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Paul Biya and the Mandate of All Dangers For A Life Presidency

By Ajong Mbapndah L



Ajong Mbapndah L, Managing Editor

While he may not be the most loquacious President in Africa, Paul Biya of Cameroon is known for sound bites that speak volumes. As long as Yaounde breathes, Cameroon is alive, he said in response to political crisis of the early 90's. Cameroon is Cameroon, and the impossible is not Cameroonian are some of the phrases linked to him. May be the man was right or how else do you explain that for one campaign stop of 12 minutes he was proclaimed winner of the recent Presidential elections in his country?

Sworn in for the first time on 6 November 1982, President Biya was sworn in on 6 November 2018 to start his 37th non stop year as President of Cameroon. If that is not a life Presidency,

then hard to find a better way to describe it. As the ruling CPDM party basks in the glow of this victory of sorts, this may prove to be a mandate too many for Mr. Biya. Worn out by age, a bloody crisis in the English-speaking North West, and South West regions, a deeply fractured country, galloping unemployment and not forgetting the vicious succession battle behind the scenes, the legacy of Mr. Biya is on the line, if at all he thinks of one.

As flawed as the elections of 2018 were, there were a number of positives that stood out. The turn out at campaign rallies of the various opposition parties highlighted a political fervor that many thought was

lost among Cameroonians. Unfortunately, many of them were not registered to vote. The opposition had quality candidates and there are many who still think that a consensus candidate would possible have made life more complex for Mr. Biya and the ruling party.

Even when it came to entertain electoral disputes at the constitutional council, the opposition leaders and Lawyers put up a formidable show. Blatant irregularities were exposed, the Anglophone crisis was x-rayed to a strong national and international audience, the unprecedented media coverage was given ample mileage by opposition lawyers in highlighting the flaws of the regime. As expected, the constitutional

council declared the elections for Mr. Biya. But what can he do in seven years that he has not been able to do for the last 35 or so years? Plenty, at least if his intent is to leave behind a country when his life presidency comes to an end.

For a man who use to take pride in referring to Cameroon as an oasis of peace in a troubled sub region, President Biya should now be conscious that there is something profoundly wrong with the country. His handling of the crisis in the North West, and South West regions has been calamitous. The use of force is not working, the human right violations and excesses of the military have only helped to rally more people to the separatist cause. Why would he create a bilingualism commission and till date, its recommendations are not even in consideration as the crisis drags on?

Why should dialogue be so hard? Even at the constitutional council, there was consensus amongst all the opposition candidates and their lawyers that the Biya government was handling the crisis in a very wrong way. Curiously even before the dust settled on the election, the government was signing a decree stripping the GCE Board of its powers and autonomy. Considering the fight that Anglophones put in the get the board and how much the educational system is cherished in the English-speaking regions, one is tempted to ask if the government is actually serious

about resolving the crisis. Mr. Biya is now President and he either steps up his conflict management skills or he goes down in history as the man who presided over a civil war, and the effective breakup of the country.

Prior to the elections, it used to be easy for those in government to see the villain in those articulating the Anglophone case. The recent elections and its aftermath has revealed deep fractures within the polity. The tribal cleavages run deep and the potential for conflict engulfing the rest of the country is very palpable.

The seven years offer Mr. Biya a lifeline to put the house in order, and burnish what will otherwise be a porous legacy for him. At the dawn of the 90s, he refused to heed to opposition calls for a national conference and opted for the tripartite summit with mitigated results. With the myriad of crisis facing the country, could the President finally show some courage in holding that National conference now? It could be a stitch in time.

At his age, there is less energy to take on so much. In Africa, age is associated with wisdom and besides Mr. Biya accepted to take on the challenge of remaining in power at all cost. The slogan this time around was a country of great opportunities. Opportunities for who? With what system? In what context? Without peace, opportunities mean nothing, without a good system in place people can't

excel.

In case Mr. Biya is serious about fighting the scourge of corruption, he must go beyond just hauling officials to prison. It speaks volumes that over 20 years after the 1996 constitution was promulgated, Article 66 on the declaration of assets by senior government officials prior to assuming office has not gone operational.

With the renewed interest in politics and the presence and growing importance of social media, President Biya should know the spotlight will be firmly on every move he and his administration make. From the cost of his frequent international junkets, to tales of sleaze within the administration, from persecution of journalists like Mimi Meffo to excesses from the military, it will not be business as usual.

As flawed as the electoral system and process maybe, giving up just should not be an option. Local government and parliamentary elections are coming up. One of the ways to vent the frustrations of the 2018 elections could be to register massively and participate in those elections. Now that the generational shift many years for cannot start from the top, it can start from the bottom and work its way up.

Talking of opportunities, how can you continue to keep the diaspora out? The government might view the diaspora as opponents because of their political activism, but the fact remains that Cameroon has one of the most talented people in the diaspora of any African countries. Medical Doctors, engineers, IT professionals, University Professors, and more, you will find Cameroonians amongst the

best in most countries. Many of them are in the position to create opportunities for the country. The diaspora can and should be an asset and not a foe.

If it doubt about the potential of the Cameroon diaspora and its potential, one of the people who features prominently on the special focus of Washington alumni making a difference in is Angele Kwemo, of Cameroonian origin who has excelled in a number of high profile positions and initiatives. Cameroon and Africa

And in case was in need of inspirational examples, there are stories from Kenya where President Uhuru Kenyatta has given an emphatic no to calls from his associates to do away with term limits so as to continue in power. In South Sudan, sanity is setting in after a calamitous and very avoidable civil war that destroyed the great hope many had for the country after independence in 2011. The beauty of that peace deal is that other African leaders played a pivotal role. When we consider that not long ago, Ethiopia and Eritrea decided to end their feud, Prof PLO is right in saying that Africa is on the move. It will be sad if for all its potential, instead of leading, Cameroon continues to be a negative example because of a largely avoidable crisis exacerbated by leadership without a clear-cut vision. Time may not be on his side, but with the wisdom that is supposed to go with age in our African context, Mr. Biya can use the mandate to clean up the mess he has made of Cameroon. He owes the country that. The world is watching. Happy Reading!

"This is a watershed moment for Africa," - Deputy Chairperson shares insights on the ongoing financial reforms of the Union



Mr Quartey Kwesi, Deputy Chair of the AU Commission

mobilization but most importantly, stringent measures are now in place to ensure the prudent use of these resources to meet the development needs of our Continent

The breakdown of the 2019 budget is as follows; US\$161.4 million will go into financing the

African Union Headquarters; 12th November 2018: At 31st Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit held in Nouakchott, Mauritania in July 2018, a budget of US\$681,485,337 was approved for the financial year 2019. The budget covers three components operational, programme and peace support operations. The Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Amb. Kwesi Quartey, shares the five key takeaways of the adoption of the 2019 budget in what he describes as a watershed moment for Africa.

1. Give us a brief on the 2019 budget of the Union.

Amb. Kwesi; The Assembly of the Union adopted the 2019 budget for the Union at a total of US\$681,485,337 at the African Union Summit held in Nouakchott, Mauritania in July 2018. This amount reflects a significant

decrease of the annual budget by 12%, compared to the 2018 budget. It is also a reflection that the share of AU member states financing the budget has substantially increased compared to the partner funding in previous years. If you look at the 2019 budget, excluding the peace support operations, member states will contribute 66% of the budget while 34% is expected to be secured from our development Partners.

This increase of member states contribution has come about by implementing the decision on financing of the Union to fund the activities and agenda of the Union. Through this mechanism, we can see that the continent is gradually realizing its vision of reliable, predictable and sustainable funding of its agenda. The 2019 budget also demonstrates an enhanced process of domestic resources

operational budget of the Union, US\$252.8 million will go into the program budget while US\$273.3 million will finance Peace Support operations.

2. The preparation of the 2019 budget is said to be significantly different from the previous budget preparations, why is that?

Amb. Kwesi; Yes, the 2019 budget is different because the Union has adopted new ways of programme planning and budget process, to ensure greater accountability in line with the implementation of the decision of Financing on the Union.

This is the first time we had joint sittings of the AU Commission and organs, the Committee of Finance Ministers (F15) technical experts and the Permanent Representatives' Committee sub-Committees of General Supervision and Coordination on Budget, Finance and

Administrative matters and of Programs and Conferences, to prepare the budget. The preparation took about five weeks consecutively, looking carefully at the budget of each spending unit of the Union to ensure it complied with the nine golden rules.

During the 2019 budget, we also introduced the budget ceilings for departments and organs based on their track record on prudent execution rate, the ability to reach their targets and aligning their programmes strictly, to the priorities of the Union. This will greatly enhance the budget execution and ensure the expenditure is linked to results.

These joint sittings were also held at the ministerial level by the Committee of Ministers of Finance (F15) before the budget was presented to the Executive Council and the Assembly for adoption. The Committee of Ministers of Finance has since assumed responsibility for oversight of the African Union budget and Reserve Fund.

Related article- Financial reforms at the African Union lead to massive cuts of the Union's Budget. <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20180706/financial-reforms-african-union...>

3. You have made reference to the nine golden rules, tell us more about that.

Amb. Kwesi; The nine golden rules are financial management and accountability principles adopted by the Assembly of the Union in January 2018. These rules are meant to ensure financial discipline within the Union to enable us decisively address issues of low execution rates, identify undetected wastages and

instances of over-budgeting by departments or organs, as well as ensure full compliance with the African Union financial rules and regulations.

So far, we have fully implemented four of the nine golden rules. There is an interlinking factor on the application of all the nine rules with the progress in the implementation of the decision on financing of the Union and therefore we will soon have the other five rules applied.

The nine golden rules speak to the fact that;

a) Member states' contributions should cover a minimum threshold of the budget to ensure the Union's self-sufficiency and sustainability, thereby decreasing dependence on external funding.

b) The rules recognize the need for major changes to be effected to ensure revenues are predictable. This touches on elements such as the full payment of assessed contributions by Member States and partners' contribution, for the revenue streams to be centrally coordinated.

c) The rules also speak to the credibility of the AU budgeting system which must be based on a fully integrated and automated financial management system.

d) As I mentioned earlier, one of the rules is the annual budget ceiling which is communicated to department and organs before they submit their budget proposals.

e) Also, it is important that expenditure must at all times, be authorized for virements, surplus budgets and spending that exceeds approved budgets.

f) Another key rule, is seeing to it that resource flows

and transactions are reliable and efficient. Funds must be provided to departments and organs in the agreed amounts at the agreed times.

g) Institutional accountability is of utmost importance, to ensure the flow of funds is tracked to service delivery units. This requires the harmonization of all the different management systems we use.

h) Reporting is also an integral part of the financial management process. The Financial Rules and Regulations requires that departments and organs report all activities for which funds have been received, as part of the compliance and quarterly performance reports.

i) Finally, there is also the aspect on centralizing the process for engaging partners to avoid unilateral engagements for partner funded programmes.

These rules are currently being translated into AU policy and procedures and will also be reflected in the AU's updated Financial Rules and Procedures.

4. In regards to the decision on Financing of the Union, what is the progress on that since its adoption in 2016?

Amb. Kwesi; There is commendable progress in the collection of the 0.2% levy by member states, 11 of our member states paid their 2018 assessed contributions to the AU, either partially or in full, through the new financing arrangement. We have 24 States that are at various stages of domesticating the Kigali Decision on Financing the Union and of these, 14 are actually collecting the levy.

Let me also add that there is flexibility built into the implementation of the 0.2%. Member States have

the ability to determine the appropriate form and the means they will use to implement the decision in line with their national and international obligations. It is for this reason that Member States that are, for example, members of the World Trade Organization have implemented the 0.2% levy without contravening their international trade obligations.

Also, as I mentioned earlier, the introduction of the golden rules and the joint sittings have provided stronger technical oversight of the AU budget.

Lastly, I think I would highlight the operationalization of the Peace Fund as a remarkable milestone. This year our Member States have contributed over US\$55.9 million to the Peace Fund, which is the largest amount of money Member States have ever contributed to the Peace Fund since it was established in 1993.

5. What are your projections in advancing the ongoing financial reforms?

Amb. Kwesi; Looking at the progressive developments in Africa's self-financing agenda, I believe this is a watershed moment for Africa. Our focus is to gradually move towards funding 100% of the Union's operational budget, 75% of the programme budget and 25% of peace support operations by 2021, for the full ownership of the Union's agenda.

We are working on revising the Scale of Assessment as currently, 48% of the Union's budget is dependent on the contributions of only 5 member states under "Tier 1" of the scale of assessment. This presents clear risks to the stability

of the budget. It is for this reason that in a meeting held in August 2017, Ministers of Finance recommended the introduction of 'caps' and 'minima' to our existing scale of assessment, in order to improve overall burden-sharing and risk reduction.

We also want to strengthen the sanctions regime for non-payment of contributions to ensure AU Member States payments are made on time. Under the current sanctions regimes, Member States non-payment are classified to be in default only if they are in arrears for two full years. This has led to a trend where about 33% of the assessed contributions are regularly held in arrears.

Finally, we are working towards developing a credible medium-term budget framework (2019-2021) based on revenue forecasts and capacity to spend. This will enable the Union to improve the credibility of its budget, strengthen financial management capacity and demonstrate value for money and results to its Member States. We are committed to ensure the highest standards of finance and budget management as well as seeing to it that we have a credible budget based on capacity to spend and proper revenue forecasts.

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Kenya: President Uhuru Throws Cold Water On Tenure Elongation Talk

By Samuel Ouma



President Uhuru says he intends to leave office when his second and last mandate expires in 2022

President Uhuru Kenyatta's allies who were pushing for an extension of his tenure have been left in the cold following his revelation that he will retire when his second and final term comes to an end in 2022.

In May 2018, trade unionist Francis Atwoli called for constitutional amendment to prolong Uhuru Kenyatta's presidency past 2022 as stipulated in the constitution. He argued the Head State is heading in the right direction especially in fight against graft saying there is no need to replace to him.

"President Kenyatta is now where we wanted him to be. Come 2022, if he will not have accomplished his mission of cleaning up the country, we will go into a referendum to give him another term," Atwoli said.

The Central Organisation of Trade Unions (cotu) boss

suggested the creation of the post of Prime Minister to accommodate Uhuru stating he is still young and should not be let to retire.

"Let us amend the constitution and adopt the Bomas draft to fight exclusion, realizing that not all of us can be president. This will allow us to accommodate President Kenyatta, who is very young. Otherwise where are we going to take him?" asked Atwoli.

His statement was echoed by Jubilee party vice-chairman David Murathe, Uhuru's party, saying he still has a lot to offer to Kenyans.

"People want Uhuru to go home at 60 yet Raila is trying to be president at 75. Where do you want him to go?" Murathe reiterated.

Atwoli's suggestion has been dismissed by a pool of leaders labeling it as a misplaced priority.

Kipchumba Murkomen, a close ally of Deputy President

William Ruto and the Elgeyo Marakwet Senator described the proposal as warped thinking and an attempt to create jobs for those who are already in authority.

"Atwoli's opinion is warped. Our focus is not how to create jobs for individuals but for millions of Kenyans. The president is well catered for and does not need any positions created for him," Kipchumba Murkomen, Senate Majority Leader said.

The National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi said that although every Kenyan is entitled to his opinion, but cautioned leaders against amending the constitution with a specific individual in mind.

"Constitutions are never made for an individual or community. If we go that way, we shall lose. Even if there is an amendment to the constitution, let it be to strengthen governance

institutions and for posterity. It is his opinion but matters to do with law and constitution should be about institutions," said Muturi.

The former Prime Minister Raila Odinga's proposal to create a three-tier government that will see the formation of 14 regional blocs further speculated Uhuru's stay in power beyond 2022. Following peace deal known as handshake between the long term two rivals, many suspected the ODM party leader is speaking on behalf of the Head of State.

Raila wants an introduction of the post of an executive Prime Minister as head of Government, scrapping the position of deputy president and establishing two deputy prime minister posts, a suggestion that has brought division in both the ruling and opposition coalitions.

"It is time to recover this original spirit. My proposal is that we adopt a three-tier system that retains the current counties, create regional or provincial government with a very clear formula for revenue sharing," said Raila.

The opposition leader has maintained the current constitution cannot solve the country's perennial problems adding that the plebiscite was part of March 9 handshake and is inevitable.

Amani National Congress leader Musalia Mudavadi expressed his fear over the looming constitutional amendments backed by his

National Super Alliance (Nasa) co-principal. He claimed the changes would grant President Kenyatta an extended stay in power.

He pointed out how constitutional amendment saw former president Daniel moi run for presidency for another two-five year terms.

"Those who remember, after the law was changed in the nineties, it allowed president Moi to serve another 10 years in office after he had finished 14 years. This could be repeated," he warned.

The push to change the country's supreme laws has not been taken lightly by the deputy president's camp. They believe the changes will interfere with succession politics during next general election. In 2013, President Kenyatta and his deputy signed a memorandum of understanding which will see Ruto succeed him in 2022.

Ruto and his lieutenants have continuously rebuffed the push for a referendum as idle talk. The deputy president has vowed to oppose the changes if it aims at creating positions for election losers. He has asked leaders to focus on the big four agenda: manufacturing, universal healthcare, housing affordability and food security instead of pursuing personal agenda.

"We need to focus on service delivery to the people. This ongoing rhetoric is idle talk and it should not be allowed to continue. The



Opposition leader Raila Odinga(L) and current Vice President William Ruto (r) have been cited as possible contenders to succeed Uhuru Kenyatta.

public is waiting for improved services," he said.

Anxiety has been looming in the ruling coalition since the handshake. Ruto allies are alleged to have sensed a scheme between Kenyatta and Odinga to scuttle his presidential bid. They had appealed to President

Kenyatta to revoke the deal he signed with the opposition leader saying it diminishes Ruto's chances of succeeding him.

"As Jubilee Party from Rift Valley, we are demanding that the handshake thing should come to an end as it is an impediment to bar Ruto

from becoming president," reiterated Nandi Senator Samson Cherargei (Ruto's staunch supporter).

However, President Uhuru Kenyatta has cooled down speculations circulating in the media over his stay in power saying he will quit when his term expires.

The Head of State quashed out rumors that he is backing constitutional review so as to extend his tenure. He explained that the call for a referendum is not about his tenure but reducing the cost of running the government.

"People are talking about constitutional change not necessarily that they are desirous for the president to seek third term but because of issues related to the cost of running this country," said Kenyatta.

The 2022 presidential race has been tipped to be between Ruto and Raila, who is yet to announce his bid even though his close allies have insisted that he will be in the ballot. Others who have expressed their interests in the seat are Kalonzo Musyoka of Wiper, Gideon Moi (Kanu), Moses Wetangula of Ford Kenya, Alfred Mutua (Maendeleo Chap Chap), Hassan Joho and Wickliffe Oparanya both from ODM.

The National Council of Churches of Kenya General Secretary Canon Peter Karanja had astounded many when he advised Ruto's bigwigs to tread carefully because his ascension to power is not guaranteed in light of the handshake.

The Reverend said the deputy president has an uphill task given his political nemesis from his home turf Baringo Senator Gideon Moi, son of the former president Daniel Moi, who is consolidating support to succeed President Kenyatta.

"The handshake appears to completely stand in the way of Ruto. If you love him so much, reinterpret the handshake. And explore keenly what are its total ramifications. If Raila is re-engineering himself through the handshake, then he is likely to cause major havoc on Ruto's game plan," the Canon reiterated.



