



A Fight With Big Stakes To Rescue Mozambique



Zambia:
Kenneth Kaunda's Final Chapter

Cameroon:
Dangote Adds Oil & Gas to his Menu

Zimbabwe:
Compensation For White Farmers

Burundi:
A Year Of President Ndayishimiye

Travel has become easier with the launch of e-visa for tourists. Visit Ethiopia...

Ethiopian



SAA VOTED BEST AIRLINE FOR STAFF SERVICE IN AFRICA AND RETAINS 4-STAR RATING
Thank you for making it all possible



SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



CENTURION

Lawyers and Business Advisors

PAN-AFRICAN
PRO-AFRICAN

www.centurionlg.com

C O N T E N T S

Editorial _____	2	Innovation Africa Brings A Touch Of Israeli Technology For Rural Development _____	34
Zambia: The Final Chapter of Kenneth Kaunda _____	4	Bitcoin Virus Scales New Heights In Africa _____	37
Cote d'Ivoire- A Triumphant Return For Laurent Gbagbo _____	7	HRW Implores IMF To Make Cameroon Loan Contingent On Anti-Corruption _____	38
Burundi-A Year of President Ndayishimiye _____	10	Reforming Secondary And Higher Education Curriculum In Africa _____	41
Nigeria-Nnamdi Kanu's Trial And A Roadmap For Enduring Peace _____	11	Montel Swaray Embarks on a Mission to Transform African Lives _____	42
Zambia- The Vice Presidency As Next Stop For Prof Nkandu Luo _____	12	Rwanda-Progress For Healthcare Sector _____	43
Mozambique-SADC Leaders Agree to Deploy Troops _____	16	Environment in Focus With Landry Ninteretse _____	44
A Fight With Big Stakes To Rescue Mozambique _____	17	Namibia: Third COVID-19 Wave Takes A Devastating Toll _____	48
Inside Rwanda's Army Deployment Into Mozambique Which Angered SADC _____	21	Malawi-The Covid-19 Vaccine Fiasco _____	50
Zimbabwe- Compensation For White Zimbabwean Farmers _____	22	Cameroon- A Healthcare Crisis From Suspension Of Doctors Without Borders _____	52
D.R .Congo-Undersanding the EAC Gambit. _____	23	Kenya -Anguish Over Growing Wave Of Mysterious of Kidnappings _____	55
Cameroon-Oil and Gas on the Menu For Dangote _____	24	Rhino Poaching Worsens in Africa _____	58
New Partnership To Unlock Africa's Development Potential. _____	26	The African Super League Gamble _____	59
APO Waxing Strong Despite The Odds _____	28		
Cameroon's New Biometric Passport Goes Operational _____	32		

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS

7614 Green Willow Court, Hyattsville, MD 20785

Tel: 2404292177,
email: pav@panafricanvisions.com,
editor@panafricanvisions.com

Managing Editor
Ajong Mbapndah L

Contributors
Wallace Mawire
Deng Machol
Papisdaff Abdullah
Ajayi Olyinka
Prince Kuripati
Hategeka Moses
Asong Zelifac
Samuel Ouma
Primus Tazanu
Jorge Joaquim
Ishmael Sallieu
Koroma,

Bah Uzman Unis,
Mohammed M Mupenda,
Pierre Afadhali
Jean d'Amour Mbonyinshuti
Nevson Mpofu
Boris Esono Nwenfor
Amos Fofung
Jean d'Amour Mugabo
Jessica Ahedor

Advertising
Email:
marketing@panafricanvisions.com

Graphic Designer
Atemnkeng Jerry M,
(Young Jerry)
EC designs, Abudhabi - UAE
+971 54 739 2997
atemjerry@outlook.com

Dissecting Heroes and Villains in the Gbagbo Equation

By Ajong Mbatndah L

He served as President of his country for ten years, and the next ten were spent at the International Criminal Court, where he was incarcerated while standing trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Following his acquittal by the ICC, the return of President Laurent Gbagbo on 17 June 2022 was considered as a victory by millions in his native Cote d'Ivoire and across Africa.

The journey of Laurent Gbagbo to the ICC was a tragic episode in the roller coaster of a political career that the University Professor has endured. As an opposition leader, he suffered persecution from the government and the ruling party of the day. In 2000, he emerged winner of controversial elections boycotted by major political parties.

His presidency will however face unprecedented challenges in the history of Cote d'Ivoire with a foreign backed rebellion that truncated his vision for the country. Forced to share power with the rebels, Laurent Gbagbo spent ten years as President before the ill-fated elections that culminated in his arrest and transfer to the Hague.

As his partisans across Cote d'Ivoire and Africa bask in the glow of his triumphant return, the strong desire is for him to continue the struggle. The question one is tempted to ask is which struggle? The images of his arrest were spiteful for the charismatic politician that Gbagbo has been. Clothes torn, surrounded by unruly military men eager to take a pound of flesh. Looking haggard, the future had never looked so bleak for Gbagbo, yet many still ask the question, could all of these have been averted?

At the center of the standoff was the result of the 2011 elections. Both President Gbagbo and opposition challenger Alassane Ouattara claimed victory. Not surprising, Gbagbo's Prime Minister Guillaume Soro took sides and backed claims that Ouattara was the rightful winner. The international community backed

Ouattara making Gbagbo very vulnerable.

Opinions were sharply divided on Gbagbo's predicament. Most revealing was the fact that none of the sitting leaders in Africa stood by him. Did it have to do with the fact that indeed, he had lost elections and people wanted him gone? Was it because Gbagbo was a product of the opposition and was never fully accepted into the club of sit tight leaders who use hook and crook to remain in power?

More frustrating to his partisans was the fact that he was taken to the

International Criminal Court-ICC for trial. Looking at the cases that have been tried at the ICC in the Hague, the feeling many get is that the court was created specifically to target Africans. Each time there is a high profile case, it seems to involve an African, Charles Taylor of Liberia, Jean Pierre Bemba of the D.R.Congo, and even President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and his Deputy were hauled there at some point.

While it is imperative that perpetrators of crimes against humanity should be held accountable, selective justice defeats the purpose of the Court, and on Gbagbo, there seems to be a pretty strong feeling amongst many Africans that by fate or design, the ICC erred. Hard to fathom why Gbagbo was easily identified as the villain here, when the role or atrocities from the camp opposed to him were never highlighted or deemed worthy of investigation by the court.

By allowing his bitter rival and predecessor Laurent Gbagbo to return to Cote d'Ivoire after his acquittal, President Alassane Ouattara scored some points for himself. There were fears that the Ouattara government will do everything within its power to stonewall Gbagbo's return. That



Ajong Mbatndah L, Managing Editor

he was allowed to return bodes well for President Ouattara, it bodes well for Cote d'Ivoire, and it bodes well for Africa.

With the economic reforms and development that has taken place in Cote d'Ivoire since he took office, the master stroke in facilitating the return of President Gbagbo sets the stage for Mr. Ouattara to start thinking of his own post presidential life. He had earlier ruled out running for office, but in complex developments and arrangements of sorts, he ended up running and winning another term.

Come to think of it, it would have been disingenuous for President Ouattara to keep Gbagbo out of the country when it was Gbagbo who as President facilitated the return of Ouattara to the country after several years in exile. And if in doubt about poetic justice in the Gbagbo saga all you have to do is take a look at some of the leading actors. Guillaume Soro for all his high-profile romance with Ouattara is today in exile with an increasing bleak political future. Former Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore, a key player in the rebellion that made life tough for Gbagbo when he was in power is on exile in...Cote d'Ivoire.

Mr. Gbagbo's experience is a

reminder that men will come and go, and the country will remain. Perhaps by living to fight another day with forces that were lined up against him, President Gbagbo may have avoided ten years at the Hague. By putting country before self and living to fight another day, who knows, the fate of President Khadafi and the chaos in Libya today may have been averted.

Transforming Africa is not a feat for one leader. Do your part and exit the stage when times comes or when it becomes necessary for someone else to take the baton. Like former

President Mutharika reminded us in the last issue of PAV, there is life after the presidency. Leaving power is not a death sentence. There is much that President Gbagbo can still offer Cote d'Ivoire and Africa and hopefully he will not disappoint.

In previous issues of PAV, we have harped on the need for Africans to take the lead in solving their own problems and one country where we see this happening now is Mozambique. With terrorist attacks threatening to choke the Southern African country, recent news has bringing fresh hope with the regional SADC settling on plans to send in troops to help. As the SADC was still trying to fine tune its own mechanism, President Paul Kagame announced that Rwanda will be sending in 1000 troops to support Mozambique. This issue of PAV takes a look at the renewed hope for Mozambique with the growing show of support from African countries.

The issue also has stories on political developments in Nigeria, tribute to Zambia's founding President Kenneth Kaunda, a year of President Ndayishimiye in Burundi, and more. Happy reading!!



African Energy

Week

SAVE THE
DATE

26-29
OCTOBER
2021

The Waterfront
CAPE TOWN
South Africa



Join us at the first global
ENERGY VILLAGE
at African Energy Week

The four-day conference comprises:

**networking, exhibitions,
one-on-one private meetings,
sponsored breakfasts, lunches,
dinners, beach parties and a
golf tournament.**

Take advantage
of the V&A Waterfront's wide range of
family friendly activities,
shopping and entertainment.

Zambia's Kenneth David Kaunda: The final chapter

By Peter Kayula

Zambia's first Republican President Dr Kenneth David Kaunda who died on June 17, 2021, was a leading figure in Southern African country's independence movement. Until he left office in 1991, he maintained his critical position as the leader of a buffer country between an interplay of white-ruled states in Southern Africa and if not hostile, independent black-ruled states to the northern part.

People from all walks of life, prominent leaders and credible institutions, have spoken of Dr Kenneth David Kaunda as a great Pan Africanist adding that his path was intimately entwined with the life of a country he cherished so much from time he became the first President of Zambia.

A woman in Lusaka the capital city of Zambia told a local Radio Station, "I am more convinced Dr Kaunda had taken a path that has left good memories with the ordinary Zambians and the world, explaining that the former President's life was actively engaged in understanding some of the concerns of ordinary Zambians and to keep sight to articulating regional development needs.

A former freedom fighter who worked with the late Dr Kaunda, Benson Masala, now 88, says Dr



Kenneth Kaunda was the first President of Independent Zambia Photo courtesy

Kaunda was always a figure in the corridors of liberation struggle of many Southern African countries. He arguably fought his way from that very point until he left office in 1991.

"There was hardly any moment of political drama in which he did not play a role in the quest to see the

liberation of most Southern African countries such as Zimbabwe and Namibia," he explained.

However, in mourning his passing and as the world celebrates the life of one of the world's most iconic figures, the moment, solemn as it is, presents a great opportunity to revisit

commitments made in advancing human equality and that politicians in Africa should not use their office positions to recover their failures in ordinary life, Dr Kaunda never did that.

He will be well remembered for investing much of his time and resources in understanding the central focus of economic regulations that went on to strengthen local participation, created instruments to attaining food security, expanding employment opportunities and encouraged industrialization in Zambia.

During the post-independent era, Zambia faced many challenges in various sectors, especially the agriculture sector and also others in the transportation and manufacturing sectors and the daunting supply side problems which included communication, storage and transportation facilities, among others.

Notably, these factors subsequently heightened his resolve to take head



A good will message from current Zambian President Edgar Lungu to founding President Kaunda on his 95th birthday.

on these challenges, especially based on some practical experiences, his handling of the highly regulated transport industry management in Zambia with commensurate conditions of governance that ultimately had an effect on policy reforms and practical experiences of transport markets reorganization.

This development arguably saw the establishment and sustenance of the rail transport under Zambia Railways and Dr Kaunda ensured that it became the backbone of the national economy. Others included the establishment of better and a greater diversity of transport related industries, including the establishment of the main national airliner, the Zambia Airways.

He also pioneered the establishment of the Tanzania/Zambia transport corridor – the Tanzania/Zambia Railways (Tazara) built by the Chinese connecting Zambia and Tanzania and the gate away to East Africa. This happened at a time when Southern Rhodesia leader Ian Smith closed the border for Zambia's use.

Dr Kaunda further established a government owned bus company, the United Bus Company of Zambia, The Mpulungu harbor Port, the Njanji Commuter train to counter the threat of congestion in the urban area as well as introducing the short-lived rail cars operations, Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia and several textile industries.

All these projects, among others, contribute to broadening our current knowledge on the history of Zambia and their relationship to a wide range of topics at intersection between Dr Kenneth David Kaunda - the post independent Zambia of 1964-1991 and the Zambia of today.

Currently, research in understanding the reasons for the success and failure



Several African leaders showed up in Lusaka to pay their last respects to the elder statesman that President Kaunda was.

of these projects after Dr Kaunda's tenure, including policy options and responses that could have contributed to development of the country, faces the challenges of where to begin from, including responses and divergent views to the multiple questions around.

However, it should be noted that, as the world celebrates the life of one of the world's most iconic figures, the moment, solemn as it is, presents a great opportunity to revisit commitments made in advancing national development, human equality, the virtue of simplicity and love of one another, as the case of the late former president makes this point.

Dr Kaunda was born on April 28, 1924, at Lubwa Mission near Chinsali in Northern Rhodesia. His father was a minister and teacher who had left Nyasaland (now Malawi) in 1904 and his mother was the first African woman to teach in then colonial Zambia.

After completing his education, he worked as a teacher (including becoming a headmaster) from 1944 to 1947. He later relocated to the now Copperbelt Province, where he founded a farmers' cooperative, was a mine welfare officer (1948), and became a boarding master at Mufulira Upper School from 1948 to 1949.

Dr Kaunda helped found the African National Congress (ANC),

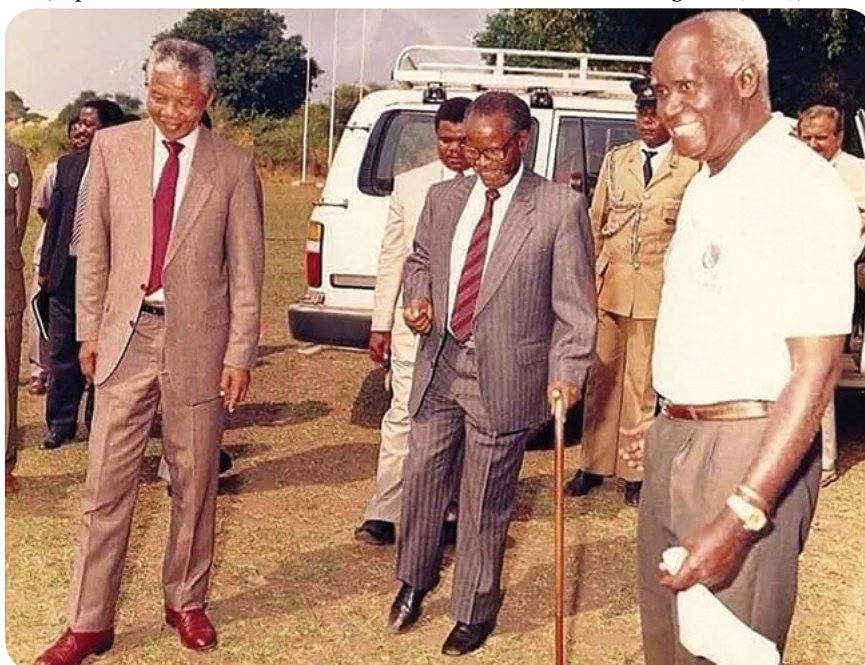
the first major anti-colonial organization in Northern Rhodesia, assuming the position of its secretary general from 1953 to 1958 under African National Congress (ANC) president, Harry Nkumbula. In an unexpected turn around, Kaunda became committed to the non-violent approach, taking the central concepts of India's late leader, Mahatma Gandhi, especially after his visit to India in 1957.

At the turn of 1958 through to 1959, he broke with Nkumbula and became president of the Zambia African National Union (ZANC). When civil disorder led to banning of this party, Dr Kaunda was jailed for a period of nine months.

On his release he became president of the new United National Independence party (UNIP) in 1960. On October 30, 1962, he was elected to the Legislative Council. He formed a coalition government with Nkumbula Africa National Congress (ANC) and served as minister of local government and social welfare in 1962. Zambia slowly moved through the complications of earning independence.

Much of the success is attributed to the skillful diplomacy of Kenneth Kaunda, who succeeded in allaying the fears of the huge European and smaller Asian community that black leadership would ignore their interests. In October 1964, the new nation of Zambia was born, with Dr Kaunda as its president.

Dr Kaunda retired from office in 1991 when Frederick Chiluba came to power in the first multiparty election in Zambia following the legalization of opposition parties in 1990, and now his death on June 17, 2021, but the positive aspect his works and life will likely continue to consume our time and thoughts over the next years to come.



South African President Late Nelson Mandela with Former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and Late Oliver Tambo on September 11, 1991 in Lusaka..Photo credit PF.

Cote d'Ivoire: The Triumphant Return Of Laurent Gbagbo

By Prince Kurupati

Former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo returned to his home country on June 17, 2021 after spending ten years at the International Criminal Court (ICC). Gbagbo returned home at the behest of incumbent Alassane Ouattara who extended an invitation for him to return. His return was welcomed by many people who viewed it as a right step in helping unify a nation which for long has been divided along ethnic, political and religious lines.

Laurent Gbagbo was captured by UN and French backed forces in April 2011 in a presidential palace bunker. Soon after his capture, he was sent to Brussels to stand trial on charges of refusal to accept defeat in a democratic election in 2010 which triggered a civil war that resulted in 3000 people losing their lives.

Gbagbo's trial started soon after his arrival in Brussels. However, the court quickly neither reached a conclusion that Gbagbo had not instigated violence nor triggered civil war. Numerous appeals followed thereafter which saw Gbagbo spend years in detention. After many years of court battles, it was only after the



*A heroes return to Cote d'Ivoire for Laurent Gbagbo after spending some ten years at the ICC.
Photo credit REUTERS, Macline Hien.*

2019 acquittal by the ICC appeals court that Gbagbo truly became a free man.

In passing judgment, ICC Judge Cuno Tarfusser in 2019 as according to BBC said that the prosecutors had

failed to demonstrate "the existence of a common plan" to keep Mr. Gbagbo in power which included crimes against civilians, of a "policy to attack a civilian population." The Judge went on to state that the

prosecution "failed to demonstrate that public speeches by Gbagbo constituted ordering or inducing the alleged crimes".

Gbagbo had to spend another three years in Brussels even after his acquittal as he couldn't return home largely because of fear of how he would be treated by the Ouattara led government once he stepped foot in the country.

Gbagbo and Ouattara's Feud

Laurent Gbagbo rose to prominence as a trade unionist. His first foray into mainstream politics saw it challenge the then one-party state in Ivory Coast. In his fight against the one-party state, Gbagbo adopted a strong nationalist stance which too many political analysts, bordered on xenophobia. His early years in politics saw him spend time in opposition ranks but in 2000, the light shone above him as he was elected president. However, just a couple of year's later; civil war broke out as Gbagbo's supporters were



Partisans of President Gbagbo want him to continue the political fight. Photo courtesy

accused of carrying out xenophobic attacks against the Muslim North and immigrants from neighboring countries.

In his defense, Gbagbo said that France and the UN were not taking any action against the rebel group led by Ouattara which had basically seized the entire North. The clashes between Gbagbo and Ouattara led to the postponement of the 2005 presidential elections several times. They were only held in 2010. When the results came in after the runoff, Ouattara was declared the new president but Gbagbo refused to concede defeat. Gbagbo's refusal to concede defeat quickly ignited clashes between his supporters and those of Ouattara. The clashes led to the death of thousands.

In the aftermath of the 2010 election, France, the UN and the African Union sided with the country's electoral body stating that Gbagbo had lost the election and thus had to step down. To ensure peace prevailed, French and UN troops tracked down Gbagbo and arrested him in April 2011 and subsequently, sent him to the ICC.

Reactions on the Return of Gbagbo

The return of Gbagbo has filled many people with happiness and excitement. Valerie Bony of BBC News after hearing the sentiments of many people in the capital Abidjan



Unbridled excitement from teeming supporters of President Gbagbo . Photo credit AP, Leo Correa

said that "for some Ivoirians the hope is that it (Gbagbo's return) will help reconcile the country and shift the government's attention to economic reforms and to dealing with the spillover of the Islamist insurgency from neighboring Burkina Faso and Mali."

Valerie Bony went on to state that there are fears by some however that time has not healed the physical and emotional wounds of all those who experienced firsthand the brutality of Gbagbo's supporters just before

he was apprehended. The return of Gbagbo will thus be "a reminder of the violence they suffered and the injustice they still endure."

Dilemma on Gbagbo's Future

Though President Ouattara gave Gbagbo free passage to return to the country, there are questions still lingering about Gbagbo's safety once in the country. After he was arrested and sent to the ICC, in absentia, Ivorian authorities sentenced Gbagbo to 20 years imprisonment for looting

the Central Bank of West African States soon after the disputed 2010 polls. The jail sentence against Gbagbo automatically ruled him out of all upcoming elections for the 20-year period.

While questions still linger on the safety of Gbagbo, the pardoning of Gbagbo's wife Simone in 2018 may have played a part in convincing Gbagbo that Ouattara is acting in good faith and is ready to reconcile.

Travel has become easier
with the launch of e-visa
for tourists. Visit Ethiopia...

