmental issues in the agricultural sector through the Joseph Agro Foundation, set up in July 2014 to tackle chronic unemployment and water shortage.

In recognition of his groundbreaking contribution to development, Peters was one of four recipients of the Marquee Award for Global Business Excellence at the Africa-US Leadership Awards in 2014. In the same year, he received the «Leadership CEO of the Year» award. In 2015, Peters was conferred with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Awards in the «Economic Empowerment» category. And was listed as one of the '50 Most Influential Nigerians in 2017' by BusinessDay. More recently, he has been recognised as the 'Oil and Gas Man of the Year' at the prestigious 2018 Guardian Awards.

Conflict pushes South Sudanese into hunger - more than 6 million people face desperate food shortages

Unicef

*Call for lasting peace
to prevent further food
crises*

Relentless conflict and insecurity throughout the lean the annual lean season pushed 6.1 million people - nearly 60 percent of the population - into extreme hunger in South Sudan, though the situation could improve if a sustainable peace takes hold, three United Nations agencies said today.

Some 6.1 million people faced "crisis", "emergency" or "catastrophe" levels of food insecurity (IPC Phases 3, 4 and 5) at the peak of the lean season in July to August before the harvest in September, according to an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report released today.

The report says large-scale humanitarian assistance being provided in many areas of the country was the only factor that prevented an even more devastating outcome.

In response to the report's findings, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Food Programme (WFP) called for a sustainable peace across the country, and unhindered, safe access to all areas where people who



Story 13 Pic.FILE - A U.N. peacekeeper keeps watch as children gather in a camp for displaced civilians in Juba, South Sudan, June 17, 2017.jpg

survived the fighting but are left with nothing, and need life-saving assistance. If this can be achieved, IPC projections show an improved, though still serious, outlook for the rest of the year and into 2019.

"More than 6 million lives shattered by hunger are just too many," said Pierre Vauthier, FAO's Acting Representative in South Sudan. "Assessment after assessment, we find that conflict is the main driver of this desperate situation, making it impossible for farmers to get back on their feet. We are reaching as many people as we can, in almost every county, but it is critical to end conflict and

sustain peace to prevent an already severe food insecurity situation from deteriorating even further. This IPC demonstrates clearly that if the people of South Sudan have peace, they will be able to improve their own resilience and food security situation."

Acute malnutrition rates still critical

The nutrition situation remains critical in many areas affected by severe food insecurity, with some 1.2 million children under five years of age severely malnourished. Global Acute Malnutrition rates were over 20 percent - above WHO's 15 percent emergency threshold

- during the March-May period in the former counties of Renk, Nyirol, Duk, Twic East and Pibor (Greater Upper Nile region).

Increases in acute malnutrition are due to severe food insecurity, widespread conflict and displacement, poor access to services, high morbidity, extremely poor diets, and poor sanitation and hygiene.

"We know that if we can reach and treat severely malnourished children, we save lives," said Mahimbo Mdoe, UNICEF's Representative in South Sudan. "More than 80 percent of children treated recover, which makes it even more urgent that we are able

to access those who have suffered the most as a result of the fighting."

Widespread hunger as humanitarian access diminishes

Of particular concern are the seven counties with people in Catastrophe (IPC phase 5) in the former states of Unity, Lakes, Jonglei, Upper Nile and Western Bahr el Ghazal, where people were trapped in renewed and widespread conflict over the past months and were at times cut off from humanitarian assistance. These include the two counties (Leer and Mayendit in former Unity state) where famine was declared in



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February 2017. Although famine was averted by June 2017, lack of access to these areas prevents humanitarian organizations from having a clear understanding of needs now. Here, hunger is driven by conflict-related displacement, disruption to livelihoods and markets, lack of access to social services and restricted trade due to inaccessible roads during the rainy season.

"The extremely high levels of hunger across South Sudan are caused entirely by man-made conflict," says Simon Cammelbeeck, WFP's Acting Country Director in South

Sudan. "We are concerned that continued conflict in parts of the country will leave most people at risk of hunger. We hope the latest peace deal will result in real changes on the ground. After five years of civil war and decades of fighting before independence, the people of South Sudan, especially displaced and refugees, need peace to be able to return home and rebuild their lives."

Response to date

To date, FAO supported 1.4 million farmers with agricultural seeds and tools during the main planting season so that they can

increase cereal production. During the planting season, FAO distributed over 4,800 tons of crop seeds – the largest quantity to date. FAO also supports fishermen and pastoralists, including providing essential animal health services to protect livestock. This is vital as many South Sudanese depend on their livestock for survival.

UNICEF and partners have admitted 147,421 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition into various outpatient treatment programmes (OTP) and stabilization centres since January 2018.

This translates to 69% of the 215,312 target for 2018 and 55% of the 269,140 Severe Acute Malnutrition caseload for this year. Of the children admitted to the OTPs and stabilization centres, 89% of them leave fully recovered.

WFP provides life-saving emergency food supplies, food in return for work to construct and rehabilitate community assets, food for school meals, and special products for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition in children, and pregnant and nursing women. So far in 2018, WFP has reached 3.1 million people with

30,000 tons of food and US\$ 2.9 million in cash-based transfers. While responding to food and nutrition needs now, WFP is preparing to respond to growing needs in 2019. As part of its response, WFP plans to procure 310,000 tons of food for the first half of 2019. Of this, 175,000 tons will be pre-positioned before the start of the rainy season in June. Pre-positioning food would save WFP up to US\$100 million as airdrops are six times more expensive than delivering by road or river.

*UNICEF

Kenya: Dark days ahead as new tax takes effect

By Samuel Ouma



Masaai Market in Nairobi.

The cost of living for ordinary Kenyans shot up immediately after President Uhuru Kenyatta assented to the law on Finance Bill 2018 proposing an increase of 8% Value Added Tax (VAT) on

petroleum products such as petrol, kerosene, natural gas and diesel.

In 2013, International Monetary Fund (IMF) urged the government to introduce 16% VAT on fuel

and petroleum products to increase its revenues, scrap off capping interest rates from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) to market, reduce expenditure and freeze its projects grow revenues,

reduce budget deficits and slow down debt.

After noting the severe effects of introducing new levies on petroleum products, the National Assembly deferred it for three years.