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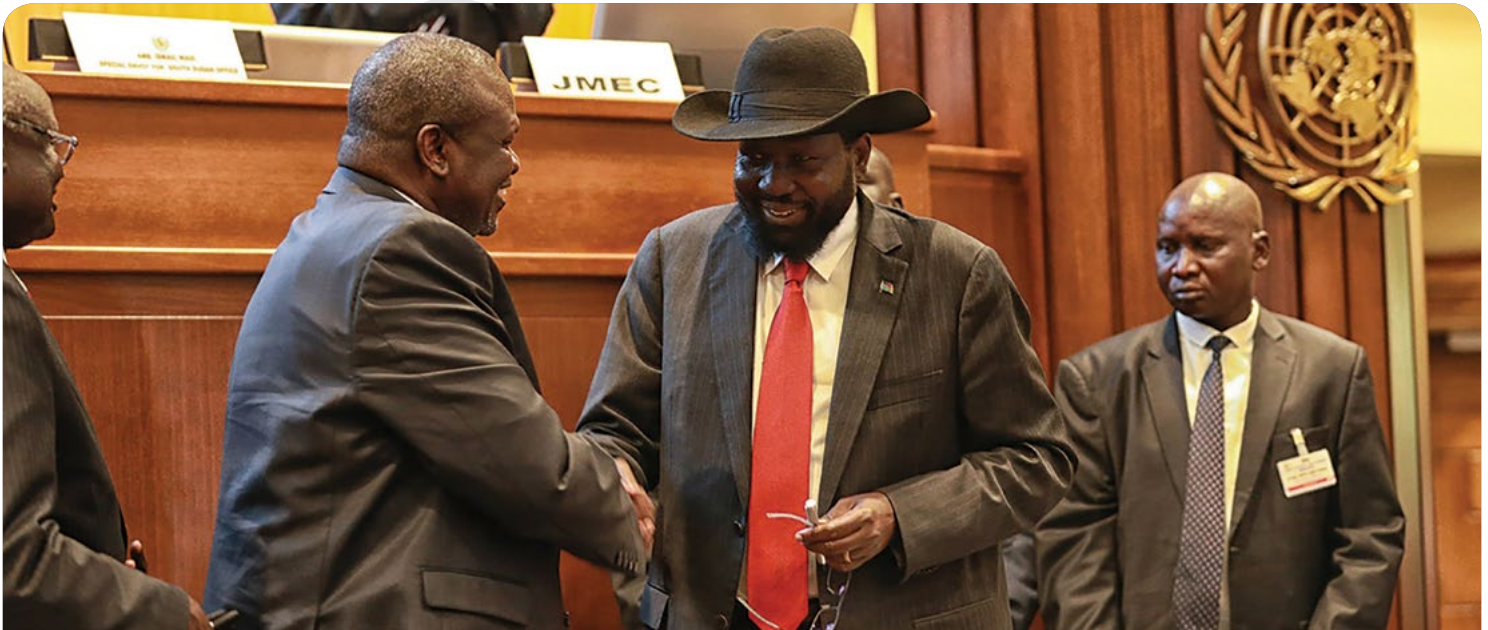
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South Sudan celebrates peace, declaring conflict over, a new page for peace.

By Deng Machol



President Salva Kiir (right) of South Sudan shakes hands with leader Riek Machar.

Juba

South Sudanese celebrated a new revitalized peace deal recently as zealous hopes of an end to a five years old conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced million people from their homes were toughened by all-embracing skepticism that the flimsy deal will hold.

The deal, which is meant to end a civil war that began in mid – December 2013, commits forces loyal to President Salva Kiir, and the rebel groups fighting them over power wrangling in the ruling party, SPLM.

Speaking at the peace celebration on Wednesday at Dr. John Garang Mausoleum, South Sudanese President Salva Kiir said the celebration marks the end of civil war in South Sudan.

"Today marks the end of the war in the Republic of

South Sudan," President Kiir told hundreds of the attended crowds. This war has been subjected to many analyses and it has been given many names. For those of us caught in the middle of it, we know it was neither an ethnic nor an economic war but rather a naked struggle for power with a complete disregard for constitutional order. 'It was a complete betrayal of our people and their liberation struggle and this is what has warranted my apology to people of South Sudan.' The time for blame, as to who started it, is over, and those of us who consider ourselves leaders must accept the blame collectively and solemnly promise our people never to return them to war again."

Back from Exile

Dr. Riek Machar, the leader of the country's biggest coalition of rebel fighters, SPLM-IO returned to Juba

for the first time since 2016 to take part in a peace ceremony involving singers, flags and drums staged before regional dignitaries.

The former Vice President had fled to neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo in 2016 under a hail of gunfire when an earlier peace deal collapsed.

Machar and President Salva Kiir signed a new peace agreement last month in the latest attempt to end the five-year war which has claimed thousands of lives.

The new deal reinstates him as the first vice president and he will return to Juba in May next year to assume the position. A similar attempt at forming a transitional government failed in mid-2016 and prompted some of the war's worst violence. Machar was eventually forced into exile in South Africa.

Machar said his historic return to Juba showed his

rebel movement is "for peace."

"We came ... for peace and ... to end the suffering of people," Machar said. He was accompanied by his wife and at least 50 delegations from the SPLM - IO, but none of his troops.

"It is important to note that the signed revitalized peace agreement is to end the suffering of the people of South Sudan so that they can live in peace and harmony, reconcile and heals the wounds inflicted upon them during this traumatic war. We call on our people to support this peace agreement as it will reform the state and its institutions," Machar said.

According to Dr. Machar, all the soldiers will be brought to work together, adding that all the rebels holding guns should put down the guns and come out for peace.

'Friends and Foes'

President Kiir further reiterated that the war in South Sudan has come to an end, and we have forgiven each other and we have consciously decided to move this country through a healing process.

He said the personalities who signed the agreement have in the past been former friends and foes, therefore, the big challenge ahead is to build trust and confidence between the parties -- and between the parties and the people.

Both government and rebel forces have been accused of atrocities during the conflict that's driven parts of the nation to the brink of famine. Amnesty International has alleged that pro-government forces rampaged through opposition-controlled areas for more than a month this year, even as peace talks were underway.

President said the time for blame as to who started it is over.

"I urge you to forgive one another, embrace one another and bury all feeling of hatred once and for all," Kiir told South Sudanese. Adding that 'all political struggles are temporary, just as leaders are temporary. But a nation endures. Unite and build your country as equal stakeholders and do not allow destructive elements to destroy your social fabric, which has endured since time immemorial.'

Kiir apologizes

President Kiir offered an unprecedented apology for a conflict that "was a complete betrayal to our people and the liberation struggle".

The president said as a leader, he takes the responsibility, adding that 'fellow citizens, allow me to personally thank you on behalf of the government and all of the party to the agreement for your patience, perseverance, and resilience.'

"You have endured immense suffering and the weight of responsibility heavily falls on my shoulders as your president and I deeply regret the physical, psychological, and emotional wounds you have undeservedly endured. "As your president, I want to apologize on behalf of all the parties for what we have caused you, our people ... I deeply regret the physical and psychological wounds you have had ... Today marks the end of the war in the Republic of South Sudan," he said. President Salva Kiir has apologized to the people of South Sudan on behalf of

all warring parties for their suffering.

According to a report conducted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the 5-year conflict has reportedly cost nearly 400,000 lives and displaced millions. It has also caused the economic crisis, with the ordinary citizens suffering the most.

Ceasefire

President Kiir calls on the opposition and government-controlled areas to respect ceasefire agreement to pave way for implementing this peace.

He added that they have a responsibility to tell soldiers to cease fighting and to go back to their barracks or camps.

"We have done so and we will continue to do so. There may still be rogue elements somewhere in the bush that will continue to cause harm and it will be our responsibility to look for them with a view of bringing them on board to support the implementation of this agreement." Kiir said. Adding that 'the ceasefire among Gelweng, White Army and other community-based militias rests with the communities and the government will work collaboratively with them.' We will pursue nationwide disarmament because guns are very dangerous and pose a direct threat to peace and tranquility.'

President Kiir freed Gatdet, Endley

In his keynotes speech, President Kiir has unexpectedly announced the



release James Gatdet and the South African's national, William Endley as a gesture for a new draw of peace in the country.

James Gatdet Dak was the former spokesman of Dr. Riek Machar. He was sentenced to death in February on charges of treason and incitement against the government.

William Endley, the South African retired army colonel – whom a court sentenced to death by hanging for his alleged role in supporting Opposition, during the civil war.

President Kiir ordered comes after the opposition leader Dr. Machar called on President Kiir to release all political detainees and prisoners of War as the sign of peace.

"We appeal to the president that our prison should be empty so that people start the new life in peace," Machar said, he further asked Kiir to lift the state of emergency to allow free movement in the country.

"During the war, there is a law called emergency, and in this law of emergency, the

army and the security forces dose anything but when there is peace! People go back to the law, police will be responsible and he arrest you when you committed a crime, we need this emergency to be lifted."

Kiir to the international community

Kiir said the difficult work has begun in earnest and that is for you the people of South Sudan to also make bitter concessions and return to her neighbors and friends and ask to be forgiven for any wrongs you might have committed.

"I am aware of the mood among our friends, particularly the Americans and the Europeans, who feel betrayed and let down by our actions. They have lost trust in us and for that reason, they refused to be witnesses or guarantors to the agreement. They feel that we are genuine or that the agreement we have signed is impractical," Kiir said. 'As people who offered us immeasurable assistance and moral support during the struggle for our freedom, they are justified to be angry with

us because of our failure to maintain in our country.' [In spite that Kiir said] 'But we have also been disappointed with the way individual leaders of those countries have insultingly treated us. Nevertheless, it is incumbent upon us on both sides of the agreement to prove their fears and doubts unfounded by implementing it sincerely, fully and in letter and spirit.'

Kiir further calls on the international community to put aside their disappointment and pick up to support the signed revitalized peace.

"I am calling for a new spirit within the international community to support us in implementing this agreement. I know for a fact that this requires mutual trust but you must be willing to work with us toward building that trust. We need this peace for our people and ourselves more than you. The burden presiding over a country in war weighs heavily on us, the leaders of this country and it is totally untrue and frankly unfair to believe that we don't care. With your partnership,

these issues are history and the future that awaits us together through peace and development is one that will make us all proud as friends and partners,” Kiir said on Wednesday in Juba.

Regional leaders’ remarks call for a total peace

Leaders from around the East Africa sub-region ‘descended’ on the South Sudanese capital, Juba, on Wednesday to join the peace day celebrations.

Uganda’s Yoweri Museveni, Somalia’s Mohammed Abdullah, Sudan’s Omar Al-Bashir and Ethiopia’s president Sahle-Work Zewede, were among the dignitaries who joined the event.

Each of the leaders presented a message to the government and people of South Sudan, stressing the need to maintain and work to protect the September 12 peace deal signed in Addis Ababa and further called on South Sudan leaders to commit themselves to implement the agreement for a complete peace in the country

Speaking during the celebration ceremony, Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni said he hopes the celebration will mark the end of the conflict in South Sudan.

President Museveni said the leaders and people should be committed to implementing the agreement.

He said a ‘war is wasteful,’ adding that South Sudan has lost a lot of development

time.

“I am sure this will be the end we hear of conflict in South Sudan. I am sure the parties and all the South Sudanese should make a covenant, make an agreement like the one Israel made with God, the covenant, one of the covenant should be...no war to solve the political argument between brothers and sisters, the argument

can be solved by discussions political argument, or elections if you don’t agree, it’s wrong to use war to solve political argument among brothers and sisters,” Museveni said. It is ideologically incorrect to use war for an argument and also make sure state institutions are national to build people’s confidence.

Ugandan president further said his country will continue to support South Sudan as they look forward to the concretization of the truly powerful ceremony they have witnessed in Juba.

Museveni warned South Sudan to shunned foreigners who want to establish hegemony over Africa by using weak enemies to divide us. ‘Foreigners wanted South Sudan to become a vacuum like Libya and Somalia,’ Museveni said, [but] Somalia is coming up.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese President, Omar Al-Bashir told the peace signatories to make sure that guns should not be any more in civilian



South Sudanese demonstrators hold signs requesting peace as they await the arrival of President Kiir.

hands.

“We will not rest until guns fall silent in South Sudan until we ensure that guns are only in the hands of the organized force, such as the police and the security personnel.”

President Bashir also calls the parties for the conducive environment to allow Refugees and the IDPs returned to their home.

“We thank the leaders of South Sudan for restoring their trust upon us to allow us to be the guarantors of this agreement. We will not rest until the displaced persons return to their homes.”

He said his government will still continue to maintain its position in implementing peace in South Sudan.

“I assure you that we will stand with you for the implementation of the peace agreement, and we will monitor its implementation,” Bashir, broker this peace deal.

For her part, the Ethiopian first female President, Sahle-

Work Zewde has called for an end to the conflict to allow people who fled the country to return home.

“Allow the refugees and IDPs to come back home, disband the protection of civilian sites, release all political and security detainees,” Zewde said.

She urges all parties to cease hostility and to fully implement the recently signed peace deal in Addis Ababa.

“I want to appeal to all the parties particularly the armed groups of all sides to completely silence the guns, no matter how long the intensity of fighting is,” she said, adding that the Transitional Government of National Unity and the opposition parties need to show stronger commitment and build trust during the pre-transitional period to achieve a lasting peace.

Furthermore, the President of Somalia said the real test for South Sudanese leaders

is making concessions to put the country and its people first.

“Even as we celebrate this remarkable agreement of peace, let’s all remember that no deal is always perfect, no arrangement is without flaws, no negotiation is perfectly balanced. The real test of a leader is to have the ability to make concessions and put this country and its people first.”

Abdallah explained that after his country witnessed nearly two decades of civil war, he knows firsthand that the conflict in South Sudan was the worst thing to happen to the young nation.

“In Somalia, it took us nearly two generations to put our house in order. In our period of chaos, the world did not wait for us, countries prospered, multi-literalism expanded and neighbors developed,” Abdallah said. He further told the gathering that up to date, Somalia is still dealing with the costs and



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consequences of prolonged conflict – something he doesn't wish for any country.

"Now we have realized that we need to double efforts and speed up development efforts to make up for all the years that we lost during the civil war. I will not wish the same for our brothers and sisters in South Sudan," President Abdallah said, further encouraged the parties to come together and thrill the world youngest country towards the path of peace and development.

"You have shown a great statesmanship in coming together to end the protracted conflict. I urge you to join hands to stir your country into the right path towards peace and development," the

president said.

Somalia is a signatory to the recently signed revitalized peace agreement, said a peaceful and prosperous South Sudan means progress for the entire region, adding that Somalia is committed to South Sudan's peace process and promoting a complete economic integration in the region to end poverty and conflict in Africa.

President Abdalla urged all regional leaders present at the occasion, to consolidate their efforts towards broadening economic cooperation, peace, and security in the region.

However, the war in the oil-producing country has prompted a regional refugee crisis and brought near-economic collapse since it

began in December 2013. Under deals signed with Kiir this year, Machar -- a former vice president -- will return in that new role, while other rebel groups will be included in an expanded cabinet and parliament, due to take shape in about May 2019.

More so, president Kiir concluded by reiterated the fact that 'rebuilding our country from the ashes of this five-years-old bitter conflict is our collective responsibility, my fellow compatriots, moving forward requires us all to forgive each other for wrongs done as well as embracing ourselves in order to chart a dignified course towards full recovery.'

The peace agreement was signed in the Ethiopian

capital Addis Ababa in September. However, though it has regional support, there has been little backing from major international powers. The new deal has only got the backing of Uganda and Sudan, who have long been the puppet-string pullers, and that is some reason for optimism

The deal to be workable will require significant external funding for monitoring and investment, and so that powerbrokers can be given incentives to lay down arms.

South Sudan gained its independence with significant support from the United States and other Troika countries, but the US president Trump administration has shown

little interest in the country's worsening plight.

The fighting and atrocities have exacerbated ethnic divisions and caused one of the world's deepest humanitarian crises. So far the conflict has now relapsed into chaos, with different factions, militia and self-defense groups battling for a share of what is left of South Sudan's resources.

According to the UN, a third of the country's population has been displaced and two-and-a-half million people forced into exile as refugees. While those remaining have endured repeated sessions of lethal famine.

AU Panel of the Wise perturbed by conflict in Africa

By Andreas Thomas



H.E. Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba is Chairperson of the AU Panel of the Wise.

Windhoek – The ugly scenes of the African people running into forests and mountains fleeing

from armed conflicts and various forms of abuse remain a constant source of concern to the Africans, says Hifikepunye Pohamba, the

former Namibian president and Chairperson of the African Union Panel of the Wise.

The displacement of

Africans in the conflict zones, people.

Pohamba said is an indictment on Africa's lack of economic capacity to create jobs for our young people as well as failure to manage our diversity necessary to mitigate internal discords and conflicts.

"It is not a badge of honour that Africa continues to generate hundreds of thousands of refugees, immigrants undertaking perilous journeys with many perishing in the desert and at sea, as well as millions of internally displaced persons because of internal conflicts," Pohamba said in his address at the 19th Statutory Meeting of the Panel Of The Wise in Accra, Ghana recently.

"Our attention must continue to be firmly focused on addressing the

continuing scourges of civil wars, violent extremism and terrorism, human insecurity and humanitarian crises that still affect millions of our

"As Members of the Panel of the Wise, we took note of the enormous challenges affecting each of these regional conflict clusters in different ways and to varying degrees. These include mass displacement of civilian populations, growing



President Hage Geingob and the African Union Panel of the Wise pose for a group photo after a courtesy meeting at State House. Photo NAMPA.

terrorism and violent extremism, the challenge of managing transitions: political, peace-keeping and stabilization operations; and the persisting weak interface between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities in conflict prevention and peace-making efforts," said Pohamba, the recipient of the 2015 Ibrahim Prize for African Leadership.

The Statesman who ruled Namibia from 2005 to 2015 also expressed his dismay at AU member states that

are refusing to cooperate with the Panel of the Wise. He particularly singled out the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central Africa Republic and Mali.

"Of particular concern to us were issues relating to how to deal with situations where some Member States may not welcome the involvement of the African Union where the Panel of the Wise could play an important role; the need for regular interactions, including briefs between the Panel of the Wise and the

Peace and Security Council; lack of financial resources; and the need to monitor key conflict drivers such as arms proliferation, poor governance, among others.

"Your Excellencies will recall that during our Windhoek meeting, we agreed to undertake three field missions to the DRC, the Central Africa Republic and Mali, respectively, during the cause of this year. Regrettably, we could not undertake any of the missions because no government

was ready to receive the mission for different reasons, including scheduling conflicts. It must be pointed out that for the Panel of the Wise to remain relevant and credible, Member States need to render it the necessary political support and cooperation, including adequate financial resources," he narrated, adding that without the full cooperation of Member States, the Panel of the Wise would not be able to fully fulfil its mandate.

The five-member Panel of the Wise that was first constituted in 2007, is one of the critical pillars of the Peace and Security Architecture of the African Union.

The Protocol of the AU Peace and Security Council provides for a five-person panel of highly respected African personalities who have made outstanding contributions to the cause of peace, security and development on the continent to serve in the panel.

The panel support the

efforts of the AU Peace and Security Council and those of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, particularly in the area of conflict prevention". Each member serves in the panel for three years.

The Panel meets at least three times annually to deliberate on its work program on issues related to conflict prevention, management and resolution. The last meeting of the Panel took place in Windhoek from 5-6 March 2018.

The current panel consists of Pohamba, Mrs Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia; Dr. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe, former Vice-President of Uganda; M. Amr Moussa, former Foreign Minister of Egypt and Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and Mrs. Honorine Nzet Bitéghé, former Minister for Social Affairs of Gabon.

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The unravelling of President Buhari

By Chido Onumah

One thing supporters of President Muhammadu Buhari can't deny is that many of those who oppose him today, almost three and half years after he was sworn in as the fourth president of the Fourth Republic, rooted for him 2015. Many of them are not politicians; they are not angry because President Buhari has blocked their illegal sources of wealth; and they are not people who have cases with anti-corruption agencies. I am one of them.

For this category of Nigerians, it was their belief in Nigeria and hope for an inclusive country and new ways of doing things that made them take that chance. After the Jonathan debacle, very few Nigerians imagined that the country could sink lower in terms of its leader's capacity to understand and confront its problems. Expectations were high. Buhari and his party, the All Progressives Congress (APC) had made promises.

During the campaign, Candidate Buhari, without prompting, promised to declare his asset publicly on his first day in office and we believed him. The APC promised to address the vexed issue of national unity and integration and we trusted them. Four months after, journalists were still debating with Garba Shehu, the president's Senior Special Assistant, Media and Publicity, on the meaning of public declaration of asset.

It was in faraway Ghana, in September 2015, that President Buhari told curious journalists: "I have declared my assets and all



former key allies in the last elections like former President Obasanjo and Atiku Abubakar have turned against Buhari.

that I have four times, and you (the media) have the right to go and demand for my declaration. Instead, I am being harassed." I am sure if the president had made his asset declaration public, as he promised during his campaign, journalists would have saved him the harassment and embarrassment.

In July 2013, my colleague, Godwin Onyeachole, and I, wrote a piece titled "2015: Why Buhari Matters." In it, we argued that Mr. Buhari was perhaps the only politician who could defeat former president, Goodluck Jonathan. In another article in May 2015 titled, "President Buhari: Dead end or the rebirth of a nation?" I argued, enthusiastically, that under Mr. Buhari, Nigerians didn't expect it to be business as usual and that notwithstanding his foibles—"alleged provincialism and antecedent as a military dictator"—since corruption remains one of Nigeria's biggest problems, perhaps, "President Buhari, 'Mr. Anti-corruption' can deal with corruption and get the Nigerian state to function."

