



Senator Rasha Kelej and The Merck Foundation - Africa Nexus

***Burkina Faso:** Justice For Sankara*

***Nigeria:** The Giant Must Not Fall*

***Chad:** Deby Out, Deby In*

***Rwanda:** France Indicted in New Genocide Report*

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Death of a Continental Soldier and Questions On Francophone Africa

By Ajong Mbatndah L

Fresh off another “election victory,” Chadian President Idris Deby was set to extend his long stay at the helm of the Central African country. The news of his death on April 19 came as a shock to many, more so when a day or so prior he was in Congo for the installation of President Sassou Nguesso.

Idris Deby came to power by the barrel of the gun leading a successful rebellion to topple his former ally Hissane Habre in December 1990. He left power by the barrel of the gun, shot at the war front in a fight to stop a rebellion charging towards the nation’s capital Ndjamena to force him out.

Though he whitewashed himself into a civilian posture to remain in power with a constitution and elections largely designed to guarantee victory for him, Idris Deby never relinquished his military origins. His prowess was touted not only in words but in action as he was quick to lead from the battle front when duty called. And for duty calls, Chad had them in excess. From fending off rebellions, to fighting alongside neighbouring countries like Nigeria and Cameroon in fending off attacks from Boko Haram, and helping Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso fight Islamist insurgents, President Idris Deby led with valor.

The death of President Deby and succeeding events once more highlighted the need for strong institutions for Africa and not strong men. Despite well-crafted constitutional professions on succession in case of a vacancy, it was back to square one for Chad. The constitution was ignored, and power handed over to Deby’s son General Mahamat Idriss Deby, aged 37.

Carrying a solid reputation of his own as a brave soldier, General

Mahamat Idriss was not constitutionally in line for succession, nor was he even the most senior military officer. How the choice fell on him remains debatable but suffice to say it did not go down well with many in the opposition and across parts of Francophone Africa where democratic gains in the continent are consistently rolled back.

The disturbing trend of sons succeeding fathers in countries that are supposed to be democracies has been slowly but steadily creeping across Francophone Africa. In 2005 when President Gnassingbe Eyadema died in Togo, his son Faure Gnassingbe backed by the military took office and he is still President till date. About ten days after the assassination of President Laurent Desire Kabila in 2001, his son Joseph Kabila emerged in a succession arrangement of sorts and stayed in power from 2001–2019. In 2009 following a bitter succession feud, it is Ali Bongo Ondimba who emerged as successor to his father Omar Bongo who died in power. The elections that brought Ali Bongo to power were qualified as heavily rigged by his opponents. There are fears in Congo, Cameroon, and Equatorial Guinea that the trend may continue.

The emergence of General Mahamat Idriss in Chad was brazenly embraced by France which still has a stranglehold on its former colonies. Not only did President Macron pledge his support to Idriss, but was conspicuously present in Chad for the burial of President Deby.

Presidents have died in power in other parts of Africa like Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, and most



Ajong Mbatndah L, Managing Editor

recently Tanzania. Tensions and anxiety from the dead of leaders in these countries ensued, but constitutions were not thrown to the wind to pave way for filial succession. In Tanzania, it is admirable how Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan seamlessly stepped in to continue running the country when President Magufuli died. From overseeing the signing of accords between Uganda, Tanzania, and oil firms to build a \$3.5 billion pipeline, to a hugely successful state visit to Kenya with palpable economic fallouts, President Samia has made a strong start to her Presidency.

Francophone Africa cannot continue to be the poster child for everything wrong in Africa, nor should France, a country that fought hard for its own liberty and freedom, continue to cushion behavior that stands at odds with what a majority of Africans want.

Excluding people from running from office is not the issue, but when the system is designed to favour the

emergence of some, or truncated to facilitate filial successions, it will only create discontent and who knows what may follow suit?

Fortunately, the wheel of justice somehow always finds a way to turn one way or the other and leaders who live by the sword often go by the sword. If this was not the case, nemesis will not be catching up with former President Blaise Compaore some thirty three years after a bloody military coup he endorsed ousted and killed his best friend President Thomas Sankara.

In the mist of the chaos of the last month, Africa continues to move on with partnerships from international friends like the Merck Foundation which has been hard at work engaging with First Ladies to tackle key health and other societal challenges. At the forefront of the robust partnership between the Merck Foundation and Africa is its CEO Senator Rasha Kelej. Senator Kelej and the Merck Foundation have slowly but steadily built a robust partnership with African first ladies to work on health care related issues. This issue of PAV revisits the recent Asia-Africa Luminary and caps it with an exclusive interview of Senator Kelej.

The issue also has stories from Chad, growing tensions in Nigeria, the perils facing the promising gas sector in Mozambique, the consolidation of power in Zimbabwe by President Mnangagawa, the emergence of Kenya’s first female Chief Justice and more

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Burkina Faso: Justice For Sankara

-33 Years Later, Thomas Sankara's Murderer to have his day in court.

By Prince Kurupati

33 years after Burkina Faso's former president Thomas Sankara breathed his last, the man who took his life is set to stand trial facing murder charges. Thomas Sankara was assassinated on 15 October 1987 – allegations are that his best friend Blaise Compaore took his life working in connivance with foreigners via a Coup.

Thomas Sankara is considered as one of the founding fathers of the Pan-African socialist ideals. Owing to his strict adherence to the principles and tenets of Pan-African socialist ideals, Sankara managed to leave significant developmental marks in Burkina Faso during his short tenure as the country's president. Sankara's strong belief in Pan-African socialist ideals transcended beyond the confines of the Burkina Faso borders permeating into the minds and hearts of many others across the continent hence the reason his ideals are held in high esteem.

Sankara's strong Pan-African socialist beliefs made him to be affectionately dubbed the 'African Che' in reference to the Argentinean Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara. He rose to power through a coup in 1983 but just lasted 4 years in power as he was assassinated in 1987.

The news that Blaise Compaore is set to stand trial for the murder of Thomas Sankara was first announced by Sankara family lawyer Benewende Sankara on the 33rd anniversary of Sankara's death. In a statement Benewende Sankara said that "The investigating judge in charge of the case issued his order for referral to the control chamber of the



33 years after his assassination, Thomas Sankara remains a hugely popular across Africa. Photo courtesy

Ouagadougou military court, which notified the lawyers of the different parties... This order makes it possible to affirm that sufficient elements have been gathered to allow holding a trial on the tragic events of 15 October 1987."

RFI news outlet reports that in preparation for the start of the trial, "a reconstruction of Sankara's assassination was held in February at the scene of the crime

at the headquarters of the National Revolutionary Council (CNR)".

The news that the people responsible for the death of Thomas Sankara would be brought to justice was received with much aplomb by many citizens and local organizations. Balai Citoyen, a civil society operating in Burkina Faso through its spokesperson Ismael Kinda issued a statement saying, "May those who committed this crime answer for

their acts before justice. May the Burkinabe people be relieved of his cover of ignominy that they have been wearing since 1987 in the eyes of the world."

Following the death of Thomas Sankara, the man widely believed to have taken his life Blaise Compaore succeeded him ruling the country for 27 years before being overthrown in October 2014. After his overthrow, the democratic transitional government which replaced him put forward a court case which led to the

issuance of an arrest warrant against Compaore in March 2016. However, at that time, Compaore had already skipped the border and had found refuge in neighbouring Cote d'Ivoire. Compaore was quickly awarded Ivorian citizenship and his close relationship with Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara has helped him avoid extradition back to his native Burkina Faso despite the presence of an extradition treaty between Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

The Sankara family lawyer Benewende Sankara acknowledged that it may be difficult for Compaore to return to Burkina Faso owing to his close relationship with Ouattara but expressed optimism that things may change in the near future – "The warrant can be executed at any time if Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso implement the existing agreements between the two states properly... I must specify that it can happen quickly."

Burkinabe President Roch Marc Christian Kabore following his re-election muted that Compaore could be allowed to return to the country to live out retirement. He also took the decisive step in



Blaise Compaore on the left and Thomas Sankara on the right were bosom friends

appointing a minister for national reconciliation Zephirin Diabre who has since pledged to address the issue of justice for Sankara. Debates have been raised as to whether Compaore should he return be pardoned in the interests of national reconciliation or should he stand trial. The numerous and almost daily occurrences of graffiti found throughout the Burkina Faso capital calling for "Justice for Sankara" seems to give the conclusive answer to the debate relating to pardoning or arresting alleged perpetrators.

With the whole country including the Sankara family looking forward for a conviction at the end of the trial, things are looking pretty positive as the French President Emmanuel Macron is sticking to his word that he will release and declassify all French documents concerning Sankara's assassination. President



Former President Blaise Compaore cuts a lonely figure today and is said to have taken citizenship in Ivory Coast. Photo credit AFP.

Macron promised during a 2017 visit to Burkina Faso that he would declassify all French documents with info regarding the tragic events of 15 October 1987. Many believe that the French documents are key in incriminating Compaore as the murderer hence their declassification almost guarantees a conviction. The

Sankara family lawyers have already acknowledged that several documents have been declassified and sent to the Burkinabe judges but were not at liberty to disclose the contents. Benewende Sankara says as a family, their position in regard to the debate is inconsequential as the matter is not just for the Sankara family but the

wider Burkinabe family and Africa as a whole – "It is a matter for the Burkinabe people – and. I have to say, the African people. So, this transcends Thomas Sankara's family."

Compaore is being charged together with several others who are believed to have aided him in committing the crime. One of the co-accused is former chief of staff General Gilbert Diendere who was earlier on convicted for charges relating to the same event in September 2015. Other co-accused individuals include primarily former presidential guard soldiers who are prosecuted for "attack on state security", "assassination", "forgery" and "concealment of corpses" according to RFI.

The leader of the Compaore-founded Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP) Party, Eddie Komboigo declined to comment on any of the current events. —

Nigeria: The Giant Must Not Fall

By Richard Mammah

The typical newspaper review session in the Nigerian television space now carries a very recognisable sombre tone. Ditto the prime-time news. Headlines and images of violence, killings and deaths clog the space. And this has for weeks now become a quite predictable daily fare.

Nigeria fought a civil war between 1967 and 1970. It was a horrible event that had been precipitated by several months of escalating crisis and which had also led to the death of some estimated 3 million victims. Today, many within the country are bothered that not only is there a very clearly escalating situation of the breakdown of law and order in the country, but there is also very little effective response from notably the federal authorities that are primarily in charge of ensuring security in the country.

And it is not only Nigerians that are worried. All of Africa and indeed literally across the world, people and leaders are bothered.

A big part of the challenge as it is evident is that as many as there are



President Buhari seems lost with crisis assailing Nigeria from all angles.

Nigerians, so also are there different perspectives on what exactly the central challenge is, as well as a path to its possible resolution.

For the Governor of Borno State,

Professor Babagana Zulum, who has been at the receiving end of several attacks from militant Islamists, the core challenge has to do with the activities of the Boko Haram sect that

has been waging and prosecuting a murderous insurgency for about a decade now. Not persuaded that the Armed Forces of the country can effectively respond to the threat on

the ground, Zulum has requested the Nigerian authorities to seek foreign help to resolve the expanding challenge.

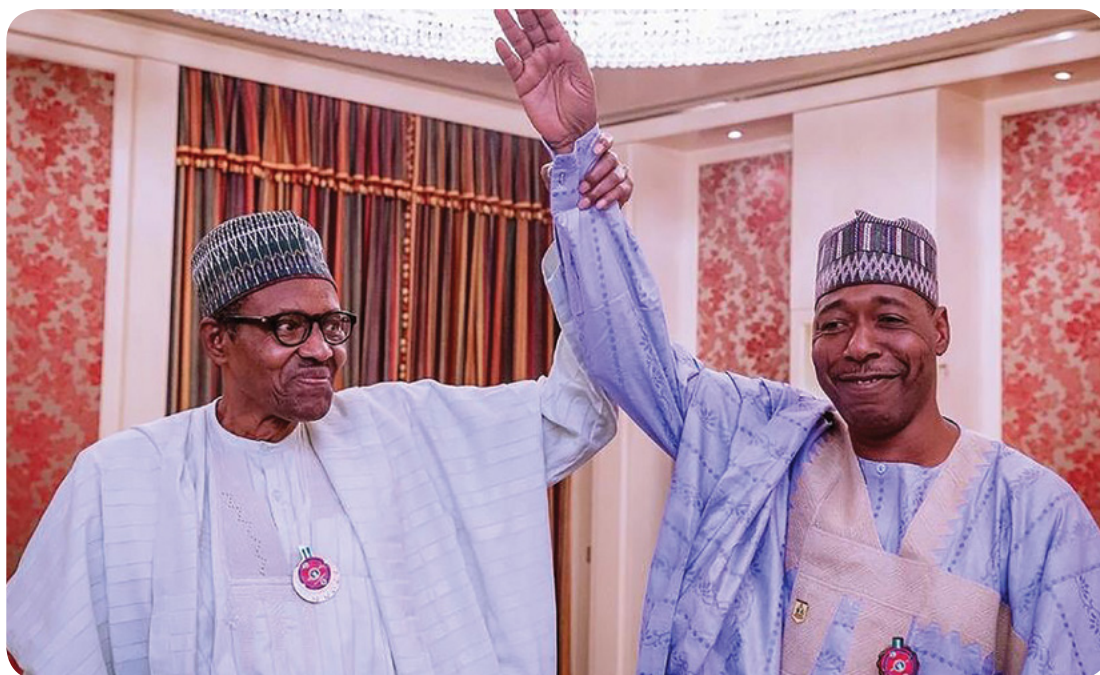
In the North Central state of Benue, the helmsman there, Governor Samuel Ortom situates the crisis as being chiefly one that is driven by the insistence of Fulani cattle breeders to continue to sustain a regime of open grazing of their cows notwithstanding that this has continually pitched them against local farming communities and that the state has since passed a law outlawing the practice and replacing same with ranching. Recently, the governor took the battle literally to the doorsteps of President Muhammadu Buhari, plainly accusing him of not doing enough to curb the activities of the herders.

His situation is not too different from that of his Taraba counterpart, Darius Ishaku who has continued to call for a restructuring of the security architecture of the country to introduce a new situation where state governors would be more than glorified Chief Security Officers of their respective domains.

Evidently then, a lot of the challenge touches on how different groups of Nigerians see and relate to themselves. This is more so at a time of grave economic and social turmoil where there has been a massive drop in the real incomes of many.

Unemployment is at a scary 33 percent and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC in a recent advisory to the Office of the Accountant General announced that it would almost have no cash for states to share at the next edition of their routine monthly Federation Accounts Allocation Committee meeting.

There are many things that indeed can be gotten from a unified Nigeria. But as things stand now, something must clearly give: the country needs to look itself in the face and resolve that going forward, there must necessarily be a devolution of power and responsibilities to get the kind



President Buhari with the Governor of Borno State, Professor Babagana Zulum. The latter thinks Nigeria should call on foreign help to fight the surging menace of Boko Haram

of cohesive environment that would continue to sustain the One Nigeria project.

This is more so when the delay in decisively addressing the crisis while it was still in its infancy as well as varying perceptions of uneven responses to the crisis have now expanded the cracks to such an extent that they have begun to endanger the overall Nigerian national unity project as recently attested to by the Department of State Security, DSS.

One critical strand of the conflict at the moment has to do with attacks being carried out on targets in the south Eastern part of the country, the same theatre of war in the 1960s. But analysts and commentators say that even that has a context and as such its resolution should also be taken alongside the broader challenge of putting in place a more viable framework for mutual relations among the peoples of Nigeria.

According to Abia Onyike, Spokesman of the Ala Igbo Development Foundation, it is this putting of the current crisis that has unwittingly enveloped the nation

in proper context, that should be preferred over other knee jerk approaches that would not get the job done.

'I don't think that the Federal Government should go about haunting or harassing individuals or groups fighting for self-determination, let alone contemplating their arrests. The best thing to do is to engage them in dialogue in order to appreciate the underlying reasons behind their agitation. Unfortunately, the Caliphate rulers in Nigeria have closed their minds to other opinions and viewpoints about the future/governance of Nigeria.

They see the rest of Nigeria as conquered territories/ entities. The agitation for self-determination arose from the nature and character of the crisis-ridden Nigerian federation. The continued imposition of a monolithic Federal structure has alienated/enslaved other ethnic nationalities, making the Fulani the only supreme nation with the intention to lord it over others.

The point is that what is required now to save the situation is to convoke

a conference where all the ethnic nationalities can come together to express their views on the way forward. The Government must hear from the self-determination groups, namely IPOB, Oduduwa, etc.

For us in Alaigbo Development Foundation (ADF), we propose a return to genuine federalism. We need a federation of Autonomous Regions. Let the six geopolitical zones become the federating units/ Autonomous Regions. There should be fiscal federalism for the regions. If the Caliphate hegemonists cannot accept genuine federalism, then the Nationalities reserve a right to assert their inalienable rights to self-determination.'

While not exactly accepting the full text of the recommendations made by the ADF, the Governor of Ekiti State and Chairman of the Nigerian Governors Forum, NGF firmly believes that beyond the issues of criminality and security, it is most important that a broader sweep of options should be brought onto the table.



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Experts, Activists Commend Muse Report On Genocide Against The Tutsi

By Jean d'Amour Mbonyinshuti

The recently released report detailing the role of France in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi is yet another milestone that will lead to the factual truth and to the reconciliation between the two countries, experts have said.

Dubbed “A Foreseeable Genocide: The Role of the French Government in Connection with the Genocide against the Tutsi» the report was commissioned by the government of Rwanda in 2017 and headed by Robert Muse of the US law firm, Levy Firestone Muse.

Also contributing to the report were local law firms Certa Law, MRB Attorneys and Trust Law Chambers.

The 600-page report was presented in a cabinet meeting of April 19 which was chaired by President Paul Kagame.

Addressing the media shortly after the release of the report, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Rwanda's spokesperson Dr Vincent Biruta hailed the report saying it reveals yet other signs that French was fully aware of the plan of genocide and its execution and did nothing to prevent it.

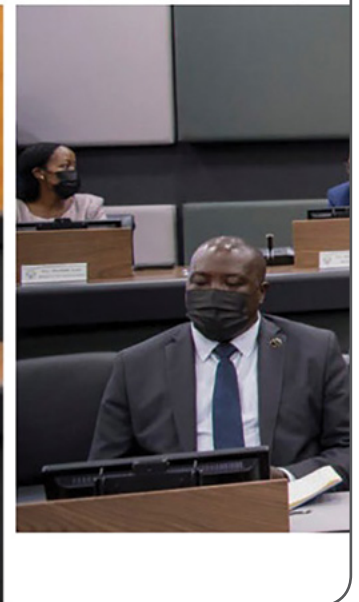
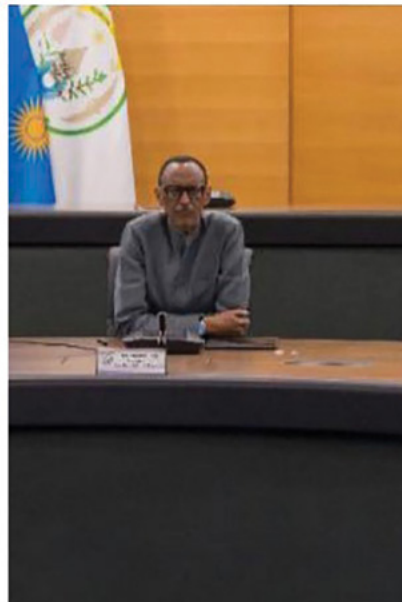
“What is clear in this report is that the French Government at the time bears significant responsibility in failing to prevent a foreseeable Genocide,” he told the media.

“The French government officials saw all the signs and were aware of the planning and execution of the genocide but did not act to prevent it,” Dr Biruta added.