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Ethiopian





SSAOG 2021

ANNUAL SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN OIL/GAS CONFERENCE



12 - 13 AUGUST, 2021

HILTON POST OAK (GALLERIA),
HOUSTON, TEXAS, USA

**THE FUTURE OF UPSTREAM, ADVANCING DIGITALIZATION,
GREEN ECONOMY AND GAS DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS**

SPEAKERS



H.E. Chief Timipre Sylva
Minister of State for
Petroleum Resources, Nigeria



H.E. Fafa Sanyang
Minister of Petroleum
The Gambia



Mele Kyari
Group Managing Director,
NNPC, Nigeria



Tony Attah
Managing Director/CEO,
Nigeria LNG Limited



Michael Sangster
Managing Director,
Total Nigeria E&P



Joseph Medou
Director General,
PETROSEN, Senegal



Yusuf Usman
Chief Operating Officer
(Gas & Power), NNPC



A.B.C. Orjiako
Chairman, SEPLAT



Saifuah-Mai Gray
President/CEO,
National Oil Company,
Liberia



Roger Beall
Chairman/CEO,
Fortesa International
African Drilling



Hon. Jordan Garcia
Honorary Consul, Rep.
of Guinea in California



Muazu Magaji
Kano State, NNPC-AKK
Pipeline Project



Bayo Ojulari
Managing Director,
SNEPCo



Yaya Barrow
Director General,
GNPC, Gambia



Justice Derefaka
TA Gas, to the Minister of State
for Petroleum Resources,
Nigeria



Cany Jobe
E & P Director, GNPC,
Gambia



Ferdinand Bariwei
Principal Consultant,
Former Managing Director,
IDSL (NNPC)



Ozim Ifeoma Obasi
Executive General Counsel,
SSA, GE Power



Effy Okon
Executive Director (Operations),
SEPLAT



Famourou Kourouma
Director General,
National Office of Petroleum,
Guinea



Nj Ayuk
Chairman,
African Energy Chambers



Geoff Onuoha
CEO, B.G. Technical/Chairman,
Pipeline Professionals Association
of Nigeria



Foday Mansaray
Director General,
Petroleum Directorate,
Sierra Leone



Stig Settemsdal
Chief Technology Officer,
Offshore Solution,
Siemens Energy



James Yemoah
Chief Operating Officer,
GNPC, Ghana



Tayo Akinkunmi
Country Manager, Nigeria
at TechnipFMC



Sunny Oputa
Chief Executive Officer,
Energy & Corporate Africa

www.energycorporateafrica.com

**For participation
and sponsorship:**

**Energycorporateafrica
@gmail.com**

+1(281) 691 5725

Contact - Rest of Africa:

kunle@legendandlegacy.events

+234 802 324 1280



Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company Limited (SNEPCo)



ExxonMobil



Burundi: A Year in Office For President Ndayishimiye

-Despite positive gestures, rights organizations want him to do more

By Jean-Pierre Afadhali

After one year at the helm of Burundi, President Evariste Ndayishimiye is seen by some as a progressive leader who seeks to turn around a country that was isolated by the international community following his predecessor's controversial third term marred by violence, but Human rights organizations and activists are calling for more changes and reforms.

President Ndayishimiye won elections in May 2020 and replaced President Pierre Nkurunziza who plunged the small east African into social, political violence for extending his rule to a third contested term in 2015. Crackdown on opposition, killings, international sanctions and other human rights violations that pushed about 400,000 people to flee to neighboring countries characterized Mr. Nkurunziza's third term.

The new president was sworn in mid-2020 after a sudden death of his predecessor and elections held during Covid-19 pandemic that his predecessor had downplayed. Mr. Ndayishimiye, a former military general who has also been a secretary general of the ruling CNDD-FDD has taken a different path that appears to bring back Burundi on international scene by strengthening diplomatic relations with African countries, neighboring Rwanda and multinational partners who had cut ties with the Great lakes nation following the 2015 political crisis.

While the country's president appears to turn the page, some remain cautiously optimistic saying a lot needs to be done to turn around Burundi and restore the once vibrant civil society and all public freedoms.

In late June the country held a mass to mark one-year-anniversary of president Ndayishimiye's administration at a catholic church in the capital Gitega, in the centre of the country. During the mass that was attended by government officials,



It has been a year since President Evariste Ndayishimiye took office in Burundi.

the president apologized for human rights violations his government is accused of. "We have violated the rights of our compatriots, others have been harassed, we have sowed hatred, we do not practice brotherly love, some authorities have failed in their responsibility, we ask forgiveness because we do not deserve to come before you," said the president in the recent mass.

The country's multilateral partners such as European Union (EU) had imposed sanctions on Burundi by stopping direct financial support to the government while the Organization of French speaking countries- La Francophonie suspended the country. The new president has made some changes welcomed by Human rights organizations and Burundi's partners but they are calling on the new leader to do more by fighting impunity, initiating reconciliation process among others.

In addition to the amnesty of about 5,000 prisoners, the president has pardoned four journalists working with a private media outlet who were arrested in 2019, a gesture welcomed

by campaign organizations. Regarding press freedom, one of private radio stations that were closed during the 2015 crisis called 'Bonesha FM' has been allowed to re-open by the country's media regulator known as 'National Communication Council'. Many journalists fled Burundi during 2015 crisis and authorities subsequently closed BBC and The Voice of America, a move that was seen by press freedom watchdogs as a media control tactic.

Improved International cooperation

In addition to the decreased human rights violations, the new head of state has ushered in a new era in diplomacy as he tries to improve political and economic cooperation with various African countries. This was done mainly through the signed bilateral agreements. Ms. Carina Teritsakian, a researcher at the Human Rights Initiative for Burundi (IDHB), a human rights organization said recently that in the past year in power, president Ndayishimiye initiated positive changes on diplomacy and

international cooperation.

"Regarding international relations, President Ndayishimiye is certainly more open than his predecessor towards international partners. He knows what these partners expect from him, he has made efforts to renew dialogue with several countries, which will undoubtedly help Burundi to emerge from its isolation," the human rights researcher was quoted as saying.

EU has started the process to lift sanctions that were imposed on Burundi in 2016 following political crisis and violence. The move that will boost the country's economy as the European block plan to finance agriculture and the port of Bujumbura.

One of the recent state-visits to strengthen ties with several countries was in Kenya in early June at the time the East Africa's leading economy was celebrating its self-rule locally known as 'Madaraka Day'. The two countries signed several deals to boost their trade and development cooperation. President Ndayishimiye was quoted as saying: "Burundi fully appreciates

the state of cooperation between the two countries and is hopeful that the agreements signed will effectively be implemented for mutual benefit.».

Economic hardship

Meanwhile Burundi remains one of the poorest countries in the world according to various reports. The 2015 political crisis affected the country's economy due partly to international sanctions. The frosty relations with neighboring Rwanda worsened the situation as trade between two sister-countries stalled. Commenting on economic situation the main opposition politician inside the country Mr. Agathon Rwaso told the BBC that economic hardship continues to bite the population as many basic commodities are scarce. "It's rare to find on the market the sugar produced in Burundi," Mr. Rwaso who challenged Ndayishimiye in the last elections commented.

As the relations between Kigali and Gitega normalizes some expect it will boost trade relations. Rwanda's

prime minister Dr. Edouard Ndirakobuca graced the ceremonies to mark the 59 years of Burundi's independence making him the first senior government official from Rwanda to visit the neighboring country since 2015. Burundi accused Rwanda of having a hand in the failed coup, but the latter denied any interference in its neighbors' affairs.

While the new administration is keen on improving international cooperation, security remains a big challenge amid continued armed attacks in the country. The latest happened in late June in Muramvya province, Central Burundi in which dozens of people were killed in a roadside ambush. A similar attack had happened in the same province in May.

Human rights groups are calling on government for more political reforms



Human rights groups are calling on the government for more political reforms and justice for crimes committed in the 2015 crisis. Photo credit Tchandrour Nitanga ,AFP.

and justice for the crimes committed in the 2015 crisis and a more control of ruling party's youth league locally known as 'Imbonerakure' that were involved in several human rights incidents under Ndayishimiye's predecessor and to some extent

in the current government as they harass the population in rural areas. Rights groups also are saying the lack of dialogue with exiled political opponents hold back the country's democratic gains.

Nnamdi Kanu's Trial And A Roadmap For Enduring Peace In Nigeria's South East

By Richard Mammah

The recent arrest and return to trial of the leader of the Independent People of Biafra, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu has understandably raised the tempo and temper of discussions on the relations between Nigerians of Igbo descent and the mainstream Federal Government in the country.

Kanu, who had been undergoing trial in the country and was granted bail by the Federal High Court on medical grounds in April 2017 had before his current incarceration been living outside the country, following his flight to exile in the aftermath of a raid by the Nigerian military on his ancestral home in Abia State on September 14, 2017.

As the country awaits the resumption of his trial on July 26, the interval is being taken up by questions of how and where he was



Chairman of the Governors Forum Gov. David Umahi of Ebonyi State .Photo courtesy.

apprehended as well as his current state of health. However, the bigger issue remains: what is the potential effect of his trial on the South East question?

Indeed, in recent months, the Nigerian polity has been further inflamed by acts of insecurity related to the South Eastern part of the country.

Hitherto considered as one of the most peaceful regions in the country, it has however come to experience some of the extenuating crisis of insecurity that has sadly now almost become the standard fare across the country.

While the federal authorities are pointing almost every finger in the direction of Nnamdi Kanu and the Independent People of Biafra, along with their associated Eastern Security Network, ESN, other rounded observers and commentators say that the origins and dimensions of the crisis are indeed much deeper and broader, and proceeding from this they equally canvass that a rounded bouquet of solutions should be put on the table.

According to Abia Onyike of the Ala Igbo Foundation, the roots of the crisis clearly lie above the surface and as such its resolution should also be more than ankle-deep. His first charge is for the formal elected political authority in the region.

'The South East Governors should be sincere in their commitment to the security of their region. Unfortunately, the Chairman of the Governors Forum, Gov. David Umahi of Ebonyi state has not demonstrated such sincerity of purpose. People see him as talking from both sides of his mouth. For instance, he claims that there are laws banning open grazing in the South East. That is false. Only in Imo State was the law made during the Government of former Governor Achike Udenwa. But the law is rendered comatose as it is not being implemented. The other four states in the South-East, namely Abia, Enugu, Anambra and Ebonyi have no



The arrest of Nnamdi Kanu is generating fresh tensions in the polity.

such laws as their State Houses of Assembly are yet to pass such laws. Passing the anti-open grazing law will help to checkmate the murderous activities of the FULANI Herdsmen in the South East, where the forests of over 700 villages are currently occupied by the AK-47 wielding Herdsmen.'

Going beyond the governors and appreciating the practical reality that the Nigerian constitutional and political structure today literally vests about all practical security functions at the federal tier of governance, Onyike then directs his attention to that tier:

'The Federal Government headed by PMB should adopt the path of dialogue in dealing with the IPOB and other self-determination groups in the zone. After all, it was Buhari's separatist style of governance and his anti-Igbo policies that gave rise to the renewed agitation for the restoration of Biafra since 2015. The youths can be assuaged if the Government can engage the leaders of these groups

like Nnamdi Kanu of MASSOB and Uwazurike of MASSOB.'

Not done, the former aide of the Ebonyi State Governor, also appreciates the need for attention to yet be placed on one particular banana peel scenario that is related to the crisis:

'The internal political conflict in Imo State which led to the imposition of Hope Uzodinma as the Governor of Imo State by the Supreme Court is at the heart of the security crisis in Igboland today. That is why it would appear that Imo State is a major flashpoint of the crises. There should be a way of resolving the problem, otherwise the youths seem hell-bent on resisting the Government of Uzodinma.'

Some other commentators have linked the crisis to the agitation for a President of Igbo extraction in the forthcoming 2023 polls. While everything could be said to be somewhat contextually inter-linked in the current Nigerian political playfield, the continued insistence

by IPOB that its sights are set on a referendum to initiate the excision of the South East from the present Nigeria to bring into birth the State of Biafra continues to delegitimize this link. Indeed, the same IPOB has also been known to canvass the boycott of several lower level elections within the South East.

What is however not in doubt at the moment however is that a lot of attention continues to be placed on the Nnamdi Kanu challenge. Since his arrest for example, the nation has come to be seemingly divided between those who see him as the problem and therefore desire his expeditious trial and sentencing and those who caution that beyond Kanu, the nation does have a basket of problems to resolve and that any attempts to reduce the myriad of challenges in the country to a Kanu challenge would very clearly not achieve much. But it remains to be seen if good and better sense would prevail at the end of the day.



The Chartered
Institute of Logistics
and Transport



AFRICA
FORUM
2021

AFRICA FORUM 2021

CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

THEME:

Sustainable Implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA): The Role of Logistics, Transport & Industry.



**12 - 14
August 2021**



**08 am
05 pm**



**La-Palm Royal
Beach Hotel, Accra**

Endorsed By:



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
Republic of Ghana



MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Partners:

ONE
OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS



Vetron Services Ltd.



GOIL
Good energy



SILVER STAR AUTO



**MARITIME AGENCIES (WEST AFRICA)
LIMITED**

BOOK YOUR SEAT TODAY!



0507- 225- 190

www.event.ciltgh.org

Professor Nkandu Luo On Way To Becoming Zambia's First Woman President?

By Peter Kayula

Zambia's Patriotic Front (PF) Party owes a measure of its inspiration to the presence a female microbiology professor as a potent force in the Southern African country's politics. It is important therefore to explore her political life, works and the historical strain of an influential voice in President Edgar Chagwa Lungu's presidential campaign and subsequently his running mate.

The former lawyer who leads the race, President Lungu early last month officially announced the appointment of Professor Nkandu Luo as his running mate in the 2021 crucial presidential elections just weeks away, opening up an unexpected debate about the professor's possible future role as the second woman vice-president of Zambia.

A trusted democrat with a proven record of being fiscally modest and (she) believes in freedom to prosper, she turned out to be the most experienced Cabinet minister, President Lungu has ever had, diminishing reported contenders to the vice-presidency such as opposition party leader, Edith Nawakwi, former Lands Minister, Jean Kapata and former First Lady and wife of the late Zambian president Michael Chilufya Sata.

Nkandu Luo, is arguably among the few ministers in President Lungu's administration who has never been summoned by the country's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

While her reputation has at one time faced heady days over her decision to withdraw meal allowances for the students at the two Government Universities, the University of Zambia and the Copperbelt University (which is believed to have been a Cabinet decision), she is still well liked by many Zambians and nearly universally known.

Her backing for President Lungu could help insulate him against any unexpected governance deficiencies



Professor Nkandu Luo is a trusted democrat with a proven record of being fiscally modest .Photo credit FB.

allegations. At the least, she could add more crowd-drawing power to a Lungu campaign, having occupied various ministerial positions such as in the former president and late Fredrick Chiluba's administration, the late President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa administration, former President Rupiah Banda administration and late President Michael Sata and President Lungu administrations.

Professor Nkandu Luo did not immediately respond to requests for an interview. She has previously been difficult to engage in any form of Press interview suggestion she is too involved in the campaign activities.

Born in Chinsali in 1951 Professor Nkandu Luo attended Roma Girls Secondary School and the Dominican Convent. She later attended the Moscow State University in Russia graduating with a Master of Science in Microbiology and later on obtained another Master of Science degree and a PhD in Immunology from Brunei University.

She was elected to Parliament representing the Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD) in the Mandevu Constituency in 1996.

She served as Deputy Minister of Health from 1997 to 1999 and Health Minister in 1999 but lost her seat in the 2001 elections.

Professor Luo was elected as the Patriotic Front the representative for Munali Constituency in 2011. She was appointed as Minister of Local Government and Housing by then President Michael Sata, serving from 2011 to 2014, and then became Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs from 2014 to 2015.

She was sworn in as Minister of Gender by President Edgar Lungu in February 2015. In March 2016, Luo was adopted as President of the Women Parliamentary caucus at the 134th Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference in Lusaka. In September 2016, she became Zambia's Higher Education Minister and later Minister of Fisheries and Livestock, the position she held until President Lungu dissolved Parliament early this year.

It is believed that Professor Nkandu Luo 's personality has been an active factor in the shaping of the Patriotic Front Party's political character. Highly intelligent, proud and acutely sensitive about her status

and rank, she responds mildly to most expressed criticism about her and accompanying these traits are considerable reserves of personal charm, including an infallible memory for people with aspirations for higher education in life, that has won her a devoted following.

In February 2018, a society of local researchers, the Zambia Association of Junior Researchers (ZAJR) made her the woman of the year, praising her as an eloquent lieutenant for the country's scholars and researchers.

This followed her favourable response when the association sought her services as a matron of the researchers' body. Despite her busy schedule, Professor Nkandu Luo responded in a letter dated February 5, 2018:

"I am pleased to inform you that I have accepted to be your Matron to help you realize the vision of your society with the will to help Zambia combat poverty through the promotion of innovative research projects of entrepreneurial nature."

The researchers group is composed of university academicians with a novel task to support and encourage the development of high quality

research in every field of study that has a bias towards the eradication of poverty in Zambia in particular and Africa in general.

Accompanying Nkandu Luo's faith in the progressive character of the country's educational sector has arguably been well demonstrated in her display of mass sentiments about research.

If one was to ask her how it felt to be a country-trotting minister in a country where the clamor for accountability and honesty in public offices are high ... I am sure she would just frown and frown about it.

However, this is probably the time to put up a strong case for a woman likely to go down in history as the person who has rattled, busy as she is, all corners more than any other figure in Zambia, exposing the growing issues and the contributing a political revolutionary that fights for an equal society for all, and who is slowly rising from a former minister to a potential president of Zambia and arguably an international global leader.

To some, it is perhaps surprising that Professor Nkandu Luo, has spent several years in her role of thinking and building a feminism that struggles against inequality poverty,



President Lungu in a chat with his running mate Prof Nkandu Luo. Many see in her a smart choice for his second term.

poor governance and ignorance, among other vices of the society.

Chris Hayes, newly appointed director of the All Africa Alliance, a governance non-governmental Organization (NGO) in East Africa, has described her as "Africa's most upcoming revolutionary who is going to inspire hope for better service

delivery in millions of citizens in the country.

With the crucial Zambia elections just a few weeks away - the 18th time elections since independence in 1964 - the stakes for the ruling Patriotic Front Party are higher than ever.

For now, or later, Professor Nkandu Luo has to get ready to

pay much attention to a number of biographies expected to be published soon of her as one of Africa's topmost "extraordinary women" and as always is the case, she may still have to go up to disapprove some of the opinion to be written about her.





IGBO AMAKA
CULTURAL INSTITUTE
TO FOSTER AND SUSTAIN IGBO LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

OUR HIGHLIGHTS:



IMPLEMENTS IGBO CLASSES IN AMERICA UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES



PROVIDES TRANSLATION SERVICES TO PRIVATE & NON-PRIVATE AGENCIES



HOSTS IGBO EVENTS IN DIASPORA



HOSTS PRIVATE IGBO CLASSES.



PARTNERSHIP WITH UNESCO GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER



NEXT GENERATION OF IGBO PEOPLE

...AND MORE

@ <http://igboamakacultural.org>
✉ igboamakaculturalinstitute@gmail.com
📺 [Igboamakacultural](#)



BRAZIL AFRICA FORUM 2021

NATURAL RESOURCES:
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

REGISTRATION
IS OPEN

November 23rd and 24th



forumbrazilafrika.com



Brazil Africa
Institute

SADC Leaders Agree to Deploy Troops to Mozambique

By Prince Kurupati

On Wednesday, 23 June 2021, country leaders of the 16 Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states met to discuss issues troubling the region. High on the agenda was the Islamist insurgency in Mozambique which according to many reports has left over 2,800 people dead and hundreds of thousands displaced. The resolution reached with regards to the insurgency is to deploy troops to Mozambique.

Soon after the high-level summit, a communiqué was released by SADC executive secretary Stergomena Lawrence Tax which stated that “Summit endorsed the recommendations of the Report of the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation and approved the Mandate for the SADC Standby Force Mission to the Republic of Mozambique, to be deployed in support of Mozambique to combat terrorism and acts of violent extremism in Cabo Delgado.”

The communiqué was however



Better late than never as SADC leaders brace up to join Mozambique in fight against terrorism. Photo credit CGTN Africa.

silent on many things with regards to the arrangement of the deployment. The size and composition of the SADC Standby Force to be deployed

was kept a secret. However according to South African publication Daily Maverick, a technical assessment mission of SADC military experts

“drafted a proposal for a regional force of almost 3,000 troops – comprising three battalions of infantry and two special forces squadrons armed with attack helicopters and warships – to enter Cabo Delgado to ‘combat and neutralize’ the Islamic State-affiliated ‘al-shabaab’ insurgents and expel them from territory they now control.”

In addition to the mystery surrounding the size and composition of the deployment, another mystery pertains to the financing of the whole exercise. There is a general consensus that the deployment will require a lot of resources particularly finance. Though it’s not clear where the finance will come from, it’s believed that South Africa will be the largest contributor of soldiers and equipment. Some analysts that talked with the Daily Maverick said that SADC may be prompted to “tap foreign countries and organizations – most likely the European Union – for financial support.”