That has turned out not to

be the case. As we have seen, President Buhari's foibles are not superficial. They are ingrained. On the issue of corruption, I will allow Senator Shehu Sani speak on Mr. Buhari's anti-corruption war. A preeminent party man, Senator Sani was in the APC until a few weeks ago when a combination of intrigues and highhandedness forced him to resign and join another party, the People's Redemption Party (PRP). According to Senator Sani, "When it comes to fighting corruption in the National Assembly and the Judiciary and in the larger Nigerian sectors, the President uses insecticide, but when it comes to fighting corruption within the Presidency, they use deodorants."

But, as we have noticed, fighting corruption should be the least of our concern under a president who seems to make a mockery of the very essence of our survival as a nation. The clear and present danger in Nigeria today is the existential crisis confronting it. Not since the civil war have Nigerians questioned their citizenship the way they have done in the last three and half years, thanks to a president

whose philosophy and politics of exclusion and resentment, of "we vs them," of "97 and 5 percent," is redefining what it means to be a Nigerian.

President Buhari has foreclosed the prospect of any kind of meaningful conversation on Nigeria and its existential crisis. It will be an egregious folly to allow this indifference to go on for four more years. If Mr. Buhari wasn't sworn in on May 29, 2015, he would have remained "the best president Nigeria never had." Now that we have watched him painfully flounder, not knowing exactly what to do and squandering the goodwill of a nation in search of direction, it would be catastrophic to reward him with another four years.

The 2019 election, therefore, will either be about enabling a tribesman or finding a patriotic alternative. As a people, we should be interested in President Buhari's capacity—his ability to understand what the country needs—to steer the Nigerian state for four more years as he seeks a second term in the February 2019 general elections.

President Buhari may have good intentions, if you believe

those around him. But again, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. For a nation in a hurry, President Buhari's tardiness goes beyond the pale. It took him six months to appoint some of the same people he campaigned with, as ministers, creating uncertainty and imperiling the economy in the process. The security situation gets worse by the day and you scarcely hear any coherent response from the president.

It seems Mr. Buhari hardly knows what is happening around him. A few months ago, at the height of the murderous herdsmen/farmers crisis in Benue State, the president sent the Inspector General of Police to personally take charge of the situation. When the president finally visited Benue State, after weeks of public outcry, and was confronted by residents who said the police chief was a no-show, he told a bewildered nation that he did not know that his police chief defied his orders. And, of course, he did nothing.

No wonder when asked in February what he would tell President Buhari if they met, Nobel Laureate, Prof. Wole Soyinka, replied: "I will say to him, Mr. President I think you are under a trance." There couldn't have been a more apt description of a president we elected almost four years to take charge and pull the country from the brink. I don't think President Buhari has woken up from that dream. What we have in place of an elected president is a space holder surrounded by a bunch of nefarious enablers.

President Buhari's



President Buhari is facing a tough reelection battle.

listlessness and nonchalance is only matched by his parochialism. Take his handling of the crisis at the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) or the appointment of a new head for Nigeria's internal security agency, the Department of State Security (DSS). In August 2018, while President Buhari was away on medical vacation in the UK, the acting president, Yemi Osinbajo, sacked Lawal Daura the notorious director general of the DSS and Mr. Buhari's kinsman after a botched DSS invasion of the National Assembly. He was replaced by Matthew Seiyefa, from Bayelsa State, the most senior director at the DSS. Mr. Seiyefa appeared, at least from media reports, to be doing a good job at his new post, clearing a backlog

of unpaid allowances and repositioning the institution in accordance with equity, fairness and respect for the rule of law.

For someone who had been assailed for his manifest nepotism and utter disregard for the country's diversity, it was expected that the president would allow the appointment to stand. Not President Buhari. A month later, the president, predictably, had to recall "one of his own", Yusuf Magaji Bichi, from retirement, to replace the acting president's appointee.

It is an understatement to say President Buhari is stuck in the past. But if that alone was the problem, then it wouldn't matter. The president has no notion of nationhood. He certainly

needs a lot of lesson in running a modern, diverse and multi-ethnic nation like Nigeria. Unfortunately, it is too late.

The beauty of democracy—if we follow its tenets—is the prospect of peaceful and periodic transfer of political power. As a nation, let's not be afraid to take our chances, to try something different. It may not always work out, but it deepens our sense of understanding and purpose.

We took our chance with Mr. Buhari in 2015 and it has turned out to be an unmitigated disaster. Now is the time to move on.

Onumah is the author of *We Are All Biafrans: A Participant-Observer's Interventions in Country Sleepwalking to Disaster*.

Will 2019 Be Atiku's Moment?

By Teslim Olawore & Prince Kurupati



With the PDP nomination, Atiku moves closer to realizing his ambitions of leading Nigeria.

A couple of days after celebrating Valentine's Day 2019, Nigerians will take to the voting booth to choose the country's next leader as well as the country's next set of legislators for the National Assembly. On the presidential ballot, Nigerians will have an option to put their 'X' against the name of Atiku Abubakar, a man whose political career has been nothing but astounding (though it has come with its own fair share of criticism).

For most of Atiku Abubakar's early life, the presidential hopeful did not harbour any political ambition let alone presidential ambition.

However, as the saying goes, "A small event as tiny as a drop of a pin can change the direction of your entire life," the advice that Atiku received from Shehu Musa Yar'Adua saw Atiku take a U-turn from what he wanted to do with his life. Instead of focusing on running his businesses, Atiku decided to serve.

Looking forward to the 2019 election, the presidential hopeful has been conducting nationwide rallies with his main message being 'creation of jobs'. To Atiku, the best way to serve is to let people have control over their own destiny. This according to him is possible only if people have the power and means to sustain themselves.

Growing up in Nigeria's Most Conservative Region

Atiku was born on 25 November 1946. His father, Garba Abubakar was a devout Muslim. Like most other



National Chairman of PDP, Prince Uche Secondus (R), Atiku Abubakar

Fulani Muslims, Garba was a trader and a farmer. As Garba strictly followed the Fulani practice, he named Atiku after his paternal grandfather. A few years later, Garba's strong beliefs in the Fulani practice saw him spend a few days in jail after the government discovered he was not sending Atiku to school as he was opposed to the idea of western education. Garba's vision for Atiku was to see him become an Islamic scholar and a farmer like him. Garba, however, did not spend much time with his son as he died when Atiku was only 11.

After his father's death, Atiku lived with his mother and her maternal relatives. It is during this time that Atiku attended Jada Primary School. Afterwards, he proceeded to Adamawa Provincial Secondary School in Yola where he did well

in English Language and Literature but struggled with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. He passed with a Grade Three WASSCE/GCE Certificate in 1965.

Straight after high school, Atiku went to train as a police officer at the Nigeria Police College in Kaduna. However, as Mathematics was a prerequisite before graduating, Atiku failed to graduate as a police officer. Atiku's disappointment of failing to graduate as a police officer did not last long as he managed to apply and got accepted to study at the School of Hygiene in Kano in 1966. He graduated with a diploma and soon afterwards applied and was also accepted to study Law at the Ahmadu Bello University Institute of Administration.

Life after School

Upon his graduation from

the Ahmadu Bello University Institute of Administration, Atiku was employed as a tax officer in the regional Ministry of Finance. Soon after, he was deployed to Idi Iroko border station tasked with collecting duties on imported and exported goods, stopping the entry and exit of banned items, and arresting and prosecuting smugglers. In 1972, he was posted to Ikeja Airport in Lagos and in 1972, he was redeployed to Apapa port in Lagos. Three years later, he was posted to Ibadan where he was promoted to become the Superintendent of Customs.

Rise to stardom

Atiku's work ethic, professionalism, dedication and commitment during his time as a tax officer did not go unnoticed. During his time at the Apapa Port, Atiku met Gabrielle Volpi, an Italian

businessman in Nigeria who encouraged him to set up a logistics company. Within a short period of time, Atiku thanks to his experience in the customs business managed to set up Nigeria Container Services (NICOTES). NICOTES enjoyed massive success and later rebranded as INTEL.

While Atiku's company firstly NICOTES then INTEL managed to gain traction and grow in leaps and bounds, it also courted scrutiny and criticism from various sectors both locally and internationally as far as the United States. In NICOTES' early years, Atiku faced a conflict of interest criticism. Generally, Nigerian civil servants are not allowed to own private businesses more so if the business is in the same field as the government department they are working for. Atiku however constantly

defended his decision, saying his involvement was limited to the ownership of shares and that he was not involved in the day-to-day running of the business.

With INTEL, Atiku was also accused of money laundering by the US government. The accusations mostly came during the time when he served as Nigeria's Vice President.

The massive success that NICOTES and INTEL enjoyed saw Atiku expand his business interests as he, later on, set up a beverage manufacturing plant in Yola, as well as an animal feed factory.

Political Career

For most of Atiku's early life, he had shown little to no interest in politics. However, soon after turning 40, Atiku started to attend some political meetings. A year after, he officially retired from the Nigeria Customs Service. Several years later while speaking in an interview, Atiku said the advice which he had received from Shehu Musa Yar'Adua played a huge part both in him retiring from his job as well as him harbouring political ambitions. Atiku says while dining with Shehu Musa Yar'Adua in his house, Shehu told him "Look, you are good, you relate well with people. I think you will make a good politician. Why don't you join me in politics." This piece of advice led Atiku to make up his mind and venture in

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Atiku, Obasanjo, Secondus.

mainstream politics fulltime.

Soon after his entry into mainstream politics, Atiku was elected a National Vice-Chairman of the Peoples Front of Nigeria, the political association led by Yar'Adua, to participate in the transition programme initiated by Head of State Ibrahim Babangida. He announced his Gongola State gubernatorial bid on September 1, 1990. A year later, before the elections could hold, Gongola State was broken up into Adamawa and Taraba States by the Federal Government. Atiku fell into the new Adamawa State. After the contest, he won the SDP Primaries in November 1991 but was soon disqualified by the government from contesting the election. Yar'Adua pushed Atiku forward for the presidential primary of the SDP in 1992. He came third in the convention.

In 1998 Atiku contested for the governorship of Adamawa State on the platform of the People's Democratic Party. He won the December elections, but before he could be sworn in, he was tapped by the PDP's presidential candidate, former Head of State Olusegun Obasanjo,

as his vice-presidential candidate. The Obasanjo-Abubakar ticket won the 27 February 1999 presidential election.

In 2006, Atiku was involved in a bitter public battle with his boss, President Olusegun Obasanjo, arising from the latter's bid to amend certain provisions of the constitution to take another shot at the presidency. Atiku was quoted as saying, regarding Obasanjo's alleged attempts to justify his third term bid: «he informed me that «I left power twenty years ago, I left Mubarak in office, I left Mugabe in office, I left Eyadema in office, I left Umar Bongo, and even Paul Biya and I came back and they are still in power; and I just did eight years and you are asking me to go; why?» And I responded to him by telling him that Nigeria is not Libya, not Egypt, not Cameroun, and not Togo; I said you must leave; even if it means both of us lose out, but you cannot stay.»

His second term as Vice President was marked by a

stormy relationship with his boss, his bid to succeed Obasanjo did not receive the latter's support, and it took a judgment of the Supreme Court to allow Abubakar contest after he was initially disqualified by the Independent National Electoral Commission on the grounds that he had been indicted for financial misconduct by an investigating panel set up at Obasanjo's behest. The Supreme Court ordered the electoral commission to restore Atiku's name onto the presidential ballot. Atiku ran on the platform of the Action Congress, having quit the

PDP on account of his issues with President Obasanjo. Atiku lost the election, placing third after Umaru Yar'Adua and Muhammadu Buhari of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP).

It can be said that Atiku's presidential ambition coincided with the mash-up in the Nigerian polity when opportunism and pure brigandage swept away and took over from the relative idealism, elitism and even professionalism that had marked pre-independence Nigerian politics and part of which had spilt into the sixties and 70s. One minute, a beautiful future was within our grasp, as the presidency had been within Atiku's; the next, it was more sorrows, more tears, more blood.

Nigerians were so tired of brutal military dictatorships and the bitter fruits of them that they opened wide arms to any civilian rule.

Once more we are travelling up the slippery road of building personality cults and the debates for and against an Atiku presidency have begun. Atiku's personality remains larger than life, his tentacles are many and he has the perfect balance between a very public and a very private

life. While Atiku's personality and his love for populism may well be a decisive factor in his hunt for the presidency, there are still a few issues that he needs to be strong on in terms of policy if he is to win the votes of the policy-oriented middle and upper class. Endemic corruption, the struggling economy, and the Boko Haram security threat are all major issues that Atiku needs to focus on in his campaign in the build-up to next year's presidential election.

Atiku definitely has what it takes to be a great leader for Nigeria, a million and one permutations aside. More so considering that (according to Atiku) his intention to run for the presidency is to put Nigeria on the path of growth and set it free from the path of "serial failure" foisted on it by the ruling party.

The 2019 general elections will probably be the greatest battle of his entire life. He will be needing a stroke or three of luck. The high profile endorsement he got from President Obasanjo could be good omen already for the tumultuous political road ahead.

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Special Report: Washington Diaspora Alumni Shaking Up Africa

By Ajong Mbapndah L

It may still be far from perfect or ideal, but Africa is today an item in Washington, DC. Unlike in the past when the focus was on more on aid, helping African to fight famine, helping Rwanda cope with genocide, or combating diseases like HIV/AIDS, the outlook on Africa is more optimistic.

Discussions today are more in line with investments, trade, partnerships, gender rights. The image of Africa is far from that of s-hole countries. While the economic opportunities of the continent have always been there, changing the perception of Washington towards Africa or better still marketing and sustaining a more positive perception of Africa has been very hard work.

While many may claim credit at different levels, and rightly so, for their contribution in the glossier image that Africa enjoys around Washington today, there is a younger generation of dynamic young Africans using the solid apprenticeship acquired in diverse power circles to be part of the development agenda in Africa. Some got their experiences groom in U.S. congress or been mentored with groups like the Congressional Africa staff Association-CASA. For others, it is the stint with political groups and several administrations that provided the spring board



for the influential roles they continue to play today.

Comprising of young Congressional staff of diverse African backgrounds, most of the CASA pioneers are today frontline actors in doing advocacy for the continent, shaping policy from business to trade, finance, foreign policy, Agriculture, environment and more. A number of them occupied relatively high-profile positions in successive Republican and Democratic Administrations in Washington, DC.

While she views with pride the extraordinary career trajectories of CASA Alumni, Founder Angelle Kwemo admits that it was not easy having the courage to start the group, and to get their feet wet in navigating the complexities of Washington in trying to make Africa to be more than an after thought

on the agendas of successive administrations and make them recognize the role the African diaspora could play in solidifying the bridge between US and the continent. It would not have been possible without the support of Congressman Bobby L. Rush and Congressman Ed Royce.

Originally from Cameroon, with studies there, France, and in the USA, Angelle Kwemo and her colleagues battled hard to bring stronger attention focus on Africa from Capitol Hill, and to make Washington to start seeing Africa for its opportunities, and not its real and imagined chaos.

From different backgrounds and countries, Central Africa, Malawi, Sudan, South Sudan, Ghana, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, D.R. Congo

and friends of Africa, these young Africans help in a significant way to change the narrative on Africa. Though it is impossible to talk about all of them, PAV brings you a profile of some African Diaspora Alumni and their high-profile activities that continue to impact Africa in a positive way.

From different African countries, dynamic, hardworking, and in visionary, one can bet that the best is still to come. From politics, international trade to quiet but solidly impactful mentoring

of younger Africans, women, and international consultancy, Angelle Kwemo is now engaged in a hugely successful venture to sell the merits of Agriculture as a potential game changer for the continent. Mvemba Dizolele has become a critically acclaimed writer and opinion leader in his own right. Cordie Aziz, has settled on environment and is creating waves in waste management in Ghana. Steadily Mimi Alemayehou has continued to play a leadership role in business related circles. Leila Ndiaye is promoting African private sector role in development, Stephane Le Boudier is growing up the ranks in corporate entities open to investment in Africa. There certainly are many other alumni out there excelling and Pav will eventually revisit their activities and impact in

due course.

Though the thrust of their activities may have been globally focused on Africa as a continent, there is no doubt that some of their countries of origin could benefit from the reservoir of knowledge, international networks, and the solid experience they have acquired over the years. Who can deny the impact that Mvemba Phezo Dizolele could have in the D.R. Congo as it prepares for the post Kabila era, what Stéphane Le Boudier could do as Central Africa seeks to shore up fragile institutions to make the country workable again after a brutal civil war? And what if a countries like Cameroon and Cote d'Ivoire could make use of the sheer brilliance, dynamism, positive and high achieving nature of Angelle Kwemo and Leila Ndiaye?

The sustained interest and connection of the Washington Alumni to Africa goes further to highlight the critical role that the diaspora can play in moving the continent forward. On a recent speaking tour across the USA, Prof PLO Lumumba strongly opined that the African diaspora must remain a fundamental part of any viable development strategy for Africa. From the inspiring work of the leaders profiled, Africa needs to pay stronger attention to the potential its diaspora represents and the value they could add to the development equation of the continent.

Angelle Kwemo: Africa's Flying Star, The Queen

By Prince Kurupati

For those who have studied the contemporary African way of life, they can testify that when it comes to great brains on the continent (those doing remarkable work in their area of specialization), some are heralded, working for big institution, talked about, known by all and respected by many; At the same time, some are virtually unknown (by everyone outside the 'brains' sphere of influence) by many, riding on they own brand but ought to be known by all. The name of one of these great African 'brains' is Angelle Kwemo.

Angelle Kwemo, a Cameroonian lady who has devoted her life in marketing Africa, as well as putting the beautiful African continent on the world map.

Her life story started in Cameroon where she received her education (basic) and fell in love with the continent. Though she has enjoyed massive success in her career thus far, far away from her native country, Angelle still has a strong attachment to Cameroon and her roots as she spends much of her festive holidays in Bana Kingdom, a small village in the west of Cameroon, far away from the gloss and the glitter.

After completing her studies, Angelle worked for a short time in France at Bestaux Law firm. It is at this firm that Angelle started honing her lawyering skills in the maritime industry. A short time into her role at Bestaux Law firm, Angelle received an offer to serve in her country. Due to her love for Cameroon, despite the economic hardship of



The Congressional African Staff Association created by Angele Kwemo helped in shaping a strong generation of young African leaders

the country at that time; she had no second thoughts about the offer. She returned to the motherland and became Cameroon's Chief of the Maritime Claims and Disputes Department for Bollore. A few years later, she assumed a new role and handled Cameroon's National Stevedoring Cie (SOCAMAC) privatization and became Director of Legal Department for Geodis Overseas, becoming one of the country's youngest executive.

After serving in her country Cameroon, her desire to understand the world's economy became so strong. Angelle then decided it was high time to leave Cameroon and raise the country's flag high in global circles. She settled in Washington DC, where she started her debut as assistant

professor on International Trade and Human Rights, volunteered for the World Bank on development issues and as Researcher at Oxfam America on Food Aid policies. Her talent was quickly noticed, and she was offered a job in the U.S Congress. Angelle became Legislative Director and Legislative Counsel for two US House of Representatives one of whom was Rep. Bobby L. Rush, Senior Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Angelle was instrumental in the U.S. Congress and played a key role in policy formulation on issues affecting the global economy with a particular focus on Africa. She worked tirelessly in designing US National Export Policies, advocating for the recognition of Africa as a continent of strategic

and economic importance and not just a humanitarian recipient, to increasing trade volumes between the US and Africa. She was deeply involved in helping to draft and pass legislation such as the AGOA renewal and the African investment and Diaspora legislation (African Investment and Diaspora Act – AIDA) to position the African diaspora as a catalyst for trade which inspired the State Department's global diaspora initiative (International Diaspora Engagement Alliance -IDEA) to mention a few.

Realizing that there was much work to be done in respect of raising awareness among decision makers on Africa's economic potential, Angelle founded the bipartisan and bicameral Congressional African Staff Association commonly called CASA regrouping staffers with a commitment to educate Members of Congress, Senators and their staff on the positive progress of Africa. CASA worked with lots of other Africans who are raising the African flag high in Washington and think tanks like the Brookings Institute Africa Growth Initiative.

In 2012, because of her desire to work full time on Africa, she decided to start a new adventure as an advocate, entrepreneur and strategist. She created

AstrategiK Group, a firm that provides government relations, international trade advisory and strategic advice to multi-dimensional entities, allowing them to compete globally and build inroads into the United States, Africa and other emerging markets, partnering with Washington Media Group for the communication. Although Angelle provides behind the scene strategic advisory services to prominent figures in the public and private sectors, she is more known for her advocacy work with Believe in Africa, an organization she founded in 2014 to promote the role of the African private sector and increase its role in policies formulation.

Her desire to impact young Africans led her to publish "Against All Odds", a book which generously shares part of her life story to encourage, inspire and advise emerging leaders.

