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Presidents At "war"**



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CONTENTS

The Burden of Leadership At 60: As Nigeria Goes, _____	2	AfCFTA - Former Liberian Minister B. Elias Shoniya _____	27
so does Africa _____	2	French Court Faces a 'Stolen' African Artwork Dilemma _____	31
Nigeria At 60: A Birthday That Could _____	3	On Bakassi Cameroon Denies Owing Any Financial Compensation to Nigeria _____	33
Have Been Better _____	3	Rwanda: Will UN, other International Bodies rescue Paul Rusesagabagina from terrorism charges? _____	34
Ramaphosa Calls on World Leaders to do more in tackling Challenges Facing Ordinary People _____	6	Sustained Efforts Needed To Boast Brazil-Africa Relations -Prof Joao Monte _____	35
Mozambique :Former and Current President At "war". _____	9	Health Expert Praises Africa's Fight Against Coronavirus _____	39
Malawi: President Chakwera Faces Litmus Political Test In Appointments _____	11	Aid for Sex Rampant in Uganda: UN Report _____	40
D.R.Congo: Growing Calls To Expel Rwandan Ambassador _____	13	60 Years After Independence Nigeria's Energy Industry Hasn't Realized Its Promise — But It's Getting Closer _____	42
Kenya: Political Bigwigs Creating Unnecessary Tension As Elections Near _____	14	More Than 2,400 Candidates Apply For One Role As Competition For Jobs In Africa Stiffens _____	45
Cameroon: Violent Crackdown on Regime Change Protesters _____	15	Increase Investment in Mini grid Electricity to Get Africa out of Darkness _____	47
Côte d'Ivoire: The Ghosts Of The Past _____	18	Zimbabwe's Capital City Pomona Dumpsite Fire In Harare Posing Serious Air Pollution And A Health Threat To Residents _____	48
Cameroon:Operation "Bamenda Clean"; cleansing Young Cameroonians, jobs _____	21	The Basic Need Of The Cocoa Farmer Is Not Price Increment; But Access To Basic Amenities. _____	49
Cameroon Anglophone Crisis: "The Worst May Still Be Ahead"-Catholic Bishops Warn _____	22	FECAFOOT vs LFPC Tussle: What Future for Cameroon Football? _____	51
African Hero Gone: A Look at some of George Bizos; Famous Cases _____	24		
African countries should structure post covid plans around the			

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The Burden of Leadership At 60: As Nigeria Goes, so does Africa

By Ajong Mbapndah L

On 1st October 2020, going through. the Federal Republic of Nigeria clocked 60 years of Independence. Coming at a time when the country like the rest of Africa and the world was grappling with the challenges of COVID, this milestone may have been lost to many especially non-Nigerians. Still, for a country of Nigeria's stature, the momentous occasion calls for celebration, it calls for reflections, and it is equally auspicious that Nigeria is reminded of the leadership burden that it has in Africa and the world. Indeed, been the biggest black nation on earth comes with more than its fair share of responsibilities, and obligations, and at 60, it is about time Nigeria steps up its game.

In 1960 when Nigeria had its independence, the country had a population of circa 45 million. Today, its population is in excess of 200 million. Endowed with abundantly rich resources, Nigeria has all that it takes to amply discharge the leadership role that it probably did not bargain for, but that is indisputably hers in Africa, and on the global stage for black people.

When Nigeria turned 50, we opined that the fortunes of Africa were inextricably tied to Nigeria. If Nigeria does well, Africa does well, if Nigeria fails Africa fails. Leadership is no easy feat, but from the historic roles played in the fight against apartheid, the resolution of conflicts in Liberia, and Sierra Leone, Nigeria has showed glimpses of what its leadership could bring.

At some point in Africa's checkered post-independence history, coups were en vogue, with Nigeria setting the tempo. It may sound simplistic, but one cannot just see a coincidence in that fact that for the lengthy period that the military reigned in Nigeria, it was the same in a number of African countries. Similarly, the struggles that Nigeria has been through to bolster its democracy are the same that many African countries of been

As President Buhari said in his Independence Day speech, the richest resource Nigeria has is its people. The same can be said about Africa, but are Nigerians conscious of this, are Africans conscious of this? If Nigerians are, why would the choice of political leadership be determined by your affinity to the Muslim North or the Christian South instead of competence and aptitude to do the job? If Nigerians are aware, why should ethnic affiliations still be so prominent?

This is not only a Nigerian syndrome, take a look at the ethnic background of African leaders and that of those who occupy both the most strategic and most plum positions and you will see a link. Yet the geniuses in Nigeria, and the geniuses in Africa know no tribes, gender or religion. Aliko Dangote, a Northern Muslim is the pride of Nigeria and Africa in the world of business. In the world, he has his place amongst the global business elite. The literary wizardry of Chinua Achebe who is Igbo, or that of Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka a Yoruba is of universal acclaim. How can you talk about the finest in the world of writing today without talking about the venerable Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie? Talk of leadership beyond Nigerian shores and people like Dr Akinwumi Adesina, President of the AfDB, Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo, Secretary General of OPEC, are prominent actors on the global stage.

Talk of talent and Nigeria has it in abundance, definitely not a commodity that will be in short supply there anytime soon. Putting it at the service of the country, at the service of the collective good, at the service of Africa is something that could be



Ajong Mbapndah L, Managing Editor

there are many iconic moments that Nigeria can build on, is it President Goodluck Jonathan a sitting President calling to concede to opposition challenger Muhammadu Buhari who defeated him in the high stakes elections of 2016? And despite their differences, how many times have we seen President Buhari and his predecessor appear in public together? The optics matter.

Talking of leadership, President Buhari is in a unique position to leave a lasting imprint on leadership in Nigeria and Africa. He was in the spheres of power at a relatively young age, he

came to power in the 80s through a military coup and was ousted by one. He knows the perils. He contested for Presidential elections multiple times and cried "wolf" wrongly or rightly each time the results did not favor because of rigging. Finally, in 2016, in elections billed by analysts as a make or break moment for Nigeria, he was elected President with a sitting incumbent conceding to him. That was one of the finest moments in Nigeria's history and something he ought to build on. Serving his last mandate, there is no bigger stake that leaving behind a lasting legacy. From defeating Boko Haram, to fighting corruption and the general state of security in Nigeria, many feel that he has to do better.

The challenges have been many, but that Nigeria has weathered the odds to remain as a country is a feat that deserves celebration on its own. It is not something anyone should take for granted. From the joy Nigeria gave Africa as the first side to give the continent a gold medal at the Olympic games in 1996, to the worldwide fame that Nigeria music has brought for

done better. Even when the people are willing to, the toxic realities of domestic politics are a serious impediment. Elections permanently challenged, never ending ethnic and religious feuds, endemic corruption that even President Buhari whose probity and rigor has been touted is unable to arrest, and the tainted image of the country from 419 scams, yahoo boys and others have not done the country any favors.

Just like Nigeria rallied Africa in to success in defence of Dr Adesina and the integrity of the AfDB, so too should Nigeria be able to speak up for Africa when there are xenophobic attacks on fellow Africans in South Africa, when constitutional term limits are abrogated in Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire. When it comes to speaking for Africa and black people, Nigeria is saddled with this responsibility. For this role to be effective Nigeria must get its domestic act together.

the continent, to Nollywood making its mark in the world of movies, Nigeria deserves respect, support and encouragement. Hopefully the political piece of the puzzle is sorted

out and Nigeria gets the leadership of all its people, for all its people and by all its people it deserves. When Nigeria gets it right, Africa will follow suit and get right.

In addition to perspectives on Nigerian at 60, we bring you a preview of the upcoming Brazil Africa forum, a development expert take on post COVID-19 recovery plans for

Africa, a look at Cameroon's cascade of crisis, a new Presidential feud in Mozambique, a tribute to iconic Lawyer George Bizos and more. Happy reading!!

Nigeria At 60: A Birthday That Could Have Been Better

By Richard Mammah

It really should not have happened like that. However, on the eve of the flagging off of the celebration of Nigeria's 60th Independence anniversary, Islamist insurgents attacked the convoy of one of the nation's popularly regarded sub-national leaders, Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno State. By the time the dust had settled, almost three dozen members of the Governor's train had been felled. And to make matters worse, it was the second time in the past few weeks that the Governor was being attacked.

For many Nigerians, the attack on Zulum epitomizes the governance challenges that the country is mired in. And it brought to the fore once again the fact that the resolution of the nation's security challenges, which had been taken as given, with the emergence of the retired military General, Muhammadu Buhari as President of Africa's most populous nation in 2015, was not quite a done deal yet.

Scale of the problem

Nigeria today is not short of critics and opposition elements that would readily castigate the government for what it deems to be its failings. But the scale of the challenge in the country today is such that even bigger voices are joining in the fray. From former President Olusegun Obasanjo to Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, almost no week passes now in the country without the administration getting a high-powered rebuke.

It was in the heat of this state of declining fortunes for the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC that crucial sub-national elections were held in Edo State. By the time the results were declared, the ruling party



President Muhammadu Buhari and wife Aisha, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, House Speaker Femi Gbajabiamila, and former Presidents Goodluck Jonathan and Yakubu Gowon were part of the Independence Day festivities. Photo courtesy

lost out, and also gave up its only political stronghold in the oil-rich Niger Delta region.

Analyst's permutations are that the spate of crises within the APC could undermine President Buhari's desire to keep the party together, and in a winning mode too, after he concludes his constitutionally permitted second term in office in 2023.

But even before then, there are two

critical elections in Ondo and Lagos States where it would be tested again.

Scoring home goals

In the midst of this tense situation, and much unlike what had been the trend before now, even government representatives are beginning to publicly admit that there is indeed trouble. One such recent instance involved presidential spokesman,

Garba Shehu.

Addressing concerns from the British parliament that the Buhari administration was being discriminatory to Christians in the country, Shehu debunked the claim overall but conceded that the nation was facing some challenges.

Speaking also at the inter-denominational service convened to flag off the Independence celebrations, Vice President Osinbajo affirmed that indeed Nigeria was in trouble and needed, like was the case in the days of Nehemiah in Bible times, prayers and intercession to save it. For his forthrightness, Osinbajo was to be tongue-lashed by the Arewa Consultative Forum, ACF. But the horses had already bolted.

The economy is a lot of the challenge

Nigeria's woes are connected to its economic boom and bust cycles. But this is also in turn connected to its tumultuous political trajectory. In the pre-Independence period and the immediate post-independence era, relatively healthy competition among the regions ensured that there was a broadly diversified economy that was steadily accelerating and indeed primed to be a world-beater. This burst of prosperity was however very closely connected to corresponding efforts to entrench and sustain a competitive federal order in the country. When distortions began to appear in this political framework, and upon the further discovery of oil, the nation, which had now lost its federalist essence, went on to fight a civil war, capitulated into an essentially unitary frame, and began also to lose its broad economic competitiveness. Even when the flow



President Buhari inspects a guard of honour in Abuja at the Independence Day celebrations. Photo credit David Oma, Xinhua.



Nigeria is not a country for Mr. President, any ruling or opposition party but a country for all of us ,President Buhari said in his message

of oil wealth continued to guarantee cash to the government and the top ranks of the elite, the fact of the commodity's sparse overall contribution to more critical variables like employment and GDP expansion, was now a major challenge.

Even in the current democratic order, this disjuncture has not abated and has in turn led to a frenetic angling for the restructuring of the federation and diversification of the economy as a means of lessening intra-ethnic and religious tension, saving the nation and taking it further towards becoming a solid and prosperous African anchor.

Not entirely a gloomy tale

To be sure, Nigeria's story is not entirely a gloomy affair. Yes, it has been battered but it has also had its basic 'day in the sun.'

One person who knows this quite well is the industrialist, Prince Samuel Adedoyin. And he helps us put it in context:

'I will tell you about the success which Nigeria has achieved. For instance, when we were young, you needed to rent a bicycle for two kobo to go to Ikoyi to see the white people eating, or even to Victoria Island and

the beach where there were no roads and streets, only a path. There was no Victoria Island and Ikoyi was reserved for the whites. The Southwest area was not built then, and there wasn't any Lekki, Ibeju-Lekki and so on as we know them now. When you consider these, you will see that a lot has changed. If you were going to Epe then, it was like going to another city entirely. Now, almost all those locations are built up. Again, when you look towards the other side - from Orile to Badagry - it has also almost been completely built up. We are talking of developments across well over 100 kilometers and yet you are still within the city of Lagos. When you look at these, you will know that there has been some progress and achievement.

When you look at Lagos State today for example, about 2 years ago, it was said that it was the 5th largest economy in Africa, and maybe they have now dropped at this time to the 7th. And note that it is only a city within Nigeria. If we determine to do more and to believe in ourselves and are determined to succeed and also believe in the country, I think we can achieve much more. I have tried Europe, I have lived in London,

invested in England and I think that all in all, Nigeria remains my best.'

The African conundrum

Indeed, Nigeria's natural endowments remain generally attractive and this much continues to be broadly appreciated by many in the continent.

At the close of September for example, the South Africa-born Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA, Wamkele Mene was in Abuja to hold talks with the Nigerian authorities on the need for the country to ratify the landmark agreement and latch on fully onto the ambitious project. With Nigeria having the single biggest GDP number in the continent yet, AfCFTA would in a sense be somewhat handicapped without its involvement, even if temporarily.

Clearly, when it comes to the ranking of states in the African continent, few exceed Nigeria. For example, the nation that plays host to the continent's largest aggregation of black people is currently engaged in troubleshooting in Mali as well as in helping out with putting out fires and providing support for other nations in notably, the West African sub-region.

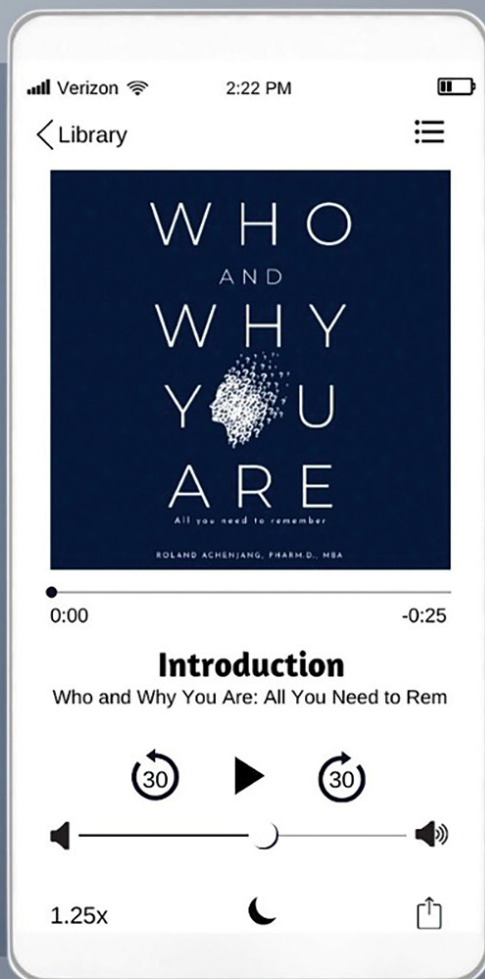
Notably, this tendency of Nigeria to exert itself on behalf of the West African sub-region and the broader African continent has long been demonstrated. From the Niger missile crisis, through the Congo crisis to the decolonization of the rest of the continent, to battling civil war in Liberia and Sierra Leone, Nigeria has been its brother's keeper through the years.

But former Nigerian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Dr Christopher Kolade says that though Nigeria's contributions to the continent was not in any doubt, however, resolving internal challenges and ensuring defter management of the nation's potentials and resources would produce even far greater results here and in other areas:

'There is a fundamental philosophy which says you cannot make any one better and to do what you do not possess. That is very important for us to remember. So as we carry out our roles in different places, we should look inward from time to time and question our own credibility in offering services in these places. Let me remind you that several years ago, African countries that were becoming independent actually came to Nigeria to borrow ideas and even to borrow people to develop their own systems. In certain countries, we had Nigerian lawyers who became chief judges; we had all kinds of things like that. Just cast your mind around this situation and ask yourself, in how many places are we still being asked to come and help them develop new institutions? That shows you that we are no more as credible as we used to be. All societies are moving on, and it seems to people outside that we are not making the kind of progress that we showed at the beginning. So, enough with this disconnect between national policy and foreign policy. If we want to offer ourselves as credible, we must have a credibility that is built at home.'

If Nigeria is to get back on the path of its vision, mission and purpose, it is important that its leaders listen to voices of wisdom like this.

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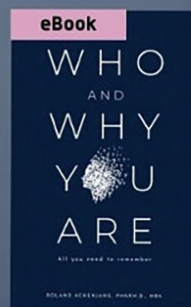
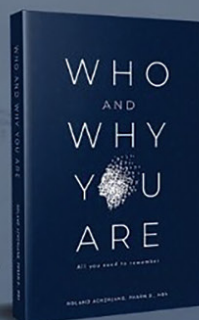
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Ramaphosa Calls on World Leaders to do more in tackling Challenges Facing Ordinary People

By Prince Kurupati

South African president Cyril Ramaphosa recently added his voice to the 75th United Nations General Assembly debate which was for the first time in history conducted virtually. This necessitated by the ravaging corona virus outbreak which has rendered international travel almost redundant.

During his address, Ramaphosa said that 75 years later after the formation of the United Nations, peace, unity and equality are still elusive in the world. "Today we battle the fires of a deadly pandemic, of racism and prejudice, of violence, war and extremism and, above all, of poverty and inequality."

Just as the world leaders in 1945 were faced with the insurmountable task of creating an institution that would pave the way for poverty eradication, global unification and equality across all boards, world leaders of today are also faced by the same challenge. Adding to the challenge is the novel corona virus pandemic, a pandemic which in the words of the South African president has "cost nearly a million lives... deepened human suffering and uprooted communities, destroyed livelihoods and plunged economies into turmoil."

In light of the challenges that are being experienced globally, Cyril Ramaphosa called on world leaders to do a lot more in ensuring that coming generations inherit a world that is peaceful, unified, and guarantees equality to everyone across all spectrums. Below, we highlight the main points drawn from Ramaphosa's address to the UN General Assembly.

On Recovery post COVID-19

Cyril Ramaphosa did acknowledge that the novel corona virus pandemic has caused havoc in all communities across the world. Lives have been lost, human suffering has been deepened; some communities have been uprooted while many livelihoods



President Ramaphosa wants world leaders to do more in ensuring that coming generations inherit a world that is peaceful, unified, and guarantees equality to everyone across all spectrums

have been threatened and others even destroyed.

However, despite all the negatives that have been ushered in by the pandemic, the South African president said the best thing to do for everyone at the moment is to look at ways of restoring normalcy while at the same time looking at recovery strategies post Covid-19. On this front, Ramaphosa said the best route is to encourage and foster the spirit of friendship and solidarity. Only when the world builds a common and inclusive spirit of friendship and solidarity can there be prospects of good things to come.

Making reference to the words of Nelson Mandela, Ramaphosa said, "It is human solidarity, the concern for the other that must be at the centre of the values by which we all live."

The South African president said that he is impressed by the fact that acts of solidarity have been existent in many parts of the world since

the emergence of the pandemic and that is a good sign for the future. "We (world leaders) have formed international partnerships to ensure there is equitable access to medical supplies... Many nations have set up extensive social support systems to protect citizens whose jobs, businesses and livelihoods have been threatened." This solidarity according to Ramaphosa demonstrates "the heights that can be attained when we work in the spirit of friendship and solidarity."

Still on the subject of Covid-19, Ramaphosa did acknowledge that the pandemic has inevitably affected Africa's developmental aspirations as resources had to be redirected to fighting the pandemic thus setting back efforts to provide housing, health care, water and sanitation and education. The President thus called for greater access to affordable credit for developing countries so as to cushion the countries from

the effects of the pandemic. He called on the suspension of interest payments on Africa's external and public debt while at the same time calling upon the United Nations to lift the economic sanctions placed on Zimbabwe and Sudan so as to help these two countries to cope and respond adequately to the pandemic.

On Equality and Poverty Eradication

In calling for a fast recovery post Covid-19, Ramaphosa said the biggest obstacle the world faces is poverty and inequality. "This pandemic has highlighted the urgency with which we must strive to meet all the Sustainable Development Goals, but more importantly Goal 1 – to end poverty in all its forms everywhere." He went on to state that for until we eradicated global poverty, the world will always fail at addressing other pertinent challenges.