The move to deploy forces to Mozambique was welcomed by many individuals in the region who said that the proactive step taken



SADC Executive Secretary Dr Tax.

by the leaders may help to pacify the conflict and possibly prevent it from spiraling into neighboring borders. Liesl Louw-Vaudran a senior researcher at the Institute for Security Studies said, "This is just the first step to a wider solution... This is the first time that... the SADC standby force has mobilized in a counter-terrorism operation which is not peacekeeping. It's a solution that's very complex." However, those closest to Mozambican president Filipe Nyusi according to the Daily Maverick were left surprised as the Mozambican president in the past has shown greater preference of dealing with individual countries or foreign private military companies for military support.

The Islamist insurgency in Mozambique made international headlines recently when the insurgents overran the coastal town

of Palma in the process claiming the lives of dozens including immigrants working at a liquid natural processing plant at Afungi. Soon after the attack, Total the French energy giant which is the lead contractor at Afungi suspended operations citing the high security concerns. There is a belief by some that the move by Total may have forced the hand of Nyusi to accept a SADC standby force.

In addition to the standby force, SADC leaders also agreed to establish a SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre in Nacala, a port town south of Pemba which is the main city in Cabo Delgado. Pemba currently is home to hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons.

At the end of the Summit, SADC executive secretary Dr Tax took time to pay tribute to the just departed former Zambian President

Kenneth Kaunda. In her tribute, she said "Summit expressed deepest condolences to former President Dr Kaunda's family, His Excellency Dr President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the government and the People of the Republic of Zambia following the passing on of HE Dr Kenneth David Buchizya Kaunda, first President of the Republic of Zambia and the last surviving founding father of SADC and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the fore-runner of the African Union (AU)."

Other issues that the Summit discussed include regional food and nutrition security, gender and development, and progress in the regional response to HIV and AIDS and Covid-19 pandemic. With regards to the slow rollout of vaccines in African countries, the Summit agreed to enhance regional capacity in research and the manufacturing of

pharmaceutical and other essential drugs and medicines. It also urged the promotion of traditional and alternative medicine and the development of vaccines. The Summit also took time to review the progress made in the implementation of the theme of the 40th SADC Summit which reads "SADC: 40 Years Building Peace and Security and Promoting Development and Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges".

In attendance at the extraordinary summit were Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi, Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi, DRC President Felix Antoine Tshisekedi, Lesotho Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro, Malawi President Dr Lazuras Chakwera, and the United Republic of Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

A Fight With Big Stakes To Rescue Mozambique

-Rwanda and EU move forward as SADC deployment delayed over Zim-SA fight over who gets to lead

By Jorge Joaquim

Mozambicans' defence and security forces are trying to intensify their operations to hunt down the Islamic State-linked militants in the gas-rich Cabo Delgado province, where the criminals have already killed more than 2 900 lives and displaced around 800 000 people. Work is underway with European, American, and Asian, as well as with Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries to support the Mozambique's efforts to defeat terrorism. As the terrorists attacks continues to evolve in Cabo Delgado, with new tactics and methods of expansive operation, the region remains highly vulnerable to Islamist extremism through porous borders.

Mozambique government is working hard to regain control of the country which is under threat from Islamist Jihadists, which are currently controlling a vast part of Cabo Delgado and continue to wrecked havoc. Mozambique's security forces are out of their depth and inadequate — with



President Nyusi visiting with troops.

no intelligence-gathering capability and a deserved reputation for human rights abuses. They require sustained security assistance from outside

actors. At the third extraordinary summit this year to discuss the insurgency in Mozambique, southern African leaders endorsed

the recommendation to deploy the SADC Standby Force Mission to Mozambique. Further details were not provided.

However, the head of the SADC Standby Force recommended a 3,000-strong military deployment following a visit in April, along with air and naval assets to support the Mozambican military's efforts. The deployment would include a light infantry brigade made up of three battalions of 620 soldiers each, plus a 90-strong brigade headquarters. Two 70-strong special forces squadrons are also called for, as well as a 100-strong engineer squadron and a 120-strong signal squadron.

This month, SADC approved a budget of US\$12 million to put into motion the SADC Standby Force that will support Mozambique in the struggle against terrorism. The money will come from a SADC contingency fund plus a US\$7 million dollar contribution from the member states, for which each country has committed to pay their share by 9 July. The region is under threat and the contribution is a matter of survival.

If that budget is not increased with donations from other sources, it indicates a significantly smaller deployment than the one proposed by the SADC technical team, according to Cabo Ligado analytics. For comparison, they said, in 2013, the South African government estimated that deploying 400 troops to intervene in the Central African Republic would cost over \$7 million in the initial month and about \$2.3 million for



The arrival of foreign troops will help President Nyusi to go on the offensive

each month after that. Deploying a force over seven times that size for \$12 million is not doable, says Cabo Ligado, adding that it is possible that countries and international organizations outside the region who are interested in the conflict could provide external funding to augment the SADC contributions.

Islamic attacks in Mozambique threaten regional stability, South Africa in particular. A group of people arrested in South Africa this July, on suspicion of links to the Islamic State group, are connected to a member of

the jihadist group operating in Cabo Delgado, South African newspaper the Sunday Independent reports, citing an unnamed source. South African police found guns and ammunition when they raided the suspects' house in Maryville, Durban. The suspects are thought to be behind a fatal knife attack at a Durban mosque and a bomb plot in the city, both in 2018. Two of the suspects are said to be linked to the Thulsie twins, South Africans who along with their friend Renaldo Smith were stopped from trying to fly to Syria to join IS in 2015.

Smith later escaped to Mozambique, where he joined the insurgent group known locally as al-Shabaab in May 2018. A senior investigator told the paper that IS was thought to be planning coordinated attacks across South Africa. Investigators are working with the FBI in the United States on the threat.

Foreign troops already on the ground

Rwanda started on 9 July to deploy 1,000 members of its police and armed forces to Cabo Delgado. The troops aim to support efforts to restore Mozambican state authority by conducting combat and security operations, as well as stabilisation and security-sector reform (SSR), according to a statement from the Rwandan government.

Rwanda's forces will work alongside Mozambique's defence and security forces and a deployment from the SADC, which is due to begin on 15 July, according to a letter sent by SADC's executive secretary to the secretary-general of the United Nations on 7 July, seen by Pan African Visions.

The SADC mission will last for a period of three months, which can be extended depending on how the



situation evolves, according to the letter signed by SADC executive secretary Stergomena Tax and addressed to UN chief António Guterres. It is not clear which forces will be part of this first mission and what kind of support they will provide.

Soldiers from Zimbabwe's 5 Brigade are expected to be among the first servicemen to be deployed to Mozambique, according to senior Zimbabwean military sources. The deployment depends on whether the country's president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, agrees to the SADC's mandate to send troops to Mozambique. They would also be joined by some personnel from the country's elite forces. Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi is said to have repeatedly made it clear that he prefers Zimbabwe and Angola to send troops, while South Africa is considered the best option for air support, the website The NewsHawks reports.



Weeks after the SADC recommended a plan to send an international force of nearly 3,000 troops to Cabo Delgado, which Mozambique initially opposed, Nyusi lobbied Zimbabwe for a military support deal between the two countries to fight the insurgency. Nyusi and Mnangagwa had already

discussed the matter ahead of the summit. Zimbabwe has reportedly already had special forces on the ground in Mozambique, following the insurgent attacks on the town of Palma.

SADC member Comoros offered a further hint about the intervention,

when Comoros foreign affairs minister Dhoihir Dhoulkamal pledged during a meeting in Maputo that his country would provide intelligence support through the proposed SADC structure. Dhoulkamal also said that "over time [his government] will clearly define what the contribution will be" to the Standby Force.

South African spies working to access information in the troubled Cabo Delgado province were caught and kept for nine days in Maputo in April. They had their passports and equipment, including drones, confiscated in Maputo, and lost contact with the State Security Agency — and only returned home safely thanks to intervention from security minister Ayanda Dlodlo. Dlodlo and President Cyril Ramaphosa visited Maputo at around the same time, unaware of the failed operation, which was sanctioned by SSA's foreign branch head, Robert McBride, without following the protocol of notifying the Mozambican



The terrorist attacks have taken a huge toll on the economy in Mozambique.

Travel has become easier
with the launch of e-visa
for tourists. Visit Ethiopia...

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Ethiopian



Available on amazon

NEW EDITION!



Inside Rwanda's Army Deployment Into Mozambique Which Angered SADC

By Maniraguha Ferdinand

“We don’t know when this war is going to end, it will depend on the situation” said Rwanda Defence Force spokesperson on 10th July, when the second batch of Rwandan army was departing from Kigali to Mozambican northern province of Cabo Delgado.

It is a part of 1000 person contingent of the Rwanda Defence Force and the Rwanda National Police who went there to fight terrorism and insecurity.

The move surprised many as Rwanda is not a member of Southern African Development Community (SADC) where Mozambique belongs, which had promised before to send its troops.

Rwandan deployment comes after President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique visited Rwanda three months ago, and held bilateral discussions on fighting terrorism with his Rwandan counterpart, Paul Kagame.

None knows the real deal between Rwanda and Mozambique, however a statement issued by Rwanda Defence Force said that the deployment is based on the good bilateral relations between the Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Mozambique.

It is also through Rwanda’s commitment to the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine and the 2015 Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians.

Rwandan troops arrived in Cabo Delgado five days before SADC forces who are awaited in Mozambique on 15th July 2021.

Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat commended Rwanda’s deployment, calling it “a strong and concrete act of African solidarity to support a fellow member State fight terrorism and insecurity”.

Pan African Visions understands that Rwanda will bear the cost of the full mission, but RDC spokesperson declined to disclose to local media



Friends in need, friends indeed. President Kagame stepped up in a big way to support President Nyusi in his fight against terrorism. Photo credit Flickr.

the real cost.

“Wars are expensive but insecurity is more expensive. We believe that resolving this problem in its infancy will prevent other security problems that would rise from it”, Col Rwivanga was quoted as saying.

“Before looking at the cost, let’s look at the lost we get from insecurity”, he added.

Cabo Delgado’s problem caught international attention since March 2021 when terrorists launched attacks on the City of Palma. The attacks claimed lives of dozens including foreign nationals.

The province is known for its rich natural resources including natural gas that attracted French company Total. The company invested billions of dollars, making it one the biggest investment of its kind in Africa.

However, Rwanda’s deployment did not resonate well in SADC where they expected their own troops

to be the ones to arrive early on Mozambican soil.

The extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of SADC which was held on 23rd June, 2021 in Maputo, approved the deployment of SADC Standby Force into Mozambique no later than 15th July 2021.

Rwanda’s earlier deployment angered South Africa, one of SADC big members.

Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa Ngakula told the SABC that it was “unfortunate” that Rwanda had deployed its troops into Mozambique before SADC because it was expected that Rwanda would have gone in under a SADC mandate.

During a visit to military units deployed in Sofala province in central Mozambique on Monday 12th July 2021, President Nyusi opposed those questioning Rwanda’s involvement, citing “We are a sovereign nation and

SADC respects that”.

Nyusi said that he did consult SADC before allowing Rwanda’s troops in and the regional bloc “accepted”.

Rwandan troops’ main mission in Mozambique will be to conduct combat and security operations, as well as stabilization and security-sector reform.

Dr Buchanan Ismail, political analyst and lecturer of political science at the University of Rwanda hailed Rwandan deployment, as it shows that “time has come for Africa to learn how to resolve its own problems including security. We must understand that if we need development, we have to work for it by building strong security institutions”, he said.

Since 2017 more than 3000 people have been killed by jihadists in northern Mozambique while more than 800 000 were forced to flee their homes.

First Compensation Payments Made to White Zimbabwean Farmers who Lost Land during Chaotic Land Reform Program

By Prince Kurupati

Zimbabwe made international headlines at the turn of the millennium when hundreds of white farmers were forcibly removed from their farms. The move by then President Robert Mugabe to confiscate all farming land in the hands of whites without compensation immediately turned Mugabe from a hero into a villain. Almost two decades later with Mugabe gone, his successor Emmerson Mnangagwa agreed to compensate all whites who lost land and the first compensation payments were processed recently.

Earlier on in 2020, the Zimbabwean government led by Emmerson Mnangagwa agreed to compensate all white farmers who lost their land at the height of the fast track land reform implemented during the early 2000s. The agreement to compensate white farmers was reached between the Zimbabwean government and the Commercial Farmer's Union (CFU), the representative body for commercial farmers in the country. In the agreement that was



President Emmerson Mnangagwa (left, rear) was present at the signing ceremony of the agreement for compensation of white farmers. Photo courtesy.

reached between the two parties, the Zimbabwean government committed to a \$3.5 billion deal.

The deliberations by the Zimbabwean government and the CFU were premised on compensating for developments made on the land

rather than 'paying' for the land itself. All farmers who lost their land and were thus looking to benefit from the compensation program were instructed to apply for compensation. The government and the CFU would proceed to assess the developments

made on the land by each applicant and afterwards, agree on the right compensation amount to be paid. Most of the applicants assessed in the early part of 2020 on average were to pocket \$1 million.

Fast forward a year later, the Zimbabwean government recently just proved its commitment to abide by the compensation agreement as it paid \$1 million. The first payment however is a far cry from the \$3.5 billion which the Zimbabwean government promised to pay. In a statement released soon after the first payment of \$1 million was transferred to the farmers, the state linked Kuvimba Mining House said the government is asking for a delay in paying the full amount.

The president of CFU, Andrew Pascoe said that they had heard the cries from the government, "Government asked that the payments be spread out... This (\$1 million payment) represents the first money we have received."

In the earlier agreement, Andrew Pascoe said the government had committed to pay half of the total amount by the end of July 2021. However, the request they received



The farm seizures were carried out when Zimbabwe was under the leadership of President Robert Mugabe. Photo courtesy.

stated that the government wanted that specific part of the agreement to be put on hold for 12 months.

Kuvimba Mining House which made the payment on behalf of the government is a state-linked entity. According to Bloomberg, the Zimbabwean government controls 65% of Kuvimba Mining House "through a 21.5% direct stake and other shareholding via state entities, including a sovereign wealth fund, pension funds and a special purpose vehicle created for farmers whose land was seized".

The CFU through its president Andrew Pascoe said that they were assured of the government's commitment to stick to its word from the word go. This was largely necessitated by the government's decision to make farmers who lost land shareholders in Kuvimba Mining House as well as the agreement to issue 99-year leases. When the

compensation agreement was reached last year, the Zimbabwean government stated that it would raise the compensation money by selling a 30-year bond on global markets.

At the time when the agreement was reached, the CFU president branded it "a miracle" as it marked a different step from the one pursued by the previous Mugabe administration. The Zimbabwean president Emmerson Mnangagwa hailed the agreement as "historic in many respects".

Though the move to award compensation to white farmers was welcomed by both the government and the CFU, it did divide opinion amongst the country's populace. Some saw it as a positive step as it heralded the Mnangagwa administration's endeavors to step out of international isolation. The chaotic fast track land reform which dispossessed white farmers of their land is one of the reasons why Zimbabwe was slapped

with economic sanctions by the West and some international monetary institutions. As such, by agreeing to address the issue and compensate all those affected, some saw the move as positive and a step in the right direction.

Some people however viewed the decision to compensate white farmers as a betrayal of Robert Mugabe's legacy and a retrogressive step in black economic emancipation and empowerment. By compensating white farmers, critics argued that the Mnangagwa administration is bending over to the dictates of the West something which Robert Mugabe would never have entertained.

According to political analyst Alex Magaisa, the decision by the Mnangagwa administration to compensate white farmers no longer has the same weight as it would have if it had been done at least a decade

ago. As such, the suggestions by some that the move would see Zimbabwe step out of international isolation does not hold water. "Ten or fifteen years ago, the issue of compensation would have been much higher on the list of priorities... Today it is no longer one of their most pressing problems," Magaisa said.

In order for Zimbabwe to step out of international isolation, Magaisa said the government need to focus more on other areas such as respecting human rights as that is now the major borne of contention between Zimbabwe and the West and the major reason why sanctions are still in place. "At the end of the day, without attending to the big issues – the human rights issues, the economic mismanagement, the electoral malpractices, political rights violations and so forth – I don't think Zimbabwe will be able to restore the relations that it wants with the Western community."

Why Does DRC Want To Join Ailing East African Community?

By Maniraguha Ferdinand

It has been two years since Democratic Republic of Congo raised its intention to join East African Community (EAC), the bloc which has been marred by conflicts among members in recent years.

DRC has applied to be accepted as a new member, but is yet to be responded so that it can join the community which brings together more than 140 million people.

EAC has recently set up a joint taskforce that will go to Kinshasa to evaluate the country's ability and eligibility to meet community's standards so that it can join.

However, some have expressed fears over Congo's entry to EAC, looking back at its volatile East where insecurity still reigns, with more than a hundred armed groups that have been killing people while displacing others.

A Kinshasa based political analyst, Eloge Mwandwe said that if Congo enters EAC with its nearly 90 million people, will boost community's market.

"The country will enjoy a market of more millions of people. It will enjoy



Since 2018 when Tshisekedi became President of the D.R.C he has been hard at work for his country to join the EAC.

respect from the other members because It will be bringing a market of 100 million people. It will also see three regional organizations fighting to enjoy its larger market namely

ECCAS [Economic Community of Central African States], SADC [Southern African Development Community] and EAC. This situation will give the RDC an upper hand at

the table of negotiations."

The regional bloc that Congo wants to join also is not clean. Members are not at ease for over five years which has stalled some joint

Teddy Kaberuka, a Kigali based economist and analyst said that if Congo's application is approved, benefits are for both sides.

"The more this bloc expands, the more benefits for members especially that EAC target is to become a bigger market. The real benefit lies in getting a new bigger member with many people, It means a big market."

Kaberuka added that any East African member country will enjoy more foreign investments as many investors will be targeting a bigger market of more than 200 million people without any trade barriers.

"An investor will not be looking at Rwanda's only 12 million people, but

more 240 million people", he added. Insecurity that has existed in Eastern parts of Congo are not a big concern for Mwandwe. He says, instead Congo will benefit from cooperation from some of EAC members who's been labeled as insecurity breeders in the East.

"Simply by looking at the EAC's slogan «One people, one destiny», the DRC will reconcile with the countries in the region, some of which have been considered as countries causing insecurity in the eastern part of the country", he said.

Most active and notorious armed group in Congo have their roots from Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi which

are members of EAC.

Report on Congo's eligibility to be accepted in EAC is expected in the end of the year, but many chances will be that it will be accepted due to its geographical location, its people and its enormous natural resources.

Upon his election in 2018, President Felix Tshisekedi vowed to reform Congo by bringing it back on the map of development. He has been proposing to divert a planned Tanzania-Rwanda railway which is in pipeline, so that it can reach Goma, the city which lies at the shore of lake Kivu in the East of Congo.

If it happens, it will ease movement of goods and people which have

been unconnected due to their distant proximity of more than 2400 kilometers from Kinshasa, the capital city.

However, East African Community has it internal wrangles where some members have been in feuds over the course of few years. Since 2017 Rwanda's relations with Uganda deteriorated, Burundi and Rwanda's relations are worse since 2015 though efforts to normalize it have begun. Tanzania and Kenya also have been in economical war, one dumping goods from another, vice versa.

Africa's Richest Man Dangote to Expand into Oil and Gas in Cameroon

By Boris Esono Nwenfor



Cameroon's President Biya awards Nigerian Billionaire Aliko Dangote, Commander of the National Order of Valour.

Africa's richest man with a net worth of \$11.1 billion is looking at expanding his operations in Cameroon as he goes into the oil and gas sector. Cameroon is amongst the seventeen countries in Africa that Dangote is doing business

in. "We have plans to expand our investment to other sectors beginning with oil and gas," Dangote told reporters after meeting Cameroonian President Paul Biya in the capital, Yaounde.

The Dangote group has employed tens of thousands of people across the African continent and thousand in Cameroon with their branch in Cameroon being headed by a Cameroonian, Bertrand Mbouck, one of the youngest heads in the entire

company.

"In cement, we have over 31 thousand people working for us. In Cameroon, we do only cement as all our businesses out of Nigeria are only cement businesses. In Cameroon, we are looking at agriculture and

also gas-based industries. Cameroon has a lot of gas reserves but it has not been tapped and that is the kind of opportunity we are looking for... So we will set up some gas-based industries either petrochemicals or urea plants

Aliko Dangote during his visit received the highest civilian honour in Cameroon – the Commander of the National Order of Valour – from the President of the Republic, Paul Biya. The landmark honour was conferred on Dangote in recognition of his efforts in the infrastructural development of Cameroon and Africa through his cement plants.

The Nigerian billionaire, the founder of the multinational industrial conglomerate Dangote Group, also announced his company is looking at doubling cement production in Cameroon. Dangote opened a 1.5 million-ton cement grinding facility in the central African nation in March 2015 that ended a 40-year French monopoly in the industry.

The factory inaugurated in Cameroon entered service in the first quarter of 2015 after the foundation stone was laid back in 2011. It had an initial capacity of 950,000 tons, with its real capacity, according to its promoter, is three million tons.

«Why we are successful as a group is that we only go into businesses that we know well... The biggest challenge of any company is for you to get into what you do not understand. You



Dangote Cement has excelled in the Cameroon market.

need to have a vision, a road map,» Aliko Dangote said on why the company has been successful as he said that is why we do not go into all sought of business ventures.

