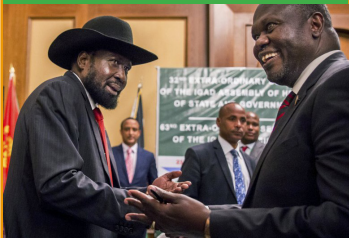


AFRICA'S SEASON OF REASON



Eritrea and Ethiopia Show Africa the Way to Attaining Peace and Security

Will this peace deal lead to rebirth in South Sudan.



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DR Congo Leader Joseph Kabila Set to Step Down After 17 Years in Power.



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Hard Work Begins Now For the Recently Elected Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa.



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Ivory Coast President pardons 800 Political Prisoners including Former First Lady Simone Gbagbo in puzzling move.



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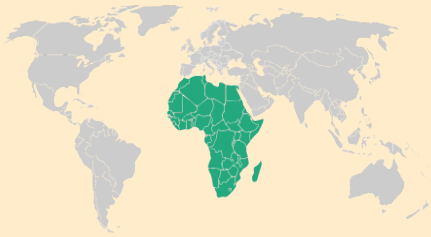


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Africa's Silver Linings Beyond The Dark Clouds

By Ajong Mbatndah L, Managing Editor

From West Africa, news from Ivory Coast is the release of hundreds of political prisoners by President Alassane Ouattara. The most conspicuous name on the list is that of Simone Gbagbo, the wife of his fierce political opponent and former President, Laurent Gbagbo. From the horn of Africa, Ethiopia and Eritrea have settled a long lasting feud. It was something unthinkable, but the peace deal between Ethiopia and Eritrea has opened up tremendous new opportunities, leading many to ask what the conflict was all about in the first place. In Kenya, it is the fallout of a historic handshake between fierce political rivals President Uhuru Kenya and opposition challenger Uhuru Kenyatta that is making waves.

The examples above paint a portrait par excellence of a continent making strides to tame its demons. Indeed, it looks like Africa's season of reason. Leadership is needed for Ouattara to know that with sunset approaching for his political career, it is a legacy of peace that will define him, hence the decision fraught with risks to start with releasing political prisoners including the dreaded Simone Gbagbo, an opponent as formidable as her husband former President Laurent Gbagbo, still facing trial at the ICC, and incarcerated at the Hague.

It takes courage for President Uhuru Kenyatta and eternal opposition challenger Raila Odinga to

look in the mirror and say, beyond the personal political fights, Kenya is bigger than us, and for that, our differences have to be settled. Who would have thought that the tense political atmosphere in Kenya could be thawed with a firm handshake, and some sober talk from both leaders?

In the D.R.Congo, after months of suspense and coyness about his political future, President Kabila finally indicated that he will not be seeking re-election again. It was with relief that the news was received in Congo and in the international community. While this does not solve the myriad of problems the D.R.Congo is facing, many hailed the decision of Kabila not to force through another run as a step in the right direction for his country.

After endless cycles of bad news, developments from South Sudan have brought about fresh hope that perhaps the newest country in Africa has realized that it is only with peace that the aspirations of its people can be met. The peace accords and developments that have followed are indeed encouraging. If both President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar are out for the interest of South Sudanese as they claim, there is no bigger proof than both leaders showing genuine and sustained efforts towards the attainment of peace.

In Ethiopia, ever since he took office, Prime Minister Abiy has been consistent in his reform



By Ajong Mbatndah L, Managing Editor

agenda. From releasing prisoners, to peace initiatives, Abiy's heroics make the case for a generational shift in leadership across the continent. With demographics overwhelming in their favor, perhaps, it is time for younger leaders in the mold of Abiy to take charge in the continent.

Could a younger leader in Cameroon have handled the current crisis threatening the country better? How comes the younger candidates are all talking about dialogue and making proposals to resolve the crisis but not the incumbent in power for 35 years, in his mid-80s and seeking re-election? With the kind of encouraging news coming in from Kenya, Ethiopia, the D.R.Congo, Ivory Coast and others, the news from Cameroon to say the least is most depressing.

While the Southern Cameroons crisis there may have multiple facets, one which glaringly stands out is the abdication of leadership by President Biya. This is not one crisis which will not be wished away, nor will military might resolve.

Indeed it has shown its limits and if the other leaders around the continent are using reforms, and genuine dialogue to resolve their own crisis, it maybe high time for President Biya to do same. If he would not do so, is it not time for the country to go in for a leader who better reflects the aspirations of the people?

There is still plenty going wrong in the continent, but the positive examples albeit limited still give a reason to view the future with renewed optimism. Optimism that leaders will learn to put country first, optimism that the collective good can triumph over selfish agenda's.

At a time when Africa is salivating many appetites, it is important that the continent gets its act together. Within a three month span, Africa has been visited by the French President Macron, the German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and the British Prime Minister Theresa May. The Chinese leader is hosting forum leaders. Africa needs to ask the question why this attention and what can be done to make the best out of

it? Certainly with clueless leaders who have no vision, with those who thrive in tribal politics, with leaders who put self-first and country next, Africa will continue to be scammed over and over. Yet, with the sheer brilliance and resilience of its people, with the overwhelming desire of the people to take charge of their own destiny, with people more educated, with the strength of its diaspora, and many more positive attributes, there is no reason why the continent should continue to be fleeced by foreign interests.

As this issue hits the stands, PAV will also like to pay tribute to two illustrious sons of Africa who recently passed. Samir Amin, the erudite intellectual and Kofi Annan, the former Secretary General of the United Nations. In their diverse capacities, both men brought dignity to Africa in very challenging circumstances, and will for long occupy a cherished place in many minds.

Happy reading!!!

Eritrea and Ethiopia Show Africa the Way to Attaining Peace and Security

By Prince Kurupati



Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (left) with Eritrea's President Isaias Afewerki sign a «Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship» agreement in Asmara on July 9, 2018 at the start of a meeting to repair relations between the neighbours.

PHOTO | COURTESY ERITREA

Africa is a continent that rarely finds itself out of the international headlines. Unfortunately for Africans, on most occasions, Africa dominates international headlines negatively i.e. all reports would be focusing on bad things done in and done by Africans. The most problematic area for the African continent pertains to attaining and maintaining peace and security; during the course of the year at any point, somewhere in Africa, there is a war going on, tensions between countries/ groups that are escalating or rebel/terrorist groups causing untold suffering to hundreds of thousands of civilians.

From the earliest times

recorded in history, Africa has always been bedevilled by peace and security problems. Ethnic groups and tribes that lived before colonisation fought each other in raids and for controlling important natural resources. During the colonisation era, indigenous people fought against minority rule and after attaining independence, most African states have ethnic groups and tribes that are failing to co-exist peacefully in the same state while other states are embroiled in unending feuds with others as was the case between Eritrea and Ethiopia for close to 2 decades. All of this has led many people to believe that the African continent is cursed and until the end of times, conflict and tension

will always be part and parcel of the African problems. However, the détente between Eritrea and Ethiopia shows that there is indeed room for the whole of Africa to attain peace and security; the détente between Eritrea and Ethiopia may well be just a precedent that will set in motion a wave of political and societal transformation.

The détente between Eritrea and Ethiopia is a historic and significant achievement not only for these two countries but also for the rest of the African continent in that it sets a good precedent which ought to be followed by any other state/ grouping that's embroiled in a conflict with another state/ grouping.

Before delving deep

detailing how this détente is significant for the rest of Africa, it's important at first to highlight the background to the Eritrea and Ethiopia conflict, how the conflict came about and how it unravelled over the years until Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia and President Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea signed the declaration to end hostilities between their two countries on Monday, July the 6th 2018.

Brief Background to the Eritrea-Ethiopia Conflict

While many reports suggest that frosty relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia started towards 1998, tracing the history of these two countries paints another totally different picture. Frosty relations between

these two countries can be traced way back in 1962 during the reign of the last Ethiopian Emperor, Haile Selassie. During his reign, Emperor Haile Selassie announced that Eritrea had been annexed and effectively it had become a 'province' falling under the rule of the Ethiopian government.

Soon after, Eritrean troops and rebels started to launch individual attacks in certain strategic areas in Ethiopia. For the next 30 years, Eritrea would be involved in a full-fledged war against Ethiopia with the aim of restoring its sovereignty.

A lucky break arose for the Eritrean rebels (and to some extent troops) in 1991 as they were asked to intervene in the overthrowing of Colonel

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Mengistu Haile Mariam who was the Ethiopian leader. Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam had led Ethiopia autocratically for several years and his own troops had hatched a plan to overthrow him. With the help of the Eritrean rebels, Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam was overthrown and for their part, the Eritrean rebels were allowed to re-establish their own autonomous country.

However, the 'unity' between the Eritrean rebels and the Ethiopian troops which had led to the attainment of Eritrean independence was shrouded in suspicion over both sides and in their deliberations, they failed to fully iron out some potential problem areas.

It did not take long for the problematic areas to surface as in the summer of 1998, Eritrean troops marched into the town of Badme which had until that time been an Ethiopian town. Eritreans entering this town argued that the town was part of Eritrea as the Italians had given it to Eritrea when they drew the colonial boundaries.

This decision by Eritrea to enter into the town of Badme was viewed by the Ethiopian government as an act of war and within a couple of months, a full-fledged war between these two countries ensued. Reports state that over 85 000 people lost their lives while over 350 000 people were displaced during the two-year war.

International actors in 2000 called both countries to a conference whose purpose was to bring an end to the devastating two-year war. The conference which was



Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed hold hands during a concert at the Millennium Hall in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia July 15, 2018. REUTERS/Tiksa Negeri

held in Algiers resolved that a Commission was to be established at the soonest and this Commission would come up with measures to put an end to the war. A couple of years later, the Commission stated that a larger chunk of Badme was Eritrea's thus Ethiopian forces had to vacate the land. The Ethiopian government at the time and subsequent governments refused to honour the Commission's resolution of vacating Badme thus from 2002 up to this year (before the détente between Eritrea and Ethiopia), these two countries have lived in a state of 'no war, no peace', a cold war-like situation.

Eritrea-Ethiopia détente setting a good precedent

The Eritrea-Ethiopia détente is equally significant to the rest of Africa as it is to Eritrea and Ethiopia individually because it sets a good precedence. In general, the precedence is that it's possible to attain peace and

security regardless of the differences that are dividing two or more parties and it's also possible to attain peace and security regardless of how long a conflict has been in existence.

Currently, there is a raging conflict in Southern Cameroon that's being ignored by the mainstream media in which dozens of people are being killed while hundreds of others are being displaced and seeking refuge in other countries. What the Eritrea-Ethiopia détente do to the people whose lives have been destroyed by this political standoff in Anglophone Cameroon is that it restores hope, they know that no matter the situation they find themselves in, change is possible and change for the better will certainly come.

Apart from restoring normalcy between Eritrea and Ethiopia in terms of peace and security, the Eritrea-Ethiopia détente also

affects positively other areas between these two countries meaning that on a macro level, other countries that follow the path of peace as did these two countries can also reap similar benefits. One such benefit pertains to the issue of economic development.

Political instability does not only affect peace and security but it also affects the performance of the economies of the two (or more) actors in a political standoff. Political stability, on the other hand, leads to economic prosperity as countries can trade with each other peacefully. Trade between Eritrea and Ethiopia has already started in earnest as highlighted by the resumption of flights from Eritrea to Ethiopia and vice versa. Not only this but other transport ties and communication platforms have been opened, all with the aim of restoring trade among other things between

these two countries. African countries can derive lessons from this knowing that restoring peace and security alternatively leads the path to economic development.

Socially, the Eritrea-Ethiopia détente also sets a good precedent. Often times during a political standoff, families and friendships are disintegrated sometime leading to child-headed families. However, as peace is restored, families can reintegrate as is the case with Eritrean and Ethiopian families that are now able to travel to see their long lost relatives and at the same time call long lost relatives as phone lines have been opened. Often times, people affected by a political standoff between countries only want to be reunited with their families and the Eritrea-Ethiopia détente restores their hope that indeed one day, they will be able to reconnect with their loved ones.

Will this peace deal lead to rebirth in South Sudan

By Deng Machol



From left to right, South Sudan's opposition leader Riek Machar, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and South Sudanese President Salva Kiir, pose for a group picture before their meeting in Khartoum on June 25, 2018. PHOTO | ASHRAF SHAZLY | AFP

Juba - South Sudan president Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar signed a power – sharing peace deal for the second time in Khartoum, capital of Sudan on August 5, 2018 in latest attempt to end the four-and-half years' conflict in the East Africa youngest nation.

The Khartoum peace was signed in the presence of Sudanese president Omar al – Bashir and Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni and Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta, has boosts hopes that peace may soon be reached to end the country's civil war, which has killed tens of thousands, pushed millions to the brink of famine, and created Africa's largest refugee crisis since the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

According to this peace, president Kiir will led the transitional government for 36 months, with Riek Machar reinstated as the country's first vice president and more four vice presidents.

The deal also provides

for 35 ministries during the transitional period. According to the deal, there will be 550 members of parliament.

Kiir's side will take 20 slots in the new 35-member government, while Machar's SPLM-IO and other smaller opposition groups will take the rest.

The agreement calls for the opening of corridors for humanitarian aid, the release of prisoners of war and political detainees, the withdrawal of forces, and a transitional unity government to be formed within four months which will govern the country for 36 months.

It also allows members of the African Union and the East African regional bloc, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) – that has been pushing peace efforts – to «deploy the necessary forces to supervise the agreed permanent ceasefire.

The government and the main rebel group believed that this peace would not

collapse because it was not forced upon them like previous accords.

«I call on everyone as a leader of South Sudan that this agreement which we have signed today should be the end of the war and the conflict in our country,» said President Salva Kiir after signing ceremony.

The leaders said this will end the war in South Sudan and open a new page. «Today we celebrate, not just in South Sudan, but throughout the world,» said rebel leader Machar.

«There is no option but peace ... we have to focus after this stage on implementing the agreement that if we don't implement, we will all be failures,» Machar said.

However, the elites from the both sides of the conflict are seem to end the war, simply they have run out of money and they need cash to continue hold on to power. If oil flow increases and more money goes into economics, they will find a good reason to step back from war and to

enjoy the profits for peace.

«I know there are doubting Thomases, but we will prove them wrong. «We cannot continue to be divided as we are now and yet the world impatiently expects us to build a stable, secure, and democratic nation,» President Kiir said during a graduation ceremony of Students of the University of Juba on August 11.

Analyst Kuir Garang, South Sudanese based-in-Canada said it is hard to be optimistic given the fact that the attitude of president Kiir and Dr. Machar have not changed. Adding that nothing shows that the two leaders have risen above and beyond their personal needs and put the need of the people first.

«These two leaders accepted to sign this accord because their preferred positions [president and first vice president] have been guaranteed. This peace can easily unravel should anything affect the positions of the two men,» Garang told Pan African Visions.

However, war fatigue, the pressure to revive the national economy and the general desire to be seen as 'peace makers' can be an incentive to SPLM leaders to maintain peace rather than the interest of the leader in peace, Garang added.

However, JMEC, body monitoring ARCISS, said it is our earnest hope that peace will be resorted fully in the country and that the fully revitalized peace agreement will be comprehensively implemented by the parties.

«We JMEC remain optimistic that at this point in time that parties to the conflict will demonstrate absolute determination and political commitment to bring lasting peace to their motherland, South Sudan and work relentless for the peaceful integration of divided communities,» Amb Berhanu Kede, JMEC Chief of Staff in Juba on August 16.

