



Dr. Succès Masra On Chad At Crossroads



Kenya:
Hustler Nation Blues

Cameroon:
New Year Same Crisis

Malawi: Chakwera's
Rude Awakening

South Africa:
Ramaphosa Survives



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

ETHIOPIAN AIRWAYS MEMBER Ethiopian





CENTURION

Lawyers and Business Advisors

PAN-AFRICAN
PRO-AFRICAN

www.centurionlg.com

C O N T E N T S

Editorial-Matters Arising From The Biden Promises _____	2	Zambia- Hichilema Harvests Big From The US _____	29
Kenya-Ruto Partially Delivers On His 100 _____	4	African Metals Group Touts Energy Perspectives In Washing- ton,DC _____	32
South Africa-Second Presidential Term for Ramaphosa _____	7	ICT University signs MoU with Anderson University to Aid Aca- demics, Research _____	35
A Year Of Complex Dynamics In The Great Lakes _____	9	African Metals Group Hosts Energy Stakeholders _____	38
Cameroon Same Crisis Different Readings _____	12	A Transformative African Agenda with the Ōrama Way For 2023- Keseena Chengadu _____	41
Liberia-Weah's Difficult Road To Re-election _____	13	Bakassi's Catholic Hope. _____	42
Chad- -Dr Succes Masra On The Duty To Resist _____	16	Malawi Losing Billions Through Illegal Mining _____	47
Nigeria-Obasanjo Banks On Obi _____	22	Ernest Ouandié and the Unfolding Verdict of History _____	51
Malawi -A Rude Awakening For Chakwera _____	23	Cameroon-A Year At The FA For Samuel Eto'o _____	54
NJ Ayuk Listed Among 100 Most Reputable Africans of 2023 _	26		
Zimbabwe-New Elections Old Worries _____	28		

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

Matters Arising From Biden's Africa Reset Button

By Ajong Mbatndah L

The timing may not have been the best especially with the weather challenges for participants coming from a continent not accustomed to the winter cold, but the Biden administration successfully hosted the second USA-African leaders' summit. Political, business leaders, civil society actors answered present in Washington, DC. Even leading opposition figures like Raila Odinga and Dr Succès Masra from Chad were sighted in Washington, DC. But beyond the glamor and the lofty promises, what next for Africa?

With plans to commit \$55 billion to Africa over the next three years, some critics thought this paled in comparison to what competitors like China and increasingly Russia have been pouring into the continent, the Biden Administration did touch a nerve with some game changing promises. The pledge to lead the charge for a permanent seat for Africa at both the G20 and the UN Security is music to the ears for many, and rightly so for a variety of reasons.

For a continent with over a billion people, it remains unfathomable that Africa is either kept out of the room or doesn't give sufficient input on key decisions that shape its fortunes. While African countries have been routinely invited to G20 meetings, participated and sat at the Security Council on rotatory basis, this has been to limited effect on the strength of their voice or prospective changes. Gaining a seat at the table will ensure that African issues and stakes are adequately amplified by African voices that best live the experiences and challenges of the people.

While it remains to be seen how the Biden Administration intends to deliver on these promises, there are matters arising that need redress. For instance, where ...or better still when President Biden succeeds in getting a seat for permanent seat for Africa at the table, who is going to sit on behalf of the continent? In others who speaks for Africa? Is it the African Union-a continental body with

questionable reputation in the eyes of the people? Is it continental giants like Nigeria and South Africa that continue to fall short of the leadership that Africa deserves to speed up efforts to meet 21st century challenges?

Africa's perennial leadership problems have contributed enormously in stagnating progress. Fraught with double standards, and a membership that seems more comfortable in kowtowing to foreign interests as opposed to investing in a shared destiny or vision for all Africans, the AU does not inspire confidence to many Africans. Docking Burkina Faso, Mali, and Guinea for unconstitutional takeovers which run afoul of AU principles and giving Chad a pass on the same issue typifies some of the incongruities that sow doubts on the leadership credentials of the AU.

Nigeria and South Africa have not been successful in serving as efficient spokespersons for the continent. As African leaders were headed to Washington, President Ramaphosa was back in South Africa fighting for his own political future. Since the advent of majority rule in South Africa, none of its leaders has successfully served two terms in office. The ruling ANC has failed to deliver on so many promises, and the routine acts of xenophobia against fellow Africans are the last thing many Africans expected from a country that represented so much hope with the release of Mandela and the emergence of Black majority rule.

We have opined several times here at PAV that as Nigeria goes, so does Africa. The day Nigeria gets it right, Africa will get it right. Sadly, for its amazing natural resources and incredible human potential, Nigeria does not seem to be getting it right. We see it in its security challenges, we see it in the pervasive corruption, and we see it in the fragmented nature of politics which permanently makes



Ajong Mbatndah L, Managing Editor

many fearful of the future of Africa's most populous nation.

In 2023, there will be crucial elections in a number of countries including Nigeria. Even with incumbent President Buhari not running because of constitutional term limits, the campaigns have not been void of the high stakes drama, and tensions that are typical of Nigerian elections. The outcome of the elections will have consequences that go beyond the shores of Nigeria, and it should remain everyone's prayers that all goes, Political chaos in Nigeria should not be something right thinking African should wish for.

Besides Nigeria, elections will also take place in Liberia where George Weah has not succeeded to translate his legendary soccer prowess to forging a transformative agenda in his first term. In Zimbabwe where the shoes of late President Mugabe remain too big to be filled, elections are also expected to take place with another exciting round between current President Mnangagwa and the opposition challenger Nelson Chamisa.

As challenging as things may be across, there is a reason to keep hope alive. It is for hope and a better future that Dr Succès Masra is fighting for his people in Chad. The

young and dynamic leader of the Transformation opposition says it is time for Chadians to enjoy a better future than what the Deby dynasty has offered them. A former Senior staff of the African Development Bank, Masra has led the charge in rallying Chadians to resist plans by General Mahamat Kaka Deby to strengthen his grip on power.

For Africa to evolve, the kind of double standards. Displayed by the African Union must be eschewed, says Dr Masra. On Chad the AU goofed big time by not sanctioning the military coup of sorts that brought General Mahamat Deby to power. The coups in Mali,

Burkina Faso, and Guinea could also be attributed to the pass that the AU gave Chad, he says in the interview.

At the recent USA-African leaders Summit, while Chad was invited, Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea were not invited. Yet all are countries led by the military. Quizzed on this incongruity, U.S State Department Officials said the invitation to the Summit was extended to all countries in good standing with the African Union... Decisions have consequences. The debate as to who speaks for Africa is therefore not a misplaced one at this point. While in Chad, the unconstitutional succession was even more nauseating because of the filial connection, the coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Guinea seemed to have a popular fervor that should remain mind boggling.