On this front, Ramaphosa called



COURTESY: SHUTTERSTOCK/PAUL DOUGHERTY

Looters run off an alleged foreign owned shop in Turffontein, Johannesburg, in 2019. The image of South Africa continues to be heavily tainted with xenophobic attacks.

for the expansion of “economic opportunities to all people around the world, but most especially to the young, to women and to the vulnerable people in the world.” He stated that the scourge of corruption which has destroyed the moral fabric of societies pushing some families into absolute poverty must be decisively dealt with. Only when these measures have been taken can the world ever become free of hunger, disease, insecurity and war.

On the issue of inequality, the South African president said the year 2020 will always be remembered as the year when everyone looked in the face of racism with the sole intention of stamping it out. This necessitated

by the #BlackLivesMatter Movement. He said the movement is not just pertinent in other corners of the world but also in South Africa which for long battled with apartheid.

“As a country that has known too well the anguish of institutionalized racism, South Africa supports the demands for swift action against racism, whether committed by individuals, companies, officials or a state...South Africa calls on the United Nations to spare no effort to end prejudice and intolerance in all its forms and wherever it may be found.”

As the world celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action,

Ramaphosa said more needs to be done to grant equal status to women and girls across all spectrums of life. He said his country which is a member of the UN’s Generation Equality campaign and has prioritized the eradication of gender-based violence and femicide. He also said South Africa is looking to adopt an African Union Convention on Violence against Women during the course of the year.

On South Africa’s Inclusion as part of the United Nations Security Council

South Africa is currently serving its second year as an elected non-permanent member of the United

Nations Security Council. Ramaphosa said the country has used its position in the Security Council to propagate the ‘silence the guns’ message. “We (South Africa) have used our tenure to promote international peace and security by advocating for the peaceful settlement of disputes and inclusive dialogue.”

He said the efforts by South Africa in the Security Council have led to “improved peace and security in the Darfur region of Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Mali and the Central African Republic.”

However, while acknowledging the good things that the Security Council has done in fostering peace and unity in different countries, Ramaphosa called for the reformation of the Council stating “the current composition of the Security Council does not reflect the world in which we live...It is only through a reformed and inclusive UN Security Council that we will be able to collectively resolve some of the world’s most protracted conflicts.”

Still on the issue of peace and security, Ramaphosa concluded his address calling for the end “to the illegal occupation of Western Sahara and for the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination.” He also called “for the lifting of the economic embargo and blockade of Cuba.”

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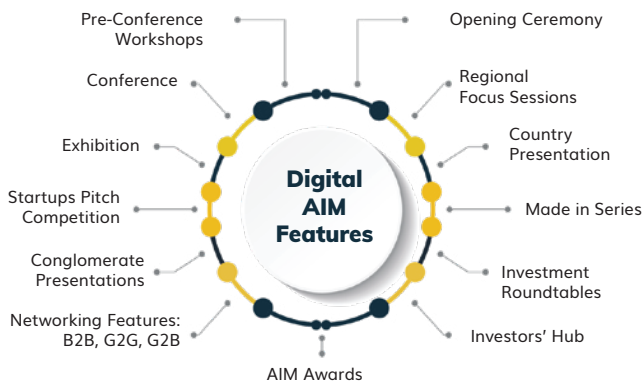
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Mozambique :Former and Current President At "war".

By Jorge Joaquim

Former Mozambican President Armando Guebuza has reacted angrily to a request to speak to the country's Attorney General, in a statement he made to the Council of State and which has been leaked to the media. Guebuza is named as a 'Third Party' in a claim being made by the Mozambique government against Credit Suisse and three former Credit Suisse bankers; Lebanese businessman Iskandar Sifa; and five companies related to his Prinvest group. Mozambique wants the London Commercial Court to rule guarantees backing loans arranged by Credit Suisse to Mozambican state-owned entities, signed by the former finance minister, invalid — and to order the defendants to pay Mozambique compensation for damages caused by the scandal and resulting financial crisis caused by the deals.

The 'Third Parties' in the claim — who also include former Deputy Finance Minister Isaltina Lucas, and the former President's son Armando Ndambi Guebuza, have been included in the claim by Credit Suisse as parties it may seek indemnification from. Credit Suisse also reportedly wants to



Relations between President Nyusi and his predecessor Armando Guebuza have gone south.

include sitting President Filipe Nyusi in the case, and has enquired with the Mozambican authorities as to his immunity.

The Council of State was convened, virtually, on 15 September, to discuss a request from the office of

Mozambique's Attorney General, or Procuradoria Geral da República (PGR), to interview Guebuza ahead of his possibly being called to testify in London. The PGR's request comes in light of new and highly compromising evidence.

As a member of the Council of State, the summons by the PGR must be approved by the Council of State before Guebuza needs to honour it. In his statement to the meeting, seen by Guebuza accuses the PGR of citing him in the London case — and says it is "strange that our Attorney General has preferred to cross sub-Saharan Africa, the Sahara desert, the Mediterranean sea, continental Europe and the Channel, to obtain clarifications from a national citizen resident here."

"When we joined the Mozambique Liberation Front, in hiding," Guebuza continued, "we had the noblest aspiration to see our homeland, the homeland of heroes, freed from the colonial yoke, guaranteeing the reaffirmation of our Mozambicanity, respect for the rights and freedoms and the well-being of all Mozambicans. And this aspiration remains intact."

Guebuza's intervention lays bare the animosity between him and the regime of President Filipe Nyusi — describing the PGR's latest request as "a continuation of an attempted



Former President Guebuza feels he is unfairly treated by his predecessor.

political assassination” which gained “tonic” after a speech he gave last month at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo. The speech included strong criticisms of the Nyusi government. “Our sovereignty is in question. ... We’ve stopped believing in ourselves. We had the Renamo situation for 16 years, and two more years, but we didn’t stop believing that Mozambique was ours, and that we would win. Now voices are starting to appear, that doubt that,” Guebuza said.

He also lists a number of occasions when he has felt mistreated by the PGR — having found out through the press in 2017, for example, that the PGR had demanded access to his banking records; and an instance in 2018 when the PGR asked him to answer questions about the offshore security deals financed by Credit Suisse and supplied by Prinvest.

On that occasion, Guebuza deferred to President Nyusi to decide whether he should answer the PGR’s questions. Nyusi replied that he should — to which Guebuza replied in turn that the matter ought to go before the Council of State, though he grudgingly agreed to answer the questions anyway. In his statement, Guebuza also condemned the PGR for not taking seriously an alleged attempt to poison him and his family, which happened in 2018.

Guebuza said he would still meet with the PGR to answer their questions. The Council of State itself did not make a decision on it, with the Frelimo members asking for more time. The three Renamo members abstained on the question. The Council could be reconvened in October.

The Commercial Court in London expects to hear the case in January 2021, having in July included Safa as a defendant, and having limited the various defendant’s rights to appeal.

Guebuza seems to have misunderstood who is citing him in the London proceedings. If it were Mozambique — the Claimant — then he would be a Defendant. In fact,



Attorney General Beatriz Buchili was appointed by President Guebuza in 2014.

he is a Third Party subject to a ‘Part 20’ claim, which is a counterclaim or additional claim that defendants can make. It is the bank that requested the inclusion of Guebuza and the other Third Parties. Without the background of Guebuza’s animosity to the current regime — including the Attorney General whom he appointed — it would appear natural that the PGR and Guebuza would confer ahead of a trial in which they are both pitted against Credit Suisse. But Guebuza instead sees his real enemy as the PGR. There have been persistent rumours since Guebuza was toppled from the leadership of Frelimo in 2015 that there is an internal war going on within Frelimo. This statement from Guebuza confirms that — and so Mozambique presumably cannot count on his support in trying to win its case against Credit Suisse, despite his protestations that the loyalty to Mozambique that caused him to join Frelimo in the first place remains intact.

Guebuza was first interrogated by the PGR and the special Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry (CPI) after the emergence of the secret debt in 2016.

António Muchanga says Guebuza is reaping what he has sown

Renamo MP António Muchanga said Armando Guebuza is “reaping what he has sown”, following the former president’s complaint that the Attorney General’s office is acting in a political manner in the case of so-called hidden debts. Guebuza himself appointed the Attorney General, Beatriz Buchili, in 2014, because — Muchanga says — she was a suitable figure to carry out political expediencies — including the episode of the convening of the Council of State on 19 July that year, in order to remove Muchanga’s immunity, arrest him and humiliate him.

Muchanga said that Guebuza was lucky, because he should have suffered the same indignity as Muchanga who was handcuffed and arrested just after the end of the Council of State session. “Armando Emilio Guebuza has to eat the bread that he helped the devil to knead,” Muchanga said in a press conference.

It has taken five years since Guebuza left office to force his interrogation, but marks how much his power within Frelimo has declined.

The ‘hidden debts’ case

The ‘hidden debts’ are related to loans worth \$2.2 billion (€2 billion) taken out between 2013 and 2014 with the British subsidiaries of the investment banks Credit Suisse and VTB by the Mozambican state companies Proindicus, Ematum and MAM.

The loans were secretly endorsed by the government of the Liberation Front of Mozambique (Frelimo, the party in power since independence), led by Guebuza, without the knowledge of parliament or the Administrative Court.

Among the 19 defendants arrested in Mozambique are figures close to the former President, such as one of his sons, Ndambi Guebuza, and his secretary, Inês Moaine. The Mozambican Public Prosecutor accuses the defendants of criminal association, blackmail, taking bribes, embezzlement, abuse of position or function, violation of management rules, and forgery.

Malawi: President Chakwera Faces Litmus Political Test In Appointments

By Joseph Dumbula

As his initial hundred days in office elapse, Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera is facing a huge protest over a number of decisions most of which involve his official appointments.

Chakwera came to power in June having won a historical fresh presidential poll, seeing out Peter Mutharika who was president from 2014 and was declared winner in 2019 poll which Chakwera contested in court.

However, 65 year old Chakwera is facing an uproar which started from the time he appointed a list of ministers, some of who were close relations, including Malawi Congress Party Vice President Sidik Mia and his wife, Abida as cabinet ministers.

But, in a latest wave of political questions, he is now facing protests over the appointments of board of directors for the Southern African nation's statutory corporations.

Gender activists are slamming the president for just placing 6 women out of the 67 appointments.

So far, Gender Activist Barbra Banda and youth rights advocate Charles Kajoloweka and renowned law scholar Edge Kanyogolo have turned down their appointments.

For instance, Barbara Banda says



President Chakwera has received criticisms over political appointments. Photo AFP.

she is protesting the fact that women have been overlooked.

The organizations she leads, Gender Coordination Network along with other organizations are now asking Chakwera to rescind the appointments.

However, Chakwera says he respects the choice made by some member of the civil society organizations not to take up positions in the recent parastatals appointments for them to concentrate on their mandates.

Political analyst Wonderful Mkhuthe tells Pan African Visions that by far, the president is rewarding those who toiled during the campaign to his win in June.

« The appointments are seen to include Tonse Alliance partners. However, as it is, focus needs to be on how the people will deliver in their various capacities. The activists are right, Malawi is a signatory to international agreements that promote gender equality. Even more, we have the Gender Equality Act which needs adherence. Women need not to be left behind». He said.

At the moment, the current government has unleashed a new wave of change into issuance of national loans and agriculture subsidy programs which target the rural poor population through a MK2.2 Trillion budget.

Also, through his maiden State of the Nation Address, Chakwera hinted that he is working on preparing

pieces of legislations meant to reduce presidential powers, subsequently indicating that he is the people's President.

Chakwera's regime immediate mandate has seen a number of arrests of allies to former ruling Democratic Progressive Party members.

For example, Mutharika's security aide Norman Chisale is facing heft corruption charges and an attempted murder case.

Former Minister of Information Henry Mussa has also been arrested for allegedly stealing generators and computers while in office. He is currently on bail.

Hot on the list, however, is a case involving business mogul Thom Mpinganjira who allegedly bribed judges that heard the landmark elections petition case from last year.

It is the same poll that led to the nullification of results in which Mutharika was declared winner before Chakwera who went into an alliance with current Vice President Saulos Chilima party, UTM and other parties including Malawi's first female President Joyce Banda, Peoples Party.



Former Minister of Information Henry Mussa is among officials from the previous administration facing persecution

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D.R.Congo: Growing Calls To Expel Rwandan Ambassador

By Jean-Pierre Afadhali

The fragile relations between Rwanda and The Democratic Republic of Congo could be further weakened amid continued calls from civil society organizations to expel Rwanda's Ambassador over comments deemed in denial of massacres documented in a UN report ten years ago.

For about a month now, prominent citizens' movements in DRC have continued to hold demonstrations and sit-ins to denounce recent statements made by Rwanda's Ambassador Vincent Karega on the South Kivu massacres with demands for his expulsion. The rising protests signal a weakening of diplomatic relations despite recent efforts that followed the election of President Felix Tshisekedi to strengthen the Great Lakes countries' ties.

Tensions rose in August following a controversial tweet that has since been deleted. The Rwandan diplomat was responding to a Congolese citizen on the massacre allegedly committed by Rwandan army in DRC. Ambassador Karega tweeted that those accusations were a "simplistic narrative", "slander" and "propaganda", comments that angered many Congolese activists. The Ambassador was summoned by DRC's President Felix Tshisekedi on 25 August over the comment. They also discussed the Great Lakes summit that was postponed according to media reports.

However, demonstrations to call for the diplomat's expulsion have continued since late August. Protestors are also demanding an international tribunal for Congo to try perpetrators of crimes documented by the UN a decade ago. The 2018 Nobel peace laureate Dennis Mukwege who is from South Kivu has continued to demand justice for the victims—demands that appear to have angered some individuals who reportedly threatened his life in the volatile Eastern Congo.



Ambassador Vincent Karega during a recent visit to President Tshisekedi . Many Congolese want him out of the country

"The government is hesitating to take the appropriate measure on Mr. Karega. One can ask: is he an irreplaceable diplomat for the relations between DRC and Rwanda?" posed Nicole Kavira, a Congolese activist in an interview.

While the recent tension appears to surround the relatively new Kigali's ambassador, the hostility between the two countries can be traced back two decades ago after two major wars which involved neighboring armies that backed rival rebel groups that occasionally fought each other on Congolese soil.

Rwanda's president Paul Kagame is openly supporting the country's diplomat in Kinshasa for the first time since calls for his expulsion emerged saying the problems started the time he led a rebel movement that attacked Rwanda in the 1990s, prompting the then DRC (former Zaire) President Mobutu Sese Seko to send troops in neighboring Rwanda to back the then government of his ally Juvenal

Habyarimana in the war against rebels that had base in Uganda.

"In fact the first forces that entered Rwanda were from DRC that was then Zaire under Mobutu," said Kagame in a recent televised interview.

The massacres were documented in a UN report called 'Mapping Report' released 10 years ago. Kigali vehemently rejected the report that documented serious human rights violation and International laws in DRC. The crimes were allegedly committed by rebels' groups and armed forces that backed them including Rwandan forces between 1993 and 2003.

President Kagame has dismissed the report terming it "nonsense" and saying that there are various actors who failed to do their jobs in events [1994 Genocide] that led to conflicts in DRC and now they are trying to shift the blame to his country.

Calls for International Tribunal

"Rwanda has been the victim, so

now it is a very nice way of turning the victim into perpetrator," stated President Kagame recently "so I don't understand the nonsense about mapping report, it was written by some people who were acting on behalf of some societies that tell lies about their ideals."

While the UN report was shelved for more than 10 years since it was released, it appears to attract interests in DRC with the 2018 Nobel Laureate putting efforts to lobby for international support to set up a tribunal. However, his security was threatened pushing the UN to strengthen his protection.

The European Union parliament has agreed to advocate for a suitable court to try perpetrators of the crimes committed in past decades. Some observers said the 2018 Nobel Laureate has won the battle, it remains to be seen whether the court will be set up.

In its recent resolution on DRC, EU parliament has called UN Security



Nobel peace laureate Denis Mukwege is amongst those who question the presence of Ambassador Karega in D.R.Congo. Photo AFP.

Council members to “demand the formation of international tribunal that would advance cases proven of human rights violations dating back in 2002”.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mukwege and a local human rights organization “SOS Justice” have announced plans to produce an alternative report on massacres committed in Bukavu, South Kivu in 1994 by rebels that overthrew

Mobutu’s government.

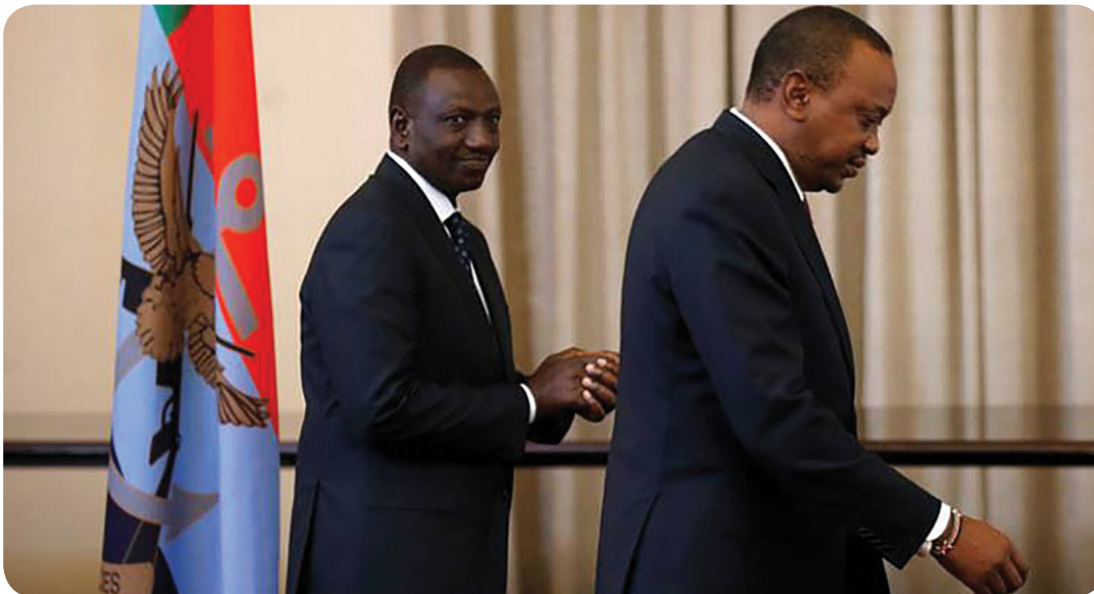
While calls for justice are gaining momentum in South Kivu, Rwanda’s President Paul Kagame believes protests and calls for Ambassador Karega to leave Congo are designed to derail good relations between the two Great lakes countries.

“The Ambassador is there to bring about good understanding between two neighboring countries. Now they go and attack the Ambassador, so you are attacking this relationship,” said Kagame

“That might even mean that there are those people who are not happy about the relationship.”

Kenya: Political Bigwigs Creating Unnecessary Tension As Elections Near

By Samuel Ouma



President Uhuru Kenyatta and Vice President Ruto are no longer on the same page. Photo credit Reuters.

Nearly two years are left before Kenyans head to the ballot to elect their 5th President and the successor of President Uhuru Kenyatta. However, the political heat in the East African nation is already unbearable especially now that the friendship between Kenyatta and his Deputy has turned sour. The duo’s relationship has dwindled since their re-election in 2017 and the ongoing exchange of words between their allies is enough to tell you that there is trouble in paradise.

Early in September, William Ruto recounted how he was kicked out of his official residence in Mombasa. According to the second in command, he had visited the residence accompanied by his wife in December only to be told to vacate the house. Ruto claimed those after his eviction was either working independently or with opposition to trigger his public attacks against his boss.

“In December last year, my wife and I were staying in that house when the decision was made and you saw in

the newspapers we were kicked out. These are shameless people who are desperate to spark a fight in Jubilee and cause division between me and the President.

“The most important thing for me is we have a stable country. If I fall for a trap from people who want me to public fight the President, it will be a big problem for the country. Many countries have become unstable and sunken into conflict when leaders lack patience,” the DP stated.

The Deputy President spoke just one

week after his close ally and former Senate Majority Leader Senator Kipchumba Murkomen sensationally claimed on the national television that the Head of the State played role in Ruto’s eviction. Murkomen further claimed that President Kenyatta is side-lining his Deputy while using the Covid-19 pandemic as a cover-up.

«I was wondering to myself what happened to that Uhuru that today, Uhuru Kenyatta chased his deputy out of his Mombasa house. The President is arresting anyone associated with William Ruto,» Murkomen complained.