When the period expired it was further extended for an additional of two year via the Finance Act 2016 which invalidated in September 1, 2018.

"The exemption shall be extended by a further two years from 1st September, 2016," reiterated Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich.

The Members of Parliament proposals to suspend the tax for another two years hit a snag after President Kenyatta refused to enact the bill and instead he took the bill back to parliament for discussion recommending a slash of 50% from 16-8%. The president's suggestions were endorsed amidst bribery and intimidation allegations.

Prior to enactment of the new tax law, various leaders pleaded with the head of state to disregard the IMF demands in courtesy of

Kenyans. The Kenya Peasant League (KPL), a social movement advocating for the rights of local farmers, lashed out at the world lender for pushing the reforms package to only benefit Kenyan creditors. They added that the lucrative institution only wants the creditors to earn more profit, grow in size and have influence over Kenyan people and institution despite adverse challenges the mechanism will bring on ordinary citizens.

"The Kenyan government must suspend the repayment of debts until such a time that is morally, humanly and culturally agreeable, through the participation of Kenyan people. Kenya should also ignore the IMF reforms package and stop repaying the illegal, illegitimate, odious and unsustainable debts that is owed to shadowy creditors," read the stamen from Kenya Peasant League.

They urged the government to adopt sustainable means of food production that are climatic friendly and geared by provision of livelihood to millions of people instead of being driven to poverty by IMF. KPL called upon Kenyans to rise against global financial systems aiming at undermining their sovereignty, grabbing their resources and controlling the country's food production system.

Stakeholders also pleaded with Kenyatta to repeal the new levy on agriculture to ensure food security. East African Farmers Association Chief Executive Officer Stephen Muchiri noted that the value Added Tax will hurt pest control products. According to Muchiri, cost of production will increase as the cost of fuel hit up.

"We are demanding that

the government repeals the tax amendment act which imposes new VAT on pest control products, failure to this we will witness our farmers moving to neighboring countries to buy the products where they are cheaper and eventually it will hurt our business," he said.

The Agrochemical Association of Kenya CEO Evelyn Lusena said tax increase shall result in an increase in food prices, dependency on imported food, increase counterfeit pesticides in the market, loss of income and livelihoods on small scale farmers and food safety and health concerns.

Running of diesel-powered machines, transportation of people and goods to market and prices of basic commodities have been heavily hit by 8 per cent price increase at the pump. Kenyans have to dig deeper into their pockets to cater for hard economic times.

The owners of vehicles have hiked the transportation price to meet the high value of tax imposed on them. Short distance travellers now pay between Ksh.30 to Ksh. 50 on top of the regular fare while long distance passengers give Ksh.200 (\$2) or Ksh.300 (\$3) more. Extra charges apply also to

business people ferrying their goods to market.

"In the past we use to allow as low as Ksh.500 (\$5) to Western Kenya, but nowadays the last price one is required to pay is Ksh.700 (\$7), it is the lowest we can go," said one of the public vehicle operators.

Pan African Visions managed to conduct interviews with consumers from different parts of the country and discovered that the prices of essential commodities like cooking flour, sugar, cooking oil among others have slightly escalated.

"Prices of Sugar and cooking flour among others have slightly changed. Life has just started being hard," said Mr. Gordon Dulo, a resident of Kisumu, western part of the country.

"Future is uncertain for us Kenyans. Working hard cannot even help any more. You earn the fruit of your labour but almost all of it ends up in the pocket of government through tax. Prices of commodities have gone high," said Mr. James Kones, a farmer at Nakuru County (Northern of the country).

"Despite increasing the fare, we struggle. I have to spend a lot on other products

to provide for my family," noted Samson Kariuki, a motorcycle operator in Nairobi.

Mrs. Khadija Mohamed, a cloth vendor at Kisauni, coastal region said, "I wish members of parliament could have saved us from all these hardships. What can we do now? We will have to embrace and move on".

Some claim that the Head of State is frustrating Kenyans saying that no country has developed on an increased taxation. They argued that lords of corruption in Jubilee government are the beneficiaries of the controversial tax.

Majority of those reached by the Pan African Visions swore to take it to streets to agitate for their rights should the legislators who opposed the law call for the countrywide protests.

"I am against the new law. It does not make sense. We will do all we can until our complaints are attended to. This government is taking its citizen for a ride. If there is need of going to the streets, yes, we will do," reiterated Job Reuben, Nairobi Senatorial seat aspirant in 2017 polls.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga's move to back up the new law has drawn criticism

from both his supporters and critics. They referred to his twitter post in 2013 when he opposed heavy taxation and labeled him a hypocrite.

"We have known Raila as a man who stands with the people but of late he is not firm on issues that affect people. He simply supports the government even when it is not right," said one of his supporters.

The contentious tax gave Raila's former adviser Miguna Miguna a platform to carry on scathing attacks at the ODM party leader. He described him as a traitor.

"Raila is a betrayer. He told Kenyans that President Uhuru Kenyatta will reverse the 16 per cent VAT on fuel and sign into law the Bill parliament had passed. But President Kenyatta rejected the Bill. Raila, who has been reduced to a lapdog, still supports him," reads Miguna Miguna's twitter post.

Some claimed the famous handshake is benefiting Raila not Kenyans.

According to the Institute of Economic Affairs Chief Executive Officer Kwame Owino, it is too early to predict the consequences of the new levy.



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Zimbabwe-India bridging the digital divide

By Wallace Mawire



ICT Minister Kazembe Kazembe

Under the mantra: Zimbabwe is open for business, Zimbabwe is intensifying efforts to enhance its Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector through collaboration and support from the government of India which boasts of an advanced ICT sector.

Zimbabwe's ministry of Information and Communications Technology and Courier Services on 24 September, 2018 hosted the Zimbabwe-India ICT conference in Harare under the theme: Zimbabwe-India bridging the digital divide.

A comparative analysis of the two countries ICT sectors was made at the conference and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) facilitated an India business delegation to Zimbabwe for investment opportunities.

The conference focused on an overview of the Zimbabwe ICT sector and that of the India ICT sector. Other discussions focused on e-government programmes in the two countries, ICTs in the financial sector, cyber security, ICTs in health including ICTs in education.