The report comes barely a month after another report dubbed ‘Duclert report’ commissioned by France president Emmanuel Macron revealed that there was ‘a heavy and the overwhelming responsibility of France during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.’

For minister Biruta, both reports will be helpful and will among others, help prevent revisionist theories advanced by genocide deniers.

Dr Biruta reiterated Rwanda's



President Kagame chaired a special cabinet session where Bob Muse of the Levy Firestone law firm presented the report. Photo courtesy

stand that the report is not a response to the Duclert report as the timing was different.

«It was clear to everyone that the genocide was going to happen. The role of the French government is clear. The two reports complement each other. They both agree there was a role of the French in the genocide,» Biruta said.

Biruta noted that the only difference was the Duclert Commission report does not shed light on the role of the French government in the genocide

while the Muse report is clear on that.

“The Duclert report also only looks at 1994 yet this new one even covers events after 1994,» he noted.

According to Dr Jean-Damascène Bizimana, the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide (CNLG), the new report will serve as a tool to support the Commission's work.

“It is helpful because it brings to light more critical facts about what happened before, during, and after the genocide,» Bizimana said stressing

that new report focuses more on the political responsibility of the French government.

The report says that Former French President Francois Mitterrand and his administration had knowledge of preparations for the massacres but kept supporting the genocidal government of President Juvénal Habyarimana despite the warning signs.

According to Yolande Mukagasana, a genocide survivor and an author on Genocide whose Foundation

Mukagasana, the report showed that the the French government was neither blind nor unconscious about the Genocide and provided unwavering support to the Genocidal government that was in power then.

“Finally, reconciliation is possible between our two countries, France and Rwanda. This will lead to harmonious co-existence between our peoples who are innocent,”Mukagasana said in a statement released shortly after the report.

She noted that true reconciliation can be achieved through having the truth about the common history, a history that exacerbates the tensions between Rwanda and France.

She added that reconciliation between France and Rwanda is not a sign of weakness, but a great proof of humanity, that reconciliation is not synonymous with impunity.

“We can now look our children in the face both in Rwanda and in France and tell them that there was indeed a Genocide against a part of the Rwandan population that was called the Tutsi, that it happened in



The French government officials saw all the signs and were aware of the planning and execution of the genocide but did not act to prevent it,says Dr Biruta.

an African country named Rwanda,” the statement said.

“And do not forget to tell them that it is Rwandans who planned this genocide and that the leaders of a European country, France, ‘the country of human rights’, have

committed their country to this crime,” she added.

AU commends the report findings.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki

Mahamat has commended the exhaustive fact-finding report on the role of France in connection with the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

“Dignity rests on truth, respect, and mutual recognition. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission salutes the political courage of President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and President Emmanuel Macron of France for these moves toward a more shared understanding, which merits the endorsement of Africa as a whole

He added that the Muse Report follows on the Duclert Report commissioned by the French Government, which found that France bore “heavy and overwhelming responsibilities” in the most tragic event in contemporary African history, whose effects continue to mark the African continent



Dr. Jean Damascene Bizimana from CNLG and Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Vincent Biruta speaking to the media shortly after the release of the Muse report in Kigali.

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Hopes and Fears For A Post Deby Chad

By Ajong Mbapndah L

For President Idris Deby, his departure from power was eerily familiar with the way he came to power. A rebellion brought him to power, and he left the stage fighting to fend off a rebelling seeking to unseat him after over thirty years in power.

Fresh off a victory in the presidential election which was a little more tricky than usual with emergence of more voices calling for change in Chad, the news of Deby's death left many stunned and perplexed. Any hopes that his long stay in power had resolved the issue of political stability in Chad were thrown to the wind as the established constitutional order of succession was shelved. The complex arrangement of sorts led to emergence of his 37-year-old son Mahamat Idriss Deby as the new leader.

PAV caught up with seasoned Chadian political analyst Amine Idriss to help dissect developments in the Central African country.

Thanks for accepting to answer our questions Mr. Idriss, could we start with your understanding of what happened to President Deby, while official sources say he was shot at the war front, there are others who say he was killed by those in his inner circle, what did you hear from your own sources?

The official version is the one I know: President Deby was killed in the battlefield. Personally, I believe this version is plausible since Chad has a tradition of having the generals and heads of armies directly in the battlefield taking an active part in the fights.

Were there any warning signs you saw that could suggest such a fate befalling a leader who was considered as very courageous and had won re-election?



Chadian President Idriss Deby died in battle after some thirty years in power.

Any warning signs? Not necessarily but I noticed that during the campaign; he became quite frustrated with his opposition, pushing him to violently express his frustrations. He had also been for the first time visiting each and every province of the country, and even going house after house in some places in Ndjamena. Many people were astonished because that was the first time we saw Deby doing that.

On the other hand, the political situation of the country was becoming more and more difficult during the recent campaign, with a new opposition movement led by a youngster, who didn't necessarily have the power to overthrow Deby through elections but represented a strong part of the public opinion

views about the need for change. Succès Masra's movement introduced a new dimension in Chadian politics, awakening the old political guards, and pushing even Deby and his team to join the internet and to add some more young people in the government. Besides that, the social situation was also more difficult, because of the COVID19 economic impact but also because corruption had never been so high than during the period. Lastly and more important, during the pre-campaign, some armed rebellions clearly declared their intention to stop the elections to happen. We all knew this time would be disturbed and predicted some serious social and political tensions; but nobody could predict that Deby would be killed in a battlefield.

Chad had a constitution with clear cut provisions on succession in case of a presidential vacancy, why was this not respected?

Good question... most Chadian politicians in the opposition were against the Constitution before the election. This constitution which was recently adopted clearly reduced the political space by limiting the youth participation in the electoral process. Most of the actors were then against it.

In addition to that, the parliament that voted the constitution had not been renewed for the last 5 years: MPs were supposed to be gone since 2015 or 2016! But despite that, the provisions of the constitution are clear: the President of the Parliament should have been vested to become the provisional President for 90 days then organize the elections. That was not the case, and the military preferred the option of seizing the power, arguing on the necessity to preserve the country's security and unity.

Why the choice of Mahamat Idriss Deby to succeed his father when they were more senior military officials?

I have no idea why...

What kind of legacy does President Deby leave behind, he was in power for some thirty years, what changed for Chad under his leadership?

Under Deby's leadership, what changed? Not many things to tell you the truth. The country followed the course of nature, with more people born (we passed from 5 million in 1990 to 16 million today) and we become poorer. Chad has had an opportunity to transform itself when we started producing oil, but this was badly managed and became a mess, increasing corruption and bad administration. The country is today amongst the poorest and amongst the



Late President Deby's, Gen Mahamat Déby Itno, emerged as the new leader of Chad in an arrangement that left many scratching heads. Photo credit AFP.

most corrupt in the world. So, what have changed? One could say that the biggest win of Deby is the military diplomacy... he has indeed managed to make Chad a kind of policeman for regional security and the world is lauding him for that. This is good for Chad's image. But Chadians are still poor and have no access to basic amenities such as clean water and electricity, education, health, and others.

For the last thirty years, Chad had a semblance of political stability, void of frequent rebellions and military coups, are you afraid that the death of President Deby makes the country fragile again?

The country has always been fragile and unstable. Deby was indeed a kind of a stabilizer. I am not sure it would become worst. We may have this time the opportunity to discuss differently. The Chadian political space has opened, and this can be good for internal discussions.

What do you make of the



The Chadian political space has opened, and this can be good for internal discussions, says political analyst Amine Idriss.

way the opposition in Chad has reacted to the recent developments, what tangible alternatives are they proposing as a way forward?

I don't think the opposition would make a big difference right now. They are too divided and too weak. The civil society also lost its independence aligning itself with the political power.

But things could eventually change from all sides if Chad is suspended by the AU... this will push people and specially those controlling power to become more collaborative, and the opposition could start asserting some of her views. However, for the opposition to win anything they must learn to come together. For a country with such a high level of poverty and

political instability, I am not sure that would happen anytime soon. But if the civil society receives the appropriate support and guidance, they may help in building an environment in which political parties may come together and discuss.

On the future of Chad, what gives you hope and what are your fears?

My main fear is the ethnic divide, and this has already started especially from some politicians. My hope is the civil society and especially the youth from the civil society. A change is on the way.

A last question on this phenomenon of family successions in Francophone Africa, we saw this in Togo, in D.R. Congo, in Gabon, now Chad and who knows which country will come next, how concerned should Africans be about this trend?

This is just what we called extractive regimes... extractive regimes tend to reproduce themselves...

Mnangagwa Consolidates Power through Constitutional Amendments

By Prince Kurupati

In 2013, Zimbabwe adopted a new Constitution – the 2013 Constitution replaced the one which had been in effect since 1980 when the country attained its independence. A number of new provisions were enshrined in the 2013 Constitution some of which required different Acts of Parliament to be tweaked so as to align with the new constitutional provisions. Fast forward 7 years later and many of the Acts haven't been aligned yet but in a rather surprising move, the Constitution is now being amended – before it has even been fully implemented.

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa first muted amending the Constitution early last year when the country had just enacted its first corona virus induced



The Changes give President Mnangagwa the power to appoint and fire the Vice President. Photo credit EWN.

lockdown. Calls for Public Hearings on the controversial Constitutional Amendment Bill No.2 raised eyebrows at the time as Mnangagwa was violating his own Covid-19 rules

and regulations which prohibited all public gatherings indefinitely. Without much opposition to the executive and authoritative instructions from the President

to hold the public gatherings despite the prevailing blanket ban on all public gatherings, the committees set up to hold the hearings did visit all 10 provinces in the country hearing the voices of those that managed to attend. After all 10 provinces were consulted – albeit with only a few attendees as many couldn't travel owing to the Covid-19 lockdown travelling restrictions, it meant that the first step in passing the Constitutional Amendment Bill had succeeded and the Bill had to proceed to step 2.

The second step entailed moving the Bill into the two houses of parliament. On New Year's Eve, President Mnangagwa gazetted the Constitutional Amendment Bill and set April 2021 as the month that the

Bill would be debated in Parliament. A week ago, the Bill sailed through both houses of Assembly thanks to the ruling party ZANU (PF)' super two-thirds majority in both houses. With the second stage passed, the last step before the President assents to the Bill and it becomes law is the appeal stage. Anyone with reservations as to the Bill can lodge an appeal at the Supreme Court but that exercise is viewed as futile by many as the Judiciary is considered an appendage of the executive – something that's going to be further enhanced once the Bill is enacted into law.

All pointers at the present moment point to one likely outcome that is, the amendment of the Zimbabwean Constitution in a few months time. The amendment of the Constitution just a mere 7 years into its existence is something that's worrisome but to many, the mere fact that the Constitution is being amended in its infancy is not something to be overly concerned with. What's more worrisome and concerning is the sheer high number of amendments taking place at the same time as well as the nature of the amendments. It is because of the sheer high number of amendments taking place at once as well as the nature of the amendments that have made many to conclude that Mnangagwa is desecrating the

Constitution through constitutional amendments and he is doing so for the sole reason of consolidating power.

A total of 28 amendments are enshrined in the Constitutional Amendment Bill No.2. of the 28, there are a few that have raised eyebrows and these include the following: changes to electing a Vice-President, appointment of Supreme Court judges, the Prosecutor General, expansion of legislators, expansion of the gender quota and changes to the composition and Metropolitan councils.

With regards to the provision of the running-mate clause enshrined in the 2013 Constitution which requires presidential candidates and the vice-presidential candidates to be elected on the same ticket, Mnangagwa through the Constitutional Amendment Bill wants to change that so that the President once elected can appoint and dismiss his Vice-President/s at will. This according to many analysts is a way to deal with the troublesome issue of factions and succession issues that often cause problems within the ruling party. Once Mnangagwa fears that his Vice President/s is becoming more popular or powerful, then using his discretion, he can fire the Vice-President willy-nilly. The removal of the running-

mate will enable Mnangagwa to do something similar done to him by Mugabe when he was fired in 2017 before his dramatic ascension to power with the aid of the military.

For so long, the Judiciary has been viewed as an appendage of the executive in Zimbabwe. This necessitated by several instances where the Judiciary pass judgments that foil efforts of the opposition and government critics while lending legal legitimacy to anything that's supported by the state. The 2013 Constitution did much in ushering in transparency into appointment of judges through holding of public interviews. Though noble, Mnangagwa wants to do away with the holding of public interviews choosing instead to directly appoint judges albeit after consultations with a 'compromised' Judicial Services Commission which constitutes mostly of presidential appointees. The amendment will also see the Prosecutor-General becoming a presidential appointee. This amendment rubberstamps the Constitutional Amendment No.1 which give the President powers to appoint the Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice, and Judge President.

Constitutional Amendment Bill No.2 also calls for the 10-year gender clause to be extended by another decade. On face value, this amendment

seems noble but after a deep analysis, one gets to see that it's all a plot by Mnangagwa to consolidate power. As explained by Zimbabwebriefing.org, this amendment "may have the support of women, but a devious move to discard the constitutional requirement that women should hold 50% of all elected positions. The ZANU (PF) regime in sponsoring the expansion of the gender quota is in principle saying gender equality and parity in elected public office is not an issue worth their time, but rather they would have the women as token MPs who survive at the benevolence of the party that selects the women list for gender quota." Just as much as the constitutional amendment try at mollifying women as beneficiaries, it also does the same with youths who are promised 10 reserved youth seats in the House of Assembly. However, in a country whose demographics show that over 60% of the population is under 35, why then only reserve 10 seats for them in Parliament.

The 2013 Constitution may not have been perfect; however, what it did is that it ushered in incremental gains meant at democratizing all spheres of the Zimbabwean way of life. The Constitutional Amendment Bill No.2 however aims at reversing those small gains.



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Make your own mask Fashion Awards 2021

At Africa, Europe, Middle East and Western Asia, we invited to create and share designs of masks and other clothing items that show intelligence in responding to the current health crisis. This can be in the form of a mask that looks like a fashion item.

Call For Application
Last Date of Submission
30th SEP 2021

Who can apply?
 All Africa, Europe, Middle East and Western Asia residents are invited to create and share a photo of a mask or other clothing item that shows intelligence in responding to the current health crisis. This can be in the form of a mask that looks like a fashion item.

How to Apply?
 Please share your design on the following link: www.merckfoundation.com

Prize Money:
 1st Prize: \$1000
 2nd Prize: \$500
 3rd Prize: \$250
 4th Prize: \$100
 5th Prize: \$50

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"Mask up with care" MEDIA RECOGNITION AWARDS 2021

Photo: A creative and innovative way to show the world how you are keeping safe and healthy during this time of crisis. This can be in the form of a mask that looks like a fashion item.

Who can apply?
 All Africa, Europe, Middle East and Western Asia residents are invited to create and share a photo of a mask or other clothing item that shows intelligence in responding to the current health crisis. This can be in the form of a mask that looks like a fashion item.

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Merck Foundation Film Awards "More Than a Mother" 2021 For African Countries

Call for Application

Who can apply?
 All African film makers and producers are invited to create and share a film or a video that shows intelligence in responding to the current health crisis. This can be in the form of a film that shows intelligence in responding to the current health crisis.

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 5th Prize: \$50

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Merck Foundation SONG AWARDS "More Than a Mother" 2021 For African Countries

Call for Application

Who can apply?
 All African singers and musical artists are invited to create and share a song or a video that shows intelligence in responding to the current health crisis. This can be in the form of a song that shows intelligence in responding to the current health crisis.

How to Apply?
 Please share your design on the following link: www.merckfoundation.com

Prize Money:
 1st Prize: \$1000
 2nd Prize: \$500
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 4th Prize: \$100
 5th Prize: \$50

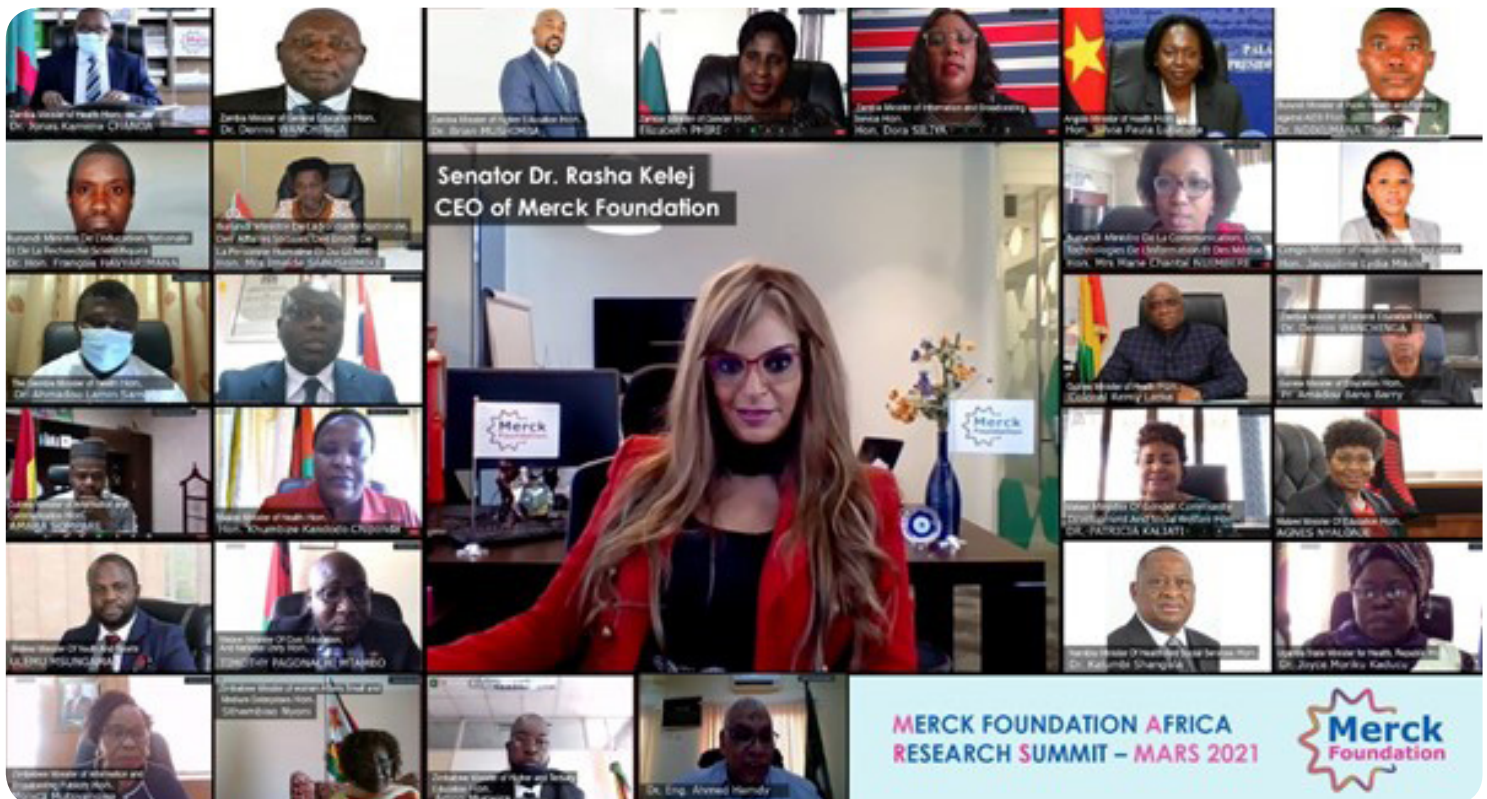
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Senator, Dr. Rasha Kelej
 CEO of Merck Foundation

We Will Be Part Of Africa's History; This Is Our Legacy- Senator Rasha Kelej on the Merck Foundation - Africa Nexus

By Ajong Mbandah L



We will be building a strong army of 1000's of well-trained specialized doctors who will save millions of lives across Africa, says Dr Kelej.