War erupts

Civil war broke out in December 2013 when president Kiir accused his then-deputy Machar of plotting a coup, dashing the optimism that accompanied independence from Sudan just two years earlier.

Fuelled by personal and ethnic rivalries, the four-and-half conflict has killed tens of thousands, and has displaced 2.5 million people from their homes, and pushed millions to the brink of famine, and ruined its economy that heavily relies on crude oil production and created Africa's largest refugee crisis since the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Both the warring parties have been accused of committed massive atrocities includes rapes as incentive for war in South Sudan.

Past Failed deal

Previous peace agreements held for only a matter of months before fighting resumed, which Kiir has blamed on foreign influence, leaving long-suffering citizens wondering whether this latest attempt at peace would fall apart as well.

President Kiir and rebel leader Machar had already signed a peace agreement in August 2015, which eventually collapsed in July 2016 when fighting broke out between the two sides in the capital, Juba, forced rebel leader Machar to flee the country, ended up in political detention in South Africa.

Since then, the conflict has expanded and fighting has intensified with more than a dozen warring factions - most of them under the umbrella called South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA) - who are now part of the Khartoum agreement.

But this year, the IGAD lifted Machar house arrest in order to negotiate with his political rival Kiir to end the conflict.

The Khartoum negotiations came after a round of talks brokered by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed last week in Addis Ababa faltered.

«My government and I know the conflict in South Sudan has resulted in a financial and political burden,» Kiir said. «We must accept that the internal war has no meaning and has imposed suffering on us and our families and has killed hundreds of our young men and women, destroyed our economy, and left us divided.»

However, people are less confident both parties would respect the ceasefire and power-sharing deal reached in Khartoum.

Analyst Garang said the IGAD forced an agreement on SPLM leaders and politicians who have no capacity to devise internal solutions to their problems, so the leaders whose

feelings were not assuaged were expected to just forget about their differences and work together – ‘that was a huge miscalculation.’

“The first peace deal failed because IGAD – as mediating body, underestimated the deep – seated of historical mistrust within the various factions of the SPLM so it failed to put down safe – guards for ARCISS,” Garang said. Besides, the SPLM has no coherent and structured solution models which can help the party solve its internal problems, he added.

Meanwhile, JMEC said 2015 peace deal was failed due to the high emerged of new political and military groups.

“As you know, the implementation of the 2015 peace agreement was undermined by the events of July 2016 and the subsequent expansion of the conflict within South Sudan. New political and military groups emerged and the fighting in the country covered large areas,” Kede said. Additionally, some agreement parties left Juba, as a result of these developments, implementation of the agreement on the resolution of the conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCISS) was severely compromised both in latter and spirit, he added.

Citizens' views

Since the South Sudan became independence nation, with the SPLM, as the ruling party, things has not go well given the fact that the SPLM failed to develop functional governance structures and traditional leaderships' models.

Something the Analyst Garang said the party lacks internal solution methods that can make sure problems that arise are analyzed and amicably solved. “This means that problems are either postponed and discontent builds up, or the militarized culture necessitates a recourse to guns or political propaganda as the solution,” he said.

“This ends up leading to a sense of politico-military survival so what becomes important is political survival rather than the provision of

the services to the people. Promises to the people of South Sudan become less important than political survival,” Garang said. This political survival leads to the control of state natural resources to fund this survival at the expense of the people, he added.

However, multiple citizens are hoping this agreement stands and all grey areas resolved so they can return home.

“I believe that the parties to the conflict this time around are very much willing and seems too committed to implement the signed revitalized accord,” said Majak Kuany, Juba – based journalist.

«It brings hope to suffering citizens in and out of the country but I'm skeptical that it won't guarantee safety as long as the issue of security arrangements remain unclear and not properly sorted out,» Daniel Joseph, resident in Juba, South Sudan.

Despite that there are many challenges that the parties must be engage in realization of lasting peace.

“There is many inflammatory elements that can put back all the efforts inserted for example there is no harmony between the leaders and issues of two armies establishment is not peaceful,” said Reech Malual, Executive Director of Screen Rights.

International communities concerns

The signed peace deal has been welcomed but with a lot of skeptical from the international communities and friends countries of South Sudan.

Various peace deals have been signed and then broken, and every time, each side accuses the other of responsibility for the breakdown and unrelenting violence.

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has earlier welcomed the signing of the power-sharing deal and urged leaders to act quickly to reach a final agreement and end the nearly five-year war.

«Considerable challenges lie ahead, and we are concerned that the arrangements agreed to date are not realistic or sustainable,» the United

States, Britain, Norway and France said in a statement.

The Troika countries has been provided key funding to South Sudan's peace process signed negotiations started in earlier 2014 in the aftermath of the conflict.

«Given their past leadership failures, South Sudanese leaders will need to behave differently and demonstrate commitment to peace and good governance,» the Troika said.

Sanctions

The United Nations Security Council imposed an arms embargo on South Sudan in July, nearly four-half- years after civil war erupted in the country.

A U.S.-drafted resolution won the minimum nine votes needed, while Russia, China, Ethiopia, Bolivia, Equatorial Guinea and Kazakhstan abstained, wary of voting for the measure amid regional attempts to revitalize the South Sudan peace process.

This comes after the Western states and top U.N. officials have long called for an arms embargo on South Sudan. A U.S. bid to impose the measure in December 2016 - under the previous U.S. administration of President Barack Obama - failed to get enough votes in favor.

“South Sudan's people have endured unimaginable suffering and unspeakable atrocities. Their leaders have failed them,” U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley told the council before the vote. “We need the violence to stop.”

So far, in Kiir's administration the US and UN imposed sanctions on senior South Sudanese elites, including Defense Minister Kuol Manyang Juuk, former army chief Paul Malong, Minister of Information Michael Lueth, cabinet affairs minister Martin Elia Lomuro, current SPLA chief of staff, Jok Riak and former chief of defense for logistics in the Army Malek Reuben Riak. Whereas on opposition sides, include Koang Rambang and Peter Gatdet

– this to consider imposing travel bans and asset freezes if the country's conflict does not stop.

But Information Minister Makuei earlier said “the charges leveled against us are not substantiated... rather than political motivation toward regime change agenda.”

In the new development, the Sentry has urged the international community to enforce the sanctions against South Sudan and individual leaders in an effort to attain a sustainable peace in the country.

In a statement see, it says the Khartoum peace deal will not work if it is implemented with the same neglect as enforcement of sanctions.

“The short-sighted, status quo draft of the recent Khartoum Peace Agreement is incomplete and does not address the structural issues that led to the conflict in the first place,” said Brian Adeba, Deputy Director of Policy at the Enough Project.

“The international community must strongly enforce sanctions and escalate financial pressures on South Sudan's corrupt officials and their networks to support a sustainable peace.”

Punish violators

In spite that, the warring parties signed several deals but they have been violated in just a day. However, JMC warns to hold account the spoilers of this peace deal.

“JMEC want to be part of the solution, not part of the problem and above all, hold the signatories of these agreements accountable. Remind them that South Sudan and indeed the world are watching. Violators of the signed agreements must be known, exposed and held accountable. Only then will the trust of the people in the political leaders be regained and the true inclusivity achieved.

Humanitarian

In Humanitarian Outcomes report issued on Monday, South Sudan tops the list of the most violent country for aid workers.

Seven million South Sudanese, more than half of the population, will need food aid in 2018, according to the United Nations.

It shows that almost one in three of the 158 major violent incidents against aid operations that took place last year occurred in South Sudan.

The Norwegian Refugee Council has described it as ‘very sad.’ “It’s really sad to see that South Sudan has globally topped the list in terms of not safe or dangerous for humanitarian workers,” said Rehana Zawar, the Norwegian Refugee Council country director.

The approximate 100 aid workers was killed since the conflict began in December 2013.

Record numbers of humanitarians were killed by gunfire in South Sudan last year, with 24 losing lives to gunshot wounds.

The report indicates that 2017 also witnessed an increase in detention of aid workers by parties to the conflict. Other violent attacks included physical assaults and armed robberies.

Ms Zawar believes that the Khartoum peace deal, if implemented, will help get the country off the list of dangerous places for aid workers:

“The recent peace deal, I think is a good way to be optimistic that things will improve because it mentions that the humanitarians will be granted full access to aid delivery.”

Economic crises

The war has left the oil-rich country's economy in tatters and agriculture heavily disrupted.

During the war, oil production - which accounted for 98 percent of

Juba revenues on its independence - plummeted to about 120,000 barrels a day from a peak of 350,000, according to the World Bank.

On the sidelines of the peace talks in Khartoum, Sudan and South Sudan agreed on a plan to double oil production from the south, but did not give details on how they would achieve this.

Khartoum and Juba agreed earlier in June to repair oil infrastructure facilities destroyed by the war within three months to boost production and said a joint force would be established to protect the oilfields from attacks by rebel forces.

Sudan's president Omar al-Bashir said on Sunday oil would be pumped from South Sudan's Wahda region to Sudan beginning September early this year.

«There will be profit brother Salva ... one of our goals is the need to save the economy of South Sudan because it has reached a level of collapse,» Bashir said on Sudan State TV.

Renewed conflict would be catastrophic for South Sudan's economy with the two fighting factions facing a looming deadline to avert UN sanctions.

Political future and price of peace

The peace agreement has allocated 55 % seats for the government and 45 % to the opposition groups comprising of the Political Alliance, Former Detainees and other entities at national and state levels.

Based on the formula, the TGoNU will run 18 states and the opposition groups with 14 in which IO under Dr. Riek Machar secure nine seats, and the rest goes to SSOA and FDs.

The same power-ratio formula will also be applied at the county, Payam and Boma levels across the country.

This means, the government will

have about 100 commissioners while the oppositions groups get 83 based on the current 183 counties.

“Some of you governors will lose your positions as governors. Some of your county commissioners and counselors will have to give way to the opposition,” Kiir told the governors on Tuesday. “That is the price of peace. And I don't want you to pick up your guns and rebel against the system,” he said in reference to change expected in the implementation of peace deal.

“I would like to seize this opportunity to urge the government and the opposition to keep the momentum of constructive political engagement that we have so witnessed during the HLRP process and to bring about lasting peace to South Sudan, which is blessed with huge natural resources and an active population. This window of opportunity which is pivotal to bring South Sudan out of the conflict should not be wasted,” Kebede said.

President Kiir said the time to get power without working hard is now gone. “The peace that is coming can be the end of rebellion and fighting in our country. Let fight politically through democratic means of exchange power from the party when the time for elections comes.”

However, a final peace accord must now be signed in Nairobi, Kenya, under the auspices of regional bloc the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, followed by the formation of a transitional government that will hold power for three years until elections can be organized.

South Sudan only saw general elections in 2010 when the country was a semi-autonomous region under Sudan.

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Hard Work Begins Now For the Recently Elected Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa

By Prince Kurupati



Recently Elected Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa

On 30 July 2018, Zimbabweans from all walks of life went to cast their votes in the harmonised elections, the first elections to be conducted since long-time leader Robert Mugabe who had been in power since 1980 resigned. There was a lot at stake in the 30 July harmonised election as the ruling party (Mugabe's party ZANU PF) wanted to maintain its position in power while the main opposition party, MDC Alliance saw the elections as the perfect opportunity to wrestle power away from ZANU (PF) which has ruled Zimbabwe since the attainment of Independence 38 years back.

In less than a week after Election Day, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), the electoral body tasked with running all elections in Zimbabwe announced the results for the presidential election.

Emmerson Mnangagwa, the man who succeeded Robert Mugabe after his resignation in November 2018 was announced as the President-elect after amassing 50.8 percent of the votes thereby surpassing the 50 plus one vote mark which guarantees an outright winner in the first round.

However, Mnangagwa's plans for an early inauguration were quashed down after the leader of the main opposition party, Nelson Chamisa approached the Constitutional Court challenging the results of the presidential election. Nelson Chamisa's petition was accepted by the Constitutional Court. Subsequently, ZANU (PF) forwarded its opposing papers and a court showdown followed which was televised live on the national broadcaster, Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC); this was a first in the

history of the country.

It took the Constitutional Court a little over 24 hours to reach a decision over who was the outright winner in the presidential race. The verdict, Emmerson Mnangagwa declared as the President-Elect.

As per constitutional requirements, the ruling party had to organise an inauguration ceremony of the President-Elect within 48 hours and it did rightly so. On 26 August, Emmerson Mnangagwa was sworn in by the Chief Justice, Luke Malaba as the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

For Mnangagwa, the state of the country means there isn't much time to celebrate his victory as he needs to start working hard now in order to restore the country to its former glory i.e. the Jewel of Africa as the country was referred to by the late Tanzanian President, Julius

Mwalimu Nyerere.

Ideally speaking, Mnangagwa has to focus on all areas when it comes to developing the country. However, no man can address a myriad of challenges at the same time thus there are certain areas which must be prioritised in order for the country to move forward and also in order to pave way for the development of other areas.

The following are the key areas that Mnangagwa and his soon to be announced Cabinet should focus on if the country is to move forward.

Job Creation

Right now, the one thing that most Zimbabweans are clamouring for is job creation. A simple Google search searching for the unemployment rate in Zimbabwe will yield dozens of results all of which with 90+ percent unemployment rate stats from different

organisations. Virtually, this, therefore, shows how dire the situation is when it comes to unemployment. For a better appreciation of the challenge, one simply needs to take a walk in any of the major cities and towns to see how thousands are 'self-employed' as vendors.

In order to create the necessary jobs, Mnangagwa needs to make the country attractive economically both for foreign investors and also for local start-ups. There are different ways in which Mnangagwa can make the country attractive economically. Some of these include putting in place protectionist policies for local start-ups, drafting policies that appeal to foreign investors, offering incentives for investors, enhancing transparency in the government procurement process (and overall, all other areas), realigning the



country's laws to the new constitution and respecting the rule of law so as to stabilise the socio-political climate which in turn helps in inspiring confidence.

Infrastructure Development

Another key area which needs the immediate attention of the president is infrastructure. Infrastructure development is key to the country as it is an enabler in improving the country's

all-round development. Specifically, the president has to ensure that the road network in the country is vastly improved both along the major highways and also in major cities and towns. Improving the road network also includes dualising all the major highways that service export and import trucks.

Apart from the road network, the president also has his work cut out when it comes to improving the rail

system in the country. The rail system serves some of the big industries and farms in the country thereby by improving the system, the president will also be indirectly helping to improve the productivity at these industries and farms. Resuscitating the country's national airline is also another important area as air transport is a key enabler of economic development.

Healthcare Sector

The healthcare sector is

also another area that needs the immediate attention of the president. It is quite alarming that in the year 2018, one of Zimbabwe's biggest cities is failing to combat a typhoid outbreak.

While it's deplorable that diseases such as typhoid and cholera are still a major threat to the livelihoods of thousands of people in the country, what's more, ominous is the fact that a large proportion of citizens

are suffering from mental challenges but due to a poor health system, they are not diagnosed. It is against such a background that there is a huge need for the complete overhaul of the healthcare sector. Besides, the wise once said a healthy nation is a productive nation therefore with a suffering population, there is no way the country can move forward.