Zimbabwe's Minister of Information Communication Technology and Courier

Services, Honourable Kazembe Kazembe on the occasion of the Zimbabwe-India ICT conference said that the ICT conference provides the countries with another platform to create awareness regarding the opportunities, challenges and benefits derived from the adoption of ICTs in government, financial services sector, cyber security, health, education and many other strategic sectors of the economies.

"It is my utmost expectation that this conference draws a spectrum of ideas, opinions, perspectives, research findings and expertise to inflate knowledge frontiers for sustainable growth and development through ICTs," Kazembe said.

Invitations were extended to various players in the ICT industry in Zimbabwe, civil society organizations, academia, government ministries and departments as well ICT companies from India, to a conversation platform and one on one meetings with a view to open business partnerships between the two countries.

Kazembe said that the conference bonds Zimbabwe ICT industry to Indian ICT companies and enables the ICT sector in Zimbabwe

through presentations to be delivered and implementation of best case studies available, generate awareness, boost research and development of ICTS between Zimbabwe and India, promote access to markets between Zimbabwean and Indian ICT Companies through sharing experience and meeting during the one on one meetings, bridge the digital divide and impact on e-Government development between Zimbabwe and India and promote ICT business linkages and partnerships as has been the mantra in Zimbabwe that "We really, are open for business", Kazembe added.

"Allow me to remind ourselves that ICTs have a great opportunity to reduce the inequalities in our economies. On the contrary, we also need to be warned that failure to properly manage ICTs imposes a huge potential to increase our divisions, especially the gap between the developed and the developing nations in the world economy," Kazembe said.

The conference was jointly organized by the Ministry of Information Communication Technology

and Courier Services of Zimbabwe in partnership with the Embassy of India in Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwe - India Chamber of Commerce (ZICC), the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), and the Postal and Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ).

According to Kazembe, the conference sought to enhance the implementation of ICTs between Zimbabwe and India by sharing information

and Cordier Services of Zimbabwe in partnership with the Embassy of India in Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwe - India Chamber of Commerce (ZICC), the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), and the Postal and Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ). Kazembe said that India and Zimbabwe have a long history of close and cordial bilateral relations, dating back to the era of the Munhumutapa Kingdom in the 17th century. He added that Zimbabwe also has an Indian origin community, whose presence in Zimbabwe goes back to about 1890.

"Following the 'Look East Policy', Zimbabwe views India as an important trading as well as business partner. Both the Zimbabwean and Indian ICT sectors are therefore not going to meet as strangers since they have already witnessed a number of exchanges of high level visits between the two countries before now," Kazembe said.

"During the first quarter of 2018, according to available statistics, the Active Internet Penetration Rate increased by 1.3 percent to reach 52.1 percent from 50 percent recorded in the fourth quarter of 2017 following a 3.6 percent increase in active Internet subscriptions in Zimbabwe, which meant that the above scenario was not yet an option for a large part (47.9 percent) of our population. This has been the concern of the Government of Zimbabwe in its ongoing efforts to capitalize on the vital role that ICTs play in national development and to

bring ICT access to everyone in Zimbabwe," Kazembe said.

He said that on an individual level, increased access to broadband connectivity will enable greater access to public services. He added that access to health care and education will be boosted through e-Health initiatives and online education platforms.

"Political participation and Government transparency will benefit from e-Government solutions. Greater connectivity will also lead to more dynamic trade and private business activities which will drive national economic growth," Kazembe added.

It is reported that Zimbabwe's geography remains a significant barrier to high-speed, low-cost Internet. As a landlocked country, the country is dependent on neighboring countries for access to the optic-fibre submarine cables that connect most of the world to the Internet.

It is added that this, in turn, drives up costs.

"Data costs are high and consume a large percentage of the average monthly income of a Zimbabwean citizen with the price of 1GB of Mobile Broadband being 18.8 percent of the Gross National Income (GNI). Subsequently, only 1.1 percent of households have a fixed Internet service. Mobile broadband is also being used as an alternative to fixed broadband but is also not cheap," Kazembe said.

Kazembe said that Zimbabwe has been pursuing a number of initiatives to bring connectivity to every corner of the country.

Mainstreaming moral cultural policies into democratic governance in Africa (1)

By Mwalimu George Ngwane



Mwalimu George Ngwane

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this essay is to find a nexus between democracy and governance as inspired by cultural values in Africa. It is to find explanations as to how traditional core African values; indigenous knowledge and indigenous institutions have impacted on or can shape political systems and democratic institutions in the continent. It shall be necessary to explore those cultural values especially within a pre-colonial Africa, their relevance to the Afrocentric and Eurocentric definition of democracy and governance and their limitations in contemporary nation-building efforts within the continent. It

must be understood that Africa's political governance architecture and democratic perceptions do not spring from a mystical or mythical source. It is arguably the result of a long process of cultural elaboration. It comes from this reality that every people of the world have developed throughout their history, particular forms of social, economic and political organisations as well as particular forms of thought, beliefs, attitudes, symbols, images, etc. It is this set of values which confer on them specificity, an identity and a personality. It can be said that all what constitutes our cultural past and present affect our outlook and condition our

political development. Rather than being prescriptive, the conclusion aims at leaving the choice of democratic models with the people. Yet, there is room to strongly affirm that if other countries have developed their governance structure from a cultural imprint, Africa cannot be an exception.

INTRODUCTION

This essay is premised on the fact that there are innate cultural traits that may enhance or inhibit democratic governance. It is incumbent on Africans to aggressively integrate the aspects of African culture and traditions into their democracy and development mainstream.

Here therefore, are some

elements in African culture that fostered democratic governance in pre-colonial Africa and which still has all the potentials and ingredients to enhance democracy and governance in the continent.

A) Indigenous Knowledge Approach

Our Indigenous Knowledge System lies on cultural universals or a moral cultural policy that seeks to enhance human values, ensure people's dignity and responsibility and consequently act as a lever for living together and for promoting inclusive people oriented democracy. A sustained moral cultural policy is the basis of the political education which is absolutely necessary for the establishment of a

truly democratic system. (Biya, 1987:100-101).