We envision working closely with our partners that are African First Ladies, Ministries of Health, Education, Information & Communication, Gender, Academia, Research Institutions, Media and Art in building and transforming healthcare capacity, and addressing health, social & economic challenges in our beautiful continent, says Senator Dr Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation.

Buoyed by the robust nature of the partnership and the success of the recent Africa -Asia Luminary which held virtually for the first time, Senator Dr Kelej says, the Merck foundation is committed to making history with the transformation of the public healthcare sector in Africa. In sight are training of an army of thousands of well-trained specialized Doctors who will save millions of lives in the continent.

This is my commitment as long as I

live, and this is our Merck Foundation vision, says Senator Dr Kelej in an exclusive interview with PAV to review the recent 8th edition of the Africa -Asia Luminary, the depth of Merck Foundation partnerships and operations across Africa and other major projects in the pipeline.

Senator Dr Rasha Kelej what are your impressions after the 8th edition of the Merck Foundation Africa Asia Luminary?

Senator Dr Kelej: Very very proud of our success. Our annual conference for the first time online due to coronavirus pandemic, however it was even more successful than actual conferences. Everyone was extremely engaged and committed. And of course, we had livestream with 100,000 attendees and more from 70 countries, we have more than 300, 000 viewers on our social media channels. The conference as

you know was in partnership with the Government of Zambia. And was inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Zambia, H.E. Dr. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU and Prof. Dr. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp Chairman of both of Executive Board of E. Merck KG and Merck Foundation Board of Trustees; and co-chaired by H.E. Mrs. ESTHER LUNGU, The First Lady of the Republic of Zambia and myself. It is a great honor.

I am very proud to share that 13 African First Ladies participated as guests of honor. The First Ladies of Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Namibia, who are also the Ambassadors of Merck Foundation More Than a Mother.

Over 26 African Ministers of different sectors also joined us on the second day, during the high-level

ministry's panel with African Union. Together, we discussed our strategy to define interventions to break infertility stigma and support girl education; and to build healthcare and research capacity and establish a strong platform of specialized trained medical experts in many critical and underserved fields to be the first in their countries. I am very proud that we have so far provided for more than 1100 Doctors from 42 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America with one & two-, three-year specialty training in multiple fields such as Oncology, Diabetes, Preventative Cardiovascular Medicine, Endocrinology, Sexual and Reproductive Medicine, Acute Medicine, Respiratory Medicine, Human Assisted Reproduction and Embryology & Fertility specialty, to be the first in their countries. Moreover, we have now widened our horizons by introducing more scholarships for young doctors in many new

underserved specialties across Africa and Asia.

The reach and impact of our 8th edition conference has been great. Even Better than previous editions.

On Day 2 of the conference, MARS-Merck Foundation Africa Research Summit was held where a High-Level Panel Discussion with 26 African Ministers of Health, Science and Technology, Education, Information and Gender and MARS Researchers was held with the objective to empower African young researchers & women researchers, advancing their research capacity and empower them in STEM. Parallel to this we had other three scientific sessions of diabetes, cardiology, oncology.

The High-level Ministerial panel included:

1) Hon. Dr. Jonas Kamima CHANDA, Minister of Health, Zambia

2) Hon. Dr. Dennis WANCHINGA, Minister of General Education, Zambia

3) Hon. Dr. Brian MUSHIMBA, Minister of Higher Education, Zambia

4) Hon. Elizabeth PHIRI, Minister of Gender, Zambia

5) Hon. Dora SILIYA, Minister of Information & Broadcasting Service, Zambia

6) Hon. Silvia Paula Lutucuta, Minister of Health, Angola

7) Hon. Dr. NDIKUMANA Thadée, Minister of Public Health & Fighting against AIDS, Burundi

8) Hon. Dr. François HAVYARIMANA, Ministre de L'Education Nationale et de la Recherche Scientifique, Burundi

9) Hon. Imelde SABUSHIMIKE, Ministre de la Solidarité Nationale, des Affaires Sociales, des Droits de la Personne Humaine et du Genre, Burundi

10) Hon. Marie Chantal NIJIMBERE, Ministre de la Communication, des Technologies de L'Information et des Médias, Republic of Burundi

11) Hon. Jacqueline Lydia Mikolo, Minister of Health & Population, Republic of the Congo

12) Hon. Dr. Ahmadou Lamin Samateh, Minister of Health, The



Senator Dr Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation and President of Merck More Than a Mother visits Ugandan Childless Women with Hon. Sarah Opendi, Minister of State of Health Uganda to support Merck More Than a Mother.

Gambia

13) Hon. Ebrima SILLAH, Minister of Information, The Gambia

14) Hon. Colonel Remy Lama, Minister of Health, Guinea Conakry

15) Hon. Pr. Amadou Bano Barry, Minister of Education, Guinea Conakry

16) Hon. Amara Sompore, Minister of Information & Communication, Guinea Conakry

17) Hon. Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda, Minister of Health & Population, Malawi

18) Hon. Dr. Patricia Kaliati, Minister Of Gender, Community Development & Social Welfare, Republic of Malawi

19) Hon. Agnes Nyalonje, Minister Of Education, Malawi

20) Hon. Ulemu Msungama, Minister Of Youth & Sports, Malawi

21) Hon. Timothy Pagonachi Mtambo, Minister Of Civic Education & National Unity, Malawi

22) Hon. Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, Minister of Health & Social Services, Namibia

23) Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu, State Minister for Health, Uganda

24) Hon. Monica Mutsvangwa, Minister of Information & Broadcasting Publicity, Zimbabwe

25) Hon. Sthembiso Nyoni, Minister of Women Affairs Small & Medium Enterprises, Zimbabwe

26) Hon. Amon Murwira, Minister of Higher & Tertiary Education, Zimbabwe

On the third day, Merck Foundation Health Media Training was organized for the African and Latin American Media fraternity to emphasize the important role that media plays to break the stigma around infertility, in raising awareness about infertility prevention, and empowering girls and women through education. Parallel to this we had Infertility and reproductive care scientific session and respiratory and acute medicines for Covid 19 response session.

How will you define the state of the partnership you have established with African first ladies over the years, what is working well, and what needs to be improved upon?

Senator Dr Kelej: I am proud to have partnered with 20 African First Ladies, who are now the Ambassadors of "Merck Foundation More than a Mother" Campaign. It is an extremely successful partnership; we have achieved a lot together at all

levels. Through this partnership, we continue to build healthcare capacity in their countries and empower infertile women and break the stigma around infertility and support girls' education. Together, we have introduced many initiatives in their respective countries. This certainly speaks volumes about the work we are doing.

With the unprecedented times of COVID-19, I cannot travel and meet the First Ladies of other countries we wish to partner with. I hope the world is free of Coronavirus and the lockdown is lifted soon. However, I have been able to meet the new First Ladies to invite them to be new members of Merck Foundation First Ladies Initiative - MFFLI. And they have gracefully accepted to be our Ambassadors such as New First Lady of Burundi, Malawi and DR Congo.

I have also established a new important partnership with Burkina Faso First Lady in 2020.

Here is the list of our partner African First Ladies, who are also the Ambassadors of Merck Foundation, More Than a Mother:

- H.E. NEO JANE MASISI, The First Lady of Botswana
- H.E. SIKABORE, The First Lady

of Burkina Faso

- H.E. ANGELINE NDAYISHIMIYE, The First Lady of Burundi
- H.E. BRIGITTE TOUADERA, The First Lady of Central African Republic
- H.E. ANTOINETTE SASSOUNGUSSO, The First Lady of Congo Brazzaville
- H.E. DENISE NYAKERU TSHISEKEDI, The First Lady of Democratic Republic of Congo
- H.E. FATOUMATTA BAH-BARROW, The First Lady of The Gambia
- H.E. REBECCA AKUFO-ADDO, The First Lady of Ghana
- H.E. CONDÉ DJENE, The First Lady of Guinea Conakry
- H.E. CLAR WEAH, The First Lady of Liberia
- H.E. MONICA CHAKWERA, The First Lady of Malawi
- H.E. MONICA GEINGOS, The First Lady of Namibia
- H.E. ISAURA FERRÃO NYUSI, The First Lady of Mozambique
- H.E. AISHA BUHARI, The First Lady of Nigeria
- H.E. FATIMA MAADA BIO, The First Lady of Sierra Leone
- H.E. ESTHER LUNGU, The First Lady of Zambia
- H.E. AUXILLIA MNANGAGWA, The First Lady of Zimbabwe

The Former First Lady of Burundi, H.E. DENISE NKURUNZIZA, The Former First Lady of Chad, H.E. HINDA DÉBYITNO, The Former First Lady of Malawi, H.E. PROFESSOR GERTRUDE MUTHARIKA and The Former First Lady of Niger, H.E. AÏSSATA ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU have worked successfully with Merck Foundation as Merck Foundation More Than a Mother Ambassadors to break the stigma of infertility and empower infertile women in their countries.

About thirteen African first ladies answered present at the recent Africa-Asia luminary, what are you and the Merck Foundation doing to bring more first ladies to join your initiatives?

Senator Dr Kelej: Honest sincere long-term commitment to the social health and economic development



Dr Rasha Kelej in a group photo with African First Ladies at the Merck Foundation Africa Asia Luminary in Ghana

of their country and their people, programs with concrete measurable impact and not only talk. Creativity, smart focused strategy and objectives and also flawless implementation.

Always exceed expectations, all the time we exceed their expectation actually we exceed our own expectation. Therefore, I consider Merck foundation to be the most successful Foundation because we achieve even more than our set goals and exceeds our and our partners expectation and this is how you evaluate success. I consider myself the happiest person in the world because I achieved more than my goals to be part of transforming some people's lives, but now I am part of transforming millions of people every month. Not only this but together with our partners we transformed the healthcare sector across Africa, revolutionary transformation in few years and still more to come, it is history in the making, as long as I am alive, I will do more and more for Africa. We will create an army of specialized and trained doctors we will save lives together. I want to be one day part of Africa history this will make me proud as an African woman.

I look forward to expanding our footprints and work with more African First Ladies who will help us to realize our vision.

With the challenges from

COVID 19, may we know what the Merck Foundation did to help its partner countries in Africa to fight the pandemic?

Senator Dr Kelej: We raced to respond to COVID 19 and came up with many initiatives. One of the most important initiatives which I personally believe in its importance even before Covid 19 times is to continue healthcare capacity building, which has been our strategy since 2012, in partnership with African First Ladies and Ministries of Health, much before the pandemic struck worldwide. Due to travel restrictions, we adopted the online medical speciality education strategy, through providing scholarships for speciality training to doctors in many medical specialties such as Oncology, Diabetes, Preventative Cardiovascular Medicine, Endocrinology, Sexual and Reproductive Medicine, Acute Medicine, Respiratory Medicine, Reproductive and sexual medicines. Moreover, we recently started to provide scholarships in many new underserved specialties including: Emergency and Resuscitation Medicine, Gastroenterology, Laparoscopic Surgical Skills, Mental Health: Psychological Therapies, Orthopedic Trauma Science, Paediatric, Emergency Medicine, Advanced Surgical Practice, Dermatology, Neonatal Medicine, Pain Management, Psychiatry,

Clinical Microbiology and infectious diseases, Ophthalmology, Internal Medicine, Neuroimaging for research, Urology, Trauma, and orthopedics. We are very proud to invite applications from African and Asian English-speaking doctors from under-served communities for these scholarships on our mail: info@merck-foundation.com

We also understand the importance of creating community awareness about Coronavirus, so we launched "Mask up with Care" and "Stay at Home" Recognition Awards for Media across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. And also, "Make you Own Mask" Fashion Awards for the Fashion fraternity across Africa: I strongly believe in the critical role that Media and Art play to be the voice of the voiceless and raise awareness about sensitive topics such as breaking Infertility stigma and Covid 19 health precautions.

Also, the lockdown and restricted movement to fight coronavirus had hit most casual and daily workers very hard. Therefore, we supported the African government's strategy to save the living and livelihood of 1000's of families of casual workers and women who were affected the most by the lockdown or restricted movement. We invite applications from media personal and fashion designers to these two awards on email submit@merck-foundation.com

Moreover, we launched an inspiring storybook 'Make the Right Choice' in partnership with African First Ladies to sensitize children and youth about Coronavirus. The story aimed to raise awareness about Coronavirus prevention amongst children and youth as it provided facts about the pandemic and how to stay safe and healthy during the outbreak. It also promoted honesty, hard work, and the ability to make the right choices even during the most challenging times. We released the story in three languages: English, French and Portuguese.

Also, as my personal contribution, I have produced and directed an inspiring Pan-African song called 'My White Army' to thank the doctors and nurses fighting on the front lines of the coronavirus battle, who are risking exposure to the virus so everyone else can stay home and stay healthy. The song, featuring singers from 11 African countries in three languages Arabic, English, and French, has been well appreciated across the continent.

With regards to the Doctors that you train for infertility specialty and reproductive & sexual health what criteria is used in selection and what feedback are you getting from their in respective countries?

Senator Dr Kelej: Merck Foundation, through its flagship program, 'Merck Foundation More Than a Mother' is providing training in Fertility specialty and Reproductive Health at our partner institutes. The scientific committee reviews the applications based on the eligibility criteria, such as Medical graduate/ Post Graduates, preferably working in the Government sector, who are recommended by our partners such as the First Ladies Office, or Ministry of Health for African countries, and from the President of respective societies. Through this program, Merck Foundation is making history in many African countries where they never had Fertility specialists or specialized Fertility clinics before 'Merck Foundation More Than a Mother' intervention, by training

"My White Army" song

To support doctors and nurses during Coronavirus pandemic

Senator Kelej and the Merck Foundation also engage artists to send across poignant messages

the first Fertility specialists and Embryologists such as; in Sierra Leone, Liberia, The Gambia, Niger, Chad, Guinea, Burundi and Malawi. Merck Foundation is proud to have supported the training of the staff of the first public IVF centers in Ethiopia, Myanmar and Rwanda.

Could you shed light on other initiatives that the Foundation will be working on this year, there is talk of the media awards, fashion awards and others, what is the Merck Foundation seeking to achieve with this?

Senator Dr Kelej: We announced two awards for media fraternity, Merck Foundation Africa Media Recognition Awards "More Than a Mother" 2021 and Merck Foundation "Mask Up With Care" Media Recognition Awards 2021; two awards for fashion fraternity, Merck Foundation Fashion Awards "More Than a Mother" 2021 and Merck Foundation "Make Your Own Mask" Fashion Awards 2021;

in addition to Merck Foundation Film Awards "More Than a Mother" 2021 and Merck Foundation Song Awards "More Than a Mother" 2021 during the Merck Foundation Health Media Training that was held as a part of the 8th edition of "MERCK FOUNDATION AFRICA ASIA LUMINARY". We invite all to apply for these awards on submit@merck-foundation.com

I strongly believe that media, art, and fashion play a significant role in raising awareness about sensitive topics like infertility, hence will contribute significantly to break the stigma around infertile women in Africa, if utilized properly. There are many infertile women out there; we witness their stories of suffering and humiliation every day, it is time to act and make a change. Through the awards under "More Than a Mother", we would like to join hands with media, art and fashion fraternity to break the silence, be the voice of the voiceless and create a culture shift to Break Infertility Stigma, a message that must reach every door, every

community, every mind, and every heart.

1. Merck Foundation More than a Mother Africa Media Recognition Awards 2021: The applications are invited by media professionals to showcase their work to raise awareness about infertility prevention and breaking infertility stigma and empower infertile women and infertile couples in our beautiful continent.

2. Merck Foundation Film Awards "More than a Mother" 2021: All African Film makers and students are invited to create and share a film drama, documentary or docudrama, short or long film to deliver strong and influential message to Break Infertility Stigma and Empowering girls and women through education at all levels. I want them to use their creativity to break the silence. Our soft power is very effective and will educate our community and make a change in short time thanks to social media and new technology of smart phones, everyone can create those own movies

3. Merck Foundation Fashion Awards "More Than a Mother" 2021: All Fashion students and designers are invited to create and share designs that deliver strong and influential messages to raise awareness about infertility prevention, Breaking Infertility Stigma and Empowering girls and women through education.

4. Merck Foundation More Than a Mother – Song Awards 2021- I welcome all African Singers and Musical Artists to create and share a song with the aim to empower Girls and Women through Education at all levels.

Given the unprecedented times and second wave of coronavirus, it is important to sensitize communities and raise awareness about following best practices like wearing a mask, following social distancing, and the importance of Vaccination. With this intention we have launched two awards:

5. «Mask Up With Care» Media Recognition Award: I'd like to encourage all media representatives across Africa, Asia and Latin America to apply for «Mask up with care» Media Recognition Award. This media recognition award will encourage media to sensitize our communities. Raising awareness about coronavirus

in our communities will also contribute to supporting health workers who are at the forefront of COVID-19 response - providing high quality, respectful treatment, and care.

6. The "Make Your Own Mask" Fashion Awards invites African Fashion Designers and students to create and share designs of masks and other clothing items that carry messages to encourage people to wear masks to show they care and at the same time make it creative and fun. This is our way of encouraging people to wear masks during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Be creative vibrant and create new ideas and masks to encourage people to wear those masks and protect themselves and others in style. I personally ally, and have more than 50 different masks to match my outfits, so I do not get boredom's have some fun.

Having experimented with virtual events this year, is there hope that when COVID subsides, the 9th edition of Merck Foundation Africa Asia Luminary will be in person?

Senator Dr Kelej: I hope so. However, I feel the 9th edition will

still be online, the 10th edition hopefully will be in person although I might apply hybrid method. Online and in person to benefit more and more participants since now we have a great platform, and it will be very difficult to fit all of them on one place specially post Covid.

8. Dr Kelej is now Senator Kelej, what does the new job add to your leadership of the Merck Foundation and how are you able to balance your work and personal life?

I was appointed by The President of The Arab Republic of Egypt in October 2020 as a Senator at The Egyptian Senate. I am currently a member of the Egyptian Senate (2020 - 2025) and serving an important role to advise with regards to African Health, Economic and Social Sustainable Development and collaboration opportunities. Because of the nature of the senate appointment and the rye of experience required, it will add more value if most of my time is spent as the CEO of Merck Foundation and running the programs in Africa. This will create better opportunity to explore new collaboration opportunities to realize better development objectives across Africa

which Egypt is part of.

I believe in this concept of Work-Life fusion. I have fused my work life with my personal life to achieve balance. This is very easy to achieve; when you have passion for your work and when you work in healthy environment like Merck Foundation.

Going forward, how do you envisage the future of the partnership between Merck Foundation and Africa?

Senator Dr Kelej: We envision working closely with our partners that are African First Ladies, Ministries of Health, Education, Information & Communication, Gender, Academia, Research Institutions, Media and Art in building and transforming healthcare capacity, and addressing health, social & economic challenges in our beautiful continent. We will together make history and transform public Healthcare sector like never happened before. We will be building a strong army of 1000's of well-trained specialized doctors who will save millions of lives every month.

This is my commitment as long as I live, and this is our Merck Foundation vision.

We will be part of Africa's history; this is our legacy.

I have a vision for Africa.

"As long as Africa does not Acknowledge the importance of land the concept of seed, time and harvest. We will always be beggars in the global community."

-Zardile Matwaza

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OUR ENERGY FORUM SPONSORS – THROUGHOUT THE YEARS



A Friend For The Oppressed-Chief Charles Taku Reminisces On A Forty Year Law Career

By Ajong Mbapndah L



Barrister Chief Taku has answered the call of the oppressed with the same verve in a law career that recently clocked 40 years.

From court rooms in Buea, Cameroon, to the Hague in Holland, Barrister Chief Taku has answered the call of the oppressed with the same verve in a law career that recently clocked 40 years.

