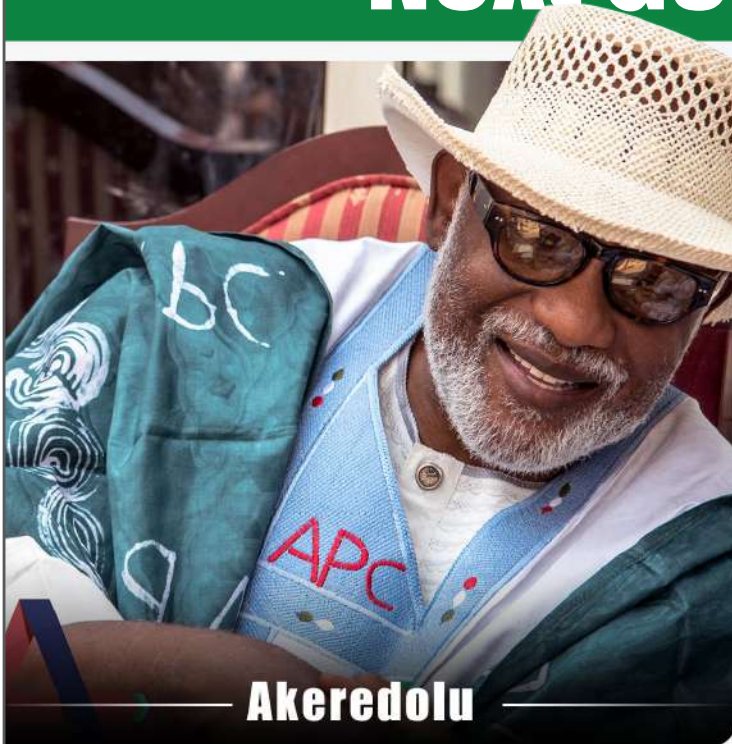


Nigeria: What Decides Ondo Next Governor?



Akeredolu



Ajayi



Jegede

- Mali: Popular Coup Defies International Condemnation
- Great Lakes States Demand Reparations from Germany & Belgium for Colonization
- Senegal: Akon On Making Wakanda Real
- Cameroon: Bridging The Language Divide with NCPBM
- Cote d'Ivoire: Ouattara Contracts Third Term Bug

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Mali and The Two African Worlds of the Led and The Leadership

By Ajong Mbatndah L

As if grappling with the ravages of COVID-19 was not enough, a military coup in Mali popped up to provide more headache for Africa. After months of protests on the leadership of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita for his poor handling of a brutal insurgency, wanton corruption, and a floundering economy, the military took matters in its own hands by seizing power.

The unbridled joy on the faces of Malians spoke volumes on the unpopularity of President Keita who was serving his second and last term. To Sidibe Djenebou, a resident of Bamako, the coup was not carried out by the soldiers, but by the Malian people.

«There was total chaos in the country, so the people cried out and raised their voices calling for the head of state Ibrahim Boubacar Keita to listen to his people. He didn't want to and so the army stepped in. I think that ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) should stay calm, it's a Malian problem, it'll be fixed internally, not externally,» another resident Madame Dicko, told the AP.

The enthusiasm of Malians for the coup was in sharp contrast to the reaction of the international community. From the Economic Community of West African States to the African Union, and the former colonial master France, the condemnation was in unison.

«I strongly condemn the forced detention of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita of Mali, the Prime Minister Boubou Cisse and other members of the Malian government, and call for their immediate release,» AU Commission Chair Moussa Faki Mahamat, said in a statement.

«I want no blood to be spilled to keep me in power,» President Keita said, «If today, certain elements of our armed forces want this to end through their intervention, do I really have a



Ajong Mbatndah L, Managing Editor

choice? I hold no hatred towards anyone, my love of my country does not allow me to, may God save us." Mr Keita added as he stepped down.

While it is understandable and important for constitutional authority to be respected, it is equally important to balance that with the legitimate concerns of the people. The contrast in the joy of Malians, and the angst of the international community amply sums up how challenging this can be.

That he left without a fight or without the kind of resistance that could lead to a bloodbath was some form of saving grace for Mr. Keita. Had he heeded to insensitive calls from some of his peers across the continent to hold on to power, or the international community for constitutional authority to be restored at all cost, there is a likelihood that Malian blood would have been shed.

The question has been repeatedly asked, what constitutes an unconstitutional take over? Should it just be limited to military coups?

What about those who rig elections with reckless abandon to eternalize themselves in power? We need not call names but look around the continent and you will see many. What about those who change term limits? Just when many thought that Africa had grown past that stage, the practice came back in full force and from the most unlikely quarters.

In Guinea, President Alpha Conde, a historic opposition figure who went through unimaginable pains in his quest for democracy shocked and disappointed many when he forcefully abrogated constitutional term limits just so he could seek a third term. Protests with humongous turnouts did not deter Conde, even when military intervention led to the death of many Guineans, all that mattered was his third term agenda, and he is at the verge of realizing it without the AU blinking.

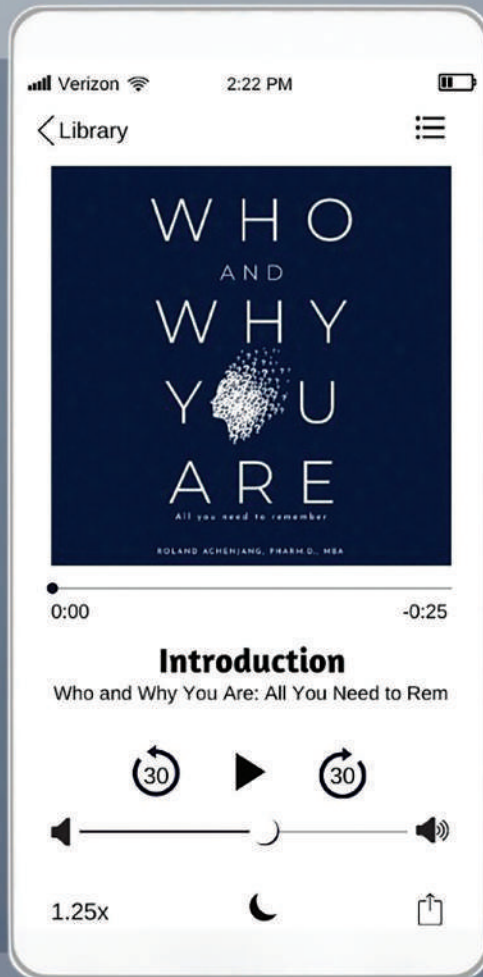
Over in Cote d'Ivoire, after indicating that he would not change the constitution to seek a third term

of office, President Alassane Ouattara made a U-turn, and tensions in the country are high with growing fears of another civil war. The AU is not saying anything, the international community is not saying anything.

To the leaders, it is about their interests and the AU has so far failed to shirk the image of a club which caters to the needs of leaders with common interests and agendas and less about the people. It is this attitude that make people jubilate about a coup in Mali, while leaders agonize in fear that it could happen to them as well. As the late USA President John Kennedy said, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable." Be it in Cameroon, in Guinea, in Ivory Coast and all other countries with flawed elections are the norm, where term limits are changed and where the will of the people is continuously thwarted, there will be a day of reckoning.

Just as we have said before, the perils of blindly entrusting the destiny of Africa just to the leaders are too many. Everyone must be a leader. In this issue of the magazine, we take a look at the great work that the Senegalese American Artist Aliaume Damala Badara Akon Thiam, better known as Akon, is doing. With multiple awards to his credit and the global fame he enjoys, Akon has maintained a surprising audacity for bring things in Africa. From solar projects that have transformed millions of lives in Africa, Akon's latest project is the construction of a multi-billion futuristic city in Senegal. The issue also profiles the upcoming Governor's race in Ondo State Nigeria, the expectations for the second term of African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina, growing calls for Belgium and Germany to financially atone for colonial sins, progress on bridging the language divide in Cameroon and more. Happy Reading!!

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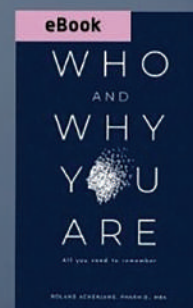
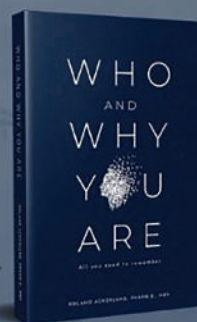
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International Community Urges Mali to Quickly Return to Civilian Rule

By Prince Kurupati

The Mali military took matters into its own hands when deposing President Boubacar Keita. After several months of protests which were supported by the military, the military on 18 August, 2020 arrested the country's President effectively setting in motion a coup. The coup was widely supported by the majority in Mali but received condemnation from the international community. With the coup having come and gone, the international community is requesting for the military to return to the barracks and leave civilians to take the echelons of power.

Speaking after the arrest of the president, Colonel Assimi Goita, the president of the National Committee for the Salvation of the People (CNSP), the military wing that oversaw the coup said, "Mali is in a situation of socio-political and security crisis. We no longer have the right to make mistakes. By making this intervention yesterday, we have put the country above (everything). Mali first."

The 75-year old former president Boubacar Keita was arrested together with his son, his Prime Minister Boubou Cisse and several other top government officials. On the same day that the President was arrested, he appeared on national television announcing that he was resigning from the post. With news having already spread that he had earlier on been arrested, many just assumed that the appearance was a forced resignation which presumably, was to give an illusion that the events which were taking place were not that of a coup but just a president who had decided to call it quits. Boubacar Keita's weary-sounding voice during the address did not help matters either. Sources close to international media outlets including the BBC confirmed that the president's resignation address was broadcasted from a room at the Kati army base, 15km from Bamako,



The military coup was embraced by many Malians.

where the President and several other government officials were being kept captive.

The alliance of opposition politicians and civil society, the M5-RFP which played a key role in organizing the protests that finally led to the fall of Boubacar Keita said that it was thrilled with the support that came from the military and fully supports the action that the military took. Following the fall of Keita, M5-RFP organized a rally for all its supporters saying the rally was basically going to be a thanksgiving rally for those who helped to 'free' Mali from the poor rule of Boubacar Keita. Keita critics say that he massively failed to deal with corruption; he mismanaged the economy and did not take decisive action after widespread reports of disputed legislative elections.

When it became apparent that the M5-RFP was receiving a lot of support, Boubacar Keita did court the services and advice of regional body, ECOWAS on how to handle the situation. However, despite concession after concession, it was difficult to find a way to please an alliance whose main goal was to see Keita resign as Mali President.

However, though ECOWAS did fail to help Boubacar Keita and the M5-RFP find common ground before the intervention of the military, the regional body still feels that it has a lot to play in the country's fortune. After the news broke out that Keita had been arrested and announced his enforced resignation, ECOWAS did send a delegation to meet the military in Mali on the way forward for the country. As the first priority, ECOWAS wants to help Mali quickly return to civilian rule. The most common position that's being touted by the regional body is for Boubacar Keita to return as the country's president to finish his presidential term. This obviously is something that's difficult if not impossible to attain considering the military, the opposition and the civil society want nothing to do with Keita. Even more worrisome is that the return of Keita won't do much to close the gaps that have been widened by the coup between the military and the executive something which will keep causing problems to the military, the executive and the general populace at large.

While the Mali military certainly does not entertain ECOWAS' position

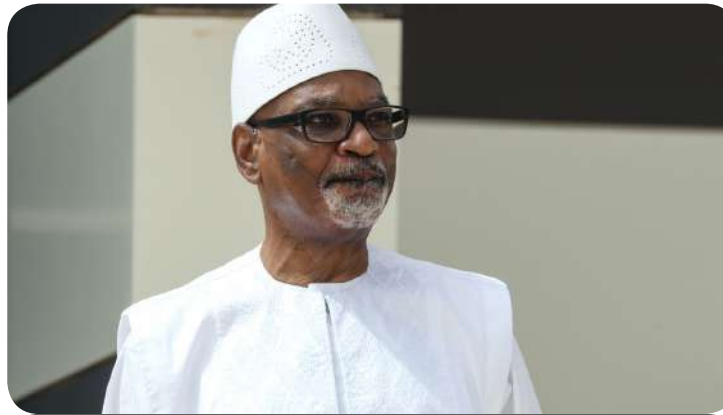
to have Boubacar Keita return to finish his term as the president, the military has however conceded to immense pressure from the regional body and released Keita to be a free man. The spokesperson of CNSP recently issued a statement saying, "President IBK is free in his movements, he's at home." The news was confirmed by a close relative of Boubacar Keita who preferred to speak on condition of anonymity. The head of the ECOWAS delegation to Mali, former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan also confirmed that he met with Boubacar Keita after his release and he seemed 'very fine'.

Disregarding the position that's being touted by ECOWAS, the Mali military says the best route for the country is to establish a transitional government with either a civilian leader or a military. The military however agree with ECOWAS that a return to constitutionalism is something of immense importance but it's not feasible to have elections at the present moment. The military reassured ECOWAS that elections will indeed be held but within a 'reasonable' amount of time. In the negotiations with the ECOWAS delegation, CNSP said that it wants

the transitional government to be in place for a period of three years. ECOWAS has refused this position stating a transitional government can only be in place for a maximum of one year.

In an interview of France 24, the junta spokesman Col Ismael Wague said, "We are going to set in place a transitional council, with a transitional president who is going to be either military or civilian... We are in contact with civil society, opposition parties, the majority, everyone, to try to set the transition in place."

With the Mali military and the ECOWAS delegation working to find a common ground, France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian in an interview with RTL radio said the Mali coup will not stop French



President Boubacar Keita was forced to resign. Photo credit AFP.

military operations against rebels active in central and northern regions, but urged a swift transition of power. Mali has several jihadi groups in its northern deserts and there are fears they could take advantage of the coup. After the previous military

intervention in 2012, the rebels did take advantage of the coup to further their territorial strongholds.

Since the coup, there has been increased military presence in most cities and towns in the country particularly outside government

ministries. However, all commercial outlets remain open.

In response to the coup, the continental body, the African Union suspended Mali saying coups were "something of the past which we cannot accept anymore." The body will only accept Mali back after a return to constitutionalism.

The European Union after the Mali coup said it has suspended its training missions in Mali. The EU has two missions training Mali's army and police. In a statement, the EU said it's suspending the missions as they are designed to support "the legitimate national authorities." EU however confirmed that the suspension is just temporary until a return to constitutionalism is achieved.

Cote d'Ivoire: Party Chooses 78-Year-Old Ouattara to Run for Re-election

By Prince Kurupati

In 2016, Ivory Coast passed a constitutional clause which allowed a President to run for three terms. Using that constitutional clause, the incumbent Ivory Coast president has been endorsed by his party Houphouetist Rally for Democracy and Peace (RHDP) to seek re-election for a third term in the October, 2020 elections.