Some aspects that reflect our Indigenous Knowledge System include:

i) **M b a n g s u m a :** This is a practice in most Cameroonian societies that enables people to pledge never to eat anything without sharing out with the others. (Biya, 1987:119). In his book *Communalism* Liberalism Biya captures this practice in a fishing imagery in which men believe that whatever catch they have as individuals belongs to all fishermen and is shared equitably. It is a form of community spirit that is observed everyday in our towns and villages as a constant answer to the permanent call of the native

soil. The psychological basis of this phenomenon is the desire to be together and to share joys and sorrows of the group. The traditional milieu is therefore the crucible for necessary inculcation of the duty of solidarity (Biya,1987:120).

ii) Yum: This is a kind of guild in most Cameroonian traditional societies grouping people desirous of working together under a rotational system jointly agreed upon, for collective prosperity on the basis of individual advancement. It is still this very tradition which teaches that collective fishing does not mean collectivising the catch, but rather giving some of it to the fishermen who had a bad day so that all families can have enough to eat (Biya,1987:118). Inherent in these first two examples is the duty of solidarity or what anthropologists have termed "the symmetry of social organisation."

iii) Njangi: In traditional societies and in fact in modern civilisation today the culture of "Njangi" or what can be termed in English as reciprocity is embedded in the notion that people do not idle about so as to unscrupulously enjoy the fruits of other people's labour without giving anything in return. This culture makes hard work, integrity, dignity and mutual respect sacrosanct to the extent that a basket containing a gift offered by a friend is not returned by the receiver until he has a gift to put in it and reciprocate. It can be argued that the economic theory of trade by barter, loan and thrift is derived from this traditional social paradigm of "Njangi". It is this culture

of "Njangi" that nurtures and unconsciously leads to the positive distribution rather than the negative accumulation of wealth.

iv) Ujamaa: The traditional African family in Tanzania according to Mwalimu Julius Nyerere lived following the basic principles of Ujamaa. The family lived together and worked together because that was how they understood life, and how they reinforced each other against the difficulties they had to contend with. The results of their joint effort were divided unequally between them, but according to well-understood customs. The family members thought of themselves as one and all their language and behaviour emphasised their unity (Nyerere,1968:337). Nyerere further explains that they lived together and they worked together and the result of their joint labour was the property of the family as a whole. Ujamaa, as Nyerere puts it was made possible because of three basic assumptions of traditional life. First there is "love" or better still "respect". Here each member of the family recognised the place and the rights of the other members. Second, there is "property". Here all the basic goods were held in common, and shared among all members of the unit. The third principle is "the obligation to work". Here every member of the family and every guest who shared in the right to eat and have shelter had to also join in whatever work had to be done (Nyerere,1963:339).

v) Ubuntu: Ubuntu is an "Nguni" (Bantu dialect) from South Africa whose meaning expresses "I am what I am because of who

we all are". It addresses our interconnectedness, our common humanity and the responsibility to each other flows from our connection. Ubuntu calls us to believe and feel "your pain is my pain", your wealth is my wealth, and "your salvation is my salvation". Archbishop Desmond Tutu put its succinctly "A person is a person through other persons. None of us comes into the world fully formed. We would not know how to think or walk or speak or behave as human beings unless we learned it from other human beings. We need other human beings in order to be human." (Tutu,2000:40). In general, within the Ubuntu philosophy the importance and value of the human being and the community are pivotal.

vi) Muntu: Muntu according to Ali Mazrui is an indigenous African word meaning person, and sometimes meaning Man in the generic sense of human kind. In a sense it is the theme of humanism in Africa's philosophical and political experience, involving a major transition in perception across the centuries (Mazrui,1986:295). The Muntu practice can be a practice of emancipation and freedom. This theme of humanism expressed by Ali Mazrui is connected to Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's democratic choice called socialism. Nyerere argues that the essence of socialism is the practical acceptance of human equality. That is to say every man's equal right to a decent life before any individual has a surplus above his needs; his equal right to participate in government; and his equal responsibility

to work and contribute to the society to the limit of his ability (Nyerere,1968:340). This philosophy of Muntu makes human kind both the creator and creation of his environment. It gives him the responsibility to cater for his fellow ones and to be conscious of the consequences of neglect and failure. In deed the world of MUNTU is a vision of the world whereby man is driven to create societies where the verbs "to be" and "to become" take primary place over the verb "to have" and where everyone's work, more than simply a means to a financial end, contributes towards building a better more sustainable world for our children(www.muntuworld.org).

B) Cultural Idiosyncrasies as Inspiration to Democratic Governance

If some of the above mentioned cultural practices were used successfully to foster nation building and bind family ties in pre-colonial Africa, then there is a possibility of borrowing some of these in the present democratic architecture. The Mbangsuma is a practice of sharing, one of self-abnegation, altruism, and empathy – elements needed in leadership at all levels. The practice encourages democratic feelings that put people rather than position or power first. The practice inspires a governance mind set of being one another's keeper. Such solidarity goes against the grain of personality cult and instead enhances the respect for the "ecosystem" rather than the bloating of the "egosystem". It is one that rebukes class

stratification derived from ill-gotten wealth. Nyerere makes a point in saying that in Tanzania this practice can safeguard and strengthen the democratic practice of the citizens. It is a practice that seeks to correct the glaring income differentials which Africans inherited from colonialism and ensure that the international imbalance between the wages of factory and service workers on the one hand and of agricultural workers on the other is not reproduced within our own nation (Nyerere,1968: 341).

Yum may be regarded as an economic practice that seeks to reactivate the philosophy of cooperation in production, sharing and distribution which was an essential part of traditional African society. It does not condone laziness but condemns greed. It supports self-reliance but abhors self-interest. It offers a challenge for citizens to build a society in which all men can treat with others on terms of complete equality and in a spirit of free cooperation.

Nyerere's most pronounced socialist philosophy was ujamaa. He summarised his thoughts into the establishment of "Ujamaa villages – cooperative communities in which people lived together and worked together for the good of all (Nyerere,1968:342). The emphasis is the eradication of power structures that are laid on the accumulation of wealth, on nepotism, clientelism and political patronage. The principles of mutual respect, sharing of joint production and work by all embedded in Ujamaa inspire a democratic governance of collective participation in the public affairs, equal

opportunities for all human security, human equality and peace between members of a society. Combined with today's modern techniques of production, ujamaa is definitely a basis of autocratic economic development. Paul Kagame's endogenous vision of growth and human/infrastructural development is arguably a derivation of the ujamaa principle.