«He hasn’t been inviting him to very important meetings nor has he been giving him any task. Let us stop trying to hide behind diplomacy, the fact is that the President is persecuting his deputy,» Murkomen asserted.

The recent arrest of Emurua Dikirr MP Johana Ng’eno and his Kipseret counterpart Oscar Sudi, staunch Ruto’s diehards, elicited political debates with some alleging that the government is using intimidation tactics to silence its critics. Ng’eno was accused of using abusive language which is likely to stir ethnic hatred and both Sudi and Ng’eno were charged with alleged offensive remarks against President Kenyatta

and former First Lady Mama Ngina Kenyatta. They were freed on bond pending the investigations.

In a video clip that went viral, Johana Ng'eno was captured saying, «You are not Kenya and Kenya is nor Kenyatta's or Mama Ngina's land. This land belongs to 47 million Kenyans; you cannot run it as you wish. Moi and Kibaki finished their terms and left, you should do the same next year when the time comes.»

The purported unsavoury remarks against the president and his mother sparked protests across the country. A section of women condemned the utterances and demanded an unconditional apology from the two legislators. Some threatened to match to Karen office of William Ruto in protest.

They expressed fear that such utterances are likely to whip ethnic emotions and trigger violence ahead of 2022 polls saying that Kenya should avoid a repeat of 2007/2008.

"It is very disrespectful and un-African for a man to insult a woman who is the age of his mother. We demand Sudi and Ng'eno to apologize immediately to the first family and all women in Kenya or resign," said Regina Ndung'e, a protester in Kenya's town of Kitengela.



Police using tear gas to disperse protesters in 2016, elections in Kenya are often rocked by severe violence.

"The public insults against the former first lady could whip up ethnic animosity among communities who have co-existed peacefully for years. We demand an unreserved apology from the two MPs as insulting Mama Ngina is like insulting all mothers in Kenya," added Sarah Wanjiku.

On August 28, Ruto for the first time spoke about his deteriorating friendship with the President. He revealed that the ruling party is no longer functional saying the party that he devoted much energy to build has been hijacked to his chagrin and

his allies.

"Jubilee is not functioning as a party. We folded about 12 political parties to form Jubilee... Unfortunately, the party has been hijacked by busybodies, conmen, and brokers who have no clue on our philosophy... Their word has become the party position," said Ruto.

The former agriculture minister hinted at the possibility of coming up with his outfit should the wrangles persist beyond repair. He called on the president to reconcile the warring factions within the party.

«I believe there is a chance to sort out our issues in Jubilee. It would be tragic if we were to lose Jubilee. If it is hijacked by the brokers, we will decide Jubilee members at that point... If they succeed in the scheme they say they will deny us an opportunity or they say there's no fielding of candidates... We will look at options with the rest of the membership,» he added.

Ruto's recent tour to Kisii region in south-western Kenya was marred with protests and violence. Youths allied to handshake and Ruto clashed forcing the police officers to lobe teargas and fire in the air to disperse them. It was reported that many were injured and others arrested as they lit bonfires to block the road the deputy president was scheduled to use.

In conclusion, to avoid what transpired in the 2007/2008 political clash, Kenyans should unite against leaders whose intentions are to divide them along the ethnic line. More than 1,000 people lost their lives and hundreds of thousands were displaced, however, none of the victims were prominent politicians or their family members. Let us remember that whenever chaos erupts, it is the ordinary citizens who bear the consequences, not the leaders.

Cameroon: Violent Crackdown on Regime Change Protesters

By Andrew Nsoseka

In a press outing following the nationwide protest of September 22 in Cameroon, led by one of Cameroon's frontline opposition political parties, the spokesperson of the Cameroon government, who doubles as the Minister of Communication, Rene Emmanuel Sadi, has hinted that one of the country's main political parties, noted for anti-Biya protests, and campaigns for regime change may be banned.

The threats to ban the Cameroon Renaissance Movement of Professor Maurice Kamto, were issued by the Communication Minister after the partly led street protest in the country, calling for regime change. The Biya regime termed the outing as an insurrection, and as such, have hinted that the party may be banned



The regime backed its threats with actions as protesters were brutalized and hundreds arrested.

and its leaders prosecuted under the country's 2014 terrorism law.

According to Minister Sadi, the

situation of the CRM party and its leader, Prof. Maurice Kamto, is being reviewed by the competent

authorities.

In a press outing following the street protests that were violently suppressed, the Minister stated that "The situation of the CRM political party, which for several years now, has put itself in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons with activities that breach the peace that is so dear to Cameroonians, is also being closely reviewed by the Minister of Territorial Administration," Sadi said.

In his outing, the Minister revealed that some leaders and organisers of "insurrectionary adventure were also arrested and will answer for their actions before the courts of law. Others are wanted by the security services for the same purpose. Competent judicial bodies are closely reviewing the case of the CRM

leader.” Minister Sadi said.

September 22 Protest in Cameroon

The protesters who demanded regime change on September 22, also carried banners and placards calling for an end to the Anglophone crisis in the country’s English-speaking regions, which has killed thousands and displaced more. Others equally asked for the release of political prisoners.

In Douala, Cameroon’s economic capital, protesters braved the odds, and took to the streets, despite the presence of heavily armed security officers who chased, tear-gassed, tortured and brutalised those who heeded calls to protest and oust President Biya from power.

Through the use of teargas and water cannons, protesters were suppressed from marching in the streets and chanting anti-Biya songs. While some were just physically roughed up by security officers, many were also arrested and taken to detention centres where they were tortured. In one of the videos recorded by a police officer in a detention centre, arrested protesters made to sit on the floor, were forced to sing that Biya is their President. The officers laughed and mocked the arrested protesters as they urged them to clap while singing. Some could not clap because their hands were bruised.

In Yaoundé, the country’s political capital, the protest was largely foiled, due to the heavy militarisation of major streets in the city. In various junctions of the town, security officers were deployed, alongside armoured cars, water cannons, and other military arsenal.

With the violent suppression of the protest match in Douala, and efforts put in place to ensure that the political capital housing the Presidency was not disturbed, the protest largely



failed in Yaoundé, except for pockets of protesters who showed up at some spots of the town. Also, the heavy deployment of troops and military arsenal to the streets rather created a tense atmosphere, which largely prevented the people from also going about their normal daily activities.

Before the protest day, various ministers and Biya regime surrogates had carried out media and street campaigns, discouraging people from participating in the protests. Cameroon’s Minister of Territorial Administration, MINAT, Paul Atanga Nji, had in a press conference, warned that those arrested for protesting on the streets will be charged for insurrection and other terrorism-related offences.

Minister Atanga Nji likened protesting on September 22, to touching a beehive; “You know the

story of the beehive...when you touch it, you know what will happen to you. A word to the wise is enough” He said, furthering that they will not tolerate any protest that brings any “public disorder” in Cameroon.

Bike riders who are often the engine of such protests, were rallied days before the protest and motivated to discourage them from joining.

Protest leader under house arrest

Meanwhile, on the day of the protest, Maurice Kamto, who was to lead the protest march was unable to march alongside the others, because his house was heavily militarized, preventing him from leaving. Some critics have however faulted him for bad planning, saying that he should have anticipated that he will be prevented from leaving his home,

and as such, not stayed in his house on the night before the protest day.

In one of his many tweets after the September 22 protest, he promised that the protests will be organised till December of 2020, when Cameroon holds its first-ever regional elections, where the ruling CPDM is expected to win all regional seats, as they control almost all the local councils, as well as a chunk of the many traditional rulers

in the country who are to vote the regional representatives.

In one of his tweets, where he urged for others to join him, Prof. Maurice Kamto declared, “We are not to be fooled: a people that have been in chains for so long cannot be freed overnight. The Peaceful Marches of 22 September 2020 are therefore only a starting point. The people of the resistance must stay awake and more mobilised than ever.”

Kamto went further to remark on the crude force used to suppress those who came out to protest, saying; “Arbitrariness and barbarism will not win out the determination of the Cameroonian populations to free themselves from the tyranny of a dictatorial regime. Cameroonians, you can be proud to have pushed the power of Yaoundé to show the world its true face.”

In a public statement after the protest, the Secretary-General of the CRM, Barrister Christopher Ndong, said over 100 members of their party were arrested.

The protest planned to take place nationwide, mainly took place in Yaoundé, Douala, Ngongsamba, Bafang, Sangmalima, and Maroua.

Cameroon’s two English speaking regions, currently in a civil war, were largely calm, as people rather went about their daily activities or remained indoors.



A defiant Kamto says the protests will be organised till December of 2020, when Cameroon holds its first ever regional elections

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Côte d'Ivoire: The Ghosts Of The Past

By Alseny Ben Bangoura *

The more political tensions rise in Côte d'Ivoire, the more Ivorians are haunted by the ghosts of the past. The inhabitants of the country of the late Felix Houphouët-Boigny fear a recurrence of the deadly clashes that had punctuated the 2010 presidential election. That was a deep political crisis lasting several months amid a civil war whose macabre toll was estimated between 900 and 3000 dead.

It is therefore with great apprehension that the population awaits the next Presidential election set for October 31, 2020. Once again, the same actors from the previous crisis are vying for the coveted post of President of the Republic. The candidacy of Alassane Ouattara, the outgoing President, is contested by his rivals who maintain that the constitution does not allow him to run for another term after his ten years as the head of state.

The former president, Henri Konan Bédié, stepped down from his post following the coup d'état of December 24, 1999. Now he wants to take his revenge by standing as a candidate of the PDCI, the party that reigned over Côte d'Ivoire for decades. But Bédié's candidacy did not go smoothly, and he had to end it with an alliance contracted with Ouattara for the elections of 2010 and 2015, thus containing the ambitions of the young wolves who deemed him too old, 86, to be a standard-bearer.

Despite his legal quarrels at the International Criminal Court, Laurent Gbagbo's candidacy was submitted by his unconditional supporters grouped within the GOR



Henri Konan Bédié.

movement (Gbagbo or Nothing), but it was rejected by the Constitutional Court of Cote d'Ivoire.

Although the urgency for the former flagship of the Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI) is to regain his freedom and return to the country, his supporters are steadfast and demand his re-registration in the electoral roll. Closing the list of former protagonists of the 2010 crisis, there is the hot and fiery Guillaume Soro, ex-prime minister and ex-president of the National Assembly who is keen to

present himself under the banner of his new party, Générations et Peuples Solidaires, created after a quarrel with Alassane Ouattara whose advances he rejected to continue to campaign within the RHDP, the Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes for Peace and Développement.

But the constitutional court ruled Soro's candidacy inadmissible because he had been sentenced to twenty years in prison for «concealment of embezzlement of public funds» and «money laundering» by the Abidjan

criminal court. He has also been prosecuted since late December 2019 for an alleged «insurgency» attempt. But Guillaume Soro and his supporters do not see it that way and he tells whoever wants to hear it that either he is restored to his rights or the presidential election will not take place. All of this contributes to creating psychosis and fear as the population lives with expectations.

It must be said that beyond the personal ambitions of each other, and also political intrigues, the vast

majority of Ivorians do not want their country to reconnect with the demons of the past. But there are candidates for this presidential election whose name alone evokes difficult times and painful memories

The prescriptions of the «Daoukro Sphinx.»

The name Henri Konan Bédié, for example, will forever be associated with the concept of Ivoirité, the anti-breaker law, and an electoral code designed to exclude political opponents from the electoral game. Under the pretext of Africanizing the republican institutions and preferentially placing Ivorian executives in positions of responsibility, Henri Konan Bédié will take the opportunity to stuff the administration with militants and supporters of his party, the PDCI. Anyone who was suspected, rightly or wrongly, of having a bent for the Opposition was outright fired.



Laurent Gbagbo.

The victims of this open discrimination were numerous, and they were Ivorians with northern sounding names, foreigners who had lived and worked quietly in this country during the years of peaceful reign of President Felix-Houphouët Boigny. This very widespread and insidious ivoirité policy leads to real social unrest.

President from 1993 to 1999, Henri Konan Bédié was also the architect of an electoral code both tailor-made and intended to oust his main political rival, Alassane Dramane Ouattara. The provisions of this code stipulate that any candidate for president or that of deputy to the National Assembly should have lived continuously in Côte d'Ivoire for the five years preceding the date of the elections and he must not have obtained the nationality of another country. In its article 49, the code stipulates among other things that «no one can be elected president of the republic if he is not over 40 years of age and if he is not Ivorian by birth, born of both father and mother. - the same Ivorians by birth.» These are the provisions of the law that the Ivorian authorities will use against Alassane Ouattara to deny him his Ivorian nationality.

But they did not expect the courage of a young judge, Zoro Bi Ballo Epiphane, who challenged the regime of Henri Konan Bédié by issuing in September 1999 a certificate of nationality to Alassane Ouattara. The latter will be prosecuted by the authorities for forgery and the use of forgery because of his certificate of nationality. The rest is history, but it is not surprising that many observers have characterized these provisions as an electoral code of exclusion.

But that's not all. Since Henri Konan Bédié's regime had also put in place an anti-breaker law that makes it liable for damage caused during a mass demonstration, it was under this law that on October 27, 1999, the authorities sentenced to 2 years in prison several RDR officials who had been arrested, including Ms. Henriette Diabaté. This arrest and



Guillaume Soro.

the authorities' refusal to release the defendants triggered the coup against Bédié on Christmas Eve, 1999.

If the Ivorians hoped for a change of policy with the arrival of Laurent Gbagbo to power, they quickly become disillusioned. Indeed if the new president is not the designer of Ivoirité, he will be the one who, for ten years (2000-2010), carried out the many facets of this controversial policy to the letter. While the law originally aimed above all at putting an end to Alassane Ouattara's presidential ambitions and neutralizing potential competitors, it found applications in almost all spheres of Ivorian society. And the populations themselves have ever since felt the repercussions of this pernicious doctrine.

There is no shortage of anecdotes on this subject and Ivorians are always ready to tell you, sometimes with humor, cases of abuse, humiliation, and denial of their rights. Even to obtain a simple travel document, one could be exposed to the worst treatment. To renew a passport, for example, you had to prove that your parents are Ivorian, even with a valid certificate of nationality. The police always told you invariably that the certificate of nationality has no value because in the court there, «they do whatever.»

The procedure, therefore, required coming with another parent who would be able to validate the information contained in the file. It was absolutely necessary to submit to this shameful and discriminatory

procedure since it applied only to northerners who were thus victims. Woe to him who protests! Once your back was turned, you would simply tear up all your papers. The experience of an 80-year-old lady in this regard was quite uplifting, but also heartbreaking. This octogenarian who wanted a passport to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca had the surprise of her life when she was refused the issuance of her travel document.

The policewoman who spoke to her told her that there was no proof that she was born in Odienné. Faced with the disbelief displayed by the old lady, the policewoman went to find an interpreter to explain clearly to the mother in the Dioula language what it was. It is, therefore, a fellow of 1.90 m who came up in front of the old lady to tell her this: «But Mum, I studied in Abidjan, I am settled in Abidjan, I work in Abidjan, my children were born in Abidjan, but does that mean that they are Ebriés.»

Let us remember that the Ebriés are the indigenous populations of the region of Abidjan and its surroundings. Incredible as it may be, the old lady had no choice but to nod as she wiped away her tears between sobs.

The specter of rebellion

There remains only Guillaume Soro, the leader of the GPS party. Despite his relative youth, he is part of the class of elders who carry the embers of Ivorian politics. Despite the fact that he held the high positions

of Prime Minister and President of the National Assembly, his name remains rather associated with the rebellion that shook Côte d'Ivoire during the 2000s.

Guillaume Soro was the Secretary-General of Forces Nouvelles, a coalition of a rebel movement whose armed elements controlled the central, northern, and western part of Ivorian territory.

The fights between the New Forces and the loyalist forces of Laurent Gbagbo were sometimes very hard and caused many victims. Many years later, Ivorians remain very affected.

Many will tell you that they were locked up for days on end, with little food on hand, not daring to venture outside. They will all tell you that they would never want to relive such events again. That's why Guillaume Soro's recent fiery speeches have sent shockwaves across the country.

Will the leader of GPS be able to carry out his threats? The near future will tell. For now, the vast majority of Ivorians sigh when speaking of Guillaume Soro, before invariably concluding in the same way: «Too bad he was in such a hurry. He should have been patient and stood by President Ouattara, power was going to fall to him without difficulty. It was for him but alas, he has said too much! And he continues to criticize the president. Pity!

It emerges from all this that the Ivorian populations no longer want to go back. The preservation of peace, social tranquility, and economic development remain the most important issues for everyone. However, the past ten years have been the most peaceful in Côte d'Ivoire after the boom years of the Felix Houphouët-Boigny era. And so far President Alassane Dramane Ouattara has been its guarantor, symbol, and hope.

*** Alseny Ben Bangoura is Publisher of AlloAfrica News**



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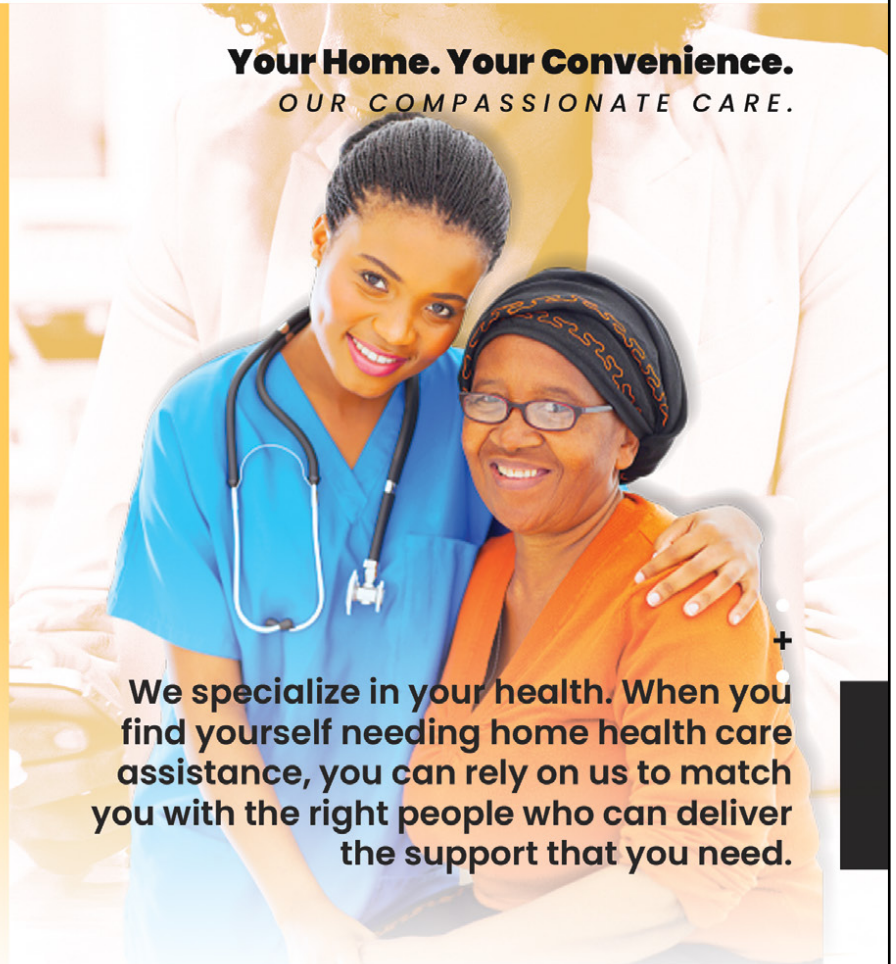


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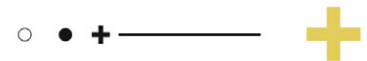
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Cameroon: Operation "Bamenda Clean"; cleansing Young Cameroonians, jobs

By Andrew Nsoseka

A military operation in Cameroon's Northwest region, dubbed "Operation Bamenda Clean" has seen Cameroon's Northwest region and Bamenda, in particular, losing many of its youths to military raids, as the operation "cleans" them off the neighbourhoods and streets.

The operation which was introduced alongside a ban on the circulation of motorbikes, a principal means of transportation in the town has also seen many youths who relied on commercial bike riding for a living, losing their only source of income, in the heart of a civil war that has made life difficult for most locals.