To start the year, PAV decided to beam the spotlight on Chad with Dr Succès Masra whose strong fighting spirit epitomizes the quest for change across the continent for a new generation of dynamic young Africans. The issue also has a look at the first one hundred days of Kenya's hustler President William Ruto, election news from Liberia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe, Biya's universe in Cameroon and more.... Happy New Year, and Happy Reading!!

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

Ruto Partially Delivers On His 100-Day-In-Office Pledges

By Samuel Ouma

Kenya's President William Ruto on December 10, 2022, marked his first 100 days in the office, amid growing economic crisis occasioned by climate change, Covid-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war.

On September 13, Kenya's fifth president took the oath of office and made a number of promises to Kenyans for his first 100 days in office, addressing areas such as governance, gender and equality, fighting graft, infrastructure, and economic recovery. While some of these pledges have been fulfilled, others haven't.

The Infotrak Voice of the People Poll, which produced a citizen scorecard on the president's first 100 days in office, gives the performance of 52.1 per cent a grade of C, meaning it needs to be improved. The poll noted that President Ruto has not performed well on his pledges, with a third of the population still languishing in abject poverty.

Ruto pledged to reorganize the economy by reducing government debt and lowering the cost of basic goods, nonetheless, things have become worse, with several Kenyans struggling to meet their daily needs and hundreds of thousands sleeping on an empty stomach.

The opposition claims that Ruto has strayed from his bottom-up economic strategy, which calls for significant investment in Kenya's lower socioeconomic groups. According to Raila Odinga's brigade, Ruto's language and rhetoric have changed since he took office. He has often emphasized publicly that the government must begin living within its means while preaching about economic austerity.

«He is implementing an austerity program that involves spending cuts and high taxes, which will amount to a savage attack on the living standards of the populace on a scale last witnessed at the height of the structural adjustment impositions of



President William Ruto takes the oath of office during the official swearing-in ceremony in Nairobi, Kenya September 13, 2022. Photo credit Reuters, Baz Ratner.

the early 1990s,» said Raila Odinga.

During his campaign, Ruto blamed rising cooking flour prices on former President Uhuru Kenyatta and Raila Odinga. He promised to reduce product prices as soon as he took office. Nonetheless, on October 25, 2022, he urged Kenyans to give him a year to address the issue.

«I told you we must lower the price of cooking flour. I've already begun the journey of lowering cooking flour prices and living expenses; just give me a year,» he stated.

Ruto's first act as president was to eliminate fuel subsidies and reduce food subsidies instituted by his predecessor, Uhuru Kenyatta, which caused widespread misery and hardship among citizens. Subsidies were eliminated across the board, with no targeted safety nets for vulnerable households or the socially excluded.

Under the leadership of the self-proclaimed champion of the downtrodden, the Central Bank of Kenya has increased interest rates by a total of 1.75 percent in 2022, the

most in seven years, and in October, inflation skyrocketed to a five-year high of 9.6 percent.

President Ruto also terminated the «Kazi Mtaani» safety net program for slum dwellers. The initiative was created to protect the most vulnerable youth in informal settlements from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, numerous vulnerable people are left in a state of desperation and without a means of sustaining their lives since the «Pesa Kwa Wazee» social safety net program for the elderly and the crippled no longer receives funding.

The Ruto administration further doesn't appear to have a plan for decreasing the threat of public debt. In an effort to address the issue, the new administration is raising taxes on Kenyans. Also, despite the fact that Ruto was a leading critic of the previous administration's excessive borrowing, his administration is actively pursuing loans from the IMF, World Bank, China, and South Korea.

Moreover, despite promising to curb expenses, Ruto's administration

has actually increased them. By creating cabinet level offices and increasing the number of state departments, the head of state of Kenya has increased the size of the executive.

Ruto promised in his manifestos that he would give women 50 per cent of cabinet positions. He also promised to implement a two-thirds gender rule in all elective and appointed positions in the public sector. But when he appointed cabinet members, he completely disregarded his promise. Women accounted for 31% of all appointments. The proportion of female principal secretaries was also 23.

On ethnic and regional balance when it comes to public appointments, Ruto had promised that every Kenyan will be treated equally regardless of their ethnic and regional backgrounds. His appointments say otherwise. Most of the public positions have been awarded to members of the Kalenjin community, his backyard, followed by the Kikuyu community. Most of

the appointed men and women are his closest allies, accused of many scandals ranging from graft, assault to obstruction of justice.

For instance, 26 out of 51 principal secretaries appointed by him were from the two communities, even though there are 47 ethnic groups in Kenya.

«In the mindset of President Ruto, only those who support him are entitled to the rights of citizens and benefit from public opportunities and resources,» said the opposition.

Ruto also admitted that the health sector faced numerous difficulties during the manifesto's rollout, with a special emphasis on resource issues. To accomplish this, he pledged to cooperate with the county governments. Over the course of his first 100 days in office, he did not, however, give a clear directive in this regard. Since the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union (KMPDU) announced a statewide strike starting on January 6, 2023, unrest is now developing in the industry.

Despite the failures mentioned above, President Ruto has performed admirably in other areas. He appointed judges to the Court of Appeal who had been overlooked by his predecessor. He had stated that he would appoint the judges within his first seven days in office. In fact, he appointed judges Korir Weldon Kipyegon, Muchelule Aggrey Otsyula,



Ruto got the last laugh in a contentious succession fight with his predecessor backing the opposition challenger. Photo credit Tony Karumba , AFP, Getty Images.

Odunga George Vincent, and Joel Mwaura Ngugi to the appellant court just hours after he was sworn in.

Investigations into alleged state-sponsored extrajudicial executions were one of his first campaign promises. So, after 34 days in office, the Special Service Unit was disbanded on October 16 by the interim Inspector General, Noor Gabow (SSU). Following that, several former members of the unit were brought up in court on charges related to the disappearance of two Indians and their Kenyan driver.

Ruto also vowed to order a review of the pay and benefits for all officers in the security industry in order to bring them into line with the cost of living. As a result, on December 22, Ruto established a 23-person task team under the direction of the former Chief Justice David Maraga to review the conditions of service of police officers and recommend different reforms.

«I'm dedicated to making sure we have a competent police force. I have assured the commanders all around the nation that they have my support and that of Kenyans to ensure that they carry out their mandate,» said Ruto.