Angelle is also a women's advocate. She was co-chair of the Executive Women 4 Hillary in the Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia during 2016 U.S. Presidential elections. After that, she took her women campaign skills to the field, in rural areas using her brand and network to advocate in addressing the struggles of African women in agriculture, connecting women across the continent, from Morocco to South Africa. She has empowered and trained women in Cote d'Ivoire, Central Africa Republic, Cameroon, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Niger, Benin and Morocco.

For her outstanding contributions professionally and academically, Angelle



Was member of the inaugural Tony Elumelu Foundation Selection Committee of the flagship program.

was featured as ‘The Climbers’ and ‘One of the Top 5 Most Beautiful People in the Nation’s Capitol’ by two most prominent Washington DC political magazines ‘Roll Call’ and ‘The Hill’ along side Former President Obama, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi. She is a recipient of the Washington DC Government’s Public Service Award, a citation from

Maryland’s Governor Martin O’Malley, recognized as one the “50 Most Powerful Women in Business Leadership Award” by the Minority Business Magazine, and was named one of the “World’s Most Influential Africans in the Diaspora” by Paris based Africa 24 Magazine.

She is frequently published and featured in international

media outlets, including Comcast, Voice of America TV (VOA), France 24 TV, Africa 24 TV, China Daily, 2M, MediTV, Forbes Afrique, Africa Report to name a few. When asked what motivates her the most, she said it is a fear of seeing her time on earth being wasted by not making any difference.

Angelle holds a Bachelor’s and an LLM degree in

Economic Activity Law from the University of Rouen in France and an LLM degree in International Business Transactions and Human Rights Law from Washington College of Law at American University in Washington D.C.

She was on the Advisory Board for the Corporate Council on Africa SME initiative, and the DRC investment Fund. She was member of the inaugural Tony Elumelu Foundation

Selection Committee of the flagship program called the Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneurship Program,

and a member of the African Leadership Network, a membership community in International



of the most dynamic and influential new-generation leaders in Africa.

Ambassador Omar Arouna: From Diplomacy To Cyber Security, Same Passion At The Service of Africa

Ambassador Omar Arouna develops and implement state-of-the-art cybersecurity strategies and initiatives for government and private sector companies in Africa. With regional representation in West-Africa, Southern Africa and Central Africa, works with clients to ensure readiness to prepare and solve specific cybersecurity challenges.

Ambassador Arouna coordinated his country’s engagement with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the International Financial Corporation in Washington, D.C. He engaged with U.S. development agencies (USAID, Millennium Corporation, U.S.EXIM Bank, Overseas Private



Ambassador Omar Arouna has solid credentials for consistent advocacy for Africa.



As Ambassador Omar Arouna helped in forging stronger ties between Benin and the USA

Investment Corporation, U.S. Trade Development Agency, and Power Africa) to further the economic development of Benin. During his tenure, Ambassador Arouna secured a \$407,000,000 Millennium Challenge Corporation grant for the country, the second such grant to the country. In addition, he organized several successful trade missions to Benin to introduce and facilitate greater direct foreign investment.

He Co-chaired the African Ambassador Group committee for Africa Day 2016. Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Arouna was the Executive Vice President of Goodworks, International, a U.S. multi-national consulting firm founded by former U.N.

Ambassador Andrew Young. The firm at its height had seven offices in Africa and three U.S. based offices focused on promoting business in Africa and the Caribbean. At GoodWorks International, Ambassador Arouna spearheaded the firm's efforts to facilitate U.S. corporate engagement in Africa. Client services included facilitating U.S. companies to secure business with Africa countries, expand their presence and operations in the region, and identify local partners to enter into joint ventures. Clients have included AECOM, Chevron, Delta Airlines, General Electric, Motorola, Sumitomo Corporation, MGI Management, and Verizon. In addition, he also assisted

African governments in improving their relations with U.S. government agencies and helped governments to reach out to Members of Congress and the White House.

Before joining Goodworks International in 2007, Ambassador Arouna served as the Managing Director of his own private consulting firm, Global Specialty, LLC. (GSL), an international business development firm focused on developing business opportunities on the African continent. The company advises U.S. companies and organizations on strategy, policy, and mitigating risk with respect to doing business in Africa. GSL services include country-specific market entry and

expansion strategy toward Africa, interfacing with African governments and local partners, navigating governmental resources to advance the business goals of U.S. companies and organizations in Africa, and helping clients to resolve problems and challenges when operating in Africa. His firm provided access to cutting-edge information technology services for clients in the U.S. and in the emerging markets of Africa. Clients included the Government of Benin, Virginia Railway Express, and several U.S. based law firms.

Ambassador Arouna also served as Network Manager for Africare, the largest private nonprofit organization in the United States operating exclusively in Africa. In this role, Ambassador Arouna managed IT operations for the Africare's 27 field offices in Africa and the Washington, D.C. based headquarters office. He also worked at the World Bank Group as Information Technology Officer in General Services Department.

Ambassador Arouna is a recognized expert on private sector investment in Africa, government relations, and U.S. Africa relations. He currently serves on the Washington, D.C., Mayor's Commission on African

Affairs. Ambassador Arouna speaks and lectures regularly on African development, corporate investment, and U.S.- Africa relations and has appeared as an expert source in top media outlets, including the Voice of America, Africa 24, AllAfrica.com, and Washington Diplomat. He has worked in and traveled throughout Africa and has served on the board and advisory committees of several national and international organizations, including Believe In Africa, The Africa-America Institute, Educational Technology and Research International, International Association of Black Professionals in International Affairs (BPIA); International Collaborative Foundation and Sanctuary of Moses— organizations committed to programming on Africa. Ambassador Arouna is a Commander of the National Order of Benin (the highest civilian award).

He studied at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (Senegal) and American University in Washington, DC and has an MBA from The George Washington University with a concentration in Cybersecurity. He is fully bilingual in French and English.

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The Africa Gas Association

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

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

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

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

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

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Leila Ndiaye, The Quiet Force

Leila Ndiaye was born and grew up in Ivory Coast. In her adolescence, she experienced and became aware of the problems and challenges that bedevilled her family, society and the country at large, and understood the need eradicated them through empowering communities. As such, from an early age, Leila was determined to understand the relationship between politics and economics especially as it relates to developing a nation.

Due to her passion and early work to empower communities, her efforts were seen and appreciated as she was sent to South Africa as Ivory Coast's first Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to the rainbow nation in 1990. While in South Africa, Leila managed to learn new things which shaped her view of the world while at the same time instilling in her the vigour to pursue her dreams to the fullest.

When she completed her basic education, Leila decided to study International Relations. She was offered a place at the American University where she did her bachelor's degree in International Relations. Soon after graduating, Leila held positions in the lobbying arena with Bayh, Connaughton, Fernsteinhem and Malone, law firm of former Senator Birch Bayh, in Washington, D.C. where she developed and managed the Africa portfolio. After learning the ropes in the



Leila Ndiaye with President Nyusi of Mozambique in New York City.

corporate world, Leila looked for and found a job at the World Bank as a consultant.

At the World Bank, Leila proved to be a hit. Her incredible work ethic saw her home country reach out to her. Just like all heroes do, the pride of serving one's nation was virtually impossible to turn down thus she accepted a role as special adviser to the former Head of State (of Ivory Coast), where she advised the Head of State on a range of policy, national security and economic issues to ensure that all duties were carried out in the best interest of the country as a whole.

After leaving her role as special advisor to the head of state, Leila joined Policy for African Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as Senior Director. In that position, she developed, promoted and executed the US-Africa Business Center's program of work relating to

trade policy and investment between the United States and African countries. She initiated and managed the US-ECOWAS Business Initiative and spearheaded the Chamber's program in Western and Central Sub-Saharan Africa, from Angola to Mauritania.

After a short stint as Vice President, Leila is today the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Initiative for Global Development (IGD), a Washington DC based network of African and global business leaders who are committed to advancing sustainable development and inclusive growth through business investment. Leila was appointed to this position on the 1st of March this year. At IGD, Leila is responsible for driving the strategic direction for IGD's programming and policy engagements, overseeing the growth of the Frontier Leader

Network, and building strategic alliances with key stakeholders to advance organizational priorities.

At the same time, Leila took on another role as an Advisor to McLarty Associates, an international strategic advisory firm headquartered in Washington DC, that delivers diplomatic solutions and advises many emerging companies venturing abroad.

She is also a member of the African Leadership Network, a membership community of the most dynamic and influential new-generation leaders in Africa.

Due to her excellence in the fields of African Affairs, Policy and Business Strategy, Leila has received many accolades and awards. Earlier this year was presented with the "US-Africa Business Center Outstanding Leaders' Award 2018" in recognition of her exemplary leadership in US-Africa relations.

She is a recipient of the 2016 Excellence Award by the Women Ambassadors Foundation in Washington DC and was nominated in 2008 as one of the 50 most influential people of Côte d'Ivoire by the magazine *l'Intelligent* d'Abidjan and received the same year the Women's Private Sector Initiative Award in Côte d'Ivoire. In June 2018, Leila was decorated with the "Knight of the National Order of Merit" of the Republic of Burkina Faso.

Education wise, Leila is now a respected Doctor having earned a PhD degree in International Relations and Diplomacy, from the Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégiques (CEDS), Paris. Leila also holds a Master of Arts in Diplomacy with merit from the Diplomatic Academy of London at the University of Westminster and her Bachelor of Arts in international Relation from the School of International Service (SIS), at American University in Washington DC. She received a certificate from the Thayer Leaders Development Group (TLDG) at West Point for the "Women Leading from the Front Lines" Leadership Academy in August 2017.

Cordie Aziz, Ghana's Queen of recycling in Africa

By Ajong Mbatndah L



Prince Charles appreciating the environmental vision of Cordie Aziz during his recent visit in Ghana.

Cordie Aziz was born in Georgia with a father originally from Sierra who spent part of his childhood in Ghana and moved to the USA as a student and married her mother from Mississippi. Aziz is a passionate entrepreneur who empowers other social entrepreneurs to create viable industries that have social and economic impact through varied speaking engagements.

Her childhood life experiences prepared her to become who she is today. After graduation, she started her career as Pre schoolteacher. Her boldness, leadership skills, and commitment to impact her community created an avenue for her entrée into political space. She joined the State campaign for Candy Elliott, as Public Relations Director for State Treasury Campaign in Mississippi. Than she become a freelance journalist for local news outlets.

She decided to enlarge her space of influence and moved to Washington DC, to become the public relations director for the National Joint

Apprenticeship and Training Committee (NJATC), the largest apprenticeship program, under the oldest established electrical union International Brotherhood of Electrical Work (IBEW). She also joined one of the most influential organizations in the environment sector, the Environment Defense Fund as Marketing and Communication Director. While in Washington, her leadership ability was quickly noticed. She landed a job at the U.S. Congress on the Committee for Homeland Security, doing policy research and advising the Staff Director on general legislative issues.

Her desire to have an impact to her homeland Africa inspired her to co-found the Congressional African Staff Association advocating for African economic transformation and increasing the role of the diaspora.

In 2012, she decided to preach by example and move back to the continent to establish her base in Accra, where she founded the Environment360 in

2014. Environment 360 is today the fastest growing environmental NGO in Ghana and focuses on creating inclusive recycling programs in coastal, and urban communities that help support the growth of circular economies. The organization, through its work has collected more than 200 MT of plastic and 300 MT of paper. The organization has also educated more than 10,000 children on climate change and mitigation through its interactive school program. Ms. Aziz is credited for creating the first successful community recycling program and has since then gone on to launch the first buy back program of plastic bottles (PET) in Ghana. Ms. Aziz works closely with local municipalities to help them incorporate recycling programs into their district and in 2015 was named the city recycling coordinator for the city of Accra. Her organization also shares a close working relationship with the Ministry of Environment Science, Technology and Innovation, which helps support the growth of sustainable recycling programs throughout Ghana.

In June 2018, Environment360 with its partners launched the first ever-waste picker run sorting center in Ghana. The sorting center is expected to collect 25 MT of plastic each month from the Tema New Town Community. Her organization has been trained by MIT D-Lab to facilitate

creative capacity building sessions with members of the informal sector, and currently Environment360 is the only organization in West Africa that has the MIT curricula, which is intended to help members of the informal sector gain more agency and self confidence when building their small scale recycling businesses.

Ms. Aziz is regularly featured to address ways to helping African governments, create circular economies that have environmental and economic impact.

Environment360 was featured in Prince Charles' recent visit to Ghana. During the visit Ms. Aziz joined industry leaders to have a private discussion with the Prince of Wales about strengthening the collaboration of U.K agencies and Ghana to help combat plastic waste, particularly at source of origin. Aziz is considered an authority on plastic waste management and sustainable waste systems.

Her expertise is often sought out by multinationals, diplomatic and development partners. Her expertise has led her to work with industry

giants such as Fan Milk, Dow Chemical Company ,and Voltic, the largest water supplier in Ghana. Ms. Aziz focuses her energy on creating sustainable programs that provide a blue print of sustainable waste management. Her vision is to build circular ecosystems that enable millions of African communities and waste entrepreneurs to harness the value of waste and create cleaner environments. She believes this is especially important for coastal communities that are subject to marine litter and urban communities where waste is often indiscriminately dumped or burned.

She holds a bachelors degree in Mass Communications from Jackson State in Jackson, Mississippi and a Masters degree in Public Administration from Bowie State University, in Bowie, Maryland; both United States based schools. She was appointed to the management board of the Institute of Environmental and Sanitation Studies (IESS) at the University of Legon, Ghana's oldest university.



Prince Charles in discussion with Cordie.

Obama Alum Marches On : Mimi Alemayehou

By Prince Kurupati



Mimi Alemayehou continues to occupy high profile functions in Washington,DC.

When it comes to promoting outstanding individuals doing remarkable work in their career fields, Africa turns to shy away. Talk of Denis Mukwege from the Democratic Republic of Congo, no one really knew who he was until he recently won the Nobel Peace Prize. Such is the template across the whole of Africa that many of our brilliant minds are recognized in faraway lands instead of being recognized by their mother continent. One such person who is well respected

in foreign lands other than her own continent is Mimi Alemayehou. In this piece, we are going to look at the work that Mimi has been doing on a personal level as well as her immense contributions in raising the African flag in the international community.

Mimi Alemayehou was born in Ethiopia. However, shortly after her birth, Mimi's family relocated to Kenya. It is in Kenya that Mimi got her basic education and it is also here that Mimi began to experience life as an 'adult', seeing the obstacles and challenges

which African societies faced on a daily basis. Mimi's experiences during her early days moulded her to become the woman she is today; it is also her experiences in Africa that made her choose the career path she undertook.

After completing her basic education, Mimi relocated once more to the USA. It is in the US that she enrolled for college graduating from West Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree. Some years later, she earned her master's degree in International Business and International Law and Development from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University. It is during her college days that Mimi decided to apply for US citizenship, a feat that she attained a few years later when she was naturalized as a US citizen.

Upon graduating, Mimi worked for several organizations at the lower levels of management. Her big challenge came when she worked with the International Executive Service Corps where she

managed a multi-country trade project in Africa. At the same time, she served as a Director of International Regulatory Affairs at World Space Corporation, a satellite telecommunications company focused on emerging markets.

After learning the ropes at the higher levels of management, Mimi decided to establish her own business. She founded and was the Managing Partner of Trade Links, LLC, a development consulting firm that worked with clients on emerging markets issues and on promoting African exports under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

After years of success in her roles, Mimi's talents were recognized as she was appointed to serve as the United States Executive Director at the African Development Bank (AfDB), where she executed board decisions on behalf of the U.S. government. Her immense work at the AfDB led her to receive a Distinguished Honor Award from then-U.S. Secretary of Treasury Henry Paulson.

Her big break into the big time came in 2010 when she was appointed the Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). Mimi happily accepted her new role at OPIC because it enabled her to fulfil her lifelong objective. Her idol and role model who was her grandmother died before she could switch on an electric light. As such, that instilled in her a determination and will to help the whole of Africa have access to power. Thanks to OPIC's crucial role in supporting the private sector,

it meant that she would finally have the chance of helping to increase Africa's access to power.

Not long after her appointment, then US president, Barack Obama announced the launch of the Power Africa initiative. This, therefore, meant that through OPIC, Mimi would play a crucial role in supporting the private sector investment needed to significantly increase Africans' access to power.

With OPIC, Mimi has provided financing to support the expansion of a major geothermal power plant in Kenya, and more recently agreed to support the construction of a photovoltaic solar plant in Tanzania. The work that has been done thus far by OPIC with Mimi at the helm has attracted the attention of several private investors who want to help electrify Africa.

Mimi's stellar professional record made her an easy pick when the then US president, Barack Obama was choosing professionals to serve on the board of directors of the African Development Foundation. Mimi in 2010 was deservedly nominated to the board of directors of the African Development Foundation.

Currently, Mimi Alemayehou is an Executive Advisor at The Blackstone Group, Private Equity Group. She serves as Managing Director of Black Rhino, Executive Advisor & Chair of Blackstone Africa Infrastructure L.P. at The Blackstone Group L.P. She has been in this position since August 2014.



Alemayehou getting ready for a Congressional hearing while serving as Executive Vice President of OPIC

A Voice Of Reason From D.R.Congo: Mvemba Phezo Dizolele

By Prince Kurupati



Mvemba Phezo Dizolele.

One of my all-time favourite songs is called, What is a Hero. The song was composed by the great Zimbabwean (and African) musician Oliver Mtukudzi. In the song, Mtukudzi asks the question, what is a hero. In this song, Mtukudzi does diverge from the 'conventional wisdom' in Zimbabwe that a hero is someone who went to war to sacrifice his or her life in order to help the country attain freedom. Rather, the musician sings that to be a hero, all it takes is dedication and commitment to a certain field (and also accomplishing much success in that field). In essence, Mtukudzi says a musician, a doctor, an actor, an accountant among others all can become heroes if they are dedicated and committed to what they do and also if they manage to influence society in a positive way with their work.

After seeing the wisdom in Mtukudzi's song, on a personal level I started to see people differently. Suddenly, some of the people who I just

viewed as ordinary people become extraordinary; to be exact, they became heroes in my own understanding. One such man is Mvemba Phezo Dizolele, below, I am going to share with you some pertinent information about my hero, Mvemba Phezo Dizolele. Just as an appetizer before you learn more about Mvemba, you need to know that he is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and is fluent in French, Norwegian, Spanish, Swahili, Kikongo and Lingala, and is proficient in Danish and Swedish!

Mvemba Phezo Dizolele was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the country which is at the center of his heart. It is in this central African country that Mvemba's journey started. For his early education, Mvemba studied in his home country. However, he had to leave the country in pursuit of furthering his studies but that was after he had witnessed first hand the ruthlessness of the late dictator (who was DRC's president) Mobutu Sese Seko whose Intelligence

he experienced growing up and saw during his time in his home country under the dictatorship of Mobutu Sese Seko. Mvemba chose to study a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and French, a degree that he was offered at Southern Utah University.

It is at Southern Utah University that Mvemba developed the fondness of writing. With his determination to help put an end to the autocratic regime of Mobutu Sese Seko, Mvemba found solace in writing political op-eds. Mvemba's op-eds opened the avenues of success as soon after he graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and French, he was offered the opportunity to be a Peter J. Duignan Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution.

From thereon, Mvemba continued to climb up the

Service ladder of success. Mvemba has testified before various subcommittees of the two chambers of the United States Congress. He has also testified before the United Nations Security Council.

The untold Mvemba is a grantee of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and covered the 2006 historic elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. With the Pulitzer Center, he produced Congo's Bloody Coltan, a documentary report on the relationship between the Congo conflict and the scramble for mineral resources. He served as an election monitor with the Carter Center in Congo in 2006 and 2011. He was also embedded with United Nations peacekeepers in Congo's Ituri district and South Kivu province as a reporter.

Education wise, Mvemba did not stop with the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and French, he furthered his education and is now he holds an International Master of Business Administration and

a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago.

Currently, Mvemba is still pursuing his passion for writing political op-eds. lately, he has been focusing on writing pieces on Africa in general and DRC in particular. His analyses have been published in the Journal of Democracy, New York Times, Newsweek International, International Herald Tribune, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, The New Republic, Forbes, St Louis Post-Dispatch and other outlets.

Apart from writing, Mvemba is a frequent guest on PBS' NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, NPR's Tell Me More, On Point and the Diane Rehm Show, the BBC World News Update, Al Jazeera's The Stream, NewsHour and Inside Story, and the Voice of America as a political analyst.

Soon, Mvemba is going to release a biography titled, **Mobutu: the Rise and fall of the Leopard King.**



The situation in the D.R.Congo has been addressed by Mvemba in very high profile places across the USA.