«For us, we do not like to go into countries and take foreigners to run the companies. It is always good to have someone who is from that country. The person understands everybody and if there are issues the person can be able to handle the issues and not for the Chairman of the Managing- Director to be going to the country.»

The group's biggest bet yet, a 650,000 barrels per day refinery situated in Lagos is due this year. At

completion, it will rank as the largest on the continent and the biggest single-train facility in the world, Premium Times reported.

Dangote is not only renowned for his business engagements but also his humanitarian gestures. In 2014, the Nigerian government said Dangote had donated 150 million nairas (US\$750,000) to halt the spread of Ebola. In March 2020, he donated 200 million nairas (US\$500,000) towards the fight against the spread of COVID-19 in Nigeria.

“People should have a vision and not put making money at the forefront,” Dangote said in his message to entrepreneurs. “We

have a lot of young people and what they want to do is to jump as fast as possible but it is a gradual process. These days people want to start today; they do not want to crawl but want to start running right away.»

«In terms of humanitarian endeavours, we are spending 70 per cent of the Foundation's spending in Nigeria, 20 per cent in other African countries and 10 per cent outside Africa, like the Cultural Centre which we have \$25 million in New York (USA).»

The Dangote Group was established as a small trading firm in 1977, the same year Dangote relocated to Lagos to expand the company. [6] Today, it is a multi-trillion naira conglomerate with many of its operations in Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia and Togo.

Dangote has expanded to cover food processing, cement manufacturing, and freight. The Dangote Group also dominates the sugar market in Nigeria and is a major supplier to the country's soft drink companies, breweries, and confectioners.

The Dangote Group has moved from being a trading company to be the largest industrial group in Nigeria including Dangote Sugar Refinery, Dangote Cement, and Dangote Flour.



Aliko Dangote, Founder Dangote Group.

Billions at Play

The Future of African Energy and Doing Deals

by NJ AYUK



"There is no stone left unturned in Mr. Ayuk's analysis of Africa and OPEC."

MOHAMMAD SANUSI BARKINDO

Secretary General, OPEC.

"Billions tells us the answer lies in the abundant, accessible and affordable natural gas reserves that dot the continent."

JOÃO MARQUES

Energy analyst and Editor

"Ayuk sees opportunity all around him, and he realizes that appropriate development will solve many of the continent's challenges, including power generation."

ANN NORMAN

General Manager
for Sub-Saharan Africa,
Pioneer Energy

billionsatplay.com



Private Sector, Researchers Team Up To Unlock Africa's Development Potential.

By Peter Kayula

Researchers must help the private sector understand the matrix of Africa's underdevelopment and avail to the business world, information and general statistics required regarding all matters of commercial and industrial interest in order to strengthen the sector's role in unlocking the continent's development potential.

The solution to Africa's underdevelopment does not lie in private sector alone contributing to the continent's development, but rather in their ability to build strong relations with other partners such as academicians, the Lusaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry has announced.

Mr Alexander Lawrence the president of the Chamber explained that if the private sector enforced "better" relationships with researchers, the academicians can help global companies in positioning themselves for the continuing shift in world trade, adapting to how and where they make and sell their goods and services and understanding the need for data and statistics as key players in the global supply chain planning.

He made the remarks during the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Lusaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Zambia and the Zambia Association of Junior Researchers (ZAJR) held on 1st June, 2021, which entails the business sector and academicians working together in collecting and exchanging information and general statistics regarding all matters of commercial and industrial interest and arguably opening up wide the wheels of development in the Southern African country.

Representatives of the two organisations, Mr Lawrence for the Chamber of Commerce and Mr Jestone M'hango the secretary



Alexander Lawrence -Left President of the Lusaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry exchanges documents with Zambia Association of Junior Researchers SG Jestone M'hango

General of the Zambia Association of Junior Researchers, acknowledged the emergence of an excellent opportunity for engagement and pledged to establish networks and decide upon further activities and the degree of involvement in strategic decisions to create connectivity across Africa's investment value chain and cross border trade issues.

Mr Lawrence said it has been the desire of the current Lusaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry executive to begin shifting the spectrum of performance to accommodate researchers and their ideas to the chamber's national agenda.

"We cannot not do it ourselves we need to engage with people such as researchers who are full-time and I am in a hurry to move on with this agenda. We must look at issues such as on how best to engage researchers and Zambian business owners and manufacturers in the supply chain so that the sector becomes the impetus for stimulating development in Zambia. Also crucial to the industry were the questions around training the best practices for the industry and how to create a skilled job force and it is only researchers who can help us here," he stressed.

He further observed that the Lusaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been in the forefront championing value addition, telling researchers, "In 1964, Zambia had the best performing companies in the world. We were performing better than countries like Singapore and China. What did we do wrong to have this mess? What can rely be done to get Zambia out this mess? It is the private sector. The Government is just facilitating, creating the environment and the private sector's obligation is to implement projects capable of generating revenue."

"This is our obligation, if we really want to go further, then we can do it. Researchers must help us understand Government policies, how we can create jobs, how we can take youths out of the streets," Mr Lawrence added.

The imperatives of national development in all spheres may require greater stress on order and stability, and the present prospects for achieving either these goals appear in the most, to have been achieved in in Zambia after signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr M'hango explained that, "we are very excited signing this collaboration

with the Lusaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and we pledge commitment to work together for the benefit of the citizens in Zambia as well as in Africa. Research is the backbone of any country's economy and we are eager to provide the statistics and information required.

He observed that the promotion of quality research findings (information and general statistics) to the private sector in agreed areas of study would strengthen both local and international trade.

The areas of collaboration between the chamber of commerce and the researchers include, among others, the promotion of quality research findings and business that small focus on economic and business development in agreed areas of study. To strengthen both local and international trade by organising exhibitions, conferences, seminars and workshops in business and research.

Others include promoting development in trade, commerce and industrial activities both locally and internationally and to act as a liaison between the private sector, the government and local authorities. To provide in the public interest a communication medium for reaching the community with programs in the areas of business, industry, commerce, education, culture and information Technology. To collect information and general statistics regarding all matters of commercial and industrial interest.

The two organisations will also work together in promoting high standards of business ethics and practice, have access to documents/materials relevant to the research study as well as the exchange of information and support to members in addressing the national economic development agenda.

APO Group Remains The Largest & Most Trusted Provider Of Corporate News Content In Africa- Founder and Chairman Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard

By Ajong Mbapndah L

Despite the challenges and chaos created by COVID-19, the African Press Organization -APO is waxing strong and remains the largest and most trusted provider of corporate news in Africa says its Founder and Chairman Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard.

"We have actually grown significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Both our Public Relations and press release distribution business units have seen higher demand, with a 30% increase in the volume of press releases distributed by APO Group in 2020," Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard affirms in an interview with PAV.

Beyond the growing volume of its press releases distributed, the vitality of the APO is also seen in the high-profile partnerships it continues to sign with corporate entities and sporting establishments and institutions of global repute. Under the astute leadership and strategic vision of Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard, the APO has inked partnerships with Getty Images and European and French football giants Olympic Marseille.

"For us, sports represents one of the best ways of supporting development in Africa, so our interest in working with major African sporting organizations and federations is not a new thing," says Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard in the interview which also covered current challenges and media trends across Africa.

Thanks for accepting to grant this interview, the APO under your leadership just signed a partnership with Olympic Marseille, could you shed some light on this new partnership for us?

Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard : Olympique de Marseille (OM) has the strongest links to Africa of any elite football club in Europe. They



Both our Public Relations and press release distribution business units have seen higher demand, says Founder and Chairman Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard.

are also one of the most iconic clubs for Africa's millions of passionate football fans. The work OM does for grass roots sport in Africa is fantastic and APO Group shares OM's vision for using sports to promote development across the continent – particularly when it comes to young people. Partnering with Olympique de Marseille is a great way to showcase some of the positive stories that are coming out of Africa every day.

Olympique Marseille is household name in French and European football, may we know how this partnership was conceived and what does it mean for African football?

Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard : It is hard to over-estimate the role OM has played in African football over the years. You only need to look at some of the African players that have played for the club: Global stars like Abedi Pelé, Didier Drogba and Mamadou

Niang have blazed a trail, and now dozens of African players compete in Europe's top leagues. This, in turn, makes African national teams more prominent and competitive on the world stage. We want to help OM continue this positive trajectory. Our network is at their disposal, and this means stories about their initiatives will reach new audiences in Africa and beyond. News of training camps, schools, academies and fan zones are helping to demonstrate OM's commitment to Africa. Other European clubs might be reaching out to the lucrative Asian and American markets, but OM is the only elite club that is making Africa a priority. It is their -only- area of focus.

In addition to the partnership with Marseille, the APO has a stake in Rugby, it has a partnership with Basketball Africa, what is the logic behind this pivot towards sports for the

APO?

Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard : For us, sports represents one of the best ways of supporting development in Africa, so our interest in working with major African sporting organizations and federations is not a new thing. We have been the Main Official Sponsor of World Rugby's African association, Rugby Africa, since 2017, and have seen a huge rise in the popularity of the sport right across the continent. More people in Africa are playing rugby than ever before, and that is only going to grow as a result of the international exposure we are helping to generate. We are also the exclusive Pan African communications consultancy for the NBA in Africa and the Basketball Africa League – and we are a sponsor of Team Qhubeka NextHash, the only professional African cycling team on the UCI World Tour. These relationships enable us to promote health, education, peace, violence prevention, and gender

equality for every African, particularly youngsters and people from deprived areas. Sport has a unique power to bring people together, so clearly it is a major priority for us.

The APO was also in the news for a partnership with Getty images, may we get more insights on this as well and what impact it could have on the media landscape in Africa?

Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard: Our partnership with Getty Images has been important on a number of levels. It has been a real game-changer in press release distribution, in that we are now able to deliver not just images, but text content too through one of the biggest and most renowned media organizations in the world. Getty Images has more than a million global subscribers, so our content about Africa has the potential to reach further than ever before. That is crucial in our mission to change international perceptions about Africa.

How important is the partnership with Getty Images in fostering the overall vision that the APO has?



From Left to Right Olympique de Marseille Managing Director, Laurent Colette, and APO Group Founder and Chairman, Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard.

Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard: It is hugely important. Our overall mission is to change the narrative about Africa, and show people around the world what a fantastic, richly diverse continent it is. For too long, Africa has been synonymous with negativity. The only stories being

told were about conflict and poverty. Since we started out in 2007, we have been trying to turn those perceptions around. We have built up a network of hundreds of clients, many of whom are multinational organizations operating in Africa. The stories they have to tell – along with news about

African business, and the sporting endeavours I have already mentioned – are showing the world that we have a continent we can all be proud of. Getty Images is carrying that message far and wide, giving their subscribers in newsrooms all over the world a clearer picture of the 'real' Africa.



In terms of business, how did the APO navigate the challenges posed by COVID 19, what impact did it have for the APO as a business entity?

Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard : We have actually grown significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Both our Public Relations and press release distribution business units have seen higher demand, with a 30% increase in the volume of press releases distributed by APO Group in 2020. The pandemic has changed the way companies and institutions communicate. Even before COVID, we were seeing a shift in the mix of communications spend, with businesses allocating less budget to advertising, and more to Public Relations. COVID has simply accelerated that. APO Group is the largest and most trusted provider of corporate news content in Africa. The media knows us, and that gives our

The APO has been the Main Official Sponsor of World Rugbys African association, Rugby Africa, since 2017, and have seen a huge rise in the popularity of the sport right across the continent.



For Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard, the partnership with Getty images is a game changer.

clients a big boost when we distribute news on their behalf. Let's not forget that the APO acronym stands for 'African Press Organization'. We are the credible channel they need to attract media coverage and get their message out during these unprecedented times.

Could you sum up the engagement that the APO had with diverse stakeholders in supporting and strengthening the African response to COVID 19?

Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard : At the beginning of the pandemic, we set up our APO Group Coronavirus Initiative for Africa. We are in the privileged position of being able to facilitate many aspects of the African response to the crisis, as we have access to a vast network of African and international media, and are also a trusted partner for hundreds of multinational organizations operating in Africa. One of the first things we did was to offer pro bono press release distribution for governments and health agencies looking to reach the public with vital information

about the pandemic. To date we have distributed more than 12.000 announcements from authorities all over Africa. We have worked closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Africa and the African Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), coordinating regular online press conferences and making introductions to some of our prominent clients. We also joined the UNESCO Global Coalition for Education where our job is to help UNESCO in making sure that children in Africa are able to return to school, and given opportunities to access remote learning. Above all, we have seen it as our responsibility to deliver critical – and sometimes life-saving – information to people in all 54 African countries.

From the vantage position you have, what do you make of the role played by the media in the African response to COVID 19, what was done right and what could have been done better in the challenging circumstances?

Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard : I think the pandemic has provided

the media with an opportunity to reclaim some of the trust that has been lost in recent times. The value of real, impactful journalism has been diminished, and people have lost their trust in traditional news values. But in times of crisis, people need reassurance, and a strong, reliable line of communication that has both credibility and authority. That's when they turn back to national newspapers and broadcasters – and away from the chatter and noise of social media. The pandemic has reminded us all that responsible journalism is a vital tool in fighting misinformation and division.

In the face of the hardship that most media networks are going through, any recommendations or survival tips from the seasoned professional you are?

Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard: Media in Africa face many challenges, not least from the competition provided by multinational counterparts taking up audience share and advertising revenue. If major international news outlets are operating alongside local publications and broadcasters, they

struggle to compete for the best talent. It is not really a fair competition. Of course, you want to encourage young journalists to go out and get the best deal and work at the top publications – but in the end that is detrimental to the local African media that was here first. My hope is that the two can coexist – but for that to happen, local media needs to be supported, invested in and protected.

What next for the APO in the months and years to come, any other big projects or partnerships in view?

Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard : We have another big announcement coming soon relating to sport in Africa, and we are currently working on several new media relations services that are specific to broadcasting in Africa. At the same time, we continue to build and innovate when it comes to technology. By June 2022 we will look to unveil a revamped fully digital press release distribution platform, which makes the user experience rewarding and insightful for both our clients using the platform, and the media who receive the content. _____



Aviance welcomes
United Airlines to Accra

Akwaaba



#StrongerTogether

Cameroon's New Biometric Passport Goes Operational

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

The new biometric passport in Cameroon has gone operational with officials hailing the new travel document as a «technological advancement» that will bring to an end the long queue that is usually seen in acquiring documents in the country.

According to officials, Cameroon is embarking on the path of modernity and reliability with the most striking example of this change being the manufacturing of passports within 48 hours.

“The commissioning of this passport will thus put an end to the difficulties currently encountered by users in the process of obtaining passports,” Secretary-General of the General Delegation for National Security, (DGSN) Police Commissioner Dominique Baya said.

To accommodate this new process the country has launched its new national passport production Centre in the nation's political capital, Yaoundé. The centre will produce biometric passports 48 hours after the online registration of the applicant has been made. This production time is subject to the applicant not having any complaints on his/her documents according to authorities.

The cost of these new passports has however been increased from CFAF 75,000 to CFAF 110,000 and between 1500 to 2000 passports can be produced each day at this new centre.

The first 80 passports were issued on Friday, July 2 by the Cameroonian police chief, to the great cheer of some applicants who hitherto waited between 6 months and 2 years to obtain a passport.

“I did my pre-enrollment on June 31 in Bafoussam, and I had no difficulties. It was so smooth and swift. It didn't take up to 10 minutes. Today I'm in here, and the way I was welcomed is so encouraging. I appreciate the officers a lot.” Ruth



Cameroon's new passport went operational July 1 at the cost of 110,000 FCFA

Ayuk, a resident in Bafoussam said.

“I pray that it should continue this way in our nation. This procedure is very reassuring and stress-free. I want to assure you that there will not be any corruption.”

“I registered on Wednesday, June 30 and I was led to come here. I came here in the morning and I was warmly

welcomed, after which I was told to present my documents. Then I had a snapshot. In about 5 minutes I was done, and issued a receipt,” Hilary Ntobu Yeto said. “I think this process is faster and quicker. I'm waiting for a message to tell me my passport is ready.”

To Ibrahim Nyoya: “I did my pre-

enrollment for the biometric passport on June 28 and I was given an appointment for today. When I came, I was received at the reception, and handed originals and photocopies of my documents. I was then called into the booth where I was asked a few questions. Then I was asked to sign two times, after which I was told everything is ok. I have been asked to come in two days for my passport. It is very wonderful.”

«The passports of applicants are produced in 48 hours at the earliest and packed for transport to the enrollment posts of those concerned» Martin Mbarga Nguelé, Delegate General for National Security said about the process.

The INCM-AUGENTIC Consortium is managing this new system in the country. The company will make use of the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) for 10 years before transferring it to the Cameroon government. Enrollment for the passport will be done online with new payment methods being that of credit cards or Mobile Money. The new production system is equipped with machines that have a daily production of 1500 passports in normal production and 2200 passports in optimal production.

The issuance procedure will take place in four stages such as online pre-enrollment through the DGSN Website from an android phone or internet café; Enrollment in the centre chosen by the applicant which requires the physical presence of the applicant; Passport production; all data of passport applicants will be securely transferred to the servers of the production centre in real-time.

The government of Cameroon is also looking at setting up these centres in each of the 10 regions of the country where the passports can be collected at convenience by successful applicants.



Cameroon's new passport went operational July 1 at the cost of 110,000 FCFA

A Touch of Israeli Technology For Development In Rural Areas With Innovation Africa

-Q & A with Innovation Africa CEO Sivan Ya'ari

By Ajong Mbapndah L

For the past 13 years, Innovation Africa has been working across the African continent providing rural communities with access to clean water and solar power using Israeli technology. To date, Innovation Africa has completed over 500 solar and water projects and aims to complete an additional 2,000 projects over the coming 5 years. Innovation Africa CEO Sivan Ya'ari sheds light on the work and vision of the non-profit organization in a Q&A with PAV.

What is Innovation Africa, for how long has it been in existence and what was the vision or logic behind its creation?

Sivan Ya'ari: Innovation Africa is a non-profit organisation that brings Israeli solar, water and agricultural technologies to rural African villages. Access to solar energy can transform a community and since its establishment in 2008, Innovation Africa has brought light to schools and medical centers and provided access to clean water to nearly 3 million people across 10 African countries.

In what parts of Africa does Innovation Africa has operations in and how is the choice of countries made?

Sivan Ya'ari: Innovation Africa has projects across 10 African countries: South Africa, eSwatini, Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Cameroon, DRC, Senegal and Ethiopia. Tanzania was where the first Innovation Africa project was completed and from there, my team and I progressed village by village, identifying communities without access to energy and/or clean water. Innovation Africa has expanded to new countries, based on the needs of the populations and where the organization can establish local



Innovation Africa has brought light to schools and medical centers and provided access to clean water to nearly 3 million people across Africa, says Sivan Ya'ari. Photo credit Facebook.

teams of engineers, field officers and managers.

May we know the kind of reception Innovation Africa has received across the continent and may we have specific examples of projects that have been carried out across the continent?

Sivan Ya'ari: Innovation Africa has been warmly welcomed in the countries where we operate. We establish relationships with relevant ministers, ambassadors, regional commissioners, and other such representatives to help identify communities in critical need of our assistance and those which are not currently supported by the local governments. In schools and health centers, Innovation Africa provides solar energy to provide light to the classrooms, clinics, and staff homes as well as to power laptops, projectors, solar vaccine refrigerators and other

essential medical devices. Children are now able to study at night, have access to quality education and succeed academically. With access to light, doctors and nurses are able to provide improved medical treatment, deliver babies and perform operations safely at night. Access to clean water transforms a village and we see the community thrive, with improved health, elimination of waterborne diseases, improved food security, and establish income-generating opportunities. To date, Innovation Africa has completed over 500 solar and water projects and aims to complete an additional 2,000 projects over the coming 5 years.

Could you tell us what impact projects of Innovation Africa have had on the lives of people in countries you have operations in?

Sivan Ya'ari: Without access to energy and water, there is no access to quality education, safe medical

treatment and, most critically, clean water. At Innovation Africa, throughout the 500 villages we have worked in, we have seen the impact that access to light and water has on communities and individual. In schools, solar energy increases the level of education students receive as they can study under the light and learn on laptops for the first time. In health centers, doctors are able to operate safely at night and use medical equipment including solar refrigerators to securely store vaccines and medicines. Most importantly, in villages, access to clean water transforms communities by improving their health and hygiene. Children no longer need to search for water, enabling them to return to school. Access to clean water creates food security, empowers women, and develops economic independence. In turn, this is helping to break the cycle of poverty and reduces inequalities.

You are of Israeli descent; may we know what triggered your interest in Africa?

Sivan Ya'ari: The first time I visited Africa; I was only 20 years old. I was working in a factory for Jordache Jeans in Madagascar, and this was the first time I saw real poverty. I grew up poor, but the poverty I witness there was on a different level. While in Madagascar, I had the chance to spend time with women and children from a nearby village. One night, they took me to a medical center. Here, I saw women waiting to give birth in complete darkness. Doctors could not treat their patients. The only light was a candle and a small kerosene lamp. I then understood that without energy, medical centers can't store vaccines and medications, people can't access the water that exists just meters beneath their feet, and without water, people cannot drink, they cannot grow food, children are unable to attend school as they spend their days searching for water. By simply harnessing the energy of the sun, we can make a real and immediate change.

What impact has the COVID-19 had on the activities of Innovation Africa?