In a communique announcing the military operation, signed by the commander of the 5th joint military region, Brigadier General Nka Valere, alongside the commander of the 5th joint Gendarmerie, Brigadier General Ekongwese Divine, and the Northwest Regional Delegate for National Security, Police Commissioner Gousmo Emile, stated, "The population of the city of Bamenda and its environs are hereby informed that on instructions from top command, Defence and Security forces (DSF) have initiated a special operation, to secure the city of Bamenda and its surroundings code-named "Bamenda Clean" from Tuesday, September 8/2020."

Stating that the reason behind the operation was to rid the town of 'terrorists', and criminals, who kidnap, rob banks and stores, loot, as well as target and kill civilians as well as state security forces, the General re-echoed that the ban on commercial motorbikes in the Urban perimeter of Bamenda city must be respected. The regional authorities claimed that criminals in the region, as well as separatist fighters, were



The operation is to rid the town of terrorists, and criminals, who kidnap, rob banks and stores, loot, target and kill civilians says the military to the skepticism of many.

using motorbikes to carry out their operations, as such, the sector had to be banned to limit crime wave in the region.

Critics have, however, argued that the ban on commercial bike riding in the city will rather increase crime, because the thousands of youths who depend on it for a living, especially during the crisis that has seen many economic activities halted, will easily be lured into criminal gangs, or into Separatist activities.

After weeks of the implementation of the "Bamenda Clean" campaign, the civilian population has been hard hit. The several raids and wanton house searches, accompanied by mass arrests in several neighbourhoods has placed the population on a tight spot. The several arrests made, often end up with the locals paying colossal sums paid for the arrested to be released.

Raids in neighbourhoods resulted in deaths of several youths, who after their execution, they are often branded as separatist fighters. The operation rather brought in an atmosphere of fear and tension, with several gun battles that have worsened the situation of life in the city, forcing many to stay only indoors, thus grounding economic activities in the town.

In a counter move by separatist fighters operating in the City, a ban was also placed on vehicles operating in town. They stated that vehicles will only be allowed to move freely when motorbikes are also permitted to circulate. This made transportation in the town a nightmare as the few taxis that braved the odds, to circulate could not ferry everyone around. The City council introduced buses to transport people within the town, but again separatist fighters have warned locals against using the buses, and have promised to attack the buses and its occupants, who they say they will consider and treat the same way as military personnel.

The casualty from the operation, is also grave, especially as it goes on without locals noticing. On September 26, locals who live around Naka River in Bamenda woke up and discovered at least five corpses reportedly dumped by military personnel overnight. Locals say other corpses of unidentified young men have often been brought and dumped in the river, since the operation started. Several civilians too have been felled by bullets often described by the belligerents as "stray bullets".

Bar Council Condemns Security Operation and Fallouts

After weeks of the operation, elected representatives of Northwest lawyers, who are also members of the Cameroon Bar Council wrote a terse letter the Attorney General of the Northwest region, telling him that the operation is rather punishing civilians and not protecting them, as was insinuated in the communique announcing it.

"Albeit the commendable objectives on which this operation is predicated, we are compelled by our noble role as watchdogs of the society to decry and condemn

any act(s) which undermines the law, dehumanizes the population, flaws laid down rules, principles or procedures and/or equally violates national and international legislation as well as fundamental principles of justice." The lawyers in their letter, signed by the Northwest regions Representative of the Batonnier, Mbah Eric Mbah Esq, and Bar Treasurer, Akum Michael Nche Esq stated.

The lawyers said they condemn atrocities committed on the population and security forces by Separatist fighters in the region, but went on to tell the Attorney General that they find it compelling to draw his attention to the shortcomings in the execution of the military operation and the security outreach.

Pointing out that they expect more from trained state security and defence forces, the lawyers highlighted that the execution of the operation on the field is largely characterized by intimidation, extortion, assault and torture, illegal arrests and incommunicado detentions of civilians in outfits unknown to their families and inaccessible to lawyers and that the arbitrarily arrested are often released against the payment of astronomical sums or even killed extra-judicially. They further stated



The operation has paralyzed economic activity with civilians paying a huge price.

that such acts can only be lamented by the helpless and voiceless civilian population, which they, the lawyers, seek to protect.

The lawyers further stated that a system of extortion has been deployed in the “Bamenda Clean” operation whereby cases are registered of

forceful entry into houses, searches conducted without warrants nor a declaration of a state of emergency thereby intimidating the inhabitants and their fears exploited via financial gains.

“Considering the already precarious socio-economic and other

effects of the Anglophone Crisis on the inhabitants of the region amidst the endless cycle of violence and hostilities, any oppressive conduct as currently evidenced in the ongoing initiative, if unchecked, might rather render it counter-productive, in strict contrast to its good-intended

objectives and propelling motives.

“Such excesses can only help to boost the spirit of civil disobedience which nourishes radicalism, thereby undermining the efforts being made by the government and relevant stakeholders to ensure the return and prevalence of justice and peace (in the region); being indispensable ingredients for the return of normalcy.

“The civilian population of Bamenda, engulfed by fear are wondering and hoping that the law steps in to ensure that the Operation «Bamenda Clean» does not end up as a cleansing, or a worsening of an already bad situation.” The lawyers said.

Though the Bamenda and its environs have been tense since the crisis escalated into an armed conflict, the military operation has made it worse, with the frequent gun battles, the restricted movement as well as locals being unable to travel in and out or through the town on schedule, because of the volatile situation.

Cameroon Anglophone Crisis: "The Worst May Still Be Ahead"- Catholic Bishops Warn

By Andrew Nsoseka



The Bishops are calling for the power of reason to prevail over the use of force in solving problems.

In a message released at the end of 69th meeting of the Bamenda Provincial Episcopal Conference, BAPEC, Roman Catholic Bishops whose territorial circumscription is the Anglophone regions of Cameroon, have warned that the worst may still be ahead if the right measures and actions are not employed to peacefully resolve the Anglophone crisis.

In the communique that carried the caution message, the Bishops, recalling that they have written severally, as well as proposed better ways of handling the crisis, other than fighting, stated; “We have addressed many messages to you before; but we shall not get tired of always raising a prophetic voice when and where possible, crying out to God to have mercy on his people in their distress” They said.

The Bishops in their

correspondence, listed the various dreadful happenings, after which they stated that; "The insecurity in the two regions has reached unimaginable heights and we are even entertaining fears that the worst may still be ahead." They sated.

The leaders of the Church, whose territorial coverage is the crisis-ridden English speaking regions of Cameroon, stated that for the past four years, they "have been preoccupied and worried about the socio-political situation plaguing the two Regions of the Northwest and the Southwest of Cameroon, which are coterminous with the territorial circumscription of the Ecclesiastical Province of Bamenda. We have seen people of all ages and walks of life killed in cold blood for flimsy or no reasons at all; we have witnessed the ravages of war and the untold sufferings it has caused our people; we can testify that many of our children are growing older, many of our young girls are becoming unprepared mothers and above all uneducated, because of their inability to go to school as a result of the ongoing crisis. We have also seen the wanton destruction of property, kidnappings and demanding for ransom; and the crime wave is on the increase.

"We have been struggling to manage the situation of thousands of internally displaced persons, refugees, and the homeless, a situation that has been created by the excesses of man's wickedness to man. We have seen the economy of our two regions plummet to abysmal depths from a once booming and prosperous economy, due to ghost towns, frequent lockdowns and heavy militarization of the two regions, accompanied by extortion and torture. The insecurity in the two regions has reached unimaginable heights and we are even entertaining fears that the worst may still be ahead." The Prelates outlined.

The Bishops further regretted that while their flocks were grappling with a bad-enough-situation, created by the socio-political crisis, the scourge of the Coronavirus Pandemic has not spared them, and as such has made an already very difficult life even more



Memorial ceremony held on February 21, 2020 at the St Theresia Cathedral I in Kumbo, NW region, for victims of the Ngarbuh massacre. The Bishops say people have suffered enough.

difficult.

"Life has become almost unbearable to our people and this is a great concern for us as Chief Shepherds of the flock entrusted to our care." They said.

The Bishops further stated that they "wish to put out this message to all the stakeholders in this situation, calling for the power of reason to prevail over the use of force in solving our domestic problems."

On the way forward, the men of God, recalling some of the things they have said before concerning this crisis, stated that they are sincerely placing an urgent call to all Members of Christ's Faithful in the Ecclesiastical Province of Bamenda, all People of Goodwill, and the international community, regarding certain points outlined as the way forward for the crisis.

The Bishops urged that a ceasefire in the North West and South West Regions should be called. In line with a ceasefire, they stated that "on the 23rd of March 2020, the Secretary-General of the United Nations first proposed a global ceasefire in war-torn areas of the world, so as to focus efforts on curbing the spread of the Coronavirus Pandemic. On the 29th of March 2020, Pope Francis added

his voice to this call in the following words: "The call for a global and immediate ceasefire, which would allow the peace and security essential for providing the humanitarian assistance so urgently needed, is commendable" (Sunday Angelus: 29 March 2020). On the 5th of July 2020, Pope Francis, in reference to the resolution of the UN Security Council of the 1st of July 2020, prayed that this resolution may "become a courageous first step towards a peaceful future" (Sunday Angelus, 5 July 2020).

We, the Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Bamenda, as first-hand witnesses to the sufferings of our people, join our voices to the voice of Our Holy Father Pope Francis and many other world leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon."

On appealing parties in the conflict, the placed a call for the release of Anglophone Political Prisoners. "In order that the ceasefire may be effective, we call for the release of all prisoners connected with the Anglophone crisis as a step in the direction of a resolution of the crisis. While appreciating the efforts of the Government in releasing 333

prisoners as a fruit of the Major National Dialogue of 2019, we hereby reiterate our call for the release of all the prisoners of the Anglophone crisis. This will go a long way to pacify the fighters on the ground and get the released prisoners act as agents for the attainment of justice and peace in our communities."

The Bishops also issued a call for the continuation of Dialogue. They noted that they already, in a message by all the Bishops of Cameroon on the 29th of April 2017, called for Dialogue as the only pacific way to solve what had come to be known as the Anglophone problem. Inter alia, they said that Dialogue is important and necessary. Acknowledging the initiative to organise the National Dialogue about a year ago, the Bishop stated that "Dialogue is never enough until it has achieved its purpose. In our case, justice and peace are our final goal; and, we cannot stop dialoguing and working towards dialogue until we attain the justice and peace, which are the daily cry of our people. We, therefore, encourage all the parties involved in this crisis not to relent their efforts to continue dialoguing, even when things don't seem to look bright."

Bishops Appeal For Complete School Resumption

The Bishops in their point Eight, called “for Complete School Resumption in the Two Regions” The Bishops’ statement recalled that in the in their open letter published on the 23rd of August 2019, appealing for the resumption of schools, they had said: “Since the beginning of this crisis, we have endeavoured to make a clear distinction between the causes of the crisis and the children’s right to education. We have always made recourse to the teachings of the Church, that ‘all men of whatever race, condition or age, in virtue of their dignity as human persons, have an inalienable right to education. This education should be suitable to the particular destiny of the individuals, adapted to their ability, sex and national cultural traditions,

and should be conducive to fraternal relations with other nations in order to promote true unity and peace in the world’ (Gravissimum Educationis, n. 1)”.

“Once again, we call on all parents to send their children to school for the 2020/2021 School Year, so that their future can be guaranteed in a competitive world of academics and technological accomplishments. We also appeal to those who have acted as a threat to the education of our children and/or have blocked it and are using our children as a shield for political gains, to give the children a chance to build their own future.”

The Bishops’ letter was signed



The Bishops have called for a complete school resumption in the two Regions. Photo credit BBC.

by Archbishop Andrew Nkea, Bishop of Kumba; Bishop Michael Bibi, Auxiliary Bishop of Bamenda and Apostolic Administrator of Buea. President of BAPEC; Bishop George Nkuo, Bishop of Kumbo and President of BAPEC; Bishop Agapitus Nfon,

African Hero Gone: A Look at some of George Bizos; Famous Cases

By Prince Kurupati

On September 9, 2020, South African president Cyril Ramaphosa in a briefing announced that human rights stalwart George Bizos had died. The South African president said the departed was “an incisive legal mind and architect of our (South African) constitution.” Ramaphosa said Bizos died at the age of 92 of natural causes at his family home in Johannesburg.

George Bizos devoted his life to defending the unfortunate, the marginalized and the discriminated. His devotion to defending human rights abuses started during the Apartheid era in South Africa when he was one of the junior counsels for former South African president Nelson Mandela during the Rivonia Trial. Since then, George Bizos represented many others both the popular and the ordinary folks whenever he felt the law was being used selectively to the detriment of the unfortunate, the marginalized



Pictured here with Nelson Mandela, the legal wisdom of George Bizos was helpful in the historic struggle against apartheid. Photo credit Mandela Foundation.

and the discriminated.

In helping celebrate a life well lived, Pan African Visions decided to highlight some of George Bizos famous cases.

The Rivonia Trial

At the start of the 1960s, the leadership of the African National Congress (ANC), the party opposing white minority rule in South Africa found itself facing sabotage charges. These charges were a capital offence which meant that if found guilty, the

ANC leadership most probably would receive the death sentence. Amongst the leaders of the ANC was Nelson Mandela who would later on become the first black South African president.

As the majority of the ANC leadership consisted of lawyers, the ANC took the decision to allow the lawyer members of the ANC to stand as the defense team during the trial. Mandela was selected to be part of the defense team. Preparing his defense statement from the dock, Mandela famously concluded his defense statement with the phrase “it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”

After concluding his statement, the statement was passed and circulated around the whole defense team. Many members of the defense team saw nothing wrong with Mandela’s statement but when it came to one junior counsel by the name, George Bizos, alarm was raised. George Bizos objected to the closing statement

saying it gave ammunition to the prosecution to take the most extreme punishment.

In his memoirs *Odyssey to Freedom* (2007), Bizos said as soon as I saw Mandela's closing statement I was shocked. "I was shocked by his closing words; that he was ready to die for what he had done. Surely this would be viewed as a challenge, irresistible to the prosecution, the judge and the government? I argued that surely Nelson wanted to live and accomplish what he and his organization strove for."

Bizos' intervention later on saw Mandela changing his closing statement by inserting the words "if needs be" at the very end. Later on, Bizos said his decision to modify the closing statement was influenced by the "ancients". "What influenced me here was an argument that Socrates might have saved his life if he had not challenged the Athenian jury in so resolute a manner."

It is the conviction of many that Bizos' timely intervention at modifying Mandela's closing statement during the Rivonia Trial was the one thing that played a significant role in letting the ANC leadership receive the life imprisonment sentence instead of the ultimate sentence.

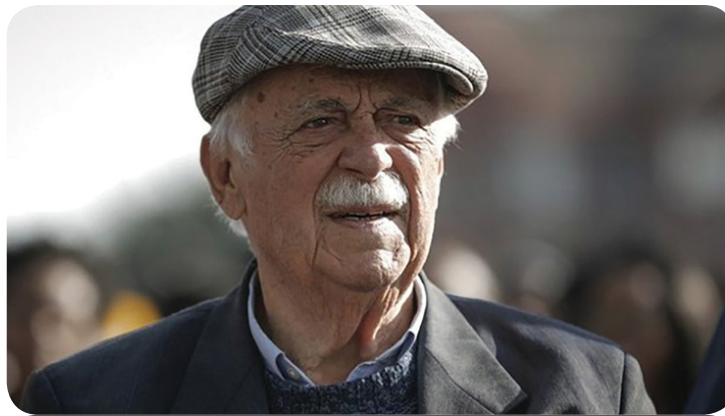
Death in Detention Trials

After his role during the Rivonia Trial, George Bizos soon became the go-to man for all those who found themselves at the mercy of the Apartheid regime. On this front, many of the families who lost their loved ones in detention centers under unclear conditions approached Bizos to help them get the necessary answers that they wanted.

From the early 1970s to the mid 1980s, George Bizos represented several high profile families in South Africa. Notably, some of these include the Ahmed Timols' family in 1971, the Steve Biko family in 1977 and the Neil Aggett's family in 1982.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Hearings

At the end of the Apartheid era, South Africa set up the Truth and



George Bizos devoted his life to defending the unfortunate, the marginalized and the discriminated.

Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The commission functioned more like a restorative justice body. Witnesses who were identified as victims of gross human rights violations were invited to give statements about their experiences, and some were selected for public hearings. Perpetrators of violence were also given the opportunity to make testimonies and request amnesty from both civil and criminal prosecution.

Noble as the intentions of the TRC were, there were reports that some victims were being threatened from giving statements at the commission. At the same time, some people who had done grievous forms of violence – sometimes not politically related also sought to evade criminal prosecution by taking advantage of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. On this front, George Bizos made it his mission to give reassurance to the victims that intimidation was not something that they should fear as they had to air out their anger in order to heal. Bizos did help dozens of families to appear before the TRC without any fear.

George Bizos also used his legal knowledge to thwart the efforts by unscrupulous elements to evade criminal prosecution through taking advantage of the TRC. One famous instance relates to the death of Chris Hani. Chris Hani, the leader of the South African Communist Party, chief of staff of uMkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANC and a fierce critic of the Apartheid government was assassinated on 10 April 1993 by Janusz Walus. When the TRC was set

up soon after the end of the Apartheid era, Janusz Walus sought to evade justice by requesting amnesty at the TRC. George Bizos representing the Hani family however fought against any form of amnesty being granted to Walus.

George Bizos' relentless work ultimately paid dividends when Janusz Walus was convicted for murder. At first, Walus was given the death penalty but this was later on commuted to life imprisonment. Over the years, Walus has unsuccessfully applied. His latest parole application was on 16 March, 2020 but was unsuccessful once again as he was denied parole by Justice Minister Ronald Lamola.

Morgan Tsvangirai Treason Charge

George Bizos did not confine his work to helping South Africans only. He at times worked in helping other people in different countries around the African continent. A case in point is the treason trial for the late Zimbabwean opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai. At the height of the fast track land reform program in Zimbabwe when white farmers were being hounded off their farms with Mugabe loyalists confiscating them, the opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai was accused of plotting with some of the disgruntled displaced white farmers of overthrowing the Mugabe regime. The accusations finally led Tsvangirai being charged of treason by the Mugabe regime – a capital offence. Though the trial moved at a snail's pace, Tsvangirai

with the help of George Bizos was later acquitted of the charges.

Marikana Commission of Inquiry

In 2012, Lonmin mine workers in Marikana, South Africa decided to embark on industrial action citing incapacitation owing to poor remuneration. The mineworkers decided to take matters into their own hands after the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), the body which represents all mineworkers in the country failed to take any significant action in pushing for a dialogue between the workers and the Lonmin management. As the mineworkers' industrial action kept on going for several days, Lonmin management sought help from the South African Police Service (SAPS) to control the striking workers. However, the unthinkable happened as soon as SAPS arrived at the mine. Instead of trying to control the crowd, SAPS saw it fit to use live fire to control the striking workers. This angered the workers and confusion reigned in leading to the death of 34 miners with dozens others left injured.

After the incident, the South African instituted the Marikana Commission of Inquiry to look into the events that led to the death of the 34 miners. George Bizos through the organization that he helped to establish, Legal Resources Centre represented the mineworkers at the commission. The commission found that the police were responsible for the events that led to the death of the mineworkers.

Though Bizos used the courtroom as his fighting ground, he was instrumental in other areas as well. Bizos played a key role in the negotiations that led to the release of political prisoners including Nelson Mandela in 1990, he helped in drafting the South African constitution which passed into law in 1996 and he served on the Judicial Service Commission from 1994 up to 2009. The Judicial Service Commission appoints and promotes judges.



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African countries should structure post covid plans around the AfCFTA - Former Liberian Minister B. Elias Shoniyyin

By Ajong Mbapndah L



The more we can invest in our people, the more the future of Africa will be assured, says Shoniyyin.

It is important that African countries be encouraged to formulate their post-COVID recovery plans around the opportunity of African Continental Free Trade Agreement-AfCFTA, says B. Elias Shoniyyin, a professional in international affairs, development and policy.

Shoniyyin, a Liberian national who occupied key government positions in the administrations of Sirleaf Johnson, and George Weah, says the AfCFTA will embolden African countries to invest more in areas of comparative advantage, where they have maximum potentials.

Discussing the African response to COVID 19 with Pan African Visions-PAV, Shoniyyin lauded the prompt response across the continent despite well-known limitations. In Liberia, while the experience acquired in previous battles with the Ebola virus continues to be useful, he urged the government of President George Weah to seek and bring in more expertise.

On the future, Shoniyyin urges African governments to invest more in their people.