From the perilous mission of defending Southern Cameroon's activists in the 90s, to seeking justice for victims of the Rwandan genocide, and serving as a strong voice at the ICC against scapegoating Africans, Chief Taku has left an indelible mark in the course of his sterling career. In a walk down memory lane, the erudite Lawyer generously shares his experiences and offers his take on seminal developments in across Cameroon, Africa and the world at large.

Thanks for accepting to share with us forty years of legal services, and we would like to start with your career choice, why did Charles Taku decide to become a Barrister?

Barrister Chief Taku: Thanks so

much for giving me once more this opportunity to share my experience with your teaming audience on matters about which I have personal knowledge.

My choice to apply to get into legal practice was deliberate and informed by circumstances which may be developed into a book.

A combination of circumstances and experience informed my choice to become a lawyer. Here are some of them.

Like many Southern Cameroonians of my generation, I lived my childhood formative years in systemic injustice. The transfer of the sovereignty of the Southern Cameroons from one colonial contraption to another had profound cultural, social, political and economic impact on me and my generation. My Bangwa ancestral homeland suffered from German devastating campaign and was neglected by the British colonial administration. The area briefly gained some spotlight during

Southern Cameroons government and a short lived democratic space preceding and after October, 1, 1961.

The democratic space and the liberties it brought, were recklessly interrupted and eviscerated. Here is how it happened. Empowered by Ordinance no 60-20 of 22 February 1960, regulating the organization, administration and service of the National Gendarmerie and Military structure, Sadou Daoudou Minister of Defence under Ahmadou Ahidjo, signed Order No 65 of 13 February 1963 creating a Gendarmerie Company in West Cameroon. This effectively kick-started a reign of terror which was felt in my homeland. The terror intensified, with President Ahmadou Ahidjo signing Decree no 66-DF-133 on March 17, 1966, "extending the state of emergency in certain areas of the Federated State of West Cameroon", particularly, Mamfe Division, Kumba Division, Victoria Division and Bamenda Division. My Bangwa homeland fell within the

Mamfe Division and therefore, under the state of emergency. During this formative period in my life, I felt the effect of the brutality and abuse of power under the state of emergency.

While in Primary School, I was subjected to political victimization because of the political orientation of my mother. To remedy the situation, my mother withdraw me from that school and sent me to continue my primary education in CDC Laduma Mukonje Rubber Estate near Kumba where my aunt lived. On our way to Kumba, my aunt and I were subjected to harassment and humiliation by fierce looking French speaking Gendarmes in several control posts along the road. This occurred despite the fact that my aunt procured two laissez-passers at an exorbitant cost. The pain and shame of the humiliation we suffered endures in my mind.

While in the CDC plantation, I watched and live the injustices of everyday life. I prayed and asked

God to give me an opportunity to come back one day to defend those labourers. The chances for the realization of my prayers occurred when I enrolled in the Faculty of Law in the University of Yaoundé.

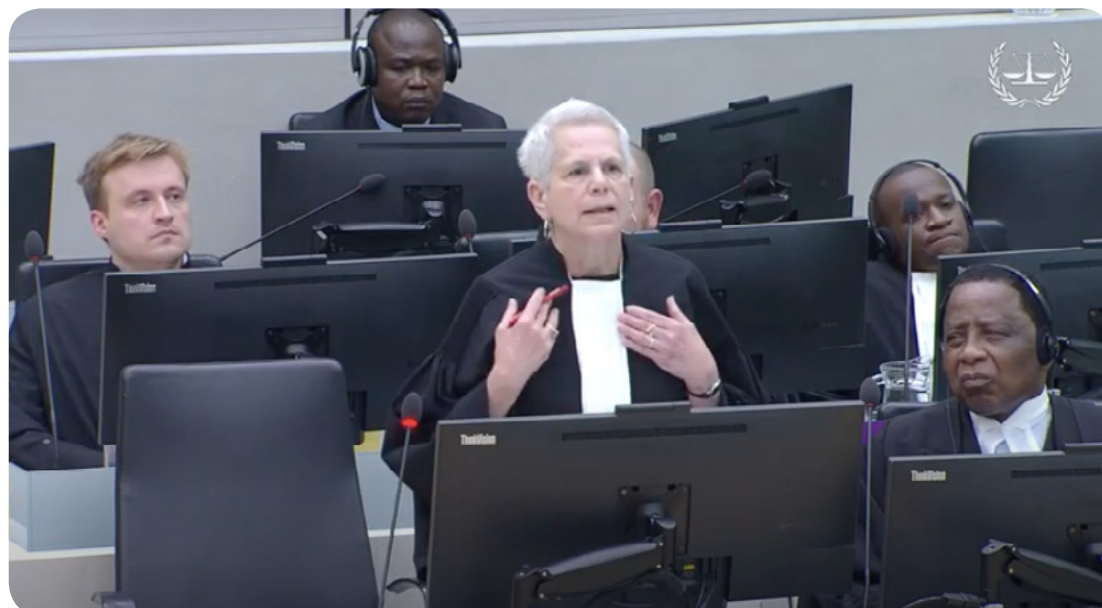
I was among a majority of English-speaking students who were denied scholarship. We decided to organize a strike to press for justice. I found myself leading the strike whose success changed my life. From thence, I convinced myself that I had to apply to do pupillage to enable me to become a lawyer. To answer your question, systemic injustices defined my life, opened my eyes and directed my destiny towards becoming a lawyer.

At the University, who were some of the prominent names you had as mates and lecturers in those days?

Barrister Chief Taku: I hesitate to characterize some of my lecturers and professors as prominent because of their involvement in the politics of deception, violence, injustice, pain and excruciating pain. Some of my professors and lecturers were Peter Yana Ntamark, Professor Joseph Owona, Stanislaus Melone, Nicole-Claire Ndoko, Aletum, Lekene Donfack Charles Etienne, Emile Mbarga, Charly Ndobede, Sanda Oumarou, etc. The most honourable of all was Professor Kisob. Several of my classmates are honourable people. They are too many to name. It saddens me that some of my classmates are active in prosecuting the genocide in my own homeland. However, Dr Christopher Fomunyoh and Hon Justice Nkengla are persons of extraordinary character, distinction and honour.

Coming from the English speaking of Cameroon, what were some of the challenges you faced?

Barrister Chief Taku: The challenges were many. We studied in a hostile environment. French Speaking students subjected us to ridicule by shouting and screaming, "Anglo, Anglo" "Biafrai" "Biafrai" every



Chief Taku pictured on the right at the ICC. He thinks the court has a prejudice against Africa.

day we came to the Amphitheatre or University restaurant; indeed, everywhere in the University campus. We were disproportionately denied scholarship. English speaking lecturers were discriminated against in promotions and humiliated. It was a cultural, linguistic, political and economic warfront for our survival. In short, it was a laboratory for the actualization of the cultural genocide which has manifested itself in its most violent form on the watch of the free world. We struggled for our survival on a daily basis. Unfortunately, some among us became traitors and agents of the oppressor. In that capacity, they betrayed, persecuted and oppressed us. To this day, they have constituted themselves into so-called fringe power elites, elites associations, political party and intelligence spy operatives.

We came across a decree signed by President Ahmadou Ahidjo on April 14, 1981 authorizing you to become a Lawyer with the Chambers of Barrister BTB Foretia, was presidential dispensation needed in those days for you to practice?

Barrister Chief Taku: Yes indeed, a Presidential dispensation was required for an authorization to do pupillage to become a lawyer. Once a person was awarded a government scholarship, there was

an inherent obligation to work for the government for ten years upon graduation from the university. That policy was enforced mainly for the private law practice which was tightly controlled by the President of the Republic. The persons I consulted before submitting my application advised me against, stating that earlier applicants had unsuccessfully waited for six years. I had an option to go to ENAM, the School of Magistracy but was apprehensive that the strike I led would stand in my way and I would never have a promotion as a magistrate. Besides the magistracy was very corrupt and used a tool of oppression. I preferred to defend the oppressed rather than become a potential corrupt tool of oppression.

Barrister BTB Foretia was a household name in the world of legal practice, how was the experience like learning and working with him?

Barrister Chief Taku: Hon Foretia was a very brilliant lawyer. People who knew him will testify that he was corruption free. He was disciplined, strategic and deliberate in every action he took.

There was no waiting or learning period under Hon. B.T.B Foretia. He prepared cases with me and provided me crucial advice on how to present cases in court. The first tool of great advocacy he told me, was demeanor towards the court, your colleagues and

the participants in the case. He told me that as counsel, I should maintain my composure as natural and as calm as possible and must avoid trying to adopt the composure of someone else. While rendition was important, the organization of the presentation was the driving force for rendition to be effective. He was courteous to all participants in a court process and did not ever take advantage of the inexperience of young counsel to attempt to ridicule them.

My first case with him in the Court of Appeal, was before a panel of judges led by Chief Justice SML Endeley (as he then was). We were counsel for the respondent in a criminal appeals case. When the turn for counsel for the respondent to make submissions, he asked me to rise and respond to the submissions of the Prosecutor. I stood up, summoned courage and began making my submissions, using appropriate language, demeanor and composure he has told me. I was calm, deliberate, organized and responded point by point to the Prosecutor, each of my points supported by authorities. Occasionally, I stop to invite questions from the panel. We won the appeal. From that moment when that Hon. B. T. B Foretia put me on feet in the Court of Appeal in Buea, I have never sat down or looked back.

One of the immediate causes of the current phase of the

Anglophone crisis was a strike by Lawyers, in what way did the issues raised by Agbor Balla and others mirror the experiences or changes you noticed over your decades of practice in Cameroon?

Barrister Chief Taku: The issues which Barrister Agbor Balla and my English Speaking colleagues raised were not new. Learned senior lawyers from Gorgi Dinka, F.W Atabong, M.N , Weledji, B.T.B Foretia, Luke Sendze, Chief E.E Ebai, Ben Muna, N.T Tabe and thereafter our generation fought the same battle but were ignored. When Cameroon applied to join the Commonwealth, B.T.B Foretia submitted a petition to Chief Emeka Ayaokwu Secretary-General of the Commonwealth on behalf of the South West Lawyers in which the lawyers complained inter alia: "As a matter of government policy, there are persistent attempts to wipe out the common law system. At unification, we envisaged a system where the two legal systems will co-exist side by side.....Under this system, there is the independence of the judiciary, guarantee of human rights, the courts play the rule of unbiased umpires between individuals and the state and regulate inter-state relationship especially in matters of international trade." N.T Tabe writing on behalf of the Common Law Lawyers Association also complained inter alia: "There has been a systematic and deliberate erosion of the Common Law system, its ideals, principles, practices and procedures as obtained and intended to continue in the territory of the former West Cameroon. Agbor Balla and our colleagues were highlighting a systemic injustice which has defined the reckless impunity with which a once free people have been subjected to systemic abuse and persecution despite six decades of protests.

Can you situate the role that Taku chambers played in the first All Anglophone Conference of 1993?

Barrister Chief Taku: The records will show that the idea of AAC1 was first initiated by George Ngwane, Bate Besong, Francis Wache, Vincent Anu,



Only an international mediation process to address the root causes may resolve the crisis in Cameroon and bring about peace, says Chief Taku.

Verwesse and my humble self. I had resources to move the idea ahead in two areas. I had my law office which would be used as the secretariat and the ability to obtain a permit directly from Governor Etame Massoma for the conference to hold. George Ngwane, the ultimate diplomat had the mandate to convince political party representatives for the Tripartite Conference to accept to host the conference as conveners purposively to obtain the collective views of our people for the conference. The AAC1 was a lost opportunity to avert the war several years after and a peaceful solution to the ongoing carnage and genocide.

May we know some of the high-profile cases you handled in Cameroon?

Barrister Chief Taku: I give equal prominence to all my cases. The most prominent cases which I handled are hundreds I did for the poor, the weak and vulnerable such as the pro bono cases I did for exploited CDC cases. CDC General Manager John Ngu preferred out of court settlements rather than face me in court. The CDC knew that, with me the labourers had a strong advocate on whom they could rely on to seek justice for the abuses they were subjected to.

I defended Ebenezer Akwanga and about 83 Southern Cameroonians who were abducted from their homes and court-martialed in Yaoundé for alleged attacks against Gendarmerie Camps in parts of the North West. That case was a forewarning of the current crisis in many respects. This was not an isolated case. The Military Tribunal and court-martial of civilians has been around as a tool of oppression since 1962.

At what point and why did you decide to take on international practice?

Barrister Chief Taku: The Court martial of Southern Cameroons civilians in the Military Tribunal in Yaoundé was intermittently reported by VOA with the news of the trials in Arusha. The confrontation between me and the President of the Court-martial Col. Manga who became very partisan was reported on the VOA. Col. Manga attempted to stop me from raising objections to the jurisdiction of the Court-martial over abducted civilian Southern Cameroonians from their homes out of jurisdiction for trial in a language they did not understand and without the possibility of calling witnesses. In error, he thought he could bully me. I reminded him it was not possible.

In anger, he suspended the case and gave a long adjournment. The next day, I was at the Supreme Court where I filed a motion for conflict of jurisdiction on December 10, 1997 and left for Tanzania to enroll on the roster of lawyers at the ICTR. I returned and left for Washington DC where I was interviewed several times over the VOA by Scot Steanne. I exposed the sham to the world. One day, a phone call was received in my Chamber in Buea asking me to report to ICTR, Arusha Tanzania I arrived on October 23, 1999, a week after Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere on October 14, 1999 to begin my international practice that has continued till date.

You handled cases on the Rwandan genocide in Arusha, what were some of the lessons you came back from that stint with and how useful could there be in contemporary Africa?

Barrister Chief Taku: The lesson from the trials in Arusha and the Special Court for Sierra Leone are that war is bad for everyone and that the sanctity of human life must be the preoccupation for all. Africa must have a robust mechanism for the early detection and prevention of conflicts on the continent. When conflicts occur, it must take prompt

and transparent action to address their root causes. Finally, Africa needs to establish a transitional justice mechanism to fight impunity and atrocity crimes in the continent. Such a mechanism must target all perpetrators no matter their status. The sad reality is that the ghost of colonialism very much alive in Africa. Africa is in need of genuine freedom, economic sovereignty, democracy and visionary leadership.

The last few years for you have been at the ICC, is the court a friend or foe for Africa in the face of criticisms Africans are selectively targeted?

Barrister Chief Taku: I am one of the first persons to make the charge that the ICC was selectively targeting Africa. I repeatedly made the charge during international conferences. I was invited by Professor Richard Steinberg of the University of California Los Angeles to write a chapter on this matter in book he edited on the ICC with a forward by Fatou Bensouda the Chief Prosecutor of the ICC. The ICC is not a foe of Africa. There is no doubt that there are atrocity crimes are committed in Africa which warrant ICC intervention. My concern was the politicization of some of the cases such as the interventions in Cote D'Ivoire, Kenya and Libya. I was concerned about foreign influences and the manipulation ICC interventions to target and resolve political problems. When a court targets only the vanquish in a conflict, that becomes victor's justice. I was also concerned that in its two decades of existence, the Court was still very much an African Court. It did not represent the face of our diverse universe that it was established to serve. I underscored the fact that even in African conflicts, the perpetrators of atrocity crimes are not all Africans. I cited the example of arms for minerals merchants who are the driving forces behind some African conflicts in which atrocity

crimes are committed. Many of them are not Africans. They too must be prosecuted.

What is your reading of the current situation of the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, and what proposals for a lasting solution?

Barrister Chief Taku: I avoided using the name Anglophone since it became a derogatory name used to stigmatize and ridicule us in the University of Yaoundé. My involvement in the search for solutions to the conflict and the genocide is well known. There are no realistic internal solutions to a conflict which is international in nature. The Government of Cameroon should submit to an international conflict resolution mechanism that is consistent with article 33 of the UN Charter for the resolution of this conflict such as the Swiss Mediation or any other credible international mechanism. There is no military solution to this conflict. Cameroon must accept an internationally endorsed mediation to address the root causes of this conflict. The war declared and prosecuted by Cameroon in which atrocity crimes are committed in a large scale shocking the conscience of humanity, is unjustified and unwarranted. Some persons have reduced the debate about the conflict into support of federalism and support of the actualization of the independence of the Southern Cameroons. Whether federalism or independence, the Republic of Cameroon has not accepted any of them. It has not even accepted a peaceful option to war and the ongoing genocide. So far, the historical basis of the case no matter what, is not yet acceptable to the Republic of Cameroon. Cameroon is under the illusion that it can impose a military solution to the conflict. Cameroon cannot and will never win in battle, in a mediation or an international court. Cameroon

believes it is playing for time, but time is not on its side. Time will only crystalize and galvanize international opinion to seek accountability for the crimes committed in the war while the territory becomes ungovernable. Only an international mediation process to address the root causes may resolve the crisis and bring about peace.

To sum up the rich career that you have had, what gives you satisfaction and where do you think you fell short?

Barrister Chief Taku: I will first address where I fell short. I have dedicated so much time and energy working for peace in my homeland and in all African conflicts. The slow pace of international intervention in the crisis and genocide in my ancestral home in particular, is disturbing. The devastation of war is unwarranted. The crimes must stop, and perpetrators held accountable. It is disturbing for me to see massacres, genocide, butchery of innocent civilians in my homeland. I see young Africans fleeing Africa and dying in the Sahara, Mediterranean Sea and South America escaping dictatorship, mass murder and harsh economic conditions, in the midst of plenty, while their peers in other continents are being trained to become agents of development for better living conditions for themselves, their communities and their countries. I have spent a considerable amount of time fighting these injustices, but they are persisting.

I was elected by my peers from all parts of the world as President of the International Criminal Court Bar Association. I was also elected as a member for life of the Governing Council of the African Bar Association. I was the vice President when Karim Khan QC, the new Prosecutor of the ICC signed the very first cooperation agreement between the ICCBA and African Bar Association. I presented a historic address to the Assembly of State Parties Conference of the

ICC on the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute and also the Plenary of the opening of the judicial year of the ICC. I was invited by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons to make a submission on a discrete issue on the UK multilateral treaty regime. During my eventful professional journey, I was invited to address the annual conference of the Federal Administrative Judges of the United States. I have advised and represented governments in international and national courts with respectable outcomes. My greatest satisfaction resides with my interaction and assistance to the poor, helpless people whom I found in conflicts in several parts of Africa. In Nyange Parish and Nyangasambu hill in Rwanda, with amputees in Sierra Leone, with refugees, who fled the scourge of war all over Africa and are in Europe, the human condition in Africa is not good at all.

What next for Barrister Chief Taku and to the young Lawyers out there who may want to emulate you, any words of wisdom?

Barrister Chief Taku: I will remind them what B.T.B Foretia told me when I embarked on this journey. I will advise them that honesty and hard work are the keys to success. That corruption kills the spirit and soul of humans. That character matters. And that although justice is administered by humans, true justice belongs to God and that with God, they will succeed. They must know that the frontiers of the world have expanded well beyond their town or country of origin. And that technology has brought the world into their bedrooms, their palms and their suitcases. They need to get out to the world and network with their peers in other continents. They must free themselves from the shackles of ignorance and break the asphyxiating chains of tyranny which have held a majority of people hostage.



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Kenya Poised For First Female Chief Justice

By Samuel Ouma

Kenya is on the brink of history after the country's Judicial Service Commission (JSC), an independent body tasked to promote and facilitate the independence and accountability and effective, efficient, and transparent administration of justice, nominated Justice Martha Koome as the next Chief Justice (CJ). Martha's nomination came three days after the JSC commissioners concluded interviewing ten candidates who submitted their applications to succeed David Maraga, who retired early this year after attaining the retirement age of 70.

The Court of Appeal Judge trounced the notable names in the legal field, including Justice Said Juma Chitembwe, Prof. Patricia Mbote, Justice Njagi Marete, Philip Murgor, Justice Nduma Nderi, Justice William Ouko, Professor Moni Wekesa, and lawyer Fred Ngatia.