Africa's Voice At Opic -Worku Gachou.

By Prince Kurupati

A way from the spotlight, there are many young Africans who are making a name for themselves in the corporate world. While making a name for themselves, these bright young African minds are also putting the African continent on the world map. One such brilliant young minds of African origin is Worku Gachou, who serves as Managing Director, Africa at Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Worku Gachou spent much of his early life in Africa. After finishing his basic education, Worku moved to South Africa where he attended Stellenbosch University with a Bachelor's degree in African Studies. After completing his studies, Worku decided to move overseas with the US his destination. In the US, Worku decided to enroll at DePaul University where he studied for another Bachelor's degree this time in International Relations and Affairs. Later on, Worku would go on to enroll at Georgetown University for a Master's degree in Liberal Studies, International Relations, and Affairs.

Worku started making for himself with stints in legislative circles. His first assignment came in June 2008 when he found employment as a Legislative Intern in the Office of Legislative Affairs at the US Department of Justice. Worku worked for three months at the US Department of Justice.

After his internship, Worku moved to the US House of Representatives in July 2009 where he worked as a



"At the sidelines of the African Development Bank's African Investment Forum, OPIC Managing Director for Africa Worku Gachou (seated left) and Africell Chief Investment Officer Ian Paterson (seated right) sign commitment. (Standing left to right) OPIC Counselor to the President Frank Dunlevy; US Executive Director for AFDB Steve Dowd."

Staff Assistant/Legislative Correspondent. He spent over a year in this role before being deployed to become the Legislative Assistant responsible for Foreign Policy. Worku's commitment to his work saw him being promoted just over a couple of years later to become a Staff Member in the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Worku worked as the majority staff lead for Africa issues in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was responsible for the drafting and enactment of several landmark pieces of legislation impacting the continent, including the Electrify Africa Act, the END Wildlife Trafficking Act, and the reauthorization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

During his time at the US House of Representatives,

Worku had the opportunity to work in the campaign team for presidential candidate Mitt Romney

Worku left the US House of Representatives in February 2017 and soon after joined Covington & Burling LLP as a Policy Advisor. He spent a year and a half at Covington & Burling LLP where he provided strategic global public policy consulting, political and economic risk management, and other advisory services for corporate clients.

Worku left his role at Covington & Burling LLP to assume a new role at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) as a Managing Director responsible for the Africa region. Worku has enjoyed massive success at OPIC. He played a major role soon after joining OPIC

as he launched Connect Africa, an initiative aimed at improving connectivity in Africa by investing \$1 billion in physical infrastructure, technology, and value chains.

Recently, spearheading the Africa region, Worku in partnership with the U.S. Government's development finance institution, and Africell Holdings Limited signed a commitment letter for \$100 million to expand access to telecommunications in Africa. The project is expected to have a high developmental impact particularly in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo by expanding the availability and quality of affordable mobile telephone and internet services in these countries.

Worku's current organization OPIC is a self-sustaining U.S. Government

agency that helps American businesses invest in emerging markets. Established in 1971, OPIC provides businesses with the tools to manage the risks associated with foreign direct investment, fosters economic development in emerging market countries, and advances U.S. foreign policy and national security priorities. OPIC helps American businesses gain footholds in new markets, catalyzes new revenues and contributes to jobs and growth opportunities both at home and abroad. OPIC fulfills its mission by providing businesses with financing, political risk insurance, advocacy and by partnering with private equity investment fund managers.

A Consistent Focus on Investment for Stephane Le Boudier



Stéphane Le Boudier.

Stéphane Le Boudier is a native of the Central African Republic. He is currently Practice Leader, Structured Risk Solutions at Risk Cooperative. He advises investors and companies operating in Africa. Previously, he was a Managing Director of AFIG Funds, a leading African private equity fund manager based in Dakar, Senegal.

At AFIG Funds, he was a member of the Investment Committee, and played a leadership role in investing, portfolio company management, exits, as well as investor relations.

Stéphane's contribution since joining AFIG Funds has been important in laying the foundation for a continued success and growth. Through his work at AFIG Funds, Stéphane has demonstrated his capacity to accurately assess and manage risk in an increasingly volatile environment and provide the internal and external leadership required to be successful in a rapidly evolving African PE market.

Prior to joining AFIG Funds, Le Boudier served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at the U.S. Treasury Department,

where he worked with senior Treasury and White House officials to advance the Obama Administration's international financial and development agenda.

Prior to Treasury, he served as Staff Director for the House Financial Services Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade. As a senior committee staff, under the leadership of Committee Chairman Barney Frank (Massachusetts), and Subcommittee Chairman Gregory Meeks (New York), Le Boudier helped draft the landmark Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act, and was also responsible for congressional oversight of multilateral institutions.

He also has past experience in consulting, derivatives trading, and in technology startups, all of which help inform his work as an investor, and policy advisor. Le Boudier holds a BA and MA in Economics from McGill University, and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

He seats on the board of Corps Africa and on the advisory board of Nexinnova.

He lives in Washington DC with his wife and three children.

Dr Monde Muyangwa: From Zambia To Challenging The Dominant Narrative About Africa By Enhancing Knowledge And Understanding About The Continent In The USA



Dr Monde Muyangwa.

Dr Monde Muyangwa, the Director of the Wilson Center's Africa Program, has visited more than 30 African countries and leverages her experience to address the continent's most critical issues, as well as U.S.-Africa relations. Previously the longtime Academic Dean at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University, she has been a professor, a nonprofit leader, a development consultant, and a Rhodes Scholar. A widely-cited authority on governance, security, and development issues, Muyangwa challenges dominant narratives about the continent.

At the Wilson Center, Dr. Monde Muyangwa leads programs designed to analyze and offer practical, actionable options for addressing some of Africa's most critical, current, and over-the-horizon issues; foster policy-focused dialogue about and options for stronger and mutually-beneficial U.S.-Africa relations; and challenge the dominant narrative about Africa by

enhancing knowledge and understanding about the continent in the United States. The Africa Program's areas of focus are: inclusive governance and leadership; ii) conflict management and peacebuilding; iii) trade, investment, and sustainable development; and iv) Africa's evolving role in the global arena.

Prior to joining the Wilson Center, Monde served as Academic Dean at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) at the National Defense University from 2002 to 2013. In this capacity, she oversaw all curriculum and programs at ACSS, including in the areas of Security Studies, Counter-terrorism and Transnational Threats, Civil-Military Relations, Defense Economics and Resource Management, and Conflict Management. She also served as Professor of Civil-Military Relations at ACSS from 2000 to 2003. From 1997 to 2000, she worked as Director of Research and then Vice President for Research and Policy at the National Summit on Africa. From

1996 to 1997, she worked as Director of International Education Programs at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, New Mexico. She also previously served on the Advisory Council of the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, a project of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. Monde has also worked as a development and gender consultant, and on a wide range of development projects in southern Africa in the areas of education, housing, health, and nutrition. Currently, she serves on the Board of Trustees at Freedom House.

Monde holds a Ph.D. in International Relations and a B.A. in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the University of Oxford, as well as a B.A. in Public Administration and Economics from the University of Zambia. She was a Rhodes Scholar, a Wingate Scholar, and the University of Zambia Valedictory Speaker for her graduation class.

*Profile culled from Wilson Center



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Aymeric Saha And A Passion For Mutually Beneficial U.S-Africa Investment Opportunities

Aymeric Saha is legal experts, the Managing program Director of MiDA resources, and or “Mobilizing Institutional several joint Investors to Develop Africa’s operations Infrastructure,” a partnership with the World Bank and the Association of Securities United Nations Professionals (NASP) and Economic Commission the United States Agency for International Development for Africa. He (USAID). The initiative recently led a mobilizes, advises, and joint publication with Mercer expands opportunities for U.S. institutional investors – one of the most influential – pension funds, insurance companies, foundations pension consultant firms and endowments – into infrastructure investments with a global reach – on “Institutional Investments in African Public Infrastructure.”

Mr. Saha previously spent fourteen years in investments and banking at the World Bank and led the quantitative risk finance function responsible for managing market and credit risks for over \$300 billion in global investments and banking operations. In this role, Mr. Saha led the team that revamped the financial risk systems and models for the leading development financial institutions, including the adoption of a new asset-liability management system, Basel 3 standards for market, credit, and liquidity risks, and a new



Aymeric Saha

risk capital framework. He was subsequently awarded for excellence by the bank’s global head of finance and risk management.

In 2013, Mr. Saha was appointed Financial Policy Director in the United States Congress – House Subcommittee on Financial Institutions Ranking Member Congressman Gregory W. Meeks – to oversee the implementation of banking and capital markets reforms in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. In this role, Mr. Saha was responsible for coordinating the subcommittee’s oversight of banks, institutional investors, housing finance agencies, non-bank lenders, and banking regulators, including

the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC). Mr. Saha led numerous legislative proposals that were adopted by Congress on banking regulations, housing finance, consumer financial protection, insurance and financial inclusion. Cumulatively, he directed initiatives to boost U.S.-Africa trade and investments, particularly within the Power Africa initiative.

In 2005, Mr. Saha and a former college classmate co-founded New Bridge Development/1438 Street LLC, a real estate investment partnership that developed and managed multi-million

dollar assets in commercial and residential properties, and retail operations in the Washington, DC region. The business successfully transacted on dozens of financing and leasing deals and managed over 40 employees in the region.

Mr. Saha holds two master’s degrees in finance and business management from Johns Hopkins Carey Business School and a bachelor’s degree in finance and economics from McGill University. He previously lived abroad in Africa, Europe, and Canada, and is fluent in French.

*Profile Culled from MIDA



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Ghana's return policy for the skilled; an example to emulate?

By Papisdaff Abdalla



The Government of President Akufo is speeding a Ghanaian tradition of welcoming the diaspora with open arms.

The Government of Ghana has announced that it would open its doors and offer the right of abode to African-Americans and Caribbean people next year. This proclamation was made by President Akufo Addo at the 73 UN General Assembly. The move according to the West African leader feeds into his Ghana Beyond Aid agenda and to large extent wean the African continent donor dependence. The concept of right of abode under Immigration Law of Ghana Act 2000 requires that a person having the right of abode shall be free to live and to come and go into and from the country without let or hindrance. The Act provides that subject to Section 17(1), the Minister may on an application and with the approval of the president grant the status of right of abode to a selected category of people including a person of African descent in the Diaspora.

Last year, Ghana's Ambassador to Denmark, Mrs. Amerley Ollenu Awua-

Asamoah, appealed to skilled Ghanaians in Denmark to return home as often as possible, to support Ghana's development Agenda. The Ambassador said the Government of Ghana's policy of diaspora engagement is aimed at attracting Ghana's high quality manpower to help bring home the needed investment to drive the government's industrialization agenda. "Looking at the government initiative or policy on diaspora engagements where we think most of the Ghanaians in the diaspora are intellectuals and have been here for some time, we need them to come home to help build the economy". She added "and in that sense, as far as our Mission is concerned, we want to engage the diaspora, collaborate and network with them to bring investors back home". The Ghanaian diplomat stressed "we want them to bring their skills and technical know-how to assist the Ghanaian community. Forming partnerships with foreign countries is a win-

win situation, and we believe they know our culture very well, so if they have any skills, this is the time to come and assist in transforming Ghana." Her comments followed a visit to Ghana by the Queen of Denmark.

Deputy Director

of Diaspora Affairs at the Presidency, Nadia Adongo Musah told Pan African Visions that "we have come to a time we are saying no and our President is saying no, Ghana beyond aid and can look into your face and tell you that yes, we have it in Ghana and Africa that we can take care of our own affairs". According to her, "the President has set up the diaspora affairs unit at the seat of government because of how important bridging the gap between the human resource we have here and those out there is to him".

Expensive visas

The issue of expensive visas is one major phenomenon that would most likely thwart this initiative by the government. This is a problem a lot of the people who fall under the designated category to earn right of abode would have to face. In the past, a lot of person in the diaspora have had cause to lament and blame their inability to come home often to contribute their quota to

national development on the high cost of visas. This is an issue that government of President Akufo Addo is yet to address barely two months to the beginning of the return policy.

Ghana Investment Promotions Company

According to the Ghana Investment Promotions Company (GIPC), the country's wealth of resources, democratic political system and dynamic economy, makes it undoubtedly one of Africa's leading lights. Ghana, per the company's assessment has gained the world's confidence with peaceful political transitions and a grounded and firm commitment to democracy which has helped in expediting Ghana's growth in foreign direct investment (FDI) in recent years.

Ghana has attracted the attention of well-known international businesses, investing in all sectors of our economy. All these investors have come to Ghana because they know we have a wonderful conducive social, political and economic environment in which they can invest, grow and be successful.

Building on significant natural resources, our dear nation is committed to improving its physical infrastructure. Moreover, Ghana has recently embarked on an ambitious but achievable reform programme to improve the investment climate for both local and international investors. These efforts have paid off tremendously with Ghana being ranked the best place for doing

business in West Africa, ahead of Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire, according to the 2017 Ease of Doing Business Report. Ghana ranked 108, an improvement from the 111 rank in the previous report. The indicators as described in the report includes: getting electricity (moved from 122 in 2016 to 120 in 2017), resolving insolvency (moved from 158 in 2016 to 155 in 2017) & trading across borders (moved from 167 in 2016 to 154 in 2017).

Again the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) was adjudged the Best Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) in West and Central Africa for the second time at the 2017 Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) Awards in Dubai, UAE. The AIM Investment Awards, which is organized under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai.

Ghana is said to have a solid tradition of investments in agriculture and agro-processing. The financial services and telecommunications sectors are fast gaining ground, providing dynamic and innovative services to the most diverse customers in the world. Further opportunities exist in manufacturing, ICT, and Tourism. Mineral deposits including gold and diamond abound, and with the discovery of oil, Ghana's famous black star has never shone brighter.

African Diaspora Talks Rebranding Africa With PLO Lumumba

By Samuel Ouma



On a recent speaking tour of the USA, Kenyan Lawyer and foremost Pan Africanist Prof. PLO Lumumba harped on the need for African to rebrand itself and the need for the diaspora to step up its game in helping the continent to navigate 21st century challenges with brio.

The group christened as African Diaspora Braintrust, whose members represent the broader African Diaspora communities of the Caribbean, Africa and other regions in addition to the United States, emphasized on how to strengthen strategic and mutually beneficial engagements and exchanges between Africa and her Diaspora and leveraging opportunities with the US.

The African Diaspora Braintrust categorized

the needs and priorities according to interrelation of politics, economic and culture in order to establish African equilibrium. The enthusiasts believe that economic and business development is the primary engagement that will support Diasporans and people residing on the African continent.

On politics, they pleaded with African governments to introduce the post of Diaspora minister to oversee the process. They are also demanding an end of a perception that they are African migrants saying they are decent Africans regardless of when and how they migrated outside the continent. Moreover, it aims at creating awareness of the personal, national and international short-term and long-term impacts of what

is known as the “Mobutu Syndrome” (bad leadership) to showcase and uplift other models of leadership.

Economically, they recommended for a shift from a policy that is aid focused for one that espouses real business exchanges, trade, and job creation.

“Funding and resources are available internally if organized and properly channeled to create collaborative, and independently operated financial institutions like Diaspora credit unions,” read part of the statement.

The African Braintrust called for a speedy establishment of incentives for the 6th region to harness investment. Incentives include prioritization for the development of institutions including access to credit, ease of access to conduct business and addressing protocol issues which decreases long-term investment. Reduction of risks of doing business through improved business institutions is another aspect discussed under economy.

The group is also on a mission of saving African dying culture. They decried over cultural confusion as many African histories are not told, shared across the

continent and Diaspora and frequently mis-documented. They want the opportunities to be created for people to hear the wisdom and proverbs of the elders as it used to be.

“Embracing the riches and richness of culture will help to institute pride and demonstrate innovative ways for African-based and Diaspora-based solutions. Thus, an emphasis of revisiting African origin stories and customs is important as they will quickly fade or be rejected by youth,” said the statement.

They called for trust and unity among Africans noting that the human spirit of the African people must be

honored with respect to our common ancestors and those who came before us.

The group is aiming at three groups of people for development: rural poor people, Infants, Toddlers and Primary School aged children and the Emergent

African Professional. However, they need fully emerge, mutual exchange and enhancement from the residents.

In their next move, they planned to compile the various African Diasporan organizations across the United States, gather stories from Elders and other wisdom holders on authentic African history, customs, achievement and understanding, enhance learning and meaningful exposures for greater African and Diaspora understanding and define short-terms and long- terms goals within the identified framework and priorities.



A fruitful meeting between PLO Lumumba and the African diaspora.



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A Diaspora Effort to Boast Agriculture in Africa

-Introducing The Post Harvest Loss Cold Storage Initiative

By Veola Green



Reducing post-harvest loss in the tomato value chain.

What happens to the lives of Africans in America, whether brought here in chains or emigrated on planes, is related to the lives of Africans in the Carribeans, in Europe, in Africa : What happens to any person of African descent happens to us all

Food Security is one of the most challenging threats of the 21st century.

Despite our differences – all of which is constructed- should be set aside - we, a mighty people can again, restart our legacy from whence it was interrupted, to be able to garner our strength enough to create better outcomes for the development of our women, which directly impacts our children.

Here is the solution: Strengthen and Support agricultural enterprise development opportunities that enhance the sovereignty of Africa's economic prosperity by providing meaningful engaging

opportunities that shrink the divide between indigenous African women and American born Blacks to ensure their children thrive socially and economically

The International Institute provides contractual services to governmental entities and promotes private sector-led business solutions that alleviate poverty and develop local economies for the benefit of women of African descent and their children by building robust economic drivers in several sectors:

- **Agriculture**
- **Economic Vitality (Microfinance and Insurance)**
- **Community Resilience Development**
- **Transportation and Security**

The solution, requires hard work, nothing that the African is not used to - the work of it must be done with a singular purpose in mind: survival- not at the cost of individual survival but much more profound- the resurrection

of our common humanity to overcome colonialism and all of its oppressive facets to see to come to life the joint future of the children of Africa to live

Here in, we, Africans, have a chance to advance agricultural transformation to reduce poverty, inequality, unemployment through a multi sectoral approach that involves integrated planning that operationalizes the SDG of 2063 and most importantly, gives life to national development plans

The International Institute is currently advancing efforts to implement Post Harvest Loss Cold Storage Initiative in The Gambia as a national model that is scalable and replicable to other nations.

Work with us, my brother and sister.

Currently, The International Institute is in a documented relationship with The Gambia from the Ministry of Agriculture, and currently in negotiations with Liberia,

via the Liberia Opportunity for Industrialization Center through a partnership network.

The Cold Storage units eliminate spoilage of the vegetables and the units are aesthetically pleasing highly functional as a center point in the local community as a source for electricity.

The units have the unique ability to supply fresh drinking water and flaked ice for fish or cubed ice for restaurants.

Intentional in our efforts, we must move forward with one accord, as partners,

to make a big impact, in supporting industry infrastructure in Africa that is targeted at creating pathways for women, in Africa and within the diaspora, to establish enterprises that increase the social and economic mobility.

The time is now- join in!

***Veola Green is Executive Managing Partner and Principal at The International Institute of Family Development, Inc. She can be reached via:**

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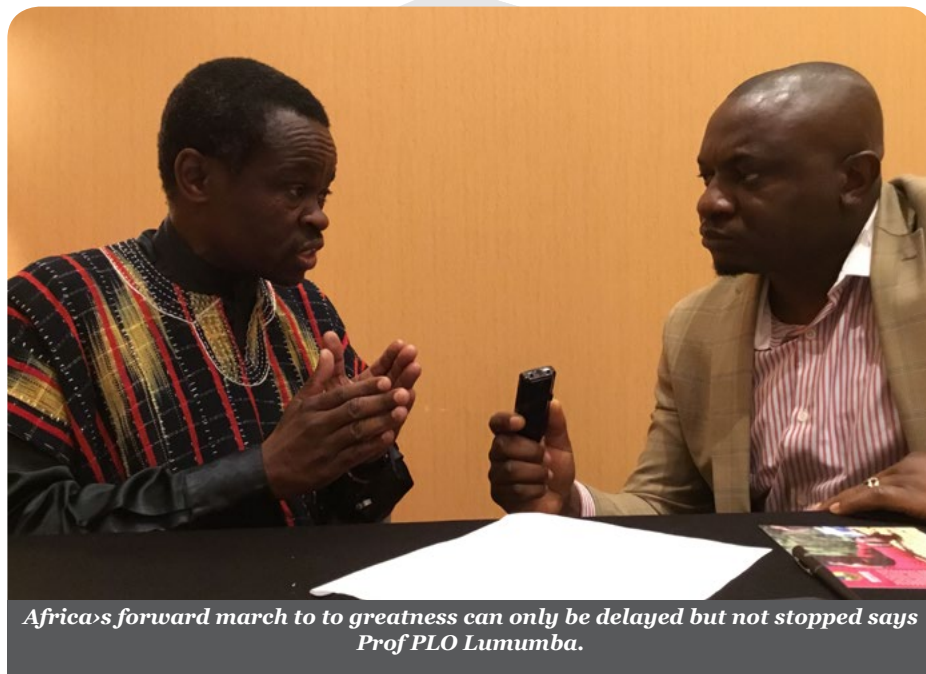
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Q & A with PLO Lumumba: Africa is On The Move and Cannot Be Stopped

By Ajong Mbatndah L



Africa's forward march to to greatness can only be delayed but not stopped says Prof PLO Lumumba.