Alassane Ouattara the incumbent President first took office in 2011. However, his ascension to power was marred with high levels of violence as his predecessor Laurent Gbagbo refused to leave office even when the electoral body had officially announced that he had lost the election. Estimates are that at least 1000 lost their lives during the post-electoral violence witnessed in the country in 2011.

Following intense pressure from the international community, Gbagbo eventually vacated the presidential office leaving it to Ouattara. Fair to say, Ouattara since his ascension to power has done remarkably well more so when it comes to the economic sector. This is largely the reason why he won with a landslide margin in the 2015 presidential election garnering



Ouattara is smiling but many Ivoirians are fuming that he reneged on his promise not to seek a third term.

84% of the votes cast. In his second term, Ouattara continued the same trend prioritizing Ivory Coast's economy.

Large infrastructural projects are mushrooming in the country; Abidjan has re-established itself as a major investment hub for Francophone Africa while the annual GDP growth has steadily and consistently exceeded 7% each year since 2012. All these made possible thanks to Ouattara's incredible economic trajectory.

Ivory Coast's good economic fortunes made some political analysts to conclude that Ouattara's party would romp to victory once again in the October 2020 elections. However, for long periods up until the untimely death of the Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly, many believed that the man who would be on the ballot for RHDP would be Amadou Gon Coulibaly. In fact, Ouattara himself had made it crystal clear that he would not run for re-election but

would like the Prime Minister to run for President.

The death of the Prime Minister in July of this year changed everything as a new name had to be chosen as RHDP's presidential candidate. The chosen name by RHDP was none other than that of Alassane Ouattara, the same man who was on the ballot paper in the 2010 and 2015 elections.

Speaking after his official nomination, Ouattara said that it was hard for him to go back on the

decision he had made earlier on (not to run for re-election) but the faith that the party placed in him changed his mind. "Going back on my decision was not easy...There is nothing preventing me from standing...I did not have the right to place my personal project above the urgent situation in which the country finds itself."

It was not everyone who welcomed the news however. Several civil society and opposition groups said they were angered with the move. Some opposition youths actually took to the streets to express their dismay at the news that Ouattara was seeking re-election for a third time. The general consensus amongst the critics is that Ouattara's bid for re-election for a third term is unconstitutional. They argue that a third term for Ouattara is tantamount to a 'coup'.

In 2016, Ivory Coast passed a new Constitution. However, there is no legislation or any piece that explicitly states when the new Constitution takes effect. According to Ouattara's party, the new Constitution is already in effect and as such, it means that Ouattara under the new Constitution can run for another term as the country now has a new Constitution. However, the opposition and civil



Still in exile after been acquitted at the ICC, former President Laurent Gbagbo has not said his last word on the elections

society argue that the provisions of the New Constitution have not as yet taken effect.

The 2020 election is set to be highly competitive. However, one name that will be definitely missing from the ballot paper is that of former president Laurent Gbagbo. The Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) banned Gbagbo from contesting the election. This despite the fact that he was conditionally freed by the International Criminal Court in the Hague after he was cleared last year

of crimes against humanity over the 2010 election unrest. Gbagbo's party the Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) had already endorsed Gbagbo to run for re-election.

Reports say that at least six people have died and 100 others have been injured in the violence which ensued after the news that Ouattara was running for re-election. Reports also state that several coaches, the central market and about 30 shops were set ablaze. AFP reports that "There are people wounded. The small bus

station, bars and shops have been set on fire and looted...young people close to the opposition burned tires and set up barricades in different parts of town."

The party spokesman for Ouattara's party Mamadou Toure said that "We remain focused on the election, with a record to defend and a project to propose to Ivoirians." He went on to state that the street demonstrations against Ouattara's candidacy were a 'dismal failure'.

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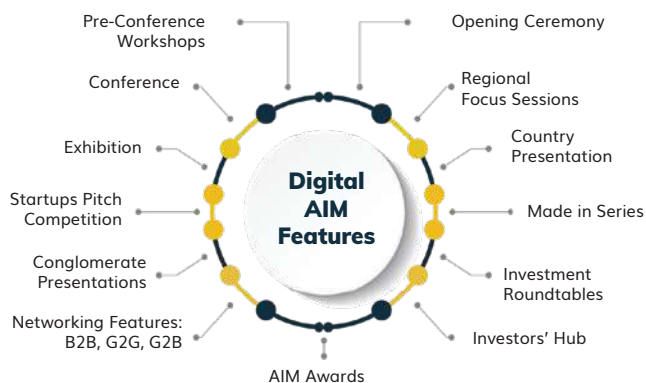
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Nigeria: What Decides Ondo Next Governor

By Michael Adeboboye

Ondo state is one of the states in Nigeria the Independent National Electoral Commission would be conducting staggered election. The election holds October 10. Michael Adeboboye pictures the election scenario, political parties' strength, candidates and electorates behavior pattern in the state.

Ondo State, one of the states in the south west geopolitical region in Nigeria is witnessing governorship election in October 10 as announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Although a staggered election birthed by court-proven electoral manipulation in 2007, the oil producing state people are sophisticated when it comes to electing their leaders, especially the governor who will manage their commonwealth for four years. Unlike some other states in the political zone largely dominated by Yoruba speaking tribe, the sunshine state (Ondo) seems to have been clothed with ray too hot to capture in the typhoon of god-fatherism; phenomenon where one money bag decides the fate of entire state by appointing his stooge and enthrone him against the will of the people. Election in such scenario is nothing but a mere formality. Since 1999 when Nigeria returned from military rule to democracy, daring Ondo electorates' political sagacity is like a dangerous voyage into perilous abyss.

The immediate past governor of the state, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko was a product of rule of law. After a prolonged legal battle over the authentic winner of the 2007 governorship election in the state in 2007, the court of Appeal sitting in Benin City, Edo state gave the judgment in Mimiko's favour in February 23, 2009. His predecessor, Late Dr. Olusegun Agagu who was sacked by the Appeal Court was a candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP). Mimiko was the candidate of the Labour party (LP). That scenario fell off the state from the pedestal of general elections timetable in the country. Mimiko governed the state between 2009 and 2017, making him the first governor to have been on the governorship seat for a complete eight years. Mimiko later return to the PDP in controversial manner.

In 2016, Rotimi Akeredolu and Eytayo Jegede, both Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) slugged it out for the number one position of the state. Akeredolu contested on

the platform of the All Progressive Congress (APC), while Jegede was the PDP's flag bearer. Akeredolu emerged the winner of the election with a total of 224,842 votes, Jegede came second with 150,380 votes while Bar. Olusola Oke, another senior legal practitioner came third with 126,889 votes.

From 1999 till date, four different political parties have governed the state at different times. Late Adebayo Adefarati was elected on the platform of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) Agagu (PDP), Mimiko (LP) and presently, Akeredolu (APC). For the 2020 governorship election the state, INEC has fixed October 10 and announced seventeen political parties that would participate. Following the political trend, it appears only three political parties are to watch. The APC once again presented its 2016 candidate for the election. Also, Jegede who was the PDP's candidate in 2016 has won the ticket once again. The deputy governor of the state Agbola Ajayi is the candidate of the Zenith Labour Party, (ZLP). The election is around the corner and political intrigues are not in short supply. Meanwhile, the question agitating the minds of political pundits is what would influence the decision of the electorate?

According to Hon. Tony Ala who is a PDP leader in the state, he said the PDP as a political party has a track record of achievements that would influence the electorate in the election to vote for its candidate, Jegede as the next governor of the state. He said Jegede emerged the candidate of the PDP through a free and fair primary election, adding that when candidate of political party emerged through a transparent party primary, that would influence the decision of the electorates. He said the candidate of his party (Jegede) is a gentleman politician with credibility and personality that permeated all the nooks and crannies of the state.

"Eytayo Jegede emerged as the candidate of PDP in a free and fair party primary. None of the aspirants who contested for the party's ticket alongside him alleged foul play in his favour. A free and fair primary election which the winner emerged through a transparent party primary attracts the interest of the electorate, even though they are not members of the political party or delegates, they monitor the process. PDP has governed the state before and our party



Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, incumbent governor, Ondo State and candidate of the APC for October 10, 2020 governorship election.



Eytayo Jegede, SAN, Ondo PDP Governorship candidate, October 10, 2020 election.



Gbenga Elegbeleye, APC leader and former Governorship aspirant in Ondo



Dr Goodluck Jonathan former President Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Late Adebayo Adefarati former Governor Ondo State 1999 to 2003.



Prince Tony Ala, PDP leader in Ondo.



Agboola Ajayi, Ondo Deputy Governor and candidate of the Ondo ZLP, October 10, 2020 election.



President Muhammadu Buhari.

has track record of unprecedented achievements to the benefit of the citizens. This is one of the many reasons Ondo State electorates have pressed their interest in the party for the October 10 governorship election. The people cannot be deceived. They know the governments of the PDP established it □ s focus on people □ oriented projects. They know the party cares for the artisans, technicians, youths, market women, mothers and their children. The score card is there. They are saying it themselves, not achievement they hear only in the media. They all know the PDP run compassionate government. We are not telling all these to them. They are giving us their testimonies.

“The benefit of the PDP touched their lives directly. Talk about education, health care infrastructure, social welfare and all other responsibility of a good government, our party is not comparable to deceptive government. You cannot just continue to fool the people. The people of the state are the one reminding us of our numerous achievements. Everywhere we go, they said our party gave their children education. They said their children received free medical services during our government. The father said their pregnant wives were taking care at the mother and child hospital. They tell us about free surgery, regular supply of drugs, free school shuttle and outstanding facilities. The people of the riverside know that the PDP opened their roads to the land and regularly clear the waterways. They know their children had access to very low tuition fee in the higher institution of learning. PDP □ s achievement is too large to compare to the present administration. They tell us all those projects are gone now. The people are asking question which the APC government fails to give any convincing answer. Insecurity, corruption, tribal and religious sentiments are glaring hallmarks of the APC government in Nigerian. Our people are saying it is enough. Our candidate, Eytayo Jegede, SAN is the most acceptable by the electorate. He is representing the PDP; political party which is the choice of Ondo State comes October 10”

In an interview with journalists (not this

magazine), a governorship aspirant in 2016 who is leader in the APC, Hon. Gbenga Elebgeleye said Akeredolu has performed creditably well “I am from Ikare and if you go to my hometown, you will see the dualisation and rehabilitation of the roads. What the people desire is good governance. It does not matter who does it. I have just told you how the governor has performed in my part of the state. The projects are physical and visible. It is not something you will require binoculars to see. Akeredolu is giving good governance. In politics, opponent must say something to be relevant. I think the issue of Ondo state governor should be based on quality.

“Go and look at the Benin-Ore road and see a first class flyover bridge, first of its kind in the state built by Akeredolu. See the industrial park in Ore area as well as the vehicle Assembly Plant. Everybody knows that Akeredolu has improved road network in Ondo State. What do people want really? Quality service! People say Akeredolu is not a political person. Do we need a super politician as governor or performer?

“We have seen super “politician” and that is not the kind of politician Ondo needs. We need a super administrator and that is what we have in Akeredolu”

“Indeed, out of all the top three political parties to be watched in October, the PDP had governed the state and the APC is the incumbent, thus the claim to have surpassed one another in respect to achievements by both is not out of place. However, the veracity rests in individual citizen perspective. And would that even be a major factor that would influence the decision of the electorates? Sadly, Nigerians political endorsement is garnished with don’t “shit” where you “eat” syndrome.

Apparently, Ondo electorate’s behaviour pictures can be glimpse in the 2015 and 2019 elections. Mimiko was the incumbent governor in 2015. And despite that he was the southwest coordinator for the re-election of the then president, Goodluck Jonathan who was seeking re-election on the platform of the PDP, the electorates voted against the PDP. The incumbent president



**Dr Olusegun Agagu ,Governor Ondo State
2003 to 2009.**



**Dr Olusegun Mimiko ,Governor Ondo State 2016
to 2019.**

Muhammadu Buhari of the APC won in the state. Same scenario repeated in 2019 where Presidential candidate of the PDP, Atiku Abubakar won in Ondo state despite having Akeredolu of the APC as

incumbent. Will power of incumbency and federal might decide who becomes the next governors of Ondo State? Ajayi the deputy governor whose political

ambition led to resigning his membership of the APC, contested in PDP's party primarily but lost to Jegede. His popularity cannot be cut down with razor blame. Though a third force on the platform of the ZLP, he is a politician with wide influence. He was a chairman of Ese- Odo Local government area of the state, Former House of Representatives member and the deputy governor who survived impeachment Tsunami of the APC even after leaving the party for another political party to contest.

For now, the three top contenders are engaging in rigorous campaign ahead of the election but the fate of who eventually becomes the next governor shall be found in the electorates thumb at the poll.

Tanzania: Magufuli vs Tundu Lissu in Battle Royale For Presidency

By Amos Fofung



John Magufuli's first term in office has left many with mix reactions .Photo issafrica.org

Tanzanian President John Pombe Magufuli will face 14 challengers in presidential elections scheduled for this October, the elections board announced. The presidential and parliamentary elections are scheduled for October 28.

John Magufuli is seeking a second and final five-year term in office in October, but he faces strong competition from the opposition who are said to be considering a coalition to kick him out.

His main challengers are likely to be Tundu Lissu, who returned to Tanzania last month after spending

nearly three years in Belgium for treatment after he was shot during an assassination attempt, and ex-foreign minister Bernard Membe, who was expelled from the governing Chama Cha Mapinduzi party in February.

Tundu Lissu returned to Tanzania last month after spending nearly three years in Belgium for treatment after he was shot during an assassination attempt. Local media reports that, in September of 2017, he was shot 16 times while returning from a parliamentary session.

Magufuli's party has governed Tanzania since independence in 1961. He swept to power in 2015

promising to end corruption and expand infrastructure. But his tough governing style has cemented his nickname - the Bulldozer - originally bestowed on him during his time as public works minister.

Rights groups and the opposition have accused Magufuli of increasing repression ahead of the polls and intimidation of political rivals and the press, accusations the administration denies.

Tundu, 52, and a human-rights lawyer will run against John Magufuli, who's first five years in power has according to critics been marred by a crackdown on civil liberties and

political dissent.

Lissu will be running on the ticket of the opposition Chadema party after beating two other contestants in a landslide victory. His greatest challenge will be to unit the opposition if he wants to get Magufuli out of office who pledged peaceful and credible elections.

Opposition leaders say the deck is heavily stacked against them because of the absence of an independent electoral body and the possibility that international observers will not oversee the polls amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Why Tundu Lissu is such a threat to Magufuli's presidency

After his assassination attempt in September 2017 in Dodoma, the administrative capital of Tanzania, Tundu fled the country and had more than 20 surgeries in Belgium. Before he left Belgium, Lissu told French newswire AFP that he was going to try and fight for the presidency of Tanzania.

Lissu made a name for himself in the year before he was shot, as he was arrested eight times, including two weeks before the assassination attempt. He had been charged with

incitement, among other charges.