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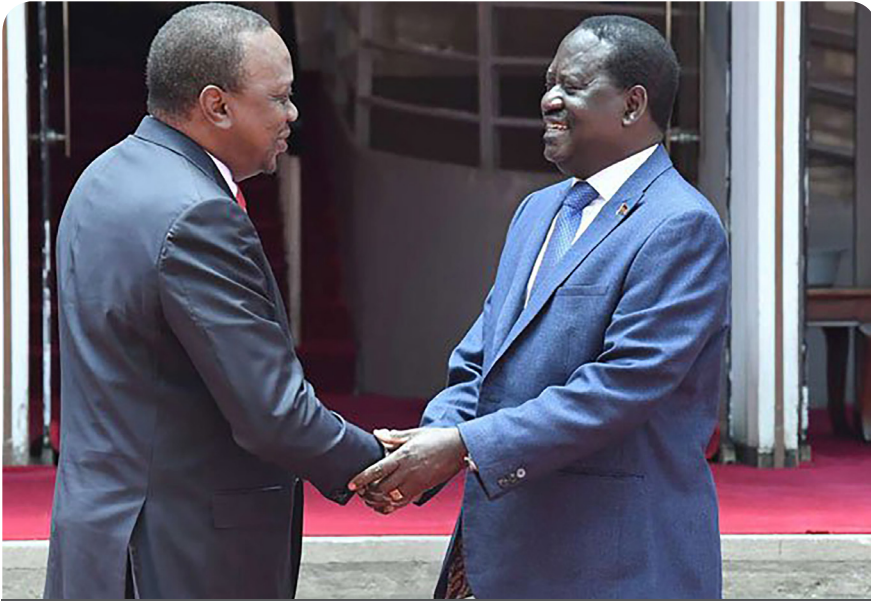
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Kenya :Power Beyond The Handshake

By Samuel Ouma



President Uhuru Kenyatta and opposition chief Raila Odinga at Harambee House on March 9, 2018

Inefficient electoral commission to conduct free and fair elections, poorly trained police force tasked with maintenance of order and reluctance of leaders to accept defeat should bear the blame for the political crisis the country experiences after every General elections.

Electoral malpractice has taken a different dimension in Kenya. The 2017 bungled presidential elections disclosed that poll rigging has gone high-tech. The Independent Electoral and Boundary Commission (IEBC) led by Chairperson Wafula Chebukati was reluctant to open its server when the Supreme Court issued an order compelling them to do so during the disputed presidential results petition.

National Super Alliance coalition (Nasa) claims that

the electoral body's database was hacked and manipulated to generate results in favour of President Uhuru Kenyatta. Thus his victory was dibrach. Unlike four decades ago when elections malpractices were characterized by use of force, 2017 polls divulged how results can be maneuvered by some powerful forces to determine who rules the country, county, constituency and even villages.

Prior to August 8, 2017 polls, political heat had taken root in the East African country. Political stand-off between President Uhuru and the opposition chief Raila Odinga escalated daily even among their die-hards. The annulled presidential results and the October 26, 2017 run-off which was the opposition boycotted citing irregularities further worsened the situation.

The economy dropped

drastically. Investors shy off, many companies and organizations shut down due to heightened political tension. Ethnic division took root. Kenyans turned against each other. They insulted, attacked and derided each other.

Police also took advantage of the situation to brutalize unharmed opposition supporters who were demonstrating agitating for electoral justices. According to Amnesty International and Human Rights more than 67 people were killed during the melee.

"This dearly use of excessive force has become a hallmark of police operations in Kenya and in Nairobi's low-income areas known as opposition strongholds, must be decisively stopped," said Michelle Kagari, deputy regional director with Amnesty International.

Raila's oath as the people's president in January 30, 2018 left Kenyans in hysteric condition. They were afraid of destabilization of economy, skyrocketing of prices of commercial commodities, minimum or zero creation of employment and dwindling in security. Prior to the former premier swearing in, trepidation engulfed the Jubilee government due to his huge following. Uhuru's regime was at stake.

The then Attorney General warned the Nasa leader of dire consequences in case he inaugurated himself as the people's president. He castigated his lawyers for misleading him. He said, "Government institutions will do what they are mandated to do when the time is right". However, defiant Raila went ahead and sworn himself even though his co-principals Musalia Mudavadi, Kalonzo Musyoka and Moses Wetangula skipped the event.

Things took u- turn in March 9, 2018 when President Uhuru Kenyatta and his arch-rival Raila Odinga emerged together from the terraces of State House to address the nation in what was termed as 'famous handshake'. The two leaders, whose families' antagonism dates back to independence, bury their hatchet and agreed to team up for benefits of all Kenyans. Immediately after the pact deal, immense tranquility was experienced nationwide.

President Uhuru's dalliance with Odinga has revitalized National Cohesion

between the two divides that had unsavory words for one another during campaigns and this has trickled down to their supporters. The two factions have reconsidered their stance and apologized to one another. The rapprochement to end bitterness, political instability and violence that followed last year's polls was accompanied by hugs, handshakes during the national prayer breakfast in May, an event presided by the president.

"We have campaigned against each other, we have said nasty things against each other, and we have hurt each other. On my behalf, my brother Raila, I ask for forgiveness, and I tender my apology," said President Kenyatta.

Their lieutenants also reached a truce as fierce rivalry between Embakasi East Member of Parliament Babu Owino and his Starehe counterpart Charles Njugua came to an end. The two had engaged in physical fist over the legitimacy of President Kenyatta, with Babu Owino pledging his allegiance to Mr. Odinga.

"Today, I met Hon Njugua at Parliament and we reconciled. We promised to work together to serve Kenyans," reiterated Mr. Owino.

On the ground of political stability, economy got a boom. Investors returned in confidence with an aim to boost economy and businesses began operating without fear immediately

Nasa coalition suspended their protests which had led to destruction of property worth millions of shillings. Mr. Odinga's move to call off the boycott of products from some firms by his supporters further boosted the economy. The activities of Safaricom, Brookside, Haco and Bidco were crippled in November 7, 2017 when the opposition chief called his supporters to reject their products on claims that they facilitated rigging of presidential results.

Small and large corporations in the East African region are reaping the fruits five months since the handshake happened due to conducive political environment. Inflows of investors into the country are encouraging. World Bank had hinted that Kenyan's economy would grow by 5.5% this year as a result of improvement of agricultural output due to better rains, recovery of global economy and improved political environment.

With plans to unveil unity

government underway, the country is expected to be united than ever before. It will be an inclusive government to reflect the face of Kenya. Kenyans have witnessed opposition allies landing state jobs including Odinga's closest cronies such as his former Directors of Communication and Media and operations Kathleen Openda and Joe Owaka respectively.

Healing process may take time to be realized. Victims of state brutality have remained pessimistic about new friendship between the two leaders. They believe the two leaders are serving their selfish interests. Their demands that reconciliation process be extended to the families of those who were killed and tortured by police have fallen to deaf ears.

Ethnic divisions still remains a problem. It is a challenge that cannot be solved by mere handshake. Bridging of gaps initiative will also not offer solutions when the root cause is not

dealt with appropriately. Kenya is always peaceful until the devil of tribalism flare up during elections. That is when people realize that they belong to a particular tribe in courtesy of our greedy and selfish leaders.

Opposition role has also become a causality of the dalliance between the two. Opposition main role is to keep government on toes, a responsibility that has been missing since March 9. Ford Kenya party leader Moses Wetangula, who is one of the Nasa co-principals had revealed that the outfit is dead and lambasted Odinga for betrayal. The Bungoma Senator declared himself the opposition leader, a move criticized by Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement. Musalia Mudavadi and Kalonzo Musyoka, other principals had also chanted their way forward ahead of 2022.

"Nasa is a moribund organization that cannot be salvaged. It is history. I have suffered the pain of

betrayal by Nasa presidential candidate," he said.

Even though the former premier has denied being in government, his movements betray him. He presented the state during Winnie Mandela's funeral in South Africa. Odinga was received by the Kenyan High Commissioner to South Africa Jean Kamau, and met with many dignities including former presidents Jacob Zuma and Thabo Mbeki.

The 2022 polls is also playing roles in the pact deal. Inclusion of Gideon Moi, son to the former president Daniel Moi, into the government has caused jitters in the Deputy President William Ruto's camp. His bigwigs fear that Uhuru might be grooming Moi, Ruto's arch-rival, to succeed him.

At 73, Odinga may not vie again following his four unsuccessful attempts, but Ruto's allies feel threatened by his presence. They argued that there are some external forces in State House who work day and night to scuttle

their leader's presidential ambition.

Hell broke loose when a group of former legislators from Kenyatta's home turf backed Odinga for 2022 race. In rejoinder, Ruto's die-hards from his backyard demanded President Kenyatta to revoke his peace deal with the ODM leader.

"That president that I defended even as others were being sworn in as unofficial presidents, I know him as a president who loves the common man and if he has change I would know," reiterated Murkomen, one Ruto's staunch defenders.

The Unity deal has caused internal wrangles in both the ruling party and the opposition as leaders continue to bad mouth each other. Odinga's party, ODM, is experiencing heat of rebellion from some of its leaders from coastal region who have thrown their weight behind Ruto's 2022 race. The locals have voted for him overwhelmingly in last four general elections.



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Q & A with Leila Ndiaye: A New Leadership With Bigger Ambitions for IGD

By Ajong Mbapndah L

At the Initiative for Global Development, it is a new dawn with Leila Ndiaye taking over from Mima Nedelcovych as President and CEO. With 25 years of experience as an African Affairs expert and accomplished senior policy and business strategist, Ndiaye is expected to position the IGD as the leading voice and advocate of SMEs investing in Africa.

"All of my experiences working both the private and public sectors have come full circle and will contribute towards achieving IGD's mission to promote the US and African private sector and advance Africa's economic growth and sustainable development," Ndiaye told Pan African Visions in a Q & A.

You previously served with US Chamber of Commerce, how useful has that experience helped out with your new roles at the IGD?

Prior to joining IGD, I served as the Senior Director of Policy for African Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where I developed, promoted and executed the US-Africa Business Center. Through the US-Africa Business Center, I worked towards increasing trade policy and investment between the United States and African countries. I also served as a special adviser to the former Head of State of Côte d'Ivoire, where I advised the Head of State on a range of policy, national security and economic issues. Earlier in my career, I held positions in the lobbying arena with Bayh, Connaughton, Fernsteinhem

and Malone to develop and manage the law firm's Africa portfolio.

All of my experiences working both the private and public sectors have come full circle and will contribute towards achieving IGD's mission to promote the US and African private sector and advance Africa's economic growth and sustainable development.

The IGD is set to officially launch IGD to Officially Launch an Advanced Executive Program to Equip U.S. Business Leaders with Tools on Doing Business in Africa, what is the reasoning or logic behind the program?

We're very excited about launching the IGD Advanced Executive Program on Doing Business in Africa. The Advanced Executive Program, also known as a "bootcamp", is a high-level training program that will equip U.S., African and global business leaders with the leadership skills, business connections and real-world business exposure to effectively engage in trade and investment opportunities in Africa.

There are tremendous trade and investment opportunities in Africa. We developed the Advanced Executive Program to give U.S., African and global business leaders and investors an opportunity to be immersed in the country's business environment and skills to successfully navigate the African marketplace. The African business culture is different from the American business culture and is driven more by relationships and

less by transactions. Through the Advanced Executive Program, business executives will make strong connections and will gain working knowledge into the key business and trade trends, industries, and sectors in the country.

The IGD Advanced Executive Program will be launched in Mozambique with an executive training program from October 29 to November 2, 2018. The four-day immersion program, led by Mozambique's top business executives and government officials, will give business leaders the skills and practical knowhow to explore prospects for growth in emerging markets and context needed to ensure their success in navigating a dynamic African business environment. Leaders will gain working knowledge into the key business and trade trends, industries, and sectors and access to bankable projects in Mozambique.

How is the program structured, when is it going into effect and what will it take for interested businessmen to be part of this executive program?

The Advanced Executive Program is a four-day immersion program. The first day will be a series of seminars where business executives will gain the skills and practical knowhow on trade and investment in Africa. The second day is devoted to delving into insights on doing business in key sectors with top government officials and business leaders. The third day will feature site visit to



Leila Ndiaye President and CEO of IGD.

sector-leading industries in Mozambique.

During the U.N. General Assembly, IGD will host a Presidential Dialogue on Doing Business in Mozambique with H.E. Filipe Nyusi on Sept. 26 from 8:00-9:30am (TBC) at Thomson Reuters' Times Square office in New York City. The Presidential Dialogue is an exclusive and intimate gathering for investors and business leaders to gain access to the President and key Government Ministers on potential investment opportunities.

The Advanced Executive Programs proposed for 2019 will be held in Tunisia, Ethiopia, Ghana and Namibia.

Any other programs that the IGD will be working on for the rest of the year besides what we covered?

We'll continue building on the Africa Investment Rising

campaign programs. IGD will host an Advanced Executive Program for African business leaders on gaining insight into the business environment and the context of doing business in the United States. African business leaders will forge connections with U.S. business leaders in key growth sectors for potential business deals.

We're revamping the Frontier 100 Forums to deliver a powerful lineup of speakers, structured networking with mobile event apps, and engaging panel discussions.

* To register and learn more about the Advanced Executive Program, please visit

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Ivory Coast President pardons 800 Political Prisoners including Former First Lady Simone Gbagbo in a Move That Has Left Many Puzzled

By Prince Kurupati

Many people know politics (or at least they have an idea of what politics is) but very few are masters at politics. Nothing demonstrates this more than the mere fact that it takes political scientists a lot of time trying to predict political moves to be taken by top politicians while at the same time it takes years before historians come to agreement as to the motives behind certain political moves by top politicians.

The notion that many people know politics but very few are masters at politics is aptly demonstrated by the current political situation in the Ivory Coast. The country's President, Alassane Quattara in a televised speech recently said that "I signed an amnesty order that will benefit about 800 citizens prosecuted or sentenced for offences related to the post-election crisis of 2010, or state security offences committed after May 21, 2011." Among the released is the wife of former President Laurent Gbagbo, Simone Gbagbo who had served an effective 7 years out of the 20 years that she had received.

The move and also the timing of the decision to grant amnesty to 800 political prisoners came as a surprise to Ivory Coast citizens including the 800 prisoners also. Political scientists who were also taken by surprise



Ivorian former first lady Simone Gbagbo was released from detention after being granted an amnesty for her part in a short civil war in 2011

by President Quattara's move are still trying to figure out the motive/s behind the move.

In simplifying their analysis of this amnesty, political scientists in Ivory Coast including Franck Kouyate and Alassane Diamoutene who said of the amnesty, "It was a general surprise and it is the most beautiful speech the president has made since 1982. Everything was there: peace, consolidation, the release of political prisoners – the very ones we did not expect," and "You know freedom has no price. That the president has decided to extend amnesty notably to Mrs. Simone Gbagbo and many others, I believe that it is a mark of reconciliation it is therefore a strong signal for national reconciliation,"

respectively are using the political game theory to try and understand the motives behind President Quattara's move.

Electioneering

For many people, politics is all about power i.e. attaining and retaining power. This seems to be the principle which guides the current Ivory Coast President Alassane Quattara as he recently said that he is willing to stand for another term in the upcoming presidential elections scheduled early in 2020. This is despite the fact that the country's constitution at the time that he came into power allowed two terms only for a president. In his defence, President Quattara states that the constitution was amended and as such it

now allows him to stand for another term.