Sivan Ya'ari: In light of COVID-19, we understood now, more than ever,

the need and urgency to power medical centers and provide clean water to as many communities as possible. After all, how can we ask communities to clean their hands without access to clean water? Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Innovation: Africa continued its work and secured essential worker permits for our local employees to ensure that we are able to continue with our projects and help combat the spread of the virus. In 2020 alone, Innovation Africa doubled its impact and completed 206 projects, impacting the lives of over 1 million people.

What are some other challenges that Innovation Africa has faced in the course of its mission?

Sivan Ya'ari: Naturally, my team and I have learnt a lot and faced manage challenges over the years. At the beginning, one challenge we faced was that after installing solar energy at a school, the community refused to use it, as they believed in the practices of witchcraft and feared that this system would be detrimental to them. From this we learnt how crucial it is to engage with a community, to truly understand the cultural needs and practices.

Yet, as opposed to challenges that we have faced, Innovation: Africa focuses on the lessons we have learnt.



Founder and CEO, Sivan Ya'ari, on her most recent field trip to Tanzania where she visited projects and oversaw construction practices. Photo credit iA.

It is important to always be innovative and open to new technologies that are always developing. The lesson to take away, is to never stop growing. We must work in a fast-paced environment and be creative problem solvers. For example, thanks to our Chief Engineer, Meir Yaacoby, we have developed the "Energy Box" which has the capacity to light an entire school and medical center from one streamlined system. We use lithium-ion batteries and special LED light bulbs that are made in Israel and can last 50,000 hours. This creates sustainability and efficiency while being cost effective. We are now beginning to install all our solar projects with this new technology we developed in-house. We have to constantly innovate.

May we know the nature of relations between Innovation Africa and governments in countries that you operate, how helpful have governments been in helping Innovation Africa carry out its mission?

Sivan Ya'ari: Whilst we are a non-governmental organization, in all the countries we operate, Innovation: Africa has established strong and positive relationships within the governments. On a local level, our local Innovation Africa teams meet regularly with the district and regional ministers to discuss government

plans and share the projects that Innovation: Africa is carrying out so as not to duplicate our efforts and provide energy and/or clean water to communities which the government already plans to assist. On a regional level, Innovation Africa works closely with the country's ambassadors to help establish positive relations and share the work we are doing across our countries of operation.

Could you shed some light on your upcoming tour to Africa, why the tour at this point and what countries do you plan to visit?

Sivan Ya'ari: I am currently in Tanzania for a field visit and a donor trip and plan to visit Zambia, Malawi, and Cameroon over the coming months.

What next after the tour and the rest of the year, any big announcements, or projects in gestation that you would like to make public through Pan African Visions?

Sivan Ya'ari: In 2021, Innovation: Africa is working hard to complete over 200 solar and water projects and we have set the ambitious goal of bringing clean water and light to an additional 2,000 villages over the next 5 years, impacting the lives of 10 million people.



Sivan Ya'ari turning on the taps in Mandela Village, Tanzania with partners Water4Mercy. 4,700 people drank clean water for the first time in their lives, says Innovation Africa. Photo credit iA.



THE SONS OF THUNDER

AN AMERICAN ODYSSEY

OKEY SAMUEL MBONGU

**BOOK LAUNCH
&
FILM SCREENING**

**SEPTEMBER
4th, 2021**

**4:30 PM-
8:00PM**

**SPECIAL GUESTS
From**

**Washington DC,
Los Angeles
&
New York**

VENUE

**Aroma Ultra Lounge
4000 Town Center
Bldv
Bowie, MD**

**.Red Carpet
.Networking
.Refreshments**

**.Author Intro/Interview
.Short Film Premiere
.After-Party**

**ALL RSVP's
Through Eventbrite**

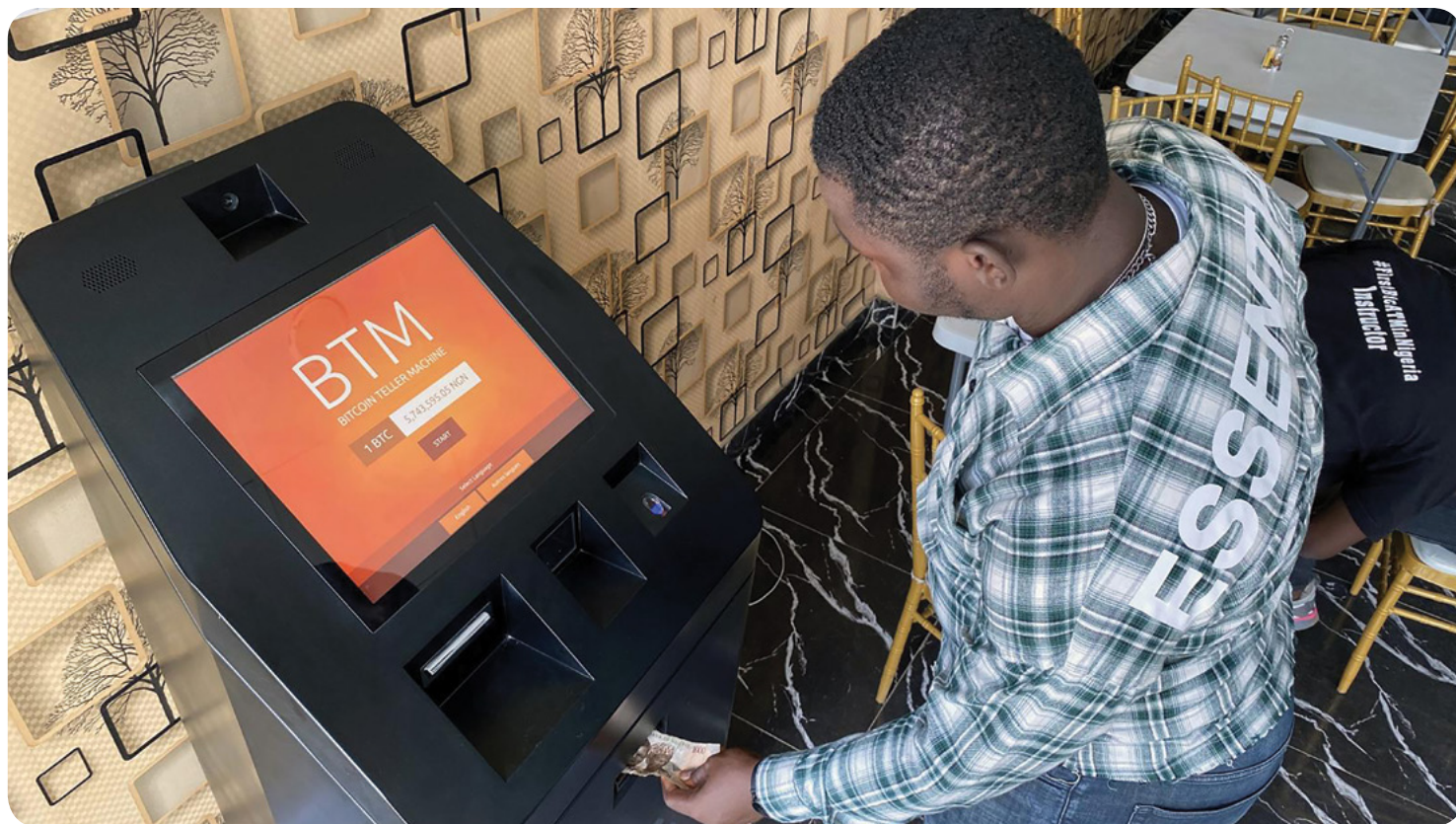


AN ELEGANT EVENING

Bitcoin 'Virus' Scales New Heights In Africa

... as a local NGO questions the direction of Information and Communication Technology and how it is affecting social and economic development on the continent.

By Peter Kayula



A bitcoin user buying bitcoin on a teller machine. Photo credit Reuters.

The Bitcoin's important underlying technology block chain has finally gotten its roots in Africa, but negatively turning the spotlight on the continent on the global stage as a haven of world's largest cryptocurrency online business.

According to details on the Facebook account pages tracked over a long period, an average of 157 people (more of women than men) on daily basis in Africa were coming in fast as key players in the online money-making business, sending messages and pictures inviting people to join them as they arguably portray strong perceptions about the financial and emotional rewards of the business.

One lady from South Africa, among others, posted on various people's Facebook accounts "I have been helping South Africans and Zambians with the bitcoin stuff and I have been really impressed with my work. I

know you are bit skeptical about all this and about investing your money. Well let me enlighten you that you are not sending me any money or sending money to anyone, but you are depositing your money in your own account which you will create and only you will be able to access it Contact me."

Another lady from Pretoria, South Africa, posted insisting, "It is a global marketing platform that offers clients the opportunity to mine in binaries and make profit. It an online earning skill contact me about more of this."

Another lady in Canada says, "Alight it is good to know you. This is what I do when Iam less busy about smartpayearners 247 investment platform which makes me earn great weekly income. All of us need such opportunity. I would like to tell you about it. Give me your WhatsApp number."

While a picture of an elderly women

has been posted with remarks, "Iam from United Kingdom but currently living in California. Iam married with two kids and Iam a trader. I work for a crypto company. Contact me by giving me your WhatsApp number."

A gentleman calling himself a businessman on a business trip in United Kingdom says in details posted on various people's Facebook accounts in Africa: "Iam working on online trading sir, and I would like you to join me. It is an investment platform were you invest your little money and it will generate good wins and profit returned after seven days of successful trade. All you need to do is to start investing through your wallet smartphone and start-up capital You can start with only \$200 If you are interested you can help me with your WhatsApp number."

This online money making frenzy comes less than a month after a non-governmental Organization in Kenya

published an explosive two-part article about what it called "daylight online fraud" and called for regional urgent action from stakeholders over the deepening crisis of cryptocurrency business in Africa.

Mr Chrispin Adenia president of ICT Innovations and Solutions in Africa made the remarks in a synopsis of the same article to be presented during a high level meeting on the "Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries," to be held in November this year.

"This online money making business has become the number one fraud in the world and it will be worse in Africa. It is therefore high time to address this seriously and decisively", he said.

He explained that the low and middle income countries now experience a huge burden with regard to the direction of information and Communication technology and how

it is affecting social and economic development on the continent.

Mr Adenia is not alone in his sceptism as he joins other key information and Communication Technology actors, business leaders, private sectors representatives, economists and fund managers who have questioned Bitcoin's legitimacy and have called for good leadership, governance and investment for information and Communication Technology.

In March 2019, billionaire Investor Warren Buffet insisted that the potential in the Bitcoin's important underlying technology block chain is a delusion as it has no basis of changing people's lives, explaining that Bitcoin has lost more than 80 percent of its value since reaching a record high of near \$20,000 at the end of 2017.

Doubling down on his Bitcoin criticism, Mr Buffet, the Berkshire

Hathaway Chief Executive Officer(CEO) told the CNBC 's Becky Quick in "Squawk Box" interview in March 2019, "Bitcoin has no unique value at all. It is a delusion basically."

According to an article published by CNBC, Mr Buffet said he is sympathetic to optimists who bought the world's largest cryptocurrency in the hopes that it would change their lives. "Bitcoin has lost more than 80 percent of its value since reaching a record high of near \$20,000 at the end of 2017."

"It attracts charlatans," Buffet said, "If you do something phony by going out and selling something, there is no money in it – but when you get into Wall Street, there is huge money," he explained.

Speaking ahead of the Berkshire Hathaway annual shareholders meeting in March the same year, Mr Buffet, who has been a long-time

critic of cryptocurrency, told the CNBC, Bitcoin is "probably rat poison squared."

He did not point to the potential in the Bitcoin's important underlying technology block chain, but said its success does not depend on cryptocurrency.

Other business leaders, including Bill Gates, economist, Nouriel Roubini and Robert Shiller and fund managers, Ray Dalio and Howard Marks are among those who have questioned Bitcoin's legitimacy.

According to the CNBC article, JP Morgan Chief Executive Officer Jamie Dimon, has also been a vocal critic of Bitcoin yet early in 2019, JP Morgan became the first major banker to launch its own proprietary cryptocurrency for cross border payments.

As the global financial industry continues to digitalize, transform

and reinvent itself, the proliferation of Information and communication Technology (ICT) related projects to support development in Southern countries are now emerging as important innovators and actors in the global development and adoption of Information and Communication Technology for the community and economic growth will have to co-exist with this transformation process.

A good example can be seen with how Kenya has been leading the world with the mobile payment for several years. The mobile payment such as Mpesa and Airtel money has supported micro-financing services and transformed economic activities and lives within local communities, but the effect of the Bitcoin project offers a threatening setting for reverse of innovation stimulating critical discussions on the facets of creating a better world.

After Mismanagement Scandal, HRW Implores IMF To Make Cameroon Loan Contingent On Anti-Corruption

By Andrew Nsoseka

Human Right Watch in its latest report on alleged mismanagement and embezzlement scandal of the FCFA 180 billion loaned from the IMF by Cameroon to Combat the COVID-19 pandemic, has urged the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund, IMF to ensure that a three-year loan sought by Cameroon is used to meet its human rights obligations and not lost to corruption.

Senior business and human rights researcher at Human Rights Watch, Sarah Saadoun made the call recently on June 18, 2021.

HRW of recent, has been keen on Cameroon, ever since the country obtained a huge loan from the IMF, to use in funding activities aimed at mitigating the effects and spread of the COVID-19 in the country. However, the outfit observed that Cameroon failed to live up to most of the engagements it took it took, as the money was managed in very untransparent ways.

This spurred HRW and other



Scientific Research Minister Madeleine Tchuente is under severe criticism for the handling of COVID 19 funds in her ministry.

human rights organisations to sound the whistle on Cameroon, prompting an audit into how the funds were used. The the Supreme State Audit unveiled whitespread mismanagement, that has warranted several ministers to be grilled by investigators on how they used the funds. The investigations are still ungoing, but much has been unveiled, especially the shaddy award of contracts to certain companies, overbilling, award of fictitious contracts and other mismanagement scandals.

The recent HRW outing calling on the IMF to make loans to Cameroon contingent on anti-currupction was made following IMF's May 27 statement that it had reached a staff agreement for the loan "to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic,"

"The IMF approved a second emergency loan in October last year, and now appears poised to approve a third, larger program, without addressing this fundamental lack of transparency despite serious allegations of mismanagement and corruption," said HRW.

According to the rights group, the loan should require the government to make its spending fully transparent, conduct a comprehensive independent audit of its COVID-19 spending to date, and hold anyone responsible for corruption accountable.

"The IMF Board is voting on its third loan to Cameroon since the start of the pandemic amid a COVID-19-related corruption scandal and violent crisis roiling the country's English-speaking regions with a devastating impact on people's right to health," Sarah Saadoun said.

She added that "When badly-needed aid is being squandered or stolen, it would be irresponsible for the IMF to approve another loan without safeguards to ensure that the money goes where it is intended."

Why Cameroon Came To The Spotlight

Following the request of this loan



Health Minister Dr Malachie Manaouda has so many questions to answer.

which the IMF is poised to approve, the IMF said it needed to know how the previous loans of over FCFA 200 billion was managed before granting another. Owing to that, Cameroon's President, Paul Biya ordered for an audit on the management of the funds.

The IMF required the government to publish information about the contracts it awarded, including the names of all of the companies' actual owners before awarding the second loan. However, that disclosure is not accessible from any government website, it has not been updated since the approval of that loan, and the quality of information is poor, said HRW.

A Supreme Court audit report which was initially leaked to the press shows that close to ten of the 24 government Ministers who received portions of the money, may have mismanaged the money meant for the fight against COVID-19.

Before borrowing the money, the government made specific commitments to the IMF to use the funds transparently and accountably.

However, Cameroon government's

Covid-19 spending has been marred by secrecy and credible allegations of widespread mismanagement and corruption.

The audit report showed that the funds were mismanaged through overbilling, non-respect of norms awarding contracts and that some COVID-19 protective equipment was never delivered among others.

HRW cited the audit report saying it found that the government requisitioned 32 hotels for 1,028 people who needed to be quarantined but has not repaid about FCFA 200 million in expenses incurred by the hotels, deepening their financial distress from the pandemic.

According to HRW, the IMF did not specify the amount or detail any concrete measures to address corruption other than saying that "effective enforcement of the anti-corruption legal framework will also be critical."

"The IMF's attention to corruption has spurred Cameroonian officials to take small steps on transparency and accountability," Saadoun said. "But faced with evidence of widespread mismanagement and corruption,

those efforts are insufficient, and the IMF should insist on much more.

Though apparently happy with the baby steps of holding authorities to account, HRW say recent events "hint at the serious difficulties with holding corrupt Cameroonian officials accountable." It cited the breaking into heavily guarded government offices recently, which media reports said was orchestrated to steal evidence and files to frustrate the ongoing investigations.

HRW stated that if the Cameroon government had kept its part of the bargain and published reports regularly for the sake of transparency, the mismanagement of the borrowed funds would have been identified and the situation controlled.

Some 24 ministries received the FCFA 180 billion, to fight COVID-19. However, some of those accused of mismanaging the money, claim that the said money did not reach them, thus prompting another fear that the money might have been diverted to other things or projects other than those for which the loan was obtained for.

 MERCK FOUNDATION

Make your own mask
Fashion Awards 2021

At Merck Foundation, we believe in the power of creativity and innovation. We are looking for young designers to create a new fashion collection for the Merck Foundation Fashion Awards 2021. The winning designer will receive a cash prize and the opportunity to showcase their collection at the Merck Foundation Fashion Awards 2021.

Call for Application
Last Date of Submission
30th SEP 2021

Call for Application 30th SEP 2021

How to apply
Please email your design to info@merckfoundation.org

For more information
Please visit our website www.merckfoundation.org

For more information
Please visit our website www.merckfoundation.org

For more information
Please visit our website www.merckfoundation.org

www.merckfoundation.org

MERCK FOUNDATION
"Mask up with care"
MEDIA RECOGNITION AWARDS 2021

Prizes:
 The winners of the contest will receive a cash prize of 1000 € and a high-quality mask. The winners will be announced on the website of the Merck Foundation.

Entry:
 All students and staff of the University of Duisburg-Essen are eligible to enter the contest. The contest is open to all students and staff of the University of Duisburg-Essen.

How to enter:
 Entries can be submitted via email to: submissions@merck-foundation.com

Deadline:
 The deadline for entries is 31.12.2021.

Prizes:
 The winners of the contest will receive a cash prize of 1000 € and a high-quality mask. The winners will be announced on the website of the Merck Foundation.

Entry:
 All students and staff of the University of Duisburg-Essen are eligible to enter the contest. The contest is open to all students and staff of the University of Duisburg-Essen.



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

Call for Application

Why are we applying?
 All African film makers and filmmakers are invited to create and share their art in an extraordinary and unique setting, and influential messages in health, infectious diseases, and in Engineering, Health and Women through film-making, and all of these.

Last Date of Submission
 20th August 2021

How to Apply?
 Please email your work to hr@merck-foundation.com or info@merck-foundation.com

The subject line of the email should contain:
 Merck Foundation Film Awards "More Than a Mother" 2021
 Please include your name, institution name and contact details in the email.

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress
Prizes	10000 USD	5000 USD	2000 USD

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes	Gold Award	Silver Award	Best Actress

[illegible]

 **Merck Foundation**

Call For Application
Merck Foundation FASHION AWARDS
"More than a Mother" 2021
For Open Classes

Who are we looking for?
We are looking for mothers who are engaged in creating a vision and their mission is better living and contributing to the community. We are looking for mothers who are engaged in social service and community work.

When is the deadline?
30th August 2021

How to Apply?
Please share your original stories in pdf format
edwin@merck-foundation.com

The Submitter of the best story receives Merck Foundation "More than a Mother" 2021 award.

Please specify your name, motherhood class, and contact details in the mail.



www.merck-foundation.com



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

Who can apply?
 All African Singers and Musical Artists are invited to create and share a 30/90 sec MP3 with the #AfricanSingersSOWS and Winners Through Education and a lot more.

Last Date of Submission
20th August 2021

How to Apply?
 Please share your work as an Audio File or YouTube link on askinfo@merck-foundation.com

The Subject line of the mail should mention
Merck Foundation Song Awards "More Than a Mother" 2021
 Please specify your name and contact details in the mail.

Prize Money:

Goldstar	Silver Star	Bronze Star	Best Artist
1000000	500000	250000	100000

 [Facebook](#)
 [Twitter](#)
 [Instagram](#)
 [YouTube](#)



Senator, Dr. Rasha Kelej
CEO of Merck Foundation

Reforming Secondary And Higher Education Curriculum In Africa

By: John Nkemnji, Ph.D.*

In a previous issue of Pan African Visions, «RECONSTRUCTING PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM IN AFRICA,» asserted that Indigenous curriculum contributed to the coercion and development of Africa. Colonial education encouraged Africans to study imperialistic concepts, which destroyed African society and compounded existing problems. A Eurocentric curriculum breeds low morale and a lack of civility amongst Africans. Modern African schools need a new inclusive Indigenous curriculum that educates all genders and covers the continent's challenges.

Africa needs educated youths to develop and transform the continent. Currently, the elderly leaders impede development as they indebt the continent with borrowing, and are seemingly accomplices of foreign interests. Female's nurturing roles make them poised to lead and transform society. Educated female's unique attributes provide great potential to move families out of poverty and away from early marriages and teen truancy. Properly educated Africans would also reduce inter-family, inter-tribal, and inter-state rivalries that stall harmony, coexistence, and development. Educated youths would be new leaders who speak and act on behalf of people.