"I believe the most valuable asset of Africa is its people. Natural resources

underground are not what make a people great; the capacity of the people to harness those resources makes them great. Our foremost challenge in Africa today is the limited capacity of our people. The more we can invest in our people, the more Africa's future will be assured," says Shoniyyin.

Thanks for accepting to grant us this interview, we start with COVID 19, how is the situation like in Liberia?

B. Elias Shoniyyin: Clearly, COVID 19 is global and every country on the earth has been affected – be it, by the extent of the virus infection rate or the deteriorating economic condition resulting from the pandemic. Liberia, bringing to bear its experience with the Ebola outbreak in 2014 to 2015, quickly built on and redeployed the health measures to protect our communities. As of now, we have officially recorded 1,321 COVID 19 cases, 1196 recovery and 82 death.

What do you make of the way the government of President George Weah has handled the pandemic in Liberia?

B. Elias Shoniyyin: Noting the

limited capacity of the George Weah Government, they are continuing to make efforts. Clearly, a lot more is required to fully address the pandemic; therefore, the Government is encouraged to seek and bring on board more professional expertise available in Liberia.

The outbreak of COVID 19 comes a few years after the outbreak of Ebola, are there any useful lessons from the Ebola episode that have been useful or could be better put to use in providing a better response to COVID 19 in your country?

B. Elias Shoniyyin: There are many similarities between how Ebola and COVID 19 are transmitted. The obvious differences are COVID is a lot more contagious but less deadly than Ebola. As soon as the first known COVID 19 case was reported in Liberia, the dormant structures established during the Ebola outbreak were immediately reactivated. Strict social and public health measures were taken, including mass awareness, isolation of infected persons, and effective contact tracing. Many Liberians were skeptical of the government of Liberia's initial

handling of the virus, prompting fears of its prevalence. However, we are happy that society's awareness drawn from the Ebola experience has contributed hugely to constraining social behavior resulting to the low number of COVID cases.

As someone who follows developments across Africa closely, what appraisal do you make of how African countries have fared in the fight against COVID 19, what are some of the positives and negatives that you see in some of the responses?

B. Elias Shoniyyin: Generally, the response of many African countries to the pandemic was prompt. We are aware of our limitations in available financial and human resources, and the weaknesses in our health care systems; therefore, the most sensible reaction was what we did; that is, prevention. Measures to prevent the spread of the virus was the first and most emphasized course of action by many countries.

The President of Madagascar has touted a remedy called Covid Organics as an antidote to COVID-19, while the WHO has been skeptical about it, many Africans and African leaders have embraced it, where do you stand on initiatives like those of President Rajoelina which seek to make Africa part of the solution?

B. Elias Shoniyyin: I believe in the promise of Africa. Finding African solutions to problems that affect Africa should be supported by all Africans, but not blindly and on sentimental basis. While lauding the efforts of Madagascar to find an African solution to the covid crisis in Africa, I think it became unnecessarily political. When it comes to matters of medical concerns, it should be dealt with scientifically. There was no evidence or scientific data to confirm the potency/efficacy of the Covid organics, but many Africans went ahead to celebrate its discovery.

I thought that was too early. As I said earlier, I laud Madagascar for the bold efforts. They should not be discouraged. Africa will continue trying to improve and eventually confirm our discoveries.

In follow up to that , there has a passionate debate about the issues of vaccines for COVID 19 with people fearful that Africans will be used as “guinea pigs,” what is your take on this, what are some of the pros and cons that governments should consider before making a decision concerning vaccines?

B. Elias Shoniyyin: I know Africans are haunted by a history of distrust, imperialism, and exploitation, in our engagement with the West. These are legacies of past relationship with the West that have remained the main cause of the modern-day suspicion by Africans. Despite the legitimacy of the suspicion, I see opportunities. The sad reality is Africa has not yet developed the competitive advantage for high-level scientific capacity and facilities to drive medical research to solve most of the World's problems. Even though we do contribute in a modest way to solving some of these problems, the West remains dominant in scientific research, and thus, most of the medical discoveries are derived from Western countries. I think we should put our scientists and medical researchers to work to confirm the composition and safety of the COVID vaccines, and do not simply reject them, leaving more than a billion persons to face the Corona Virus threat on their own.

Let's talk more about the Ministerial functions that you, occupied, how did you find yourself in government at such a relatively young age and what was the experience like working under President Sirleaf-Johnson?

B. Elias Shoniyyin: Prior to my public service life, I worked in the nonprofit sector for many years, starting at the young age of eighteen. In 2005 I encountered Ellen Johnson and was

profoundly inspired by her advocacy, courage, and professional accomplishments. Later, that same year, I joined her campaign for the presidency of Liberia, developing campaign strategies and training modules for mobilizers. Following her election and subsequent inauguration as the first female President of Liberia - Africa, I was appointed at the

Foreign Ministry as Assistant Minister for International Cooperation and Economic Affairs. That portfolio launched my international affairs and diplomatic profession, which has now spanned almost fourteen years. I have felt very lucky and blessed for the opportunity not only to serve with President Sirleaf, but also with other extraordinary personalities with long and distinguished professional tenures, including Ambassador George w. Wallace, who was the Foreign Minister then; Ambassador Carlton Carpeh, Amb. T. Ernest Eastman (Fmr. Foreign Minister), Amb. William V.S. Bull, Olubanke King-Akerele (Fmr. Foreign Minister), Dr. Toga McIntosh (Fmr. Foreign Minister), Amb. Sylvester Grigsby, and many others.

My time at the Foreign Ministry, working in the shadow of President Ellen Johnson, at a critical time of post-conflict recovery, state-building, and reconstruction of Liberia, profoundly shaped my world view and my development perspective. For President Sirleaf, preparing the generation after her for both government and corporate leadership was a key feature of her Administration. She was always intentional for seeking young talents and preparing them for national service. I learned a lot from her, both ethically and professionally. No doubt, she is a towering figure.

After the departure of President Johnson, you served under



Liberia is now enduring a difficult period with all the economic and social indicators in the reverse ,says Shoniyyin who served in two administrations

President Weah as well before resigning, first what was the difference in vision for Liberia for both leaders, and what prompted you to resign?

B. Elias Shoniyyin: I do recall in 2006, President Sirleaf inherited an entirely broken country, after fourteen years of devastating civil wars. She assumed leadership of Liberia with a clear vision of what was required to ignite transformative recovery. She had her eyes fixed on her goal of setting Liberia on an irreversible course to development. In this effort, she was prepared to make arduous decisions, even if it meant, working contrary to her Party's expectations. In her twelve years, two terms leadership, emphasis was placed on Human capacity, building strong and sustainable institutions,

I relish the opportunity to have been called upon by President George Weah to serve with him immediately following his election, affording me the distinguished honor of serving in two successive administrations in post-conflict Liberia. I believe he has had good intentions for Liberia, but his limited professional experience may have held him hostage to delivering on his promise to the people of Liberia. He is trying to take some practical steps towards achieving key objectives, but it has been an uphill battle, with the strong partisan centered government he currently has going. Unfortunately, many of the key operatives of his party (Congress for Democratic Change) lack the requisite

education, experience, and technical competence required to adequately get the job done. He has found himself caught between the difficult options of recruiting competences outside of his Party to get the job done, and running a government of tragical incompetence, but fiercely loyal partisans who spent most of their working hours attacking his critics on social media but performing decently in their government duties.

My resignation as Deputy Foreign Minister of Liberia, in May 2020 was prompted by consistent policy and value incompatibilities. I served my country with dedication and respect for nearly fourteen years and I thought it was time to move on, and I did.

May we know some of the significant challenges that you faced while in government, and in terms of significant accomplishments, what are some that come to mind?

B. Elias Shoniyyin: Like many other countries in Africa, public service in Liberia is truly difficult. Not by the responsibilities of the office, but more of navigating the deeply personally driven political space. There were many challenges encountered in the course of my public service, including professional, ethical, and several attempts to blackmail me. Example of some of the most significant professional and technical challenges were the low human capacity mainly at the low and middle

levels in government institutions due to the politicization of the system. Dominantly, most of those who entered or sought government appointments were motivated by the personal acquisition of public wealth and for unfair advantage over others. There were almost at all time, personal interest involved when getting tasks done. These self-interested actions slowed momentum, killed morale, and stymied productivity, making it difficult to derive the maximum results from the government's actions. Despite these challenges, the inspiration, courage, and out of the box thinking, President Sirleaf spurred, emboldened me and many others on her team to put in an average of fourteen hours a day in achieving the objectives of the post-conflict recovery programs. When we assumed office in 2006, the depth of the quagmire before us was scary – there was nothing that did not require fixing – the entire socioeconomic fabric of society was in shambles; from pipe bourn water to infrastructure (roads, ports, energy, education system, health system, massive unemployment, democratic structures, mindset, and a lot more. Looking back, I am proud of what we together achieved as a country. There is still a lot to be done in Liberia's development drive; however, when one looks at from where we come, the new do appreciate where we are.

There are many who believe that besides handing over power after twelve years, there was very little that the government of President Sirleaf Johnson did to better the lot of Liberians, on hindsight, do you believe that there was more or room for that administration that you were part of to do more?

B. Elias Shoniyin: Criticism that President Sirleaf did not do much in her twelve-year tenure to bring about development in Liberia is unfair and latently motivated. President Sirleaf inherited a country severely battered by fourteen years of fratricide violence. Sirleaf's administration did remarkably well with restoring Liberia to its prewar status. Considering the



B Elias Shoniyin is urging African countries to anchor their post COVID 19 recovery plans around the AfCFTA.

extent of the challenges she inherited, and where she left the country at the time of her turnover, I hail her for great work. A few examples of her Presidential accomplishment are as follows: She inherited a budget of 83M in 2006 and left almost US\$600M; she inherited a reserve of US\$6.5M and left US\$154.8M; she successfully negotiated and secured cancellation of more than US\$4.9B external debt; she inherited an unpaid wage bill of 36 months to civil servants, and cleared it all in five years, raised salaries by more than 2500 percent; she inherited an energy generation capacity of Zero megawatt and we left 126MW excluding electricity in some rural communities from the West African Power Pool (WAPP) and the CLSG; she inherited a rundown airport and left a new Terminal and runway; she inherited dilapidated and/or limited roads, which she rehabilitated and constructed more than 800km of paved excluding the ongoing Karloken- Harper high way and the Gbarnga to Menikorma High way in Liberia; reconstruction and rehabilitation of many bridges including the Johnson Street and Waterside-Vai Town bridges; 2,103 public schools rehabilitated or constructed, furnished and staffed; five community colleges established in Grand Bassa, Bomi, Bong, Grand Gedeh, Lofa and Nimba Counties; construction of the Jackson F.Doe Hospital in Tapeta, Nimba County, and construction and rehabilitation of several hundreds clinic and hospitals

including JFK Medical Center in Monrovia, and Phebe Hospital in Gbarnga, Bong County; and many more.

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, the African Continental Free Trade Agreement was the harbinger of great hope for the continent, did you share in that optimism and can you situate the importance of the AfCFTA in the post COVID recovery plans for Africa?

B. Elias Shoniyin: I am sure counted in the number of those optimistic of the promise of AfCFTA. AfCFTA will unlock the untapped potential of intra-Africa trade and compel African countries to increase cross-border connectivity to facilitate the movement of goods and services. AfCFTA will not only increase trade among states on the Continent; it will also attract significant FDI inflow, particularly market-seeking investors who would want to participate in the expanded market of more than 1.4 billion consumers. Once we begin to harness the opportunities of AfCFTA, the benefits of trading among African states will have a multiplier effects on promoting increased agriculture production and a lot of intermediate manufacturing by small underdeveloped states, to support largest industries on the Continent. I believe that trading among us will spur unprecedented prosperity in Africa. It is important that African countries be encouraged to formulate

their post-COVID recovery plans around the opportunity of AfCFTA. AfCFTA will also embolden African countries to invest more in areas of comparative advantage, where they have maximum potentials.

We end with a word from you on the future of Liberia and Africa, what are your hopes and what are your fears?

B. Elias Shoniyin: Liberia is now enduring a difficult period. All the economic and social indicators are in the reverse, after an earlier twelve years of steady reforms and transformation. Prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, the economy was already sliding; now it seems to be in acceleration downward. The future is no doubt uncertain!

I believe in the promise of Africa, but I am aware that there is a lot of work to be done, particularly in re-orientating the mindset on how we see public service and developing the spirit of entrepreneurship. We will need to invest hugely in human capacity and infrastructure and build strong and sustainable institutions that are beyond the narrow aspirations of a few individuals. There are some countries on the Continent that are progressing very well along these lines and we are all proud of them.

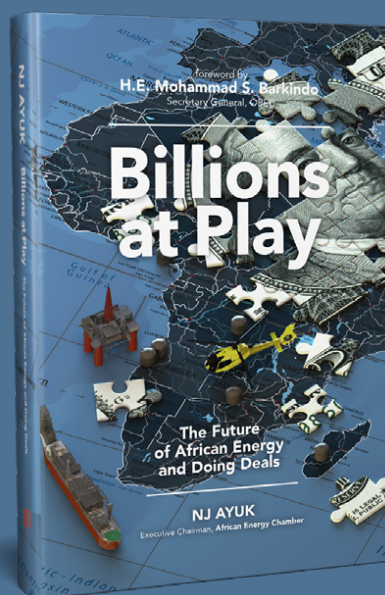
I disagree every time I hear people inferring that Africa is rich – suggesting that the minerals or gems, and natural resources underground are supposed to make us rich without any efforts. I believe, the most valuable asset of Africa is its people. Natural resources underground are not what make a people great; the capacity of the people to harness those resources makes them great. Our foremost challenge in Africa today is the limited capacity of our people. The more we can invest in our people, the more Africa's future will be assured.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share my perspectives on my country and our Continent, Africa.

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French Court Faces a 'Stolen' African Artwork Dilemma

By Prince Kurupati

One of the best places to learn about the intricacies of life is a courtroom (of course, as part of the audience). Obviously, legality issues are central but in addition, other issues such as morality and philosophical questions do spring up from time to time. Recently, a French court found itself in the middle of a legal, moral and philosophical conundrum centered on African artwork plundered by colonizers and now kept in a European museum.

The conundrum sprung up from a case in which a Congolese activist Emery Mwazulu Diyabanza and four other activists were charged with attempted theft by law enforcement authorities after they removed a 19th century African funeral pole from its perch in the Paris' Quai Branly Museum. The activists however did not leave the museum with the pole as they were quickly stopped by the guards.

After being apprehended, the activists stated that they never had any intentions of leaving the museum premises with the funeral pole as their actions were simply meant at calling attention to the origins of the pole. The fact that the activists did livestream all their actions inside the museum on Facebook does corroborate their side of the story as they would be simply half-witted to film themselves committing a crime.

In the eyes of the museum and law enforcement agents, the actions taken by the activists' amount to attempted theft and as such, the way to go is to charge and prosecute them. However, the activists view their actions as nothing criminal but just a political statement meant at raising awareness on the origins of the artwork inside the European museum. Finding itself at the centre tasked with determining whether the activists' actions amount



In his defence before the court, Diyabanza said that European nations had an obligation to return all of the ill gotten treasures to their respective nations.

to a crime or just a political statement is the court.

Speaking before the court, the lawyer representing the Paris' Quai Branly Museum, Yvon Goutal argued that all of the holdings inside the museum including tens of thousands of artworks from former colonies all belonged to the French State. This was vehemently denied by the activists and other members of the audience who were in support of the activists. One woman from the audience went to the extent of shouting "It belongs to us!" during the court session before she stormed out of the courtroom.

Goutal went on to state that even if the act is a political statement, its timing is very wrong as it has the potential to derail the discussions that are already underway between France and African governments. Instead of taking the actions that they did, Goutal stated that the activists

should have chosen to air their views in a more peaceful manner.

In his defense before the court, Diyabanza said that European nations had an obligation to return all of the ill-gotten treasures to their respective nations. He said that European countries were benefitting financially from the 'stolen' artworks while the countries of origin of the artworks were wallowing in poverty.

Hakim Chergui, the lawyer representing the activists argues that France should not have taken such a long time as it did to initiate discussions on returning plundered treasures to African countries. He said this has led to growing "frustration in the population" which is "growing, growing, growing".

Speaking after the two sides had presented their arguments, the presiding judge said that the focus of the trial has to centre on the specific

funeral pole incident and not to dwell much on France's history with its former colonies as "his court wasn't competent to judge France's colonial era as a whole".

The judge is set to make his judgment on 14 October. If convicted, the activists face up to 10 years in prison and a 150,000 euro fine. The judge may however be lenient as the lawyer for the state did not ask for prison time, demanding only modest fines.

The trial comes at a time when there are increased calls globally for former colonial masters to atone for all their colonial-era wrongs.

The Quai Branly Museum which is located on the banks of the Seine River near the Eiffel Tower is home to numerous pieces of non-European art. France in recent times has taken initiative to give back art to African countries on request.

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On Bakassi Cameroon Denies Owing Any Financial Compensation to Nigeria

By Amos Fofung

Contrary to claims by Nigerian former aviation Minister, Femi Fani-Kanyode and some pressure groups, the Green Tree Accord, a copy of which has been obtained by this reporter, clearly stipulates that Nigeria is not entitled to any financial compensation for ceding Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon.

For some time now, the controversial former Nigerian politician Femi Fani-Kanyode who served in several capacities under President Olusegun Obasanjo has been campaigning for current president, Muhammadu Buhari to cease the oil rich Bakassi Peninsula, which was ceded to Cameroon by Nigeria after the 2002 International Court of Justice ruling.

He claims Cameroon is not respecting clauses of the agreement – one of them being the paying of over 500 Million Naira monthly to Nigeria.

Accusations that have been highly debunk by the Cameroonian government. Speaking to Mbom Sixtus, for Pan African Visions , Cameroon's Minister Delegate to the Ministry of External Relations in charge of Relations with the Commonwealth, Felix Mbayu says the claims are outrageous and mere



Minister Felix Mbayu describes claims from people like Fani Kayode as outrageous , mere political grandstanding, and cheap propaganda.

“political grandstanding and cheap propaganda”.

“Mr Mbom thanks for reaching out and I am happy to debunk the unfounded claims you are alluding to. I see these actions as political grandstanding and cheap propaganda from a foreign official who is well informed of the robustness of the relations between Nigeria and Cameroon. Relations which are rooted in mutual trust and respect.”

“First off I would suggest that you share within your networks and as widely as possible, the complete version of the historic GREENTREE Agreement which still stands out as one of the most ingenious documentation on concurrence of vision in the modern history of international boundary disputes-land and or maritime. The astute statesmanship of their Excellencies Olusegun Obasanjo and Paul Biya as well as the lucent leadership of Late Kofi Annan (MHSRIP) are written all over the agreement.”

Quizzed on if there are any such grounds or clause that entitle Nigeria to financial compensation over Bakassi Peninsula, the Cameroon statesman added “a quick perusal of the 7-page document (includes a 3-page annex) enables any literate person to completely debunk all the three claims you mentioned. In fact, the

document was so carefully worded that none of the words COMPENSATION, SELF-DETERMINATION or REFERENDUM appears in any part of the entire text.”

“I would also like to call your attention to the title of the document “agreement between the Republic of Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria concerning the modalities of withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Bakassi Peninsula, a lucid prescription of modalities not conditions for WITHDRAWAL and TRANSFER of authority not EXPECTED AUTONOMY,” he pointed out.

According to our sources in Nigeria's political capital, Abuja, Fani-Kayode who served as Special Assistant (Public Affairs) to President Olusegun Obasanjo from July 2003 until June 2006 when he was appointed Minister of Culture and Tourism and later Minister of Aviation has been galvanizing Nigerian politicians to throw weight behind his idea for Nigeria to retake Bakassi Peninsula.

Some weeks ago, a video of Femi went viral across social media platform where he could be heard



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.

indicting Cameroon for not respecting certain provisions of the Green-Tree Accord. He accused Cameroonian authorities of not granting the people of Bakassi their fundamental right to self-determination and paying annual financial compensation to Nigeria which according to him was stated in 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 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."

His remarks have prompted several pressure groups in Nigeria to take up his ideology. One of such groups is Save Nigeria Movement (SNM), which is calling 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.

While war between Cameroon and Nigeria was averted over the oil rich Peninsula, there are still many aggrieved parties and the potential for conflict remains real. Many Nigerians have never digested the fact that Cameroon prevailed when the dispute was taken for international arbitration. On the other hand, the Cameroon government has never been in any hurry to embark on development projects around the area. With Ambazonian separatists also laying claim to the territory, the last may not have been heard of the Bakassi Peninsula.