«Whether we are going to have free and fair elections, that is not the question, we don't expect that. The issue is ... are we going to have our lives by the end of the electoral process...The biggest thing has been the untold suffering. Killings of political leaders, attacks on political leaders, abductions, disappearances, torture, illegal prosecution of opposition leaders and activists in courts of law, with trumped-up charges,» he said.

Despite the support behind him, it will require a united opposition to



Firebrand politician Tundu Lissu was greeted by thousands as he returned to Dar Es Salaam on July 27.

unseat the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party that has been ruling since independence.

Although praised for its economic reforms and its fight against corruption, Magufuli has come under fire both within the country and outside it for his crackdown on the press, as well as the arrests of opposition members. He has also refused to report any cases of Covid-19 since May, saying that Tanzania is not in the throes of the epidemic like the rest of the world.

Nigerian :Growing Calls For Buhari To Take Back Bakassi Peninsula From Cameroon

By Amos Fofung

Less than a month after a video of Femi Fani-Kayode Nigerian politician cum former Minister and Special Assistant to President Olusegun Obasanjo went viral across social media platform were he could be heard indicting Cameroon for not respecting certain provisions of the Green-Tree Accord which ceded the oil rich Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon, a pressure group is mounting pressure on Abuja to reclaim the once disputed territory.

Save Nigeria Movement (SNM), called on President Muhammadu Buhari, to set up a judicial commission of inquiry to probe the circumstances that led to the decision of ceding the oil rich Bakassi peninsula to Cameroun.

Note that a majority of Nigerians never accepted the 2002 International Court of Justice ruling which awarded the territory to Cameroon. The Nigerian senate in November 2007 voted to void the agreement that had ceded the Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon. However, this did not affect the ceding of the peninsula.

Bakassi Peninsula harbors substantial quantity of oil/gas reserves which have since the early 90s triggered mounting hostilities and military confrontations between Cameroon and Nigeria.

In 1993 Nigerian troops occupied



UN SG Kofi Annan , Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, and Paul Biya of Cameroon at the signature of accords ceding the Bakassi Peninsular to Cameroon. UN Photo Eskinder Debebe

the Bakassi Peninsula. In 1994, after serious incidents of border incursions that provoked shooting, and after many casualties and deaths of soldiers had been recorded on both sides, Cameroon submitted its entire set of border-related disputes with Nigeria to the International Court of Justice at The Hague for adjudication. After examining the case for eight years, the World Court ruled that Cameroon is the rightful owner of the oil-rich

Peninsula, basing its argument on the 1913 Anglo-German Treaty which traced the borders between the two colonial powers.

Following intensive diplomatic activities culminating in the 12 June 2006 Green-tree Agreement brokered by the United Nations and witnessed by four world powers – Britain, France, Germany and the United States – Nigeria eventually agreed to unconditionally hand over the oil-rich

Peninsula to Cameroon. On 14 August 2006 Nigeria effectively pulled out its military and the Cameroonian flag was hoisted. Two years later, 14 August 2008, the remaining Nigerian administration and police left the Peninsula in what was celebrated as one of the most peaceful conflict resulted settlements.

However, fresh troubles have for years now being steaming over the area with some Nigerian politicians

accusing Cameroon of mistreating its citizens residing there and not respecting the ceding agreement.

In his viral video, the former minister said the contribution it was agreed was to accrue from crude oil exploited in the area. Fani-Kayode who also served as Minister of Culture and Tourism and later as Aviation Minister from 2006 to 2007 accused Cameroonian authorities of not granting the people of Bakassi their fundamental right to self-determination which is part of the Greentree accord.

"I am telling you as at today, the National Assembly did not ratify this move, the ceding of our territory. The next three compensations have not been paid. It was agreed that 500million naira would be paid per month as the consequence of the oil wealth that will go to Cameroon... and finally and most importantly, the aspect of self-determination, that is a plebiscite in a referendum ought to have been conducted," the former minister and influential politician said.

He explained that it was agreed that a plebiscite will be conducted as part of the conditions. "It was never done. On those basis, I say it again, loud and clear that if I were in president Buhari's shoes; If I was president of this country today, my priority today will be to reunite Nigeria by sending our forces into that place and taking it back, and holding it and telling the Cameroonians, this was not done



Since 2016, I have been making several representations to the President pleading that this unholy pain of the people of Cross River should be reviewed, says Governor Ben Ayade

lawfully, this was not done in the right way and if you really want it, then the government really has to do the right thing" the politician stated.

He was categorical that Cameroon has to "go to the national assembly, pay the necessary compensation to the people and let there be a referendum".

Time, Fani-Kayode said "is not an issue here, an injustice done at that time, is an injustice that remains still today and that injustice was meted on you, the people who come from here (Cross river state) and your leaders who have been fighting so hard for your course".

He said it was "unfortunate that not too many people have been listening in this country and not only am I addressing the government of the Nigerian people, but also the

international community-that you can't just do this sort of thing to us and expect us to fold our arms and keep quiet".

"Frankly, I will make this point, if this doesn't happen today, a time is coming when a Nigerian president will rise up in this country and he will take that territory back in order to restore the honor and dignity of the people of Cross River State and the people of the Bakassi and Nigeria itself," the Nigerian statesman noted.

Meanwhile speaking during the recent visit, Nigeria's Cross River State governor, Prof Ben Ayade said: "I want to thank Fani-Kayode. Even though not from Cross River State, he has a deep knowledge of the pain and suffering of the people of Cross River state".

The governor said "I am really

shocked that this country is watching what is happening to this state. We are not part of the 13% derivation. We are like a weeping child in The Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC. We have lost our oil wells. The 500 million per month as agreed is not coming. The 15 billion naira every two years not coming ...," he lamented.

According to Ayade, "since 2016, I have been making several representations to the President pleading that this unholy pain of the people of Cross River should be reviewed".

No official statement from Abuja or Yaounde has being made concerning claims of the agreement violations. On several occasion, the Nigerian government has said it will not try to reclaim Bakassi from Cameroon.

In 2012 Nigerian Attorney General Mohammed Bello Adoke said the government had decided to drop the matter after the Senate pressed for a revisit the handover ruling.

"The Federal Government is of the informed view that with less than two days to the period when the revision will be statute-barred, it would be impossible for Nigeria to satisfy the requirements...the government has therefore decided that it will not be in the national interest to apply for revision of the 2002 ICJ judgment," the Attorney General said.

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Africa's Great Lakes States Demand Reparations from Germany and Belgium for Colonization

By Jean-Pierre Afadhali

Nearly 60 years after Independence- Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo are demanding reparations from German and Belgium, their former colonizers over the brutal colonial past that also sparked post-independence conflicts in the Great Lakes of Africa.

The former colonies are now demanding financial reparations and repatriation of cultural property looted by European countries that colonized Africa in the 19th century, a period that was characterized by dehumanization of locals, divide and rule policies and plundering of cultural artifacts as well as natural resources.

Burundi was first colonized by German in 1880 in what was then called 'German East Africa' that included Rwanda and Tanzania until the end of World War I. After the First World War the defeated Germany was stripped of its colonies in favor of Belgium that ruled Rwanda, Burundi and DR Congo until 1962. In 2018, the Burundian Senate set up a commission of historians and anthropologists to examine the impact of colonialism in the Great Lakes country.

Gitega appears to be more pragmatic in reparations issue by setting a price. The Great Lakes country has recently demanded \$ 43 billion from Germany for colonial crimes. The amount was calculated by referring to a fine that was imposed on the Burundian king by the Germans in 1903, which forced him to hand over 424 cows for resisting German rule.

According to Burundi's special commission on the colonial past, the current value of those cows would be \$43 billion. There are reports that German is not willing to pay the price amid similar reparation request from Namibia its former Southern African colony over genocide crimes.

Aloys Batunganayo, a Burundian



Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye. His government is asking for \$ 43 billion from Germany for colonial crimes Photo. Tchandrou Nitanga ,AFP via Getty Images

Historian and doctoral researcher from Lausanne University said that current Burundian political challenges are linked to Belgium's colonial past in a decree by Belgian King Albert I that classified the population in three ethnic groups.

"It is this decree that has led to conflicts in Burundi and the region because some of the population was excluded from the ruling class because of the decree," Dr Batunganayo was quoted as saying.

Since its independence in 1962, the East African country has experienced ethnic conflicts that led to large scale civil war in 90s and various massacres.

Similarly, neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has also called for reparations after the Belgian King Philippe expressed "deepest regrets" over his nation brutal colonial legacy in the central African nation. King Philippe expressed shock on 30 July 2020, the Independence Day in DRC.

According to Brussels' media

reports, King Phillippe is the first reigning Belgian Monarch to qualify as "acts of violence and cruelty" committed under Belgian colonial past led by King Leopold II in current DRC. His majesty Philippe also expressed sympathy with Kinshasa over "suffering and humiliation" experienced by Congolese people under colonization.

However, Kinshasa's officials say this is not enough and are now calling for compensation over brutal colonial past. Mr. Andre Lite, Minister of Human Rights was quick to react on Belgian King's comments saying that Brussels should compensate the victims of colonization.

In an interview with a local news website '7 Sur 7 CD', Lite said that the regrets about abuses of human rights by some Belgium officials about their country's colonialism are not enough. «The regrets of certain Belgian officials will never be enough in the face of their obligation to grant reparations to the victims of colonization and their relatives. It

is contradictory or illogical to claim to be part of the respectful state and pretend not to know anything about serious crimes that were committed in the past,» the minister of Human Rights was quoted as saying.

According to Historians, many well-documented crimes were committed in 'Congo Free State', current DR Congo, the then colony under the personal rule of Belgian King Leopold II. One of the serious crimes committed under Belgium colonization was called "red rubber system"- a forced labour created to maximize the collection and export of rubbers. Workers who refused to supply their labour were coerced with «constraint and repression».

Meanwhile, Belgium has set up a commission to examine the Belgium colonial past in DR Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. Rwandan parliament welcomed the commission but denounced one of its members without mentioning name who it called a genocide "denier".

While the increasing reparations

calls from African countries to former colonizers has attracted interests from activists, media across Africa and scholars around the whole. In the wake of the killing of George Floyd in the USA; Anna Kirstine Schirrer, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University wrote in her recent paper titled "On reparations for Slavery and Colonialism" that neither reparative logic nor appeals for mass reparations are new.

"What is new, however, is the conversation about material reparations occurring within governmental and international organizations, and the proliferation of various reparative rationales across multiple scales." The scholar wrote in an article published in June.



King Philippe and Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi in 2019. The Belgium monarch has referred to the colonial past as cruel and violent . photo credit Belga

African Union Nothing But A 'Gentleman's Club' - Malema

By Prince Kurupati

"They (AU) don't protect the interests of their people. It's a club. It's a gentleman's club" - Malema

Outspoken South African politician Julius Malema has lambasted the African Union (AU) for been nothing but a Gentleman's Club. Malema made the remarks in an interview soon after delivering the EFF's 7th Anniversary Virtual Address. The EFF (Economic Freedom Fighters) is one of the biggest opposition parties in South Africa.

Malema made the remarks after he was asked questions about the ongoing human rights crisis in neighboring Zimbabwe. Asked on the role that the regional body SADC or the continental body, the AU could take to bring the crisis to an end, Malema said there isn't much to expect from the two groups as the two groups are just composed of old men with nothing but their own interests to protect. He further went on to state that the AU was just a Gentleman's Club with no capability whatsoever to address any problems bedeviling the ordinary African man.

This is not the first time that Malema has criticized the AU. In



The AU does not have the interest of Africans at heart , says EFF leader Julius Malema.

2019, the EFF President made similar remarks when the former Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe passed away. Soon after the passing of Mugabe, a power tussle between his widow Grace Mugabe and the incumbent Zimbabwean president Emmerson Mnangagwa ensued over whether Mugabe should be buried at the national Heroes Acre where liberation heroes are buried or at his rural home. Mugabe's widow

wanted his husband to be buried at his rural home in Zvimba while Mnangagwa wanted Mugabe to be buried at the national Heroes Acre.

At the height of the tussle, Malema paid a visit to Grace Mugabe at her Blue Roof Mansion in Borrowdale, Harare to pay his last respects. After a meeting with Grace Mugabe and his family, Malema addressed the media saying the incumbent president Mnangagwa had no right to have

a say on where Mugabe was to be buried. He said that Mnangagwa had 'tormented' Mugabe to the last day and as such he wasn't supposed to ride behind the late former President Robert Mugabe's legacy.

In his words, Malema said, "We are here to tell her (former First Lady Grace Mugabe) in person that we are very proud of her and she serves as an inspiration to a lot of us and that she must protect ex-President Mugabe's

legacy with everything against any form of opportunism which will want to ride behind the legacy of President Mugabe even when they tormented him to the last day."

During the same address, he also took time to lambast both the AU and SADC saying they failed to condemn a coup which led to the fall of Mugabe. "These types of intervention, if they are allowed, they may become an unacceptable phenomenon for the region of SADC. We shouldn't allow a situation where the military interferes with political affairs."

Malema concluded by stating that "There is no such thing (as) SADC, there is no such thing. AU, there is no such thing. It's a group of old people who protect each other. They don't protect the interests of their people. It's a club. It's a gentleman's club... They don't care; they don't call each other out. They are unable to say you are wrong here, you are wrong here, therefore, this is how we are able to



Malema is known for his fierce criticism of the ANC leadership in South Africa.

fix it."

After Malema's statement, many Africans went on various social media platforms to support his views. The general consensus from those who aired their views on Twitter was that the AU has been found wanting a number of times. Most notably, many highlighted the invasion of Libya by the United States, Britain and France. Many others also stressed

that the continent has been bedeviled by highly contentious elections but often, the AU simply endorses them if the incumbent wins and refuses to act if post-electoral violence emerges.

SADC also received its fair share of criticism. Most notably, many were amused that despite reports of human rights violations in Zimbabwe targeting almost every critic of the government from the journalists,

opposition members, civic society to the church, SADC did not even put Zimbabwe on the Agenda in its recent virtual SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government and Council of Ministers Meeting.

To Malema, the only way forward for AU as a body is if the youth take charge. Speaking on the AU, Malema said, "AU has a plan called 2063, and those people won't be there in 2063. They won't take responsibility. We the youths must stop suffering from political apathy and take the future into our own hands...We know that If we say 2063 now and we fail, we will be held accountable in 2063 because we will still be there. But our leaders won't be there at that time. Young people must start reawakening themselves and take politics seriously. When it comes to voting, they don't vote. When it comes to political participation, they don't participate."

Cameroonians: The Daunting Task of Bridging The Language Divide -NCPBM shifts gears from monitoring to evaluation

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

Mwalimu George Ngwane, a member of the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism, - NCPBM, has said it is time to shun the indiscriminate use of country's two official languages.

The Pan Africanist, and writer, was speaking to the national station CRTV on the programme, Cameroon Calling on August 30. He and a team from the Bilingualism commission had ended a one-week follow-up and evaluation exercise to some Ministries in Cameroon's capital Yaounde.