The practice of Ubuntu philosophy with regard to humanity, care, sharing teamwork spirit, compassion, dignity, consensus, and decision-making approach can all be positive dividends of contemporary democracy. Group solidarity is an important African characteristic. Its essence in a multiethnic society such as Africa is that it effectively neutralises feelings of marginalisation and neglect among minority ethnic groups, as every group

becomes the master of its own destiny (Obijiofor,2004:135). Botswana, the one country which has since half a century of African Independence attempted to use the democratic aspects of ubuntu has comparatively outshone all other countries that labelled democracy as unAfrican. Botswana has succeeded by borrowing from ubuntu, yum, ujamaa and mbangsuma practices of popular participation in decision making, consensus-seeking, governing in the interest of the widest number of the population and leadership accountability. Not surprisingly Botswana has done better both in terms of democracy and development than most African countries (Gumede,2016:2).

Finally, politics is about the Muntu (humankind). It is about how citizens can participate in building their society to enhance development. The building of

such a society is predicated on the respect of and adherence to the family. The family as a social unit is highly valued in Africa because it provides the platform on which members receive or offer assistance, encouragement and advice.). In fact Aimé Césaire was right in saying that a civilisation that does not solve its social problems or affirms its people's human dignity is not only a failure and a lie, but also a rotten decadent affair. Needless to say this goes against the grain of progress and human development. While it is expedient for African states to embark on infrastructural development, it must always consider human capital as the precursor to democratic entitlement and sustainable development. The Arusha Declaration crafted in the main by Julius Nyerere, is based on the assumption of human equality, on the belief that it is wrong for

one man to dominate or to exploit another, and on the knowledge that every individual hopes to live in society as a free man able to lead a decent life in conditions of peace with his neighbours. The document s in other words, muntu-centred (Nyerere,1967:315). Inherent in the Arusha Declaration therefore is a commitment to the belief that there are more important things in life than the amassing of riches, and that if the pursuit of wealth clashes with things like human dignity and social equality, then the latter will be given priority. Julius Nyerere was quick to accept that the purpose of all social, economic and political activity must be man – the citizens and all the citizens, of a country. The creation of wealth is a good thing and something which needs to be increased. But it will cease to be good the moment wealth ceases to serve man and

begins to be served by man (Nyerere,1967:316).

*This Article is the first of a two-part series. Mwalimu George Ngwane is a writer and civil society actor, a Senior Chevening Fellow in conflict prevention from the University of York (UK); a Rotary Peace Fellow from the University of Chulalongkorn, Bangkok, Thailand; a Commonwealth Professional Fellow tenable at the Minority Rights Group International London; a Bilingual Commission Scholar at the Welsh Language Commission, Cardiff Wales and a United Nations Minority Rights Fellow from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland. www.gngwane.com. He is the Executive Director of the pan African association AFRICaphonie Cameroon www.africaphonie.org



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MTN Uganda and Mastercard diversify Mobile Money services in Uganda

Through this partnership, MTN MoMo customers will use a virtual card to shop or make payments at the vast network of global outlets accepting Mastercard payments

KAMPALA, Uganda, September 25, 2018/ -- MTN Uganda (www.MTN.co.ug) in partnership with Mastercard (www.Mastercard.com) and United Bank for Africa (UBA) (www.UBAGroup.com) have announced a new service that will enable quicker, safer and more convenient online payments globally. Through this partnership, MTN MoMo customers will use a virtual card to shop or make payments at the vast network of global outlets accepting Mastercard payments.

The launch of the virtual card that is known as MTN MoMocard will ensure MTN's ability to provide its customers access to products and services previously a preserve of physical credit card holders while diversifying its mobile money portfolio. Additionally, the partnership will result in a wide range of cutting-edge digital payment solutions being introduced in Uganda.

"MTN MoMo is helping to connect more Ugandans to new forms of commerce," said Wim Vanhelleputte, Chief Executive Officer, MTN Uganda. "Our affordable mobile financial services are positively impacting communities and lifestyles in Uganda. This is evidenced by the phenomenal growth in



Ngozi Megwa the Mastercard VP Market Development Sub-Saharan Africa

both the number of customers and volume of transactions over the years," he added.

Like a debit card that is linked to a bank account, the MTN MoMocard is linked to a customer's MTN MoMo account but is accessible on any type of mobile phone. All a customer has to do is dial 165*70# and follow the instructions.

The MTN MoMocard can be used on any merchant platform that accepts Mastercard – locally and globally. Consumers that travel frequently for business or leisure, or those that shop online will enjoy the convenience of the easy-to-use solution.

Ngozi Megwa, Vice President Market Development, Sub-Saharan Africa, Mastercard said, "Besides the ability to connect

more consumers to a solution that enables them to pay without cash, the virtual card also supports the growth of e-commerce in Africa and supports businesses who want to appeal to a wider audience. Digital payments is shaping commerce, the backbone of any economy. We are excited about the MTN partnership and its ability to connect us with an audience hungry for innovation."

The MTN MoMocard is powered by United Bank for Africa, which facilitates the payment transactions online, both locally and internationally.

"UBA is excited to be the bank partner with Mastercard and MTN on this milestone project that not only enhances convenience for mobile money customers but also the utility of the service.

The bank recognises the role of technology in enhancing financial services delivery and welcomes future similar partnerships," said Johnson Agoreyo, the UBA Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer.

About the MTN MoMocard: What is MTN MoMocard?

The MTN MoMocard is a virtual card available to MTN customers that enables them to perform online transactions with funds from their MTN MoMo account. MTN has partnered with Mastercard to offer this service.

How do I get the MTN MoMocard?

Getting the MTN MoMocard is very easy. Simply dial *165*70# and select option 1 to create

an MTN MoMocard. The customer will then be prompted to enter their MTN MoMo PIN. A 16-digit virtual card number together with the CVV (security code) number will be sent to your phone via an SMS notification.

How much am I charged to use the MTN MoMocard?

Each MTN MoMocard created costs UGX 1,000. This charge will be made on the customer's MTN MoMo account.

What are the limits on the MTN MoMocard?

Every MTN MoMocard has a maximum value of UGX 3,000,000 and is valid for 14 days.