Also, Ruto launched the Hustler Fund, an innovative revolving fund that combines credit and savings, to assist and enable many Kenyans to gain access to low-cost credit. The fund is accessible to individuals on their own through digital platforms. Kenyans have a borrowing range of Ksh500 (\$5) to Ksh50000 (\$500) that they must repay within

14 days.

The Kenyan Head of State also launched the Judiciary Fund, gave the Deputy President and Prime Cabinet Secretary specific duties, moved port operations back to Mombasa from Naivasha, subsidized fertilizers, established the Education Working Party on Education Reforms, and assisted in removing 4.5 million Kenyans from the Credit Reference Bureau (CRB) blacklist.

To combat the effects of climate change, Ruto's administration has begun a plan to plant 15 billion trees on 11 million hectares across Kenya by 2030. The plan's goal is to increase national tree cover from 12 percent to 30 percent over that time period. This program will be carried out by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with county governments and a wide range of other local and international stakeholders.

Kenya has also forged agreements on mobilizing investments and financing in a wide variety of sectors with East African Community member states, the governments of South Africa, the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, Qatar, Germany, and South Korea thanks to President Ruto's efforts.



There is great expectation for the hustler President to deliver on campaign promises. Photo credit Thomas Mukoya, Reuters.

Nouvelle Collection Vista Gui 2022 !



VOUS ÊTES UN PARTICULIER
ET VOUS SOUHAITEZ UNE **CARTE BANCAIRE**
NATIONALE ? SOUSCRIVEZ À LA **CARTE**
CLASSIC VERTE NATIONALE ET PROFITEZ
DE 3 MOIS OFFERTS!

Promotion jusqu'au 30 avril 2022

**carte visa sans contact !*

VISTA
GUI

f **t** **in** **y** **VISTA GUI**
Plus d'infos au 624 93 11 11

South Africa: Second Presidential Term for Ramaphosa 'Guaranteed'

By Prince Kurupati

In recent times, local political news in South Africa has been dominated by President Ramaphosa. At one point, it seemed like the end was nigh for Ramaphosa's political career. However, in almost an instant, that all changed. Not only is he going to lead the ruling party African National Congress (ANC) for the next five years, but he is also highly likely to win a second term as the country's president.

The ruling party held its congress in the week preceding the Christmas holiday. The timing of the congress was a match made in hell for the incumbent Cyril Ramaphosa as he was busy redeeming himself from a high-profile scandal that not only threatened his presidential aspirations but his political career.

Having been implicated by the Section 89 Panel for secretly keeping money (from the proceeds of a crime) at his Phala Phala farm, President Ramaphosa was facing possible impeachment and jail time. However, he managed to fight the accusations simultaneously at the same time when he was campaigning to win a second term as the ANC president.

The odds of coming out unscathed from the Phala Phala scandal were quite low for the President as the Section 89 Panel in its report painted a gory picture of how Ramaphosa had violated the constitution. The report said it established "prima facie, the money that was stolen was probably more than US\$580,000, and that there was substantial doubt about the legitimacy of the source of the currency that was stolen... This is a very serious matter, which, if established, renders violation of section 96 of the Constitution and (the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act), a serious violation, and a serious misconduct". This effectively means the Panel is convinced that the stolen money is the result of proceeds of crime.

Despite the scandal, Ramaphosa



The victory rescued Ramaphosa from the brink and all but guaranteed a second term for him as President of South Africa. Photo credit AP ,Denis Farrell.

gathered an impressive 2,476 votes to Zweli Mkhize's 1,897. Announcing the results, ANC's head of elections Kgalema Motlanthe said that 4,436 delegates were eligible to cast their vote. All of them cast their votes and 4,384 votes were counted. The two that weren't counted were two delegates who were caught photographing their ballots hence their voting status was immediately revoked, and their votes discarded.

Ramaphosa's win means that he automatically will become ANC's presidential candidate in the upcoming presidential election. The ANC has won every presidential election since the country attained its independence in 1994. With the party still boasting of having the biggest support base in the country, the probability of Cyril Ramaphosa winning a second term in office is very high -almost guaranteed.

Things, however, will not be

straightforward for Ramaphosa in the lead-up to the presidential election as some disgruntled elements from his party will feel that the Phala Phala scandal if followed through can result in him relinquishing his position.

In his opening address at the Congress, Ramaphosa acknowledged that divisions and factions exist in the ANC. He however went on to state that it's important that the differences be based on ideological, political and strategic differences rather than for them to be based on the contestation of positions in the party and state.

"Our experience of recent years is that disunity does not arise from ideological, political or strategic differences amongst us... But it arises from a contest over positions in the state, and resources that are attached to them," President Ramaphosa said.

Ramaphosa also faces the threat from opposition parties which will be looking to give him a good run in the

election. Though ANC has won every presidential election since 1994, the numbers have been decreasing from election to election. From 1994, the ANC garnered 60%+ votes in the election sometimes exceeding the 70% mark, however, in the last (2019) election, the party fell below the 60% mark as it received 57.50% of the votes cast.

With the opposition parties gaining momentum mostly in urban areas and the ruling party facing stern criticism owing to the declining economy, high unemployment levels and its handling of the age-long 'crisis' of migration (where thousands of people from surrounding countries which include Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique flock to South Africa in search of greener pastures), Ramaphosa will have to work harder to keep the ANC electoral base satisfied as the vote percentage can't keep falling.

What will give Ramaphosa

much-needed confidence to tackle all obstacles ahead and win the upcoming presidential election is that four of the top 7 that were chosen at the Congress are his allies. In the party presidium, therefore, the president will not have to bear much with controlling dissenting voices but will work in unison with the other leaders to seek solutions for the party and country.

Lebogang Maile who is an ANC delegate and ally of Ramaphosa's opponent during the Congress Mr. Mkhize said that the Congress is now over, and the party returns to working for the common good of the country. At this juncture, all we want and expect is "delivery speedily, and problems facing our people must be solved".



The ANC has dominated elections and national politics in post-apartheid South Africa, but opposition has grown stronger in the face of broken promises. Photo credit AP, Denis Farrell.

NKEMNJI

Tel: (608) 239-3994
 ngt_press@yahoo.com
 www.nkemnjiglobaltech.com

GLOBAL TECH

Graphic Design & Publishing

NEUMAN & ESSER GROUP

AGILE. SOLUTION. EXPERTS.