"After lengthy deliberations and careful consideration of the performance of various candidates the JSC has unanimously recommended the appointment of Hon Koome Martha Karabu as the Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya..." said Prof. Olive Mugenda, the Vice-Chair of the Judicial Service Commission.

Commissioners who conducted the televised interviews are Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu (Supreme Court), Justice Mohamed Warsame (Court of Appeal), Justice David Majanja (High Court), Ms. Olwande (Chief Magistrates Court), Macharia Njeru (Law Society of Kenya), Ms. Ann Amadi (Judiciary Registrar), Mr. Kihara Kariuki (Attorney General), Patrick Gichohi (Public Service Commission), Mr. Felix Koskei (public representative) and Prof. Olive Mugenda. The main issues that were considered by the panel before settling on Justice Martha were age, gender, experience, and regional balance.

Martha's nomination for the CJ seat sparked wild celebrations from female leaders across the country. Led by Public Service and Gender



Justice Martha Koome is set to become the next Chief Justice of Kenya.

Cabinet Secretary (CS) Margaret Kobia, they flooded multiple social media platforms with congratulatory messages.

CS Kobia tweeted, "While in private practice, she distinguished herself as a defender of Human Rights concentrating specifically on Gender Rights. Lady Justice Koome has shattered the glass ceiling and made history today. We celebrate this incredible achievement."

«Congratulations Martha Koome on your JSC nomination as the next CJ of Kenya. No doubt the present is female! Your win is yet another clear show that Kenya is indeed ready for female leadership & we are not short of capable & willing women. When one woman wins-All all women win!» said Governor Anne Waiguru.

Lady Martha Koome was born in 1960 in Meru, 226.7 km from the capital Nairobi. She holds Masters of Laws in Public Information Law from the University of London, a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Nairobi, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Law from Kenya School of Law. She is an expert in family laws and has 33 years of experience in the legal profession, surpassing the constitutional

requirement of at least fifteen years of experience as stated in Article 166 (1) of the Kenyan Constitution.

She joined the High Court in 2003 before being promoted to the court of Appeal in 2011. Before, she worked as a human rights defender, and her passion for the rule of law has earned her international accolades, including the UN person of the year runners-up award in 2020.

During her interview held on April 14, she noted that she would use her 17 years of experience in the Judiciary to reduce a backlog of cases by appointing more judges and magistrates. She further revealed that she would operationalize the Judiciary Fund to promote its independence, use of technology, and building additional courts.

"I believe the challenges are similar whether a male or female CJ. It will be historic for the Commission to nominate a woman for the Office of [the] Chief Justice. Leadership is gender-neutral. It doesn't require a man or woman. It is skills that will deal with the challenges we face. You need managerial skills because you will be overseeing various things. As a lady, I appreciate that everybody

brings something to the table," she said while responding on how she will manage the challenges facing the Judiciary if chosen Chief Justice.

JSC forwarded her name to President Uhuru Kenyatta and who has forwarded it to the National Assembly for vetting. If the National Assembly endorses the nominee, the President must appoint her within three days after receiving the notification from the National Assembly. However, if the House rejects her, the Head of State shall submit the name of a new nominee to the National Assembly within three days after receiving the notification.

If approved by the Parliament, Lady Koome will be Kenya's 15th Chief Justice and third under the 2010 Constitution. Chief Justice is the head of the Judiciary and the President of the Supreme Court. He or she assigns duties to the Deputy Chief Justice, President of the Court of Appeal, Principle Judge of the High Court, and the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary. He or she also provides an annual report to the nation on the state of the Judiciary and the administration of justice. She will serve for ten years as per Article

166 of the Constitution that states the CJ should serve for ten years or retires at the age of 70, depending on which comes first. The Constitution also allows Martha to opt for early retirement at the age of 65.

Women dominate Kenya's judicial system, and Lady Martha's appointment will put a majority of the leadership of the justice sector into their hands. Men have led the sector since the independence, and many think women might bring change. Other women already holding top positions in the Judiciary include Philomena Mwili (Deputy Chief Justice), Prof. Olive Mugenda (Vice-Chair, JSC), Wanjiru Karanja (Acting President, Court of Appeal), Lydia Achode (Principle Judge, Employment & Labour Relations Court), Ann Amadi (Judiciary Chief Registrar), Judy Omenge (Registrar, High Court), Esther Nyaiyaki

(Registrar, Supreme Court) and Frida Mokaya (Registrar, JSC).

Meanwhile, Lady Koome's nomination was disputed by lawyer Fred Ngatia, one of the candidates. Mr. Ngatia, who was President Uhuru's lawyer during the 2017 Presidential Election petition. He claimed he won the interview but was rigged out. He argued some influential individuals pressured commissioners to lower his score.

"Four commissioners from Mt Kenya region reduced my scores ... after they were called by powerful people. Without that intervention, I was far ahead of all the other candidates," Ngatia told the local media.

Elsewhere, law scholar Makau



Martha's nomination for the CJ seat sparked wild celebrations from female leaders across the country.

Mutua has filed a suit seeking to have JSC compelled to make public the scores of the interviewed candidates to ensure transparency. While announcing on Tuesday, April

27, Prof. Mugenda said to release the individual performance of the interviewees. All eyes are now on Lady Justice Koome. Will she deliver or not?

Ghana Wins Race to House Twitter's Africa Headquarters

By Prince Kurupati

Ghana has won the race to house Twitter's Africa headquarters. The news was received with much aplomb by Ghanaians as well as the country's President Nana Akufo Addo. Many attributed the win as a testament of the great work that Nana Akufo Addo as well as the whole country is doing in making Ghana a destination of choice for top investments on the continent.

The news that Ghana was going to become the home of Twitter on the African continent first became public on Monday 12 April, 2021. In a Tweet, the official Twitter account stated; "Today, in line with our growth strategy, we are pleased to announce that we are building a team in Ghana... We need to further immerse ourselves in the rich and vibrant communities that set the tone in day-to-day discussions across the African continent."

Ghanaian President Nana Akufo Addo was one of the very first people to comment on the new development stating in a Twitter post; "The choice of Ghana as the headquarters for



Twitter described Ghana as a firm supporter of free speech, online freedom, and the Open Internet.

Twitter's operations in Africa is GREAT news." He added on stating that this development earmarks the "beginning of a beautiful partnership".

Twitter announced that it was hitting the ground running as it's already on a drive to recruit its first Africa headquarters employees. However, owing to the prevalence of the corona virus pandemic, the company said the staff in the first months will be working from home

while exploring "the possibility of opening an office in Ghana in the future."

A number of positive factors prevalent in Ghana according to Twitter made it an easy decision to pick Ghana as the best place to house its African headquarters. Amongst these factors include the freedoms of expression and internet access offered by Ghana including also its recent attribution of its capital Accra as the



secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

While the news was well received in Ghana and beyond, some were left stunned as they didn't place Ghana on the same pedestal as countries such as Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya when it comes to tech hubs. Kagare Wamunyu who leads the expansion of Kobo 360, a digital haulage start-up that connects freight owners with lorry drivers while

speaking to the BBC said, "In Africa what has generally been considered the tech hubs of the continent have traditionally been Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya... So it was an interesting choice, but the move to Ghana is still a win for the continent."

The Nigerian minister of information Lai Mohammed said that Nigeria lost the race to house the regional headquarters of Twitter owing to the negative coverage on the country largely perpetrated by Nigerians themselves - "This is what you get when you de-market your own country."

Many disagreed with the sentiments echoed by Lai Mohammed stating that Nigerian authorities have moved to disrupt any promising start-up. This according to the CEO of Lagos based digital marketing firm FutureSoft Nkemdilim Uwaje Begho is the reason why Nigeria has been losing ground to other African countries when it comes to investments. She said that instead of being proactive, Nigerian authorities are always reactive and this stifles progress. "Across sectors, we've seen regulators step in to regulate after technology companies have disrupted the market... While regulation is good, what it sometimes means is that you're creating barriers to entry by creating high license fees for example. Regulators need to think about the bigger picture and the long-term impact of these regulations and policies," Begho said.



The choice of Ghana as HQ for Twitter Africa operations is excellent news , says President Akufo Addo.

Some have attributed the massive strides taken by Ghana in becoming a destination of choice when it comes to ease of doing business as the key ingredient that helped it to win the race. Speaking to the BBC, Femi Longe a Nigerian tech pioneer said that the ease of doing business measures implemented by Ghana in recent times have paid dividends and it's a great thing to see Ghana's hard work reaping rewards - "Nigeria is a big attractive market but if we're honest it's a very harsh place to do business. Ghana has invested quite a lot in recent years on creating an environment that is attractive for people coming from the outside."

Adding on, Femi Longe said that the proactiveness and astute leadership of Nana Akufo Addo does play a part in making Ghana a destination of choice when it comes to investments. "If you look at Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria in terms of political stability and quality of leadership, there's only one country that stands out... If a company is thinking about the potential impact of government policy, I would go with Ghana. Ghana is an access point to Nigeria, so you get the full benefits of access to the Nigerian market without any of the dysfunction that comes with being there," Longe said.

As Ghanaians celebrate their victory, they call upon the

government to work in unison with Twitter to ensure that preference is first given to the locals when it comes to employment opportunities. Regina Honu who runs the Soronko Academy, a digital skills development centre in Accra said, "It would be good to see if they introduce a quota, that maybe the government imposes to get them to recruit a certain percentage of Ghanaians... With other organizations coming in you see a lot of diasporans returning and there will be lots of other Africans looking to come and work in Ghana. Hopefully they will come in and engage with developing talent."

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Billions at Play

The Future of African Energy and Doing Deals

by NJ AYUK



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Cameroon: The Disturbing Rise of Hate Speech

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

“Anglo-fool”, “Franco-fool”, “Bami”, and “Graffi” are all words that are being extensive use in the Cameroonian milieu. In the past, it might have been looked at as a way of making fun but today, they are all regarded as derogatory words, words that instead cause divide than uniting the population together.

Hate speech remains a global threat to peace and security. Hate speech has continuously promoted conflicts in our communities despite the national and international instruments put in place to limits its effects. It is worthy to note that authorities, especially those holding political positions, perpetrate most hate speeches.

Because, in our contemporary societies, especially in Cameroon, these authorities keep abusing power, it is very difficult to limit the use of hate speech as they keep on perpetrating hate speeches and going free without being held accountable. These hate languages against tribes, individuals, nations, political class, to incite violence against them originate



Our objective is to sensitize and raise awareness to change the mentality and mindset on the need to move from the negative virtues of hate speech , says Mwalimu Ngwane

from cultural, ethnic, race, political, or simply ideological differences.

The use of hate speeches and many other derogatory statements are part of the causes of the ongoing Anglophone crisis that has been for the past four years and entering the fifth year. Many Anglophones feel

that their Francophone brothers west of the Mungo “do not like them” or “do not understand the problems that they are going to.”

As the epoch continues to change so too is the new language that is being referred to various persons be it a Francophone or an Anglophone.

It is common to hear someone being referred to as «blackleg», «ekelebe», “Larrisa”, all being used in connection to the Anglophone crisis. When these slangs are used it only goes a long way to increase social tension in the country.

The NCPBM has launched a campaign against hate speech and xenophobia in the country. Our objective is to sensitize and raise awareness to be able to change the mentality, mindset on the need to move from the negative virtues of hate speech to the positive value of heart speech which involves hospitality, empathy, and tolerance,» George Ngwane, Member of the National Commission for the Promotion of

Bilingualism and Multiculturalism, NCPBM.

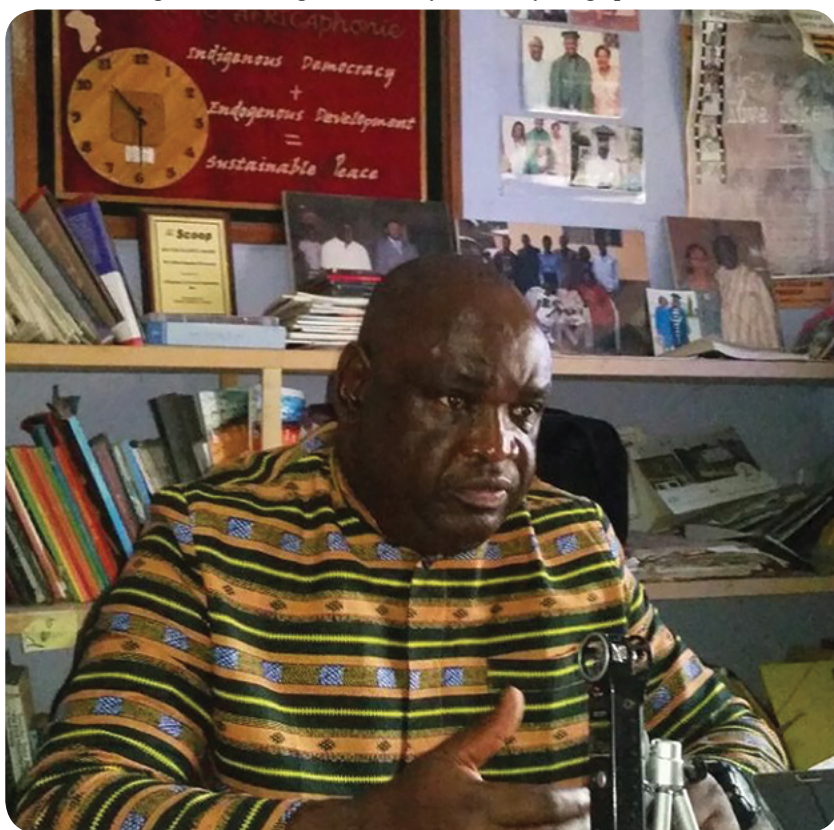
“The Commission has included everyone. On the 30 and 31st of March, we had CSOs, Media and Members of government. This is not a fight for the Commission alone and that is why we have partners to be part of it. The National Commission is a facilitator and a watchdog. Since 2017 we have been able to make a lot of presence felt.»

“When I came to Yaounde there were very ugly words that were used against me like “Cam no go” but I did not understand what they meant about that. Since I have been here for the past twenty years I know the words that the people used against me was not for fun,” Gladys Manyi, a Businesswoman said.

“At first we knew we were one (Anglophones and Francophones) but I did not know that the Francophones will use us for their fun games.”

Gabriel Maina Pontoo, a Civil Society activist said: “When you go to places like Yaounde of Douala you have a common name like “Hausa” “Gadamayo” and others. These names that are given they have just one objective either to denigrate or to stigmatize.”

This rise of hate speech is not only tied to the Francophones but the Anglophones have in the past and even



This is not a fight for the Commission alone and that is why we have partners ,says Mwalimu George Ngwane.

till today are still involved in various derogatory statements against their French-speaking brothers. According to inhabitants, it is due to ignorance that is pushing many to make use of these various hate statements.

Nora Enonchong said: «Someone can be angry and say «Le Bamenda la» and when they describe you like that they turn to treat you differently and they turn to discriminate against you and that is what makes people angry. We do not like that attitude of discrimination.»

This rise in hate speech has equally been compounded by the extensive use of various social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter and others. Time without number individuals in the country and those in the Diaspora have been noted to have sent various derogatory messages to individuals especially as people have taken sides in the crisis.

There was a huge campaign of hate speech in the country which warranted the country to suspend the internet in the North West and South West Regions,” Jean-Marc Afesi Mbafor, Member of the National



Various CSOs have been involved in Educating the population about the dangers of hate speech.

Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism said.

«Hate speech can ignite flames of violence in our society and we have seen the beheadings, gruesome killings in the English-speaking Regions of the country. What makes a statement hate speech is one that can

incite violence.»

Cameroonians in the country and those in the Diaspora are being urged to put away these statements and slangs which has no positive impact on society but one that leads to more violence and psychological trauma to many. The solution to this might have to be sanctioned being meted

on those who carry out or are seen to promote hate speeches.

It is a criminal act to carry out hate speech against another person in the country but that has yet to be carried out effectively. Social media is inundated with hate messages but the law is still slow to carry out prosecution.



The political crisis in Cameroon has led to an increase in hate speech.

It's Time to save Billions!

Backfill Technology To Boost Underground Mining In Africa

Peter Kayula

A Zurich based company is ready to invest in Africa with an advanced technology to help the underground mining industry optimize backfill efficiencies, something which has never been more relevant than now.

Representatives of the SwissPIR Company a group of highly experienced industry individuals within the SwissPIR Risk Division took a four-day business visit to Zambia from Switzerland to seek strategic partnerships and investment opportunities in the mining sector.

The investment opportunity is contingent on the transfer of technology capable of alleviating some of the operations costs that underground mines incur when backfilling, sharing of expertise and best practice as well as building local capacity to harness the potential in the sector.

The investment deal will also provide support systems and initiatives that will help address teething challenges in the mining industry to ensure that there is a win-win situation for both parties.

The main financial impact of the SwissPIR's technology is the potential cost saving of cement. In most cases, the binder contains cement that forms part of the backfill mix design. The SwissPIR revised the mix designs to incorporate the technology that enables backfill to pump underground at substantial densities. The higher density effectively lowers the water content thereby significantly reducing the cement fraction to reach the required MPa after 28 days.

Zambian Government's Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development said it supported the work of the SwissPIR Company and would respond accordingly for the sake of reducing operational costs in the Southern Africa's mining industry.

Corporate giants- Lafarge Cement Limited one of the country's major suppliers of cement to the mining



Copper Mining Project, Katanga, Democratic Republic of Congo courtesy of Mining Technology.

industry could not reply to an email sent to them requesting for comment on claims that they stand to lose millions of revenue and the other company Dangote with a major cement plant on the Copperbelt Province did not reply to the email sent to them requesting for a comment.

However, according to a document, **Backfill Technology Value Proposition SwissPIR gmbh Version 1.0** 4 published in January 2021 and made available to the public, SwissPIR Mining Company backfill team offers a unique value offering that will optimize backfill efficiencies in Zambia's mining industry, a development that arguably signifies the Swiss company's biggest foray onto the African continent.

The document explains that also at the heart of the technology is the customized and patented seamlessly integrates within the existing backfill infrastructure and mine reticulation to provide a significant reduction in costs whilst increasing output. These include, among others, reduction or elimination of bleed water from backfill underground, Improvement of quality and density of backfill and

Increasing the flow properties of backfill at higher densities.

Of profound interest is the fact that the SwissPIR's technology has the potential cost saving of cement. In most cases, the binder contains cement for part of the backfill mix design. The SwissPIR revised mix designs incorporate the technology that enable backfill to pump to be pump underground at substantial densities. The higher density effectively lowers the water content thereby significantly reducing the cement fraction to reach the required MPa after 28 days.

Zambia, the Southern African country, abounds in rich natural resources including enormous opportunities in agriculture, energy and other extractive sectors but these opportunities come with challenges that are being tackled.

Since the privatization of the mines in 2000, US\$13.13 billion has approximately been invested in the sector with an increase in the operation of the industry which has for a long time been Zambia's key economic driver for much of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and has been behind the country's

economic diversification, domestic revenue generation and job creation.

The Director of Mines at the Ministry of Mines and the technical staff held sessions with the delegation and deliberated on the various areas for investment, including a briefing on the economic and investment climate in Zambia and on the opportunities and challenges of the Zambian market.

Thereafter, the delegation visited Zambia's mining Province, the Copperbelt Province, toured the Mopani Copper Mines in Kitwe, held sessions with the technical staff, discussed details of their investment plans and concluded with the presentation of their technology with a business meeting with representatives of the mining companies before returning to Lusaka and departure for South Africa.

The delegation was led by the company's chief Executive Officer (CEO) Hanspeter Mark from Zurich, Switzerland and other executive team members who include, Peter Brown, CJ Costhuizen, David Moloi, Dirk Jonker and Kelvin Jones.