Who can use the MTN MoMocard?



Johnson Agoreyo the UBA Uganda Managing Director speaking the MTN MoMocard Launch in Kampala.

MTN MoMocard is available to all MTN MoMo customers.

What can I do with my MTN MoMocard?

With the MTN MoMocard you can pay for goods and services online. Some of these include online shopping, accommodation, airline travel, ebooks, software, apps and so much more. The MTN MoMocard can be used on any online service that accepts payment through Mastercard.

How many MTN MoMocards can I create?

You can create only 1 card at a time. When that card expires or is depleted you can then create another.

What if I forget my MTN MoMocard details?

Simply dial *165*70# and select option 2. You will be prompted to enter your MTN MoMo PIN and thereafter the MTN MoMocard details will be displayed.

Can I cancel the MTN MoMocard?

You can cancel your MTN MoMocard. Simply dial *165*70# and select option 3 to cancel your card. You will be prompted to enter your MTN MoMo PIN to confirm

this request.

Can I withdraw cash using my MTN MoMocard?

No you will not be able to withdraw cash using the MTN MoMocard. It can only be used to make online payments.

About MTN Uganda:

Launched in 1998, MTN Uganda (www.MTN.co.ug) is the leading communications operator in Uganda, offering Mobile & Fixed telecommunications, Mobile Money Services and Internet Service Provisioning. As at 30th June 2018, MTN Uganda recorded 10.5 million subscribers across Uganda. Visit us at www.mtn.co.ug or follow us on www.youtube.com/mtnug and www.twitter.com/mtnug or www.twitter.com/mtnugpro for assistance.

Corporate Communications Manager: valery.okecho@mtn.com

About the MTN Group:

Launched in 1994, MTN is a global telecommunications group, operating in

22 countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The countries are: Afghanistan, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Republic, Iran, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo (Congo Brazzaville), Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia. The MTN Group is listed on the JSE Securities Exchange in South Africa under the share code: «MTN».

services through diverse channels globally. United Bank for Africa Uganda represents UBA's pioneer country activities in the East and Southern African sub-region. With an ever-growing network of branches, the bank continues to expand the retail and commercial playing field in Uganda by delivering unique financial products and solutions of UBA group as an African brand.

Communications contact: jackie.tumuhairwe@ubagroup.com

About United Bank for Africa:

United Bank for Africa (UBA) (www.UBAGroup.com) is one of Africa's leading financial institutions, with operations in 20 countries and 3 global financial centres: London, Paris and New York. UBA has evolved into a Pan-African, provider of banking and related financial

ubagroup.com

About Mastercard:

Mastercard (NYSE: MA), (www.Mastercard.com), is a technology company in the global payments industry. Our global payments processing network connects consumers, financial institutions, merchants, governments and businesses in more than 210 countries and territories. Mastercard products and solutions make everyday commerce activities – such as shopping, traveling, running a business and managing finances – easier, more secure and more efficient for everyone. Follow us on Twitter @MastercardNews, join the discussion on the Beyond the Transaction Blog and subscribe for the latest news on the Engagement Bureau.

Communications

Contact: aleksandra.babic@mastercard.com



Story 17 Pic 3 .Elsa Muzzolini the General Manager, Mobile Financial Services at MTN Uganda making a presentation

The Pan African University Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change) (PAUWES) Celebrates its Third Graduating Cohort of 79 Students from Across Africa

PRESS RELEASE



This year's graduating students are about to constitute the next generation of engineers and policymakers committed to addressing the issues critical to Africa's sustainable development

TLEMCEEN, Algeria, October 1, 2018/ -- The Pan African University Institute for Water and Energy Sciences including Climate Change (PAUWES) (www.PAUWES.dz) celebrated the third graduating class of both the engineering and policy tracks of our Masters programmes in Water and Energy. The graduating class made up of 79 students from across the African continent, received their diplomas during a ceremony at the University of Tlemcen. The graduating students and their

guests were addressed by official representatives and dignitaries from the Algerian government from across Africa and Europe, including Her Excellency Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, the African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST), Mr. Ali Benyaiche, the Governor of the Wilaya of Tlemcen, and Her Excellency Ulrike Knotz, the German Ambassador to Algeria.

This year's graduating students are about to constitute the next generation of engineers and policymakers committed to addressing the issues critical to Africa's sustainable development. PAUWES graduates have not only successfully completed their coursework requirements, they have

conducted practice-oriented research for their master theses that address the water, energy, and climate change challenges facing Africa and elsewhere. Additionally, they completed international internships in the private and public sectors at renowned research institutions across Africa and beyond, gaining a transcontinental perspective of those same challenges. During the graduation ceremony, H.E. Prof. Sarah ANYANG AGBOR said: "I would like to congratulate you on your efforts and for upholding the core values of our continent. I wish you the best in your future endeavours. As a mother, let me advise you to always remember that in real life, every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that

goes on until the last day of your life. So always strive to graduate in every decision or activity you make. I am proud of you, we are proud of You, Africa is proud of You!"

The graduating cohort represents and fulfils one of the key objectives of the Pan African University (PAU) and PAUWES—which is to foster an African learning environment of the most qualified and motivated scholars while revitalising and nurturing the quality of African higher education. The Class of 2018 has students from twenty African Union member states with all regions of the African continent represented. This diverse cohort of students have had the opportunity to study, being taught by and international faculty

coming from four continents. Supported by the University of Tlemcen and the key thematic partner Germany, Prof. Abdellatif Zerga, Director of PAUWES, is confident: "The students of the Class of 2018 are well positioned to become change makers in public administration, policy-making, research, technology, private enterprise, and civil society." The PAUWES 2018 Class Booklet (<https://bit.ly/2OX87vn>) showcases this year's graduates, and PAUWES is pleased to invite future employers to meet them.

PAUWES has also just welcomed the incoming class (students from 29 countries across Africa) and is proud to announce that thanks to a number of specific measures, gender parity could be

reached, which is a huge achievement within our latest cohort.