MISSION:
HYDROGEN



A Year of Complex Dynamics In The Great Lakes

By Jean-Pierre Afadhali

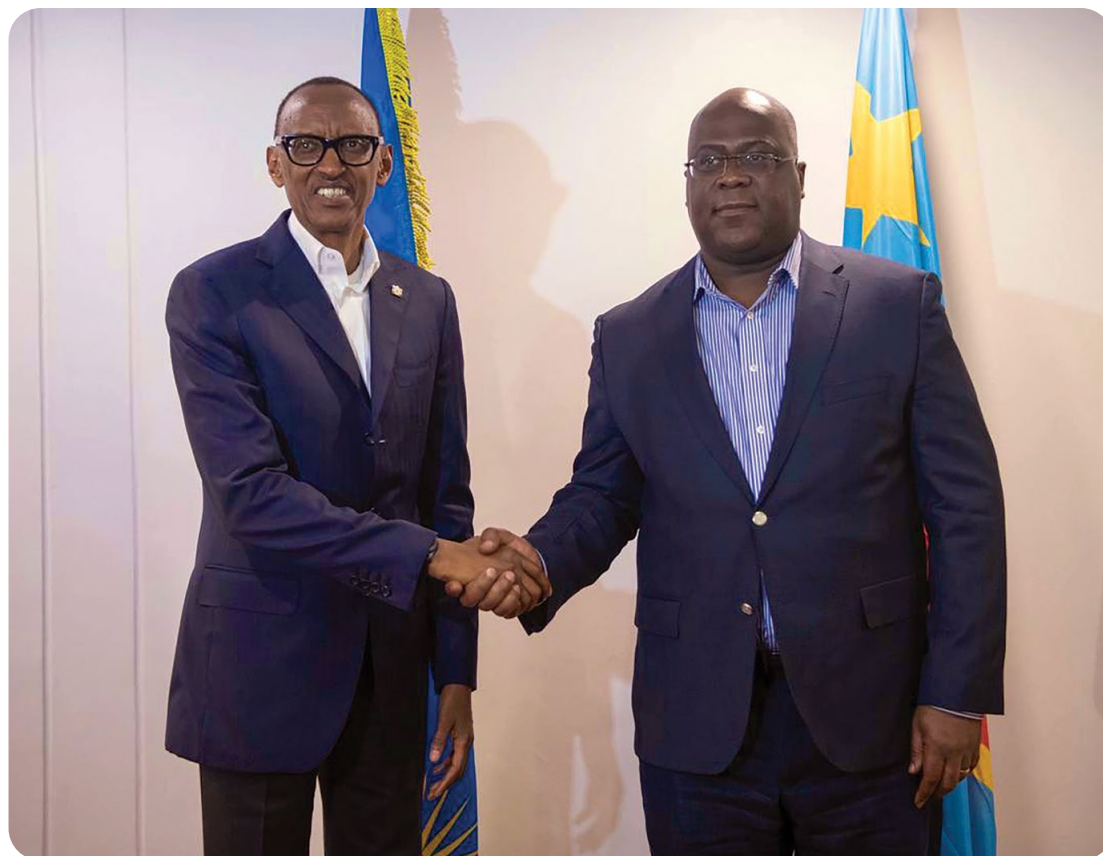
The resurgence of M23 rebels in volatile Eastern DRC has raised tension between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo leading to a crisis as two Great lakes countries accuse each other of supporting rebels in North Kivu province. Despite mediation efforts led by African Union, East African Community and pressure from international community, it appears the conflict will not end soon and could still grab global news headlines in 2023.

Last year, the Tutsis rebel group- composed mainly by former Congolese soldiers advanced towards the provincial capital Goma after taking several villages and key towns in the troubled Eastern DRC, a region where hundreds of militias operate. DRC's President Felix Tshisekedi and his government have accused Kigali of supporting rebels that appear to be stronger than in 2013, at the time they were beaten by UN special forces. Kigali has rejected accusations, but a UN experts' group leaked late last year suggests Rwanda has intervened in fighting and supported rebels with weapon, ammunition, and uniforms.

Similarly, the UN experts group revealed that DRC armed forces (FARDC) have collaborated with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda known by the French acronym FDRL, a remnant of militia responsible for the 1994 Genocide against Tutsis.

Despite initiatives to bring stability in Eastern DRC and the wider Great Lakes region, it appears the conflict will continue in 2023. Mediation efforts led by Angolan president Joao Lourenco and East African Community led by president Evariste Ndayishimiye tried to end the crisis, but implementation is facing stumbling blocks.

According to International Crisis Group (ICG), the crisis in DRC is among top 10 global conflicts to watch in 2023. "M23's sudden re-emergence owes as much to tensions among



President Paul Kagame and President Etienne Tshisekedi have continued to trade blames on the simmering crisis.

Great Lakes states as it does to local dynamics." Said the ICG in its latest analysis note. The organization added that Kinshasa had been trying to reassert its authority in the troubled east, home to dozens of rebel groups, including some from neighboring countries.

President Tshisekedi has accused President Paul Kagame of backing M23 as a way to extract Congolese resources. President Kagame also said DRC government wants to use the crisis in North Kivu for political gains and delay elections. Some observers believe the crisis in the Great lakes is here to stay in 2023 amid tensions between Neighboring countries. The conflict has resulted in displacement of tens of thousands of people and could turn into a regional proxy war.

Yvan Yenda Ilunga, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Salve

Regina University in USA in an interview with BBC focus on Africa Programme noted that the narrative of tension continues to be rife on both sides mainly DRC and Rwanda. "There is no clear positive sign at the moment unless there is a quick intervention." Noted the academician in interview.

International pressure

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in 2022 an estimated 27 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. OCHA says that in 2023 one in four people in DRC will be affected by Humanitarian crises in DRC.

Amid humanitarian situation deterioration, international community has been piling pressure on Kigali and Kinshasa to end the conflict, respect peace agreements

and mediation efforts. It appears most international actors have focused on Rwanda accused of backing M23. Several Western countries have urged Rwanda to use its "influence" on M23 to persuade the rebels to cease hostilities. However, Kigali maintains this is a wrong approach.

The United States said in a press statement released on 4 January 2023, it welcomes the midterm report by the United Nations Group of Experts released on December 30, and shares the concerns outlined in the report about the sharp increase in violence and the deterioration in the security and humanitarian situation in Eastern DRC.

The US urged Great Lakes leaders and armed actors to expedite implementation of multiple commitments to end the conflict, especially those agreed at the November 23 Luanda Mini-Summit on Peace and Security. Recently



President Kagame seen here in a meeting with U.S Secretary of State Tony Blinken believes that the international community is using the wrong approach in peace efforts.

M23 rebels withdrew from Kibumba town, few kilometres from Goma and Rumangabo military barrack, a key military camp they seized in October 2022. However, media reports suggest that rebels have taken other towns after leaving Kibumba to the East African community forces, signaling the conflict is still prevalent.