Cameroon's constitution makes provision for the production of documents, or materials in both of the country's official languages, English and French but the applicability is, however, an issue. Times without number, documents from various Ministries around the country negate this rule, producing documents just in French for the consumption of individuals who are English-inclined. This is one of the reasons for the



There are ministries that have been able to actually get up to about 6 percent of the recommendations that were made in 2017,says Mwalimu Ngwane.

prolonged Anglophone crisis in the country's North West and South West regions.

According to George Ngwane, what needs to change now is for people to have a sense of acceptance, a sense of tolerance and keep away the whole

idea of language discrimination.

Journalist: What was the main purpose of the field mission of the commission?

George Ngwane: It was for us to follow-up and evaluate the state of

bilingualism in terms of its effective practice within the ministries. But you remember this follow up and evaluation comes up at a time when the law of 24 December 2019 that was promulgated by the President of the country that came into force and so it was important for us to shed light about this law and share experiences with these new ministries. I want to also draw to your attention that one ministry actually came up after we had done the visit - which is the ministry of Decentralization and Local Development, which also needed to have some kind of assessment on how Bilingualism is practised within them.

In a nutshell, our task was to see after the 2017 mission what has been done in terms of the recommendations we made and the new recommendation we have proposed to the Ministries that we visited.

Journalist: What did you find out from the field?



The Commission led by former Prime Minister Peter Mafany Musonge has been hard at work.

George Ngwane: I must say that we had mixed results in the ministries. There are ministries that have been able to actually get up to about 60% of the recommendations that were made in 2017 and there are other ministries that are a little bit resistant – they have not been able to come up with a full program. For example, there are ministries that up to now have not been able to institute Bilingualism Day. This day is important because it gives the latitude for Ministries to do an internal evaluation of their bilingualism policy.

We also found that some of them do not understand that the focus of the two official languages is on the users. It is important to start understanding that users have a choice in how they are going to be served in the Ministries and how they are going to respond.

We also had the feeling that administrative documents, not only in the ministries but also in the regional structures should be able to reflect the fact that we are a bilingual country. These are some of the challenges we met in some of the ministries but overall I will say that about 60% of the Ministries have our bilingualism policies put in place.

Journalist: This means that after the 2017 mission, there was virtually nothing the commission could do to ensure that bilingualism is effectively practised everywhere.

George Ngwane: We went

from monitoring to evaluation. Therefore we needed to use the recommendations that were made in 2017 as a yardstick to find out exactly how far they had gone. When I say 60%, which does not give them a complete pass mark because we have 40% that is so crucial in terms of how bilingualism should be an effective practice. There was a need for this evaluation, and it has to go on – it is a permanent process. We need to remind them. For example; one of the ministries that have managed to do well because they have been able to put things in English and French.

We had to move through to the receptionist and others to find out if they are bilingual. These are the people who serve as an interface between the Ministry and the public.

We found that the Ministers are able to do code-switching in their speeches. We found Ministers that are able to speak English and French paragraph by paragraph. That was a far cry in yesteryears as compared to the previous years when it had been all French but I am not saying it has been a bed of roses.

Journalist: When you say that some Ministries are lying low, don't you think they consider the work done by your commission as a mere formality?

George Ngwane: I don't think they should actually think so. The National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism is a watchdog. The kind of watchdog policy it does is one

that should be very permanent. I think some of them may lie on their laureates because they still don't know about the sanctions that could be meted on them.

We in the commission and for someone like me who has studied a lot of language commissions, I will tell you sanctions are not a priority to the commission. It is incentives that fall as a form of sanctions because when you're incentivized, the other person who is already facing self-sections and so if ministries that lie on their laureates think they can do business as usual when they are actually making a big mistake.

I will tell you that that the National Commission is already working on the possibility of coming out with the best Ministries with the best practice in Bilingualism. We are thinking of having what they call imperative appointments – Imperative appointments in bilingualism means you are able to apply for a post only when you have a bilingual proficiency.

We are thinking of instituting what is called a bilingual bonus which means stipends; allowances are given to you on the basis of your mastery but this is at the level of individual bilingualism and what I think is more challenging is at the level of institutional bilingualism and that is why we have to visit the ministries as often as we can.

Journalist: Following the Promulgation of the law on official languages, what is going

to change as far as the practice of bilingualism is concerned?

George Ngwane: I think the 30 sections are very important but some are very key. When you look at section 2, paragraph 2 that says all the users should be served in the language of their choice. It's very important for ministries or relevant bodies to be able to understand that, that has to change.

You know in yesteryears, this social stereotype or stigmatization of Je ne comprend pas votre Anglais had prevailed. We need such stigmas to actually be eradicated and eliminated, and that has to change and the mindset has to change. You will agree with me that it takes a long while and we're not going to give everyone 2, 5 or 10 years for them to change. It is now and we have to give them a shock therapy for them to understand that bilingualism has come to stay.

We're actually behind time because we had reunification in 1961 which means we had two different linguistic backgrounds and when we had the 1972 revolution, it also reinforced it. What needs to change now is for people to have a sense of acceptance, a sense of tolerance and keep away the whole idea of language discrimination.

Journalist: In 2017, members of the NCPBM were deployed in the various ministries. In 2018, they went to state enterprises and corporations in Yaounde. This time that is closed to three

years, they have gone back to the various ministries. Does it mean that the work of the commission is limited to Public institutions?

George Ngwane: A Language commissions can only assess institutions that have subventions by the state. So we have a right to go to the Ministries and we have a right to go to state corporations that are subsidized by the state. Nonetheless, because we have other avenues like a toll-free number of 1518 and a website, there is latitude for other users who have faced discrimination to get back to the commission and be able to express their feelings.

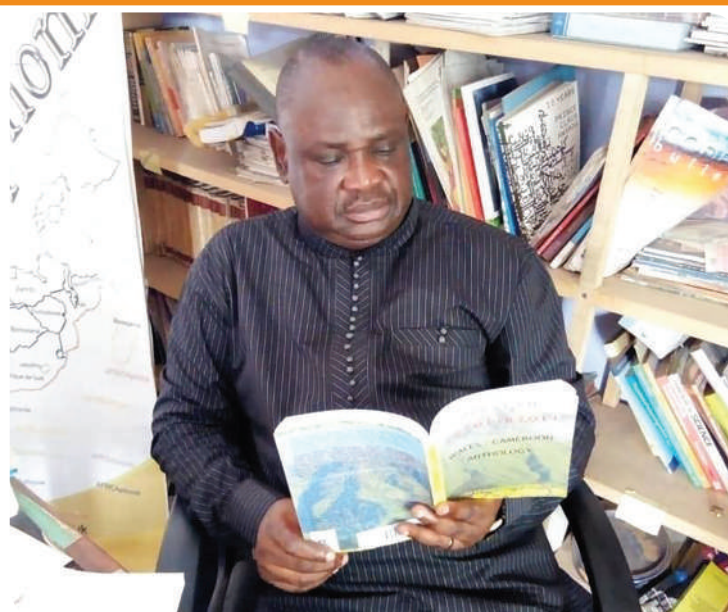
Unfortunately, COVID-19 has been a headache to us because we already had plans to go to the regions and there in the regions, we had to meet everyone who has a stake concerning bilingualism. We actually go beyond the ministries and the state corporations but we know that our remit of the work that we are supposed to do is limited to organisations that receive subventions from the state.

Journalist: There is this allegation that some ministries and other public institutions find it difficult to produce important and highly sensitive documents in both French and English at the same time because those who hold key positions in those institutions speak the same language. Have you come across such a case?

George Ngwane: I think we were a little bit fortunate that even at the opening sessions, the Ministers were told to be open and frank as possible. I don't remember any ministry that was hesitant, giving us what we may call classify documents. We read them but we may not carry them along with us.

Journalist: I am talking about documents that are meant for public consumption.

George Ngwane: That probably didn't come to our knowledge. As far as we are concerned, we are only



The kind of watchdog policy the Commission does is one that should be very permanent ,says Mwalimu Ngwane.

looking at those documents that are meant for public consumption. There is a possibility that there may be certain documents that were not put at our disposal but we had a template that we're supposed to follow to see the documents that were to be out at our disposal and as far as we were concerned, those were done. Press Releases, Internal communiqués and so on.

But let me tell you one of the things we found out that was a little revolting. The documents that are sent to the North West and South West are sent in French and that is why we said no. There is a principle of proportionality and when we are dealing with North West and South West, you can be sure that the English language has a higher proportion in terms of its consumers.

Journalist: The NCPBM was created in the wake of the unrest in the NW and SW Region, according to some people to help tackle the problems raised by the Common Law Lawyers and Anglophone Teachers Trade Unions. What if someone tells you that the impact of the commission as far as that is concerned is yet to felt?

George Ngwane: Let me say this. Sometimes I feel that the commission

itself is a victim of its own creation. It was created at a time when people had different expectations about what the commission is supposed to do and most people haven't time to read the attributions of the commission and so anyone who has a stake in the Anglophone crisis actually now throws it at the commission that nothing has been done so far.

I was a member of the education committee in 2017 that gave rise to a couple of things that happened which is now history. I think that what the teacher was actually referring to was the fact that some of the teachers that come into the Anglophone section teach in French and the lawyers also said that most of the people that were appointed within the legal structure in the Anglophone section are French-Speaking who have probably little or no iota of English Language. Therefore, if we have a commission that is coming now to set straight the records of trying to make sure that teachers are not sent to that area who do not master English Language, then, part of the problem that you may call the Anglophone crisis is being resolved at the level of the language and you will agree with me that as far as the Anglophone crisis is concerned, it is a different ball game when it comes to language.

As far we are concerned at the National Commission, we have been able to look at the language component which was a bone of contention with lawyers and the teachers. I'm not saying that all has been perfect and again that is reflected in the new law that even if magistrates are sent to the English-speaking regions, the people must be allowed to express themselves in the language of their own choice. Secondly, we're thinking of interpretation and bilingual people sent in the North West and South West. So as far as we are concerned, we may not be able to get hold of the whole Anglophone crisis, but we are looking at the component that is relevant to the national commission for the promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism.

Journalist: So after the second field mission of the commission coming close to 3years following the first, are we going to wait for three more years to get the third field mission?

George Ngwane: When you look at the attributions again of the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism, we are a consultative body and as a consultative body, we make our reports and sent them to the president of Republic. The president of Republic now may be able to also convey some of his concerns back to the commission and then we can go on from there.

I can't say for sure whether we are going to wait for the third mission. Again, that is something that is being taken care of in our programme that is done by a programme as a consensus by the president of our National Commission Mr Mafany Musonge. So, for now, I can tell you that we have done the second evaluation and I can also tell you that the recommendations are taken on board seriously. We may not wait for the third mission; something else may come before then. But if the third mission has to come, so be it.

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#ZimbabweanLivesMatter Exposes Human Rights Abuses in Zimbabwe

By Prince Kurupati

The name Robert Mugabe is known worldwide. To some, when they hear about the name Robert Mugabe, they quickly think of the great Pan Africanist who wanted to see Africa rise and compete shoulder to shoulder with other developed continents. However, when some hear the name Robert Mugabe, what quickly comes to their minds are

tales of the horrible things that Mugabe subjected his people to chief among them human rights abuses. Well, Mugabe is now gone but his successor is quickly making a name for himself globally. The unfortunate thing is, unlike Mugabe, he is only endearing his name with the bad things.

Using the popular social media platform, Twitter, many Zimbabweans both locally based and those in the Diaspora have created a hashtag which goes by the name #ZimbabweanLivesMatter. The hashtag is basically a way by ordinary Zimbabweans to expose all the bad things that have been happening in recent times in the country. Most notably, corruption and human rights abuses.

The hashtag first popped up when prominent investigative journalist Hopewell Chin'ono was arrested. Chin'ono who was once a supporter of Mnangagwa soon after his ascension to power quickly became disgruntled with his rule and started publicly airing his disgruntlement. One of the main things that led Chin'ono to heavily criticize the Mnangagwa government was the lackadaisical approach Mnangagwa showed when it comes to stamping out corruption. Since his ascension to power, various graft scandals have been reported by independent media but nothing



concrete has been done to address the issue. To give an illusion of that something was being done on the corruption front, several government officials were arrested but quickly after, granted bail and thereafter never to be seen in the courts of law again. This led to the crafting of the popular phrase 'Catch and Release'.

While many people were equally disgruntled with Mnangagwa's lackadaisical approach to fighting corruption, the final boiling point was reached when the Draxgate corruption scandal was unearthed. The Draxgate corruption scandal showed how the Minister of Health, several other top health officials as well as top officials in the Finance ministry, the health procurement board and some members of the First Family unscrupulously procured Covid-19 equipment at overly inflated prices. The stealing of the public funds meant to help in the fight against Covid-19 pushed Chin'ono and the general populace to pressure the President to fire the Health Minister. After several weeks of immense pressure, the President finally let go of his Health Minister.

By firing the Health Minister, the President might have thought that the uproar over the Draxgate scandal would calm down but that wasn't the case. Opposition leader Jacob Ngarivhume, the leader of Transform

Zimbabwe went further to call for protests in face of massive corruption by government officials on July 31, 2020. The protest was announced a month earlier and in between the time of the announcement and the day of the protest, many people including journalists persuaded the people to join the 31 July protests. One such journalist was Hopewell Chin'ono. However, as fate would have it, either of Jacob Ngarivhume, the protest leader or Hopewell Chin'ono would partake in the protest. This owing to the fact that they were arrested a week before 31 July for allegedly using social media to incite violence and ultimately aim to subvert constitutional government.

Without the protest leader, the 31 July protest did proceed with several people in different parts of the country raising their placards calling for end to massive government corruption, end to human rights, calling for improvement salaries for government workers and denouncing police brutality among other things. The security forces did clamp down on the protesters arresting many under the guise of inciting violence, violating national Covid-19 lockdown regulations or both. The opposition, civil society and the general populace at large however was adamant that the arrests including that of Hopewell Chin'ono and Jacob Ngarivhume

had nothing to do with inciting violence or violating lockdown rules but rather, all a plot to silence the voice of government critics.

The speech which was made by Mnangagwa after the 31 July protest did not help matters as it was viewed as a direct threat to all government critics. The President said he was willing to 'flush out' the bad apples. The interpretation being

that the bad apples are government critics. "Those who promote hate and disharmony will never win. The bad apples that have attempt to divide our people and to weaken our systems will be flushed out...We will overcome attempts at destabilization of our society by a few rogue Zimbabweans acting in league with foreign detractors."

With the President making it known that any government criticism will not be tolerated and those who continue to do so would be 'flushed out', the international community joined the #ZimbabweanLivesMatter on Twitter calling for the government to respect the right to free speech and expression as enacted in the country's Supreme law, the Constitution. Prominent figures such as South African politicians Julius Malema of EFF, Mmusi Maimane formerly of the DA, Lindiwe Zulu of the ANC, former Botswana president Ian Khama, and former Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf all announced that there was a crisis in Zimbabwe and the President had to respect the views of everyone including government critics.