Recognising that the decision to stand for another term is not popular with the electorate, political scientists argue that Quattara wittingly decided to grant amnesty to political prisoners so as to divert the people's attention for the time being. If indeed this was the objective of Quattara from the word go, then it's reasonable to say that he has managed to fulfil his objective fruitfully as the tak of the town in the country right now is all about the release of Simone Gbagbo and other political prisoners.

With the elections slated for 2020, this move by Quattara is unlikely going to divert the attention of the people for the coming 12+ months until

Election Day thus its to be seen what other strategies that the President is going to employ in order to divert attention from him serving an extra term other than the two terms that he promised when he came to power.

Allaying Fears of Political Violence

In the same vein of retaining power at all costs, many political scientists believe that the decision by Quattara to grant amnesty to political prisoners may well be a ploy to allay fears of political violence owing to the fact that he plans to compete in the upcoming presidential election for a third time. While Quattara has a huge support base, there are also a number of Gbagbo sympathisers as well as other

opposition supporters (and even supporters of Quattara's own political party) who are not happy with him standing for another term.

In an effort to assuage political tension arising from him standing for a third term, Quattara took the decision to grant amnesty to political prisoners as a way of appeasing his opponents and any of his own supporters who may well be incensed by him standing for another term.

As this is a calculated political move, only time will tell if Quattara's move is a genius move or not.

Correcting 'Winner's Justice'

While there is a school of thought which argues that politics is a game of power, there is also another school of thought which argues that politics is all about the

common good i.e. doing what is right for the people. Political scientists who fall under this school of thought in Ivory Coast argue that the decision by Quattara to grant amnesty to political prisoners including Simone Gbagbo has nothing to do with power but it's all about the common good. These political scientists argue that when Quattara took over power, he pursued the 'Winner's Justice' policy in which he only prosecuted opposition members while excluding his own supporters who were also involved in post election violence in 2011.

As such, President Quattara by pardoning political prisoners is just trying to correct the things that he did wrongly at first. While this may indeed be the case, the one question which arises is, why now? The timing of this



goodwill move makes the intentions of the whole move questionable and suspicious.

Forging a Path of Reconciliation

In the same mould of practising politics for the common good, there is also a section of political scientists which argue that not all political moves are

calculated moves in which the orchestrator has a hidden endpoint, sometimes, there are no hidden intentions/motives behind every political move. To the political scientists who believe this notion, they argue that the decision by Quattara is just a part of his 'mission' to forge a path of reconciliation and

make the nation of Ivory Coast a united nation.

As only a few are masters at politics, we can only assume that President's Quattara's decision to grant amnesty to political prisoners is influenced by the common good and as it is the one thing that should guide leaders at all times.



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DR Congo Leader Joseph Kabila Set to Step Down After 17 Years in Power

By Prince Kurupati



President Kabila has been under pressure both from home and the international community to step down.

Democracy is set to prevail in DR Congo, one of Africa's most fragile countries. The country's leader who has been at the helm since 2001 recently agreed to step down and allow new faces to compete in the upcoming December 23, 2018, Presidential Election.

Joseph Kabila assumed the highest office in the land at the start of 2001. Necessitating his rise to power was the assassination of his father Laurent Kabila who had been in power for just 4 years. Laurent Kabila, Joseph's father himself wrestled power from Mobutu Sese Seko but was widely regarded as a hero in the country owing to the fact that Mobutu Sese Seko was widely maligned as his rule was characterised by politics of patronage, corruption and human rights abuses.

Assuming the highest office at the tender age of 29, Joseph Kabila had a huge task in developing the nation

economically as well as trying to unite diverse political and social groups. Kabila moved swiftly to negotiate with different political groups including rebel groups and through the Inter-Congolese Dialogue signed at Sun City, South Africa in 2002, he managed to bring political stability to the country.

Kabila's work on the political front mainly uniting different political and social groups immensely helped him to garner support from all corners of the country. It is this early support that subsequently helped Kabila in later years to entrench his rule in the country.

Becoming the President

Kabila's presidency or rather the start of his presidency is two folded i.e., on one hand, it's defined by popularism and on the other hand, it's defined by constitutionalism.

When saying that Joseph Kabila has been in power for 17 years (as we have

already done above); we are guided by popularism. This is because when Joseph Kabila succeeded his father in 2001, he was viewed by the masses as the president. However, according to the supreme law of the land, he was not regarded as the president but an interim leader. This, therefore, means that while he had the authority to execute some duties as the interim leader of the country, there were also some executive duties which he was not allowed to perform owing to the fact that he was not elected.

According to the Constitution of DR Congo, Joseph Kabila only became the country's president in 2006 after the July 30, 2006, presidential election. From herein onwards, our discussion on Joseph Kabila's presidency is going to be based on the constitutionalism element as it is the one thing which influenced his decision to stand down from competing in the 23 December 2018 presidential election.

Relinquishing Power

The Constitution which allowed Joseph Kabila to become the president in 2006 has a two-term presidential limit. While there have been several attempts to amend the Constitution to allow more than two presidential terms, all efforts proved futile and to this day, the two-term limit is still present. DR Congo's presidential term consists of five years. As such, Kabila according to the Constitution was to rule the country for 10 years which were to end in 2016.

However, as we all now know, that was not the case as he is still in power 2 years after the 'supposedly' end of his constitutional two-term limit. Generally speaking, there are two things that have helped Kabila to remain in power beyond his term i.e. the use of diplomacy and also hard power.

Diplomatically, Kabila towards the end of his presidential term in prevented the presidential election from being conducted citing some 'logistical challenges'. While not many people were convinced by this explanation, many particularly opposition parties and groups gave him a pass considering that he promised to let the elections be conducted within the next 6 months.

With the whole nation expecting to cast their votes in mid-2017, Kabila once again shifted the goalposts stating that the country needed more time before going to the elections. This time, opposition parties and the general population were irked and they proceeded to go into the streets in protest. Realising that he was a fast losing grip on the country, Kabila used the second tool under his belt i.e. hard power by deploying the military onto the streets to quash down protesters.

Kabila's decision to send troops

into the streets was met with condemnation from several countries including Botswana and the US who issued statements asking Kabila to respect the supreme law of the land and call for presidential elections which were long overdue. Other international organisations including Human Rights Watch also weighed in stating that Kabila had to respect the will of the people.

It was only after wide international condemnation that Joseph Kabila accepted to meet and negotiate with opposition parties with the Catholic Church acting as the mediators resulting in the proclamation of December 23, 2018, as the

Presidential Election Day.

Since the end of last year when Kabila agreed to a presidential election later on this year, he had not announced whether he was going to stand for another term or not. Kabila only announced his decision on August the 8th stating that he was not going to run for another term.

Could the Long Wait Be Over Soon?

There is one thing that has eluded DR Congo since 1960, the year the country attained its independence i.e. peaceful government transition. The country's first leader Patrice Lumumba was overthrown after one year in power by a group of

army generals who led the country for four years. In 1965, one army commander Joseph-Désiré Mobutu took effective full control of the country renaming it Zaire for close to three decades. Joseph-Désiré Mobutu was subsequently overthrown by another former army general in Laurent Kabila in 1997. Laurent Kabila's reign as president was short lived as he was gunned down by his personal bodyguard in 2001 leading the way for his son, Joseph Kabila to succeed him. Joseph Kabila went on to be elected on two occasions in what many claimed were sham elections which had no real opposition candidates.

As has been stated by the US Ambassador to the United Nations, the mere fact that there is now an election date is not a foregone conclusion that the election is going to be free and fair. It's up to Joseph Kabila to let the country hold the election and for him to refrain from influencing the actions and decisions to be taken by the country's electoral body so as to pave the way for a first peaceful democratic government transition since 1960.

Ramazani Shadary: The Man Set to Take Over From Joseph Kabila

By prince Kurupati



Come the end of the year, DR Congo will have a new face as the president irrespective of the result of the December 23, 2018, presidential election. This is because the country's ruling party, People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (PPRD) on

August the 8th announced that Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary is going to be PPRD's presidential candidate replacing Joseph Kabila who stood as the presidential candidate in the past two elections.

Early Life

Five months after DR Congo

attained its independence in 1960, a young man by the name Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary was born Kasongo, Bangubangu Kabambare area in the Province of Maniema. The midwife who helped Ramazani Shadary's mother give birth told her that her child was 'awake and was

going to be intelligent." Not knowing what else to believe in this highly superstitious country, Ramazani Shadary's mother believed the words of the midwife.

It was only after several years when Ramazani Shadary finished his primary school studies and attained

an overall pass rate of 86.4 percent that her mother began to notice how intelligent her son was (just as the midwife had predicted at birth).

Ramazani Shadary's intelligence helped him to excel subsequently in high school and at college both when he was doing his undergrad studies in Political Science and postgrad studies in Political and Administrative Sciences.

Apart from academic stuff, Ramazani Shadary also demonstrated his intelligence as he became a linguist at an early age speaking fluently Tshiluba, Swahili, Lingala and French while at the same time speaking Pidgin English.

Political Career

The studies that Ramazani Shadary pursued at college meant that there was only one route for him upon completion of his studies i.e. a political career. Shadary's political career started in

1992. However, for close to six years, Shadary worked at the lower tier in government as an officer. His first big break came in 1998, a year after the overthrow of Mobutu Sese Seko when he was appointed to become the Assistant and Director General of Higher Education and University.

Shadary's position as the Assistant and Director General of Higher Education and University meant that he worked directly with many government officials and other people, therefore, his popularity rapidly increased. As a political man by nature, Shadary quickly pounced on his newfound popularity and entered into mainstream politics: later that year (1998) Shadary was elected Vice-Governor first and then Governor of Maniema. He left the Governor position after the assassination of Laurent

Désiré Kabila.

Though it looked like it was going to be the end of a short political career of Shadary after the assassination of Laurent Désiré Kabila, it turned out to be the exact opposite as Shadary positioned himself strategically during the subsequent negotiations that took place in the country spearheaded by Joseph Kabila. For his efforts, Shadary earned a spot on the table when the People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy was formed in 2002 becoming one of its founders. As a founder, he was rewarded with the position of National Executive Secretary in charge of the Electoral Process from 2005 up to 2015.

During that time, Shadary also held many other positions including contesting twice in

the 2006 and 2011 elections and winning the National Deputy seat in the Kabambare constituency. In addition, he was appointed Campaign Director of Candidate President Joseph Kabila in Maniema for both the 2006 and 2011 elections, he also served as First Vice-President of the PAJ Commission in the National Assembly (2006-2011) before assuming the functions of President of the PPRD Parliamentary Group and Coordinator of the Parliamentary Majority in the lower house and in 2015 he was appointed Assistant Secretary General of the PPRD by President Kabila.

Rivals in the Presidential Election

When Joseph Kabila announced that he was not going to stand for re-election later on this year, not many people expected Ramazani

Shadary to be announced as Kabila's successor. Names touted by many to be potential successors of Kabila included former Prime Minister Augustin Matata Ponyo; Kabila's chief of staff, Nehemie Mwilanya Wilondja; and the president of the National Assembly, Aubin Minaku. However, a combined seating of the PPRD and the Common Front for Congo (FCC) reached a decision that surprised many announcing Ramazani Shadary as the preferred presidential candidate for PPRD. The decision was endorsed by the incumbent Joseph Kabila.

As the presidential candidate for PPRD, Ramazani Shadary is going to face some stellar competition considering the other names vying for the president position. These include Felix

Tshisekedi, the leader of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), a long-time rival of Joseph Kabila and a former warlord, Jean-Pierre Bemba who was recently acquitted of war crimes convictions by the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Tryphon Kin-Kiey Mulumba, a spokesman to former dictator Mobutu Sese Seko and twice a minister under Kabila and independent Kin-Kiey.

August 8th was the deadline to file bids for presidential candidates but other prospective candidates have until late September to file late bids if they want to run for office as the final list of presidential candidates is to be released at the end of September hence Ramazani Shadary may end up facing even more opponents in the December 23 elections.



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PRESS RELEASE:

H.E. The President of Equatorial Guinea and Ministers to open the country's most anticipated international gas event

The Equatorial Guinea Gas Summit will feature the participation of international delegations from Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Tchad and others



MALABO, Equatorial Guinea, September 3, 2018/ -- Since the discovery of significant oil reserves in the 1990s, natural gas exploitation and export have become one of the most important assets and economy drivers in Equatorial Guinea. As often expressed by the Government, the country has a vision to become the region's Gas Hub, which entails close cooperation with local and international energy companies.

On the wave of recent developments in the Equatoguinean gas market, and with the vast interest from international and local investors, SONAGAS G.E. and the CWC Group will host the Equatorial Guinea Gas Summit and Exhibition under the auspices of the Ministry of Mines & Hydrocarbons and GEPetrol. This important regional meeting will take place at the Sipopo Congress Center, Malabo, on 4 and 5 October 2018 as part of the country's 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations.

and Hydrocarbons who will deliver a keynote address following the opening remarks from the country's President, H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

The Equatorial Guinea Gas Summit will feature the participation of international delegations from Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Tchad and others. Distinguished speakers include:

- H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- H.E. Gabriel M Obiang Lima, Minister of Mines & Hydrocarbons, Equatorial Guinea
- H.E. Lucas Abaga Nchama, Minister of Finance, Economy and Planning, Equatorial Guinea
- Hon. Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Juan Antonio Ndong Ondo, Director General, SONAGAS, G.E.
- Antonio Oburu Ondo, Director General, GEPetrol
- Hilaire Kabore, Director General,

I am delighted to be delivering the opening keynote address and sharing the President and Government's vision and making important announcements that will help boost the oil and gas sector in country expressed H.E. Gabriel Mbagha Obiang Lima, Minister of Mines

Sonabhy Burkina Faso

•Tahir Hamid Nguilin, Société des Hydrocarbures du Tchad, Republic of Tchad

View full list of speakers here: <https://www.cwceg.com/speakers/>

The event is organised with support from industry stakeholders: Noble Energy, Marathon Oil, EG LNG, Atlantic Methanol Production Company, Kosmos Energy, Trident Energy, Ophir, Shell, Mitsui and Marubeni. The two-day programme will include ample networking opportunities with government and stakeholders alongside the Summit sessions which will address the opportunities and challenges in the upstream, midstream and downstream as well as the following themes and projects:

Updates and opportunities in:

- oFarm-in in exploration projects
- oFortuna Project
- oBioko Oil Terminal
- oRefinery: Modular and Fixed
- oPetrochemical Plant

Strategies to attract investment into equatorial guinea

- Economic diversification: New partnerships and initiatives between international and national investors
- Gas hub opportunity
- Trading and global LNG markets for Equatorial Guinea's gas and LNG
- Developing National Content and a network of national companies

along the oil & gas value chain

•Human resources capacity building

View the full programme here: https://www.cwceg.com/programme_download/

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The CWC Group has a 20-year track record in oil, gas and energy events and training globally. Headquartered in London, CWC has won the Queen's Award for Enterprise, twice.

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



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

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

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

The rise of renewables across Africa

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

Milestone projects are now driving forward this

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

The future of gas in Africa

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

For more information about EnergyWeek Morocco:

Event dates: 14-15 November 2018

Event location: Marrakech, Morocco

Organisers: EnergyNet, part of Clarion Events Ltd

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

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

Energy Summit in Ghana to be held with official endorsement and participation of the Ministry of Energy, Republic of Ghana



EnergyNet will host the third Regional Energy Co-operation Summit (RECS): West in Ghana from 26-28 September 2018 - exploring business opportunities in the WAPP regional electricity market and the impact that anchor energy projects will have on regional energy development.