Meanwhile, the US has reiterated its call on Rwanda to cease “all support to M23 and withdraw its troops from eastern DRC” saying there is clear evidence that Rwanda supports M23 rebels and credible reports of grave human rights abuse by M23.

Amid international pressure President Kagame believes the international community is using the wrong approach to support peace efforts and stability in Great Lakes.

In his new Year 2023 address,

President Kagame said “these efforts will not bear fruit, unless the unhelpful approach of the international community changes significantly.” Kagame added: “It is disappointing that the international community pays lip service to peace, and actually ends up complicating matters, which undermines the regional processes.”

To explain this failure, some in the international community blame Rwanda, even though they know very well that the true responsibility lies primarily with the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as with these external actors who refuse to address the root causes of the problem – nowhere else, stressed the president of Rwanda.

Getting Rwanda on board will be crucial, given its influence on M23 leaders, further noted ICG in

its recent analysis. “The best shot to achieve that lies in concerted diplomacy by East African leaders aimed at repairing relations between Kagame and Tshisekedi, which has shown some initial signs of progress, alongside efforts to curb collaboration between the Congolese military and the FDLR.”

East Africa military mission deployed

However, UN has also accused DRC of xenophobia and hate speech towards Kinyarwanda-speaking community especially Tutsis, a community that is spread in various Great Lakes countries. “We urge DRC officials to continue speaking out to condemn such discourse and to hold accountable those who employ violence.” Read the latest US

statement on DRC crisis.

For the first time the East African Community has deployed a military force minus Rwanda whose contingent has been rejected by Kinshasa, to restore calm in Eastern Congo. Some observers say the UN peacekeeping forces in the volatile region appears to be reluctant to take on rebels leading to anti-UN sentiments among the population. Kenya has already deployed its forces.

“Long-suffering locals have high hopes that Kenyan troops can beat back rebels, but Kenya sensibly views the goal more as securing Goma and its surrounding main roads and pushing M23 into a ceasefire.” Noted the ICG in its latest report.

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

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Ethiopian





PAPSS

Pan-African Payment
& Settlement System

Faster, Cheaper, Simpler

Supported by



Get Connected
www.papss.com

Cameroon: New Year, Same Crisis, Different Readings

-For 6th Year, Biya Says Anglophone Crisis Is Under Control, But Ambazonia Fighters Vow To Fight On

By Andrew Nsoseka

In his traditional end-of-year speech, Cameroon's President, Paul Biya again declared that the war against Ambazonia separatists in the country's English-speaking regions, which constituted the former Southern Cameroons is under control. Biya's declaration, like that of his ministers, has become a common phrase, but on the ground, the situation is aggravating, and separatists seem to be in for the long haul.

The situation on the ground is far from declarations made by the president and Ministers in faraway Yaoundé, away from communities where most government structures have virtually collapsed. In most areas apart from the regional headquarters of the two crisis regions, most government representation is only the presence of soldiers in outposts where they are sometimes forced to relocate when separatists attack heavily.

In his speech on December 31, 2022, like the previous years, President Biya in his speech again said, "Overall, the situation has been brought under control countrywide despite the resurgence of urban



President Biya's reading and handling of the crisis still defies logic according to many observers.

crime and lingering sporadic attacks by certain terrorist groups in some regions."

He furthered that, "collaboration between our defence forces and the population has contributed to

reducing significantly the terrorist threat in the Far-North, North-West and South-West Regions. With the return to calm, remarkable progress has been achieved in implementing the Plan for the Reconstruction and

Development of the said Regions."

President Biya seems far from reality, given that not only is the situation getting worse and communities crumbling, but his so-called reconstruction plan launched in 2020 is yet to have something concrete to show for it. In the phase of uncertainty and fighting in real areas destroyed by the war, which were the main targets of the reconstruction drive, the Commission in charge of it started talking about implementing projects in safe zones, - which are mostly areas where no real destruction has been recorded in.

Judging by the motive of several separatist fronts, their move to make the regions ungovernable for the Cameroon government is largely succeeding, while the presiding is verbally having the situation under control.

There are communities in Anglophone regions that have completely fallen, with no



Secretary General Guterres receives a gift from President Paul Biya. The UN has played a very passive role when it comes to addressing the crisis in Cameroon.

government presence left. In most of them, there is only the office of the Divisional Officer. In most cases, many of them take refuge in hotels located in regional headquarters, from where if pressured, they show up under heavy guard, in their areas of command, during some official ceremony.

While calls for the Cameroon government to embrace a negotiated settlement with separatists mount by the day, the government on its part seems to lean more towards the extremists of the

establishment who keep convincing the President and his government that a military win is at hand, as they, like the President, keep announcing a "situation under control", even as the separatists who have mostly switched to guerrilla tactics as opposed to their preferred open battle confrontations, keep pounding military vehicles with improvised explosive devices and RPGs that have become common as the crisis drags on.

In a public outing on December



An abandoned school in anglophone Cameroon .The crisis have had a serious toll on education, Photo credit Giles Clarke,Getty Images.

31 too, the spokesperson of the Separatists' united ground force, known as Ambazonia People's Liberation Council, APLC, self-styled Field Marshall Bitter Kola rather promised that 2023 will be a tough year, as there will be intense fighting. "We will fight till the last man standing, La Republique will never be able to kill all Ambazonians. We are fighting to defend our homeland, and to protect our civilians. We will continue doing this until we get our

independence", he said in a video.

In response to the Former Ambassador & Assistant. Secretary of State, Herman J. Cohen tweeted that it was "time for Cameroon President Biya to understand that the only way to prevent the emergence of an independent Ambazonia is to give Anglophone Cameroon virtual independence in a return to the original federal system abolished in 1972," Mark Bareta one of the Ambazonia Diaspora leaders

retorted that, "the only sustainable solution is the rebirth of Ambazonia. This generation will end the bloodshed. Virtual independence or what you call federation is to leave the fight for our children. No sir, we will end this NOW."

While holding on jealously to the military option to address the crisis back in Cameroon, President Biya who also blames the suffocating inflation in Cameroon

on the war in Ukraine and not the several war fronts in Cameroon has said Ukraine and Russia should dialogue as the best way to resolve their differences. On social media, many keep mocking the President for being quick to recommend dialogue as the best way out of a conflict that is barely a year, while holding on to the war option for a conflict in his own country that has been on for over six years with no end in sight.

Liberia: Weah's Re-election Bid on the Ropes as Anti-Government Protests Intensify

By Prince Kurupati

Liberian President George Weah will be seeking a second term in office when the country goes to the polls later this year. The incumbent's popularity has however dwindled in recent times as demonstrated by the massive anti-government protests which have swept across the country. This in turn has led to permutations that his re-election bid may be tougher than many predicted at first.