On tour in the USA to meet with the African diaspora, leading Pan Africanist, and Lawyer Prof PLO Lumumba says Africa is firmly on the move and the trend only be delayed but not stopped. Based in Kenya, Prof Lumumba says Africa and its diaspora must begin to read from the same script and be better organized to meet other civilizations head on.

Speaking on the controversial incident where he was barred from entering Zambia, Lumumba, a vocal and uncompromising advocate of African unity says it was unfortunate that the Zambian government decided to make a mountain out of a mole hill just because he wanted to harp on the need for revisit engagements with China. Trading with China and other countries is not a bad thing, but Africa must assess its needs and strengths and only enter

into engagements that bring maximum benefit to their countries.

Prof Lumumba believes that there is the need for African countries to ease visa requirements which greatly hinder movement of people from one country to the other in the continent. If people like Dangote with all the investment potentials have an issue moving from one country to the other, it is unfortunate Lumumba said while reminding African leaders that it can only be for the benefit of the continent if visa burdens are eased.

You are currently on tour in the United States and yesterday you had a talk at Howard University on role of Africa and black diaspora in international affairs. What was the message you sought to convey in that talk?

Prof. Lumumba: My message was that Africa can only realize her potential

if she is organized. That requires amongst other things that Africans, wherever they are, whether they are in US, Caribbean or in Brazil or in other parts of the world must begin to read from the same script, and be organized in order to confront other civilizations through trade, and other forms of engagement.

And today in Baltimore your focus was on rebranding Africa's identity: turning Africa's riches into economic value. How can this be done?

Prof Lumumba: This can be done through the organization of African institutions because we have recognized that Africa has many natural and human resources and one of the reasons why the resources of Africa are exploited to the benefit of others and to the detriment of Africa is because we have not properly branded ourselves .Because of that,

we are not competitive enough and we take the view that we must have an organized approach, and we have identified that agenda 2063 as articulated by the African Union provides an opportunity where we can engage in a constructive manner.

It is also important that Africa is divided into several regional blocks under the aegis of African Union, so we can begin to structure our approach to the issues that are critical in terms of exploration of our resources starting with agriculture, getting into

mining, and other sectors particularly in this day of the fourth industrial revolution.

Now, prof. Lumumba is a well-respected voice across Africa. What happened in Zambia?

Prof.Lumumba: Of course, whenever I am asked about questions on what happened in Zambia, I say that I'm being taken into the arena of speculation. But what was said as I entered Lusaka airport was that there were security reasons which informed the decision not to allow me entry into Zambia. Of course, subsequently, the Zambian Vice President made a statement in parliament reiterating the same position, but truth be told it must have been the intended speech about the place of China in Africa at which essentially, I was going to talk about the needs for Africa to reorient the manner in which it operates

so that it can compete in an effective manner and for the benefit of Africa, but the government of Zambia chose to create a mountain out of a mole hill which I think was unfortunate.

So, with regards to trade and engagements with the Chinese, can you share a few pros and cons?

Prof Lumumba: The Chinese are doing what they are doing because their leadership has identified what is in the best interest of the Chinese people and they are going about it in a systematic and programmatic manner and therefore it is upon African leaders from political, economic and business leaders to engage in a structured way, and to respond in a manner that will benefit the continent and people of Africa. So, it is not the Chinese that are to blame, it is us who must be prepared to compete, and we can only compete if we are united, sufficiently organized, and if we have identified the things that are beneficial to the continent. There are things to be learnt from the Chinese. I have just had the advantage of listening to the very learned Professor Leonard Jefferies .I share his views that we must ensure that politics is connected to economic, and culture, and it is a tripod upon which we can regenerate Africa and make her realize her potential.

With current leadership that Africa has, do you think that it is the right leadership for the kind of Africa that you envisage?

Prof. Lumumba:

Leadership must be made right. It is the duty of the citizenry from different sectors to make demands of leaders and history has demonstrated that when people make demands of their leaders and they sustain those demands then the leaders will begin to move in the right direction. Of course, there are certain leaders who are recalcitrant and may not change. History has shown that they can be taken off the seat, and there is no shortage of Africans who can occupy positions of leaderships for the benefits of the continent of Africa.

In the recent we have had the Chinese leader engaging with Africa African leaders, British Prime Minister Theresa May, Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron have all visited Africa this year, are you comfortable with what some have described as a second scramble for Africa ,and what does Africa need to do to make sure it has leverage over engagements it has with partners?

Prof. Lumumba: It will be only a scramble for Africa if we allow it. If we leverage on the renewed interest in Africa and are able to identify where the key areas are then we can take advantage of new interest in Africa to create an environment where we trade in a manner that will be beneficial to the people of Africa. Already we see the evidence in countries. such as Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Botswana and to a lesser extent countries like Kenya, and Tanzania are beginning to define how they engage. It is the nature of the world that trade is the life blood of human relations so one cannot deny people from

other continents coming into the continent. It is incumbent to make sure that we engage in meaningful manner and if we don't then the reality is as Charles Darwin once sided, survival of the fittest and the dying of the least suitable.

When you look at what is happening in the continent today for instance political crisis at South Cameroon, and agitations in Angola, how do you balance the legitimate demands of people with the overall bigger picture of a united Africa that you seek?

Prof. Lumumba: Unity does not mean that we will not have our hiccups, trials and tribulations. My view is that African unity is a goal that we must work towards. There are always crises, hiccups, difficulties but as we work towards unity, it is our duty to ensure that problems that are a scar on the face of Africa are eliminated. The problems in the Southern Cameroon must be resolved, the same for South Sudan and central Africa and I believe that we have the capacity to do that. I was very gladdened when the Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed resolved the long-standing Eritrean-Ethiopian problem without seeking external intervention and my view is that it was a demonstration that we have the capacity to resolve these problems, and that we must use, and exploit that capacity in a meaningful way. As we resolve these problems it will also give us the opportunity to identify our strengths to conflict resolutions, so am not worried. They are painful



On AU reforms, Prof PLO Lumumba says strong measures to ease travel by Africans within Africa must be on the table.

to the extent that people are being killed but I believe that in the fullness of time through concerted effort, we would be able to resolve those problems in a manner that will strengthen the continent of Africa.

As someone who travels across Africa regularly. Are there some parts of the continent you have been impressed with?

Prof. Lumumba: Ooh yeah.

Which parts of the continent are doing better?

Prof Lumumba: I have been impressed by development because every country will always have its problems, but when I traveled to Ethiopia, despite her political problems I believe the current political leadership has identified the right direction. Tanzania begins to impress us, as Rwanda, Namibia, Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Mozambique, and Angola. My own view is that Africa is on move. There is no country without her problems. They can and must be resolved. Let us not have this view that Africa is a basket case. I believe that Africa is capable of resolving her problems and

that we are working towards the resolutions of these problems and Africa will get credit for that as we move forward.

The incident you had in Zambia brings to mind a complain from Ali Dangote that for all he does in terms of investment across Africa, visa requirements are a big burden, what is your take?

Prof. Lumumba: As part of the reforms of the African Union, one of the things that we must work towards is to ensure that we eliminate the requirements of visas. I hold the view that we must move towards an African passport. It is good I have seen it in West Africa, East Africa and South Africa. We are already moving towards regional passports with country specificity, but in the next ten years as we remove the visas and remove other barriers, we must ensure that people can operate without being hindered by these unnecessary visa requirements and if it is a revenue collection exercise, I believe we can go around that. Voices such as Dangote's are important because they are

employers across Africa, and Europe has taught us that the ability to move from one country, from Bratislava to Madrid in Spain is a good thing for the economy of that part of the world as it would be if there is free movement from Johannesburg to Juba in South Sudan.

We end with your perspectives, what makes you hopeful, and what are your fears for Africa?

Prof. Lumumba: I have no doubt in mind that this continent with monumental resources, with human resources collaborating within ourselves and with Africans who are residents outside the continent, if we work as a team then we will realize our potential. My only fear is if we allow short term political interference, interests, and bankrupt politicians to live their agenda for their personal benefits then the dividends will be delayed but they cannot be stopped. Africa cannot be stopped; the train can only be delayed.

SADC region restate commitment to renewable energy

By Andreas Thomas

Windhoek – The Southern African Development Community (SADC) region has bolstered its commitment to the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions, to effectively addressing the energy challenges the region is facing.

Over half of 300 million the population in the region remain without access to electricity, although member countries are endowed with huge renewable energy resources that can be sustainably developed for the benefit of our economies.

With low energy efficiency, limited installed generation capacity, and weak governance institutions the energy sector, energy security in the region has become a critical concern.

Examples from developed countries have shown that renewable energy is a very reliable source of supply for the SADC Region and can reduce the current scenario of heavy dependency on fossil fuel that has caused some of our countries to be heavily in indebted.

As a result, the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) was formally launched on Wednesday, 24 October 2018 in the Namibian capital Windhoek, where it will be hosted. SACREEE, a subsidiary agency of SADC was conceptualized by Ministers responsible for Energy in the SADC.

The establishment of the regional body that will coordinate renewable energy and energy efficiency issues in the region was endorsed by the 35th SADC Council of Ministers meeting in South Africa in 2015.

SACREEE was established to contribute towards increased access to modern energy services and improved energy security across the SADC Region through the promotion of market-based uptake of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and energy services.

It is SACREEE's mandate to play a key role in the implementation of the recently adopted Southern Africa Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action plan.

The legal instrument of the establishment of SACREEE is an Inter-Governmental Memorandum of Agreement (IGMoA) signed by all member states. The IGMoA is currently being signed through a round robbing principle.

Namibia's Mines and Energy Minister Tom Alweendo has said the establishment of SACREEE came at an opportune time in the region where there is diminishing electricity generation capacities.

"There are several reasons for the persistent energy crises though sometimes there is surplus in other member states. A number of issues have been raised as to the reasons but I must



Namibia Mines and Energy Minister Tom Alweendo.

emphasise that the aspect of sustainability is not sufficiently considered when planning for the future," says Namibia's Mines and Energy Minister Tom Alweendo during the launch.

"The over-reliance on fossil fuels which are finite and traditional biomass has been the status quo for many of our countries. Whilst the region's population is growing at a fast rate, fossil fuels are not going to sustain the region since they are not renewable.

"Therefore the business as usual of the expansion of existing energy systems based on fossils is not viable. Nuclear energy, despite its limited greenhouse effects is also not a viable solution for the region due to high capital costs and the waste disposal, which has to be carefully handled," Alweendo during the launch of the regional energy agency.

"The SADC's renewable energy resources are huge and underutilised. I believed the establishment of SACREEE will unlock this potential by

providing business guidance on the regional market opportunities and risks. Economies throughout the region need to be provided with tools, models and lessons learned to transform and strengthen their energy sector."

Namibia is one of the countries in the region that has taken big strides in the growth of the renewable energy industry and the involvement of Independent Power Producers (IPPs). Commendable efforts have led to 18 renewable energy projects by IPPs that have signed Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with national power company NamPower to supply 170 MW of renewable energy generation projects by 2020.

As at September 2018, 11 renewable energy power plants have been commissioned, and contributes 55 MW to the country's electricity supplies. SADC Director of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Domingos Gove

said the launch of SACREEE is region's commitment towards Sustainable Development Goals in particular goal number 7 on increasing access to energy, as well as promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

"The SADC region is endowed with abundant energy resources in a form of fossil, comprising coal and oil, hydropower and other renewables resources such as solar and wind. The recent discoveries of natural gas and prospects of shale gas in the region are gradually changing the energy mix and are expected to help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as they are classified low-carbon energy sources," Gove said.

The SACREEE Secretariat will actively maintain links and pursue projects in the member States through nominated national focal institutions that will manage an active network of key renewable energy and energy efficiency stakeholders within respective countries.

SACREEE's Executive Director Kudakwashe Ndhlukula has explained that the centre is tasked to generate projects in collaboration with partners as per the SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan as well as SADC Ministers Resolutions and SADC Development Agenda such as SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063).

The energy agency is currently implementing the SADC Renewable Energy

Entrepreneurship Support Facility; Renewable Energy Resource Assessment and Zoning study for the Africa Clean Energy Corridor and SADC Program on Gender and Sustainable Energy.

International organisations have played a leading role in the establishment of the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. These includes the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the International Renewable

Energy Agency, the European Union, Swedish International Cooperation and Development Agency and the National Renewable Energy Agency. Philippe Scholtes, UNIDO's managing director for Programme Development and Technical Cooperation said the agency is proud to support the establishment of SACREEE in partnership with ADA.

"As a regional centre, SACREEE is in a unique position to accelerate the energy and climate transformation in SADC by

creating economies of scale, equal progress and spill-over effects between countries," said Scholtes.

Together with the Nordic Development Fund and the Government of Finland, Austria participated in the Energy and Environment Partnership, a financing facility in Southern and East Africa.

Austria also funds Southern Africa Solar Training and Demonstration Initiative in six SADC countries, says ADA's Managing Director Martin Ledolter. "The SADC

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan adopted by the SADC authorities and its member states have mandated SACREEE to put forward the implementation of this important development plan. We are prepared to continue our support for this important process with financial support and technical assistance," says Ledolter.

Comprehensive Amnesty Programmes As Component Of Inclusive Dialogue

By Mwalimu George Ngwane

The Guardian Post of Monday September 17, 2018 carried a front page caption titled "Ambazonia fighters promised huge compensation to surrender weapons". The full story on page 5 of the newspaper further quotes the North West Governor, Adolphe Lele L'Afrique inter alia "Our children, brothers, sisters and loved ones who have been misled and misguided to take up arms against the fatherland are called upon to surrender their weapons to the nearest administrative, traditional, municipal and regional authority and as a follow up they will be entitled to psychological and logistical support for their eventual rehabilitation and reintegration into society".

This is definitely an innovative twist in what is referred to as an amnesty programme, but which has not been given the visibility and potency it deserves in

the current Anglophone crisis. Granted that there have been calls for blanket amnesty for especially the jailed, the Diasporans and the spoilers connected to the conflict, but little attention has been paid, except for military offensive, to the "Ambazonian" combatants, militants or fighters on the ground who wield deadly weapons. An amnesty incentive programme for combatants or fighters entails a cocktail of measures aimed at disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating (DDR) the fighter into society. Disarmament removes and destroys the weapons, demobilization extinguishes ex-fighters belief in violence and provides them with a more powerful, peaceful alternative while reintegration aids in the socio-economic process of returning to civilian life.

Scholars of peace studies have been divided over whether amnesty

programmes should be introduced at the beginning (to prevent conflict escalation), during (to mitigate armed violence), or after (to ensure post-conflict peace building) of the conflict dynamics. However what they all agree is that an amnesty programme is cost-effective but not a substitute for a substantive discussion on the root and/or proximate causes of the conflict. In fact fighters are often willing to surrender their weapons only when there is a clear and concrete agenda for addressing the issues that led them to take up arms in the first place. There are basically three kinds of



Protesters marching with tree branches as a sign of peace at the onset of the crisis.

amnesty programmes.

The first is "arms for cash incentive". Here the focus is on the individual combatant who is given financial assistance in exchange for his/her weapon. However the cash is given as an amnesty coupon which he / she can exchange only for food and/or tools for work. This prevents the combatant from using the money to buy

more weapons.

The second is "arms for capacity-building" which also focuses on the individual combatant but with a bent on what is called "bridging activities". Here the combatant is provided with sustainable livelihood like free education and especially vocational and literacy training that would help him/her gain employable skills. It

is always important to involve the combatants in carrying out their needs assessment, work with them to know the labour market realities so as not to train them for trades that have no demand. It is therefore recommended that the amnesty programme should be based on inclusive consultation, greater degree of combatant-ownership and more closely integrated into the wider process of reconstruction and development.

The third is the "arms for development initiative" which is more community than individual based. This is a form of voluntary surrender of weapons in return for a collective incentive. The aim is to shift the mindset of communities from the benefits of owning weapons to the benefits of a weapon-free environment. It enables the community to put the war behind them and turn instead to development. For this to be effectively implemented, the government has to certify that the community is "weapon-free". This means the community members have the task of identifying all those with guns and pressure

them to surrender for the benefit of a community project.

Most amnesty programmes go through three stages with the first stage involving disarming, registering, interviewing and counseling ex-fighters. The second stage involves the absorption of disarmed fighters into any of the amnesty programme and the third stage involves reintegrating the ex-fighters in the society. A few country case studies on amnesty programmes buttress this essay.

The Niger Delta region of Nigeria has for more than two decades been engulfed in a resource (oil) conflict. But on 25 June 2009, the then President Umaru Yar'Adua signed an amnesty deal which stated that militants who freely surrendered their arms within the 60-day amnesty period would not be prosecuted for the crimes that they had committed during the course of disrupting the Nigerian oil industry. In return for the acceptance of the amnesty, the Federal government pledged its commitment to instituting programmes that would

rehabilitate and reintegrate ex-militants. The amnesty saw over 15000 militants surrender their weapons by the deadline date; 13000 ex-militants were deployed for local and foreign training, skills acquisition and other formal education while more than 2500 ex-militants were admitted to higher institutions of learning in various spheres of knowledge.

Between 1989-2003, Liberia was knee-deep in fourteen years of war. An amnesty programme was introduced between 1996-2004 within which 24500 of the estimated 33000 fighters had been disarmed and demobilized; more than 9570 weapons and 1.2 million rounds of ammunition were also surrendered while about 90000 (fighters and their satellite associates) got rehabilitated and reintegrated. The armed conflict in Sierra Leone started in March 1991. The government preferred the Arms for Development initiative developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). While 42300 weapons were surrendered by 72500 ex-

combatants by 2002, the success of the amnesty exchange was enhanced by a community-led approach in which the community, after broad consultations, chose the development project to be funded in the community. In conclusion amnesty programmes are never a quick fix nor a one-size-fit-all strategy hence the need to contextualize and tailor them to the underlying or root causes as well as the proximate or remote causes of the conflict.

Some of the amnesty programmes have failed to produce the expected peace dividend because some governments saw them as a conquest, patronizing and repressive bait to buy time for "business as usual" governance. In fact some governments and fighters prefer muscular military option as a way of asserting their legitimacy and authority but reluctantly concede to amnesty programmes for international posturing. Some programmes also fail because the disarmament of the combatants is not done concurrently with government's downsizing the

republican army stationed at the conflict zones. Another obstacle is that amnesty programmes are not decreed at the highest level of the state with valuable inputs from peace scholars. And finally there is a problem when combatants refuse to break links with those who remote control them through a mass propaganda of an elusive political triumphalism. Therefore Governor Lele Afrique's appeal points to a direction in which a holistic menu of amnesty programmes, humanitarian assistance, inclusive dialogue and other proposals by Cameroonians and Diplomatic services could be put on the table. It is not late.

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African Alliance For Disaster Research Institutes Initiated

By Wallace Mawire



Professor Desmond Manatsa

The African Alliance for Disaster Institutes (AADRI) has been initiated to act as a forum for advancing disaster risk reduction knowledge in the African continent, according to Professor Desmond Manatsa, Chairperson of the AADRI being currently hosted by Zimbabwe.

Professor Manatsa revealed the formation of AADRI at the recent 1st international conference on food security and climate change hosted in Harare, Zimbabwe by the Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) on 4 to 5 October, 2018 under the theme: Developing adaptive and resilient food production systems in the face of climate change.

Professor Manatsa's presentation at the conference focused on the role of AADRI in food security under the changing climate.

He added that the

rationale for the formation of AADRI was that Africa's disaster research community is fragmented and diverse with no clear collaboration and partnership to inform decision-making in the African continent.

It is also added that Africa's disaster research output is less than 1% of the global disaster research and that there is no hub for Africa's disaster research.

According to Professor Manatsa, therefore AADRI will be a forum for advancing disaster risk reduction knowledge through producing knowledge, sharing knowledge, promoting collaboration and partnership and providing a unified message for policy makers across the African continent.