Musicians and actors have also joined in to amplify the #ZimbabweanLivesMatter hashtag. Some of these include Morgan Heritage, AKA, Thandie Newton, Ice Cube, Lecrae, Tinashe, Zakes

Bantwini, Dr Tumi, Boity Tulo, Pearl Thusi.

Julius Malema, the leader of the EFF in South Africa has called for the immediate shutting down of the Zimbabwean Embassy in South Africa. "We call for the removal of the Zimbabwean Embassy in South Africa until they restore the human rights in that country...Failure to do so we will prevent any official from Zimbabwean government from participating in any gathering in South Africa until they respect ordinary Zimbabweans."

The South African president was also concerned by the reports of human rights abuses and sent an envoy to Zimbabwe to hear Mnangagwa's side. The envoys were also supposed to meet various opposition leaders in the country but returned to South Africa only after meeting with the Zimbabwean president.

The Zimbabwe Catholic Bishop's Conference (ZCBC) also added its voice calling for an urgent resolution to the country's economic and political challenges while at the



Story 8 Pic 2. President Mnangagwa has been under heavy criticism by many Zimbabweans.jpg

same time denouncing corruption, poverty and human rights abuses. In a statement, ZCBC said. "The struggle in Zimbabwe, has resulted in a multi-layered crisis of convergence of economic collapse, deepening poverty, food insecurity and human

rights abuses...Corruption in the country has reached alarming levels... Fear runs down the spine of many of our people today. The crackdown of dissent is unprecedented...Voices of various governments, the European Union, the African Union, and the

UN on the desperate situation in Zimbabwe have not only confirmed the seriousness of the human rights breaches by government agents but the need to rally behind #ZimbabweanLivesMatter"

Tanzania: A Crusade Against Foreign Dependence For Magufuli

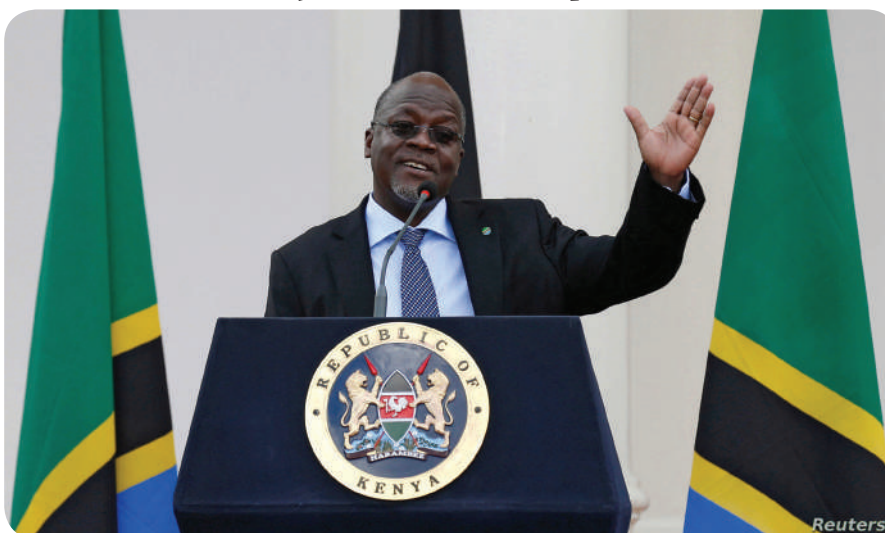
By Mohammed M. Mupenda

Tanzanian president Dr. John P. Magufuli has urged citizens to stop looking at foreigners as people they can depend on but always sacrifice themselves, work hard, and develop their country.

The president was addressing hundreds of Arusha and Meru residents earlier this month where he told them that foreigners who pretend to support Tanzanians do not love them but rather, they are money-makers and business oriented.

"There is no development that comes in an easy way, it is important that we struggle," he told participants.

"I beg you Tanzanians, let's wake up, there is no one on earth who



There is no one on earth who will come to support you and there is nothing for free, Magufuli tells Tanzanians.

will come to support you and there is nothing for free, these {Foreign} people are money makers and business oriented," he added.

He told residents from Meru,

Arusha and Tanzanians in general to always sacrifice themselves and work hard to liberate themselves from economic dependency.

"We have got our independence

and that is good news, but we are yet to be economically independent, we have got to fight, that is why we have requested a loan to construct the rail gauge, they never gave it to us, we requested funds to increase electricity coverage, we have been rejected, they cannot offer," he said.

It is important we wake up, love our country and let us stop calling ourselves poor, our country is rich," he added.

He said that the country has achieved a lot over the years and assured that a lot was yet to be achieved, should they combine work together as one.

"We can go far together and where there is a will there is a way, my

colleagues, I want to assure you God is there with us, I can't stand in front of people and say, we depend on you, I am a driver on my own," he assured residents amid applause.

He urged Tanzanians to always strive to work hard even if there are people who do not get well with that knowing that they are doing it for the good of their country.

"It requires a true sacrifice and that is why I said I am grateful to the almighty God and I am grateful to you patriots for praying for me and giving heart, I am grateful for God to stand with our country, we have got an exemplary nation," he noted.

He assured them that it is only by fighting the economic struggle that Tanzania would be among the top developed countries worldwide.

He said that the country was rich thanks to natural resources such as minerals and can be economically independent if more efforts were invested.

"We have targeted to collect 194 billion shillings and surpassed that thus collecting 301 billion shillings,... that why I always tell you that our country is rich and people do not understand this, every time we wonder who will support us, but we need to support ourselves because you are rich," the East African country president said.

Lenders Confident

The president Magufuli told residents that money lenders were confident in them and agreed to offer loans just because they are sure such loans would be serviced.

"If you want a loan, you need to be conversant on how you will service it, that is why the African Development



President Magufuli inaugurating a water project.

Bank is willing to lend us money because they are sure we will service the loan," he said.

"But revenues collected internally are the ones we can use to build rail gauges from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma, that construction is worth 7 trillion," he added.

He said that Tanzania had spent many years without having Air Tanzania and every time nationals wanted to fly, they flew with planes from other countries.

"That is why we decided to buy planes and we bought seven, other two planes are coming in December carrying 150 people each and are brand new from Switzerland. We will be the first in Africa to have such planes," he said amid applause.

Reducing the cost of electricity

Magufuli said that while the country has done a lot in availing electricity to citizens, the current power capacity is not equivalent to the number of people using it and that makes the price higher and not affordable by many.

"We had an issue of electricity, we have power in the whole country but the coverage is not 49% but the issue is now the cost of electricity, our plant generates 1560MW but looking at the number of people who need electricity, the cost is high as it \$11 per unit while in Europe it 0.12 per unit," he said.

He said this makes business tough and very expensive if you compared local products with those coming from overseas.

"We need to look for other water resources so that we can build other hydropower plants as they are affordable, that is why we decided to build a mega power plant that will generate additional 1200MW" he concluded.

He said that availability of power and other alternatives would also help stop cutting trees as a source of cooking which is a threat to the forest and biodiversity in general.

Tanzania is one of five East African countries with a population of over 56 million. It was in June this year declared by the World Bank, the second middle income country in the region.

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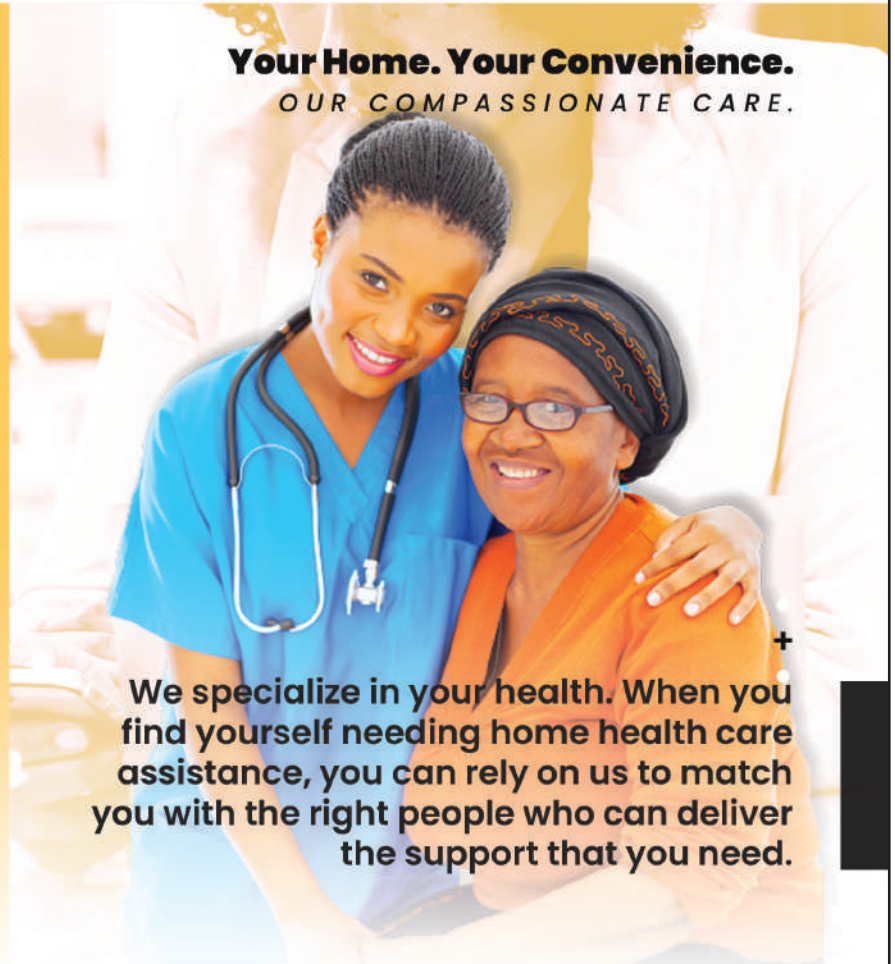


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Cameroon Crisis: Women Feeling The Brunt Of The Four Year Anglophone Crisis

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

“Women lives matter, we can’t breathe” “We want peace, we want justice” “Killing women will not silence feminism”. These are the recent calls that have been put out by women in Cameroon as they continue “crying” and “pleading” for the violence in the two English speaking regions of the country to come to an end.

The four-year separatist crisis in Cameroon’s English speaking North West and South West Regions which began with lawyers and teachers protesting over the overbearing use of the French language in the minority English speaking country has seen untold suffering inflicted on the populations in the area. Many have been killed, maimed, and others have seen their houses torched.

Over 3,000 people have been killed and 500,000 displaced according to the U.N. 50,000 others escaped to neighbouring Nigeria, while others are seeking refuge in safer regions across the country.

Many of the displaced women and girls have gone through various psychological trauma. Many have been subjected to physical, sexual violence perpetrated by state and non-state actors including murder, unlawful killings, torture and other cruel, inhumane, degrading treatment or punishments, abductions, and arbitrary detention.

The women in the South West Region on August 18, 2020, held a protest match against the killing of Comfort Tumbasang, a 32-year-old mother who was brutally killed by separatist fighters in Muyuka, a locality in the South West Region.

Comfort, a mother of two, was gruesomely murdered in Muyuka and a video of her beheading went viral on social media, provoking widespread condemnation. The government of Cameroon, rights groups, the United Nations and embassies in Yaounde blamed separatists and asked for investigations to be carried



The violence in Cameroon’s North West and South West has seen many displaced across the country and in Nigeria.

out and Comfort’s killers punished. Cameroon said it was the 11th case of attacks reported on women and social workers in August.

“We are in total pain; women living in the South West are living in total fear because you do not know what can happen in the next minute,” Anne Munjong, one of the protesting women said. “After seeing the brutal killing, we could not stay indifferent, we could not stay quiet, and that is why we say we should come and cry.”

“We are telling whosoever is doing this to stop because we cannot go anywhere again, and we know somebody is listening. We are praying that those people wherever they are should have a change of heart,” she added.

“We are telling the administration and our children in the bushes that we are tired. We should go above fear and plead with our children because

whether you are afraid or not if it is your turn they will pick you. When you see anybody that is taking your sister it is better you shout than to sit quite,” Dr Agbor Magdalene said.

Separatist fighters, gov’t forces accused of committing violence against civilians

Cameroon’s security forces have been accused of harassment, looting, burning homes, and shooting civilians, an accusation that is constantly being rebuffed by the country’s defence Minister and Communication Minister. Some of the residents this reporter spoke to said Cameroonian security forces will torch a home if they see a young man fleeing in the vicinity. Young men are targeted typically because the separatists recruit young Anglophone men to fight against the military, some said.

The separatist fighters have also

carried out numerous atrocious acts that have led to condemnation from across political lines. Civilians are targeted by these non-state armed groups if they are suspected of working with the security forces. The civilians are termed “blacklegs” with unspeakable acts of violence committed against them.

Human rights abuses are being perpetrated by both sides, confirms Ilaria Allegrozzi, senior researcher on Central Africa for Human Rights Watch. She has documented abuses, deaths, and violent acts since the crisis began in late 2016. “It’s important to acknowledge that human rights violations have been committed by the security forces but at the same time, the separatists are not angels and have also targeted civilians,” she told RFI recently.

“The gravity, the scale of the abuses that we have documented coming from the security forces are more significant than the abuse that is perpetrated by the armed separatists,” the HRW researcher adds. The abuses are frequently just the start of the nightmare for Anglophones living through the conflict, where their only option is to escape the patrols of soldiers and separatists through their village.

“Civilians have been caught in the middle, and have paid the highest price in this crisis,” says HRW’s Allegrozzi. “People have been displaced, have lost their families, are living in the bush and require humanitarian assistance. And this crisis has yet to be addressed.”

There have been calls for both sides to engage in a dialogue that will bring to an end the crisis. The recent call was a need for a ceasefire due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. While some groups hid to the UN SG’s call, the situation was different within weeks of the call being made as reports of gun exchanges between the two groups were reported across the North West and South West Regions.



Women in the South West say enough is enough to the killings going on in the troubled regions.

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As Chadwick Boseman Dies: The Futuristic City of Wakanda is set to turn into Reality - All Thanks to Music Mogul Akon

By Prince Kurupati

The world woke up to some devastating news on August 28, 2020, as it heard that the first black man to play a lead role in a superhero movie had passed on. Chadwick Boseman affectionately known by many especially children as King T'Challa from his movie Black Panther succumbed to colon cancer at a young age of 43.

In Black Panther, Chadwick Boseman performed the role of a highly prosperous and futuristic country called Wakanda. Located in Sub-Saharan Africa, Wakanda is a town that enjoyed massive prosperity owing to the abundance of Wakandan Vibranium, a mineral that possesses the ability to absorb all vibrations as well as kinetic energy directed to it.