R ECS: WEST is held with the official endorsement and participation of the Ministry of Energy, Republic of Ghana.

In alignment with the opportunities in the energy market in West Africa, the programme will follow the Ministry of Energy's portfolio: power, petroleum and financing infrastructures. A strong emphasis will be given to the Government's plans to consolidate the gas sector and improve efficiency in the state energy utilities, particularly the ECG Private Sector Participation (ECG PSP) process.

The launch of the regional electricity market will impact West Africa's regional economy and create new business opportunities. Mr. Ki, Secretary General of West African Power Pool (WAPP) and Prof. Bogler, Chairman of ECOWAS Regional Regulatory Authority (ERERA) will present the first phase of the implementation and their priorities. In addition to the above, speakers confirmed include:

- Honourable Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam, Deputy Minister for Petroleum, Ministry of Energy, Ghana
- Honourable William Aidoo, Deputy Minister for Power, Ministry of Energy, Ghana
- Honourable Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, Morocco
- William Amuna, Policy Advisor to the Hon. Minister, Ministry of Energy, Ghana
- Fred Oware, Chief Executive Officer, BUI Power Authority
- Alfred K. Ofosu Ahenkorah, Executive Secretary, Energy Commission of Ghana

- Yusuf Hamisu Abubakar, Chairman, Kaduna Electric Company, Nigeria
- Laurent Tossou, Director General, Société Béninoise d'Energie Electrique (SBEE), Benin
- Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa, Chief Executive Officer, Volta River Authority (VRA), Ghana
- Honoré Bogler, Chairman, ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA)
- Siengui Ki, Secretary General, West African Power Pool (WAPP)
- Cüneyt Uygun, Chief Executive Officer, AKSA Energy
- Philippe Miquel, Chief Executive Officer, Western & Central Africa, ENGIE
- Robert W. Anderson, Director-Energy, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

Official endorsing partners of the Summit include WAPP and Anare alongside Summit Sponsor ASKA Power, Strategic Partners Fieldstone Africa, ENGIE, METKA and Wartsila and Associate Sponsor Power Africa.

For more information about this meeting:

Contact: Fiona Gleeson– Senior Marketing Executive

Event dates: 26th – 28th September

Event location: Kempinski Hotel, Accra, Ghana

Organisers: EnergyNet, Ltd

Email: recs-west@energynet.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7384 8240

Visit: www.recs-west.com

Kenya: President Uhuru's shocker on corruption

By Samuel Ouma

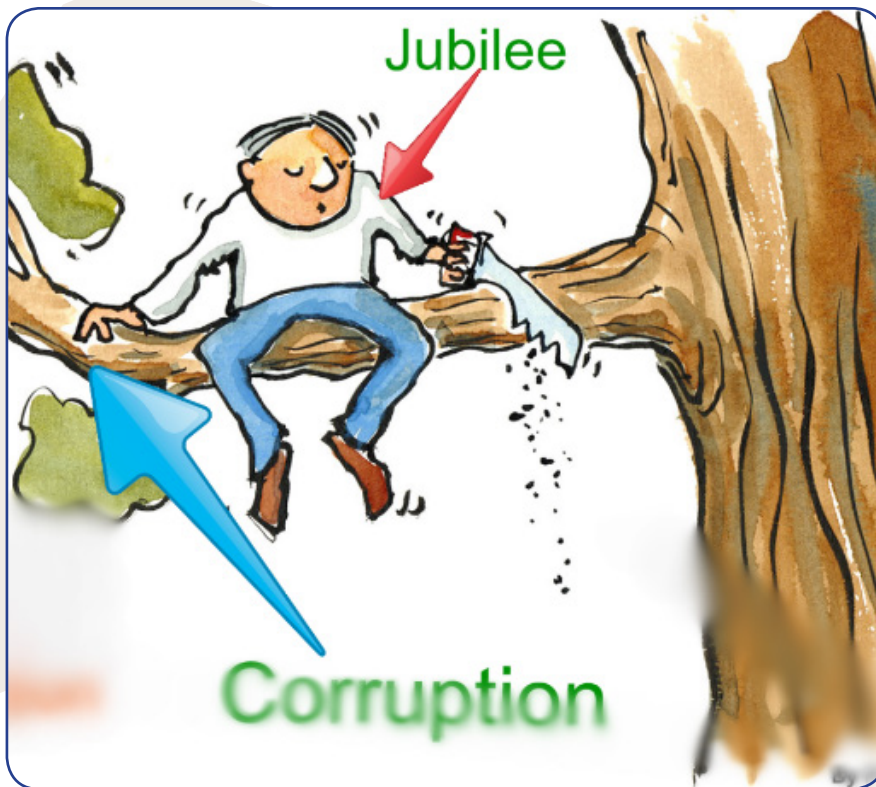
The impact of corruption in Kenya cannot be underestimated. The scourge continues to hamper democracy, development and ability to assuage poverty. In February, Kenya was ranked 143 out of 180 nations sampled by Transparency International.

In 2016 Kenya was recognized as a hotbed of corruption when it was ranked the third most corrupt country in the world, according an audit firm, PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC). High level of corruption had been noted by some luminaries such as former US President Barrack Obama and Pope Francis.

The Pope described the vice as cancer and a way of death eating up the Kenyan society while Obama linked it to a crisis during his Nairobi visit in 2015.

"Each time when we accept a bribe and we put it in our pockets, we destroy our hearts and personalities and we destroy our country. Please don't develop the taste for that sugar which is called corruption," said Pope Francis.

President Uhuru Kenyatta has shown commitment in fighting graft which his predecessors could not do. Serving his last term in the office, the son of the first President, Jomo Kenyatta



has injected new blood within the criminal justice system to leave behind a remarkable legacy. A multi-agency team drawing officers from Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI), Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) and Attorney General's office for the last five months have engaged in thorough investigation to bring to book corrupt leaders.

Panic has ensued across government agencies as the renewed war against graft gains momentum. Several government officials have spent nights in police custody and arraigned in Court over

looting of public property.

The latest prosecution was of the National Lands Commission Chairperson Mohamed Swazuri and 16 others over Ksh.221. 3 billion (\$2.21 million) land fraud.

The crackdown has indicted the former and current governors. Busia Governor Sospeter Ojaamong was the first sitting leader to be paraded in court over Ksh. 20 million (\$200,000) fraud allegations. The county boss is facing charges of abuse of office and flouting procurement procedures.

Former Nyandarua and Nairobi governors Daniel

Waithaka and Evans Kidero have also been charged with corruption. At Kenya Power, the Managing Director Ken Tarus and his predecessor Ben Chumo were also implicated in the crackdown.

Former National Youth Service Principal Secretary and Director General Lillian Omollo and Richard Ndubai respectively were charged and later sacked over the loss of Ksh.468 million paid to companies which were awarded tenders irregularly.

The President's directive to vet afresh procurement officers and heads of supply chains in an aim to obliterate

corruption has been given a benefit of doubt. Many believe graft is a complex issue which needs multidimensional approach. The need loopholes in laws and policies to be filled and demand for activeness from Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Director of Public Prosecution, institutions mandated to eradicate graft.

He also ordered for lifestyle audit for public servants, including himself and his deputy William Ruto in order to accelerate growth by achieving the Big Four Agenda which include Manufacturing, Food security, Affordable housing and Universal health.

"You must be able to explain how you got your car, your house and land in comparison to what you earn," said Mr. Kenyatta.

Lifestyle audit has not gone well with others. It has elicited mixed reactions from all the political divides. Fallout looms in the ruling party as leaders allied to the deputy President claim that their man is being targeted. William Ruto has been linked with several mega corruption scandals such as Lang'ata Road Primary School land grab scandal, Muteshi land grab, Maize scandal in the Grand Coalition government, Hustler's jet scandal, Kenya



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Pipeline land scandal and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital scandal.

Ruto lieutenant Kapsaret Member of Parliament Oscar Sudi had challenged the president to start by inspecting wealth acquired by his late father, Jomo Kenyatta. The division was seen in the opposition too as some rubbished the audit saying it lacks merit.

"Now that the president has directed a lifestyle audit for everyone, including himself and Ruto, can he also direct that the TJRC (Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission) report be implemented fully? Stop selective wars

against corruption," said the opposition Senator, Ledama Ole Kina.

Kenyatta's effort got a boost when Switzerland President Alain Berset pledged his support in the ongoing fight against graft. They signed an agreement, Framework for the Return of Assets from Corruption and Crime in Kenya (FRACCK), which will see billions of shillings stolen, returned to the country.

Last year, the government recovered money from Smith & Ouzman that Company in United Kingdom that got Kenyan contracts through bribery. The funds were used to buy seven ambulances.

"Corruption destroys democratic institutions and the dreams and aspirations of the people. For that reason, Switzerland's close cooperation with Kenya in the fight against corruption will be part and parcel of our bilateral talks. Switzerland and Kenya have been working together to fight corruption for quite a number of years. Switzerland has blocked financial assets related to the Anglo-Leasing corruption scandal and is waiting for the judicial proceedings to come to an end in Kenya," said President Alain Berset.

The ongoing crackdown has also caught the attention of European Union diplomats.

Led by US ambassador to Kenya Robert Godec, they lauded the government for taking decisive action against corrupt leaders. The diplomats noted that Kenya needs reliable institutions and systems to reduce the opportunities for corruption.

The latest confession by Mr. Kenyatta has convinced Kenyans that there is light at the end of tunnel in corruption fight. He has revealed that he has lost many friends who have sought intervention from him. A tough talking Kenyatta said he will not relent in crackdown to reclaim stolen property.

The ongoing demolitions

of structures built on riparian land in Nairobi signals a new dawn. Property worth billions of shillings has been reduced to rubble for the last two weeks. The President divulged that the government will also go for the public officers who sanctioned the illegal constructions.

"Let us lose our friends and do what is right in the eyes of God. We shall gain other friends as we move forward. Let us create a society that respects and treasures hard work and integrity, a nation with conscience," he reiterated.

SADC 2018 : A mixed bag

By Andreas Thomas



President Cyril Ramaphosa handed the chairmanship of the SADC to his Namibian counterpart Hage Geingob at the regional bloc's 38th summit

member states convene to chart a new direction for the regional block for the next year.

This year's summit was held under the theme 'Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development'. The regional body has been in existence since 1980 as the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference and later transformed into the Southern African Development Community through the SADC Treaty in 1992.

SADC Member States are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and

Windhoek - The Development (SADC) held its 38th Ordinary Summit meeting in Windhoek from 9-18 August, 2018.

This annual retreat is always a momentous occasion at which leaders of the 16

Zimbabwe.

And this year's event was equally momentous as Namibia hosted the Summit at the same venue that hosted the signing of the SADC Treaty and Declaration 26 years ago, that market the transformation of the organisation from a coordinating conference into a development community.

That historic occasion gave our organization a legal character and set forth a vision and foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community.

SADC aims to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security.

But SADC remains a mixed bag of successes and failures. In the recent past, and in effort to realize its mandate, SADC has developed the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP). (2015-2020). Under the RISDP, a 15-year plan from 20005-2020, member states set themselves major targets including the attainment of free trade area by 2008, customs union by 2010, common market by 2015, monetary union by 2016 and regional currency by 2018.

Other targets included the integration of SADC into the competitive economy by 2015.

The moderate progress towards enhancing SADC intra-regional trade and economic diversification was due to limited capacities to produce, and to trade effectively and competitively.

In its Revised RISDP

2015-2020, SADC has now focused on industrialisation to facilitate the deepening and acceleration of market integration, with equitable distribution of regional integration opportunities.

According to the SADC Secretariat, the primary orientation of the regional industrialisation drive is to place the importance of technological and economic transformation, modernisation, skills development, science and technology, competitiveness, and financial deepening, at the heart of regional integration and economic prosperity.

But with over two years before 2020, SADC countries are running behind in terms of industrialisation and need to needs to do more in order to achieve its target that is in line with the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, says Tapiwa Samanga, SADC Director of Industrial Development and Trade.

Samanga told media on the margins of the SADC Summit in Windhoek that member countries needed to "increase their productive capacity as a region so that they sell to each other what they produce and also consume what they produce".

Despite talking about intra-trade in the region remains low at 17%, a situation that led to the current situation where countries continues to export raw minerals.

Lindiwe Sisulu, the Minister for International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa has called on SADC countries to identify priority value chains and step efforts to attract the private sector into these specific sectors.

Sisulu noted that lack of interconnectivity and poor transport within the region has been identified as the key stumbling blocks to fully move forward with industrialisation and beneficiation.

Meanwhile, SADC Secretariat has successfully facilitated the implementation of the Global Fund supported HIV and AIDS cross border initiative – where health services were provided to mobile populations such as long distance truck drivers and sex workers to increase access to health services and improve health outcomes.

According to the Secretariat, the region has also 84% of its 2017/18 outputs, in fulfillment of its mandate of developing, promoting, coordinating and facilitating the harmonisation of policies and programmes to increase agricultural and natural resources production and productivity, and promote trade for food security and sustainable economic development.

Another milestone is the reduction in cost of cross border remittances that the SADC Executive Secretary Dr Tax Stergomena said has reduced by 7% from 20% to 13% in the trade corridor between South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique.

"One of the areas of focus in the plan is to facilitate cross border remittances, which are critical for financial inclusion. The main challenge with remittances is the high cost of remitting the money across the borders, however, it is planned that in the next 18 months the costs will be

to meet the G20 target of 5 percent per transaction," she said.

SADC region also remains relatively peaceful and stable. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission Faki Mahamat noted that southern Africa has been one of the most stable regions in Africa, and promised that AU will continue working with SADC countries to maintain peace and security.

SADC leaders optimistic

The outgoing chairperson of SADC, President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa has reminded his fellow regional leaders about the ideals set out in the SADC Treaty, "particularly its objectives to forge regional integration, better the lives of our people, promote democracy and economic prosperity and ensure peace and security.

Despite the clear intent in the Treaty, our region is still confronted with many challenges, including a lack of adequate infrastructure, underdevelopment, poverty, the effects of climate change, and the spread of communicable diseases".

Ramaphosa added that: Our priorities are inextricably linked to the Continental Agenda, and in particular the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

These priorities require that we continue with our efforts to support the COMESA - EAC - SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area as an important building block towards the achievement of the African Continental Free Trade Area".

Namibian President Hage Geingob, the new chairperson of SADC has promised to

promote the SADC Agenda of Industrialisation and Regional Integration, "which is paramount to sustainable development and poverty eradication".

Geingob said the region "needs requisite infrastructures in all sectors in order to enhance economic growth and regional integration. The youth constitute a significant percentage of the population in our countries.

"It therefore within our interest to ensure that our youth, who will be the leaders of the industrialized SADC we envisage, are equipped with the necessary tools required governing industrialized nations".

The Namibian leader noted that this year's theme of the SADC Summit speaks the regional aspirations of infrastructure development and youth empowerment.

"We recognize that infrastructure includes regional transport and communications systems, which are fundamental to development in the SADC Region. Energy, water and sanitation, and meteorology are also critical components of regional infrastructure.

"To fast-track infrastructure development, we should also consider dovetailing our regional programmes and plans with continental ones, in particular the AU Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa and Agenda 2063," he said.



The Africa Gas Association

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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.