There has been rising discontent in Monrovia, Liberia's capital and other parts of the country owing to rising living costs. Rice is the staple food of Liberia, and its price has been escalating in the past months. The disruption in the global food chain owing to Russia-Ukraine is a major contributing factor. In December alone, when the protests started to



President Weah is facing the fury of Liberians over high costs of living ,unemployment and general economic hardship.



Demonstrators hold a banner as they protest over the ongoing economic hardship and President George Weah's prolonged absence from the country. Photo credit Reuters, Carielle Doe.

gather more momentum, the price of a 25kg bag rose from \$15 to \$17,50.

To compound matters, even more, the disruption in the global supply chain has not only led to price increases but has also caused food shortages. The population in the capital and other urban centres has had to grapple with waiting in long queues to purchase basic foodstuffs.

While several parts of Africa and the globe at large feel the effects of the Russia-Ukraine war, things are much more pronounced in Liberia where the World Food Programme reports that about 64% of the entire population live below the poverty line. Of these, 1.3 million live in extreme poverty hence making the ever-rising food prices a tall order for them.

Though folks from several walks of life have taken to the streets to express their disgruntlement at the rising food prices, it's the Coalition of Collaborating Parties that has taken the lead role in organising

the protests. The Coalition of Collaborating Parties is an opposition alliance which wants to wrestle power away from George Weah.

A commercial motorcyclist by the name Simon who was interviewed by global news outlet Al Jazeera said, "I am protesting because the country is hard. Rice is expensive, everything is expensive, there are no jobs, and the government is not doing anything about it."

Other protesters said that the President has been showing indifference to their voice and concerns as he decided to embark on a long 48-day trip around the world at a time when they wanted him to address their issues. Weah's trip saw him visit Morocco, Egypt, France and Qatar where he watched his son play at the FIFA World Cup representing the U.S.

The President's administration defended the trip saying that it was an investment drive meant at

attracting potential investors to come and pour funds. They said that the trip had already paid dividends as it saw several millions being committed. However, the opposition and government critics have opposed that saying the trip was nothing but a waste of resources.

Speaking about the trip which he described as an absolute wastage of resources, Lewis Brown who is Liberia's former permanent representative to the United Nations and a leading figure in the anti-government protests said, "People suffering is the reality of the country, and while people are suffering, there is a high level of wastage in government".

While the population has been voicing its concerns with regards to the prevailing economic situation hence putting Weah's re-election bid in jeopardy, government institutions have not helped matters either. The army boss in a statement which has

been viewed by many as the military encroaching into civilian issues stated that "if they (protesters and actors in the upcoming election) can't control their actions and/or is overwhelmed," the military won't hesitate to execute its constitutional duty.

The statement by the army chief Major-General Prince C Johnson III attracted a response from the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) which said it (the army statement) is "an example of the military meddling in civil affairs by intimidating and instilling fear in the hearts of people who wanted to exercise their constitutional right to assemble". ECC is Liberia's largest civil society coalition for election observation.

The origins of the anti-government protests can be traced back to the Independence Day demonstration spearheaded by students on July 26. Political analysts are adamant that the protests will only gain momentum as the country nears the 2023 polls. However, according to Ibrahim Nyei who is an analyst at the Monrovia-based Ducor Institute for Social and Economic Research, the protests will not do much to dislodge Weah's support base.

"While they have the right to protest, a more effective strategy would be for the opposition to rally their support base to turn out during elections," Nyei said. His sentiments were dismissed by Simon who said they aren't protesting simply for regime change come election time, but they want to "protest now... to tell the government that they have failed me and I am tired of the suffering".

ÓRAMA: TO THE WORLD

Órama, a well-rounded FSC licensed management company, aims to assist investors to build a free-trade Africa so that the continent can regain its influence within global markets. What makes Órama unique is its strong Pan-African presence that gives its clients the ability to cater to business needs in Africa and Europe.

Órama believes that Africa is the next frontier for global growth. Mauritius serving as a beacon for the business community, plays a central role to accomplish Órama's vision.

{ Our Services:

COMPANY
FORMATION
AND MIGRATION

ASSET
MANAGEMENT
SERVICES

WORK AND
RESIDENCY
PERMITS

CORPORATE
TRUSTEESHIP
SERVICES

VARIABLE
CAPITAL
COMPANY

Headquartered in Mauritius with a strong international presence, Órama Corporate Services delivers a spectrum of high quality services aimed to build and grow your business to become a new African success story.



+230 460 9312



Órama Corporate Services Ltd, Ground Floor,
Tower A, One Exchange Square, Ebene,
Republic of Mauritius

E: Info@oramacorporate.com
W: www.oramacorporate.com



Chad On Brink Of Implosion If Status Quo Prevails

- Dr Succès Masra

By Ajong Mbapndah L

The botched transition with the filial succession agenda been cemented may lead to the breakup of Chad as a country, says Dr Succès Masra leader of the Transformation opposition party.

Arguably the leading voice of the opposition in the Central African country today, Dr Succès Masra is furious that not only has the current Chadian leader General Mahamat Kaka Deby reneged on the interim transition plan that he initially proposed, but seems to be enjoying strong backing from the French government, and most disturbingly, the African Union.

“When the African Union, did not condemn the coup in Chad as dictated by the AU charter, I made a statement saying that AU buried itself in Chad. By making an exception to the rule, and arguing that Chad’s context is unique, the continental organization opened doors to a series of coup d’états in Africa. Within months of the coup in Chad, there were coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Guinea,” says Dr Succès Masra.

A former Senior Cadre at the AfDB, Masra who was forced to flee from Chad after protests against the extension of military rule turned bloody, says the survival of Chad as a country depends on how the leadership issues are addressed. Currently ranked within the bottom echelons of most development indexes, Dr Succès Masra believes that Chadians deserve better, and the country has the potential to change course. This will only happen if the Deby dynasty currently incarnated by General Mahamat Kaka Deby steps aside for free and fair elections to take place, says Dr Succès Masra as he vows to continue leading the resistance.

How can you sum up the socio, economic and political situation in Chad today?

Dr Succès Masra: Chad has become



The survival of Chad as a country depends on how the leadership issues are addressed, says Dr Succès Masra.

a country led by less than 2% of the population who impose to the rest of the vast majority of the population, a dynastic, armed and corrupt clan-based system. In fact, after gaining its independence from France in 1960, Chad has been plagued by a series of coup d’états, chronic sectarian violence, and poor leadership. My people never had the opportunity to choose their leaders through a democratic system. Despite many natural resources including gold, arable lands, arabic gum and the discovery of oil and its exploitation in 2003, the oil revenue has yet to benefit the population.