Boseman's role in the movie inspired many people as it exposed the fact that Africa can indeed rise and become a powerful continent while also exposing the fact that a black man has the potential to transform a poor country into a globally competitive country. One man who was inspired by Chadwick Boseman is the Senegalese singer Akon.

Drawing inspiration from the movie Black Panther, the singer cum business magnate Akon had a vision to transform his home country into a superpower much to the levels of the fictional country of Wakanda. Akon first outlined his vision to turn Senegal into a Wakanda-like country in 2018. At the time, the Senegalese singer said that his vision was to



A heavy turnout with safety measures taken seriously for the launch of the project in Senegal. Photo facebook.



Authorities in Senegal have warmly embraced the vision of Akon.

create the first technologically advanced and smart city in Africa.

Akon at the time stated that the smart city would occupy an area space of 800 hectare (2,000 acre) and it would be powered up entirely by solar power. The smart city will be located 62 miles from Senegal's capital, Dakar. US-based consulting and engineering firm KE International was contracted to create the city. In a statement, the firm said that in creating the smart city, it aims a defining "a new paradigm in design and architecture for Africa."

Akon whose real name is Aliaune Thiam announced his vision for the smart city together with the country's Minister for Tourism, Alioune Sarr. During the announcement, the music mogul did the ceremonial gesture of laying down the first stone on the land that will soon become the first technologically advanced city in Senegal and Africa as a whole.

According to the R&B star, infrastructural projects that will first take place in the smart city include gleaming skyscrapers, shopping malls, music studios, as well as eco-friendly tourist resorts. Plans are also in place for artificial

islands and a marina that can accommodate cruise ships.

As a technologically advanced city, Akon said that all financial transactions in the city will only be performed using digital money (crypto currency). The digital currency to be used will be known as 'Akoin'. The singer has faced criticism over his plans to use the digital currency as critics say that for it to be successful, almost everyone will need to own a smartphone and be able to afford data but only a third of Senegal's population do own a smartphone. Michael Kimani, the Chairman of the Blockchain Association of Kenya said owing to a lack of smartphones and readily available internet as well as affordable data, Akon's plans are all a "pie-in-the-sky." Akon responded saying he only deals with the concepts and leaves the technical stuff to the geeks. "I come with the concepts and let the geeks figure it out."

The singer said it was of paramount importance for the digital currency to be used in the smart city as "it brings the power back to the people and brings the security back into the currency system...It also allows people to utilize it in ways where they can advance themselves and not allow government to do those things that are keeping them down."

As he outlined his vision, the music mogul said that the smart city will be home to Senegalese people as well as being an alternative home for African Americans facing racial discrimination. "The system back home (US) treats them unfairly in so many different ways that you can never imagine...And they only go through it because they feel that there is no other way. If you're coming from America or Europe or elsewhere in the Diaspora and you feel that you want to visit Africa, we want Senegal



Akon was received in audience by the President of Senegal Macky Sall.

to be your first stop."

Fast forward two years later, Akon recently announced that work on the smart city is ready to commence. The announcement came after Akon had met with Senegalese president Macky Sall who gave him the green light to commence operations. The singer said the Senegalese government as well as some investors whom he didn't mention by name has poured funds and the commencement of construction activities is about to begin as a third of the total investment needed has already been secured. Investors funding the \$6 billion scheme could not be named as they signed non-disclosure agreements. Work on the project is scheduled to start early next year (2021) and completion on the project is set for 2023.

Senegal's Minister of Tourism welcomed the move saying it comes at a time when private

investment in the West African country is scarce and badly needed more so following the economic pain wrought by the novel corona virus pandemic.

Akon's plans to create a smart city have inspired other countries with Kenyan authorities saying that they aim to replicate the project as it builds its own Mwale Medical and Technological City.

Before announcing his plans to build Africa's first smart city, Akon has for long been involved in humanitarian and developmental projects on the African continent. In 2014, he launched a charity initiative 'Light up Africa' in which he partnered with the World Bank and various African governments to subsidize solar power and provide electricity to 600 million people in rural communities. The project was a success as it managed to help over 32 million people in 25 different

countries gain access to basic electricity through solar energy.

The veteran singer said that Light up Africa is definitely not a charity work. Even though he knows the significance of helping people access basic electricity, he said that charity per se does not work in the long term. As such, his vision is not to do things for now only but things that will remain in place for generations to come hence the reason he does not believe in charity work.

"It's definitely not a charity it is a for-profit company. The way I would categorize it, really, is just social entrepreneurship. We do our business in Africa that's not (just) to help people, but empower them to make their money in the process... We feel like charity doesn't work in Africa and I don't think it works anywhere in the world. If you are not

empowering people or giving them jobs...you're wasting your time, you're wasting people's valuable money... They are going to spend it and put their hand right back out and be in the same position in the following week or month or year."

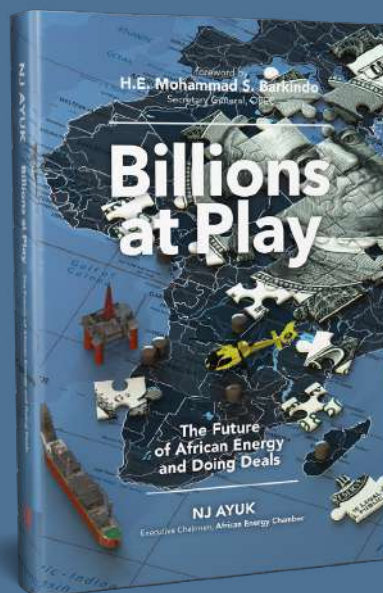
The singer went on to state that "We invest our own money to get things started. We go in, plead our case to the country, put up pilots with our own dollars using sophisticated equipment and we make sure we do the installation right. It shows people that we're not coming in to pull money out of the country. We're there to provide jobs for the locals and to enable them to feed their families."

Way back in 2007, Akon co-founded the Konfidence Foundation, a health and education charity for underprivileged children in West Africa and the United States.

Billions at Play

The Future of African Energy and Doing Deals

by NJ AYUK



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Adesina Lays Out Vision for Second Term as AFDB President

By Prince Kurupati

“I am grateful to serve Africa passionately, to the very best of my God-given ability.” – Akinwumi Adesina

September 1, 2020 was a great day for Akinwumi Adesina, the African Development Bank (AFDB) as well as the whole of the African continent as one of the most successful AFDB president officially began his second term in office. Akinwumi Adesina who has recorded many successes as the AFDB boss in his first term chief among them increasing AFDB’s capital from \$93 billion to \$203 billion said he will be the President “for all” as he was elected “by all.” Adesina said the remarks in his inauguration speech.

Vision for the Future

In his inauguration speech, President Adesina said that he already has a vision for AFDB as well as Africa’s future. Adesina said his vision is encapsulated in five deliverables. These are Institution, People, Quality, Delivery, and Sustainability.

On Institution, Adesina said that the AFDB will look at ways to strengthen institutional capacity. This will entail improving human resources, building a top notch IT capacity to enhance effectiveness and productivity in an increasingly digital age. More will also be done in strengthening accountability, oversight and compliance systems while at the same time promoting a stronger performance culture.

On People, President Adesina said the focus is on hiring and retaining top talent, improving staff experiences and value propositions while at the same time enhancing career development and mobility.

On Quality and delivery, President Adesina stressed the need on improving responsiveness to clients, decentralizing decision making, putting in place more efficient systems and processes while at the same time

guaranteeing cost effectiveness and value for money.

On financial sustainability, the AFDB president highlighted the need to stabilize prudential ratios, driving a culture of cost effectiveness, balancing development objectives, optimizing the bank’s balance sheet, leveraging global private capital to complement bank resources and ensuring the Bank attains its own intrinsic stand alone ‘AAA’ rating for long term sustainability.

With the strong support of the African Heads of State and Governments, Governors of the Bank, Ministers of Finance, the Board of Directors and AFDB staff, President Adesina is confident that this vision will be attained. President Adesina is also confident that attaining this finish will help further the impressive results already attained on the High5s front that is, Light Up and power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialize Africa, and Improve the Quality of Life of the People of Africa.

President Adesina said that a vision for Africa cannot be outlined without

factoring in the future leaders that is, the youth. As such, he said that he and the Bank will look at establishing Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Banks. The main priority of the Banks will be to mobilize and deploy capital to drive the entrepreneurship of the youth of Africa. Instead of seeing youth migrate out of Africa, the Banks will also help in reducing unemployment and making sure that African youth ‘stay in Africa’.

While laying out his vision, President Adesina did acknowledge that Africa still faces many challenges which include poverty, inequality, fragility, significant infrastructure financing gaps and sustainable debt management. However, working in unison as one, Adesina is confident Africa can tackle these challenges.

Looking Back at the Successes Achieved during the First Term

The AFDB president said the Bank was established for one reason and one reason alone that is, “Winning for Africa’s development is what you set us up to do!” Looking back on his first term as the AFDB President, Adesina

said that many successes were recorded more so when it comes to the High5s.

The major successes that were achieved in the past five years as highlighted by President Adesina are as follows:

- 18 million people with access to electricity
- 141 million people had access to improved agricultural technologies for food security
- 15 million people with access to finance from private investments
- 101 million people with access to improved transport from infrastructure
- 90 million people with access to water and sanitation
- Non-sovereign operations for the private sector increased 40% from \$1.5 billion in 2015 to \$2.1 billion in 2019
- Climate financing expanded from 9% in 2015 to 36% by 2019
- Attracted a combined \$78.8 billion worth of investment interests in Africa since 2015
- Expanded AFDB’s presence to 44 new countries
- Launched a Gender Equality Trust Fund
- Raised the capital of the bank from \$93 billion to \$208 billion
- Opened up a \$10 billion COVID-19 response facility to address immediate and project investments for countries, especially to contain fiscal meltdowns
- Launched a \$3 billion social bond on the global market – the largest US dollar denominated social bond ever in world history

Thanking those who made it possible for him to be re-elected

President Adesina took time to thank all those who made it possible for him to be re-elected for a second term. The AFDB president gave his utmost regards to the President of Nigeria H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, the entire Nigerian government, the



Let us move forward, driven by the power of our mission, inspired by the primacy of our vision and emboldened by the strength of our togetherness, says Dr Adesina.



Our focus will be on institutions, people, delivery and sustainability. Together we win for Africa, says Adesina.

African Union, African Heads of State and Governments as well as the general African populace.

Akinwumi Adesina was re-elected

for a second five-year term as AFDB President on August 27, 2020 by the Board of Governors of the Bank.

Adesina received all the votes from

the regional and non-regional members of the Bank. The election took place on the final day of the 2020 Annual Meetings of the AFDB Group,

which was held virtually for the first time in the Bank's history.

Will Refugees Make Rwanda-Burundi Friends Again?

By Maniraguha Ferdinand

‘Animosity results from old friendship’ a Rwandan proverb says. Those who knew President of Rwanda Paul Kagame and former Burundian President, the late Nkurunziza Pierre knew the meaning of such proverb well. Nkurunziza had even called Kagame ‘my elder brother’.

In 2013 when Bujumbura market caught fire, helicopters from Kigali rushed to Burundian capital and the fire was calmed. However, those years of brotherhood faded away in a brink of an eye, when Nkurunziza sought a third term in 2015, which was contested bitterly inside the country and out.

He even survived a coup in May 2015 while he was in a meeting in Tanzania, and his retaliation sent thousands of Burundian refugees out of the country.

The first Burundian government finger was pointed at Kigali as the main sponsor of coup plotters, and trainer of refugees to come back to destabilize Nkurunziza's government. Kigali denied accusations vehemently and mediation was tried but in vain.

Before his death, Nkurunziza qualified Rwanda as the real enemy of Burundi. His successor, Major



Buses carrying Burundian refugees, heading from Mahama Camp in the East of Rwanda, to Nemba border, South-eastern Rwanda.

General Ndayishimiye Evariste added oil in the fire, by openly declaring that Rwanda is taking Burundian refugees as hostages.

Surprisingly, in the morning of 27th August 2020 a batch of nearly 500 refugees from Mahama Camp in eastern Rwanda, packed their belonging preparing themselves to returning to their homeland after five years as refugees.

Philbert Harerimana, a banker who fled his country in 2015 was happy to return home, and begged Burundian authorities to let him get back his job.

“I was pleased when I heard that we are going back home. It is time for me to return to my former job at the

bank, I no longer have a reason to be a refugee,” he said

At Nemba border separating Rwanda with Burundi in Bugesera district, Burundian refugees were received by their authorities in jubilation.

President Ndayishimiye took to Twitter, commending the Rwandan gesture of repatriating and escorting Burundians refugees back home.

“We welcome our brothers and sisters who come back from Mahama Camp. It's with great pleasure for their families in Burundi. We urge responsible authorities to reintegrate them in society. To others who want to come back home, gates are open.

Burundi is yours”, Ndayishimiye tweeted.

Since 2015, Burundian authorities never get along with Rwandan ones when it comes to political issues, they would even skip meeting in which Rwandan authorities were to attend. Such behavior never emerged at Nemba border while Burundian refugees were entering their country.

Gervais Ndirakobuca, Minister of internal from Government of Burundi, was one of Burundian authorities to receive refugees.

He said that they are happy that they are brothers and sisters are back home, promising that Burundi is peaceful than ever.

“Our country is peaceful and needs its children to contribute to its development. We urge others who want to be repatriated voluntarily to hurry up”, he said.

Though Burundi lure its people to come back because it is peaceful, that message never resonate in the same volume into the ears of refugees.

Niyonzima Prudence was staring at the bus whose engine were buzzing, ready to lift the first batch of refugees, when he talked to Pan African Magazine.

For him, no idea of returning soon.

"In 2014, my house was burned to the ground, when I found new a place to live, they would come and spy on me at night and I decided to run away," he said

Imbonerakure, a youth wing of the ruling CNDD-FDD party have persecuted Niyonzima and he fears the same fate if he ever returns.

"Some are still dying, others are still being persecuted. I will go back when I hear that no one is being persecuted, no one is being killed, no one is disappearing," he added.

None has ever thought that Rwanda and Burundi will collaborate to repatriate refugees after a heightened tension between both governments.



The Heads of Military Intelligence from Rwanda and Burundi chatting during the discussions aimed at easing tensions along the common border . Photo. RDF.

It came after few days, Rwanda and Burundi Heads of Military Intelligence had met at Nemba border in discussions aimed at finding solutions on security incidents along the common border that have strained the relations between the two countries.

For some, these events give hope that relation between both countries is coming back to normalcy.

Rwanda hosts about 72,000 Burundian refugees. From 2015 to March when the border was closed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, about 5,922 had voluntarily returned to Burundi.

Justice: Answers and Actions for Lasting Positive Change

By Brian Nkemnji*

I hope to uplift the lives of all who read this article.

Nowadays, technology exposes social injustices in previously impossible ways. Information in the form of videos, photos, and messages instantaneously disseminates worldwide. Ongoing and recent injustices are reminders of the mistreatment people face. Pain and struggle are heavy in society, especially for those who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC).