Rwanda: Will UN, other International Bodies rescue Paul Rusesabagina from terrorism charges?

By Mohammed M. Mupenda

The Rwandan critic, whose role during the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsis was fictionalized in the well-known movie Hotel Rwanda, has been the subject of controversy ever since. Mr. Rusesabagina appeared last month under arrest in Kigali in murky circumstances, with his family alleging he was kidnapped from Dubai.

According to Rwandan Authorities, he was arrested because he is believed to be the leader, founder and sponsor of a violent extremist group operating in Rwanda and more widely, known as MRCD/FLN. The international arrest warrant under which he has been detained included accusations that in June and July 2018 in Nyungwe, and in December 2018 in Nyamagabe, attacks by the MRCD/FLN were carried out against innocent Rwandan civilians which left nine people dead and several seriously injured.

Prior to his arrest there were videos featuring him and he was heard on BBC radio talk calling all political and civil society organizations to support FLN soldiers to oust the Kigali government through waging war as political means had failed.

However, some human rights and legal groups have expressed concern that his arrest is the latest example of Rwanda targeting critics.



Terrorism charges have been slammed against Paul Rusesabagina .Photo credit AFP.

Calls demanding fair justice have been made by U.S Senator, European Parliament, Rusesabagina Hotel Rwanda Foundation, oppositions and on 8 September UN urged to intervene in case of detained Hotel Rwanda dissident.

Through the Clooney Foundation for Justice and the American Bar Association Center for Human Rights, George and Amal Clooney have made a pledge to closely monitor the upcoming trial of Paul Rusesabagina in Rwanda, as part of CFJ's Trial Watch initiative.

"Mr. Rusesabagina is currently detained provisionally for at least 30 days after he was denied bail, pending his trial,"

Well, UN call, human right monitoring and other super power countries intervention could still give hope to his family, dissidents and others who wish to see Rusesabagina free but still not sure of how it will be done while terrorism charges are not welcome in any country.

For various newspapers both Rwandan and foreign, people's talk, comments believe that

Rusesabagina's case would be serious, and some of the reasons being that Mr. Rusesabagina has Belgian citizenship, U.S residence permit and has been awarded the US Presidential Medal of Freedom. However, many observers say that these can't save him out, due to Rusesabagina-led rebel attacks that killed Rwandans, burned their property, looted their crops and took some hostages. Nsabimana Callixte and Rusesabagina admitted in various media outlets that the attacks killed civilians.

When Nsabimana was arrested and

brought to justice, he pleaded guilty for all charges saying that even the birds could testify.

Mr. Rusesabagina also acknowledged that his rebellions killed people and apologized.

"I apologise, we never assigned FLN to kill people and that was not the mission," he said noting that their actions should be blamed on them alone.

He admitted to sending some 20,000 euros (\$23,000) to FLN commander Callixte Nsabimana - who is on trial on similar charges - but said this was personal assistance to a friend and not for rebel activities

Mr. Herman Hirwa Nsengimana, the successor to Nsabimana Callixte A.k.a Sankara was seen in the video conference included Rusesabagina, who was in the lead, also co-chaired the FLN, becoming the Supreme Leader.

Other reasons could be summarised



Paul Rusesabagina at his cell in the Remera Metropolitan Police Station, Kigali, Rwanda on September 3, 2020.

as follows, Rusesabagina has Rwandan citizenship by birth, the crimes he is accused of committing are on Rwandan soil, the prosecutor also pointed out that before Rusesabagina was arrested there was a collaboration between Belgian police and the U.S Federal Bureau of Investigation(FBI), Rusesabagina's home in Belgium was searched and some of the evidence

against him came from there, and FBI had also conducted a thorough investigation into all the information from his indictment.

It's worth noting that when the FLN attacks reached Rwandan territory, the US Embassy in the United States issued a statement saying that some parts of Rwanda were unsafe and that their residents were on high

alert, and that they were aware of the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks which are FLN soldiers, whose commander was based in the USA.

The case of Nsabimana Callixte who pleaded guilty to all the charges against him and even wished that his case would be reconciled with those of Rusesabagina and Herman because all the charges against FLN are fully involved.

In multiple speeches, Rusesabagina expressed support for the FLN - which has carried out armed attacks and is described as a terrorist organisation by Rwanda - but the extent of his involvement in its actions remains unclear.

*Mohammed M. Mupenda is a news correspondent and freelance reporter, who has written for publications in the United States and abroad. He is also a French and East African language interpreter.

Sustained Efforts Needed To Boast Brazil-Africa Relations -Prof Joao Monte

By Ajong Mbapndah L

Sustained efforts are needed to maximize the enormous potentials of stronger ties between Brazil and Africa says Prof João Bosco Monte, President of the Brazil African Institute- IBRAF. Speaking in a skype interview to discuss the upcoming Brazil-Africa forum, of the flagship programmes of the IBRAF, Prof Monte says the similarity between the South American country and Africa are too many with ample opportunities for win-win cooperation.

PAV: Dr Monte good morning and thanks for talking to Pan African Visions

Professor Joao Monte: It is a pleasure to talk with you, my friend.

PAV: Let's start with an introduction of the Brazil-Africa Institute that you lead. Can you give an introduction of that institute for us?

Professor Joao Monte: When I founded the institute 10-years-ago the idea was to give Brazilians to see what



Under Prof Monte the IBRAF has been a vital link between Brazil and Africa

kind of synergies and activities that both sides could do together. I see a link between the two regions, Brazil and the African continent, not only because of the history; geography but because I see a potential similarity between both places. When I saw the possibility to interact, I understood that we could do things together and

came to the idea to have the institute.

This is the idea we had for the institute ten years ago, and now it is found in many states in Brazil. Two-years-ago we opened one office in Accra, Ghana. We are thinking to have one more antenna of the institute, and we are trying to understand when and where it will be. The idea was to do it

this year, but because of the situation of the pandemic, we had to change it for next year.

PAV: One of your flagship programmes is the Brazil-Africa forum, and the 2020 edition is scheduled for November 3-4, how prepared is the institute to host this event this year.

Professor Joao Monte: The forum is one of the tools we have to engage, to put together Brazilians and Africans. In the last seven editions of the forum we discussed many things, topics, brought so many high-level authorities from Brazil and Africa. More and, more, we are engaging with people from outside Brazil and Africa. The idea is to promote the forum and have leaders from many parts of the world to present their ideas, and have their voices heard. This year we are going to celebrate the tenth year of the institute and, in the beginning, we wanted to have the forum with a physical presence, so, people come into Brazil. But because of the

pandemic, we needed to change, and it will be 100 % virtual.

The event won't be a webinar; it is a well-prepared event. We have participants from Africa, Brazil and other regions, and the topic we are going to talk about will be «How the world will behave after the pandemic» because we are now facing an important moment, but, we need to understand how the world will act after the pandemic is important. Brazil and Africa should be together again, and we are going to discuss opportunities for Brazil and Africa during the forum this year.

PAV: Looking back ten years is quite some time. If you were, to sum up, the achievements you have recorded, what progress have you seen in the ten years you have been doing this?

Professor Joao Monte: Just to clarify that the institute has ten-years already, but the forum has eight-years - we are now coming to the eighth edition of the forum. It is not easy to summarize in a short time what we have done in eight years of the event. I remember in 2016 I put together two Ministers the Minister of Agriculture of Brazil and the Minister of Agriculture of Nigeria to discuss opportunity possibilities that this initiative that we engage at the Brazil-Africa forum at that time could have. Our mandate is to be a catalyser, a facilitator, and I think that is what is there to promote the meeting between both sides of Brazil and Africa. We brought personalities to the event that brought ideas, which was the beginning of something as we had a Brazilian company that is now doing projects in Rwanda, Kenya and Ghana. They came to the forum, used the platform to engage with partners and then we now see positive results.

PAV: And for the 2020 forum may we know some of the highlights and personalities that will be answering present?

Professor Joao Monte: The forum this year like I said is on how the world will behave after the pandemic, and we have already confirmed some important participations. We have Jennifer Blanke, former Vice-



The Youth Technical Training Program is one of the IBRAF programmes working well to cement cooperation ties between Brazil and Africa

President at AfDB, Michael Kremer, 2019 Nobel Prize Economist, Dr Denis Mukwege, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and others. We are bringing something else which is the launch of the initiative relating to business and investment between Brazil and Africa that is something for us in the coming years.

PAV: With regards to the theme for this year that is: «what next after the pandemic», in what areas do you cooperation between Brazil and Africa in meeting the next challenges?

Professor Joao Monte: We are going to bring the President of Fiocruz - a Brazilian government company relating to the production of vaccines. They will produce the next year millions of vaccines for Brazilians and also for the African context.

Health is one of the areas I am very sure we can contribute to using the platform of the forum but also Agriculture. As I said, we are going to have the commission on Agriculture from AU. We are going to have the foreign Minister of Agriculture from Brazil during Lula's time. So, agriculture is again another possibility of discussion.

Infrastructure is something very

unique. We had a few companies from Brazil which have built roads, airports, ports and other infrastructure activities and, they will be again in the forum. I am sure this will be a contribution we can bring to the movement in engaging the two regions. In the area of education, we are going to have experts to discuss what they are doing, and this can be an opportunity for interacting in this area.

PAV: May we know how the current President of Brazil is doing to forging stronger bonds between Africa and any comparison with his predecessors in this regard?

Professor Joao Monte: Last year we brought to the event the Vice-President of Brazil. He opened the Brazil-Africa forum in 2019. It was good to hear from him that he was planning to come to Africa - he was planning to visit Africa this year in March but because of the pandemic and the borders we closed He could not travel - what I am saying is that when he mentioned that Africa could be a part of the Brazilian agenda I understand that this is something special, but we should not compare what we had during President Lula's

mandate and what we have now.

The current President did not point Africa as President Lula did in the past but now, we can still harness what President Lula said in 2003. He said: «Africa will be a priority for this government», and it was a reality as he travelled to Africa many times with his Ministers. The current President of Brazil did not say anything about having Africa as a priority but, from the voice of the Vice-President, we can have an important message that Africa was not erased from the core of the government. I am not a government official, so, I cannot talk on behalf of the government but, looking from outside I see that the voice of the Vice President was good to announce that we can still do things together.

I have spoken to private sector key personalities, and they say Africa is on their radar and they want to do things with Africa. But we need to put more people together to engage more and more, and this is good for the Brazil-Africa Institute because we have the best connections to put things together, Brazilians and Africans.

PAV: During the recent crisis at the AfDB you spoke out forcefully in support of Dr

(Akinwumi) Adesina, and he was re-elected for another four-year mandate. Firstly, are you happy with his re-election and secondly in what areas do you see prospects to engage with the AfDB in meeting some of the objectives of the Brazil-Africa Institute?

Professor Joao Monte: I am happy with the re-election, and I understand what he did for his first term but, he will need more time to continue to give more visibility and bring more results for what he planned to do. I supported him because I understand his voice is important for the Africa context and he brings to the table the idea that Africa needs to change not only to receive things from outside but that Africa should engage and work together with partners - something which is very important for the continent and the people. The agenda of the bank is very wide; the reduction and elimination of poverty are important to mention but I think there is one direction which he is doing which is related to Agriculture. Because of his background as the former Minister of Agriculture for Nigeria he knows what he is saying when he is talking about Agriculture.

Specifically, from the Brazilian context agriculture is one of the main assets that we have in this discussion. If you look back at Brazil four years ago, you will see maybe the same situation that is in other parts of Africa. We used to import foods, crops but now Brazil is one of the biggest exporters of food and commodities in the world (maize, corn, soybeans, sugar and others). We have so many possibilities of producing in Africa what we are producing in Brazil and the AfDB plays an important role.

From outside I think the bank can work more with Brazil in terms of attracting Brazilian voices, entrepreneurs, businesspeople to Africa. One thing I would like to mention is if we do not take the opportunity to invite people to come,

and see what we have in front of us people will not see the potentials. The bank is playing an important role, but I think the conversation should be more precise, and the initiative of the bank with Brazil should be more aggressive and precise. I hope that in his second term he could put more attention to the Brazilian context.

PAV: In the build-up to the forum coming up in November, news came up indicating that you had been appointed as a champion of the UN Food Summit by the UN Special envoy for Food System Summit. What does this appointment mean for you and what do you think you can bring to the table?

Professor Joao Monte: I am very honoured to be appointed as a champion of the Food System Summit for 2021. We need to give people the food that they need. I just mentioned that Brazil is producing more food than before which is very important, but we need to see how we can again work together. Being appointed as a champion of the Food System is the opportunity to raise our voice amongst others to bring benefit to the people, especially poor people in Africa and Brazil. With the experience we can bring from Brazil, I think we can help put some realities in the African context. We just started this discussion, but I am very excited

to see the results of the engagements of the group of champions including myself.

PAV: We would like to round up with what you plan to do next after the Brazil-Africa forum, what other initiatives will you be working on, and what perspectives do you see for the future of Brazil-Africa relations?

Professor Joao Monte: The Brazil-Africa Institute has many activities besides the Brazil-Africa forum which is important for us. Of course, this year has been a difficult year for everybody as we had to reinvent ourselves - we could not travel and meet people and so it was not easy to do everything we planned last year for this year. One of the activities we have going is the fellowship programme, we bring researchers from Africa to stay in Brazil for up to two months under my supervision to do research, bringing to the world some experience that Brazil is doing well in the South-South Cooperation platform. We can have health, education science, innovation, agriculture and so this is something we are still doing, and we launched a call last month and is still running until 12 of October, and they will arrive in February/March next year.

Also, we have «YTTP» which is Youth Technical Training

Programme, where we bring young Africans to receive technical training, very sharp and direct training in areas that Brazil again is doing well, succeeding and when they go back home, they are easy to deploy with the knowledge they have received in Brazil. These youths stay in Brazil for up to two weeks - we started this programme in 2017 and, this year we had to reschedule, and the first group was supposed to arrive in April but had to be rescheduled for February. We are in the process of selecting people, and something new we learnt from this moment is the use of technology. We have launched a programme called Online

Platform Learning, and we will be starting next year. We are finalizing the preparation of this programme.

What is going to be the future between Brazil and Africa? It is not easy to say that the relations will be strong or diminish. But understand what we are doing, your job and my job, it is to keep talking, thinking and dreaming as without dreaming we cannot go far. The situation is not easy - it is difficult. If I looked back ten years ago, it was impossible to achieve the things we have now. We need to leave the message to the people that it is possible to engage Brazil and Africa, and we should be together. We cannot do things alone; we should be together to go far. I am very optimistic and realistic as well for what is going to happen tomorrow, but I am very sure that if we stay quiet, and calm, too many things will not happen. That is why we should act precisely with strategy.

PAV: Professor Monte thanks so much for talking to Pan African Visions and keep the doors open when we come again next time.

Professor Joao Monte: Thank you very much for your time, and I look forward to engaging more and more with you. Thanks again.



Not even the challenges of COVID 19 could stop Prof Monte and the IBRAF from holding the Brazil Africa Forum, now in its eighth year



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Health Expert Praises Africa's Fight Against Coronavirus

By Amos Fofung

The head of the Africa Center for Disease Control (CDC), Dr. John Nkengasong has praised African states for managing to curb the spread of coronavirus which has ravaged the rest of the world leaving millions of people dead.

Africa has seen about 1.4 million cases and 34,000 deaths since February – this is contrary to predictions by Western governments who thought Africa will be hardest hit by the outbreak.

The infection and death rate figures across Africa are far lower than those in Europe, Asia or the Americas.

Early interventions played a crucial role in curbing the virus spread, Africa CDC head John Nkengasong told the BBC's Newsday programme recently.

The continent of more than one billion people accounts for just under 5% of cases globally and 3.6% of deaths. Dr Nkengasong described as «false» suggestions that cases and deaths in Africa were significantly under-reported.

«We may not have been picking up all the cases, just like in other parts of the world... but we are not seeing people around the continent falling dead on the streets or mass burials going on,» Dr Nkengasong said.

African states introduced a series of measures to tackle the virus as soon as the first cases were reported. Many, including South Africa, introduced nationwide lockdowns, but others such as Ethiopia opted for less strict measures.

Dr Nkengasong, however, attributed the low number to a «joint continental effort», which focused on



Early interventions played a crucial role in curbing the virus spread, says Africa CDC head John Nkengasong.

«scaling up testing and following up contact tracing and very importantly masking», or the wearing of face masks.

«In many countries, including Ethiopia where I live, if you go to the streets of Addis Ababa you will see there is almost 100% masking,» he added saying Africa's relatively young population also contributed to the low number of cases.

Furthermore, the emphasis on community-driven initiatives, and experience in contact-tracing from fighting diseases like Ebola, had helped countries to tackle the virus, he said.

«This virus is in the community, and without a strong community response and strong community engagement there is no chance we can fight it,» Dr Nkengasong added.

Earlier this year, the Africa CDC boss had via a webinar analyzed response from the continent since the first case was reported in Egypt on February 14, 2020. To him, African states prompt response to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the continent has greatly reduced the impact of the outbreak in the continent as opposed to elsewhere in the world.

The health webinar which sought to assess coronavirus impact on the African and how the diaspora can effectively assist the continent was attended among others by representatives from the Constituency for Africa,

allafrica.com, Harvard University, foreign investment network and the US Chair of congressional black Caucus who doubles as chair of the house of representatives subcommittee on Africa Global Health among others.

Presenting quantitative data on the impact in Africa, the least hit habited continent, Dr. John Nkengasong Director of Africa Centers for Disease

Control did not mince word when he stated that «globally we are at war with covid-19». A war he went ahead to emphasized «must be won».

On measures taken by African CDC, Dr. Nkengasong during the webinar said, «once we knew that we were at risk, we trained technicians to conduct surveillance and airport training, trained countries on risk communication, clinical care, and management, used 3 weeks to train and armed health experts on surveillance and how to test patients and medical response among others.»



A health worker checks the temperature of a traveller in coronavirus screening at Kotoka International Airport, Accra, Ghana. Photo Francis Kokoroko, REUTERS.

Aid for Sex Rampant in Uganda: UN Report

By Prince Kurupati

An expose by a whistleblower has revealed rampant acts of sexual exploitation by United Nations workers working in Uganda. The expose singled out a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) staffer who used his position to sexually abuse and exploit a “female victim”. At the same time, the expose also revealed a more general pattern of rampant sexual misconduct by UN staff working at the World Food Programme compound in the town of Moroto, Uganda’s poorest region.

Following the expose by the whistleblower, the UN’s Office of Internal Oversight Services opened an inquiry earlier this month (September) to investigate and potentially prosecute those fingered as culprits.

In the expose, the whistleblower highlighted that there was a rather unfortunate pattern of gross sexual misconduct amongst UN staff working at the World Food Programme compound in the town of Moroto. The expose revealed that a significant proportion of UN staff at the WFP compound was demanding sex from local women in exchange for food. Some even went to the extent of hiring sex workers whom they brought into the compound breaching UN security protocol regulations.

Reports of entry into the compound by sex workers has also put private guards at the compound in a dilemma as all visitors to the base are supposed to be vetted before entry into the premises.

The reports of gross sexual misconduct as revealed by the whistleblower were corroborated by some of the staff working at the compound that preferred to speak on condition of anonymity.

The World Food Programme compound in Moroto is home to several UN staff as it provides office



space as well as sleeping quarters. The compound is located in one of Uganda’s poorest regions. According to the WFP, more than 500 000 people living in Moroto are in critical need of food assistance.

Speaking after the expose by the whistleblower, WFP’s Nairobi based regional spokesperson, Amanda Lawrence-Brown said, “We have been informed of the allegations made against UN staff residing at the compound managed by WFP in Moroto and are investigating...

There is no place for any form of sexual harassment, exploitation, or abuse at the World Food Programme, including by non-WFP staff residing at compounds managed by WFP in the field.”

The UN’s Resident Coordinator in Uganda, Rosa Malango did weigh in on the issue as she sent an email to all UN heads of agencies in the country stating, “I look forward to the updates from UN heads on action taken so far including the immediate suspension of staff pending the conclusions of

investigations.”

Speaking to The New Humanitarian, Malango said that the allegations on sexual misconduct by UN staff are serious and investigations are already underway. However, she said she is not in a position to say much as she is awaiting the whole process to be completed before speaking authoritatively. Malango said the “concerned agencies are dealing with the issue...Internal procedures are under way and we cannot comment until the facts have been established...These are allegations which need to be investigated.”