The 33-year + of the Deby regime is mainly characterized by poor governance, massive human rights violations, large-scale corruption, money embezzlement by those in power and their entourage, and a large budget for weapon funding to support this poor leadership. As a

result, Chad is ranked at the bottom of the Human Development Index (190/191), right before South Sudan, a country that is only 11 years old; at the bottom of Human Capital Index and Competitiveness’ Index. Almost 16 million out of the 17 million don’t have access to electricity and clean water.

Under the three-decade reign of the Deby family, Chad’s oil wealth was not adequately invested in key development projects such as education, and health and economic infrastructure to transform the country. Regarding education which is the most important sector to transform a country, Chad has the lowest literacy rate worldwide in 2021 (27%), and the country’s life expectancy is 53 years.

For the 17 million people of Chad, the sudden death of former President Déby, after 30 years of iron-fisted rule, was seen as an opportunity to establish the rule of law, good

governance, and to experience their first-ever peaceful transfer of power. In their vast majority, the young people who represent 70% of the population of Chad, have only known one president in their lifetime. As a result, they are increasingly demanding political and economic change and eager to not only engage in the democratic process but also to experience their first-ever peaceful transfer of power. Chadians’ hope for a “new beginning” or a “new Chad” got crushed when General Mahamat Kaka Deby, the late president’s son stepped in and confiscated power citing insecurity that the void left by his father’s sudden death can only be contained by a military. After promising to conduct an 18-month transition leading to a transfer of power to a civilian, he backpedaled. The dialogue he organised with people from the same political aisle, instead added two more years to the transition, and the resolutions from



The popularity, dynamism and vision of Dr Succès Masra makes him the face of the resistance in Chad today.

the Dialogue, which was not inclusive nor sovereign, also gave him the right to run for the presidency at the end of the transition. The chart he designed following the suspension of the Constitution gives him the control of the three pillars of power as he leads the executive power, appoints and controls the Government, the Parliament and the judiciary system.

The vast majority of Chadians who are struggling for true democracy are against that dynastic plan, so under the direction of the political opposition and the civil society organizations, on October 20th supposed to be the end of the 18 months of transition, we organized a peaceful march to demand that General Mahamat Kaka Deby respects the commitments he made not only to the People but also to the African Union, the United Nations and the International community. Deby junior's militia response to the peaceful protesters was devastating. On that "Bloody Thursday" and the days following the protest, they killed over 300 protesters and deported more than 2000 to Koro-Toro, the high-security prison in the desert also known as the Chadian Guantanamo; hundreds of people were missing, and

thousands obliged to flee the country or to live in hiding. The main political parties and civil society organizations including the Transformers I am leading were banned and their leaders targeted either to be arrested or killed. For instance, on that bloody Thursday, many peaceful protestors (at least four) were killed in front of the main gate of the US Embassy in Chad and among the 27 arrested in our headquarters, the information we have indicates that 23 were killed and their bodies thrown in the Chari river.

We referred those cases at the international criminal court, in addition to the fact that the junta is mainly targeting the Sara community and Christians coming from the southern part of Chad (over 90% of those arrested or killed), to create objective conditions for civil war. Chad is therefore at a crossroad in a struggle between a dynastic system and pro-democracy forces. Our struggle is to stop this dynastic system and build instead, a democratic, just, equitable and inclusive rainbow nation. Partners of Chad who believe in democracy should help our People in this struggle and resistance for dignity and democracy.

You were recently in the USA on the sidelines of the USA-African leaders' summit, what was the purpose of your presence, and how did this help the political fight you have in Chad?

Dr Succès Masra: At the dawn of "Bloody Thursday," the Junta hunted me down for organizing that peaceful protest along with several political opposition leaders and civil society organizations. I was in hiding for weeks before escaping to neighboring Cameroon and finally to Washington, DC. My presence at the US-Africa leaders' Summit side events had one and only one purpose, carrying the voice of my people who did not want to adhere to the dynastic plan and seek support for what is a resistance for democracy, self-determination, and the choice of our leaders. The message is that the United Nations, considering the failure and weakness of the African Union, takes up the Chadian issue to organize direct discussions with the main actors for a post-crisis agreement to allow us to return to a fair and democratic process, based on the commitments that have been made and not respected by the junta. If this is not

the case, I am also issuing this alert, considering the actual situation of the country today, that we are moving towards two Chads.

If democracy is not there and they want to impose the dynasty on us, then the United Nations should help organize a peaceful split between the two Chad: the first Chad will be the dynastic one in which those with the weapons can lead like the one led by the junta. The second Chad will be Chad in which there is democracy and where pro-democracy Chadians will choose their leaders in the name of the peoples' right to self-determination. Why am I taking this message to the United Nations? Because the United Nations is the guarantor of what I call the right to self-determination of people. Therefore, if they do not take responsibility, Pro-democracy Chadians will be obliged to organize themselves to have a protective shield of their dignity because, in fact, the only reason Deby Jr succeeded Deby Sr. and sustains his father's system is because they have weapons, and it will be a terrible signal to send to the whole world, that in Chad it is enough to have weapons to lead, it is not enough to be popular and to be chosen by the people to lead. This is what is at stake, and we are really at the tipping point, at a crossroads, and the choice is there, and we carry this message with guts because the vast majority of our people want to build a rainbow and democratic Chad on the backbone of justice and equality.

In an op-ed you questioned the rationale of inviting the Chadian leader Gen Mahamat Deby Itno to the summit, in the interest of the Chadian people, don't you think it was fair to have a seat at the table for such a high-profile summit with big stakes?

Dr Succès Masra: The USA avoided calling the situation in Chad a coup d'état and did not sanction the junta. Inspired by what happened in Chad, within a year, there were coups in Mali, followed by Guinea, then Burkina Faso. Surprisingly, unlike Chad, the International Community

not only condemned all those juntas but even sanctioned them, including Sudan. The US tried to justify extending the invitation to the junta leader Mahamat Kaka Deby and not the others to the US-Africa Summit for the simple fact that the African Union had not sanctioned Chad while the other countries were sanctioned.

How can the United States help Africa “Deliver Democratic and Security Dividends” if it continues to provide military, financial assistance, and diplomatic prestige to the illegitimate and military junta in Chad and several most autocratic and rights-abusing regimes in Africa? Has the United States been influenced by the ambiguous position of France on this specific case of Chad?