Society is in turmoil. The health and safety of marginalized people are at risk as abuse of power and coronavirus (COVID-19) deaths disproportionately affect BIPOC. Social disparities, police brutality, and COVID-19 case management reveal the systemic inequities and privileges granted to certain groups. As a nation, we should protect everyone's human rights and ensure social justice and dignity.

The anguish and frustration manifesting in society emanate from centuries of race-based oppression. Disparities in policing, criminal justice, housing, employment, healthcare, and education, illustrate society's institutionalized inequities. During the United States of America's inception, people in power instilled and ingrained racism into the nation's culture and systems. This plight is America's past and present.



Brian Nkemnji.

Until society dismantles systemic oppression, it will be America's future. Oppression destroys people and the nation. Humanity deserves better; let us create solutions.

As human beings, we owe one another humane interactions. The torment and systemic racism people endure is a relentless reality. People of goodwill, especially those in power, should denounce and act against injustice. However, words alone will not ensure social justice.

Education - in households, classrooms, and workplaces should confront systemic oppression. Everyone has a moral obligation to check their behavior and the behaviors of their relations. People can unlearn toxic mentalities and pass on humane ideologies. However, education alone will not ensure social justice.

Legislation at the Local, State, and Federal levels should diminish institutionalized oppression. The

nation must enact and enforce laws that quell systemic injustice. Abuse of power plagues society. Perpetrators should face significant judicial and financial consequences. However, legislation alone will not ensure social justice.

Society needs fair play, oversight, and accountability to ensure social justice. The current systems allow perpetrators to cause injury and death and evade responsibility. Systems must remove perpetrators from authority, levy financial penalties, and pursue justice using special prosecutors.

People give life to nations, systems, and cultures; people also give life to injustices. Just as individuals created these ongoing systemic injustices, so can individuals stop them. The nation needs widespread, groundbreaking reflection, involvement, and action to dismantle unjust and oppressive systems.

I ask everyone reading this article to act against injustice and press those in power (elected officials, lawmakers, law enforcers, judicial authorities, and leaders in business, education, healthcare, and more) to help end systemic oppression and bring forth a more just society. Sustained collective action can end systemic oppression. Together, we can defeat the injustices entrenched in society.

Reflections by Renée

"MELANATED MAGIC"

Renée Dugué

In true MELANATED MAGIC Fashion, she walks life's tight rope... Masterfully balancing her journey's responsibilities...

Magically maintaining her integrity, her esteem, her compassion, her mental acuity, and her spiritual awareness.

Resilient and resourceful, she relies on her ancestors and angels to fuel her rocket ship spirit guided by her Creator into her destiny's galaxy.

She wondrously weaves all of these elements...

Faithfully embroidering each panel with threads of poise, grace, dignity, and class...

Each stitch embedded with vibranium-like endurance.

In true MELANATED MAGIC Fashion, she wears her cape. A garment fit for royalty, crafted with quality far superior to the finest fabrics this plane can create.

No runway in Paris produces this. No fashion show in New York knows how. No place in India inks silks of this caliber. This regal drape...This coveted covering...Is embellished with the blood, sweat, and tears of this planet's Motherland. Her Motherland. Her Mother's land. And so she stands.

In front of her life's proverbial mirror preparing for the day. Seeing that she is completely dressed, equipped, and covered. No additional accessories needed. The only befitting enhancement to her birthright suit and her natural beauty is her brilliant smile.

She puts it on. And in true MELANATED MAGIC Fashion, she sets out to share her radiant gifts with everyone she encounters.

Like many, I gravitated toward what I knew. I wallowed in dysfunction and dis-ease because it was familiar. My work seeks the pathological origins of behavior, uncovering, and unpacking the issues related to our struggles. In my practice, I connect with kindred souls, and provide a sacred place to heal, by being heard, seen, fully accepted, supported, embraced, unconditionally loved, encouraged, inspired, and empowered to simply be who Our Creator is calling us to be. Through the sharing of experiences, we find the strength to heal, move forward on our paths, discover passions, and explore tangible possibilities of making our dreams come true." As these pages continue to turn on Mrs. Renée Michelle Dugué of Reborn & Rising, who's French full birth name literally translates as "Reborn of God From The Land Across The Water," all my assumptions at first glance have faded. Saved from The Desire by God's grace and mercy, powered by the "MELANATED MAGIC" of our people, she is healing both herself and others, living her dreams, journeying on purpose. I feel strengthened and inspired to do the same.



Meditating & Solar Charging
Renée Dugué, Hou. TX, USA June 2020

practice, Pleasure Principal in Houston, TX. She described each as intuitive, interactive, and includes prayer, touch, talk, guided meditation, herbs, infused/diffused oils, and crystals. Hearing of this all seemed so mystical, and really enamored me. The more she shared with me, the more I realized, we are all born with healing gifts. To quote her, "We are all Miraculously Melanated!"

She reminded me, again in her melodic and hypnotic voice, that she was born in New Orleans, LA, which is one of the oldest cities in the USA. Louisiana is where the very first slave ships were received in 1719. Human beings from many African nations were stolen, loaded as cargo, shipped transatlantic directly to her home state. Soon after, more people were stolen from West and West Central Africa, taken from ports in Senegambia, the Bight of Benin, and the Congo River basin, along with others in the Caribbean colonies including Barbados, Cuba, and Saint-Domingue (now Haiti), and brought straight to her small city. She spoke in awe of the ancestors' strength, perseverance, intuition, and determination to survive. The blend of ethnicities, diverse cultures, religious and linguistic backgrounds that arrived with the formed identities of these individuals made an impression on New Orleans, the country, and the world that still resonates today. One is the remarkable flavors of New Orleans' Creole cuisine that cannot be disputed. She laughed at the magic they make turning a pot of water, and what was initially scraps, into Gumbo, a delicacy on every visitor's must-eat list. "How they knew to do that voodoo! Sustaining their lives from water, surrounded by water...I picture them even walking on water! They made a way out of no way. That's the magic in our melanin!"

Mrs. Renée shared a common belief that our ancestors possessed innate powers and abilities, encouraged by their cultural practices, that led to their survival. Specifically regarding health, how they could observe, assess, diagnose, prescribe, treat, and heal organically, even remotely and spiritually! "No validation of some lab or medical program was needed. Living proof existed as slaves healed themselves and their slave masters' families with their hoodoo concoctions." She believes our power to heal comes from all that we've endured, whether consciously or not. "I am a child sexual abuse survivor. Pain and trauma were trapped so deeply within me, most of my self-destructive behavior was acted out unconsciously.

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE A HEALER WITH A PURPOSE

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

I share with you in this third article, additional details of who Renée Michelle Dugué truly is. I can certainly say, understanding more about the strange lady that came to Buea, Cameroon all alone has brought about much reflection and discovery for myself. I realize that although 7000 miles away, with millions of liters of water, cultural, social, and political differences between us, at the core we share a heart for helping our people. Mrs. Renée is a healer and utilizes various modalities, alternative, and holistic remedies in her therapeutic massage

Inspired by a FB picture, Artist Komla Ietsu Philip of Ghana Ho illustrates Renée Dugué as a true Melanated Magical Being. July 2020



**SHE'S TRULY
REBORN & RISING**

The Wait Continues: Zimbabwe Yet to Disburse Covid-19 Welfare Grants to the Underprivileged

By Prince Kurupati

Zimbabwe is one of the many countries that are currently under a lockdown. The national lockdown in the country has been going on for close to 4 months now. The lockdown has crippled the economy and destroyed the livelihoods of many as only the formal sector is allowed to operate while the informal sector is basically shut.

The government has defended the national lockdown saying that it is necessary when it comes to flattening the Covid19 curve. From the look of things on the ground, the government's reasoning is very noble as Zimbabwe's health system is very poor and near collapse. This essentially meaning if a large number of cases are recorded at once the system may basically crush.

However, though this is the case, the lockdown has made it impossible for the millions of informal workers to do their work thus rendering them vulnerable. When the government enacted the lockdown, it announced that it was going to support all those affected while at the same time cushioning the workers at the fore front in the fight against Covid19 such as doctors, nurses, the police, and the military and other essential services workers.

When the government announced its plans to support the vulnerable and the essential workers, many welcomed the move saying that it was necessary. Several weeks after announcing the welfare grants move, the government proceeded to outline how it was going to identify the welfare grants recipients as well as outlining how the essential services workers were going to be helped. At the time, the Minister of Finance Mthuli Ncube famously said that the government is going to use a 'sophisticated algorithm' to identify the recipients of the Corona Relief Funds.

With the general populace eagerly waiting to see who the recipients of



the \$600 million Covid-19 Relief Funds, the wait has been a very long one as several weeks later, no single individual or family in the country has publicly come out saying that they have received their share. The government itself has been quiet on that front.

The only progress though slow has been witnessed with the cushioning allowances for essential services workers. The government announced that it was going to give cushioning allowances to all essential service workers in government. The allowances which are to be given for 6 months have already started reflecting in the accounts of some workers.

Concerns were raised earlier on

about the Covid19 Relief Funds distribution. The Director of the Vendors Initiative for Social and Economic Transformation, Samuel Wadzanai said that "This was a hurried process and there was no clarity in terms of the requirements by the ministry. They bunched the social welfare element together with the informal sector facility...There is no clarity on who is doing the selection process and the vetting...We have been requested to update our databases, which we have done. We have submitted them, but we don't know who is going to decide who gets money and who doesn't."

Effie Ncube, the spokesperson of the National Consumers Rights Association (Nacora) is of the view

that the money the government has promised to avail to the vulnerable is too little to sustain families. "Our research has indicated that family would need about US\$200 a month... if that is converted by the parallel market rate, it translates to more than ZW\$8 000. It (funds to be allocated) will probably buy just two bags of subsidized mealie-meal."

The National co-coordinator for the Zimbabwe Social Protection Platform, Emmanuel Dzenga said that the method the government is using in distributing the funds is prone to abuse and as such, it's better for it to adopt methods being effected in other countries. "There is a need for a universal social protection plan as is the case in other countries. The needs based scheme used by government is prone to corruption. People who should not benefit are benefitting while deserving ones are left out of the social protection nets."

Dzenga's sentiments were also echoed by Admire Mare, a Journalism lecturer who said, "Whereas other countries used an objective needs assessment criterion, Zimbabwe claims to have used an 'opaque' algorithm which focused on people's bank and mobile phone payments when some of the poor and vulnerable do not have accounts and mobile phones."

Several analysts said that the government's delay in allocating the welfare grants to the vulnerable will reverse any gains that the government has made in its drive to contain the corona virus pandemic. Without food in their homes, people will ultimately violate the lockdown restrictions put in place in a bid to source for food. To protect the gains achieved thus far in the fight against Covid-19, the government as such was urged to quickly distribute the relief funds to the vulnerable so that they don't leave their homes in search of food and in doing so endanger themselves and others.



The sophisticated algorithm to identify the recipients of the Corona Relief Funds Finance as suggested by Minister Mthuli Ncube seems not to be working.



734 Coffee

734 Coffee is organic Ethiopian coffee sold in ground and whole bean form. The name "734" relates to the geographical coordinates of Gambela, a region in Ethiopia where more than 200,000 South Sudanese citizens have taken refuge.

Coffee from the Gambela region is lauded for its rich flavor - medium bodied with hints of caramel, spice and berries with a smokey chocolate aftertaste. 734 contracts with co-op coffee growers in Gambela who employ South Sudanese refugees providing both a sense of purpose and a steady paycheck. At the core of 734 Coffee is the promise to tell the story of the world refugee crisis and give new hope for economic prosperity for Sudanese refugees. 734 Coffee contributes to the Humanity Helping Sudan Project, the organization leading the fight to move the needle forward on self-sustainability for Sudanese refugees contributing 80% of all profits to refugee education and training projects in Gambela.

The Mission is Personal

Founder of 734 Coffee Manyang Reath Kher's earliest memories are of war. At the young age of 3, Manyang became a refugee of the Sudanese civil war. He is one of The Lost Boys, a group of 20,000 Sudanese boys who were displaced and orphaned. Manyang's father was one of the two and a half million people killed and he was separated from his mother and sister. For 13 years he lived in refugee camps along the Sudanese and Ethiopian border, where homelessness, hunger, fear, and abuse were part of his everyday life. But he was one of the lucky ones, at the age of 17, Manyang was brought to America where he learned English and eventually enrolled in college receiving his degree in May of 2016. He started Humanity Helping Sudan to improve the lives of Sudanese refugees. By launching 734 Coffee, Manyang is bringing his own American dream to life of creating a sustainable enterprise that both employs and empowers our refugee brothers and sisters.

Partner With Us

734 Coffee is seeking local and national distribution opportunities. By supporting 734 Coffee you are not only providing your customers with an exceptional sipping experience, you are taking a stand for those who have lost their homes, but not their hope.

For More Information

Team@hhsproject.org
734coffee.com

Kenya's Mediation Journey

By Samuel Ouma

Mediation as a means of resolving disputes between two or more parties with the assistance of a well-trained impartial third party (s) only existed on papers from the independence to 2009 in Kenya. Many people knew the litigation process as the main means of settling disputes. However, it dawned on the East African nation in 2010 when millions of Kenyans overwhelmingly voted for the new constitution.

The 2010 constitution recognized alternative dispute resolution as a legal alternative to court proceedings. Article 159 (2)(c) states that "Alternative forms of dispute resolution including reconciliation, mediation, arbitration, and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms shall be promoted, subject to clause (3)."

The mediation process did not begin immediately after the promulgation of the new constitution; it took Judiciary effort and time to work on the practice directions. After 6 years of wait, the Court Annexed Mediation (CAM) was finally implemented in April 2016 at the Commercial and Family Divisions of the Court. The pilot of Court Annexed Mediation was introduced in Nairobi and thereafter rolled out to other counties namely Mombasa, Eldoret, Kisumu, Nakuru, Nyeri, Machakos, Garissa, Embu, Kakamega, and Kisii.

The process was introduced to enhance access to justice for all, assist in the reduction of the backlog of cases, ensure speedy resolution of disputes, and reduce the cost of resolving disputes. Other benefits are: creating an atmosphere of accommodation and tolerance, enhancing resolutions suited to parties' needs, encouraging voluntary compliance of parties with resolutions and re-establishing relationships that existed before the dispute.

"By 2018, the use of mediation had extended to the Milimani Children's Court, the Milimani Chief Magistrate's Commercial Court, the Environment and Land Court, the Employment and



Labour Relations Court, as well as the Civil Division of the High Court. Furthermore, the CAM has also been launched in court stations away from Nairobi, the capital city. These include court stations in Eldoret, Garissa, Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Machakos, Mombasa, Nakuru and Nyeri," said Sarah Ater, a Judiciary Accredited Mediator also serving in CAM program.