About Pan African University:

PAU (PAU-au.net) addresses five thematic areas: Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation; Life and Earth Sciences (including Health and Agriculture), Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences; Water and Energy Sciences including Climate Change (PAUWES); and Space Sciences. The thematic areas are assigned to five flagship institutes hosted by existing universities of excellence across Africa's five geo-graphic regions. For more information: PAU-au.net

About PAUWES:

As an integral part of the

Pan African University, the Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change) (PAUWES) (www.PAUWES.dz) in Tlemcen, Algeria, contributes to advancing higher education and applied research in the fields of water, energy and climate change – a key contribution to sustainable development in Africa. PAUWES, which is supported by the German government, currently offers four master programmes in the fields of water and energy, covering both engineering and policy



The Pan African University Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change) (PAUWES) Celebrates its Third Graduating Cohort of 79 Students from Across Africa

Making our cities smart-city-ready

By Raja Moudgil and Roy Alves



Johannesburg, South Africa.

The future of cities is smart interconnected systems, that drive sustainability and efficiencies, and that make the lives of

the people who live in them easier. While South Africa's major metropolitan areas still have many major hurdles to overcome, becoming smart-

city-ready must become an important consideration in future city planning if we want to build metropolitan hubs that function at a world-

class level.

By 2050 the current rate of urbanisation will mean that 68% of the world's

population will live in cities. This, combined with the current population growth rate, means that by that year there will be 2.5 billion more people living in urban areas. This will result in increased demands on infrastructure, amenities and space, which, in turn, will mean a demand for new and improved ways of managing these spaces, or future megacities.

Moving forward we will need to futureproof any infrastructure developments, with a keen eye on interconnectivity and telecommunications. Already thanks to the internet of things we can connect device with a sensor to anything else with a sensor – giving us access not only to banks of new data but also opening brand new possibilities around efficiencies.

Just think of the amount and money that could be saved by a system which monitored traffic flow and fed that information back to a central data centre where machine learning was being used to analyse the data and facilitate smoother traffic flow – all in real time.

What about a city where surveillance cameras plug directly into emergency services, immediately alerting officials to a crime or motor vehicle accident and simultaneously sending the information to the closest police officer or paramedic, cutting down on response times?

There is already a global push towards smart cities, but South Africa remains a long way off, thanks in most part to the need for more interconnectivity and infrastructure.

While we wait for that infrastructure to be put in place, however, it would be a miss of us to fail to put in place plans that will ensure that Johannesburg, Cape

Town, or even Pretoria, can become smart cities sooner rather than later.

So, how do we make sure that we are smart-city-ready when the time comes?

Firstly, in preparing to become a smart city it's important to take a wholistic approach. At the core of that approach should be the goal of driving efficiencies in existing systems. Often new technology gets us excited and we lose sight of the end goal because of a gimmick. Being smart-city-ready is not about smart parking or healthcare or agriculture. It's about creating a system which is integrated, which is sustainable, which increases the ease of living for citizens, makes the city a safe place to live and drives economic growth in the long run.

Another important aspect of preparing to be a smart city is the breaking down of silos. Today, systems still operate in isolation, and different components are not directly linked to each other. For example, the city of Johannesburg

has hundreds of cameras for traffic, hundreds for city surveillance, hundreds at retailers and hundreds within public transport, with very limited scope of cooperation between these silos.

Surveillance represents a typical area where a city can become smarter when selected data is shared across multiple stakeholders. By breaking down the barriers between the individual silos, several benefits can be gained – for the city, for private entities and for the citizens. Cameras have become an integral part of operations centres of major cities around the world. As the Internet of Things comes to life, there are numerous other scenarios where network cameras could help improve the way smart cities function, and the way people live, travel and work.

Potential use cases range from city information systems – where the cameras become an essential component of a central operation centre for a variety of city services related to safety and security, energy, health, traffic,

and transportation – to sustainable urban planning to environmental solutions that monitor air quality, noise levels, and UV radiation. Network cameras could also enable new applications in commerce, entertainment and tourism, especially when coupled with mobile and location-based technologies. Examples of the ways network cameras can impact on a smart city range from parking monitoring to 3D mapping for tourists.

Smart lighting demonstrates another opportunity for preparing for a smart future. Hundreds of local authorities around the world have invested in smart LED street lighting thanks to an increased focus on sustainability and the efficient use of resources. The lights last longer, use much less energy and make streets safer. Smart lighting can also provide the foundation for an eco-system of data that can help people make better decisions – whether they are managers delivering public services or ordinary citizens wondering how best to get

home after work.

Finally, it will take co-operation between the public and private sector to ensure that cities can make the transition to being smart.

Employing these best practices, partnerships between public organisations, private companies and the community can bring benefits to the whole system: public safety, economic development and improved management efficiency, with municipalities giving citizens and local businesses the chance to play a key role in the process.

Building the smart city of the future will take bravery and visionary leadership. It will also take commitment to all those involved to new harnessing new technologies as they become available. Innovation must become a tool which makes cities more liveable. Simply put, it's the smart the thing to do.

* Raja Moudgil, General Manager, Signify Southern Africa and Roy Alves, Country Manager, MEA, Axis Communications



Smart cities are coming to South Africa.

Orange Money celebrates a decade of financial innovation in Africa and confirms its position as a major mobile money player



Orange Money is now one of the Group's leading growth drivers and continues to evolve to better serve people, companies, institutions and governments

PARIS, France, September 28, 2018/ -- Orange Money, Orange's (www.Orange.com) mobile money solution, is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Launched in 2008, the service currently has 40 million customers and is available in 17 countries, reaching €26 billion in transactions in 2017. Orange Money is now one of the Group's leading growth drivers and continues to evolve to better serve people,

companies, institutions and governments.

Success based on an accessible, universal service

Orange Money was initially launched in Côte d'Ivoire in 2008. The success of this money transfer and mobile payment solution for unbanked or relatively unbanked populations is based on the accessible, universal nature of the service, which makes it possible for millions of people to perform instant, secure and reliable financial transactions using their mobile phone.

The service is currently

available in 17 African countries and has 40 million customers, 13 million of whom use it every month. Orange Money's accelerating growth and sales which rose 60% from 2016 to 2017 have made it one of the Group's top growth drivers in Africa, particularly in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Cameroon. In some countries, the service gives close to 50% of users access to banking services in areas with low levels of bank usage.