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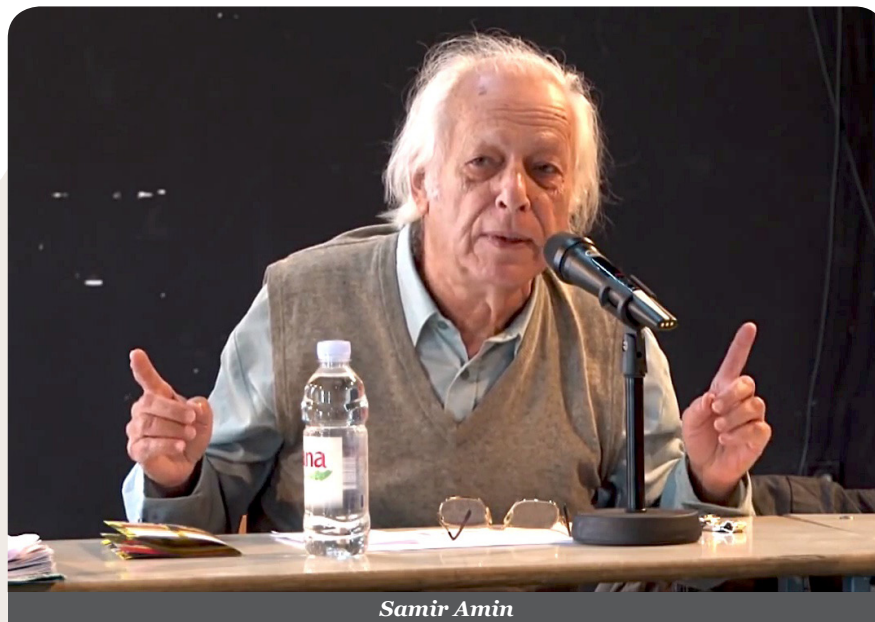
To Samir Amin, a personal tribute

By Edwin Madunagu

The year 1982 began with a revolutionary upheaval in Ghana: a group of young and radical military officers—some retired, others still in service—appeared to have seized power! It soon became clear, however, that what took place—or was taking place—in Accra was not a classical military coup d'etat, but a popular armed uprising led by a loose assemblage of Leftist groups and individuals, military and civilian. Appeals went out from Accra for revolutionary solidarity.

Favourable responses came from across Africa—including Nigeria—and beyond. In particular, at least one response came from Calabar. My spouse and I had just been re-instated as lecturers in the University of Calabar (UNICAL) after a forced absence of about three years. The Calabar Group of Socialists was vibrant. So was the Democratic Action Committee (DACOM), also based in Calabar. The Left in Calabar was in the strongest period of its post-Civil War history. Meetings and consultations were held and I left for Accra, Ghana. I entered the country as a “journalist”.

Late in the evening of the day of arrival, I went to the restaurant. There I saw only two male guests, sitting together, talking animatedly. Ostensibly, they were waiting for their orders. One was black, the other was white. The blackman I knew very well: he was Comrade Eskor Toyo who had left Calabar a few days before me. I thought the other



Samir Amin

person, the “whiteman”, was an enterprising or curious journalist. On enquiry, he turned out to be the famous Samir Amin whom I had encountered, through his works, about seven years earlier. Since then, those works had contributed significantly to the resolution of some of the critical questions that confronted me as a young revolutionary socialist and Marxist. I was elated, and with this rose my preliminary assessment of the potentials of this latest revolutionary rising in post-colonial Africa.

I was elated because attracted to what was happening in Ghana were several serious revolutionaries, including Eskor Toyo and Samir Amin, who were long-standing revolutionary Marxist intellectuals and well-respected African economists and political economists. Eskor Toyo, then 53, was a Nigerian; Samir Amin then 51, was of Egyptian and French parentage. Eskor Toyo had

also been involved, for at least three decades, in grassroots workers’ and popular education, mobilization and organization as well as in the labour movement. Here they were, sitting together and discussing an ongoing revolutionary rising on the African continent—not too far from where the event was being coordinated. Because of the nature of my own presence in Ghana, I could not make any contact at that point. I withdrew from the restaurant and initiated an alternative arrangement. Eskor Toyo died on Monday, December 7, 2015, aged 86. Samir Amin died on Sunday, August 12, 2018, also aged 86.

I had earlier said that Samir Amin, through his books, essays and articles, contributed significantly to the resolution of some of the questions that confronted me as a young Marxist and socialist. That critical period of my development can be taken roughly as the second half of the 1970s, that is, when I was between 29 and

34 years old. I shall pick out two of the questions and build what I have to say around only one of Samir Amin’s “early books”. That book is *Imperialism and Unequal Development*. And the two questions are: What Marxism is (in coherent and accessible summary) and *The Lessons of Cambodia*.

Lenin had written in his *Three Sources and three component parts of Marxism* (1913) that there were three “sources” and (hence?) three “component parts” of Marxism. These three “sources-components” he gave as political economy, philosophy and socialism. But having emerged, Marxism, in the words of Lenin, became “integral”, “harmonious”, “irreconcilable with any form of superstition, reaction or defence of bourgeois reaction” and “omnipotent because it is true”. This was the language of a revolutionary combatant who had no business being in the field, let alone leading the struggle, unless he or she was “certain” and could instill

this “certainty” in the fighting forces.

In that critical period, that is, about 40 years ago, I could make pronouncements on Marx’s and Marxist positions on political economy (or rather, critique of political economy), philosophy and socialism. I could give lectures on beliefs and actions that were not only incompatible, but also irreconcilable, with Marxism. But having apprehended what Marxism was not, what, in precise terms, was it? In *Imperialism and Unequal Development*, published by the Monthly Review Press in 1977, but getting to me in January 1979, Samir Amin gave me, not an answer, but a direction in which to seek an answer: “The critique of economism has allowed the rediscovery of the unity of Marxism, which is neither an economic theory, a sociological theory, nor a philosophy, but the social science of revolutionary socialist praxis”.

Samir Amin wrote this at the age of 45, about 20 years after his doctoral dissertation on *Political Economy*. The passage is in the Introduction to the book which itself was a collection of Amin’s essays in response to reviews of two of his earlier books: *Accumulation on a World Scale* (1974) and *Unequal Development* (1976).

In the year that I received *Imperialism and Unequal Development*, I started drafting my first collection of essays titled *The Tragedy of the Nigerian Socialist Movement*. That is also the title of the main essay in the collection. It was an angry review of the movement’s

“unseriousness” in the politics of Murtala Mohammed/Obasanjo transition to civil rule (1975-1979). The collection also carries a two-page review of what was happening in Cambodia. I asked: How did the heroes of 1975 become “mass murderers” and “villains” by 1978? Why was the condemnation of the Khmer Rouge revolutionaries (whose “face” was Pol Pot) global and total: From East to West (except China); from North to South, from capitalists to socialists and communists, and cutting across global ideological and political divides—at the

height of the Cold War? What were the Cambodian Khmer Rouge revolutionaries trying to do? What type of society were they trying to build? What were the sources of their grave errors?

I could not get satisfactory answers to these questions until I read Samir Amin’s *The Lessons of Cambodia*, the eighth essay in *Imperialism and Unequal Development*. His analysis, which was published in the second year of the revolutionary regime, rested heavily on his critique of imperialism and economism. Now, that the regime was fighting imperialism everyone knew.

But that it was also fighting economism was an entirely new insight for me in 1978/79. In *The Lessons of Cambodia*, Samir Amin severely criticized the economism of “Stalinism” and other Soviet-type transitions to socialism.

Beyond this, Samir Amin also criticized “Trotskyism”, a frontline enemy of “Stalinism”, for not being able to transcend the problematic of economism which a college dictionary defines as a “theory or viewpoint that attaches decisive or principal importance to economic goals or interests”, thereby devaluing other factors of revolutionary transformation

such as culture, de-alienation, equality, and political consciousness. One particular element of economism which came under Amin’s hammer was popularly expressed as the need for socialist transitions “to aim at catching up with the West”—a notion that he classified under “vulgar Marxism”.

With Samir Amin’s analysis, I immediately saw the sources of Khmer Rouge’s monumental difficulties and tragic errors of voluntarism. I could then also explain the equally tragic global convergence of opposition which Khmer

Rouge’s attempted transition to socialism through the rejection of the Soviet road of “catching up”, attracted.

I saluted Samir Amin. Thereafter, I have saluted him several times—the last time being in my article of December 1, 2011 entitled *Time to recall, and to honour*. Now, the man is gone. Who replaces Samir Amin?

M a d u n a g u , mathematician and journalist, writes from Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Nigeria 2019: How the Mbonu Presidency Could Transform Nigeria

By Charles Adeyinka

Nigeria has little excuse for underperforming as an independent nation over the past 58 years. Consider that Nigeria already has all the trappings for an economic top-performer, even if it relied on domestic interstate commerce alone. The huge internal market in Nigeria should make for a robust beehive of domestic economic activities.

Therefore, why has the country consistently underperformed, even during the heady days of the Oil Boom? The answer is straightforward; some of the country’s leaders have been incompetent and vision-less. There has also been massive greed, and clannishness; that frequently prevented the best and the brightest from taking power from the status quo. However, all that is about to change in 2019.

It was not always doom-

time in Nigeria. Some recent leaders of Nigeria actually deserve credit for the few positive steps that moved Nigeria forward. Foremost among these well-intentioned leaders is Olusegun Obasanjo. However, it appears that whenever five (5) steps are taken forward, seven (7) steps were often taken backward.

Today, Nigeria has stepped backwards, especially in its failure to contain internal security. As a result, two regions of Nigeria, the Northeast and the Northcentral, have become a cesspool of violence and strife. The recent violence is mostly perpetrated against Christian farmers in northcentral Nigeria, whose farmlands are frequently attacked by AK47 wielding gunmen.

New Leadership and A New Beginning for Nigeria

However, today a new wind of leadership is blowing



in Nigeria; a candidate by the name of “Okey Samuel Mbonu” showed up in Nigeria’s political space a few years ago, and joined the presidential race fully in May of this year.

Mbonu earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD), from the University of District of Columbia,

Washington, DC. In the early 2000’s, he was appointed Commissioner, for Housing & Community Development in the Washington suburbs of Maryland, home to the famous National Harbor outside Washington. The National Harbor which was developed during Mbonu’s term as Commissioner is

a \$1.5 Billion project, and the single most expensive mixed-use development in the US East Coast. As Commissioner, Mbonu spearheaded many multi-million dollars development projects in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC

Upon transitioning to the private sector in the late



Mbonu believes that it is time for a generational shift in Nigerian politics and leadership

2000's, Mbonu co-founded the Nigerian-American Council in Washington, and as the Council's first Executive Director, led the Council to become a powerful and trusted think-tank in the US. His frequent appearances in US institutions and the media, to provide expertise on Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa has been viewed widely worldwide.

Mbonu is a leader with world-class credentials, impeccable record of international achievements, and has total comfort in every region of Nigeria. Based on candid observations, Mbonu is miles ahead of other candidates for the Nigerian presidency in 2019.

We dare say that greatness finally awaits the African giant, if the new crop of

leaders wrest control of the country from Nigeria's status quo.

Mbonu particularly interests us because he is a thorough-bred of sorts; born in Nigeria and partially bred in Washington DC; he exudes the charm and confidence of a natural-born leader, with an affinity for building bridges across various Nigerian ethnic groups. Finally, Mbonu is not among the corrupt status quo Nigerian politicians, who have turned voters off in Africa's largest democracy.

World-class Experience to the Rescue

In the World Press Conference announcing Mbonu's Campaign on May 11 this year in Abuja Nigeria; Mbonu listed four (4) critical areas of intervention he

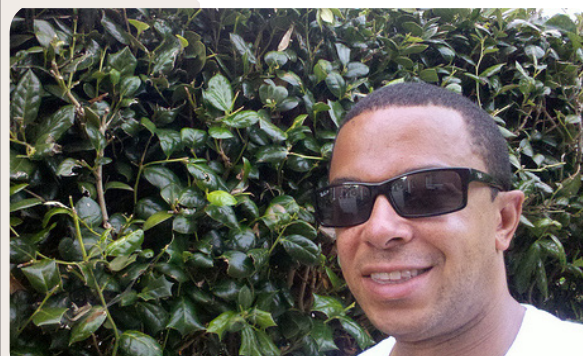
would deploy, if he wins the 2019 elections. They include:

- (1) Insecurity (secure the country from domestic terrorism to attract domestic and foreign investments);
- (2) Electricity & Communications Infrastructure (revamp infrastructure for transforming the economy);
- (3) Youth & Women's Empowerment Programs (including education reform for 21st Century Skills);
- (4) Diversify the economy away from Petroleum, and refocusing Healthcare toward preventive care

If Nigerians stay the course in 2019, and elect a candidate like Okey Samuel Mbonu, then a new Nigeria would be ready to arise. The world awaits the African giant.

Growing food on gravel: To Soil Less Brings New Technology To Africa

By Ajong Mbapndah



Richard Campbell, To Soil Less Founder.

As Africa strives to meet its food security challenges, a new technology which makes it possible to grow food on rocks indoors or outdoors is making its way into the continent thanks to Richard Campbell and his company To Soil Less. The use of gravel in the cultivation of crops may represent the most resource efficient method of growing crops ever to exist with ingredients that are all natural, says Campbell in an interview with PAV to shed light into his new technology, and how it could fit into the African agricultural landscape.

Can you start by introducing To Soil Less for us?

Richard Campbell: TSL is the company I formed to share geological agricultural concepts and applications to the greater society. Geological agriculture is the study of growing plants in rocks permanently indoors or outdoors without the use

of soil and fertilizers. Our family business discovered this by accident 25 years ago and have since refined the processes of geological agriculture and secured 14 patents over its use and applications.

What motivated you to come up with this technology?

The technology of the modern day geological agriculture started by accident when my Uncle dropped a watermelon seed in an area of rocks designed for weed block and out grew a watermelon. He asked me in 1994 to come and explain why this phenomenon was taking place and I hypothesize that the rocks must be feeding that watermelon. After all rocks are minerals, minerals are nutrients, and nutrients are fertilizers and therefore, we developed the theory that this rock type was capable of supporting plant life.

In 2008 after feeding the neighborhood for over 14 years on gravel grown

vegetables, my Uncle asked me to figure out exactly why this rock was supporting plant life. After some research and analysis, we uncovered that the sedimentary rock of the planet Earth is capable of supporting plant life to full maturity without the use of supplemental fertilizers nor soils.

How applicable is the Soil Less Concept to a continent like Africa?

Geological agriculture is extremely applicable to Africa and all of its citizens. Geological agriculture allows all people to have access to nutrition where many in Africa currently do not. We don't make the rocks the rocks or form with the planet Earth. Therefore the rocks in the ocean around Africa as well as the rocks in the rivers of Africa can be used as a growing medium for your plants. Our company intends to show people how to do it so that they can have access to nutrition and improve the profit margins of those in the agricultural space.

Our general philosophy is to begin and share geological agriculture where the need is greatest. In this case we feel Africa is the best suited

place outside of the United States to share geological agriculture programming and applications with its population. As a returned Peace Corps volunteer from Mali we designed geological agriculture using appropriate technology so that the residents within the countries of Africa whether in a city or in a village can use the rock around them for the benefit of their health and family. Our company's role is to partner with capable and credible local NGOs, identify the best rock in your country and show populations how to use it through a series of training of trainers workshops.