AADRI will be a membership organisation comprising universities, government organizations,

Non-Governmental

Organizations (NGOs), private sector organizations and disaster research PhD students.

Also AADRI will be an independent alliance that will be managed by voluntary contributions from the Africa's research community.

The secretariat will be hosted by the school of climate change and disaster research at the Bindura University of Science Education in Zimbabwe.

AADRI will also have a rotating committee and a chairperson.

The main themes of AADRI include disasters risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

AADRI will also collaborate and partner with other organizations at an international level such as GADRI, UKADRI and UNISDR (Science and Technology).

In the African region

it will collaborate with organizations such as PERI PERI U, ACDS, RIASCO-Regional Inter-agency standing committee and UINSDR Africa.

Some of the hazards identified by the institute include drought, floods, cyclones, landslides, diseases, earthquakes and insect infestations. Some of the vulnerabilities include poverty, urbanization, social and economic inequalities, environmental degradation, gender relations, illiteracy, HIV and AIDS including corruption.

According to Professor Manatsa, AADRI's research will focus on four pillars so that climate change impacts have minimum impacts on food production in Africa. The four pillars include availability, access, utilization and stability. "For food security objectives to be realized, all four dimensions must be fulfilled simultaneously," Professor Manatsa said.

He added that food availability addresses the supply side of food security and is determined by the level of food production, stock levels and net trade.

On access to food he said that an adequate supply of food at the national or international level does not in itself guarantee household level food security.

"Concerns about insufficient food access have resulted in a greater policy focus on incomes, expenditure, markets and

prices in achieving food security objectives," Professor Manatsa said.

On food utilization he said that it is commonly understood as the way the body makes the most of various nutrients in the food. Sufficient energy and nutrient intake by individuals is the result of good care and feeding practices, food preparation, diversity of the diet and intra-household distribution of food.

"Combined with good biological utilization of food consumed, this determines the nutritional status of individuals," he added.

On stability of the other three dimensions over time he said that even if your food intake is adequate today, you are still considered to be food insecure if you have inadequate access to food on a periodic basis, risking a deterioration of your nutritional status.

He added that adverse weather conditions, political instability, or economic factors such as unemployment, rising food prices may have an impact on your food security status.

Professor Manatsa also said that AADRI is an affiliate to the Global Alliance for Disaster Institutions (GADRI).

The concept of AADRI was mooted at GADRI forum held in Japan.

He added that AADRI is in a membership drive and plans to host a conference next year to formalize itself.

Of MDC's Nelson Chamisa & the Post Elections Crisis in Zimbabwe

By Nevson Mpofu



Some critics think the MDC and Nelson Chamisa could gain by playing a more constructive in rebuilding Zimbabwe.

The other day when I was conducting a Lecture on conflict resolution in Africa, a female student of Kenyan origin Rebecca Wamugo asked me a Question. The question was why do African countries always go for peace settlement after spats of disputed elections and political conflicts? Other countries in Europe, America And Parts of Asia And Australia, she pointed out are always working towards building peace for economic growth and development.

These countries focus more on values of social, economic development rather than dwelling on politics. Countries focused on values to foster economic growth to reduce and eliminate absolute poverty. By so doing they improve on the success of Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The targeted goals are on Humanitarian sectors, Health and Education. The

other ones are on Economic improvement. These are the 3 or 4 main sectors of the Economy depending on policies of countries. They are Agriculture, Mining, Manufacturing Industry and Tourism.

Many African countries have under gone the metamorphosis of building towards change through conflict settlement. Recently in Africa, Ethiopia and Eritrea and South Sudan went through this. Rwanda and Burundi, Tutsi and Hutus. Some of these have been civil wars in Ethiopia, Somalia, Mozambique and Angola. The list is end-less.

Zimbabwe is opening up on the political crevices. The recent elections held 30 July, have stirred a hornet's nest. The MDC-T refusal to accept election results shows immaturity. The party is ephemeral in its move to take power using political tactics. In a move to make the

peace brokered deal work for the country, MDC T Leader Nelson Chamisa and ZANU PF, Emmerson Mnangagwa have been engaged by Zimbabwe Council of Churches. There is need for dialogue, to sit and discuss towards a peaceful settlement. This is meant to salvage the Economy from the current state of depreciation.

This peace deal could cost the nation if it is just talked about without a move to it. At the same, people see it as nothing that can come out of it. In 2009, the country came up with the same initiative of a Government of National Unity. When it was then put in place, little came out of it. Some sections of the community like the low class talked of it as better. The elite Business class criticized it because a number of them were those empowered by the Land Reform. Some are those who benefitted from economic indigenization

and the ZIMASSET Agenda. These belong to ZANU-PF.

The current stagnant waters under the bridge are a plethora of challenges being created by Nelson Chamisa of MDC-T. The real conflict resonates from the fact that he is denying the July 30 elections. He from the beginning of the preliminary stage of the elections criticized vehemently the way Zimbabwe Electoral Commission prepared the elections. His query lay on the ballot papers in terms of their printing, where they were printed, who was printing and how.

Before the announcement of results, he and the party MDC-T strategized ways of trampling down the ruling party ZANU-PF. This nonsensical political antic caused the 1 August shooting of 6 people who were among the protestors in the capital city of Harare by uniformed forces believed to be given orders by the Government.

Before all the mayhem he stated at a press conference at Harvest House their offices that MDC-T had anti-rigging mechanisms.

"We have all the information about the rigging styles of ZANU-PF. At the same time, we have anti-rigging mechanisms. Even though the fact, we shall resist any forms of election chicanery and any violence perpetrated by ZANU PF on our party supporters. We are ready for anything likely to throw us down as opposition" he said.

Like always is the African way in political culture and

tradition, MDC-T Chamisa party is knuckling down to call for talks with ZANU PF. Standing in between the dialogue, Zimbabwe Council of Churches Secretary General Kenneth Mtata is ready to intervene and make the two parties come with change in the country.

"We as church we want to bring the two together, but there is one thorny issue with Chamisa. The MDC-T leader is not recognizing the victory of its competitor Emmerson Mnangagwa who was declared the winner of the 2018 election.

"At the same time Mnangagwa says his doors are open for dialogue as long as Chamisa and his party recognizes him as the President of the country. Such is the challenge there. As long as the two come to settle down with us, we solve this amicably. We are doing this for the sake of the nation."

Simon Khaya Moyo standing for ZANU-PF made his words straight after being interview by Pan African Visions recently. However, it looks like as if the ruling ZANU PF is not much interested to come for dialogue if MDC-T does not recognize the current President-. Speaking in his words of precise eloquence, it looks like the party ZANU PF is sitting pretty on top of this proposal. They have seen the good and may-be to a certain extent seen the bad of a Government of National Unity coming from the reflective practice of 2009 Government of National



Zimbabwe's main opposition leader Nelson Chamisa casts his vote at a polling station in Harare, Zimbabwe, Monday, July 30, 2018.

Unity.

"The elections came, and MDC-T grievances. They took us to Constitutional Court which settled us all.

We ZANU-PF party were declared the winner. Now what are the next issues? As a country, we are supposed to move forward towards the development of our New Zimbabwe. Instead of focusing the economy for the good of the whole nation, we are busy talking and talking. What is that to people who want to see the end".

There is no doubt; the country is in shambles looking at its economy. Nothing has been well. Still we are falling in dark murky shredded waters in the darkness. They are only 2 political parties out of the 23 which vied for the

2018 elections. The 2 parties have over the years weaved troubled waters. Despite the fact of a Civil war in the country, we have civil strife and dis-obedience. This is making the nation lament in cheerful red tears dropping in the flood of water gurgles pouring in an ocean.

Zimbabwe is heading towards nasty pain in the narrow of shallow ideas. The situation creating more situational poverty turning chronic and absolute is still a long way to go.

Mainstreaming moral cultural policies into democratic governance in Africa

By Mwalimu George Ngwane

A) Cultural Idiosyncrasies as Democratic Violation

The trouble with integrating cultural or traditional practices within mainstream democracy has been the interpretation or sometimes debate between indigenous and modern visions of democratic governance.

Most African leaders have resorted to cherry picking these practices to suit their self interest rather than collective survival. African culture is not inimical to democracy. The South Korean Development Economist Ha-Joon Chang rightly argues that it depends on how people interpret their culture and tradition. "Which aspects they choose to highlight and which interpretation wins in political and ideological battles", will ultimately determine whether an African country builds democracy (Gumede, 2016:3).

While it has been argued that colonial governments essentially rewrote African culture and African post-independence leaders swallowed these distorted culture without debate, it is also clear that when the second wind of democracy started blowing in Africa in the 80s some leaders rejected democracy as "foreign", "un African", Western or against African culture. The leaders disclaimed the ingredients of mbangsuma and yum which emphasise sharing and solidarity to establish a cabal of power mongers perpetuating nepotism and self-interest. The very South Africa that is the cradle of ubuntu had a leadership under former President Jacob Zuma excelling in corruption and embezzlement. President Zuma said that he needed to be judged by African "culture" while building an R280M private home with tax payers' money and while



Mwalimu George Ngwane.

his supporters lived and died in grinding poverty. The erstwhile "Panaficanist" leader of former Zaire (Democratic Republic of Congo) regarded periodic elections as going against the African culture of feudalism. Feudalism believed in an appointed traditional chief (inkhosi) who ruled as long

as he wanted. The chief had absolute power over his subjects who swarm around the chief with servile sycophancy like courtiers in the old palaces found in kingdoms. It was not therefore strange to find Bokassa of "Central African Empire" crowning himself an Emperor or Robert Mugabe

of Zimbabwe, even with some of his positive heroic economic recuperation still glorified, assuming the role of an absolute monarch within a republic. Many of Africa's ruling dynasties have been established on the back of powerful and often long-serving presidents passing power

down through the family (Collins, 2018:37). From Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Togo, Kenya, Botswana to Democratic Republic of Congo family dynasties are fast becoming the stock in trade in our political spaces. The argument of some of these monarchy and dynastic Presidents in Africa must have been “there was only one African chief and he ruled for life or passed it to his lineage”. In the post-independence period, many African leaders and governments have highlighted or emphasised only the more autocratic, subservient and anti-developmental aspects of African culture and tradition. They have done so in many cases to reinforce their own control over their populations. Others like former President Sese Seko Mubutu invented new African cultures claiming these to be authentic when indeed this was a ploy to elongate his power tenure, shield him from criticism (with the argument that criticism was disloyalty) and shore political support from the uninformed population. Mubutu is quoted to have declared “democracy is not for Africa. There was only one African chief and here in Zaire we must make unity.” Other African heads of state have used this same argument to truncate and tinker with the country’s constitution to create a Republic of Presidents for life.

As shall be seen in the next chapter, there is not one single version of democracy. Yet there exist universal canons that make the presence of democracy felt in any society. While there is a case for an organic link between any model of democracy and the historical

context of the society, there is also a clear line between genuine democracy and hoaxed democracy no matter its historical background.

B) The Case of Traditional Models of Governance and Conflict Management

Decisions about the welfare of the citizenry emanate from a consensus. Africa’s “palaver theory” philosophy is inspired by the fact that it is only by sitting down under a tree or an open market square can people talk sincerely, listen actively, confront creatively before building an agreement. Gacaca tradition used as a method of restorative justice in the post-genocide period in Rwanda was inspired by “under the tree” discussion. Trees may not be fashionable today as spaces for moonlight discussions. They have been replaced by halls called in most of Southern Africa “indaba” in Lesotho “Kgotla” and in some East African countries “mbuza”. These are all indigenous expressions of modern community parliaments where debates about the state and future of society are determined. These spaces are heated in debates that are group-centred. Group centeredness can safeguard people from unhealthy competitiveness and divisiveness of individualism and selfishness. By experiencing the thrill of group dynamics people can be empowered and inspired to act cooperatively and collectively (Malan,1997:32). What this traditional “indaba” approach seeks is a more inclusive and integrative type of dialogue. Periodic “indabas” help in rethinking, monitoring and evaluating the state of affairs of a nation. In modern

terms they are a form of a national conference where frank dialogue or “talking it out” instead of “shooting it out” helps to restore sanity in a fragmented society and charts a way forward for its development and growth. So the context (soil conditions) and the content (universal canons) need to find some symphony if democracy must become a way of life of the African. The culture of a society shapes the informal rules which, far more than the formal rules determine both how institutions operate internally and how they relate to the wider social context (Jenkins,2006:130).

Another traditional approach to governance is what Ali Mazrui calls “our short memory of hate”. It is an ingrained trait that discourages an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth”. It is a custom that negates the western style democracy of the vote with the “winner take all” outcome. It is a custom that reminds us that our constant duty should be to maintain the integrity of each while finding a balanced design for all (Deng,1996:225). It is a cultural resource that emphasises forgiveness and magnanimity. The first President of Independent Kenya, the late Jomo Kenyatta published a book titled “Suffering without bitterness” which pointed in the direction of Nelson Mandela’s vision of forgiving and even being generous to the former white tormentors. This resource could be cultivated and utilised between those who are seen as opponents of the governance structure (opposition) and those in charge of governance (ruling or incumbent). Africans are a very spiritual people and

their spiritual values could be used as a mechanism of social control and of promoting non-violence and tolerance (Kokole,1996:138). Whether it is through spirituality of our elder tradition as in the kingdom of Swaziland or the orthodox Christian tradition of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, spiritual values serve as a restraining and moderating influence on volatile enraged citizens. Again the spiritual value enables the person to see himself as a product of a whole (society) and his persecution in any form should not rock the governance boat of society. When Goodluck Jonathan lost Presidential elections in Nigeria in 2015 and Joseph N. Boakai lost the run-off Presidential elections in Liberia in 2018, they both vowed that they would go with the verdict of the polls to save any human blood from spilling. Most of these approaches have been abandoned, but it was time they were reincarnated and implemented within the new democratic dispensations.

C) Indigenous Institutions as precursors of Modern Governance Structures

George Ayittey demonstrates that indigenous African governments were not completely dictatorial. Citizens could express their opinions openly and freely. The Chief or councillors did not jail dissidents or those with different viewpoints. Nor did the Chief loot the tribal treasury and deposit the booty in foreign banks (Ayittey,1992 :pp.41-42). Professor Eme Awa wrote “I do not agree that the idea of democracy is alien in African because we had democracy of the total type- the type

we had in the city-states where everybody came out in the market square and expressed their views, either by raising their hands or something like that”. The pre-colonial Africa was vested with both indigenous political institutions and an indigenous economic system. According to George Ayittey, there were as many as four basic units of government in African societies that governed themselves. The first was the Chief who was the central authority. The African Chiefs foremost responsibility was the survival of their people. An African Chief generally did not make policy or take decisions by himself. He only executed the will of the people (Ayittey,1992:p 42). The second was the inner or Privy Council which advised the Chief. The role of the inner or privy council was not only to keep the chief in touch with happenings in the tribe but also to keep a check on the chief’s behaviour. It was more or less the judiciary. Known in Ghanaian society as stools and skins, the privy or traditional council was largely included in the scheme of local government. The Chief would privately and informally discuss with the inner council all matters relating to the administration of the tribe. The third institution was the council of elders. The council of elders had two functions viz: to advise and assist the chief in the administration of the tribe as well as to prevent the chief from abusing his power. It was more or less the representative body of the commoners. In matters of serious consequence the chief had to summon all the members of the council of elders. Oliver (1969) noted

that the council of elders voiced its dissatisfactions, criticised the chief and kept him “under the necessary control.” The fourth traditional institution was the village assembly. Freedom of expression was an important element of village assemblies. Anyone – even those who were not members of the tribe – could express his views freely. Dissent was open and free. Dissidents were not harassed arrested and jailed. At village meetings, the majority opinion ruled if a consensus could not be reached. This was a cardinal issue on freedom of opinion. Although the chief was in strict theory able to override the wishes of his people, in practice he rarely ventured to do so, because he knew the cooperation of the villages was essential for the successful government of the tribe (Ayittey,1992:38). Therefore real power lay with the people.

What therefore comes out of this indigenous political culture is that democracy was relatively effective. No single person was responsible for all decision making, there were checks and balances to trim the excesses of central authority and there was the practice of cooperative and inclusive governance (Ayittey,1992:39). Such democratic entitlement and governance was enhanced

by the conception that power was distributive not accumulative; the society rested on the seminal concept that the corporate group was above the individual with all the ingredients of economic sharing, collective security, fellow-feeling and ideological tolerance. Therefore if according to Walter Rodney, democracy is a sense of oneness that emerges from social groups trying to control their environment and to defend their gains against competing groups; then African democracy had already gained ground in the African cultural soil (Rodney,1972:242).

D) Which Way Forward? Democracy in Content or Democracy in Context?

Democracy is neither the preserve of a few nor a luxury of the many. It is an ingredient that will continue to determine progress and development in Africa. Indeed, the fate of Africa will depend on how deep the seeds of popular participation are sown in the fertile African soil and how well they are nourished and nurtured by the African people in tandem with their leaders (Ngwane,2003:29). In this regard, the people and their leaders would have to at best either borrow from their culture, those practices that enhance democracy

or at worst abandon their cultural characteristics to imbibe other models of democracy. Whatever choice they make there would need to be a fusion of democracy in content and democracy in context. For this to prevail, the leadership in Africa would have to rethink how neatly this fusion can bring about human development and democratic dividends. According to King Moshoeshe, an emerging political consciousness is in need of a culturally derived and defined African political and economic ideology which can be culturally understood by Africans and so seen as dynamically relevant to their everyday problems and their own way of doing things. Moshoeshe continues by affirming that any successful democracy capable of mobilising the people and of obtaining their cooperation, consent and active participation on the difficult road to African recovery should be related to its own established – though now fragmented – cultural definition of African society (Moshoeshe,1992:10). What this means therefore is that Africa’s pre-colonial governance perception of a chief as a central authority which has now been converted to an autocratic, authoritarian and deified political ruler must be abandoned. This means Africa’s pre-colonial

governance structure of an inner or Privy Council that served as an advisory body but which in today’s African political systems is synonymous to a small sycophantic coterie of hand clappers and praise singers called Ministers in government should be reviewed. This means Africa’s pre-colonial governance structure which placed out of respect and wisdom emphasis on a Council of Elders that holds the chief’s excesses in check but which today has become a judiciary with a gerocratic metaphor of ‘democracy by the aged, of the aged and by the aged’ must be eradicated. Today’s democratic governance must place emphasis on youth and women participation. This means Africa’s pre-colonial governance structure of a vibrant village assembly of debate and even dissent which has now become a rubber-stamp impotent and even fossilised Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly must be re-examined.

Democracy is not un-African. It is a choice of governance by the people. That choice could either be a conventional/conservative choice or an innovative/home grown choice. Any of these choices would emanate from a broad-based national inclusive consultation or “indaba”, “kgotla” or “mbuza”.

Some of the models arising from the conventional/conservative choice have been said to be Liberal or Western. They include multiparty democracy which is based on competition between or among political parties with elections being the cornerstone. Over the years multiparty democracy has had different gains in some African countries from state paralysis, state authoritarianism, state failure and in rare cases to state cohesion (Ngwane,2003: pp. 32-33). Some of the models arising from an innovative/home grown choice have been said to be organic and culturally-driven. They include an umbrella democracy in which the state distances itself from party politics (often limited to a two horse race) and basically serves as an umpire. This model is predicated on the premise that there are only two schools of thought in Africa’s democratic discourse (change or continuity). Another model is the no party democracy which involves the banning or restriction of party politics in favour of individual ideologies. There are two main emphases in this no party democracy viz – the existence of citizens to run for election on their individual merit rather than under party canopies and the effective decentralisation

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of the decision-making process to grassroots structures. This model is inspired by Africa's cultural perception of the whole nation being considered as a "village assembly." Yoweri Museveni tried this in Uganda in 1986 and Thomas Sankara introduced it in Burkina Faso between 1983 – 1987. Another model is consociation democracy. This term applies to a canton-based constitutional structure as in Ethiopia and in Switzerland. It is inspired by the fact that through proportional representation all ethnic groups (common in Africa) enjoy the same dividends of democracy and

economic development. Burgsdoff argues that this model not only enhances the community's ability to run their own affairs, it also minimises the risk of inter-ethnic conflicts as each group is in charge of its own political cultural and economic spheres (Burgsdoff, 1992:62).