"Since the commencement of the CAM, significant progress has been made. By July 2017, CAM was reported to have unlocked more than \$14 million (approximately Kshs 1.4 billion) which was held up in disputes. That represented a settlement rate of 53.8 percent in the Commercial and 55.7% in the Family Divisions. By July 2018, \$24 million (Ksh 2.4 billion) was reported to have been unlocked rising to \$40 million (Ksh 4 billion) by February 2019," she added.

Since 2017 the country has witnessed the surge in the number of

Judiciary Accredited Mediators. As of March 2019, the number had hit 499 according to Sarah. The number of institutes offering mediation training has also risen, for instance, Suluhu Mediation Centre (SMC) which has partnered with Mediation Institute Pty Ltd Australia to offer a forty-hour mediation training to various people including managers, lawyers, and other professionals.

The five-day program uses lectures, demonstrations, interactive exercises, supervised role-plays, and group discussions to impart trainees with the necessary skills required in the mediation process.

There are thousands of cases but not all are eligible for mediation. Some of the cases suitable for mediation include commercial transactions, personal injury, construction, workers compensation, labour or community relations, divorce, domestic relations, verbal harassment, and any other matter

which does not require evidence nor involve complex procedures.

According to Mr. Maina Migwi, the founder of the Suluhu Mediation Centre, most mediations in Kenya following the following stages:

1. Introduction

During this stage, the mediator introduces everyone and states the rules and goals of the mediation. The signing of the agreement can be undertaken if not done in the initial contact phase.

2. Disputants' statements

Each party is given an opportunity to give an account of what led to the dispute. No one is allowed to interrupt when one is speaking.

3. Private caucuses

Here each party meets the mediator privately to enable the latter to gain a deep understanding of each side's claims to come up with a solution.

4. Joint negotiation

The mediator brings back the parties to negotiate directly after a settlement has been reached or when the time allotted for the mediation expired.

5. Written agreement

If the disputants reach a resolution, the mediator may note the agreement down and ask the parties to sign. However, if they fail to agree, the mediator helps them decide whether it would be necessary to meet again later.

Mr. Migwi revealed to the Pan African Visions that a great mediator must be patient and tact, alert, creative, credible, a person who perseveres, have good listening and negotiation skills among others.

"A mediator should be a person who is patient, empathetic, interested in what the parties are going through and not bias..." said Mr. Migwi.

Meanwhile, mediation practice in Kenya is marred with a number of challenges ranging from insufficient sensitization to inadequate rooms.

"As the CAM continues to expand in the country, it faces some challenges. For example, some stations have

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inadequate space making it necessary for the mediation registry to share office space with other departments. For the same reasons, mediators sometimes have to wait in turn to attend to parties in an allocated mediation room. The judiciary is however planning to construct additional rooms at some stations and mediators are also allowed to conduct sessions away from the court premises," noted Sarah.

African Plant Breeders And Entomologists Intensify Efforts To Combat The Fall Army Worm Menace

By Wallace Mawire

Collaborations are being intensified in Africa to combat the ravaging impact of the menacing Fall Army Worm (FAW), which is posing a serious threat for food security to many households apart from climate change.

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are some of the organizations which are on the forefront of capacitating concerned stakeholders in the fight against the fall armyworm.

On current status of the fall army worm resistance breeding at CIMMYT in Africa. FAW resistant germplasm from CIMMYT Mexico has been introduced into Africa and crossed with locally adapted materials. Also additional breeding materials have been sourced from USA and Brazil.

It is reported that little or no FAW tolerant/resistant locally adapted lines have been found to hold under FAW in trials.

It has also been added that promising first-generation FAW-resistant hybrids have been constituted and are now close to final testing.

Also no-choice experiments are being reported to being set up to verify candidate hybrids for releases before seed scaling up.

It is added that promising donor lines have been shared with national breeding programmes and private seed companies.

According to Cosmos Magorokosho, a Maize Breeder at CIMMYT and his other colleagues in a presentation at the Zimbabwe Plant Breeders Association (ZPBA) 2020 annual congress in the near-future, FAW resistant varieties developed will be allocated to both private and



public sector for scaling up.

"Early generation seed of parents of FAW resistant varieties will be bulked and disseminated to both public and private sector for seed hybrid make-up. Farmers to soon start benefiting from new FAW resistant varieties that also have other desirable traits," the researchers said.

It is added that breeding and deploying FAW resistant maize varieties could offer farmers an option within an overall Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy.

The researchers added that FAW resistance will be available to farmers encapsulated in the seed, which ensures that after purchasing the seed, farmers need not invest heavily in any more inputs to control the pest.

Also notable achievements have been made on screening of maize inbred lines under FAW infestation in Zimbabwe and screening of maize inbred lines under FAW infestation in Kenya. There also been collaboration between entomologists and breeders.

The researchers say that Fall Armyworm is now a major global problem and there is need to breed for host-plant resistance.

They add that FAW is here to stay, just like most transboundary

pests and diseases. Insect control is available for little more than the cost of the seed • Added advantage of building HPR to other economic traits

They add that elite locally-adapted materials with proven performance should form the base germplasm for in building FAW resistance. Achievements to date include facility at Kiboko, Kenya, for screening maize germplasm against FAW under artificial infestation and a similar facility being established in CIMMYT-Harare for screening germplasm suitable for southern African agro-ecologies.

Outlining FAW management programmes in Southern Africa Mathew Abang, FAOSFS Representative in Zimbabwe said that global Action will massively scale up current FAO efforts against FAW thanks to multiple mechanisms like the national FAW Task Forces, partnerships with research institutions and the private sector, just to mention a few.

He said that the Global Action has three key objectives namely to establish global coordination and regional collaboration on monitoring, early warning, and IPM, reducing crop yield losses caused by FAW and

lowering the risk of further spread of FAW to new areas.

It is reported that US\$500 million is to be mobilized to implement the action in a coordinated and harmonized manner in three regions. Interventions will be targeted at priority countries identified through FAO's new data-driven Hand-in-Hand Initiative. The initiative pairs the world's most developed countries with selected LDCs, and supports the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Global Action will reinforce efforts to discourage the widespread use of chemical pesticides, and put emphasis on prevention. It will also advocate for a combination of robust monitoring and early warning systems, including FAO's FAMEWS tool, along with IPM as the basis for supporting farmers in managing FAW.

The Global Action will establish a global coordination mechanism for an open and collaborative dialogue towards common solutions. It will also support the establishment and scaling up of national Task Forces on FAW, and the mobilization of resources for applied research geared towards practical and efficient solutions.

Expected results include better market access, harmonized regional control and management strategies for trans-boundary animal and plant pests and diseases affecting trade, coordinated control and management of trans-boundary animal and plant pests and diseases at regional level, strengthened regional and national levels for effective surveillance and early warning systems, innovative approaches to risk management of trade related diseases and promoting them in accordance with international guidelines and standards.



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Jean Pierre Nsame: A Football Season To Remember For The 27-Year-Old Cameroonian

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

Jean Pierre Nsame, it may not be a name that quickly resonates in Cameroon and across the world like that of Samuel Eto'o. But the player who was born in Douala, the economic hub of Cameroon is quickly gaining a huge following.

Jean Pierre Nsame made his professional debut in April 2012 for Angers in a 1-1 Ligue 2 draw against FC Metz. He made 23 appearances for Angers over four seasons with the club and also enjoyed loan spells with Carquefou and Amiens in the Championnat National (National Football Championship in France).

The 2019/2020 football season has been one to remember for the Cameroonian international. At the end of the football season plagued by the COVID-19, Nsame finished as the top goal scorer in the Swiss League with 32 goals, a record for any Cameroonian or African footballer since the likes of Samuel Eto'o (scored 30 goals in a season).

His top scorer award adds to the one he won in the Swiss Challenge League. He won the award in the 2016/2017 season scoring 23 goals. This year, Young Boys won back-to-back league titles. The side



Jean Pierre Nsame finished as the Swiss top scorer with 32 goals.

finished on 76 points, 8 points ahead of second-placed St Gallen.

Nsame recently scored one goal for his team as they looked to qualify for next year's UEFA Champions League. Unfortunately for the side, they were

knocked out of the qualifiers, meaning Young Boys won't be participating in the Champions League next year.

«It has been a milestone for him as an individual,» Edward Mwambo, a writer with Kick442.com told PAV.

«It is a good time for him as a player for Cameroon, and we hope that we can tap from these good times and benefit from his goal scoring touch for the Lions.»

His beautiful campaign has not gone unnoticed with some major clubs looking to snap up the player for their side. Ranger of Scotland and Everton (England) were the two biggest names reported to require the services of the player. However, Rangers have dispelled the report linking Jean Pierre Nsame to the club. Manager Steven Gerard in an outing made it categorically clear that they are not looking at the player. This leaves room for Everton to move for the services of Jan Pierre Nsame.

«I would rather advocate for a move to Glasgow Rangers who would be a team where he will play the right kind of game to prepare him for a move to the Premier League. He can also make the move to the French top-flight because leaving from the Swiss



The prolific forward will look to extend his goal scoring abilities to the Lions as the country looks to host AFCON 2022.



league to England to me will be a big asks,” Edward Mwambo reiterated.

Jemea Teke, a writer with Mysoccer24.com equally agreed and said Nsame moving to England now may not be the right move at the moment. He said: «Moving to Scotland might be the perfect place for him to go and get more experience. This will help him grown and he then making the move to England will suit him better as he would have gotten the experience of how the British style of football is.»

Cameroonian sports enthusiasts and journalists have identified Nsame as one of the potent finishers that the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon have been lacking, ever since legend

Samuel Eto'o ended his national career.

With Cameroon scheduled to welcome the African continent for the AFCON 2022, Nsame will be very much the first person on the list for Head coach António Conceição da Silva Oliveira, sports journalists in Buea say. It is, however, surprising to note that Jean Pierre Nsame has had just one appearance for the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon, He earned his first cap for Cameroon when he started their match against Nigeria on 4 September 2017 in a qualifying match for the 2018 World Cup.

Cameroon will certainly be counting on him to produce on home soil as

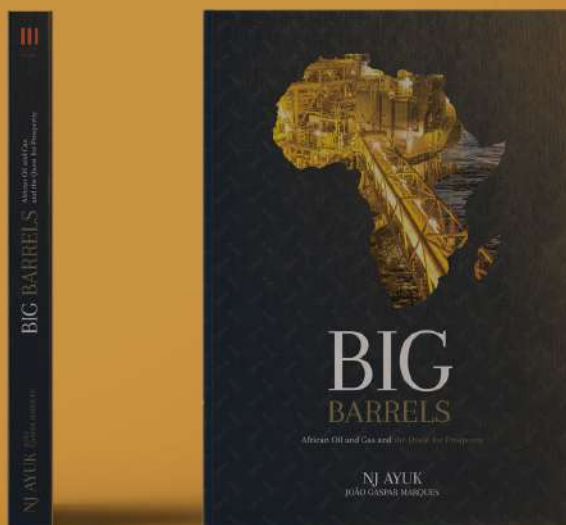
the country look to win the AFCON. The country last won it in 2017 but failed to leave up to expectation in the 2019 edition. The team has already qualified for the competition as host but is participating in the qualifiers to be match fit.

On 23 August 2016 Nsame signed for Swiss Challenge League side Servette. He finished as the league's top goalscorer with 23 goals, helping the club to an impressive third-place finish after their promotion the previous season.

His goals attracted interest from other clubs and in July 2017, after only one year in Geneva, he joined Young Boys of the Swiss Super League. In his first season, he was

part of the Young Boys squad that won the Super League title for the first time in 32 years. They clinched the title with a 2–1 win over Luzern on 28 April 2018, with Nsame scoring an 89th-minute winner. The side's victory saw an end to FC Basel's eight-year dominance of the competition.

Young Boys, one of Switzerland's biggest clubs, last won the title in 1986 and have finished runners-up eight times since then, including the last three seasons before the signing of Nsame. He helped the club retain their title the following campaign, scoring 15 goals in 31 league appearances.



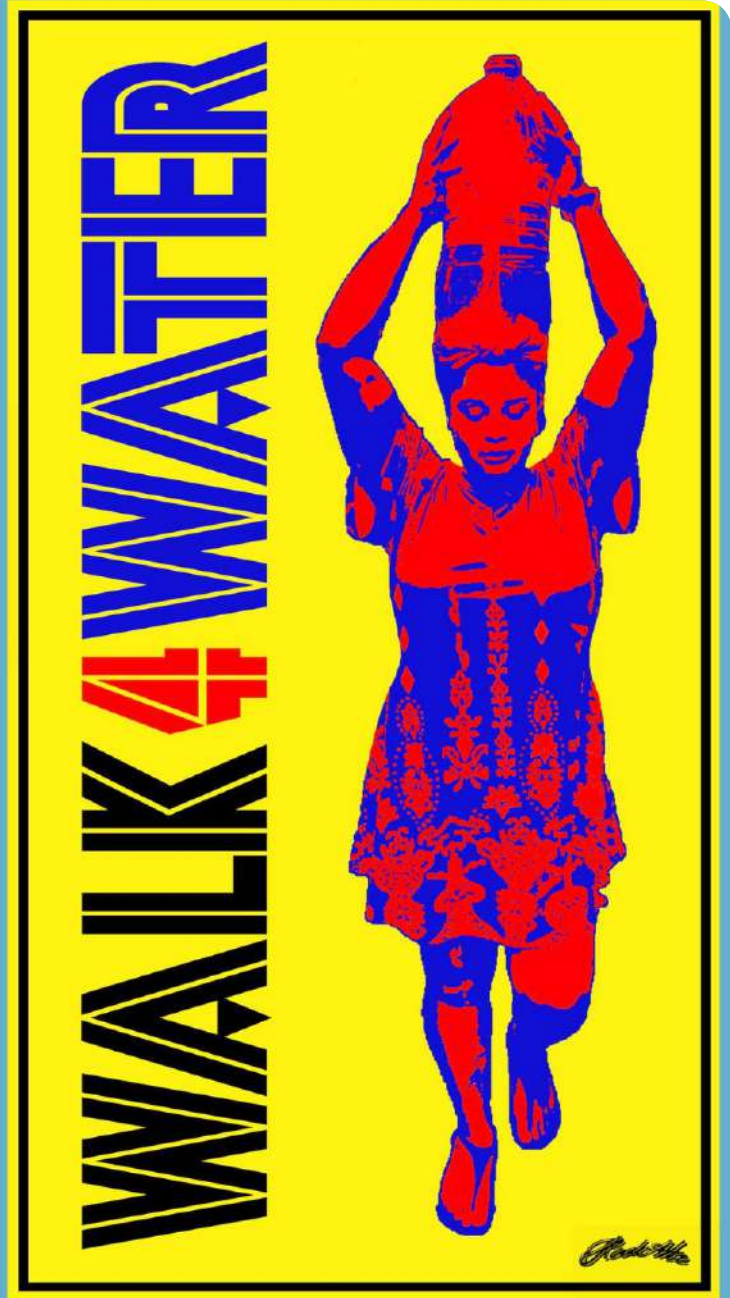
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