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Ivory Coast First Lady Ropes in Artists in Fight against Child Labour

By Prince Kurupati

Ivory Coast First Lady Dominique Ouattara is intensifying her fight against child labour in the country. Recently, the First Lady roped in various artists in the country to help her amplify the message on the fight against child labour in all corners of the country. The First Lady took the occasion of the launch of the 5th edition of the Wara Tour to welcome all artists that will help in propagating the message on the fight against child labour.

Speaking at the launch of the 5th edition of the Wara Tour where she assumed the role of 'godmother' of the tour, Dominique Ouattara first took time in thanking all the artists who graced the occasion and accepted the call to become ambassadors on the fight against child labour. "I cannot quote you all because, to my great joy, you are very numerous at this ceremony. But know that I have for each of you a great affection and I thank you for your presence," she said.

In her address, the First Lady of Ivory Coast said that for a long time, she has worked hard for the well-being of vulnerable women and children. She said that her work with Children of Africa Foundation starting all the way back in 1998 is a testament of her determination to raise the well-being of all the vulnerable groups in society. As such, the call to become the godmother of the 5th edition of



First Lady Dominique Ouattara at Opening of the fifth edition of the WARA TOUR caravan no to child labor in cocoa cultivation.

the Wara Tour Caravan is something she did not think about twice as it aligns with her vision to free the country from all instances of child labour. She went on to state that her ascension to become the godmother of the Tour could not have come at a better time as the theme of the 5th edition - NO TO CHILD LABOUR IN COCA FARMING – resonates with her "personal commitment against child labour".

The First Lady said that her involvement with organizations fighting child labour including with the National Monitoring Committee

has managed to bear some success with regards to uplifting the lives of women and children. However, some of their efforts have been derailed by external parameters which include illegal immigration, the fight against poverty and the income of the planters. It is these external parameters that the First Lady is looking to address and curtail as a way of paving the way for the total elimination of all forms of child labour.

Dominique Ouattara acknowledged that the fight against child labour is something that cannot be done by one man or one organization but it's something that needs collective support from everyone if the desired end game is to be achieved. "Child labour in general is a problem that concerns us all and against which we can act, each at his level," she said.

In her concluding remarks, the First Lady praised and thanked the founder of the Wara Tour citizens initiative Abou Nidal stating, "I would like to thank you for your commitment to our children through your various awareness caravans. This year, you have decided to say no to child labour in coca farming. I

would like to congratulate you and all the artists who accompanied you for this citizens' initiative that honours your corporation."

To ensure that the Wara Tour Caravan records success in achieving its objective in the fight against child labour in cocoa farming, the First Lady said she is "contributing 10 million CFA francs to help you (WARA TOUR Caravan) travel within the country." She also offered a sum of "15 million CFA to all artists who came to participate in the training seminar on child labour."

To all the artists who signed up to help in the fight against child labour, the First Lady's parting message encouraged them to keep working for the betterment and upliftment of the communities, "You have the gift to make us dream, to transport us and to make us feel the most vivid emotions. You also have the power to educate us and awaken our consciousness through your art. Do not hesitate to take up this fight through your respective artistic works, in order to preserve our children against these harmful practices."



Child labour in general is a problem that concerns us all and against which we can act, each at his level, says Dominique Ouattara.

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A FILM BY ENAH JOHNSCOTT

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PRODUCTION DESIGNER FOKWA BABILA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY RENE ETTA MAKE UP SPECIAL EFFECTS CHINONSO SUNSHINE STORY/SCRIPT BY ENAH JOHNSCOTT & BUH MELVIN "BABA PROX" EDITED BY DIBA BLERK
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Musing Derick T-Inaiz GAFFER RALPH OBI TAMBE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER KANG QUINTUS ART DIRECTOR NKANYA NKWAI PRODUCED BY KANG QUINTUS WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ENAH JOHNSCOTT

Dark Future For Mozambique As Total Indefinitely Suspends \$20BN Gas Project Due To Terrorism

By Jorge Joaquim

Mozambique's wonderful dream of raking in some \$95bn over the next years in revenues from multinationals' investments in natural gas exploration may be postponed sine die. French energy giant Total suspended its \$20bn gas project at the end of April, a situation that brings uncertainty over US-based oil company ExxonMobil's Final Investment Decision on its \$23BN Liquefied Natural Gas project. These plans, now with uncertain implementation, would have the potential to transform Mozambique's economy, making the South African country, along with Qatar, the world's largest exporter of natural gas.

French energy giant Total SE, which lead the \$20 billion liquefied natural gas project in Mozambique, suspended indefinitely the investment after an escalation of violence in Palma, 6km from the airstrip and main gate of the Afungi LNG construction site. On 27 April Total declared force majeure on its LNG development in Mozambique, mothballing the investment. Force majeure is a provision that allows parties to suspend or end contracts because of events that are beyond their control, such as wars or natural disasters.

The town of Palma was attacked on 24 May in a three-pronged assault by terrorists linked to Islamic State which was launched just hours after Total, announced that it would resume work on its multibillion-dollar liquefied natural gas project nearby. Palma had been largely cut off from the rest of Cabo Delgado province for several weeks as the rebels had made road access unsafe, leaving the airport and the seaport as the only routes in and out of the town. About 100 rebels were involved in the assault, which left bodies lying in the street – some of them reportedly beheaded.

Since 2017, an armed insurgency has been targeting Cabo Delgado Province, where most of the major



gas discoveries have been made in recent years. The insurgency is led by Ansar al-Sunna – also known as Al-Shabaab – a group that pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in 2019 and who is increasing attacks in this predominantly Muslim region.

Before the Palma attack, the Total-led consortium had signed up to almost \$15 billion in loans attached to the LNG project. After the force majeure, the debt drawdown will be temporarily paused. The project, which is targeting an output of 12.9 million tonnes a year of LNG, was to produce its first gas in 2024.

The attack served as proof that the actual intention of the terrorist groups was to stop strategic projects with foreign investment. The terrorists disguised themselves as refugees to get into Palma and attack from the inside.

Due to the situation of contracts, President Filipe Nyusi has called for “cool heads” in the wake of the terrorist attack on the town of Palma and the subsequent stopping of work. “In difficult times of crisis, a cool head helps to make rational decisions” and warned against hasty decisions. Public works minister João Machatine meanwhile recently said that work on the gas project would

resume as soon as security in the area was guaranteed, without giving a date.

Mozambicans Businessmen ask urgent help

Businesses in Cabo Delgado province have lost an estimated \$90m due to the Palma attack, according to business association CTA. The losses comprise destruction of assets, uncertainty over the safe delivery of goods in transit and late payment, the last of which CTA president Agostinho Vuma called “a nightmare for the private sector”.

CTA has created a task-force with Total to track outstanding payments to contractors on its natural gas project. The task-force was set up in response to concerns about late payments of subcontractors caused by Total's evacuation of its staff from Cabo Delgado following the Palma attack.

The Mozambican Federation of Contractors (FME) is concerned about the fate of the more than 100 companies subcontracted by Total to work on its now suspended gas project in Cabo Delgado province. Manuel Pereira said that the FME was trying to help the companies, many of whom were already moving

south following the terrorist attack on the town of Palma. The FME wanted the government to intervene as many of these companies had hired staff to work on contracts that they feared would now be cancelled, Pereira said.

However, the cancellation of contracts by Total suggests that it is unlikely to resume work on its natural gas project until next year at least, consultancy firm NKC African Economics has said. Total would maintain its main contracts for the project but cancel some contracts with subcontractors to reduce costs, energy minister Max Tonela said. He added that Total restarting work would depend on the restoration of security in the area, which the government was working to achieve.

Despite a “special security zone” aiming to cover a 25 km radius around the site, the insurgents launched multiple attacks inside the area, proving that they were better prepared than before and presenting new security challenges, NKC added. It also said that the government's response to the terrorist attacks had to go beyond military intervention and include the social and economic development of the region. NKC argued that the global focus on the involvement of Islamic State made it

easier for the government to ignore the political failures and corruption that fuelled the insurgency.

Also, Mozambique has lost a total of \$209m and 198,000 jobs since the beginning of the terrorist attacks in 2017, according to Vuma, who said that \$100m was lost in agrarian production, \$95m in capital goods and \$14m in cash flow of various supply chains. Vuma also estimated that 1,110 companies had been forced to close due to terrorism, partly due to being located in places attacked by terrorists but mostly due to disruption of supply chains.

According to Gulamo Aboobakar, the head of the Cabo Delgado business council, about \$300m of investments in the province have been written off. Many companies have dismissed thousands of staff in Cabo Delgado. President Filipe Nyusi has said that the attacks are a threat to the development of the country.

SADC recommends foreign military intervention in Cabo Delgado

Regional leaders will be advised to send a 3,000-strong military force into Cabo Delgado province to help Mozambique defeat the Islamist insurgency there, according to the report of the assessment mission sent by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on a visit to Mozambique earlier April, which spent one day in Cabo Delgado.

The force would include three light infantry battalions of 630 each; two special forces squads of 70 each; four helicopters, including two attack helicopters; a submarine; two surface patrol boats; and a maritime

surveillance aircraft, as well as support staff and aircraft. The mission has also offered an alternative option to provide only logistical and training support to Mozambique, but its report makes clear that military intervention is the preferred option.

One of the big unknowns is whether the ruling party Frelimo will agree to such a forceful intervention as the party has so far seemed reluctant.

As said the secretary-general of Frelimo Roque Silva, Mozambique does not need foreign troops to fight terrorism. He told a press conference that if foreign intervention was effective, countries like Afghanistan and Libya would be at peace. He noted that the presence of Zimbabwean and Tanzanian troops had also not resolved the war against former paramilitary group Renamo in Mozambique. Mozambique had competent human resources and the time to tackle the problem of terrorism, but only lacked logistical support, he said, arguing that security forces had recently succeeded in expelling insurgents from the town of Palma, even with limited resources..

The terrorists behind the insurgency in Cabo Delgado province are creating additional terrorist cells across the country, the prime minister, Carlos Agostinho do Rosário has warned. Speaking to community leaders in the central province of Manica, do Rosário said: "They entice young people, there is money. They tempt them with fake jobs, so we have to organize ourselves very deeply". Similar comments were made by Filipe Paúnde, a member of ruling party Frelimo's political commission.

Ossufo Momade, leader of



opposition party Renamo, has called for the party's guerrillas to be sent by the government to fight the insurgency. Momade said that the party had given a list of 362 guerrillas to the authorities to take part in the disarmament process agreed as part of the peace deal between Renamo and the government in 2019. They could be integrated into the security forces fighting in Cabo Delgado, he argued.

Momade also called for Mozambique's neighbouring countries to send military forces to fight the terrorism: "If the Mozambican state has no military capability, we have South Africa, which is a power, we have Zimbabwe, we have Botswana... Why don't they get together so they can alleviate the suffering of these brothers of ours?" He rejected the idea that a foreign military intervention would compromise Mozambique's sovereignty, arguing that ruling party Frelimo had accepted foreign forces when they fought on its side in the country's civil war.

In reaction, Alcinda Abreu, a member of Frelimo's political commission, said that the suggestion by Momade and others of foreign military intervention is nothing more than popular agitation. Momade, as a general, has a deep knowledge of the real needs of the country to combat terrorism and

could help in drawing up plans to combat these criminal groups and not agitate the population, she said, adding that what Mozambique needs is logistical support to equip and modernise the army.

However, Zimbabwe's president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, has promised a "robust regional response" to the insurgency in northern Mozambique. "An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us. United we stand. Hence, we cannot sit back and allow acts of insurgency to continue without a robust regional response," Mnangagwa told a meeting of ruling party Zanu-PF's Politburo.

Tanzania go ahead...

The newly sworn-in Tanzanian president Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed the Ministry of Energy to accelerate talks with Shell and Equinor to revive a long-stalled \$30bn liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in southern Tanzania.

The project is understood to have been languishing at the early engineering stage for years and, even if fiscal and legislative issues were resolved this year, it would be unlikely to become operational before 2028. Hassan's position on the project and her appointment of Philip Mpango as vice president, who is seen as a neutral and well-respected figure, suggests that the ruling party will be more business-friendly than it was under former president John Magufuli, Upstream reports.

The announcement has been received with caution in



Mozambique. Conspiracy theories put forward by influential politicians and businessmen suggest this was the reason why the Tanzanian government has avoided wholeheartedly helping Mozambique deal with the conflict in Cabo Delgado.

Would a fast-tracking of LNG development in Tanzania pose a risk to Mozambique's LNG expansion plans? According to Zitamar News, Tanzania may look like a safer investment option from a security perspective – although a surge of foreign investment north of the Rovuma could mean the security problem shifts that way too, though



the extent to which Cabo Delgado's insurgency is linked to the gas projects remains hotly debated.

Looking purely from a resource perspective, Mozambique's Rovuma Basin is more attractive than Tanzania's. Tanzania's gas fields are deep, far offshore, and some fields

are more than 100km apart. More wells and offshore infrastructure will be required to extract the gas, making it more expensive, the publication says. Equinor recently wrote down nearly \$1bn on the value of the Tanzanian LNG project, which suggests prospects for the project are bleak. To entice back investors, Hassan may need to reverse a series of laws that placed heavy local content and domestic gas obligations on producers. Undoing this may be tricky: resource nationalism has been popular with voters, and with many in the ruling CCM party.

Pharmacies Pioneering A New Strain Of Self-Medication In Africa

- An average of 10 to 15 drugs outlets are hitting the streets every day!

By Peter Kayula

The low and middle income countries in Africa are now facing an increase in the number of private pharmacies at every corner of the country with a larger percentage of drugs shops or stores being established in the urban areas giving people unlimited access to medicines creating an unfavourable and toxic platform for self-medication in a continent already grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although pharmacies have a key role to play in the global health care delivery supply chain, especially in Africa, concerns have been raised that an average of 10 to 15 drugs outlets are hitting the streets every day, most of them operating in our cities do not meet the required minimum standards to be licensed authorities, eroding the confidence in the community of going to hospitals and health centres in the country for treatment.

This development has been attributed to the growth of the population in the cities, a new strain in self-medication and arguably a breakdown in health care system delivery in Africa, deepening a regional humanitarian crisis.

A professor of obstetrics and gynecology at a university hospital



in Nairobi, Arnold Mutenga told journalists, "We must face the reality that the proliferation of these pharmacies in Zambia in particular and Africa in general is now pose the greatest danger to the health of urban dwellers. If I had my way, I would line up everyone and get them go to see the doctor at hospitals or health centres."

The first African to lead the World Health Organization (WHO), Ethiopia's Tedros Adhanom in a vision statement published on his website on the eve of his election as new WHO chief in 2017, said "We live in a changing world and we must be

able to change with it,"

Prior to taking up the WHO top job, Tedros was appointed Ethiopian health minister where he oversaw drive to expand healthcare by building thousands of clinics and boosting community based health services, citing new health threats brought about through globalization, climate change and unhealthy lifestyles.

According to Africa Union (AU) figures, in 2016, an average of 7.5 percent of budgets in Africa was spent on the health sector alone on the continent, however, more than half of all Africans don't have access to essential healthcare services.

In 2016, an average of 7.5 percent of budgets in Africa was spent in this sector on the continent, according to Africa Union figures.

According to the African Union, more than half of all Africans don't have access to essential healthcare services.

The situation is worse in Zambia and the populous country of Nigeria, which have seen an increase in the number of pharmacy facilities across the countries. Some of the pharmacy facilities have been turned from a house into store or shop. From Time to time Government authorities have visited and fined those who might be found wanting in terms of the required standards.

The situation is better in East African countries such as Kenya Uganda Tanzania, Ethiopia and one of the Rwanda.

Billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates said in 2019 that excellent basic healthcare that would prevent easily treatable but deadly conditions was achieved even in Africa's poorest countries.

"The good news about health is that by spending modest amounts on the prioritized areas, you can get phenomenal benefits," he told the AFP on the sidelines of the African

Union summit in Addis Ababa.

"You don't have to get all the way to middle-income before you can run a great primary healthcare system."

The Microsoft founder mentioned interventions such as vaccines, safe delivery for mothers and the availability of antibiotic drugs as ways to drastically improve health outcomes.

Gates whose foundation has spent around \$15 billion in Africa since

2000, on Saturday took part in the launch of an initiative to increase investment- mainly on the part of the governments – in the health sector.

Gates praised Rwanda which has achieved universal healthcare coverage despite being one of the world's poorest countries as a fantastic example

Rwandan President Paul Kagame who sparked the initiative, called on African nations to put at least 15

percent of their budgets towards healthcare.

Rwandan President Pau Kagame who led an active reformist tenure as African Union chair on Sunday passed on the baton to Egypt

Rwandan President Paul Kagame who sparked the initiative, called on African nations to put at least 15 percent of their budgets towards healthcare.

According to the World Health

Organization, Rwanda halved mortality in children under five between 2005 – 2010 while the mortality rate due to malaria has decreased nearly 85 percent. At the 2017 World Food Prize Borlaug Dialogue Symposium in Iowa United States, Africa development Bank president Akinwumi Adesina called for mutual accountability on leadership governance and investment for health care services.

Zimbabwe Legalizes Elephant Hunting for a Fee

By Prince Kurupati

One of the constants in Zimbabwe for the past two decades is the fact that the country's economy has been in a dire state. At one point, everyone in the country was a millionaire or billionaire as the country's currency had heavily devalued. While this is no longer the case, the economy hasn't still recovered fully and many people in the country are living perilously low on food. Well, recently the authorities overseeing the

country's wildlife resources said the same can be said for animals and as a way of helping to preserve them, they are introducing elephant trophy hunting with the proceeds going towards upkeep of wildlife natural reserves.

The Zimbabwean wildlife authorities say that the upkeep of wildlife natural reserves for long have been spearheaded by a combination of sports hunting as well as tourism. However, the novel corona virus pandemic which has affected the whole globe has taken a toll in the number of visitor numbers who visit the country's reserves. As such, they are left with no choice other than to increase the number of sports hunting licenses.

Justifying the move to increase the number of sports hunting licenses, the wildlife authorities state that all national parks in the country are now cash-strapped and the only viable income-generating project they can embark on before the tourism sector

resuscitates is sports hunting. On this front, having assessed the population of animals in different national parks, they agreed on the decision to issue sports hunting licenses for elephants. The licenses will range from US\$10,000 to US\$70,000 depending on the size of the elephant.

Speaking in an interview with CNN, the spokesman for the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Tinashe Farawo said, "We eat what we kill. We have a budget of about \$25 million for our operations which are raised – partly – through sports hunting, but you know tourism is as good as dead at the moment due to the corona virus pandemic." Speaking in a separate interview with Bloomberg, Farawo said that most national parks were now struggling to pay staff. He went on to acknowledge the reservations made by many with regards to legalizing elephant trophy hunting but said that there is no other means at the moment to fund operations on all national parks.



out vengeance on the hapless local villagers."

The Center for Natural Resource Governance went further stating that the reasoning for issuing more sports hunting licenses wasn't for expediency at the very least but was just out of pure greed as more often than not, the proceeds from trophy hunting end up in the pockets of the few instead of being put to use for the right reasons."Contrary to government arguments that

Farawo went further stating that human-wildlife conflicts also played a huge part in reaching the decision to issue more elephant trophy hunting licenses. "The distress calls from the communities have been increasing due to human wildlife conflict... So far, 21 people have lost their lives and last year 60 people." So far in 2021, Farawo said that 1000 complaints have been made to the authority as compared to the 1500 complaints received in the whole of 2020.