What efforts have been made to bring this innovation to that part of the world and how has it been received?

We introduced the book River Stones Grow Plants in December of 2017 which outlines all that we know about growing plants in river rock. With contributions both from Tennessee State University and George Washington University this book shares the new rules of gardening using pea gravel or river rock as the growing medium and fertilizer source. The rules of gardening differ



significantly in gravel than in soil therefore this book was designed to help home owners access nutrition permanently at home using supplies from their rivers or typically your hardware store.

This summer we have begun to engage a variety of African nations and are happy to announce that we have our 1st NGO partner on the continent of Africa in Lome, Togo. This partnership intends to launch geological agriculture in Africa with Togo as the GeoAg headquarters for the continent. We will begin teaching geological agriculture concepts in Lome later this year. We are already working with global agencies

to support and amplify our efforts in Togo. Peace Corps Togo is also looking to possibly support our GeoAg efforts in that country.

We also presented geological agriculture at this year's 2018 YALI conference hosted by the State Department and IREX in Washington, DC. At that conference we had our gravel grow cups on display with a variety of plants growing in them like beans, cucumbers, wheatgrass, and cilantro. Over 200 members gave us their information and cards once they heard about GeoAg. We now intend to work with YALI to help share this across Africa.

Earlier this summer, we met with African Union Mission Ambassador Quao and established a partnership with PADWA. TSL will work with PADWA and YALI to advance geological agriculture practices across Africa.

What difference do you think it could make for Africa, what does the continent stand to gain from using Soil Less?

For the continent of Africa geological agriculture can be very transformative. The benefits of geological agriculture are significant,

enabling the residents and citizens of each of the African countries to now have access to their own nutritious at home for them and their families. By providing the materials and training to trainers, we are able to teach the new methods of nutrition access through GeoAg.

You do understand the economic challenges that Africa faces, how affordable is this technology for them?

GeoAg is the likely the most affordable method as most all countries have an abundant supply of sedimentary rock. Once someone is trained once, they will know the techniques for life. As a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, we designed GeoAg to be almost cost neutral depending on where you live.

For people in Ethiopia, Lesotho, D.R.Congo, Nigeria, etc who read this interview and are interested in your technology, what can they do to get you working with them?

Send us an email requesting GeoAg information at **rocksgrowpr@gmail.com**. Learn more at **www.tosoilless.com**. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @ **ToSoilLess**



Lettuce Growing in To Soiless method of river rock.

Zimbabwe: Ponderable And Imponderables Of Victory And Defeat In An Epic Election That Never Was

By Nevson Mpofu.



Zanu-PF's incumbent Emmerson Mnangagwa (75) vs MDC Alliance's Nelson Chamisa (40). Maturity and experience carried the day in the first post Mugabe elections in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's longest and toughest post Mugabe election has come and gone. The winner according to ZEC was Emmerson Mnangagwa of the ruling ZANU PF, though the opposition MDC Alliance vehemently disputed this victory.

Despite any allegations molded by MDC Alliance that ZANU PF in connivance with ZEC rigged the elections, there were fortified strongholds ZANU PF built prior to the elections. At that same time Nelson Chamisa of MDC Alliance was busy looking for mistakes from his rival. He kept on looking at the wrongs of his "enemy" instead of chatting his way forward.

Bad to worse, he kept an eye on ZEC transparency, fuming in anger like a pain itched bull in a fight circle. Nelson Chamisa took time to mock

and spit at Mnangagwa's face instead of taking advantage of the rival's weaknesses and failures to fortify his strength. This was also witnessed in 2013 elections. Instead of taking a campaign strategy, Morgan Tsvangirai was busy getting involved in romantic love affairs. Robert Mugabe was busy marketing his super-brands in campaign strategies.

There is no doubt that the campaign strategies of ZANU PF far outweighed those of the opposition in all. Some people have complained that ZANU PF towards elections it was misusing state infrastructure, resources and finance to find its chiseled path to victory. No one witnessed this in truth, though they are in control. There is no evidence that this might have led to its victory.

The most talked of story

is the one of the Political Parties finance. At a symposium congregating several campaigning political parties at a local hotel in Harare, Jacob Mafume of MDC Alliance said it as well that ZANU PF was abusing the Political Finance Act. Mafume might have lied that they had not got the chunk of this money towards the elections.

"We are supposed to have got this part of money, but we have yet not got it. ZANU PF is abusing this money at the expense of some political parties. Those are some of the reasons why it remains in power. The fact is that they control resources".

The point a ZANU PF representative Tafadzwa Sigauke gave was that, ZANU PF had never got political campaign funding but they have a number of business

people across the country that fund the election. In fact he pointed out clearly that, its MDC Alliance that had received 10 US Million from America in 2008 to spearhead elections and remove ZANU PF from power

"We have never got campaign finance from outside countries. We get our money from membership in the party across the country. There are a number of business people sympathetic to ZANU PF."

"In-fact its MDC Alliance that got US 10 Million from outside the country in 2008. This money was from Western powers. We have the whole information' he divulged.

The quick highlight to this is to drive readers to the point that besides campaign finance and opportunities from well-wishers, there are strategies

which political parties fail to launch and implement for the campaign to win elections. Even Madhuku of the National Constitutional Assembly points it out that its what political parties come up with that makes them what they are.

"Political parties must not much rely on what is outside for them to campaign and win. Let them come with a political brand and make it your working tool to win the election.

"As National Constitutional Assembly we do rely on membership not outside countries. We are known as pushing for the people's rights through the Constitution, so we have massive support. What we really want to see now is change.

Coming back to the two bulls that fought recently, the septuagenarian versus one of the youngest ever candidates to campaign in a Presidential election in Africa, there are hill tops and loop-holes to climb and go down. Mnangagwa had the political gimmick that was clear, straight forward and eye catching through media publicity. The problem from critics is that ZANU PF used chances, efforts and resources of the state, taking advantage of being in power.

HOWEVER, THE QUESTION STANDS. WHAT COULD ZANU PF AS A POLITICAL PARTY NOT A NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION DO? ITS ONLY SOURCE IS THE

RESOURCE WORKED BY THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. MAY BE THEY TAKE IT LIKE THAT SINCE THEY CLAIM TO LIBERATE THIS COUNTRY. BUT REGARDING THAT THOSE FROM OTHER PARTIES CLAIM AS WELL THEY LOST RELATIVES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE EARLY IN THE 1970 UP TO 1980 DECADES.

In laying a superb brand, Mnangagwa launched his Manifesto earlier than Nelson Chamisa who would have done it earlier before. In his statement he said he feared that his ideas would be stolen.

"We shall launch our manifesto later after them because if we do it earlier our brilliant ideas can be taken away from us", he said.

His achievement is when he launched the The Chinhoyi Battle where he was looking at the History of 1966. At this site, sons and daughters of the country first showed their resistance to White Rule. His ideas were on the battle to transform the Economy through waging a Transformation battle to

revive the economy.

Mnangagwa launched a manifesto that holds the confidence of the people on Friday 4 May. Obert Mpofu the Party Secretary said that Mnangagwa had the alacrity to lead the people of Zimbabwe forward.

"Mnangagwa will lead the people of Zimbabwe forward. He has experience of the past, where we went wrong and how this can be solved. The country shall move well and the Economy shall be restored as well. So let us support him."

Mnangagwa and Chamisa had vast differences. At a time we need to empathy Chinese as Investors in the country, Chamisa promised to sack them out if he won elections. At the same time Mnangagwa was looking East, West and all other directions. He took time to talk about Investments, open business and a free Zimbabwe different from the past

"Let us not forget, Zimbabwe is open for Business. We want Investors to come and open Industry, shops and do all sorts of business in this country.

He came up with a new heart. He promoted the policy of rehabilitation and forgiveness to one another. He repented openly and said he was belonging to God not like what he used to do in the past. One good quote is ,

"We won't fire Mugabe out of ZANU PF for his support of Chamisa . We still take him as our father."

Mnangagwa launched the Campaign Pledge Card. He told Zimbabweans to hold him accountable for his promises. He talked repeatedly about harmonized elections, free, fair and credible ones. Zimbabwe is open for business became a house hold motto. Chamisa had nothing to offer to the people of Zimbabwe. Instead he got busy in criticizing ZANU PF . He went deep into digging out what was not yet out in ZEC like when he declared he would announce elections.

By then Mnangagwa was busy building his house. He talked about the 3 main sectors of the Economy that is Agriculture talking more about Command Agriculture, Command Livestock and

Indigenization policies. He assured the people of Zimbabwe he would promote Health and Education developments. He would reduce hospital fees by 50%, build new 78 hospitals, introduce Youth Business Hubs, develop Infrastructure, line up roads, care for cancer patients, promote zero tolerance to corruption and develop Industries for job creation.

Within the short space of his 8 months in office from late November last year, he launched the Women's Bank and the Youth Empower Bank. The confidence might have led to the increase in women and young people votes in rural and urban areas. He had one on one with those grieved, held meetings, soothing pain of the grieved and finding lasting solutions. His behavior is calm though tough in heart, he forgives and repents. He was invited to officiate and guest owns many Corporate World functions. A global breakthrough made him prominent at the DAVOS SUMMIT in Switzerland early this year. He left World Leaders

with all the confidence to invest in Zimbabwe. He then embarked to national strategic launches.

Zimbabwe launched Space Agency –Zimbabwe National Geo-Spatial Space Agency that deploys earth observation satellites, global observation satellite systems, space technology for better Farming, mining, wild-Life conservation, in diseases surveillance and fast management. He talked of Zimbabwe becoming a Middle Income Country of which he said was the plan under vision2030.

In one of his 3 program launch when he launched Zimbabwe National Skills Audit, Zimbabwe National Quantification Framework and the Zimbabwe Geo-Spatial and Space Agency he said,

"This will enhance precision in the Human Capital development, planning and serve as a guiding tool in our Industrialization and Modernization Agenda, he said.



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South Sudanese refugees welcome Khartoum peace agreement.

By Paul Night



Attempts to revitalize the August 2015 agreement on several trials showed no fruit in Adis and many other countries within the East Africa region of which it left many South Sudanese with no hopes within the regional players who according to many have economic interests in the youngest nation, as a result lives were lost due to the inability of the players to dig the root cause of the fighting and bringing lasting peace to South Sudan.

Khartoum emerged to be the brokers to the long awaited revival of the August 2015 revitalization with signs showing that we can finding local solutions to our local problems as many Southerners said after the signed Khartoum agreement early this month giving a breathing hole for both the government and oppositions to sort out their political differences although some SSOA continued to back off from the signed peace saying their pleas were not addressed in the Khartoum agreement, NAS claimed that without federal system of governance in the Khartoum

agreement until then they are not part of the agreement among other opposition groups.

In Uganda is a different story as poor nation opened it's doors for more than a million South Sudanese refugees and becoming the largest refugees hosting country in the world though with it's crippled economic hardships it's hospitality is beyond mentioning to the vulnerable South Sudanese refugees.

South Sudanese refugees have expressed hope of returning home to rebuild their lives as they at last are seeing signs of peace smelling next to their noses.

Jerisha Poni, a refugee and Business woman in Moyo town said woman refugees could 'contribute towards dismantling tribalism in South Sudan, which is one of the key factors fueling the conflict.

«Woman refugees should take leadership roles to ensure survival of their families in countries of asylum. They have to live and work together with others from different ethnic groups and allow their children

to play together and go to school, putting aside tribal affiliation can best work after peace agreement signed by our leaders», she said.

She noted that the importance of women's participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts as well as peace building is emphasised by the UN's Security Council Resolution 1325 and African Union's Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa. «South Sudanese refugee women who embrace the idea of a world without ethnic boundaries can have a strong impact on the peace process. As mothers, women shape children's identities, their perceived gender roles and socially accepted responses to conflict», Poni said

James Modi, 45 old urban refugee shares his experience «Refugees' experiences of living alongside other ethnic groups and even foreigners.

He said: «If I stayed in here in Edua village with the Nuer, I would think Nuer are the best people on earth. Staying in a town like this is however, I played and interacted with children from other tribes, visited our families and

sometimes we eat together especially on big days and that changed my perspectives towards other tribes», he said

Modi also added that when time comes for them (Refugees) we shall go to start a new life because we are told our grass touch house were burnt», He said

He said access to education in Uganda, a home of asylum is helpful which prepares women and children to contribute even more to conflict resolution and peace building. «At home, education opportunities for women would have been limited due to cultural norms and the civil war», He explains.

John Bosco Wani, a refugee student at Bishop Asili secondary School in Moyo district said besides offering knowledge, schools provide a good environment for refugees girls to interact with other students from different backgrounds and will help the young one since there is hope of returning back home (South Sudan). «Even those refugees who haven't had the chance to attend school have developed skills such as running small businesses, which involves cross-tribal interaction and this is sign of peace building. These experiences prepare refugees to become potential agents

for defusing clan-based attitudes in peace process.

Wani also noted that given the meaningful charge for peace agreement will contribute great space for refugees.

«Both men and women, can make, the signed Peace agreement to shoot good roots so that in future we allow direct contributions and a truly inclusive process. South Sudan's leaders must look past their ethnic differences and focus on finding common ground that can lead to a ceasefire and a restoration of peace in the country», Wani said

Is the world trying to see a divided country coming back to life? The argument can go lengthy, because many powerful nations lost hopes already in the conflict in South Sudan and the lack of political will by the government and opposition groups on several occasions.

Some argue the Khartoum agreement will not hold ground due to the bitter past we had with the North before obtaining independence and the economic interest of Bashir's government in South Sudan rises questions on many, what if Khartoum agreement is based on interests that are short lived what will be next when it collapses?



More than half of South Sudanese have crossed borders to neighboring countries.

Humanitarian aid continues to trickle in for Displaced Anglophone Cameroonians

By Prince Kurupati



Despite the continued silence from international media, the crisis in Anglophone Cameroon is still going on. Separatist Anglophone Cameroonians are still fighting against the Cameroonian troops while at the same time Cameroonian troops are launching widespread attacks on civilians from the Southern parts of the country leading to a massive number of people running away from their homes (living in forests) while others seek refuge in the neighbouring country, Nigeria.

The silence of the international media, however, does not mean that all other actors are turning a blind eye to the crisis. Several actors especially humanitarian organisations are trying, by all means, to help bring the crisis to an end while at the same time helping affected persons stay safe and live better lives. Three organisations have stepped up their work in recent times

in an effort to bring much-needed support and relief to the affected persons i.e. Cameroon Humanitarian Relief Initiative (CHRI), Medecins Sans Frontieres and the United Nations Refugee Agency in Nigeria.

CHRI is a grouping of people who are driven by the need to help people that have been directly affected by the Anglophone crisis.

Through various initiatives, CHRI mobilises resources from all over the world including both monetary and non-monetary resources. All mobilised resources are distributed to the affected people both those who are still living in Cameroon (living in forests) and those that ran away to seek refuge in the neighbouring country, Nigeria.

Founded by Dr Denis Foretia, CHRI started its humanitarian work for the affected Southern Cameroonians earlier this year. To date, the organisation has made seven donations to the displaced Cameroonians living in Nigeria and also to prisoners living in Cameroon. The first donation was on May 17th followed by May 29th, June 17th, July 01st, July 17th, July 31st, and August 14th while the latest donation was on August the 28th.

Some of the things that CHRI donate include bags of rice, cooking oil, meat, vegetables, purified water, okra and bananas.