Orange Money: a strong impact on individuals' daily lives and on economies

Orange Money is now much

more than just a cash transfer service. Over the past decade, the number of Orange Money services has quadrupled, leading to the financial inclusion of populations and helping drive national economic development.

The offer has been significantly expanded to include international transfers, bill payment, and wage payment services. The "Bank to Wallet" service, launched in 2015, is a major innovation that goes even further by enabling transfers between bank accounts and Orange Money accounts.

Electronic money has also

made it possible to facilitate exchanges and secure transactions, and is now a major advantage not only for individuals but also for major companies and SMEs.

Changing governance for increased effectiveness

In order to meet the compliance regulations that govern mobile money activities, Orange has created financial establishments with Central Bank approval in seven African countries, as well as a shared supervision and compliance control structure, CECOM, based in Abidjan. These structures guarantee transactions and



After its transfer and payment services, Orange is going further with lending and savings services available directly by mobile phone. These services, which are available through partners, are already offered to Orange customers in Mali and Madagascar since early 2018 as part of the initial launch.

International transfers, another strong area of development for Orange Money, aim to strengthen ties between people living outside their home countries and their loved ones.

facilitate dialogue directly with authorities, thereby simplifying the market launch of new services.

its success, which now represents a major share of OMEA turnover”.

The goal is to make Orange Money accessible for as many people as possible, in strict compliance with regulations set out of the Central Banks in the countries and currency zones where Orange operates.

Paul de Leusse, Orange Group Deputy CEO for Mobile Financial Services, says that, “Orange Money’s success is based on its usefulness, its

ease of use, and its full integration with Orange’s services. Orange Money represents the future of Orange’s mobile financial services in all our countries, especially in Europe”.

The outlook for Orange Money

Finally, as smartphones become increasingly widespread and uses change rapidly, the Orange Money services are evolving with the development of an application for easier interactions and transactions.

Alioune Ndiaye, CEO of Orange Middle East and Africa (OMEA) says that, “Orange Money makes real contributions to economic and social development in Africa and is a part of our strategy as a multiservice operator and digital transformation partner in Africa and the Middle East. Orange Money’s success is first and foremost a joint achievement, and I would like to thank all of the teams who work hard every day to ensure



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Groundbreaking Ceremony marks start of work at DP World Berbera in Somaliland

The first phase will consist of building a 400-metre quay and 250,000 square metre yard extension as well as the development of a free zone to create a new regional trading hub

DP WORLD

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, October 11, 2018/

Maputo expansion project in Mozambique.

Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO, DP World, said:

Construction work on the development of the multi-purpose Berbera port in the Republic of Somaliland has started with a special groundbreaking ceremony to mark the occasion.

H.E. President of the Republic of Somaliland, Muse Bihi Abdi and DP World Group Chairman and CEO Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem launched the first phase of work and thanked attending government officials and partners for their support at the start of a new era of growth for the country.

The first phase will consist of building a 400-metre quay and 250,000 square metre yard extension as well as the development of a free zone to create a new regional trading hub. DP World Berbera, the joint venture company, will also serve land locked countries in the Horn of Africa such as Ethiopia which has a 19% stake in the project as a shareholder.

Long term DP World partner Shafa Al Nahda Contracting have been awarded the construction contract for the port expansion. Shafa Al Nahda have been involved in the Port of Dakar expansion in Senegal as well the Port of

“This event is a landmark in the history of Somaliland and for DP World. We are delighted that construction work has begun and over the next few years we will see a transformation in the capacity of this major infrastructure asset that will benefit people both here and across the Horn of Africa, providing an alternative gateway to international markets and providing jobs to the people of Somaliland.

“This is all part of our vision to act as an enabler of trade and to encourage growth by helping African countries develop their economies with access to global markets. Investment in this natural deep-water port and free zone will act as a catalyst for the growth of the country and the region’s economy and create jobs at many levels. Alongside physical assets we are investing in the development of the people who work here through training and skills development across our network. I’d like to thank the Government and the people of Somaliland for inviting us to be a long-term partner in the future of their nation.”



President of Somaliland Muse Bihi Abdi, said:

“We Today is a historic day as we mark another major milestone in the development of our economy and by investing in our infrastructure we will be able to grow for the benefit of our people, the region and beyond. Connecting to landlocked countries such as Ethiopia and the rest of the region will reinforce the firm relationships that now exist and make Somaliland an important player in regional economic integration and growth. The importance of the Port of Berbera as a Red Sea gateway for the Middle East and Africa can now be realised, unlocking our potential as a trade hub and creating jobs across the country.”

About DP World:

DP World [1] (web.

DPWorld.com) is a leading enabler of global trade and an integral part of the supply chain. We operate multiple yet related businesses – from marine and inland terminals, maritime services, logistics and ancillary services to technology-driven trade solutions.

We have a portfolio of 78 operating marine and inland terminals supported by over 50 related businesses in over 40 countries across six continents with a significant presence in both high-growth and mature markets. We aim to be essential to the bright future of global trade, ensuring everything we do has a long-lasting positive impact on economies and society.

Our dedicated team of over 36,000 employees from 103 countries cultivates long-standing relationships with

governments, shipping lines, importers and exporters, communities, and many other important constituents of the global supply chain, to add value and provide quality services today and tomorrow.

Container handling is the company’s core business and generates more than three quarters of its revenue. In 2017, DP World handled 70.1 million TEU (twenty-foot equivalent units) across our portfolio. With its committed pipeline of developments and expansions, the current gross capacity of 88.2 million TEU is expected to rise to more than 100 million TEU by 2020, in line with market demand.

By thinking ahead, foreseeing change and innovating we aim to create the most productive, efficient and safe trade solutions globally.

President Mutharika's UN Trip In Pictures



Arrival in the USA

A warm welcome to a University he has been associated with for decades.



Arrival in New York

Arrival at Washington University



President Mutharika's UN Trip In Pictures



President Mutharika delivering his remarks at Washington Univeristy, titled My Political Journey.

Assisting with hooding at Washington University are from left trustees Maxine Clark and John F. McDonnell and Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton.



At Mandela Peace Summit

At the United General Assembly



President Mutharika's UN Trip In Pictures



speaking when he co-chaired a High-level meeting for UN International Commission on Financing for Global Education

With the Malawian Delegation



addressing the 73rd UNGA.



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.



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