The decision by the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority was strongly condemned by the Center for Natural Resource Governance, a Zimbabwean environmental group. Through its spokeswoman Simiso Mlevu, the environmental group said, "We strongly condemn trophy hunting – a practice that agitates wild animals and escalates human-wildlife conflicts. It is almost certain that surviving families of wildlife families that witness the senseless gunning down of their family members mete

trophy hunting is meant to assist with conservation, the practice is motivated by greed and often the money is not even accounted for. There is a need for more innovative and eco-friendly measures to improve revenue generation from photo safaris and tourism in general," Mlevu added.

For the critics condemning the decision as just pure greed, Farawo called upon them to chip in with the requisite funds so that they can manage operations better, "Those who are opposed to our management mechanism should instead be giving us the funding to manage better these animals."

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority's decision to issue more sports hunting licenses couldn't have come at a worse time as two weeks back, a new conservation assessment by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species was released warning that

African elephants are at risk of extinction due to the dual threats of poaching for ivory and loss of habitat. IUCN does permit trophy hunting for all species that are classified as 'vulnerable or better'. In its guiding principles, IUCN states that "Well-managed trophy hunting can provide both revenue and incentives for people to conserve and restore wild populations, maintain areas of

land for conservation, and protect wildlife from poaching." However, since African elephants have recently moved from the 'Vulnerable' class to the 'Endangered' class, the IUCN is likely to condemn the decision to issue more sports hunting licenses for African elephants in Zimbabwe.

The elephant population in Zimbabwe is estimated to be above 100 000 making Zimbabwe the

country with the second largest elephant population in the world. Zimbabwe isn't the first country in recent times to legalize elephant trophy hunting. In December last year, Namibia put 170 high-value wild elephants up for sale due to drought and an increase in elephant numbers. Botswana which has the largest elephant population in the world resumed elephant trophy hunting in

2020 after a five-year ban.

Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe receive a high number of trophy hunters from the EU, US, Russia and Mexico. In addition to paying for the hunting license, trophy hunters also pay professional hunters who guide them and the taxidermists who treat and export back the 'trophies' to the trophy hunters' home countries.

A Mission To Transform 10 million lives by 2030 For Africa Grain and Seed

By Ajong Mbapndah L

Africa's fight against problems faced by rural communities like hunger, poverty, education and others has found a new partner in Africa Grain and Seed-ASG. Working in synergy with other key stakeholders, the ASG is out with an ambitious program to rewrite the future of 10 million lives in Africa by 2030 through education, food security, technology and entrepreneurship.

PAV caught up with the founder Anthony Denga and co-founder Zanile Matiwa Denga for more insights into the mission and vision of the ASG.

Could we start with an introduction of the Africa Grain and Seed that you lead?

Africa Grain and Seed (AGS) is a multidisciplinary collaboration leading an inclusive economic growth strategy piloted by business partners who have expertise in investments, technology, and supply chain. To ensure the success of our turnaround strategy we have piloted through collaboration, innovation, and smart-agriculture based on long-term, sustainable solutions.

As Africa, grain, and seed we seek to address the current problems faced by Africa's rural communities such as hunger, poverty, clean water, education, nutrition, energy, education, climate-smart livelihoods.



Founder Anthony Denga and co founder Zanile Matiwa Denga have the ambitious aim of using the ASG to make a difference in 30 million lives by 2030.

We integrate resources, programs, and research to transform rural communal land into economically vibrant commercial hubs by organizing African unbanked communities with surplus land but not adequate resources and access to

the market to become food producers of the world.

May we understand the relevance of the Enterprise and its mission in helping Africa meet some of its present-day

challenges?

Africa's present-day challenges factoring the impact Covid has had on these marginalized communities and Africa as a whole is a mammoth task and we have taken the initiative as the private sector to relieve malnutrition, hunger and poverty – Our role as AGS is to develop and strengthen communities by identifying marginalized rural communities with the potential to become self-sustaining communities that are able to grow sufficient food for the communities and surplus into local and international markets. Our implementation approach is showcased through the donation of seeds, seedlings, books, sanitary pads with intended extensive workshops and training. This ensures that our deliverables are met in sustainable approaches the guarantees that these communities and schools have access to nutritious meals on their tables, and through the surplus, they are able to realise income reviving their economies. The relevance of our programme is the strength of partnership of these communities, private sectors, off-takers, export markets and governments through providing inputs and guaranteeing markets. Our programme is offset in the rural school propagation programmes which are interlinked with our out-growers programmes

done through cluster communities. We are making these communities productive (through infrastructure development), production (through secure trade and funding) export development (through the surplus partnering with local and foreign off-takers).

It is imperative that our structures are adopted to build resilient communities that can realise revenue for the unbanked to become banked. The programme will grow the marginalized communities from producing unprocessed seeds and vegetables to producing value-add outputs. Our 2030 vision is to see established green technology commercial hubs with factories, collection, and distribution platforms within the communities through established climate-smart agriculture solutions that teach and mentor the future of Africa which are through the grower's programmes to grow and produce vegetable, herbs, small grains, and oils through surplus that can be traded on the international markets.

On a brochure of the Enterprise, we came across, there is mention of a plan to transform 10 million lives by 2030, how do you plan on doing this?

At Africa Grain and Seed we have taken a lead in the transformation of 10 million lives by 2030 through hard work, partnering with likeminded investors that are ready to work tirelessly in piloting a viable, scalable, and a secure platform which is centered around education and Agri income-generating programs. Despite all financial and physical limitations brought about prior and during covid, we have been able to initiate the work we are doing in Africa to meet our target of 1,000,000 vegetable seedlings and 10 000 fruit trees for income-generating purposes. We have attracted like partners like Kamari and their lotteries whose funds play a critical role in Africa, which will further our agenda in transforming 10 million lives.

Our plan will be to see direct impact on these communities through our



Chris Cleverly, CEO of Kamari has partnered with the AGS to deliver on its life changing mission for Africans.

ecosystem, key areas youth and women training, infrastructure established, Agri -entrepreneurs developed, access to education, job creation, increased nutritional meals and meals per household. The unbanked becoming banked.

In what parts of the continent are your operations actually located at the moment?

Our programmes are located and implemented across Africa. In Zimbabwe with a donation of over 700 000 seeds and seedlings, 1000 sanitary pads, 800 reading books and 100 fruits trees. In South Africa we have donated sanitary pads and seeds to the National Traditional House of Leaders and will be increase over role out and partnership with Humble Smile foundation and rolled up programmes in Zimbabwe, South Africa, and people can follow our work in the month of May & June in Malawi, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, and Uganda

How does the Africa Grain and Seed identify partners that it is going to work with?

We look for like-minded partners with the heart to see Africa transformed by investing in the youth to transform their minds and narrative from a dependency standpoint to leaders tomorrow.

We look for synergies with partners that see the critical role women will play in this transformation and build trading platforms. We look for innovative ideas focused at resolving Africa's challenges. One of the biggest challenges was creating a financial structure that can accommodate the current challenges faced. Our partnership with Kamari will be introduce an application called Kampay that is designed for smart, safe, and cheap remittance and it will sit between the communities and the consumer, acting as a transaction facilitator. It will feature near -zero fees for users, and our beneficiaries will enjoy automated settlements via smart contracts. There will also be various efficiency benefits for governments and enterprises.

What mechanism do you have in place to ensure that those who benefit from the seeds you make available actually deliver tangible results to help them meet targeted goals?

Investor, partners, and AGS Steering Committee – that is inclusive of agronomists, the schools, youth leaders, teachers, women lead committees. The AGS team

The relevant partners in countries to monitor, manage and account for the resources deployed are used to derive the best results.

AGS will develop a platform should see ease of access to our communities.

May we know some of the challenges faced so far?

Smallholder and micro-farming communities in Africa are notoriously underserved by banks and traditional financial institutions. Making it difficult for them to access credit and financing to invest in climate-smart agriculture and scalable operations. Through a partnership with Kamari, these challenges will be addressed by bringing in secured-risked adverse solutions like Blockchain technology and our main focus will be on providing financing for Africa's unbanked. It is critical for us to revisit the majority population in Africa is the Rural communities. These are not backed with critical resources for them to expand and optimize their full potentials blockchain can provide in creating cheaper credit, cross-border trade, and foreign liquidity into markets generally not priced or not supported by local banks or capital markets.

We can expect to see incentivized strategies through Kamari which will be the strengthening factors and key elements of what we look for in partners to solve development issues and bridge the gap.

When you look around Africa,

what is it the governments are getting right about food security, and what are there getting wrong?

Right is that they have acknowledged the exorbitant net food import bill realized by Africa to date and how it will fluctuate if we do not take the relevant steps to change the narrative to increase the net export.

They have carried this problem on their shoulders, we would like to see strengthening in partnerships to compliment the private sector through policies to increase Africa GDP by investing in the marginalized. We also look forward to the government structures create an accountable mechanism to protect local and foreign investments across Africa.

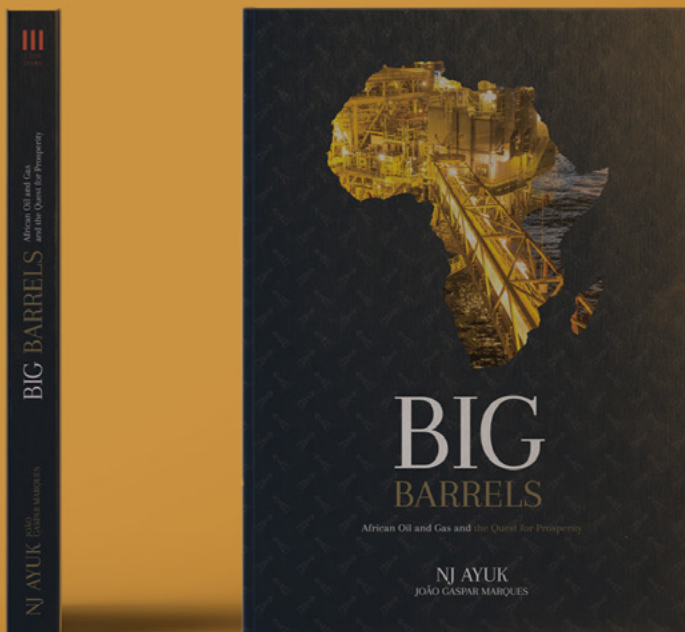
For those who read this interview and will like to be part of the or join you towards the fulfillment of the lofty goals you have had, what do they need to do, how can they be a part of this?

Get in touch with us! We will look at likeminded business, philanthropist, and individuals who we have synergies in legacy building. There is no partner or impact that is too small or too big. There are avenues and inputs that can be brought to this table.

For example, we are excited to announce our partnership with Kamari who has come on board as funders. The funds will be dedicated to some of our communities to outgrow commercial produce. These are at building resistant, sustainable communities which are aimed at presenting Africa with the best solutions focusing on education, technology, smart – agri which are key driving factors in developing an African circular economy.



With the ASG operations in over five countries already, Anthony Denga and his team are open to more partnerships across the continent.





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Ali Mazrui Forever: New Book Sheds Light on Life and Times of Great Scholar

By Ajong Mbapndah L

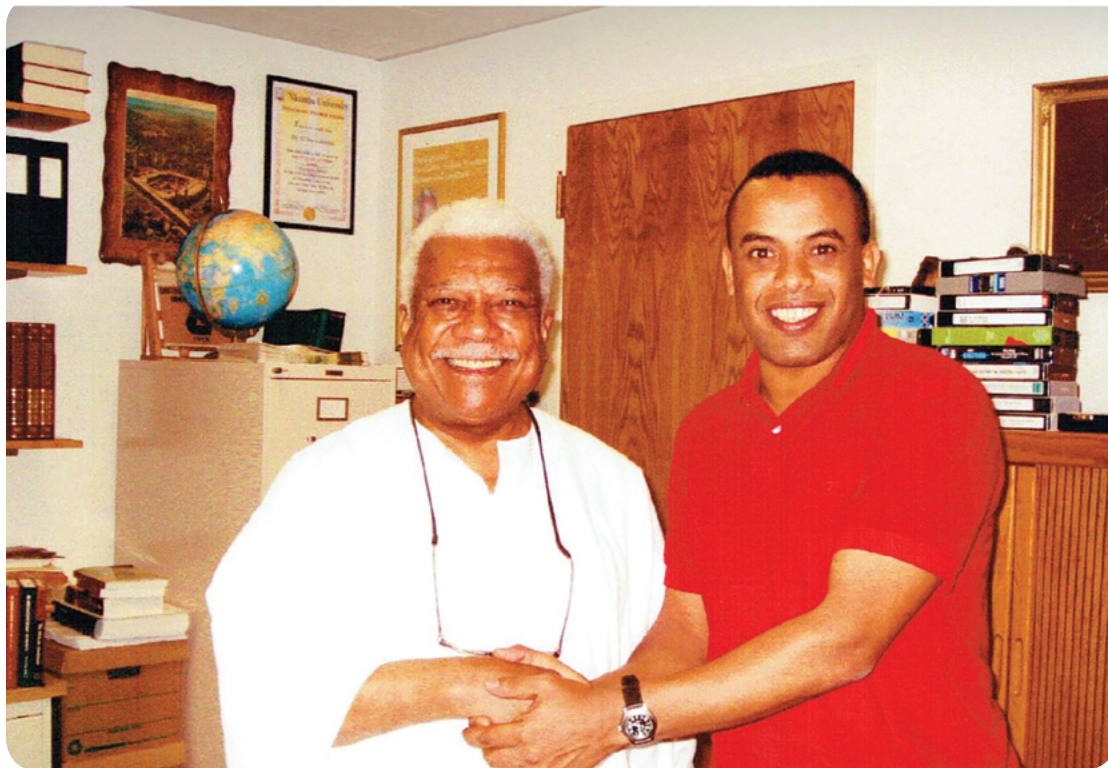
Ali Mazrui was one of the most under-studied and under-appreciated scholars, says Seifudein Adem, Professor of Global Studies, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan in selling the merits of a new book he has put out in honor of one of Africa's greatest sons.

"Mazrui was the most stimulating thinker I have ever known," says Seifudein who worked closely with the erudite scholar for more than a decade. Titled "Postcolonial Constructivism: Mazrui's Theory of Intercultural Relations," Seifudein says the book is about Mazrui, mostly in his own words and in the words of those who knew him.

The ambition of the book is to introduce Mazrui's vast, multi-faceted and stimulating scholarship to a wider audience and do so as comprehensively as possible, Seifudein says in an interview with PAV.

For readers who do not know Seifudein Adem, could we start with an introduction and your relationship with Prof Ali Mazrui?

Prof Seifudein Adem: I first met Professor Ali Mazrui in July 2002 in Binghamton, New York, after my appointment as a research associate at the Institute of Global Cultural Studies (IGCS), Binghamton University; IGCS was created by Mazrui in 1989. I was at the time teaching political science in Japan. How I felt when I met him for the first time probably came close to what he said he had felt when he met one of his intellectual heroes, American political scientist James Coleman. Mazrui met Coleman in 1964 at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Mazrui was intimately familiar with Coleman's scholarship before he met him. I had also known quite a bit about Mazrui's scholarship before I met him, as I had just completed a book manuscript on him, subsequently published as *Paradigm Lost, Paradigm Regained*:



Seifudein Adem with Ali Mazrui, IGCS, Binghamton University, June 2002.

The Worldview of Ali A. Mazrui (2002). Mazrui said there was an element of hero-worship in his response when he met Coleman. I can say so also was my own experience when I met Mazrui. In 2003, we met again in Africa, but neither in his country of birth. Kenya, nor in mine, Ethiopia. We met in Durban, South Africa. The occasion was the 19th Congress of the International Political Science Association. When IGCS advertised an opening for a junior faculty in 2005, I applied and was selected for the position. As you know Mazrui died in 2014. Meantime I served as the Associate Director of IGCS from 2006 until 2016.

How did the interaction with Ali Mazrui shape the way Seifudein Adem perceives issues across Africa and the globe?

Prof Seifudein Adem: Almost everything I know about African cultures and civilizations, I learned them from Ali Mazrui or has been influenced by him.

My familiarity with Mazrui's

scholarship predates my arrival in 2005. In fact, it even predates my 1992 travel to Japan, where I was to receive my graduate education, work and live for the next fourteen years. The normative positions he had taken on some of the major global issues as well as the unique style of analysis in his voluminous writings, have, I must admit, mesmerized me since the late 1980s, when I was an undergraduate student at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

It was of course the greatest privilege for any Africanist to be able to work with a scholar of Ali Mazrui's stature. Mazrui was the most stimulating thinker I have ever known. He has influenced and sharpened my perspectives about Africa and global affairs in general.

You are out with a new book "Postcolonial Constructivism: Mazrui's Theory of Intercultural Relations," may we know the message you seek to pass across?

Prof Seifudein Adem: In my view,

Ali Mazrui was one of the most under-studied and under-appreciated scholars of our time, and there are many purported reasons for this. The message I wanted to pass across is simple: here is a book, a product of notes taken at different places over a long period of time, more than twenty years depending on how it is counted, about Mazrui, mostly in his own words and in the words of those who knew him. Read the book and judge Mazrui for yourself. It is an invitation.

What motivated you to come up with the book, what relevance do you think it could have on contemporary Africa?

Prof Seifudein Adem: I was preparing for many years to write a book that would serve as a useful source of information about Ali Mazrui and his ideas in a manner that is both scholarly and decidedly of human interest. The ambition of the book is to introduce Mazrui's vast, multi-faceted and stimulating scholarship to a wider audience and do so as comprehensively as possible.

By publishing this book, I believe I have managed to do that.

Just to give some idea to your esteemed readers about what the book contains, let me summarize the three most important chapters. Chapter 8 is a collection of ideas including the large number of paradoxical propositions which Mazrui used for highlighting contradictions in social phenomena. Paradoxes are so central in his critical social analysis that he once described himself as an interpreter of cultures through their tensions, paradoxes and contradictions. This major chapter exclusively focuses on Mazrui's paradoxes collected from scattered and wide-ranging sources.

In Chapter 9 I assembled in more than 130 pages a large number of concepts Mazrui had invented that are at once colorful and often packed with a complex set of ideas, are systematically assembled in this chapter. Mazrui also combined common concepts in a cleverly uncommon way. Sometimes the originality of the concepts therefore lies in how they are defined or in the distinction being made rather than in the words themselves. Further, many of these concepts served as parts of his perceptive typologies used for classifying complex realities. His conceptual formulations also show his gift for elegantly communicating with a wider intellectual community, and not just with the narrow circle of academics. Apart from the concepts and categories, this chapter presents the context in which they were originally articulated.

Ali Mazrui loved not only to write, and write about fairly everything, he was also good at keeping the written record of what, as he would put it, occurred to his mind, his being. Based mostly on his own writings, both published and unpublished, Chapter 10 describes Mazrui's interactions with some key individuals, historical figures and dignitaries, ranging from Martin Luther King, Jr. to Nelson Mandela, from Jomo Kenyatta to Cyril Ramaphosa, and from Carl Sagan to Mario Cuomo, and includes what Mazrui had to say about (his interactions with some of) these



Ali Mazrui and President Nelson Mandela, Cape Town, South Africa, July 2002.

individuals. It also contains what others have said about him.

Can you give us some snippets, anecdotes or interesting insights from the book, what are some of the things that readers will be edified with in the book?

Prof Seifudein Adem: I will do better than that. I think I can share the opening sentences of each of the chapters in the book, as they were originally prepared, as epigraphs. They were not included in the book. Basically, each epigraph captures the core idea of the chapter.