Medecins Sans Frontieres is an organisation of doctors that work in any country facing a humanitarian crisis or where they see that there is a real lack of medical personnel. Medecins Sans Frontieres started working in the southern

part of Cameroon after the government relaxed its stance on non-governmental organisations working in this part of the country. Primarily, Medecins Sans Frontieres provides medical care to the affected. Having set up mobile clinics, the organisation said that the majority of the people that it has attended to and helped lack adequate shelter, drinking water and food.

The UN Refugee Agency in Nigeria has also been playing an important role in accommodating and providing moral as well as financial support in as much as it can to the displaced people who sought refuge in Nigeria.

While the work being done by these three organisations is quite commendable, they have come out stating that they are not able to fully give affected people the necessary help they need owing to a number



food donation by CHRI

of challenges. Elizabeth Mpimbaza, the spokesperson for the UN Refugee Agency in Nigeria said that their biggest challenge which has been impeding their work is poor media coverage of the crisis. According to Elizabeth Mpimbaza, there are hundreds of people who run away from Cameroon into Nigeria but they are not able to reach all of them as they end up residing in different parts of Nigeria; on most occasions, they cannot reach them to offer their support as they don't know where exactly they will be residing.

Medecins Sans Frontieres says that the biggest challenge they are facing in their work

is fear (on the part of the affected people). The group said that due to unpleasant living conditions in the forests and overcrowded villages where most Southern Cameroonians are now residing, they are prone to various diseases. However, due to the fear of detection, many fail to seek medical attention. Medecins Sans Frontieres says that there are even some cases in which people who have been shot fail to seek medical attention as they fear being detected (and probably killed) when they go out in search of help.

For CHRI, the biggest challenge pertains to funds. More and more people are

being affected by the crisis in southern Cameroon meaning they are more people in need of help. However, to effectively carry out its operations, CHRI needs more funds and it is against this reason that the organisation seeks donations from well-wishers from all over the world.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 200 000 people have been displaced in Cameroon while 21 000 have sought refuge in Nigeria since the end of last year.



Dr Denis Foretia of CHRI listening to tales of hardship from Southern Cameroons refugees in Nigeria



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Dissecting South Africa's Land Issue

By Prince Kurupati



For many years after independence in South Africa, the land issue was a debate that was only heard in academic circles (and occasionally in bar talk). However, over the past 6 months or so, the majority of the populace in South Africa, both white and black have been locked in debates over the land issue.

Just like most other African nations, the land issue in South Africa is one topic that divides opinion between races i.e. between blacks and whites. For whites in general, when it comes to the land question, maintaining the status quo is the most important thing while for blacks in general, changing the status quo is the most important thing. In essence, there is no middle ground to the land issue.

For many South Africans from all divides, their perspective on the land issue is determined first and foremost by public perception (emanating from their divide) i.e. clamouring

for the maintaining of the status quo among whites is as a result of the influence of public perception among the white community while clamouring for changing the status quo among blacks is as a result of the influence of public perception among the black community to the land issue.

From the above, we can see that the majority of South Africans both white and black argue from a position of ignorance. It is against this background that we write this article; this piece traces the history of the land issue in South Africa, how contestations over land began in the country, and proposed solutions at the start to address the land issue and how they failed. Afterwards, this piece analyses the newly proposed solution of addressing the land question i.e. expropriating land without compensation, the motivations behind this new solution and the possible ramifications if indeed the solution is implemented.

The Original Sin
Cyril Ramaphosa, the President of South Africa while addressing a breakfast meeting earlier this year stated that the raging land issue in the country did not just pop up from nowhere. Rather, the current land problems in the country are as a result of an 'original sin'.

The original sin was committed by the early settlers in South Africa who wrestled away land from the indigenous back people in the early 1900s. Soon after wrestling away the land from the indigenous people, white settlers then quickly formulated land policies which partitioned the land between the blacks and the whites and this is when the 'original sin' was committed. Disregarding the local population, white settlers apportioned themselves the majority of the fertile land taking nearly 80 percent of the land through the Natives Land Act of 1913. Through subsequent land policies, the white settler community in

South Africa kept enshrining itself as the main stockholder when it came to land.

At the attainment of independence in 1994, the majority of South Africans were optimistic that they would soon be landowners. However, the government at the time stated that it would implement a Willing Buyer Winning Seller initiative in an effort to redress the land issue. The aim was that by the end of this program, 30 percent of the land would have been redistributed to the blacks. Due to the independence euphoria in the country soon after independence, not many people were bothered by the Willing Buyer Willing Seller initiative.

5 years down the line, the Willing Buyer Willing Seller initiative had not achieved much success as only 8 percent of the land was redistributed (mostly to well-connected and top black government officials). Acknowledging that the Willing Buyer Willing

Seller had been a failure, the government crafted a new land policy titled the Settlement Land Acquisition Grant (SLAG), like its predecessor, SLAG was a failure and it was replaced by the Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) which was also a failure. In 2006, the South African government crafted the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) with the hope that it would succeed were its predecessors failed but it, like its predecessors was also a failure.

Realising that PLAS was not achieving what it was crafted to achieve, there was a growing discontentment among the black majority that the government was deliberately working to impede and redistribution. In the midst of this discontentment emerged a new player i.e. the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF).

New Player New Tactics

The Economic Freedom Fighters is a splinter political party that was founded in 2009 by Julius Malema, a former national youth chairperson in the African National Congress (ANC) the ruling party which has been in power since 1994.

The birth of the EFF was necessitated by the need to give power back to the blacks and one way of doing this being through redistributing land. The EFF by nature is a radical political party and it didn't take much time for people to notice this as the party crafted its alternative land policy which is land expropriation without compensation. The

EFF believes that white settlers violently stole land from the indigenous people and as such should not be compensated for stealing land. The EFF's alternative land policy came as a surprise to almost everyone as previous land policies crafted by the government all sought in one way or another to compensate the white farmer in case of land redistribution.

The radical approach taken by the EFF was received differently by different sections of the society. To some, it was a perfect way to redress the land issue, to some it was a necessary evil while to some it was a big no.

While dividing opinion, the EFF mainly through its leader kept on pressing and lobbying for land expropriation without compensation. The determination of the party managed to win the hearts of many people (especially in the black community) who joined the land expropriation without compensation bandwagon.

With a growing number of people in favour of the EFF alternative land policy, the pressure began to mount on the government and the ruling party to consider this new policy. It took no time before the ruling party (and subsequently the government) embraced the land expropriation without compensation proposed solution to the land issue.

With the ruling party (and the government) having embraced the land expropriation without compensation solution, the ball is now in the government's area to implement the program.

Land Expropriation without Compensation: Why the government embraced it and what benefits/risks lie

ahead

Having embraced land expropriation without compensation, the government of South Africa in the words of the President seeks to address the 'colonial injustices'. However, while the majority of South Africans warm up to the government's adoption of land expropriation without compensation, there is one question which lingers in the minds of many i.e. what is the motive behind the government's adoption of this program.

South Africans are divided into two when it comes to the motive, there are those who believe that the government is acting out of goodwill i.e. genuinely looking to redistribute land. However, there is also another section which believes that the ruling party embraced the land expropriation without compensation initiative as an election gimmick.

Among those who view the land expropriation without compensation program as an election gimmick employed by the ruling party, they are also equally convinced that the ruling party's new policy on land is a tool that was adopted as a way of countering the efforts being made by the EFF and in turn put an end to the ever-rising popularity of the EFF among the black community. 2019 elections.

Regardless of what may be the motive behind the ANC's decision to embrace and adopt the land expropriation without compensation program, the most important debate should be about the possible ramifications of this new radical land policy both to the whole of the country on a macro level and also to the individuals on a micro level.



It has become pertinently clear that our people want the constitution to be more explicit about expropriation of land without compensation, says President Ramaphosa.

One of the best ways of evaluating the possible ramifications of this new land policy is by looking at the impact that land hearings are having. The government at the start of June 2018 decided to initiate a project which sees legislator and other high ranking government officials travelling to all communities in South Africa with the aim of gauging public perception on land expropriation without compensation. From all the land hearings that have been conducted thus far, one thing has stood out i.e. divisions among people. Land expropriation without compensation divides opinion starkly and if implemented in a not-so-clever way, the tension and divisions in South Africa mainly between the whites and the blacks will be intensified.

In addition, divisions will likely emerge even among blacks only owing to the fact that many people are not in a position of knowledge when it comes to how land expropriation without compensation is going to be implemented. For many people, the mere mention of redistributing land to them means that the government will be taking land from white

farmers and distributing it to landless black people. However, this in actual effect is not the case as the proposed policy by the ANC will see the government taking the land and becoming the 'owner'. The redistribution part will come into effect in that the landless black people will be asked to 'rent' the land from the government rather than own it outright.

Furthermore, there is also the issue of native/communal land which has not been dealt with by the ANC in a clear way. The majority of South Africans living in communal areas live and farm on pieces of land that they consider their own but in actual effect belongs to the government. It's not clear if the government under the land expropriation without compensation is going to take communal land also and 'rent' it back as is to be done with large commercial farms. If the government takes this approach, its likely going to clash with South Africans living on communal land as they would be required to 'rent' the land that they previously lived on and farmed on without paying a cent.

Land expropriation

without compensation will also have a major impact (negatively) on the economic performance of the country. Changing ownership of the land is not going to be a process rather than an event therefore time would be lost which would otherwise be productive time if the status quo is maintained.

Moreover, the implementation of the new land policy is going to bring about scrutiny on the country from other nations and also international organisations. If done haphazardly or if there are instances of violence and other irregularities reported, then, it's likely that the country will face an 'international headache' that can push away investors.

However, it's not all doom and gloom as this land policy if implemented effectively can help redress the 'colonial injustices' that the government talks about and make landless black people, landowners.

Conclusively, failure or success of the land expropriation without compensation program is dependent upon its implementation.

Trump welcomes Uhuru at White House

By Samuel Ouma



President Donald Trump sits with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta in the White House

The United States President Donald Trump on Monday August 27, 2018 welcomed his Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta in White House. They discussed issues revolving around Trade, Investment and Security.

President Kenyatta left Kenya for US in August 25, 2018 accompanied by the first lady Margaret Kenyatta and other senior government officials. On arrival he addressed members of the US Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) and challenged them to take advantage of the opportunities created by his Big Four development Agenda which includes Manufacturing, food security, affordable housing and universal healthcare by

investing more in the East African country.

Mr. Kenyatta also witnessed the signing of two agreements that will see two US companies invest in Kenya. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and Kipeto Wind Energy Company signed a \$232 million deal in financing construction of a 100-megawatt grid connected wind power plant in Nairobi. The second ordeal was a \$5 million letter of commitment to expand the distribution of Network of Twiga Foods and Improve food security and agricultural wages.

Thereafter, President Kenyatta was ushered into the White House by President Trump and the first lady Melania Trump. The two then held a private talk for an hour.

Similarly Melania Trump and Margaret Kenyatta also held separate private talks.

President Trump assured Kenyatta that US will continue to work together to grow their partnership in trade, investment and security. He vowed to throw his weight behind Kenyatta's administration in fight against terrorism.

"We do a lot of tourism; we do a lot of trade and defense. And working very much in security right now," said President Trump.

On the direct flights from Nairobi to New York by Kenya Airways that are set to commence in October, they said that they will boost tourism and trade for the benefit of the two countries. They hinted at the African Growth and opportunity Act

(AGOA) as the beneficiary of the direct flights.

Before wrapping his historic visit, Kenyatta issued a stern warning to countries that have interest in trading with Africa saying it must be win-win partnership.

Speaking to BBC, the head of state lauded Africa for big step they have made in development. He reiterated that Africa is not looking to the world aid but mutually beneficial trade.

"There has been dramatic change across the African continent where people are beginning to get a better understanding of themselves, who they are and what they want to be," he said.

While addressing Voice of America news, he committed his stand in fight against terrorism. He promised not to withdraw Kenyan troops from neighbor Somalia until it regains its stability.

He also termed his meeting with President Trump a big success noting it cemented a relationship that has been strong between Kenya and US since the colonial period.

The head of state is the third African leader to hold direct talks with President Trump, the only two leaders being Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari in April this year and Egypt's President Abdel Fatah al-Sissi in April 2017.



Presidents Uhuru Kenyatta and Donald Trump at the White House with First Ladies Margaret Kenyatta and Melania Trump. Photo JACQUE MARIBE.

A UK base NGO, United Purpose is helping to alleviate the acute water crisis that has hit several communities in north/central Senegal along the Mauritanian Border

By Alpha Jallow in Linguere in North/Central Senegal



By Alpha Jallow in Linguere in North/Central Senegal

Life is horrendous for the people who live in this semi-desert zone. People here have to trek between 6 to 7km metres in search of the precious liquid (water)

Correspondent Alpha Jallow visited area and he files this report from Linguere.

Most of the communities are nomads or the traditional Fulani herdsmen. They say they are facing this problem for more than ten years now.

The head of the village Diamantine Antenne who took me on a conducted tour of his village made the revelations.

«Our main problem is water. The nearest borehole from here is ten kilometres. The village had two wells but the first one got destroy in 2014 and the other one 2015. We are appealing from the relevant authorities to help us address the water problem. We have no school or health

facilities but before u can go to school you have to get drinking water first « Mousa Demba Dia, head village of Diamanane Antenne opined.

Most of the women and elderly children here trek for several kilometers km on donkey drawn-carts to reach the nearest borehole.

Here too, only few litres

are allowed because the water has to be rationed to allow many families to get their daily supply.

«We are really suffering before we can get water to drink. We sometimes have to travel in our donkey-drawn carts for several kilometres. Sometimes we return very late in the night..Some of

our children will go to sleep hungry because we have no water to cook», Jainaba Sowe an elderly lady explained.

However in the last couple years these communities are blessed to have the intervention of a British Non-Governmental Organization called United Purpose which is running a disaster reduction programme to salvage these communities.

The NGO has been helping these communities with containers but also teaching them basic methods of hygiene. The Organization also support families with cash donations periodically to enable them buy food and other household items.

Tony Jansen is the country Director of United Purpose in Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea explained

that his organization decided to intervene in these communities due to the vulnerability of the population.

He added United Purpose whose objective is to end poverty in rural communities in Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea Bissau, has also helped farmers to acquire farming tools in a bid to boost their annual crop production.

The United Purpose boss further stated that his NGO has been giving out cash donations periodically to help poor families to access to basic house whole necessities.

Despite these communities precarious situation and it's inability to access to social amenities such as water; electricity and medical care, they are more resolved to live in unity and solidarity



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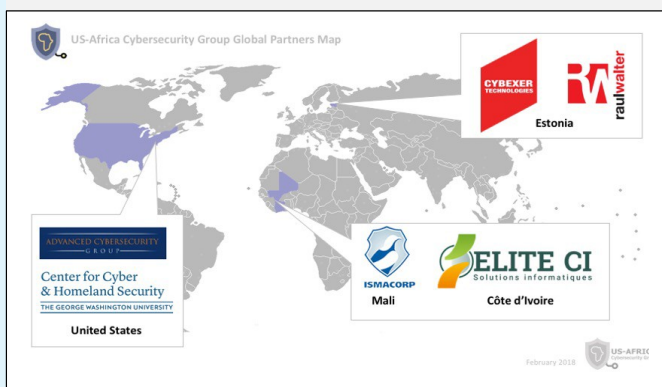
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