The reconstructed primary school curriculum should cover the study of the people, places, and things in the locality, while modern secondary and higher education should prepare students to thrive in today's world. The secondary program should continue where the primary teaching ends. The programs should broaden intellectual curiosity and transition students out of their locality to the national territory, the continent, and the world, thus building strength, stability, and self-reliance.

Despite the affirmation that Africa was the cradle for learning



Dr. John Nkemnji is Professor Emeritus, Educational Technology. He is an educational consultant and a proponent of life-long learning.

and civilization, scholars find more publications about Africa in libraries outside the continent. Due to lack of resources, poor internet services, and other hurdles, scholars in African institutions of higher learning sometimes write to colleagues abroad to send them literature and publications on Africa to aid their research efforts, since Africa's publishing industry is not well-developed and there is a lack of educational materials. Education is a powerful tool for liberation or oppression; it should be structured to liberate and harness Africa's potential.

Foreign languages of instruction like French, English, Arabic, Portuguese, Italian, and Spanish hinder authentic learning and comprehension for the nonnative speaker. This reality extinguishes indigenous languages. Nonetheless, that is not the most problematic educational issue

facing the continent. Euro-centric curriculum and the educational philosophy need to be reformed to include a quality secondary education covering the breadth and depth of the people's culture. This would serve as the key driver for reducing poverty and greed; fostering economic growth, and guaranteeing personal and professional development with egalitarian participation regardless of gender or age. Such reform would educate and decolonize the continent while encouraging lifelong learning. Schools in Africa would rely on indigenous/traditional ways of learning and knowing. It used to be that the entire village was involved in the education of its children, with students having sovereignty, voice, and integrity.

African philosophy was communal, communitarian, and based on the holistic nurturing of the community. That philosophy

determined student's and teacher's roles; however, that is no longer taught or adhered to. In education, like in life, a guiding philosophy directs daily actions and outcomes. Indigenous educational philosophy was based on the people's heritage, experiences, and aspirations. Given the developmental crisis on the continent, I suggest a return to the golden age - a reconstructive and progressive philosophy of education guided by a curriculum that addresses the needs of students, society, and the continent. Such a curriculum would result in the self-reliance and creativity needed to overcome the continent's under-development.

Currently, some parents are not involved in their children's education. They have been conditioned to think that good students merely pass exams and obtain certificates. The well-to-do parents employ teachers for after-school tutoring to help their children do well on exams. Students also play a lagging role, serving as passive learners who do not reflect on what is taught and how such learning can change them and their society. Students currently study to pass examinations, and in many cases, they mindlessly memorize what is taught. The student's goal is to obtain a certificate, and what they learn may not be interesting, relevant, or real-life problem-solving. That, too, has to change with the plight of mass unemployment and brain drain.

A reformed secondary and higher education curriculum can equip learners with the tools and mindset to solve the continent's problems. A curriculum guided by a new pragmatic philosophy would define a more explicit role for students, teachers, parents, and society. The new curriculum based on local realities and indigenous educational philosophy would produce inquisitive students, active learners, critical thinkers, and problem solvers. The new curriculum would also create

better teachers and a better society. At such a time, Africa would cut down corruption, mediocrity, and incompetence.

There is a misguided mindset that Africa is cursed and will remain permanently underdeveloped. The geopolitical experience of Africans must force each citizen to free themselves from such a deceitful mindset, knowing that African education is education about the people, by the people, and for the people. Let us avoid the blame game as no individual can solve the dreadful problems in the content. Given that Africa is the cradle of civilization, 21st-century African scholars must strive to unite and change the

status. Let Africa form international alliances and collaborate with benevolent international institutions to educate and develop the continent. That would be a giant step in the right direction, and Africa would change from a destitute continent to one that genuinely creates knowledge, wealth, happiness, and prosperity.

Dr. John Nkemnji is Professor Emeritus, Educational Technology. He is an educational consultant and a proponent of life-long learning. The author expresses gratitude to those educators and students who commented on this call for Action to help restructure education for development in Africa. More helpful comments will be appreciated.



Students at a high school in Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon. Photo credit Flickr, Alberto Vaccaro.

Montel Swaray Embarks on a Mission to Transform African Lives

By Prince Kurupati

Popular Liberian American actor, writer, producer and entrepreneur Montel Swaray has embarked on a mission to transform the lives of underprivileged Africans on the continent. Through his foundation founded in 2018, Swaray says he wants to see wholesome transformation on the continent. As such, his Montel Swaray Foundation aims at “encouraging, supporting, funding, guiding and empowering different communities to develop in ways that secure their future into seeing a greater economy”.

In its mission to transform the lives of Africans on the continent, the Montel Swaray Foundation aims at working with local communities and community leaders. In its formative years, the Foundation states that it will focus more in uplifting the lives of Liberians – “Working in collaboration with government officials, and community leaders, we ensure that the appropriate infrastructure, food, water and educational sectors are in place to guarantee the long-term development and growth of Liberia”.

Though the Montel Swaray Foundation in its formative years will primarily focus in uplifting the lives of Liberians, it states that



Actor Montel Swaray has big dreams for the continent.

with time, it will move to influence and transform the lives of Africans in different countries from Mali, Senegal, Guinea, Nigeria and all other African countries.

In its mission to transform African lives, the Montel Swaray Foundation has earmarked specific sectors of interest. First up is the healthcare sector. On this front, the Foundation

is aiming to improve the healthcare infrastructure while at the same time improving the welfare of healthcare workers. The Foundation states that it aims at working “with the communities to help the Department of Health to facilitate the innovative construction and improvement of the rural clinic facilities”.

The challenge of access to clean

water has been an age long problem in Africa. Various reports have been drafted all coming to the same conclusion that millions of Africans do not have access to safe clean water. To help on this front, the Montel Swaray Foundation states that it’s looking to work “with communities to find the best solutions to improve access to water”. Some of the strategies that the Foundation is contemplating in its drive to address the challenge of lack of access to clean water is “creating water dams, installing boreholes and rainwater collection systems, and establishing community water stations for the rural and cities areas in Liberia”.

With many humanitarian reports on Africa Liberia included coming to the same conclusion that over half of the continent’s population is not adequately fed, the Montel Swaray Foundation is taking it upon itself to change this narrative in Liberia. The Foundation has teamed “up with local official and community leaders to ensure that all Liberians in need of help support and nourishment will receive that aid immediately”.

To future generations, the Montel Swaray Foundation is embarking on a drive to digitalize schools. The hope

and intention is to provide all Liberian school going children with top quality education and an education that puts them at par with all other students from across the globe. This will in turn mean they will compete for the same opportunities in life thus helping them to uplift themselves and at the same time their communities. In a statement, the Foundation said it will help by providing “unlimited school supplies, laptops, notebooks, school uniforms and shoes - anything that our Liberian children need to be successful in class”.

Recognizing that school however is not everything that children and young adults need as they grow up, the Foundation also founded the Swaray United Sports Teams. The sports teams inhibit children and

young adults from becoming idle all day and resorting to different vices in a bid to spend free time. The sports teams also provide children and young adults with an opportunity to develop their sports careers and even get noticed by sporting scouts of different professional sports teams. Some of the sports offered include soccer, basketball, volleyball and tennis.

Not only does the Montel Swaray Foundation aim at transforming the lives of Africans firstly Liberians, it also aims at transforming Liberia as a whole. The Foundation aims at working closely with “city leaders and construction companies to gain contracts that will help with the modernization of the Republic of Liberia”.



The Montel Foundation sees sports as a way of giving opportunities to young Africans.

Optimism As Rwanda Get Closer To Having Health Posts In All Its Cells

By Jean d'Amour Mbonyinshuti

Emmeline Uwimana used to trek more than 7 kilometers whenever she sought health services either for herself or for her children.

“I was born here and grew up here, my parents used to take me to the hospital whenever I felt sick and it was hard because the nearest hospital was in about seven kilometers,” says Uwimana, now a mother of three.

The resident of Musha sector in Rwamagana district, Eastern Province says, it was always hard for her and other citizens to get medical services.

“Sometimes you felt sick but you could not get to the hospital because you were scared of the long-distance,” she says. “We ended up using traditional herbs or illegal medicine as a resort,” she adds.

However, Uwimana’s worries are no more. The government has constructed a health post nearby her home where she gets health care services without trekking longer distances.

“Now we can get treatment for some diseases here, we only go to the hospital whenever referred to that



One of the health posts in Rwanda. Citizens have a chance to get health care services from nearby thanks to the facilities. Photo Society for Health Family (SFH)

hospital,” she adds.

Uwimana says she also received antenatal care services for her new born baby from the health facility.

“I got antenatal health services from the health post and just went to the hospital when it was time to give

birth,” she said.

The health post, she says helps the local community to get basic services and patients are not finding it hard to get treatment.

“Now more people are treated unlike previously when it was

hard, we used to depend on buying medicine to pharmacies while others opted for herbs,” she added.

The health post-Uwimana get services from is one of the hundreds facilities set up by the government in a bid to avail health facilities to

citizens.

According to the ministry of health, the plan is to have each health post in all the cells across the country.

A cell is the second small entity in local government administration and the country has 2140 cells. According to the minister of health Dr. Daniel Ngamiye, the country nears having at least one health post in every cell of the country.

"In the whole country, cells that don't have a health post are not many. Currently, the number of cells that don't have these services don't exceed 50."

"What we want to do now is putting

more effort in making sure those that don't have such services will get them. For those that already have these facilities, we want to ensure that they provide a full package of primary healthcare services," he added.

The health posts, which are just below health centres, are expected to deliver basic medical services, including non-complicated births and other primary healthcare services.

In its Strategic Plan unveiled in 2018, the ministry said it wanted to put focus on having at least a health post in every cell by 2024, in order to improve citizens' access to health services.

"We always have more citizens who access treatment from health posts. It is clear that there is a need for us to remember the lives of children, parents, and all people in general so that we bring near them primary healthcare services," he said.

Ngamiye said that the government got support from partners such as S.C Johnson Inc, an American multinational company that manufactures household cleaning supplies and other consumer chemicals.

SC Johnson has been an important partner in the ministry of health's efforts to improve and equipping

of health posts, in a bid to advance universal health coverage.

With collaboration from SC Johnson, a total of 64 health posts have been constructed and equipped, of which 10 are of the second generation (offering maternity services and dental and ophthalmology services).

Rwandans have access to affordable health care services, thanks to the community-based health insurance (Mutuelle de Santé) where every household subscribes to it and gets medical services from all the health facilities.

Environmental Concerns Must Be Part of Africa's Development Agenda- Landry Ninteretse, Africa Managing Director 350.Org

By Ajong Mbapndah L

The development agenda of Africa should not take place at the expense of environmental concerns, but rather in a way that is truly sustainable, inclusive and puts the interest of ordinary people at the centre, and not those of the multinationals and political elites, says Landry Ninteretse, Africa Managing Director 350.org.

Speaking in an interview with PAV Ninteretse says rich countries that have contributed disproportionately to global warming have the responsibility to remedy the situation by not only phasing out all their fossil fuels projects and reducing their emissions, but also to offer technical and financial support to African nations in their efforts to implement effective adaptation and mitigation strategies that allow real sustainable development.

From the recent documentary on the Virunga National Park in the D.R. Congo, to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and the Mozambique Liquified Natural Gas, and more, Landry Ninteretse discusses major environmental concerns and challenges facing Africa and opines that it is critical to have sustained pressure from the civil society and campaign organizations for meaningful reforms to take place.



African governments must ensure that their development policies are well aligned with people's needs, says Landry Ninteretse.

For those who may not be familiar with 350.org, could we start with an introduction and the scope of your operations in Africa?

Landry Ninteretse: 350Africa.org, part of the global organisation 350.org has been supporting campaigns against fossil fuels on the continent since 2011 and advocating for an inclusive transition to renewable energy & social justice for all. We

support in various ways local struggles to confront climate injustices and amplify a narrative on the necessity for climate-smart development that is rooted in justice and equity across Africa.

We use various and tailored tactics to achieve the goals and plans - from regional and global mobilisations to campaigning, from movement building and support to media amplification to ensure the voices

and demands of the grassroots communities are raised and heard.

We run and support various campaigns and projects in South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, DRC, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Ghana aimed at fighting climate injustices and building low carbon societies and economies.

What prompted you to join 350.org and how relevant are its

activities to present day Africa?

Landry Ninteretse : I joined 350.org after a training on climate leadership activism back in September 2009. At that time, I was an environmental activist advocating for sustainable use of natural resources and an accelerated uptake of renewable energy to combat deforestation and energy poverty. At that training, the 40 volunteers from Eastern and Southern Africa were tasked to start popular climate movements back home in the lead up to COP 15 in Copenhagen to demand a fair and ambitious treaty aligned with science and urgency to bring back the levels of carbon dioxide from 390 to 350 ppm.

I saw in 350.org an opportunity for engagement and action offered to people of different backgrounds and experiences to build powerful networks and coalitions for climate justice, be it at the national, regional and global levels.

Our campaigns and projects are so relevant in the current context where Africa is called to address the climate crisis and related disasters while developing low carbon pathways tailored to its unique challenges in terms of economic, energy, and social needs of its growing population.

Talking about fossil fuels, may we understand the issues you have and when organisations like yours and others talk of renewable energy, can shed some light on what you are talking about and why this could be ideal for Africa?

Landry Ninteretse : Several scientific and institutional reports, including the latest from the FF treaty have shown that existing coal, oil and gas production puts the world on course to overshoot Paris climate targets. At the same time, the world already has more than enough renewable energy potential to comfortably make the transition away from fossil fuels while also expanding energy access for all.

Renewable energy such as solar, wind, and small hydro produce less, if not zero emissions, and can



Our campaigns and projects are so relevant in the current context where Africa is called to address the climate crisis and related disasters, says Landry Ninteretse.

be implemented without needing connections to the national grid in rural areas where communities badly need the energy.

The shift to renewable energy as an alternative cleaner source of energy is possible for Africa if all countries set it as a priority and come up with rapid and ambitious and clear action plans to make it a reality.

Renewable energy sources of energy abundant on the continent have the potential to unlock great potential in African citizens and their ability to work, deepen livelihood and advance well-being, as well as supporting a home-grown development agenda set on African terms without counting only on polluting fossil fuels whose future is highly uncertain.

How do organizations like you expect Africa to balance its development priorities with the

kind of environmental concerns that you have raised?

Landry Ninteretse : As stated above and proved by several scientific reports, Africa - the most vulnerable continent to climate impacts - can achieve real and sustainable development through a sustained uptake of renewables and a just and fair low carbon pathway that gradually phases out fossil fuels. This means prioritizing sources of energy that are clean and innovative and community owned and not necessarily large and centrally controlled energy infrastructures. The development agenda should not take place at the expense of environmental concerns. But rather in a way that is truly sustainable, inclusive and puts the interest of ordinary people at the centre, and not those of the multinationals and political elites.

What is your response to critics who say it is unfair to deprive Africa of prospects of using it for its development when the developed world has used that for its own development?

Landry Ninteretse : That's correct - though climate change is a global challenge that requires global solutions, not all countries have been having the same responsibility for it. Some countries, especially Western ones, have contributed largely to increased emissions since the 18th century while African's emissions altogether are less than 5%.

It's unfair and illogic to request equal efforts from all countries, though everyone has a role to play.

Rich countries that have contributed disproportionately to global warming have a responsibility to remedy the situation by not only phasing out all their fossil fuels projects and drastically reducing their emissions, but also to support technically and financially African nations in their efforts to implement effective adaptation and mitigation strategies that allow real sustainable development.

At the same time, African governments must ensure that their development policies are well aligned with people's needs, create sustainable opportunities and livelihoods and support a home-grown development agenda based on actual realities and needs.

Let's use a few concrete examples to understand your concerns beginning with the Virunga National Park, what concerns does 350.org have with that?

Landry Ninteretse: Oil exploration activities within and around Virunga NP threaten the immense and rich diversity of ecosystems, incomparable fauna and flora of the Park on which local communities depend on for their survival.

Oil exploration and extraction pose unacceptable risks to people's livelihoods, local communities and sensitive ecosystems of Africa's oldest and most biodiverse park,

significantly affecting activities such as tourism, farming and fishing.

We understand there is a documentary out to shed light on the challenges posed by the entry of oil companies into the park after being granted oil concessions by the DRC government, what impact do you think the film could have in making the DRC government and companies have a rethink?

Landry Ninteretse : This documentary is part of our efforts to ensure that grassroots and fossil fuels affected communities' voices and concerns are raised and heard.

We hope that it will raise awareness of the current threats posed to the Virunga and show the human and ecological violations caused by exploration activities.

This is a new call to the DRC Government and oil companies involved to undertake comprehensive human rights and environmental due diligence and put an end to the licencing process in the Virunga Park. We also call on the government to prevent any foreseeable harm and pursue appropriate remedy for abuses already committed while ensuring that communities rights are fully respected.

You have also been critical of other projects like the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and the Mozambique Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) which are touted as game changing in terms of development, can you restate your case against these projects?

Landry Ninteretse : The EACOP project is socially catastrophic, economically unviable & ecologically disastrous. A few examples:

- Around 13,000 families are affected by land access and use restrictions by Total and its partners.
- Such restrictions on rural and farmers communities have dire effects on their livelihoods, and consequently, on their right to food, education and health.
- The pipeline poses significant risks

to critical water sources, wetlands and several rivers in both countries.

- Approximately 460 km of the pipeline will be within the freshwater basin of Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake, which directly supports the livelihoods of more than 40 million people in the region.
- The nearly 1,445 kilometer pipeline would run through numerous important habitats and nature reserves – home to a number of iconic and endangered animals, such as lions, elands, lesser kudu, buffalo, impalas, hippos, giraffes, roan antelopes, sitatungas, sabres, zebras, aardvarks, and the red colobus monkey.
- Contrary to what has been announced, EACOP is expected to create only 200 or 300 permanent jobs. How many of these jobs are going to benefit locals?
- Huge debt risks for Uganda and Tanzania
- More on why we are challenging this project can be found here - a coalition 350.org is part of.

In Mozambique, the country is among the 10 poorest countries in the world. Half of the population lives under the poverty line and the country is currently facing a new wave of violence especially in the areas where gas discoveries were made a few years ago.

Despite promises of jobs and prosperity brought in by the discovery of gas- if the current gas project were to go ahead, only a few hundred Mozambicans will get small or junior jobs.

For countries like Mozambique (and to a certain degree Uganda and Tanzania) to harness Africa's abundant gas /oil resources, deep structural reforms that address the issues of accountability, transparency, public participation and redistribution of resources MUST take place. This won't happen overnight, unless there's a critical pressure from affected countries, civil society and campaigning organizations proactively pushing for such reforms to take place.

It takes two to tango and most

of the companies exploiting fossil fuels are foreign based, what is it 350.org doing to send the message to them as opposed to putting the blame on African countries?

Landry Ninteretse : To be clear - 350.org isn't blaming African countries but rather targeting all decision makers whether they are public or private institutions, banks, corporations and governments to take the necessary steps and courageous measures in shifting their economies away from a dependence on fossil fuels and focus on building resilient and decentralized energy systems based on renewable sources.

We want every decision maker to take its responsibility and ensure that people's needs and priorities are at the heart of their decisions and actions.

May we know some of the key partners that 350.org works with in pushing for reforms in Africa?

Landry Ninteretse : We work with hundreds of multiple and diverse partners that will be hard to exhaustively list here. They include affected communities, local/national energy rights and environment and climate justice CSOs and NGOs, global INGOs and progressive movements across the continent.

From the hype activism of 350. Org, what kind of changes are you seeing in Africa, and may we know some countries that are meeting expectations you have?

Landry Ninteretse: In South Africa, 350Africa.org is building and coordinating the work of the Climate Justice Coalition bringing together civil society groups, grassroots, trade union, and community-based organisations advocating for a rapid and just transition to a more socially owned, renewable energy powered economy, providing clean, safe, and affordable energy for all, with no worker and community left behind in the transition.

In Ghana, between 2013 and 2016 civil society groups and

local communities challenged the governmental project to build a 700 MW coal-fired power plant that was supposed to be built in partnership with Shenzhen Energy group. The proposed project was postponed and then abandoned through a change of government in December 2016. Our partners in Ghana are now working on a Renewable energy campaign in 5 districts of Accra.

In Kenya, following years of campaigning against the proposed coal-powered plant in Lamu that was reportedly to increase the country's emission by 700%, the National Environmental Tribunal halted the plans to construct the infrastructure due to failure in conducting a thorough environmental impact assessment. Our partners from Decoalonnize have now embarked on a renewable energy strategy to help the country to achieve a low carbon transition plan.

In Zimbabwe, communities, environmental and rights groups are building resistance against the Sengwa coal power project and engaging the Industrial Commercial Bank of China to commit not to fund that project and are confident that they will win the battle.

What other plans does the Organisation have for the rest of the year and any last word as we wrap up this interview?