"...writing in my case is almost like a compulsion. I believe I have inherited this compulsion to write from my father who was a pamphleteer in the Swahili language and Arabic... He used to say that there were two areas of life in which he had not tried to emulate the Prophet Muhammad – my father did not try to marry as many wives as the Prophet had done, nor did my father limit himself to producing only one book as the Prophet had done." Ali Mazrui (2007)

"...the remarkable story of one African child growing up in a world that was rapidly shrinking around

him. The horizons were expanding precisely as the globe was becoming a village in stark cosmic isolation. Politics, culture and the nuclear age were redefining the human condition in terms of its most dangerous contradiction: man, the new master of the universe, was still not master of himself." Ali Mazrui (1989)

"Both the great achievements and the great cruelties of the West can ultimately be traced to Western culture itself." Ali Mazrui (1991)

I have based most of my work on the premise that cultural forces are primary. Culture is a causal factor in political behaviour and social change." Ali Mazrui (2006)

"Marx was right that man had to eat in order to live (the origins of economics). But man had to know what to eat and what to avoid (the origins of culture). So culture is prior to economics. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was culture." Ali Mazrui (1999)

"The imperial power arrived in Africa, created new political boundaries, planted new seeds of local ethno-cultural rivalries, imported an alien but seductive culture of its own, and then left the new political chemistry to bubble out

its own solutions." Mazrui (1976)

"Paradigmatic changes are caused not merely by great minds like those of Copernicus, Newton, Darwin, and Einstein, nor only by great social movements like Islam and the Protestant Reformation, but also by acculturation and normative diffusion." Ali Mazrui (1995)

"Consensus behind much-needed world reforms is impossible without substantial cultural convergence on a global scale. And yet the cultural convergence which the world has so far attained carries with it the evil of dependency." Mazrui (1976)

"Africa is in part the mirror of the human condition. But in a mirror the left hand becomes the right hand and vice versa. The mirror is both a reflection of reality and its distortion. The mirror is a paradox." (Ali Mazrui 1979)

"Like creative literature, political analysis has to resort at times to the use of analogy, metaphor or comparative imagery." Mazrui (1972)

"You have had many experience in your life...you met with the founding President of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, in New York as well as other places; you were driven out of Uganda by Idi Amin; you met with Jomo Kenyatta

and you are the Chancellor of a university by that name in Kenya; you met the Queen of England; you sat in a tent with [Muammer] Qaddafi; and you just had tea with the Indian Prime Minister [Manmohan Singh].” Amy Goodman, Democracy Now, Interview with Ali Mazrui (2009)

“I have critics as well as fans; I have faults as well as talents. But the most compelling lesson which my academic life illustrates is quite simple. It is the old adage ‘If at first you don’t succeed, try and try again!’ I had vindicated it.” Ali Mazrui (2007)

As someone who was very close to Prof Ali Mazrui, how well has Africa honored his memory—are there institutions name after him or events that take place in his honor, is Africa giving him the recognition he deserved?

Prof Seifudein Adem: The recognition paid to Mazrui in Africa is much less than he deserved, but I hope that this situation is likely to be corrected in the future. Otherwise, it would be a great loss for Africa. Thabo Mbeki, the former president of South Africa, said shortly after Mazrui died: “When a great mind like Professor Ali Mazrui passed on, we have to stop and ponder over what we shall do together to fill the immeasurable void that inevitably arises. The starting point is that we, especially our youth, must



Mazrui and Chinua Achebe, 2011.

critically read and re-read everything Ali Mazrui wrote.” President Mbeki couldn’t be more correct. Other leaders from other African countries, too, have paid moving tributes after Mazrui’s passing. But there should also be a move from words to deeds. To its credit, South Africa is the only country that has created something tangible, the Ali Mazrui Center for Higher Education Studies at the University of Johannesburg (where

I hold the position of a Research Associate). It’s time for other African countries, too, to step up.

For those who are interested in getting the book, what is the cost and how can copies be procured?

Prof Seifudein Adem: The information about the book may be obtained from <https://www.springer.com/in/book/978-3-030-60580-3>

there are books which deal with each of these themes, there are none to my knowledge that address both of these relationships simultaneously and from a comparative perspective. It does so by considering not only the foreign policies of the two Asian powers toward Africa but also by broadening the analysis to include the economic, political and cultural life of these societies. It may therefore be the first, too, to examine the lessons Africa could learn from Southeast Asia’s relations with China in a similarly comparative manner.

Upon publication this book will be a product of my own cross-cultural experience of being an African who received his graduate training in Asia. I was also privileged to teach in the institutions of higher learning in Ethiopia, Japan, China and the United States. Of course, it was my highest honor, as I indicated already, to learn from and work with Ali Mazrui. What all this means is that the perspective reflected in the book will be unique. It will have the richness that comes only from immersing oneself in African, Asian and Western cultures simultaneously as well as from carefully and selectively adapting the original and fresh insights acquired from Ali Mazrui.



Ali Mazrui and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, New Delhi, India, Novemebr 2008.

What next for you after this book, what other projects will you be working on in the next few years?

Prof Seifudein Adem: I am preparing a book-length manuscript on the Afrasian experience. Apart from being about Africa, China and Japan each on its own, this monograph is about China-Africa relations and Japan-Africa relations. While



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What lies ahead of the WTO boss?

By Peter Kayula



Okonjo Iweala has solid credentials to deliver at the WTO. Photo credit Reuters.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization whose goal is, apart from dealing with the rules of trade between nations, to ensure that global trade flows as smoothly as possible.

The organization also assumes the role of acting as a forum for negotiating trade agreements, settling trade disputes between its members, supports the needs of developing countries and safeguards the agreements, negotiated and signed by the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments.

A few months ago, if not a month ago, the WTO appointed development economist and former two-time finance minister of Nigeria, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as Director-General of the World Trade Organization, following the abrupt resignation of Roberto Azevêdo.

According to rules for nominating a candidate for the top job at the WTO, countries have to officially put forward their choice as per the allotted window of time and according to regulations described in the document WT/L/509.

On May 20, 2020, General Council Chair David Walker of New Zealand told the WTO members that the appointment process for the next

director-general would begin on June 8 with nominations accepted until July 8, 2020

The East African country Kenya proposed Amina Mohamed as a candidate – a very strong contender given the fact that she nearly got the role last time – Egypt floated Abdel Hamid Mamdouh to have a go at grabbing the top position for its own.

But Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala becomes the first African and first female contender with an impressive CV to be in the upper echelons of a top international trade institution.

She arguably brings to the World Trade Organization an over 30 years' profile of development and financial expertise, including her stunning 25-year career with the World Bank Group which saw her rising to the second top position in the organization as managing director, from 2007-2011.

Apart from that, she was the first woman to hold the positions of minister of foreign affairs, and minister of finance (twice) in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country.

As minister of Finance, she is on record as having spearheaded negotiations with the Paris Club of Creditors that led to the wiping out of \$30 billion of Nigeria's debt and mounted, during her second

term, leading reform that enhanced government transparency and strengthened institutions against corruption.

However, just why is it that the first woman to hold the positions of minister of foreign affairs, and minister of finance (twice) in Nigeria, has become a subject of discussion at various meetings and conferences where experts and leading trade officials have questioned of how she handles more significant challenges that lie ahead of her.

The World Trade Organization Director General did not reply to an email requesting her to comment on a set of questions meant for her attention on her appointment and the WTO communication office would not comment either.

But madam Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is expected to spell out the role of the World Trade Organization under the trying circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, a highly contagious virus that requires stringent measures of tests, physical distance, and aggressive sanitation.

The virus struck the world with such gripping force disintegrating countries, creating individual and social trauma and disrupting world's supply chain mechanism.

The other significant challenge

she is likely going to face is trade restrictions put in place by the World Trade Organization member countries to protect their domestic industries. Protectionism is the economic policy of restricting imports from other countries through methods such as tariffs on imported goods, import quotas, and a variety of other government regulations.

Slowdown in international trade at all levels is another hurdle madam Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has to work on. Since the Global Financial Crisis, world trade growth has been subdued and lagging slightly behind growth of gross domestic product.

Trade is growing more slowly not only because growth of global gross domestic product is lower, but also because trade itself has become less responsive to gross domestic product.

Of profound interest is equally the United States and China trade tensions which will give the new WTO chief a big headache. The world's two largest economies have been embroiled in a long-drawn trade war and are now in a tussle over issues surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

Many are hopeful that Madam Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala will carry the same tradition of sharp and insightful approach on the state of the world's trade and will add another valuable perspective for the World Trade Organization members and developing countries' needs, especially at this time of disruption and uncertainty in the global economy.

"I am delighted that Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has joined the World Trade Organization as chief executive. She is respected and has sharp and insightful approach on the state of the world economic trade and will add another invaluable perspective for the World Trade Organization members and developing countries' needs,' Nordham Freeman head of Emerging Markets, where he has worked since 2019, wrote in an email response.

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Cameroon's K-Empire Warms Up For Premium Entertainment Services

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

With its electric look and an unusual atmosphere, K-Empire presents the whole world with a friendly atmosphere of entertainment. Located in the Essos district in a place called "Ben le Boucher" in Cameroon's political capital Yaounde, K-Empire offers you five-star services coupled with a cosy atmosphere.

With its slogan "An Atmosphere of Taste" K-Empire offers the world a unique blend of good music from top-notch DJs and it also serves as an avenue for individuals who wish to have the best entertainment there is.

Speaking to Pan African Visions in Buea on the establishment of K-Empire, Khumbah Edith-Rosa epse Nkemzi, owner of K-Empire said it is a "fantastic place a place where you will get real entertainment."

Pan African Visions: How did K-Empire come about?

Khumbah Edith: I was in business and they were mostly based in Buea. With the coming of the Anglophone crisis businesses went down to lower

than low, it went down to a level that we could not break even. I started thinking out of the box that nothing is happening in Buea and so what can we do. I went to Yaounde, looked around and I saw that in Yaounde entertainment is what is the business there. I told myself that if I could create something that people can drink and dance then it would be good. I spoke to most of my children in Yaounde and one-off them that I consider more intelligent, Larry said aunty open a snack bar. He said put money in a snack bar and you will not regret it. I like to do things that I like and that is how the k-empire came about.

Pan African Visions: What is the meaning of K-Empire?

Khumbah Edith: K-Empire stands for Khumbah Empire. I did not want to write the whole name and that is why it was shortened to just K-Empire.

Pan African Visions: What are the services one can get at



K-Empire?

Khumbah Edith: K-Empire is a snack bar, and we serve mostly drinks at the moment. We are still thinking of bringing in snacks and food but we have not gotten there yet. For now, the basic things are drinks and good music. It also gives the people who are coming there good entertainment.

Pan African Visions: What are some of the innovations at K-Empire?

Khumbah Edith: Initially, when we started K-Empire we had days for some artists. When we were doing the grand opening we had "Nyangono" and our target was that every month we are going to be bringing musicians. But with the COVID-19 the crowd that comes there is too big, so we have suspended that for now. When they come (artists) you have the money but the crowd coupled with the challenge is enormous. Wednesdays used to be «Hip Hop Night» while Sundays were «Old Timers». We hope that after the COVID things go back to the way they were before

coming of the COVID-19, how has it affected activities at K-Empire?

Khumbah Edith: The COVID-19 has hit us hard. I have a business partner who is my elder brother, Emmanuel Khumbah who is in Maryland, USA. When we did everything and got to the final stage; we were looking at doing a small opening, see the challenges and everything before we do a grand opening, the day I bought drinks (March 2020) is the day the Prime Ministerial Order came out. Because of COVID, everything had to be shut down. I had no choice but to shut down until when places will be fine. The business is not productive as we had been projected but we are not coming back empty-handed.

COVID-19 is not the only challenge I have been facing, the issue of management and honesty is another problem. One thing with Cameroonians is that they do not have a sense of management. You get a young man to come work for you and the first thing you get is what is my pay and not even questions like what am I to do? The interest is the money and not the work. You bring



Story 20 Pic 2 K- Empire is structured to provide premium comfort and services to its customers 222.jpg

Pan African Visions: With the

people and all they look is for ways to cheat you. My son Sam is there trying to manage the place but the workers are an issue.

The other issue is customer service. When I am there they serve people well but when you are not there as the owner it is a problem. People do not know what it takes to maintain something. Cameroonians do not have a sense of duty and customer service.

Pan African Visions: We are still in the COVID-19 situation, how is the K-Empire doing and trying to stay relevant?

Khumbah Edith: We are trying our best to make sure that people are safe, by following the barrier measures that are in place. We have a hand-washing point at the entrance. We have a limit on the number of people who can be



K Empire has plans to keep hosting to notch guest artists when it becomes safe and COVID 19 restrictions are eased.

in the place; we have a huge space both down and up but when it gets to a certain number we make sure that some people can sit outside and drink to limit the number to avoid the crowd. We have to make money, but we also have to be value health and human life in this trying times.

Pan African Visions: Are you looking for any help from the government?

Khumbah Edith: What I will like to tell the government is their tax policy. I have all my papers for the snack; I have papers from tourism (I am

supposed to open 24/7) yet we still have people (uniform officers) who still come and disturb us and even shut us down. The government should look at putting a good business policy in place and that is the one that is killing us in Cameroon.

Pan African Visions: Thank you for granting this interview, any final word from you?

Khumbah Edith: Just to say the challenges are there but we are pushing on and we are hoping that someday the COVID-19 will be gone.

We have big plans and a strong vision for K-Empire. Be on the watch because when COVID gives way and restrictions are eased, we will K-Empire will simply be irresistible. For now we will keep things basic and function in strict respect of safety measures.

Can Coton Sport Garoua Create History in the CAF Confederation Cup?

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

Coton Sport of Garoua is looking at making history by becoming the first team from Cameroon to win the CAF Confederation Cup after qualifying for the quarter-finals of the competition. The team edged closer to that target after finishing second in Group B at the group stages.

Coton Sports finished second in Group B with a total of nine points with the group being won by JS Kabylie. The team won 3 games, and lost the other three, scoring 10 goals and conceded six. Group B also contained Napsa Stars and defending champions RSB Berkane.

Cameroon's representative at the ongoing CAF Confederation Cup, Coton Sport of Garoua will play against Senegalese club ASC Jaraaf at the quarter-finals of the competition. The draws for the competition took place this Friday, April 30.

The first leg of the quarter-final matches will be played on the 14, 15



Coach Ousmanou Christophe



Coton Sport looks to qualify for the semi-finals

and 16 of May 2021, while the second leg games will come up on 21, 22 and 23 May.

Coton Sport will hope to follow in the footsteps of other Cameroonian clubs who have been successful at the CAF competitions notably Oryx Douala, Union Douala and Canon Yaounde, albeit in the CAF Champions League and not the Confederation Cup. Coton Sport was almost victorious in 2008 but lost the finals.

The most successful team from Cameroon in the CAF organized competitions is Canon Yaounde. The team has won the CAF Champions League three times (1971, 1978 and 1980), while Oryx Douala was the first team to taste victory in the competition winning it in 1965. Union Douala followed Canon and won the competition in 1979.

Coton Sport is they are to qualify

for the semi-finals will have to step up their game for the quarter-finals. The team lost two consecutive games to see out the qualifying rounds and three games in total. These statistics will have to improve considerably and their striking department also need to improve with the side scoring just one goal in those 2 losses.

Coton Sport faces Association Sportive et Culturelle Diaraf and mostly called ASC Jaraaf which is the most popular club in Senegal. Jaraaf also has the most number of major honours won numbering 28.

The Garoua-based outfit will face a side in Jaraaf who finished top of Group C with 11 points. In six games played, Jaraaf succeeded in picking up three wins, two draws and a defeat. They scored just five goals and conceded three.

Should Coton Sport succeed in overpowering Jaraaf they would have

moved one step closer to their goal of winning the competition, something which will be on the mind of the team. Should the team succeed in that task, which many football lovers are pointing to; Coton Sport will face CS Sfaxien of Tunisia or meet JS Kabylie (Algeria) again at the semi-finals.

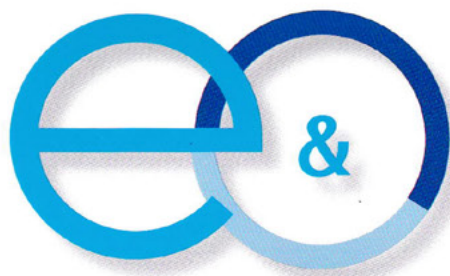
During the group stage, Coton Sport met JS Kabylie on two occasions with the same results. JS Kabylie defeated Coton 1-0 at home and against 2-1 in Garoua, something which will be on the mind of the team should the two teams succeed in defeating their various opponents and set up a semi-final clash. This is a long ask but anything is possible in a football match.

Coton Sport has had to rely on Bawak Thomas-Etta, goalkeeper Narcisse Nlend, Lambert Gueme Araina, Felix Oukine and a host of others to provide the sparks for the

team. Araina, Marou and Sanou finished as the top goalscorers of the team will two goals each.

Lambert Araina has been excellent for the side in both the CAF Confederation Cup and the Elite One football championship. Araina is the leading goalscorer in the league with 7 goals despite Coton Sport still have some delayed games in hand amongst the other teams in Pool B. Should the team succeed in picking up victories in their delayed games they will be looking at the top of the group and keeping their hopes of winning the championship which they lost last year to PWD Bamenda.

It should be noted that the first leg matches for the semi-finals have been programmed for 18, 19 and 20 June while the second leg will come up on 25, 26 and 27 June. The final has been programmed for 10 July.



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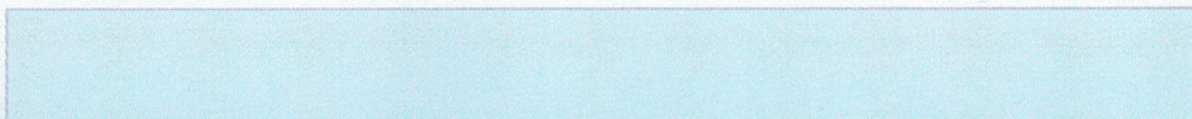
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We Will Be Part Of Africa's History

Senator Dr Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation

PAV shares insights into the robust engagement of Merck Foundation CEO Senator Rasha Kelej with key stakeholders in the mission to transform the public healthcare sector in Africa.



Senator Dr Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation and President of Merck More Than a Mother visits Ugandan Childless Women with Hon. Sarah Opendi, Minister of State of Health Uganda to support Merck More Than a Mother Heroines in Uganda



From (Left to Right) H. E. First Lady of the Republic of Chad Madame Hinda Deby Itno, H. E. First Lady of the Republic of Niger Madame Aissata Issoufou Mahamadou, Prof. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, Chairman of the Executive Board of E. Merck KG with Senator Dr Rasha Kelej and other Dignitaries at the Merck Foundation Africa Asia Luminary in 2017 at Egypt Cairo



Merck Foundation marks World Cancer Day together with Africa Frist Ladies and Ministries of Health through building cancer care to increase the limited number of Oncologists in Africa



Senator Dr Rasha Kelej CEO of Merck Foundation and President of Merck More Than a Mother with the First Lady of Mozambique during the MFFLI summit in Dubai 2019



Senator Dr Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation and President of Merck More Than a Mother with the First Lady of Gambia during the MFFLI summit in Dubai 2019



Senator Dr Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation and President of Merck More Than a Mother during her meeting with H. E. Madam Angeline Ndayishimiye, First Lady of Burundi and Ambassador of Merck More Than a Mother



Senator Dr Rasha Kelej in a group photograph with some First Ladies of Africa at the Merck Foundation First Lady Initiative (MFFLI) summit 2019.



H. E. Aisha Buhari, First Lady of Nigeria being felicitated at the First Ladies Recognition Awards



Dr Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation and President of Merck More Than a Mother in a photograph with the First Lady of Gambia



From (Left to Right) H. E. Rebecca Naa Okaikor Akufo-Addo, First Lady of Ghana, H. E. Brigitte Touadera, First Lady of the Central Africa Republic, H. E. Neo Jane Masisi, First Lady of Botswana, H. E. Aissata Issoufou Mahamadou, First Lady of Niger with Senator Dr Rasha Kelej at the Merck Foundation Africa Asia Luminary in 2018, at Dakar, Senegal.

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