CONCLUSION

The challenge for Africa after close to sixty years of nominal independence is to formulate a cultural imprint that speaks to the democratic aspirations and governance expectations of the masses. Some countries are already charting such democratic visions that are derived from

Africa's rich indigenous cultural background. Others have completely turned their backs on the cultural context that can inform decision making and endogenous development. Rather than being prescriptive, this essay has analysed the merits and demerits of using culture as a substrate for democracy and leverage for governance. It has endeavoured to show that other countries (South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, etc) have successfully drawn inspiration from their good cultural practices to pursue appropriate and advanced development goals. What is good for the goose may also be good for the gander;

bearing in mind of course that "no one size-fits all". As the African people continue to show frustrations and even rebellion against the much anticipated fruits of independence and post-apartheid, it was time "indabas", "kgotlas" and "mbuzas" or national dialogues were established so that the people can fashion new constitutions and institutions that hopefully would mainstream some of the best practices of indigenous African culture.

****This is the last part of a two part series. Mwalimu George Ngwane is a writer and civil society actor, a Senior Chevening Fellow in**

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Use of pirated software posing risks for Zimbabwe's firms

By Wallace Mawire



Zimbabwe's corporates and firms including private individuals are at risk from the use of pirated software in the Information Technology (IT) sector, it has been revealed. open source software and tools to avoid pirating applications.

According to Engineer Robert Shoniwa, ZICT

Cybersecurity Representative, Information Security and Assurance Chair at Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) and ZIGF MCT Member, Zimbabwe is ranking in the world as one of the countries where the use of most pirated software is rife.

Shoniwa is also chair of the Information Security

and Assurance Department at Harare Institute of Technology. He has six years experience in the information sector as a researcher, trainer, offering consultancy services in identity and access management, penetration testing and vulnerable assessment, digital forensics and incident response,

Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) and Master of Technology in Information Security and Cyber Forensics from SRM University (now SRMIST) in India. **Global pirated software overview**

Shoniwa said that the 2018 BSA Global Software survey recently highlighted that Zimbabwe was now number two (down from Number 1) with 89% with Libya (with a percentage of 90%) in the rankings of countries in the Middle East and Africa with the highest rates of unlicensed software installations.

He said that as a benchmark, the global

average was 37% (down from 39%) and the average for the Middle East and Africa was 56% down from 57%.

"It is also worth noting that according to the same report, that since 2009, Zimbabwe has been consistently ranked among the top 3 countries in this regard not only on the continent but in the whole world as well," Shoniwa said.

Cybersecurity overview
Cybersecurity is the protection of internet-connected systems, including hardware, software and data, from cyber-attacks.

In a computing context, security comprises cybersecurity and physical security which are both used by enterprises to protect against unauthorized access to data centers and other computerized systems.

I will ensure that calm and serenity return to Anglophone Cameroon- Paul Biya

By Prince Kurupati



On Tuesday 6 November, Paul Biya was officially sworn in as Cameroon's President for the next seven years. This was the seventh time in which Paul Biya has been inaugurated as Cameroon's president having first done so all the way back in 1982. Biya's inauguration also means that he is now the second longest serving president on the continent behind Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea.

During his swearing-in ceremony, Paul Biya took time to deliver a speech. For the first time, while addressing the whole country, Biya did talk about the current instability in the country's north-west and south-east regions.

Biya acknowledged that the Anglophone Crisis has ravaged two key regions in the country. However, he assured the nation, the region and the world at large that the situation is now under control stating "in our northwestern and southwestern regions, negative forces thought they could take advantage of corporatist demands to try

to implement a secession project. There followed a series of acts of terrorist violence to which the government responded by taking necessary measures to preserve public order and the safety of citizens and their property."

Responding directly to the secessionists who are driven by the desire to break away from Cameroon and establish a new state (Ambazonia), Biya said "It goes without saying that the goal of the secessionists violates our Constitution, which recognizes the «indivisible» character of our Republic."

From this, it's clear that Biya is taking no compromise over the issue of secession. Reinforcing his stance, Biya said "There is no doubt that the destiny of our compatriots in the North West and South West is part of our Republic. With the support of the entire Cameroonian people and convinced that there is an honourable way out, in the interest of all, I will ensure that calm and serenity return to the two regions concerned, with respect for the institutions of which I am

the guarantor."

The 'honourable way out' that Biya prefers when it comes to the secessionists is for them to lay down their arms. Failure to do so would see them "not only face the rigours of the law, but also the determination of our defence forces and security."

The president also took time to dissuade young people from joining forces with the secessionists. He said that joining the secessionists is an adventure without tomorrow and as such would only lead to doom. He also assured all those affected by the Anglophone Crisis stating I ask you "not to lose hope and to give all possible support to the action of the authorities with a view to restoring peace."

While Biya's composed and reassuring words may lead many to think that the Anglophone crisis is now under control, this is far from the truth. On the same day that Paul Biya was delivering his speech, the US Department of State issued a strong statement in relation to November 5 kidnapping of students and staff from

the Presbyterian Secondary School of Nkwen near Bamenda. The statement read:

"The United States condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the November 5 kidnapping of students and staff from the Presbyterian Secondary School of Nkwen near Bamenda, Cameroon. We call for the immediate and safe return of these students and staff to their families. The United States expresses grave concern over the burgeoning Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon's Northwest and Southwest regions. We urge an immediate halt to the indiscriminate targeting of civilians and burning of houses by Cameroonian government forces and to attacks perpetrated by both Anglophone separatists against security forces and civilians. The systematic intimidation based on ethnic and religious affiliation, including in Yaoundé and Douala, must stop. In memory of American missionary Charles Wesco and all others who have lost their lives in the Anglophone Crisis, we urge all sides to end the violence

and enter into broad-based reconciliatory dialogue without preconditions."

The November 5 kidnapping of students and staff from the Presbyterian Secondary School came just a few days after the brutal murder of Charles Wesco, a US missionary who was killed in Bamenda and also the killing of Paul Kuban Mbufong, Linguistics Professor who was shot while on his way to work at the University of Bamenda.

All these incidents, therefore, show that contrary to what Paul Biya said in his inauguration speech, the Anglophone Crisis is still ravaging communities and destroying lives. Therefore if Paul Biya truly wants to live by his word and ensure that calm and serenity return to Anglophone Cameroon, he needs to start being sincere and acknowledge that a problem is still present. Any attempts to paper over the cracks will not do any good to him, the secessionists and all the thousands who have been affected by the conflict.

Apart from the Anglophone Crisis, Paul Biya also touched on many other topics. Firstly, he expressed his commitment to obey the country's laws stating that "The oath that I have just given 'before the people', according to the terms of Article 7 of our Constitution, in the presence of its representatives, has a high symbolic value for two reasons i.e. it implies an absolute fidelity to the institutions of the Republic, to which I cannot derogate, On the other hand, it has

the value of an irrevocable personal commitment to comply with the obligations of the Head of State.” As such, Biya said he would be guided by these principles in his service to the Cameroonian people.

Biya also talked of the successes he achieved during his previous term. He said that the country’s defence and security forces managed to drive out the threat posed by Boko Hara. He talked about the economy saying his previous administration implemented structural reforms and took steps to redress the fiscal situation. “Our ‘resilience’ was hailed by the IMF, with which we concluded in 2017 an economic and financial program supported by an ‘Extended Credit Facility’.”

Talking on future prospects, Biya touched on rethinking the country’s trade policy in light of the changes that are taking place at the international level. He also touched on diversifying the economy while at the same time boosting economic sectors that have the power to significantly reduce Cameroon’s imports of goods and services. Biya talked on the need to modernize our means of production and further transforming our agricultural products, construction



It will take more than the military to address the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon.

of dams and the hydroelectric plants that fully meet the demands of our economy and the concerns of our populations in this area.

Paul Biya concluded by stating that he is committed to improving the living conditions of all Cameroonian citizen. To do this, he will devote all of his efforts to:

- promoting the revival of economic growth, job creation, especially for young people, and likely to improve purchasing power;

- promoting the role of women in our society;

- facilitating the social integration of young people by further developing our education system, at all levels, and with a focus on professionalization;

- combating exclusion, in particular by better protecting people with disabilities;

- improving access to public services for drinking water and electricity;

- strengthening our health system, opening new hospitals and finalizing an effective social security system;

- promoting a social housing policy worthy of the name;

- enhancing our cultural heritage;

- And finally, to give the sporting sector the support it deserves, so that our efforts to host the CAN 2019 receive their just reward.

Hard At Work: Muthuli Ncube And The Herculean Task of Shaping Up Zimbabwe's Ailing Economy

By Nevson Mpofu



Muthuli Ncube has the herculean task of turning around the Zimbabwean economy

Muthuli Ncube the Minister of Finance and Economic Development is tight gripped by huge challenges. The Zimbabwe economy is very poor shape and he is now saddled with onerous task of making a swift turn in fulfilment of promises made by President Mnagagwa. In fairness to him, the economic malaise of the country did not start under his watch but been saddled with the responsible of managing the economy means people will be more interest in positive results than in apportioning blame. How did the country get here and how does Minister Mcube intend

to turn things around?

The first Minister of Finance, Bernard Chidzero vitiated the plan which later failed. Although Industry and Commerce under David Smith was moving well, challenges lay on the levels of economic stability and the increasing population expansion .The match of resources and the total population was of un-stable octet. Zimbabwe was in its mid- decade climbing to 8 billion population according to the census carried in 1990. This was a population growth of 0,19%[percent] against economic growth of 5,5%.

A number of initiated policies,

plans, strategies and economic frameworks failed to work in the country. The economy's growth per capita failed to bear fruits in terms of Domestic and Foreign Trade. Since the time Ncube got in office the Ministry has been hard up retreating to dove-tail the sharp increase in Growth per capita through Investment promotion.

However adding economic sense to what hangs as a daunting challenge, the Minister of Finance introduced fiscal stabilization measures. The move is meant to make the country move at a steady speed in terms of growth.

This prompted price increases mainly on consumer commodities. The chain line up of problems emerged out to spike inflation. This was at the back of spiraling market exchange rates between US Dollar and bond notes or electronic mobile money.

"It looked like as if we stirred a hornet's nest because when we introduced the fiscal stabilization measures, prices of consumer basic commodities increased. This is the spike of Inflation that we had. This happened at the back of spiraling market exchange rates between US Dollar and bond notes or electronic mobile money.

"This was also prompted by introduction of a new 2 cents tax on electronic transactions and separation of foreign currents and Real Time Growth Settlement [RTGS] Accounts. The Government introduced the 2 cents tax to bring about the growth of the economic sector through support of Industrialization.

Recently in London Ncube while at a dialogue at Chantham House he responded to a number of questions asked by delegates. He admitted that RTGS balances were being de-valued on parallel market despite being officially rated at par with the US Dollar value.

"Inflation is high because foreign currency is available on the market. There is no-doubt bond notes may be de-monetized in the country. What I want to assure you is we shall out-line Reforms to transform the economy.

"In the past, the reforms were introduced but they failed because we had an old Government in place which is different from the one led by the new President Emmerson Mnangagwa. Remember we have a new Government which is open for business. In the past, the country lagged behind because the Government was not open for business. We are now with open doors. We have come up with flexible policies to make this country's economy move

well."

Muthuli Ncube at this dialogue assured foreign investors that foreign accounts deposits are safe. He said so because they are protected by the Law. Despite the fact that the multi-currency system brought problems like externalization and laundering, the Government will step further to safe-guard foreign investors.

"Despite what has come and gone and whatever remains around, we will protect investors foreign accounts in the country. All those who want to open accounts are free and totally safe. Zimbabwe will re-engage foreigners by introducing the Re-Engagement Program aimed at clearing foreign debt. This has negative effect on the economy. In addition to that we have the Transitional Stabilization Program. This will lead us to a path founded on a stable economy changing for the best of the country."

The Government of

Zimbabwe has this time strategized a number of holistic approaches which a number of economists think will make the country move well. The Entrepreneurship and Un-Locking Investments for Start-Ups plan is geared to transform the economy by supporting Innovations which support various economic activities related to fast growth of the economy.

The start-up plan is in line with promoting Small to Medium Enterprises. The Government has the reflective practice of the retention in terms of profits in terms of foreign currents in the country brought forward by the sector. In Zimbabwe, the SME sector has a very high figure of cross-border people. The country as well has 90 percent of Indigenous people who cross borders to South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Kenya and Tanzania engaged in trade.

This goes well with the Indigenization Act, the policies of Indigenization, the policy of ZIMASSET and Command farming

activities introduced by the President. These according to the experts in the economic sector have worked a little bit, but the challenges still remain unsolved.

A leading Economist Dr Desire Sibanda said Zimbabwe's policies introduced over time have tried to work but the problem which still lingered around resonated on low exports. In-fact, he said further the country over the past years has brought more imports than exports.

"This is the main reason why the country needs more strategies to make us push further economically. Our small to medium enterprise sector has wrecked in the country foreign currents but its not sufficient for us. What may be more needed is the fact that exports must exceed imports for more sufficient foreign currency. The other way round, both exports and imports may flow at par level bringing a stable economy but now the issue is on whether we are producing more than we produce,"



After voting for Zanu PF in the last elections, Zimbabweans are expecting changes in the direction of the economy.

A Labor Economist, Prosper Chitambara with the labor and Economic Development Research in Zimbabwe said the big number of Small to Medium Enterprise is higher but there is a big figure of those who are the young people not yet employed. According to their research and approved figures 60% of the population is not employed. At most high figure 40% is for the young generation and 20% the number of the older people.

"The country has a high number of young people without any form of employment. This blow is a burden to older people because this is the dependency load which takes care of the bread-winners of such a big number.

"The country needs to craft on policies which lift up Industrialization. This may create space for employment

opportunities for the young people. Poverty is high in the young population because these are not in Small to Medium Enterprise sector nor are they employed. What young people need are the job opportunities to open. From there on they can get reduced in figures.

"Note that the bigger number of tertiary educated people from the 14 universities are the young people. They need jobs in their own country. Now that they have no employment, they move out of the country to look for greener pastures. That is the main reason why the country has many labor migrants in outside countries", he concluded.

Dominating the interview circle Dr Mthuli Ncube added that there is need to un-lock creativity and productivity to make the economy to switch on. The significance

of some vital policies crafted and implemented remains an issue to talk about. He said it is in the pipeline to develop sources of Equity Funding. This he pointed out has been supported through the idea of Banks supplying debt capital in short term overdrafts facilities with collateral security.

Strengthening his points in length he further on said the Government created the National Venture Capital Fund Contribution working with domestic and foreign banks, Insurance companies, pension funds and the International Development Institutions.

"All these strategies are in tandem with sound Investment policies which will direct the country into a path towards sustainable growth and equity development. On top of all that there is the fund needed for Industrial

equipment. Also working with the Private-Public -Partnerships to bring communities together sounds vital.

"This is quickly possible partnering with Afri-Max Bank, African Development Bank, Preferential Trade Area and the Trade and Development Bank. Such a holistic approach addresses challenges of starting capital and funding needs.

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor Dr Mangundya late last year swore the country would go on and on with the bond note stabilizing the ailing economy. He however has not come out successful because of strong market forces still pulling the country down. The bank has in support of multi-currency system. This was started in 2009 at the height of Zimbabwe's inflation.

"The multi-currency

system started in 2009 because we wanted to cushion problems in the country. This prompted illicit financial deals such as Externalization, money laundering and steep Government expenditure.

"These eroded gains and led to cash shortages. Finally bond notes came into the circle causing the problems we have experienced. We shall over-come the problems by introducing the Zimbabwean dollar that is our local currency."

In conclusion he said the Reserve Bank is ready to fund activities in the Agriculture, Mining, and Manufacturing Industry and in Tourism. These main sectors are the most fundamental in bringing growth and development of the country. The bigger part of the challenge lies in that there are no Investors to boost them.



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In today's digital-driven world, a dramatic shift is underway, changing how businesses connect with their customers, how industries are run and where technology enhances how people live and work. In a hyperconnected world, a change in customer demands is also forcing organizations to become more data-driven to ensure that they can deliver on those expectations.

Nokia will be showcasing the latest innovations and engaging in discussions on ultra-broadband, the value of 5G in enabling the Internet of Things (IoT), digital transformation and the importance of encryption and Virtual Reality (VR). Take part in several focused showcases that include 5G NR Virtual Reality demo, 5G / E2E Automation, Autonomous Customer Care, 5G Future X Network vision animation and IoT use cases. Nokia's Community Hosted Connectivity Solution, which will be on display, will showcase the unique

way to reduce the expense associated with providing mobile connectivity in rural and remote areas, while the WING Smart Agriculture as a Service demonstrates how CSPs can offer an affordable, subscription-based smart agriculture solution, allowing farmers to access weather, soil and crop data for timely actions to increase yield, decrease costs and mitigate risks.

Joachim Wuilmet, Head of Customer Marketing and Communications MEA, says AfricaCom 2018 will be the perfect opportunity for customers to engage with Nokia experts to catch up on the latest developments in the dynamic African telecommunications market. "Connectivity is critical to digital transformation on the continent and 5G will gradually become the core of investment and innovation across both infrastructure and technology. This is the path to unlocking new opportunities and leading the race to the future. Our demonstrations will

show how it is possible to unleash the full potential of your network today, and how to flexibly build and scale your business for the digital future."

Wuilmet says Nokia is excited to share its next generation of network technology with the broader African market and is confident in the potential of the continent: "Africa is the perfect place to share Nokia's vision of shaping the future of technology to transform human experiences with effortless, simple and dependable technologies. We look forward to discussing how both existing and new customers can use technology to improve people's lives."

AfricaCom 2018 takes place at the Cape Town Convention Centre from 13 – 15 November 2018. Nokia will be at stand C95.

For more information, visit <https://tmt.knect365.com/AfricaCom/>

Distributed by APO Group on behalf of Nokia.

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SOURCE

Nokia

"Building a new Zimbabwe", a flagship report launched by the African Development Bank to spark the country's economic development

PRESS RELEASE



Visit Nokia at stand C95 at this year's AfricaCom

It provides the current government, the donor community, and the private sector with a detailed assessment of investment opportunities in Zimbabwe

HARARE, Zimbabwe, November 16, 2018/ -- The African Development Bank (AfDB) (www.AfDB.org) has launched a flagship economic report on Zimbabwe, titled: "Building a new Zimbabwe: Targeted policies for growth and job creation" which aims to support renewal and transformation of the country.

Prepared by the Bank Group's Economic Governance and Knowledge Management Vice-Presidency, the report was presented in a plenary meeting by the Bank's Lead Economist, Ferdinand Bakoup, which was attended by the country's Government officials, representatives of public and private sectors as well as other development partners based in the country.

Made of eleven easy-to-read chapters, the report results from a one-year extensive research work of country, sector and thematic studies to offer economic analyses and policy

recommendations that can help spark Zimbabwe's transformation. It provides the current government, the donor community, and the private sector with a detailed assessment of investment opportunities in Zimbabwe. As an analytical work, it also provides with alternative scenarios for infrastructure investment to the year 2030 and identifies sectors for potential investment to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth.

While contributing to the overall efficiency of the development process, the report also proposes options to develop a variety of opportunities and, in so doing, helps fill a knowledge the gap on sectoral investment priorities.

Bakoup remarked that Zimbabwe is generously endowed with natural resources, a stock of public infrastructure, as well as a comparatively skilled labor force. For him, "this is an unprecedented asset for the country to join existing

supply chains in Africa via the African Continental Free Trade Area."

However, he said measures are needed to increase the productivity of public investment, strengthen investor confidence, attract patient capital and, develop special economic zones towards further improving the business climate, while continuing to safeguard macroeconomic stability" he underscored.

"I have no doubt that the report can contribute to the overall efficiency of the development process in Zimbabwe. It will be useful in informing and supporting the government's dialogue with donors and the business community about further development of economic sectors," Bakoup further said.

The Government applauded the timely launch of the report that will aid the implementation of the Transitional Stabilization Programme and the preparation of the Medium Term Plan for 2021 – 2025.

Distributed by APO Group on behalf of African Development Bank Group (AfDB).

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About the African Development Bank Group:

The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) (www.AfDB.org) is Africa's premier development finance institution. It comprises three distinct entities: the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Development Fund (ADF) and the Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF). On the ground in 37 African countries with an external office in Japan, the AfDB contributes to the economic development and the social progress of its 54 regional member states. For more information: www.AfDB.org

SOURCE

African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

Lumumba Talks Africa and black diaspora, and Rebranding Africa on US Tour.

«He had a talk at the historic Howard University in Washington, DC, and a highly engaging event in the city of Baltimore on Re-branding Africa. From the robust exchanges, to the opportunities of networking, Lumumba's presence energized a diaspora ready to step up its engagement with Africa. We bring some pictures of Prof PLO Lumumba's tour courtesy of Prince Ayotunde Adebayo, one of the key facilitators of the eventful trip»





PLO Lumumba speaking at Howard University.



Prof PLO Lumumba at Howard University.



A fruitful meeting between PLO Lumumba and the African diaspora.

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