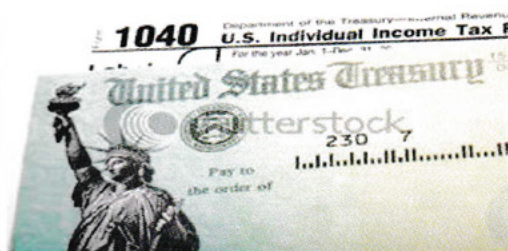
Landry Ninteretse : Our plans for the rest of 2021 and beyond include:

- Supporting partners working to stop fossil fuel projects across the continent and beyond
- Building an inclusive, diverse and progressive climate movement by getting people involved in the climate movement, deepening the commitment of people already involved and through coalition building, training, research, networking, and inspiration of people to join the movement.
- Pressuring banks that are still funding fossil fuels infrastructures and get them to commit to a fossil fuel exclusion policy
- Initiate and be part of mobilisations and actions that demand climate justice in Africa and beyond.



CONSULTING, LLC

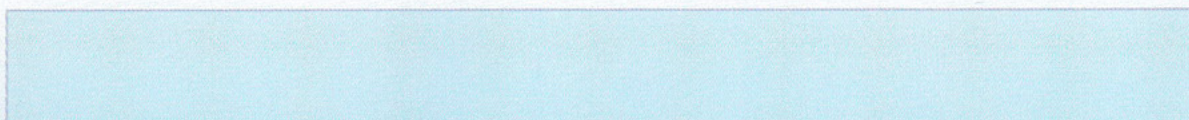
ACCOUNTING • TAXATION • CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS



OBENNY TIKU
Tax Consultant

INCOME TAX RETURN
Prepared For

**THE
PREFERRED
TAX
SERVICE**



7411 Riggs Road, Suite 230 • Hyattsville, MD 20783
Tel: (301) 408-4800 • (240) 476-5057 • Fax: (301) 408-4808
Website: www.eotaxconsultingllc.com • Email: obenny21@hotmail.com

Third COVID-19 wave takes a devastating toll on Namibia ...as several national leaders fall to the virus

Andreas Thomas

Windhoek- COVID-19 is currently out of control in Namibia, where the third wave of the virulent respiratory virus has been sweeping across the southern African nation. Since the beginning of June, Namibia has been experiencing a record-breaking spike in new coronavirus infections that has hospitalized many and lost their lives. In recent weeks, major hospitals around the country have been overwhelmed with the highest number of patients' hospitalization in history. Hospital beds including intensive care units are full in both public and private hospitals across the country. Funeral homes were also struggling to keep up as more people succumb to coronavirus-related complications. The surge in cases was exerting tremendous pressure on the country's fragile health infrastructures that have suffered years of neglect. The number of new infections per day has more than tripled, since the first week of June, from an average of 507 cases per day to an average of 1,798 cases per day. Over the last 15 days up to June 30, the country has recorded 513 deaths, which brought to a total of 1626 deaths as of July 4. These are devastating numbers for a country with a small population of fewer than three million people. As of June 29, Namibia ranked third in Africa after Gabon and South Africa, with a testing coverage of 207 people tested per 1,000 population. Authorities have indicated that the recent spike in COVID-19 cases might be driven by the more aggressive Delta variant that has been reported in neighbouring South Africa. However, local scientists were yet to confirm the existence of the new, deadly variant in Namibia. Experts are projecting that the rising incidence curve, during the third wave is expected to peak around mid-August. President Hage Geingob has since cautioned the nation that "The darkest hour of the night, comes



President Geingob on June 30 announced new restrictive measures meant to curb the wide community transmission of coronavirus.

just before day-break. It is expected to get worse before it becomes better. We must therefore do everything in our power to suppress the rate of transmission. Only you and I can stop the further spread of this virus from ravaging our homes and communities."

Oxygen supply

Major hospitals mostly in Windhoek have resorted to prioritizing severe cases of COVID-19 patients after the surge in new infections left them with a critical shortage of beds and oxygen supply. Health and Social Services Minister Dr Kalumbi Shangula has said steps have been taken to improve the supply of life-saving oxygen to health facilities. These include the installation of freestanding oxygen generating systems and bulk oxygen tanks and refillable portable oxygen cylinders at public hospitals. A 20-ton bulk oxygen tank has been installed to provide oxygen to the 76-bed respiratory unit at Katutura Intermediate Hospital in Windhoek,

where COVID-19 patients are admitted. Shangula added that a 13-ton bulk oxygen tank was expected to be installed at Oshakati State Hospital. He noted that the existing bulk oxygen tanks at Tsumeb and Walvis Bay State Hospitals, with the capacity of 6.5 tons each will also be supplied to ensure adequate care. A new gas generating unit with a capacity of producing 370 litres of oxygen per minute has been installed at the Windhoek Central Hospital. It will supply the dedicated 15-bed COVID-19 intensive and high care units at the Windhoek Central Hospital. "Government is also pursuing the option of procuring oxygen concentrators to be distributed to various public health facilities around the country as part of the intervention. The concentrators can play a significant role in assisting patients in respiratory distress, but do not require high flow oxygen," the minister said.

Restrictive measures

President Geingob on June 30 announced new restrictive measures meant to curb the wide community transmission of coronavirus. The 14-days restriction has banned travel between all the regions except essential service providers and emergency medical cases. This follows an earlier restriction of movement into and out of Windhoek, Okahandja, and Rehoboth that were deemed the epicentre of the third wave of the coronavirus. As part of the new measures, public gatherings have been limited to 10 persons, and a nationwide daily curfew between 21:00 to 04:00. Schools from pre-primary up to lower primary are on special winter holidays until July 26. Classes for grades 10, 11 and 12 have been suspended countrywide until July 16. The sale of alcohol is banned from Friday to Sunday while all food establishments are to serve food on a take-away basis only. "I have always reiterated that the health of Namibians remains the priority and a balance must therefore be found in

protecting life and livelihoods. While a full social and economic lockdown is proven to be effective in slowing transmission rates, it must be used sparingly, as it also spurs adverse effects to the economy, business jobs and livelihoods. Under the current circumstances facing our country, this difficult step must be taken,” Geingob said when he announced the news measured in Windhoek.

Vaccination campaign

Vaccines remain an important weapon in Namibia’s fight against coronavirus. The country started with nationwide vaccination on April 19. So far, Namibia has received 197, 200 doses through COVAX, and donations from China and India. However, this stock is almost depleted with many regions having suspended the campaigns. The available doses will now be used to vaccinate those receiving the first dose as well as identified persons considered to be at the highest risk of severe disease, hospitalization and death, Shangula explained. The minister has also acknowledged the delay in the delivery of vaccines to the country. “We are working day and night engaging manufacturers and through diplomatic channels to get the vaccines soonest,” he said. Shangula noted that Namibia has paid up in full for 108 000 doses of Astra Zeneca via the COVAX facility of which 67 200 doses have been delivered. “We expect the balance of 40 800 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to reach our country during July 2021. We have also finalized orders for doses of Sinopharm, Astra Zeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. We await delivery of these vaccines in the coming weeks and months,” Shangula said. Meanwhile, the minister arrayed



Namibian President Hage Geingob inspects the COVID-19 isolation facility at Central Hospital in the capital Windhoek on June 3, 2020. Photo by Tirivangani Masawi, Xinhua.

public fears regarding the adverse effects of delaying the second dose due to the delayed arrival of vaccines. “According to guidance from the World Health Organisation, a delayed administration of the second dose of the vaccine will not have adverse effects on individuals. The administration of the second dose may be delayed for up to six weeks,” he said.

COVID-19 carnage

The marauding coronavirus pandemic is proving to be a sword of Damocles hanging over the heads of national leaders, who many have already succumbed to the virus. During the past month, several leaders lost their lives to COVID-19-related complications. The Paramount Chief of the OvaHerero Traditional Authority, Advocate Vekuui Rukoro (66) died few days after testing positive for coronavirus

on 18 June in Windhoek. Rukoro has dedicated his life to the cause of justice for the Ovaherero people. He has been at the forefront calling for Germany to pay reparations for atrocities committed during the 1904-1908 genocide of Ovaherero and Nama people. Dr Zedekia Ngavirue (88) who led Namibia’s Negotiations on Genocide, Apology and Reparations with Germany also lost his life to coronavirus on 24 June. The pandemic has also robbed Namibia of Professor Mburumba Kerina (89) who gave the country its name from the former South West Africa. Kerina died in Windhoek on 14 June. He was one of the first Namibians to petition the United Nations calling for Namibia’s liberation from former South Africa’s Apartheid colonial region. Other prominent Namibians who succumbed to the virus in June include former environment minister Willem Konjore (76); former justice

minister Dr Ngarikutuke Tjiriange (77); former chiefs of Namibian Defence Force, retired Lieutenant General John Mutwa (61) and retired Lieutenant General Lucas Hangula who was also the director-general of the Namibia Central Intelligence Services. “Unfortunately, as in any war, many lives have been lost. I, therefore, offer my sincere condolences to the Namibian nation and specifically to the families of those who have lost their lives due to COVID-19,” said President Geingob who also took a moment “to pay tribute to towering national leaders who have lost their lives to COVID-19.” President Geingob and First Lady Monica Geingos are among the leaders who recovered from coronavirus. “Having recovered from COVID-19 myself, I am fully aware of the importance of being vaccinated against the disease,” said Geingob who is yet to get vaccinated.

Travel has become easier
with the launch of e-visa
for tourists. Visit Ethiopia...

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Ethiopian



LUMEN CHRISTI HEALTH CARE INC.

We've built a long standing relationship based on trust

Our Mission here at Lumen Christi Health Care Inc. is to provide all patients in the community with the highest quality of home health services with outstanding compassion, respect and professionalism.



+1 (617) 479 0206

ABOUT US

OUR OBJECTIVES AMONGST OTHERS

- To provide skill nursing, medical case management, therapy visits and home health aide services in the comfort of clients homes.
- To provide educational opportunities within the health care system for employee via an on-going in-service and short term training and participation in professional organizations.
- Create coordinated liaison with physicians, health care and welfare agencies to meet the needs of the patient.
- To provide a conducive work environment for our employees.



OUR MISSION

We strive to be one of the leading providers of a wide range of quality home health care services, recognized for enduring dedication to provide innovative, professional, and compassionate care to the



MODERN MEDICAL FACILITIES

- In-home non-medical care
- In-home skilled nursing
- In-home physical therapy
- In-home occupational therapy
- In-home speech therapy
- Private nursing care



OUR SERVICES

- SKILLED NURSING SERVICES
- THERAPY SERVICES
- HOME HEALTH AIDE
- RESPITE CARE
- PRIVATE DUTY
- HCBBS

Admission to Lumen Christi Health Care Inc. is made under the direction of a physician. Based upon your identified health needs, homebound status and the type of services required, we can provide care directly or through coordination with other organizations. Patients/clients are accepted for care without regard to age, race, color, creed, sex, national origin or handicap(s).

The Covid-19 Vaccine Fiasco In Malawi

By Joseph Dumbula.



Health Secretary Charles Mwansambo.

It is 8 am in the morning in Blantyre, Malawi's commercial capital, and one Jimmy Kondwani, has had to abscond work to look for the second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which apparently, he just cannot find in hospitals, just like thousands of others.

The news now is clear that the vaccines are no longer in stock at all across hospitals.

As other nations across the world are grappling with the third wave of the Covid19 pandemic, Malawi is seeing a wave after another but of controversies to do with the pandemic.

Although the mainstay has been how decisions are made and how infamously money amounting to 6.2 billion kwacha was lost in management of the pandemic, now it is about the vaccines.

Thus far thousands of people have not yet been able to receive the second dose as the AstraZeneca doses run out in public hospitals.

A consignment of 900,000 doses the country was expected to be in Malawi at the end of May through the COVAX vaccine-sharing facility but

that has not been the case.

However, authorities cited the delay on recent worsening of the pandemic in India, a major manufacturer of vaccines.

Initially, Malawi received its first consignment of 360,000 doses from the COVAX facility in March, followed by 102,000 doses from the African Union, and 50,000 doses from the Indian government.

But Kondwani tells Pan African Visions that "I feel deceived. What government is doing is to make a daylight lie to us. What does this mean for our health?"

But, according to deccanherald.com, recent studies say pushing the gap further to 12 weeks for the AstraZeneca vaccine does not affect the efficacy. Another British study has said, a single dose of the vaccine can reduce the infection rate by 65 per cent.

Now, solace is found in the fact that the World Bank approved \$30 million in additional financing to support Malawi in the acquisition and deployment of safe, affordable and effective COVID-19 (coronavirus) vaccines.

The rollout is however yet to start.

"This is an additional financing for the existing Malawi's COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness project bringing the World Bank contributions to the country's health sector COVID-19 response and vaccination efforts to a total of \$37 million.

The additional financing will mostly go towards the procurement and deployment of eligible COVID-19 vaccines to cover an estimated eight percent of the population by December 2023. The additional funds will accelerate the Government of Malawi's ongoing efforts to deploy COVID-19 vaccines and strengthen the national systems for public health preparedness." A statement from the World Bank reads.

This coincided with the torching of Vaccines, which is against the order that the WHO meted out to nations.

Malawi destroyed nearly 20,000 doses that had expired in April - partly because of vaccine hesitancy.

Health Secretary Charles Mwansambo justified the decision saying authorities were forced to incinerate the doses to reassure Malawians that vaccines being used

were effective.

«The burning was of course regrettable, but we got those doses very late, they only had a very short shelf life. In fact, I am happy that we did that because we got back the confidence from the people. That's why we are seeing what we are seeing now." He said.

So, the debacle now, has to be solved as soon as possible, if the country is also to eliminate myths as Kondwani says "What has happened is a recipe for more and more conspiracy theories that are associated with the pandemic and the vaccine".

Currently, the Southern African nation has slightly above 2 thousand active infections, and thus far there have been over one thousand deaths with successfully recoveries at over 33 thousand.

Statistics of health also says the current positivity rates have been revolving at slightly below 15, %, a status Khumbize Chiponda, Malawi's health minister says is a cause for worry but has bank on staunch preventive measures.



**WE ARE COMMITTED
TO YOUR HEALTH**
OUR SERVICES ARE
RENDERED 24 HOURS A DAY



INFINITY Health Care Services (IHCS) is a home healthcare and staffing agency that is founded by nurses. It is licensed, bonded and insured in the State of Maryland. IHCS accepts clients of most ages. We provide skilled nursing and healthcare services to those with physical or developmental disabilities in the

comfort of their homes, in hospitals, assisted-living facilities or nursing homes. We understand that you want to remain in your familiar environment. At IHCS, we make it our priority to help you remain where you are happiest and comfortable.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

Skilled Nursing Services, Personal Care Services, Home Care Companion

Call Us — 443 982 3052

8611 Lugano Road, Randallstown, MD 21133

www.infinityhcs.com

Suspension Of DWB Deprives Cameroon's NW's Most Vulnerable Citizens Of Free Healthcare Amid Deadly Armed Conflict

By Andrew Nsoseka

Locals in Cameroon's Northwest region, who have had their lives distorted in the last couple of years by an ongoing war against cessation, which has displaced hundreds of thousands internally, and forced others to flee as refugees, now have another big challenge - access to healthcare.

When the crisis erupted and protests gradually morphed into an armed resistance and the war that ensued, many institutions folded, including healthcare institutions. Many healthcare institutions and professionals, soon became targets, as they were accused of treating belligerents in the armed conflict. Several Doctors and practitioners are today, serving jail terms or languishing in pre-trial detention on such charges.

The situation, was however, was mitigated when Doctors Without Borders, DWB an international NGOs rendering health services to those affected by the war came in. However, it was short-lived, when DWB was like several medical care providers, accused of also treating armed fighters and aiding them. The accusation of aiding the fighters has been rejected by the organisation.

Unfortunately, Cameroon's Northwest regional Governor, Adolphe Lele Lafrique in December of 2020, issued an order, banning activities of DWB in the region, leaving thousands of those who relied on the outfit for medical care, stranded, with no option. Many now rely on local remedies, prayers, or risk going to hospitals, and if treated, held hostage till the money is paid.

On its May 28, 2021 weekend edition, The Post reported a pathetic story of a family running away from the incessant raids in Bui Division, of Cameroon's Northwest Region. The news article by Chris Mbutwe narrated the sad story of a teacher, Oliver Lankar who, in escaping from the turbulent Division, lost his one-year-old baby due to the heavy rains



A medical personnel from Doctors Without Borders attends to a patient in the North West.

and cold.

Though one could be incorrect to say that the refuge-seeking man would have sought medical help from community volunteers working with an organisation like Doctors Without Borders - providing free medical assistance to those in dire need, Lankar's family did not have that option - it was ripped from people like him and a multitude of others, when DWB, had its activities suspended.

On December 8, 2020, Governor Adolphe Lele Lafrique issued a prefectorial order, suspending activities of Doctors Without Borders, a front-line organisations providing free healthcare services to thousands of victims and those affected in one way or the other by the Anglophone crisis in the two crisis-hit regions.

In article (I) of the Governor's Decision suspending the activities of DWB, the Governor said, "The partnership between Doctors Without Borders (DWB, MSF) and Saint Maria Soledad Catholic Hospital Bamenda as well as similar partnerships with other health facilities in the Northwest Region are with effect from the date of signature of this Decision, suspended, pending definition of the framework of activities for Doctors Without Borders (DWB, MSF) by the Ministry

of Health."

Locals in the region, especially those displaced by war, and who now live under precarious conditions are the main beneficiaries of health services offered by DWB. This category of persons, are the region's most vulnerable. The right to health has been denied, especially to those in distress situations who struggle to feed and can barely afford their needs, especially health needs which are expensive.

DWB often prioritises providence of its services to hard-to-reach communities, and with the current Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, many communities are without health facilities especially as many owners of private clinics were hunted down on accusations that they treat or sell medicaments to separatists too.

In 2020, DWB reported that it provided over 120,000 free medical consultations in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon - the two regions gripped by an over four war of secession. Unfortunately, with the Governor's Decision, hundreds of thousands of patients in the Northwest who relied on this free health services can't access it anymore, even though the armed conflict is rather deteriorating,

leaving more people in need.

The Governor said the organisation's framework of activities are to be defined by the Ministry of Public Health, a process which has taken several months, with no sign that the organisation will be given the go-ahead, to continue to render services to the region's most vulnerable, caught between an active war, and now the COVID-19 pandemic.

The World Health Organisation, to which Cameroon is a member, in its Constitution (1946) envisages "... the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every human being."

Speaking in relation to access to health in the Northwest region, the Director of the Bamenda regional Hospital, Dr Denis Nsame regretted that that the hospital keeps losing money because many patients can't afford to pay their bills after treatment. This of course, is the category that because of the war situation and its effect on their livelihoods, previously depended on free services offered by organisations like DWB.

Dr Denis Nsame revealed that just in the first quarter of 2021, his hospital alone has lost FCFA Nine million, because many patients are

unable to pay bills. The situation now puts the regional hospital, as well as other health facilities in financial distress.

On the part of the community, many who now do not have the option to receive free quality healthcare are now left with the option of either trying untested home remedies, taking a chance to be treated and held back by the hospital, or just hoping to get well someday. Many others who have seemingly lost hope, now resort to cuing up in churches that advertise miracle healings, as they hope for miracles to come their way.

One of the community leaders who recently took an initiative to address the situation, is the Mayor of Bamenda II Council, Peter Chenwi, who said his office has been flooded of recent by appeals for assistance to pay health bills. «The request for assistance from patients keep rising every day. That is why the Council decided to undertake this visit and see the situation of patients at the Bamenda regional hospital» the Mayor said. He reveals that so far, the council has paid FCFA one million, covering the hospital bills of 64 patients who could not leave the hospital because of unpaid bills. Amongst the beneficiaries were women who had put to birth, but

could not pay their hospital bills.

A Community Health Worker, talking of the ban on DWB's activities in the Northwest said, "Since the suspension, many children have died in my community, due to the lack of medication. People don't have the money to go to the hospital. They keep asking me; when will they (DWB) come back" He recounts. Other community workers who served the community under DWB regret that the suspension has left them with no means to assist the people, who depend on such services.

"People keep calling me for help, but there is no means to help them anymore. They go back, and later on you hear that some of them died. It is terrible." Another community health worker in the region regrets.

Though not mentioned publicly, government sources claim that DWB's activities in the region are suspended due to allegations that it also treats wounded separatists, and actively supports them by transporting arms and ammunition. In a statement released On July 5, in relation to



At St Mary Soledad hospital, Dr Jifon Edwin Fonyuy stitches up the wounds of Felix, a young patient who was attacked and mutilated by his attackers in March 2020, in the NW.

claims that the organisation was supporting separatist fighters, DWB said they "categorically reject the allegation of having provided support for separatist fighters in the Northwest."

"We affirm as an absolute that we have never facilitated the transport of arms, ammunition, or armed combatants, and have never provided logistical or financial support to any of the parties to the ongoing crisis". It furthered.

Information from DWB's data

however show that just about five percent of its patients bring cases that are directly linked to violence. The statistics rather show that most of the patients are children with malaria, pregnant women, accidents, and sexual violence victims.

In a statement released recently after three weeks of meeting with government officials to end the suspension, DWB in a statement regretted that the suspension was not still lifted.