Sensible as Malango’s statement is, she however has received criticism from a group of UN staff. In an email to The New Humanitarian, the group said Malango’s email to the heads of UN agencies contained “confidential and sensitive information” which should “never have been circulated to internal email groups.” The group further said that Malango’s email was a plot on her part to play politics and divert attention away from her own “incompetence”.

The email sent to The New Humanitarian by the group used a suggestive title, “Uganda the next Haiti for the UN.” This in reference to the Oxfam scandal in Haiti which saw the British NGO being accused of covering up claims of sexual exploitation by its staff to the victims of the 2010 earthquake.

In her defense, Malango said that her email was never supposed to be shared externally.

The recent scandal is not the first time that UN agencies have found themselves under scrutiny in Uganda. In 2019, at least four people died while more than 300 got sick after eating WFP fortified cereal. The incident happened in the Karamoja region.



The allegations on sexual misconduct by UN staff are serious and investigations are already underway, says Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator.

Reflections by Renée

"SOUVENIRS FROM CAMEROON"

Renée Dugué

I breathed in my ancestral air

**I ate from the earth plowed by my
Mother's great great great
Grandmother's hands**

**I was nourished by the same solar
waves that powered the minds and
strengthened the backs of my Father's
Father's Father's Grandfathers**

**My feet felt the surge of fertility
coursing through the forever fertile
soil that feeds nations**

I drank from earth's fountain

I danced in the waves

I waded in the sun

I bathed in my genes' pool

**I sank into our human history's
darkness**

I soaked in every drop of blackness

I slathered my skin with each drip

**My every pore yearned for more
Of this ebony fuel that flowed from my
toe tips to my lips through to my coiled
tentacles**

The longer I sat the thirstier I became

**Then I heard a voice that spoke my
true name**

It whispered, "You are Mine."

**Now Leave
With this wisdom of inherited
Ebony Spiritual Connectivity
To The Most High**

**And Share
The reality of your birthrights' royalty**

**Then Return
With more thirsty for more**



Photo by Christopher Charles
Capturing inspiration between healing sessions.
Hou. TX, USA June 2020



Engineer & Artist Nges
Roland presenting his
commissioned souvenir that
Mrs. Renée admires daily,
Buea, Cameroon Feb. 2020

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE A WRITER WITH A PURPOSE

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

In this fourth article about Mrs. Renée Michelle Dugué, whose name means "Reborn Of God From The Land Across The Water," I decided to explore something we have in common, writing. Having mentioned in article one, "at first glance you will see she loves to write poetry," I asked her to tell me how this came about. Mrs. Renée shared with me that as a child she was an introvert, and spent countless hours alone in her own "La La Land." She recalled learning in therapy at age 33, that this behavior was an unconscious strategy developed to cope with the trauma suffered from sexual abuse as a toddler.

As Mrs. Renée spoke in her familiar angelic voice, for the first time I heard breaks of uncertainty; apprehension that resounded as deep sadness. She told me that she grew up in a time when "children were to be seen, not heard," expected to obey without question and that crying was a sign of weakness. She explained how this created such confusion within her. A dichotomy of "have pain but hide it," and "have flaws but mask them." Present perfection, and never let them see you sweat was an expectation she struggled to meet. "Although I was an excellent student, and learned to be sociable, even to the extent of being considered the center of attention, my most enjoyable times were spent alone, outside lying on the grass, sky gazing, daydreaming or reading."

One of her favorite books was "Alice In Wonderland" given to her at age seven by Sister Consilio, a Nun, who had taken a liking to her and often invited her into her private room in her Catholic school's rectory. Mrs. Renée paused, no doubt in a moment of nostalgia. She said she could still remember the smell of her perfume, which carried notes of vanilla, musk, and citrus, similar to her favorite today.

"Writing was encouraged by my mother, whose love for words and all things grammatically correct I inherited. I received my first diary at age 9, around the same time we got our first set of Encyclopedia Britannica." She laughed remembering how careful she had to be when turning the paper-thin pages. "My mother encouraged me and enjoyed reading my writing. Until she read my diary, which revealed troubling issues too difficult for her to deal with. I then turned to creative writing; developing fantasies and characters that allowed me to escape my reality. This coping tactic actually became my life, as I began to prefer to pretend and imagine, versus directly addressing and resolving issues. Today I prefer sharing my non-fiction; even though the truth isn't always attractive."

Mrs. Renée has a monthly column, "From Desire To Purpose...A Dreamer's Journey" in Data News Weekly, a newspaper in New Orleans, LA, her birthplace. She shares on topics of abuse, addiction, mental health, homicide, being a "Black" woman raising a "Black" boy in America, and the impact of these traumas. She also writes for CME Magazine, based in Houston, TX, where she lives. "Reflections by Renée" offers a monthly poem intended to inspire deep thought and reflection. In order for the reader to receive their divine message, no commentary or explanation of the piece is given. "In addition, I am working on a multimedia project, which utilizes various art forms, including written and spoken word, audio, and visual mediums, to share my personal journey of discovery, uncovering, unpacking, and healing, to inspire and encourage others to do the same."

Once again as the pages turn on Renée Michelle Dugué, she proves to be so much more than meets the eye. With my pen in hand, I am inspired to walk boldly on my path, sharing of others' journeys, and making my dreams come true.



Renée Dugué, the only child not smiling. Class photo St. Philip the Apostle Catholic School. New Orleans, LA USA circa 1982

**SHE'S TRULY
REBORN & RISING**



60 Years After Independence Nigeria's Energy Industry Hasn't Realized Its Promise – But It's Getting Closer

While getting Nigeria to the point where it can realize the full potential of its petroleum resources has been slow going, the country appears to be on the right track

By NJ Ayuk*



Mele Kolo Kyari, Managing Director of the NNPC, OPEC SG Mohammad Barkindo, and Minister of Petroleum Timipre Sylva.

On Oct. 1, 1960, everything seemed possible for Nigeria: After nearly 80 years of colonialism under Great Britain, it was finally an independent nation.

During the newly independent nation's earliest days, there was every reason for Nigerians to envision a bright future for themselves and their country, one in which Nigeria's vast oil and gas reserves would deliver widespread prosperity. One of stability and growth.

Tragically, Nigeria's story moved in a different direction. Yes, there was a brief period of economic growth, but that was followed by multiple coups, civil war, military rule, corruption, and poverty. Instead of helping everyday Nigerians, the country's oil wealth went to an elite few in power while leaving communities, particularly those in the Niger Delta, to deal with environmental

degradation and dwindling means of supporting themselves. Instead of using its oil revenue to strengthen other sectors and diversify the economy, Nigeria has made oil its primary source of government revenue. In recent decades, instability in the region has only worsened and contributed to the rise of terrorist groups like Boko Haram.

I still believe that 60 years of independence is an important milestone. We still have much to celebrate, including a future in which we can right the wrongs of our past.

While getting Nigeria to the point where it can realize the full potential of its petroleum resources has been slow going, the country appears to be on the right track. As I write this, Nigeria's long-awaited Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) — intended to bring transparency and new life to the country's oil and gas sector — is

closer than ever to passage. Nigeria is working to monetize its natural gas resources, and we're seeing great interest in the latest marginal field bidding round.

So like those who celebrated their nation's independence in 1960, I'm hopeful about Nigeria's future. My optimism might be tempered a bit by Nigeria's unresolved challenges, including continuing concerns about government transparency, but it has not by any means been extinguished. I truly believe that Nigeria can learn from its mistakes, take a strategic approach to the opportunities before it, and create a country where all Nigerians can begin a chapter of safety and prosperity. Nigeria's energy industry can realize its full promise.

Nigeria is Rich in Resources, Poor in Policy

Just like I believe that Nigeria's oil and gas are key to improving the country's future, I see that mismanagement of these resources has contributed to many of its struggles. Too many times during the last 60 years, Nigeria's government has missed opportunities to channel the country's oil and gas resources into economic growth. It has been particularly frustrating to see Nigeria — with natural gas reserves at an estimated 185 trillion cubic feet — struggle with energy poverty. Only about 45% of Nigerians have electricity, and even those with access to the power grid deal with regular power outages.

Again, weak governance plays a role in this. Violence and security issues, and Nigeria's reputation for corruption, have slowed Nigeria's ability to develop sufficient power plants and hindered foreign

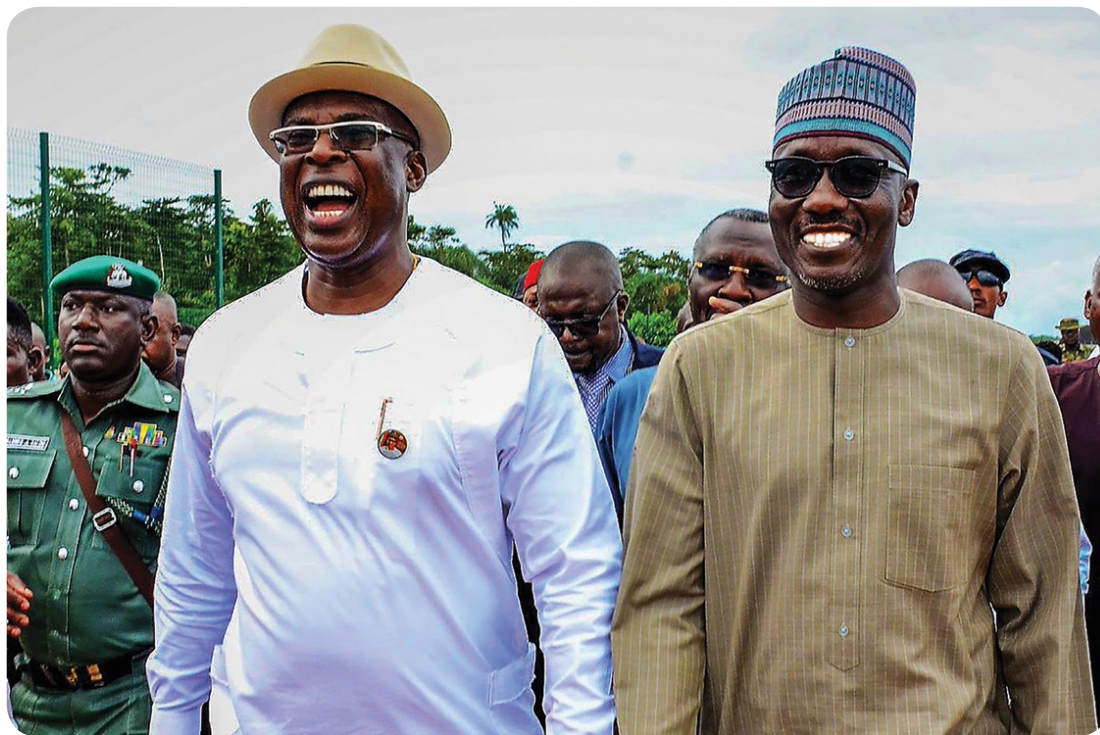
investment infrastructure. Meanwhile, Nigeria is paying a steep cost for its power shortages: about \$28 billion or 2% of Nigeria's gross domestic product, as lack of power impedes Nigerian entrepreneurship, private investment, and job creation.

I'm certain that Nigeria could bring reliable power to more people by harnessing its natural gas resources. And, to its credit, the government has been talking in recent years about putting an end to Nigeria's costly and wasteful natural gas flaring — more than 276 billion cubic feet of natural gas was burned off from Nigeria's oil fields between September 2018 and September 2019 alone — and capitalizing on this valuable resource. But up to now, Nigeria's progress on this front has moved at an agonizingly slow pace. The government, for instance, set a Zero Routine Flaring target for 2020 but announced in August that it will not be able to reach its goal. It also has failed to set a new goal.

Then there is the issue of corruption, which has fed into dangerous chain reactions. In 1966 and 1967, shortly after Nigeria gained its independence, corruption was used to justify coups that led to civil war, and ultimately, to military rule for nearly three decades. More recently, frustration over corruption has eroded confidence in local governments, which in turn, has made it easier for terrorist group, Boko Haram, to radicalize and recruit young Nigerians. What's more, corruption and mismanagement in Nigeria's security sector have hampered Nigeria's ability to effectively protect Nigerians from Boko Haram.

This year, with Nigeria's economy dealing with the one-two punch of the COVID-19 pandemic and low oil prices, decisive government action is more critical than ever. As of late August, the economy had contracted by 6.1%, and 27% of Nigeria's labor force was unemployed.

I want to be clear: I'm not saying that Nigeria's problems are insurmountable. Not in the least. In fact, Nigeria is better positioned to start strategically capitalizing on its



Mele Kolo Kyari, Managing Director of the NNPC, and Minister of Petroleum Timipre Sylva.

natural resources than ever before. And if the country can do that, it will be well on its way to a better future.

All is Not Lost – Far From It

While there's no guarantee that Nigeria's PIB will become law this year, it has reached an important milestone: President Muhammadu Buhari approved an updated version of the bill and presented it to the National Assembly Sept. 28 for their approval. Both chambers of the National Assembly have to pass the bill before it can be sent to the president for his final signature. If it is passed, the PIB would be transformational for Nigeria's oil and gas industry and, ultimately, for the country as a whole. It would play a vital role in addressing the inefficiencies plaguing the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), from slow approval for oil projects to budget shortfalls that hinder its ability to pursue public-private partnerships. What's more, the bill would create a supportive environment for both IOCs and indigenous petroleum companies, help protect the environment and the interests of host communities, support economic diversification in Nigeria, and critically important,

promote transparency in Nigeria's administration of petroleum resources.

Putting the oil industry on strong footing also could give the government more room to maneuver when it comes to resolving problems in the Niger Delta — including environmental concerns, lack of economic opportunities, crime, and militant activity — and implementing reforms to restrain the advance of Boko Haram. If oil and gas production stabilize, for example, Nigeria's government will be better positioned to create jobs in the region, both in petroleum and other sectors, which likely would contribute to greater stability there. More investment by IOCs also could lead to much-needed infrastructure in the area, educational and job-training programs for locals, and environmental initiatives. And greater oil and gas revenue — followed by economic growth and diversification — would help Nigeria to fund the security resources it needs to enforce anti-terrorism measures.

The PIB's progress is good news, but it's not the only reason I'm optimistic for Nigeria. The government also deserves praise for launching, through the Department of Petroleum Resources, its first marginal field bid

round in nearly two decades. Marginal fields hold discovered resources that have been left unattended for more than 10 years. Nigeria is offering 57 fields with total resources estimated at about 800 million barrels of oil and 4.5 trillion cubic feet of gas. Already, interest in the marginal fields has been high, and this could be just the jumpstart Nigeria needs to rekindle interest in the country's untapped resources.

I also find it encouraging that Nigeria has moved a step closer to natural gas monetization through the Department of Petroleum Resources' creation of the Nigerian Gas Flare Commercialization Program. Proper channeling of flared gas could impact the country's gross domestic product by up to \$1 billion per year, the department estimates. It could create up to 300,000 jobs, produce 600,000 million tons of liquefied petroleum gas per year, and generate 2.5 gigawatts of power. I commend the federal government for creating this program. Next, Nigeria needs to put in place the legislation, infrastructure, and pricing regulations necessary to make commercialization possible. Nigeria already has successful liquified natural gas (LNG) projects in place — just this year, Nigeria LNG

Ltd. signed a \$3 billion corporate loan to finance the construction of its seventh LNG train — and with the right policies, they can be even more beneficial.

Also working in Nigeria's favor has been the country's membership in OPEC. Not only has OPEC played a critical role in stabilizing global oil prices through production cuts this year, it also has been working to secure the fair value of member countries' oil resources with the understanding that a thriving petroleum industry contributes to economic growth and improved standards of living. I believe Nigeria's membership in the OPEC Fund for International Development, a multilateral development finance institution that targets key projects — primarily in energy, transportation, agriculture, water, education, and health — will be beneficial as well.

It has been encouraging as well to observe the fantastic working relationship among OPEC Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources Chief Timipre Sylva, and NNPC Group Managing Director Mele Kyari. In fact, Barkindo recently expressed a strong vote of confidence in both Nigerian officials. "I've known

both Timipre Sylva as a friend and Mele Kyari as a colleague for a very long time," Barkindo said last year. "I had worked with both, and I know that if they work together, they will make a good team that will provide the leadership and the corporation that the industry requires." The cooperation and respect among these leaders can only work in Nigeria's favor.

Nigeria's Independence Must Be Respected

As Nigeria takes measures to revamp its petroleum industry, leaders should be prepared to stand their ground against external forces eager to remake Nigeria's future in the image they want for it. I'm referring to western environmental groups intent on influencing is how Nigeria, and other African countries, transition from fossil fuel production to sustainable energy sources. Many have been pressuring investors to stop supporting oil and gas projects in Africa to prevent climate change. Frankly, they need to back off.

Nigeria is celebrating 60 years of independence. This is not the time to go backward. Outsiders need to respect Nigeria's right to control

its own destiny — and to choose the path it takes to improve its future. Nigeria must be the one to map out and executive its energy transition. And it must do it on its own timetable. And Nigeria already is, by the way, beginning to embrace green technologies. With a \$350 million World Bank loan, Nigeria plans to build 10,000 solar-powered mini-grids by 2023. The government also is investing in hydropower projects, including the \$5.79 billion Mambilla Power Station in central Nigeria.

All of those projects can work hand in hand to contribute to Nigeria's economic growth. No one should be pressuring Nigeria to miss out on the many benefits its petroleum resources offer. And today, when the country is finally moving toward harnessing its oil and gas resources in a way that could truly benefit everyday Africans, it would be heartbreaking to see non-Africans knock Nigeria off-course.

Nigeria is So Close

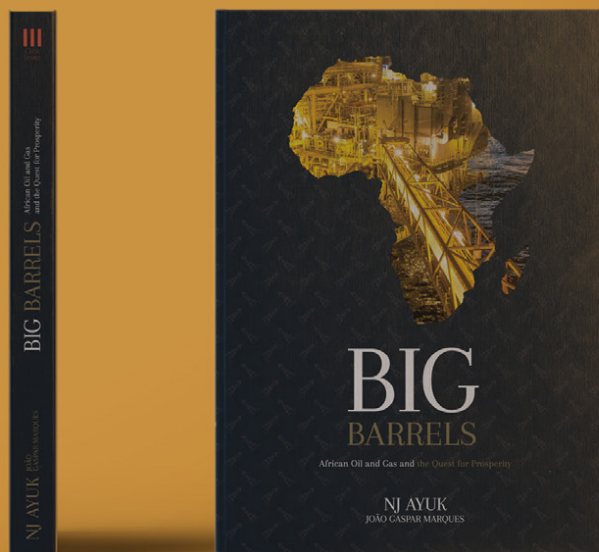
Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Nigeria's first prime minister, had this to say about an independent Nigeria: "Our political advance will be of no value if it is not supported by economic progress."

He was absolutely right.

Nigeria needs revenue to resolve its challenges, and that revenue is within Nigeria's reach. With the necessary legislation in place, Nigeria can revitalize and capitalize upon its oil industry. And instead of flaring its abundant gas to power, Nigeria can start using it to power households and businesses. To provide feedstock for petrochemicals and help diversify the economy. The gas can even play a valuable role in Nigeria's energy transition by providing revenue for green initiatives.

All of this is possible, Nigeria simply needs the kind of legislation and policies that are conducive for business to thrive. One of the best ways Nigeria could celebrate its 60th anniversary as an independent nation would be to finally put those measures in place.

***SOURCE African Energy Chamber. NJ Ayuk, is Executive Chairman, of the African Energy Chamber**



More Than 2,400 Candidates Apply For One Role As Competition For Jobs In Africa Stiffens

Data from jobs platforms across Africa reveals that 14 job listings attracted more than 2,000 applications each

ROAM Africa (Ringier One Africa Media), the leading digital classifieds group in Sub-Saharan Africa, has released figures that highlight the current state of the jobs market in Africa, with one standard role attracting 2,417 applications. Analysing 69,511 jobs listings from January 2019 to August 2020 across 5 African countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda), ROAM Africa's data sheds more light on the challenges facing both job seekers and employers in the African jobs market.

The standard job listing that attracted 2,417 applications was for a Receptionist/Admin Assistant in Kenya while another listing for call centre agents and team leaders attracted 2,283 applicants. Similar is observed also for other markets: In Ghana, 2,299 people applied for an Administrative Assistant role and 2,265 people in Tanzania applied for a Sales Representative role. In Nigeria, the highest number of applications for a single role was 2,095 and it was for a Sales Representative role.

According to ROAM Africa's data, Kenya contributed the highest amount of new job listings in 2019 with 33%. Nigeria was in second place with 31% and Uganda was in third place with 17%. However, so far in 2020, Nigeria is leading the way with 40% of new job listings, with Kenya in second place with 28% and Uganda in third place with 13%.

A closer look at ROAM Africa's data reveals that, apart from Nigeria, there was a drop in overall job listings across all job levels during the last months. However, there was an increase in graduate trainee and 'no experience' roles in Nigeria, Tanzania and Ghana from May to July 2020, which offers some hope for new entrants into the jobs market. Interestingly, recruitment agencies contributed the most roles, with 16% of overall jobs, closely followed by IT and Telecoms with 15% and Advertising media and



communications with 12%.

Some candidates have also reported applying for more than 20 jobs a day for multiple months and only getting to the interview stage on a handful of occasions. This is why ROAM Africa's jobs platforms Jobberman (Ghana and Nigeria) and BrighterMonday (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) are focused on matching technology. The company's technology helps employers to identify and score the right candidates faster. Suitable candidates are made visible to prospective employers, and helped across the finish line by providing data driven career development tools and training programmes. Job seekers using the platforms can expect to improve their CV, gain interview tips and sign-up for online training courses designed to bridge the gap between education and employment.

Commenting on the data, Clemens Weitz, CEO of ROAM Africa said, "The high ratio of applications per job listing really highlights how challenging the jobs market is for employers and job seekers. Both employers and job seekers are struggling to connect with the right opportunities and more needs to be done to address this. Employers must

rethink their hiring strategies and clearly define what they are looking for, based on data and insights. Job seekers must also invest in personal development that will make it easier for them to stand out in such a crowded and competitive market."

Weitz also added that, "We believe that Africa's greatest asset is its people and their entrepreneurial spirit. With the expected growth in the continent's population, we must begin to put structures in place that will make it easier for African businesses to make the most of this resource."

According to Hilda Kragha, Managing Director of ROAM Africa's Jobs platforms, "With the current state of the jobs market, Africans cannot afford to continue with the antiquated recruitment processes that are commonplace in many organisations. We must prioritise a digital approach to recruitment, which brings transparency to Africa's labour market while connecting people to work opportunities that will improve their livelihood. We must also embrace objectivity in the recruitment process by incorporating innovation that makes it easier to fairly and consistently sort for the best candidates. This will ensure that only

qualified candidates are applying for roles and employers get an accurate picture of jobseekers' capabilities. A win-win for both job seekers and employers."

"Our data highlights both the challenge and opportunity that come with the African jobs market. We must address the challenge of rampant unemployment but also embrace the opportunity to transform how recruitment is done. By doing this, we will not only be addressing the current problems but also future-proofing our businesses and organisations for generations to come."

ROAM Jobs is part of the ROAM Africa Group ("Ringier One Africa Media"), the leading digital classifieds group in Sub-Saharan Africa. Unified by its mission to connect Africans to opportunities and be Africa's most user-centric marketplace company, it operates across eight Sub-Saharan countries. ROAM Jobs operates in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria and Ghana, with a multi-brand strategy, including Jobberman in West Africa and BrighterMonday in East Africa.

***Courtesy ROAM Africa**



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

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Increase Investment in Mini grid Electricity to Get Africa out of Darkness

By Mohamed Adow*

Covid-19 is pushing Africa into an education crisis. Of the 39 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, full learning is only taking place in six of them.

A survey, by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UN Children's Agency UNICEF, found that of the 33 countries where learning is curtailed, in 14, of them it is completely closed.

Millions of children across the region who have been forced to stay home since March now face the prospect of being part of Africa's lost generation. Africa is the world's youngest continent and we are in danger of failing our young people.

While governments have explored offering schooling through alternatives such as distance learning, it has proven problematic. This is because virtual learning is delivered via gadgets such as computers and smart phones which are powered by electricity. Virtual learning would therefore have disadvantaged millions of children especially in rural areas whose families have no electricity, either because they are poor or live in remote areas, far away from main-grid electricity.

Indeed less than 48% of Africa's population of around one billion people have access to electricity according to a 2018 World Bank report. In absolute numbers this means that an estimated 600 million Africans are living in darkness, literally, relying on wood fire, kerosene and other forms of dirty energy for lighting. This is why Africans make up the lion's share of the estimated 790 million people around the world without electricity according to the United Nations.

The world recognises access to energy as a basic human right, which is why the UN adopted this as its Sustainable Development Goal number seven. One of the major obstacles to ensuring that everybody enjoys this right is the high cost



Mohamed Adow.

of generation, transmission and connecting users, particularly in far-off, low population areas.

In countries where 100% access has been achieved, such as Europe and the Americas, this has been done through investing in mini-grid electricity which helps light up their more remote corners. Africa is no different and therefore has much to benefit from this largely untapped technology.

Whereas national grids transfer power from dams, power stations or the likes of Kenya's Naivasha geothermal fields to urban settlements, mini-grids cover much shorter distances and serve localised populations in rural settlements.

Usually running up to 10km radius, they tap power from the sun or wind, store it in batteries and distribute it to users, allowing them to enjoy electricity even when they are living tens of miles away from the national grid. Besides connecting remote communities, the decentralised systems use clean

energy sources of wind and solar, helping our continent contribute to lowering harmful emissions responsible for climate change.

Their place in ensuring 100% electricity coverage has been confirmed through a recent survey by the Africa Minigrad Developers Association (AMDA) which found that the mini-grid sector was growing quickly, with operational, installation and capital costs decreasing by as much as 60% over the past five years.

As a result, it costs a national utility such as Eskom in South Africa or ECG in Ghana, a minimum of US\$1500 to connect a customer to power compared to only US\$733 for a mini-grid company such as Powerhive in Kenya.

Using data from 28 companies in 12 African countries, the survey found that the decentralised systems offered better service reliability with power generated 99% of the time, compared to main grids at 72%. This means that the smaller units actually suffer fewer outages and breakdowns compared to

larger systems.

These findings have once again reminded us of the opportunities we continue to waste by failing to exploit our freely available and abundant clean energy resources. They are a wakeup call that we must take advantage of innovation such as mini grids to overcome some of the daunting developmental challenges we face.

A network of renewable-powered mini-grids, stretching out across the continent's more remote areas will ultimately strengthen Africa's resilience to unseen shocks like Covid-19. Had Africa invested much sooner in mini grids our children would be learning remotely from home today.

*Mohamed Adow is the Director of Power Shift Africa a Nairobi-based Energy and Climate Think Tank and can be reached on madow@powershiftafrica.org. Twitter at @mohadow.

Zimbabwe's Capital City Pomona Dumpsite Fire In Harare Posing Serious Air Pollution And A Health Threat To Residents

By Wallace Mawire

The Environmental Management Agency (EMA) has advised the Harare City Council to take urgent action to stop the Pomona dumpsite fire which has been raging for long and is now reported to be contributing to serious air pollution and a health threat to residents of the city of Harare.

According to EMA, although this is a challenge affecting many local authorities around the country in terms of management of their dumpsites, Pomona dumpsite has been singled out to be the worst affected.

EMA Environmental Education and Publicity Manager, Mrs Amkela Sidange said that major fires at the dumpsite have been recorded in 2016, 2018 and the recent one on the 14th of August 2020.

It is further added that to date the battle is still on to extinguish the fire as dumpsite fires have proved to be difficult to put out.

"To that end, Environmental Management Agency (EMA), has issued an Environmental Protection order to Harare city council to urgently allocate enough financial, technical and human resources to put out the fire at Pomona dumpsite and the budget allocation should be in relation to the action plan with clear timelines, roles and responsibilities," Sidange said.

She said that failure to treat the matter with the urgency it deserves will leave the Agency with no option but to institute further prosecution processes.

"This follows observation of lack of due commitment by the local authority to give the matter the urgency it deserves despite the environmental effects of the ongoing fire, chief among them being pollution from the smoke emanating from the fire," she said.

It has also been reported that the Agency conducted ambient air monitoring over 3 days at strategic locations to ascertain the level of



Zimbabwe Capital City Pomona dumpsite fire .Photo Twitter.

pollution by the fire using micro-dust samplers.

The results are reported to have indicated that the 24 hour Mean for Ground Level Concentrations (GLC) of PM10 was over the Standard Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) prescribed limit and higher than the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline.

"This is seriously outside permissible levels of pollution from the dumpsite fire indicating a high probability of serious environmental and human health implications, hence the burning of the dump should be classified as an environmental emergency and should be given the urgency it deserves," Sidange said.

According to EMA, this presents an urgent need for intervention in order to protect people's constitutional right to an environment that is safe and is not harmful to their health.

It has been added that before the outbreak of the current fire at Pomona dumpsite, orders were issued to city of Harare to decommission Pomona and to construct a properly lined landfill.

Following failure to comply with the directive, the local authority was brought for a hearing before the Environment Management Board on various environmental issues including poor waste management in general and Pomona Dump site in particular.

A court case is pending against the local authority on various environmental issues again including poor waste management.

EMA says that the City of Harare and all other local authorities are encouraged to ring-fence waste management revenue streams to adequately resource waste management to be in compliance to standing environmental regulations.

Also local authorities are implored to discard the traditional linear model of waste management which is basically a cradle to grave system and has challenges, but adopt the circular model which impresses on resource efficiency, and has more business opportunities in waste management, hence also a lasting solution and is sustainable.

According to EMA, poor

waste management remains an environmental challenge in most urban local authorities, chief among the drivers of poor waste management is the continued use of unlined dump sites despite the provisions of Statutory Instrument 6 of 2007 which mandated all local authorities to have constructed and using standard sanitary landfills for waste disposal by 31 December 2012.

The Agency says that it has since the expiry of this period served orders to defaulting local authorities with failure to comply with the orders leading to court cases with some cases still pending before the courts.

It is reported that few local authorities have made efforts to comply with the statutory provision, among them Gwanda, Norton and Kadoma.

"However, failure by most local authorities to construct and use standard landfills has resulted in a plethora of environmental challenges, chief among them dumpsite fires," Sidange said.

The Basic Need Of The Cocoa Farmer Is Not Price Increment; But Access To Basic Amenities.

By Ahedor Jessica*

Cocoa has continually played a central role in Ghana's economy - as it currently stands as the second largest producer of cocoa beans in the world. The key to this success is anchored by the specific strategies put in place and managed by the state-run COCOBOD. According to the Bank of Ghana, cocoa beans and its products export receipts for the first quarter of 2011 was US\$859.4 million, accounting for about 61 percent of total export earnings as compared to US\$682.5 million (48.8 percent) in the previous year.

Ghana achieved an increased share of export prices to producers' price, which with growing global prices in the 2000's gave producers higher prices. At the same time, two major government programmes initiated in early 2000's - offered farmers improved varieties, subsidized fertilizer and free pest and disease control for their crops. These programmes triggered a cocoa production revolution by enabling farmers to more than double their yields. This transformation was because cocoa production remains traditional and labour intensive, and enabled smallholder farmers to intensify production to a greater

extent compared to larger ones.

But the aspect of the strategic plan to improve land productivity in an attempt to reduce poverty among cocoa growing homes was not implemented. Most communities in the Western -North Region of Ghana - the cocoa growing areas are without basic amenities. Sefwi Krobo- Manhyia, Sefwi - Akwapim, Accah-krom among other surrounding communities located in the Sefwi Akontombrah constituency are just few examples of the communities that produces high quantities of cocoa for Ghana but remain poor.

Christiana Amponsah a 45- year-old cocoa farmer at sefwi -Akwapim says the area produced more than 10,000 tons of cocoa every season but has nothing to show for it. "we produce more than 10, 000 tons of cocoa yet no one cares about us. There are no schools around here for our children they walk about 16 miles to school as such most have quit schooling. We don't even have access to electricity and our roads are not motorable"

Ghana, under the APL project funded by world bank is to ensure small towns have access to clean water. Per the project, Community Water and Sanitation Authority



(CWSA) ought to play a lead role in providing over 500,000 small towns in rural Ghana with clean water. But many communities still exist without access to clean water. Adjoa Konadu a mother of 4 at Krobo- Manhyia said access to potable drinking is a major challenge for them as they have to trek miles in search of water. "we have to walk miles to fetch this ground water for chores and drinking. From here to the city where we can get treated water is like 16 miles".

Checks at the Sefwi- Nsawurah health center, situated about 12 miles away from the towns reveals the

top 4 cases reported to the facility were pneumonia, respiratory tract infections, malaria and skin diseases. Medical superintendent at the facility Sarah Afful confirms the cases are linked to the environment especially the water they drink and the dusty nature of the roads. "our top four cases have always been pneumonia, respiratory tract diseases, skin diseases and malaria. Unfortunately, they don't have any other water apart from the ground water, though we have been educating them to boil before it before drinking; she said.

Bright Deberah a private cocoa consultant, revealed most cocoa farmers are shifting focus away from production and venturing into other crops like rice and other produce because farmers toils but it doesn't translate into better livelihood. He bemoaned why successive governments awards contract for cocoa roads yet areas that produce cocoa for the country remains in deplorable state. He asserts the basic need of the farmer is not price increments but access to basic amenities that makes life comfortable.

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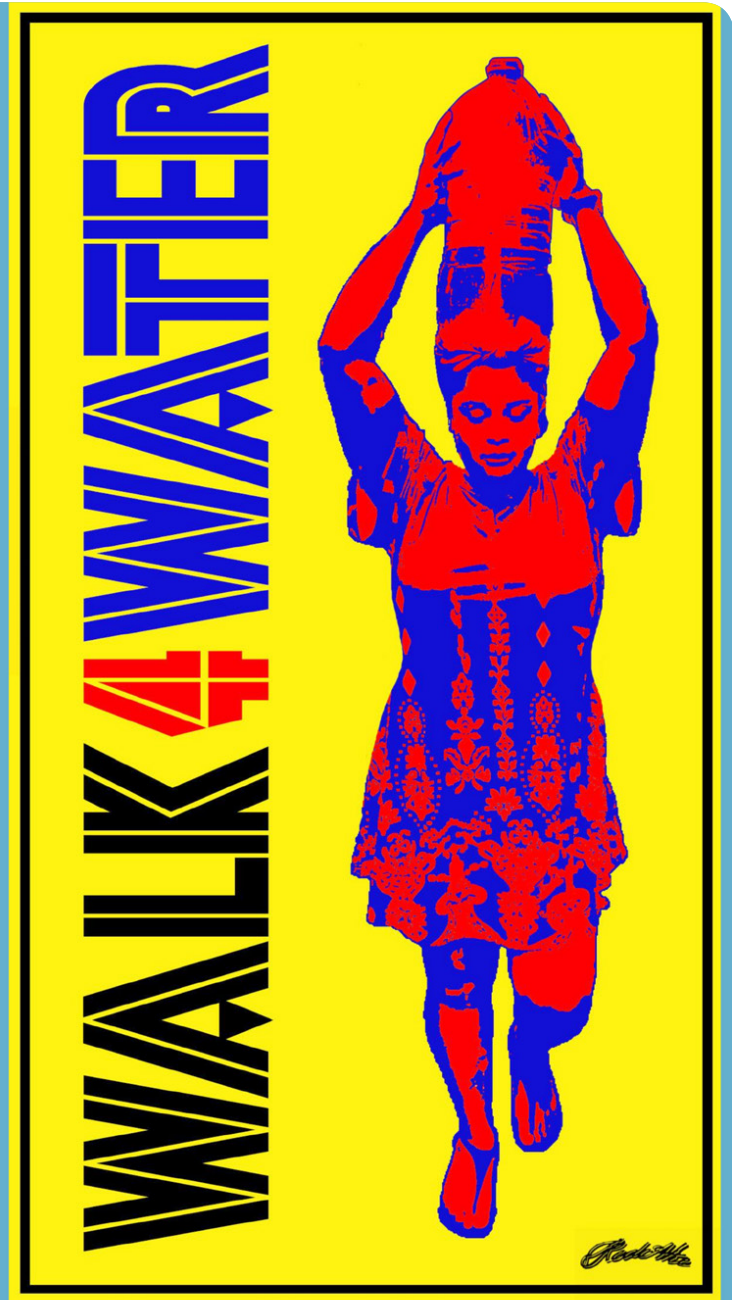
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FECAFOOT vs LFPC Tussle: What Future for Cameroon Football?

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

The long term fight between the FECAFOOT and the Cameroon Professional Football League, LFPC, has been laid to rest by the Court of Arbitration for Sports, CAS, in Lausanne, Switzerland. The presidency of General Pierre Semengue has been reinstated while the decision of the FECAFOOT suspending the activities of the LFPC was described as «illegal».

Observers of Cameroon football would have hoped that the decision from CAS brings to bed the “cold war” between FECAFOOT and the LFPC. The two parties have been trading subtle “jibes” against each other ever since the verdict was made.

FECAFOOT in her communiqué published shortly after the verdict of CAS has promised to hand down the decisions to the competent committees of the Federation for onward implementation.

The Minister of Sports and Physical Education Professor Narcisse Mouelle Kombi has called for the total engagement of the disgruntled parties without further involvement of legal proceedings, this for the interest of the country while respecting the decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sports.

The Minister has called for total collaboration between the LFPC/ FECAFOOT for the launch of the 2020/2021 football season of the professional football championship in strict respect of CAF’s standards.

The LFPC has the mandate to run the professional football for this upcoming season has been charged to ensure the kick-off of the championships in an atmosphere of calm and serenity putting in mind the upcoming 2021 CHAN to take-off in January.

In what many are regarded as appeasement, the mandate of General Pierre Semengue has been extended for one more year. His present contract is expected to expire in June



FECAFOOT President Mbombo Njoya and General Pierre Semengue

2021. The erstwhile general’s mandate at the helm of the professional league was due to expire this year.

Women’s league gets Guinness SA as a sponsor

One of the cries from football stakeholders in the country is for the league to have major sponsors for the competitions organized in the country. For some years now, the call has not been applied since MTN pulled out from sponsoring the Professional football championships. Before pulling out, the company cited mismanagement and poor organization of the leagues, a phenomenon too common in the Cameroonian milieu.

With FECAFOOT taking over

from the LFPC and instituting the Transitional Technical Committee, TTC, sports observers say the country was turning a new leave in terms of organization and professionalizing football in the country. This was seen in the number of talks held between potential sponsors and FECAFOOT.

This year, renowned brewery company Guinness SA has been unveiled as the sponsor of the Women’s First Division One Football Championship. At a time when women’s footballers are calling for equal pay from the country’s federation, such a move from the Federation only goes to improve the salaries of the women taking part in football in the country.

Perennial champions Louves

Minproff will be hoping to retain their title which they won last year, though the season was curtailed by the coronavirus. The team finished first last season on the first stop with 46 points, though second-placed Awa football girls had the same number of points but considerably lower goal ratio. The women’s league gets underway October 17 with Caiman Douala and Canon Women of Yaounde facing each other at the Japoma stadium in Douala.

PWD Maintained as Champions, News Stars Reinstated

The decision from CAS also stipulated that New Stars of Douala should be reinstated back to the Elite 1. The team spent the entirety of last

football season in a legal battle which meant they played no game during the 2019/2020 football season. «I urged you (FECAFOOT and LFPC) to collaborate fully in the peaceful resumption of the professional football championships, and the participation of deserving clubs in the international competition,» Minister Narcisse Mouelle Kombi said.

“It is a question of avoiding any infringement of the rights of the implicated actors, as well as new developments in the case already addressed by CAS with that of New Stars of Douala.»

The fans of PWD Bamenda took a breath of fresh air after it was made known that the club will be maintained as champions while also representing the country at the CAF Champions League. Should things had gone the way of General Pierre Semengue, the league would have been rendered null and void with no champion crowned. The club who has tested continental expedition before will hope to do better than its predecessors as they were eliminated from the group stages of the competition.

Cameroon's elite One Championship was initially scheduled



Football was set to resume in Cameroon on October 17 with the Elite One football Championship

to begin on September 26, 2020, but issues surrounding it such as the COVID-19 pandemic made the resumption date to be pushed back to October. The Elite 1 championship

will now commence October 17, while that of the Elite 2 comes up October 30. Football lovers in the country will be hoping that the two sides cannot do away with their differences for

football to go on smoothly in the country. Indications, however, does not seem to show that the two parties are in any hurry to give in anytime soon.

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