DWB's Director General, Stephen Cornish, remarked that "While our visit to Cameroon was an opportunity to address key points, no agreement was unfortunately reached to immediately restart our lifesaving medical services in the Northwest region. This is disappointing, but we remain hopeful that the lifting of our suspension can be reached in the coming days. Discussions will go on as all stakeholders understand that our operations cannot remain on hold indefinitely. Every extra day of suspension is another day that we cannot assist the population in dire need of health care services. An agreement will undeniably change the situation for the better in the provision of essential care in the Northwest. We are confident that such agreement is still attainable and will allow us to provide essential medical services in Northwest just as we do elsewhere in the country."



Heart warming moment between young beneficiary of health services from DWB and her father.

KANG QUINTUS FILMS
PRESENTS

KANG
QUINTUS

FAITH
FIDEL

RAMSEY
NOUAH

NDAMO
DAMARISE

COSSON
CHINEPOH

ONYAMA
LAURA

NEBA
GODWILL

DAPHNE
NJIE

THE FISHERMAN'S DIARY

A FILM BY ENAH JOHNSCOTT

KANG QUINTUS FILMS PRESENTS AN ENAH JOHNSCOTT FILM "THE FISHERMAN'S DIARY"
KANG QUINTUS, FAITH FIDEL, RAMSEY NOUAH, NDAMO DAMARISE, COSSON CHINEPOH, ONYAMA LAURA, NEBA GODWILL, DAPHNE NJIE
PRODUCTION DESIGNER FOKWA BABILA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY RENE ETTA MAKE UP SPECIAL EFFECTS CHINONSO SUNSHINE STORY/SCRIPT ENAH JOHNSCOTT & BUH MELVIN "BABA PROX" EDITED 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

Kenya: Anguish Over Growing Wave Of Mysterious of Kidnappings

By Samuel Ouma

Amid the economic crisis occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic, Kenya is also grappling with mysterious abductions which translate to either death or total disappearance of their beloved ones. What started as a minor issue is now getting out of control as many continue to disappear, leaving the majority in fear. A surge in disappearance cases this year alone is alarming as many people have been reported missing compared to previous years, including children.

The latest incident that has shocked the East African country's residents is the kidnapping of an entrepreneur Gerald Guandaru in broad daylight. The businessman was abducted by a gang of four men wearing face masks in Nyeri town, central Kenya, on June 30. The gunmen driving a Subaru Outback ambushed him in his car parked outside one of his businesses. They shoved him in their waiting vehicle before speeding off. The victim shouted for help, but the onlookers just watched him helplessly. The police are yet to establish his whereabouts.

In another scenario, a security commentator and former Kenya Air Force Commander Mwenda Mbijiwe went missing on June 12 as he headed to his Meru home, eastern Kenya. A hired car he was driving was found vandalized in Ruiru, the central part of Kenya, a day after his disappearance. The car had been repossessed by the owner, identified as Mr. Edward Mwangi, reported to be a police officer. However, there has been no lead information about the whereabouts of the vocal security consultant.

Mr. Mbijiwe's family has requested the international community, including the US, Israel, and South Africa, to help them find the missing chief executive officer of Eye on Security Ltd. The family has expressed their dismay slamming the police for reluctance in solving the matter.



Former Kenya Air Force Commander Mwenda Mbijiwe .Photo courtesy.

"Mbijiwe is not a simple man whose disappearance would go unnoticed or unaddressed for three weeks. He authored the book "America fear no evil". If the Kenyan government doesn't have the machinery to find him, let them invite the USA (FBI), Israel and South Africa governments, which have helped Kenya before," said the victim's step-father Mr. Stephen Nkonge.

Before Mbijiwe's disappearance ensued, security officers retrieved a body belonging to Somali-American businessman Bashir Mohammed from a local river in central Kenya, where unknown people had dumped it. The late Bashir went missing from Kilimani in Nairobi on May 13, only his body to be found in River Nyamindi in Mwea by the locals.

"We were informed that there was a body at River Nyamindi's bed, that is Sunday last week (16/05/2021), we visited the scene where we collected the body and booked it at the Kerugoya morgue. Since it was naked and did not have any

documents for identification, we took the fingerprints for identification. The details came late last night (Saturday 22/05/2021), showing that it was Bashir's," said a local investigating officer Kiplagat Korir.

Bashir's body had circular burns on his hands, and his toenails had been plucked off. A post mortem report established that he was tortured before being strangled to death. The report showed his injuries emanated from a blunt object.

Besides, four men disappeared in a suspected abduction in Kitengela, south of Nairobi, on May 19, an incident that left many tongue wagging. Elijah Obuong, 35, Benjamin Amache, 30, Brian Oduor, 36, and Jack Ochieng', 37, on the fateful day arrived at a local pub in their car, Toyota Mark X. They ordered drinks and were seen leaving the premise. However, their families raised the alarm after they could not reach them via mobile phones for days. Police officers who later visited the scene found their car in the parking lot, an

indication they were abducted at the park.

Bodies of Elijah, Benjamin, and Brian were found dumped in separate areas within central Kenya, but that of Jack is yet to be recovered. The family of Jack has unsuccessfully moved around police stations and morgues to look for him. Cliff Ochieng, his eldest brother, shared their predicament with a local daily.

According to Cliff, the condition of his father, who has been battling stroke since 2000, has deteriorated, and his mother is currently admitted to hospital as she is suffering from depression.

"We want him, dead or a live. Even if Jack is dead, we want his body so that his wife and three children can get closure, now that all the three men have been found dead," said Cliff.

Police had linked the four with criminal offenses like robbery with violence, jumping bail, carjacking, and muggings, allegations their families rubbished. The mentioned cases, among many others, are

threatening Kenya's security ahead of its general polls next year August.

The cases of missing children have also caught leaders' attention. Posters and flyers announcing lost children are everywhere, from social media pages, mainstream media to electricity poles. Some of the tricks and schemes used by kidnappers offer edible gifts to children and falsified neglect cases. Some children are stolen at births in hospitals and others by friendly strangers.

On June 17, Kenya's Chief opposition leader Raila Odinga rallied his compatriots to halt the sad trend of missing and murdered children. Odinga urged Kenyans to report suspicious cases to police immediately to be acted upon by the relevant authorities.

"We marked the day of the African child against the backdrop of increasing heartbreaking reports of missing, murdered, harmed, and abused children in our country.

"Let's end this sad trend. Let us look towards children's health and safety concerns and away from a policy of reuniting children with their birth parents without regard to prior abusiveness," the AU special envoy said.

A study carried out by Kenya's



Somali-American businessman Bashir Mohammed.

National Crime Research Centre found out that strangers, acquaintances, family members conduct most kidnappings, and some are virtual, where a victim is told through a phone that their family member has been kidnapped.

According to the research, unemployment, poverty, gangs, and

militia, backward cultural practices, instability and conflicts, inefficiency and corruption among some members of the security system, political competition, and rivalry are some of the factors behind kidnappings. Other factors include marginalization of some areas, the proliferation of illegal small arms and light weapons,

and competition for resource control.

"Revenge is the major socio-cultural motive for kidnappings, ransom payment is the major economic motive while overcoming and/or reducing political rivalry is the major political motive for kidnapping," said the centre.



OUR HIGHLIGHTS:



IMPLEMENTS IGBO CLASSES IN AMERICA UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES



PROVIDES TRANSLATION SERVICES TO PRIVATE & NON-PRIVATE AGENCIES



HOSTS IGBO EVENTS IN DIASPORA



HOSTS PRIVATE IGBO CLASSES.



PARTNERSHIP WITH UNESCO GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER



NEXT GENERATION OF IGBO PEOPLE

...AND MORE

@ <http://igboamakacultural.org>

✉ igboamakaculturalinstitute@gmail.com

🌐 [Igboamakacultural](#)

CHICAGO

Thrice weekly to over 54 Destinations in Africa



Business friendly arrivals and departures to/from Africa

Fly non-stop from Chicago to Addis Ababa on Ethiopian's Ultra-Modern Aircraft and from there, to all major capitals of Africa are just a short hop away. With early afternoon arrivals to the capitals of Africa, Ethiopian offers the most convenient schedules to more cities in Africa than any other carrier .

www.ethiopianairlines.com

Ethiopian
የኢትዮጵያ
THE NEW SPIRIT OF AFRICA

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

PAV - JULY, 2021 - MAG 0721 VOL III

Rhino Poaching Worsens in Africa

... gory images of crudely de-horned carcasses littered in most parts of the continent continue - a threat to biodiversity

By Peter Kayula

Poaching has risen sharply in the recent years across Africa, fueled by rising demand in Asia for ivory and rhino horns, coveted as traditional medicine and a status symbol and acquisition and adaptation of advanced technologies in the fight against poachers is not yielding the desired results.

The international community, prominent leaders, the civil society and experts involved in the fight against rhino poaching have also continued to raise their views on the likely consequences of a situation where more than 35, 000 elements are killed across Africa annually for their tusks amid concerns that African governments are not doing enough to stem the crisis.

The heavy rains that fall, especially across Southern Africa from November to March annually, provide cover for many poaching syndicates that take advantage of full-moon nights to invade game areas as they navigate the clogged waterways.

On another hand, a demand for meat from wild terrestrial or semi-terrestrial animals, termed "bush meat", a significant source of animal protein and a crucial component of food security and livelihoods in rural areas in many African countries, has also heightened.

In the Congo Basin, many communities derive tangible benefits from bush meat as a major source of livelihood and an estimated consumption across the basin range between one million tonnes and five million tonnes with annual harvest rates estimation ranging from 23 to 897 kg/km. This dimension is arguably far worse in the Gabon and the Equatorial Guinea.

A practical experience in Cameroun's capital Yaounde is alarming as an inventory done in 1995-96 of the four main markets estimated sales between 840 and 1,080 tonnes of bush meat per year, while estimate consumption in



Poaching has risen sharply in the recent years across Africa, fueled by rising demand in Asia for ivory and rhino horns. Photo courtesy.

Bangui, the Central African Republic (CAR) capital, is 9,500 tonnes per year.

The trade in ivory starts mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, through the Central African Republic and South Sudan, using Ugandan as a transit point, this prompted Ugandan president Yoweri to call for a probe into the theft of ivory worth more than \$1million in November 2014. He ordered an investigation into a reported possible collusion between the country's wildlife agency and foreigners in the trafficking of ivory, according to updates from the news agency, AFP published in a local newspaper in June 2017.

Successful experience of the acquisition and adaptation of advanced technologies are limited to some countries. While it is hoped that they would change the landscape in the fight against rhino poachers, the incapacity of most countries in Africa to develop better biodiversity policies has in fact, prevented them from taking advantage of this privileged access to technology.

Uganda secured funding from the United Nations Development

Programme (UNPD) to procure surveillance drones that it has been a central focus will man parts of its protected areas, which are not routinely patrolled by rangers, and camera traps that will help identify poachers and intruders at porous entrances to game parks. the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has announced, according to AFP.

The country started training a team of 28 digital forensic experts in April, eight of them from the UWA, to track online, illicit trade of wildlife and suspect communications. Sadly, enough, a 2020 report on illicit financial flows in Africa revealed that Uganda loses between \$7 billion and \$23 billion per year because of illegal wildlife trade. Tourism is Uganda's biggest foreign exchange earner at about \$1.6 billion annually, according to AFP.

Poaching incidents around the country went up in March last year when the country went into a total lockdown over Covid-19 although authorities are yet to tell the extent of the loss but say the incidents have since drastically reduced.

In comparison to Uganda, up to 2014, Botswana was globally

considered a «safe haven» for wildlife but unfortunately rhino poaching in the country is getting far worse, according to a local journalist Oscar Nkala.

The government of President Mokgweetsi Masisi--in power since 2018--acknowledges the seriousness of the crisis explaining that at the rate at which the black rhino population is depleting, the country's iconic species would be out by the end of the year.

"At the rate at which the black rhino population is depleting, I'm afraid our iconic species will be out by the end of 2021. There is a serious problem with poaching in this country and this must be stopped," said President Masisi, as quoted by Lifegate, a sustainable development outfit.

According to Oscar Nkala, by 2015, Botswana had imported over 100 rhinos from Zimbabwe and South Africa, mostly to Mombo, a high security sanctuary in the Moremi Game Reserve in the Okavango Delta. The facility, owned by Rhino Conservation Botswana (RCB), was chosen for its difficult terrain that can only be accessed by horse, boat or helicopter.

In a study entitled «Poaching as a security threat for Botswana and the region» published by the United States Naval Post Graduate School in September 2018, researcher, Kopano Baruti, attributed Botswana's high vulnerability to poaching to weak law enforcement, long and porous borders and the existence of ungoverned spaces in its own territory neighbouring countries.

In Zambia, a parliament Conservation Causes praised the Government's commitment towards wildlife conservation. The Zambian parliament Conservation Causes (ZPCC) vice-chairperson Anthony Kasandwe said the Government's decision to launch blueprints on wildlife demonstrated its willingness to conserve the country's wildlife, local newspaper reported.

The Times of Zambia article of April 22 2019, revealed that the country's Tourism and Arts Minister Charles Banda launched the 2018 National Parks and Wildlife Policy, the 2019-2023 Strategic Rhino Conservation and Management Plan and the 2019-



A tranquilised rhino is dehorned by a researcher in Zimbabwe to make the animal less attractive to poachers. Photo credit BBC, WWF.

2023 National Conservation Action Plan for Cheetah and African Wild Dog for Zambia.

"I must admit on behalf of the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus that the political will from the Government is immeasurable in Connection with conservation," Mr Kasandwe, a former Bangweulu Member of Parliament (MP) said.

He explained that protection of wild life depended on effective stakeholder collaboration, stressing that the objectives of the wildlife conservation and management initiatives would only be achieved through sustained engagements, the paper reported.

It is clear that the fight against rhino poaching in Africa may create losers and winners within individual

countries, regions and between regions. Thus, tensions over the gory images of crudely de-horned carcasses should be expected to increase. Constructive responses should be responsibly planned-for in accordance with current national and regional objectives.

Can the African Super League Succeed when the European Super League Failed?

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

On April 18, the global sporting world was united against the proposed European Super League which will involve a select few participating years in year out. European governing body, UEFA was against the idea and even FIFA's President Gianni Infantino was against the idea.

Within a couple of hours, the majority of the clubs involved in the proposed league backtracked and the competition died an untimely death. Football breathes a sigh of relief not knowing that this same idea had been proposed to the African continent by a man who was against the ESL idea, Gianni Infantino.



Patrice Motsepe, CAF President.

This, therefore, begs the question of what the motive Gianni Infantino has on the continent and if he had a share of the cake with the European Super League he would have a campaign against it.

A close-shop like the European Super League

Infantino raised the idea first in 2019 saying it would comprise 20 permanent member clubs plus

others that would qualify via regional competitions, predicting the Super League with a payment of \$20m every year over five years would have the potential to generate a revenue of \$3 billion over a five-year cycle.

The creation of an African Super League could make it one of the top ten football competitions in the world, changing the financial reality of football on the continent, according to the FIFA President.

«We have had some serious problems in Africa and it has to change. It has to change the way of how to do business, it has to take on board the basic elements of good governance,» he said.

«There needs to be proper competition infrastructure. I think it is fair to say that the competitions in Africa are 30-to-40 times less successful than in Europe,» he said on Monday.

The criteria for selecting the 20 clubs have yet to be made known which beg the question Will it be based on the CAF club coefficient? On historical performance? On club profile and followership? And what will happen to the CAF Confederations Cup and CAF Champions League?

Al Ahly, reigning African champions and the most successful club in the continent's history, is reportedly vehemently opposed to the idea. However, other clubs have already jumped on the bag wagon and campaigning for a place in the proposed new competition.

Simba CEO Barbara Gonzalez after the election of the new CAF President promptly tweeted to the effect that plans to execute the Super League were underway.

«It was great catching up with FIFA President, Gianni Infantino on the sidelines of the CAF Elections 2021. The rollout of the African Super League with 20 permanent member clubs is underway. We look forward to having Simba SC Tanzania participate soon.»

CAF President Patrice Motsepe in Support of African Super League

The hand of Infantino is impossible to miss in the politics of the continent's football, and so it was that, upon the



Wydad Casablanca celebrates winning CAF Super Cup.

confirmation of Motsepe, he was present. FIFA president was seen as a close ally of the former CAF President Ahmad Ahmad who was banned from football-related activities due to mismanagement.

And it seems the new CAF President Patrice Motsepe is looking to be an ally of Infantino with the CAF President already loving the idea saying it was needed to improve the game on the continent and make it financially viable.

«We are assessing and in preliminary discussions to start an inclusive and broadly supported and beneficial CAF African Super League,» he said in a statement. «We have been following the attempts by some top European clubs to form a Euro Super League and will learn from their experience and pitfalls.»

Motsepe said CAF, which is

African football's controlling body, must consider new competitions to generate additional income for itself and its member associations and «also contribute to African football becoming globally competitive and self-sustaining.»

Motsepe, who took on the job in March, also said that CAF's image needed improving. «There is a poor perception of CAF concerning its adherence to governance, auditing, ethical, and financial and management good practices,» he said.

Dr Patrice Motsepe added: «These negative perceptions may, to some extent, be confirmed by the incriminating and damning audit which identified irregular, unethical and improper transactions and conduct.»

«CAF should be seen as a body that adheres to good governance, ethics and financial and management best practices. It is also important that the quality of [our] competitions are globally competitive and appealing to spectators, viewers and interested parties in Africa and globally.»

Why is the world silent about the

African Super League?

On April 18, the birth of the European Super League was announced by Real Madrid president Florentino Perez to the dissatisfaction of managers, players and European and World Football governing bodies.

«I can only say my personal opinion. I do not like it and hopefully, it does not happen,» Liverpool player James Milner said about the proposition of the ESL.

«I fell in love with popular football, with the football of the fans, with the dream of seeing the team of my heart compete against the greatest,» PSG Player Ander Herrera wrote on Twitter.

«If this European Super League advances, those dreams are over, the illusions of the fans of the teams that are not giants of being able to win on the field competing in the best competition will end.»

The world seems to be silent on this idea being proposed by FIFA President on the African continent. The voices who were against the ESL seemingly have forgotten about that being proposed to Africa.

«What this accurately conveys is that, for all that the proposed profit margins are heady and exciting; the demand for an African Super League is pretty much nil. It is an idea that, in its current guise, benefits no agenda but Fifa's,» Solace Chukwu wrote in a piece for Goal.



FIFA President Gianni Infantino.



A new Gate Way to Africa for you with Pan African Vision

Are you looking for more product or brand awareness?

Are you trying to drive more traffic to your site?

Are you trying to grow your business or network with decision makers?

Do you need cost effective advertisement that will be seen by millions?

If you answered yes to any of the following questions, then you can be saving yourself from a lot of time and money wasted on purchasing advertisement from highly competitive or low quality sites.

At Pan African Visions, we can help your brand and sales explode by advertising to countless readers on our powerful online publication website, with a yearly page visit count in the millions (500k visitors a month, circa, 100k plus weekly Facebook post reach, partnership with major PR agencies capable of distributing your stories across all of Africa and beyond).

We also have our monthly Pan African Visions Magazine to carry adverts, and other corporate information.

We provide the perfect advertisement methods to sell your products and services.

Not only do we have massive reach and comparative advertisement rates, but we can also accommodate many different styles of advertisement methods. From Video ads, corporate profiles, Press releases, etc, we can help you choose the best way to advertise your offer to our rapidly expanding audience.

Our partnership will be your gateway to our loyal following, granting you access to people across Africa and in the diaspora.

For more information on how we can help you increase your brand awareness and sales contact us, for a free consultation.

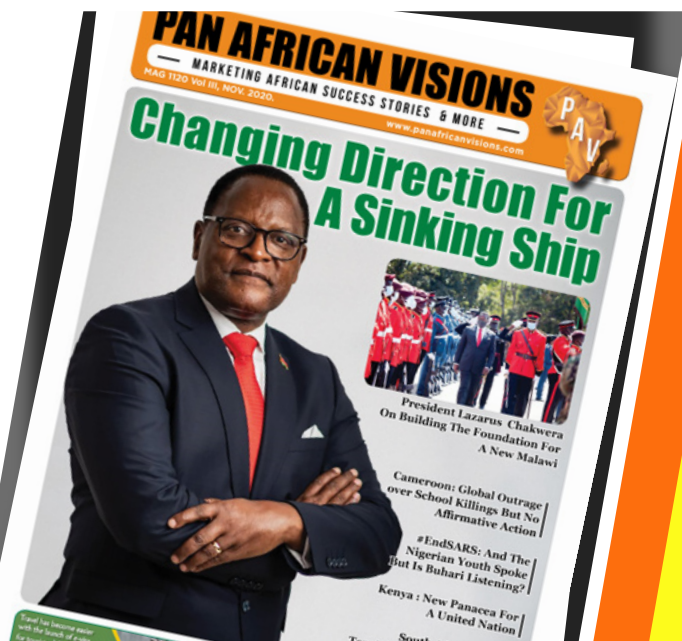
CONTACT US

+ 1 2404292177

marketing@panafricanvisions.com

www.panafricanvisions.com

P.S Email or Call , to receive our special discounted rate.





BRING YOUR **A**-GAME IF YOUR **A**-GAME IS AFRICA

Centurion Law Group is a **pan-African corporate law conglomerate**, with a specialised focus on cross-border business and energy law. We are a stand out firm for investors that are starting a new business or looking to expand their footprint across **Africa**.

We provide a full-scope **legal, tax, government relations and management advice for clients and regular advice** on some of the most complex and market-first deals.



CENTURION

Lawyers and Business Advisors