Chad, where the Deby family dynasty has ruled for nearly 35 years, millions of American taxpayer dollars are transferred annually through foreign and military aid. These weapons are used to kill Chadian citizens. Africa has changed. The African youth, which represents 70% of the African population is increasingly and legitimately requiring servant and accountable leadership. The United States, which, in recent years, has bet on young leaders through various programs, including the Washington Mandela Fellowship, better has its name associated with democrats for a win-win and long-term sustainable partnership. Africa is watching how the international community is reacting to Chad.

What is the government of Gen Mahamat Deby Into doing to shed light on the protesters killed in October, how can the affected families and Chadians get justice from such a calamity?



There is no turning back in the fight for Chad to change course , says Dr Succès Masra.

Dr Succès Masra: Since the fateful “Bloody Thursday,” Mahamat Deby Itno has not done much to shed light on the killed protesters. Even though he accepted and invited an international investigation to be opened, things are not looking promising as the government is still trying to put the blame on the opposition for the October 20th carnage by maintaining that they were trying to contain, in fact, an insurrection that the opposition plotted. A commission composed of representatives of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the United Nations, and the African Union were expected in N’jamena, but only three representatives from the ECCAS have shown up so far and tried to tamper with the investigations. As such, Chadians are questioning the commission’s credibility as their work already started with polemics surrounding the said investigations. For example, the junta presented on national TV three former members of my party, The Transformers, as active members who met with the commission team, and their depositions were taken on the events

of October 20th on behalf of my party even though they are no longer members of the Transformers, and they have accepted job offers and bribes with the junta. For the affected families and Chadian people to get justice for such calamity, accurate investigations must be conducted to sort out responsibilities and bring to justice the perpetrators of the October 20th carnage. Only an independent and credible commission led by the UN and comprised of other credible impartial organizations’ representatives including those from the International criminal court can do so. On behalf of my party, we prepared a complaint that was filed at the International Criminal Court on November 9, 2022, by our legal counsel team.

Congressional leaders in the USA like Senator Bob Menendez are mounting pressure on Chad and its current leader to probe the October killings, are you satisfied with such developments?

Dr Succès Masra: During my visit to the United States in 2019, I had

the opportunity to meet with some members of American Congress from the House and Senate, including the office of Senator Robert Menendez. The purpose of these meetings was to raise awareness on our country and rally congressmen and congresswomen to the cause of Democracy in Chad. Upon my return to Chad, of course, I kept them informed of the situation in Chad and of the human rights abuses. When former President Idriss Deby Itno Sr. passed away on April 21, 2021, and his son Mahamat Kaka Deby proclaimed himself President of the Military Transition Council, Senator Robert Menendez was, among those who condemned this

takeover by force and introduced a resolution in Congress demanding that the US stops military aid to Chad, and demanded targeted sanctions for all 15 members of the Military Transition Council if they do not keep their commitment to hand over power to civilians after the 18 months of transition. After the so-called National and Inclusive Dialogue, which ended the transition on October 20, 2022, with Deby’s son extending the transition for another 24 months, and the peaceful protest that turned into carnage with Deby Jr. ordering the killing of hundreds of protesters, and thousands wounded, Senator Bob Menendez, of course, reminded Mahamat Kaka Deby through a letter written on December 12 that to appease tensions, he must relinquish power to a civilian and announce publicly that he would not run in the upcoming elections. So, yes, I’m hoping that the resolutions Senator Menendez introduced in Congress will receive full support from other Senators and the Biden administration.

Looking at the whole transition

issue in Chad, why do you think the constitutional succession order was not respected when President Idriss Deby died?

Dr Succès Masra: When President Idriss Deby died on April 20th, 2021, the French President Emmanuel Macron traveled to Chad to attend the funeral and to support his successor, the junta leader Mahamat Kaka. In his speech, President Macron said, and I quote: "France will never allow the stability and integrity of Chad to be called into question." Upon his return from Chad, we organized a peaceful protest, on April 27th, to demand the return of democracy. The Junta killed 17 of our supporters. On that day, President Macron stated in a joint press conference with the former president of the African Union Felix Tshisekedi that he was for a peaceful and democratic transition, that he was not for a succession plan, and that, I quote France would never support those who form such a project. Yet, despite this ongoing dynastic plan after the 18-month transition has expired, President Macron still hasn't condemned the junta leader. This ambiguous position of France who played a strategic diplomatic role in support of the junta, sends a bad signal for democracy. It's never late to change and make a clear choice between Democracy and Dynasty. If this is not the case, France will lose its credibility in Chad and Africa forever.

You had a very successful career going for you notably at the AfDB, what prompted you to jump into politics?

Dr Succès Masra: I started working at the African Development Bank (AfDB) at the age of 26. As the Senior Economist, I was coordinating the Desert to Power program at the African Development Bank in the Presidential Task Force. In this institution working for the whole continent, I spent over 10 years before resigning to launch the grassroots movement, "The Transformers," turned into political party in 2019 with the main objective to build a more just, inclusive, democratic, and equitable Chad through servant



For Dr Succès Masra, Chadians deserve way more than what decades of the Deby dynasty have served them.

and accountable leadership. What influenced me to get into politics is injustice and inequality, that type of Apartheid where a small group of Chadians (about 2%) has all the advantages and all the rights, while the remaining 98 percent live in absolute precarity in a country with abundant natural resources. I believe that one of the critical issues for my generation is access to education, and what really made me decide to run for President of Chad was when Idriss Deby, the late President of Chad, confiscated power, gained complete control of all key government positions and made himself president for life. Deby acted like God on earth in a very poor country, and I could not just sit idle and let this happen, so I decided to get into politics to bring changes so we could transform Chad into a land of justice, equality, opportunity, and protection for each Chadian.

Can you shed some more light on the Transformers political movement that you lead and its vision for Chad?

Dr Succès Masra: The Transformers was launched in April 2018 following

the late President Idriss Deby Itno's changes to the Constitution to remain President of Chad for life, and we have quickly become the leading political opposition force in the country with adhesion from the larger majority of Chadians. The party's vision is to transform the republic by establishing servant leadership at all levels to create the conditions of national unity and a land of justice, equality, and opportunity for all. This servant leadership must be established in a transparent republic, a state that gives a fair chance to all its children regardless of ethnicity, region, and beliefs.

The transformed republic I'm referring to should be our common house, our umbrella during storms, and our cave in the desert. Transforming the republic also means creating an educational system that builds up today's citizens and educates for tomorrow because the main asset for the country's transformation is the quality of its human resources. Therefore, education will become our number one priority. The transformed republic means also building together a republic in which

the citizens are not only equal before the Laws but equal in Duties and Rights. The transformed Chad is an inclusive nation in which Chadians will be equal in rights and enjoy the same opportunities.

The transformed society we are fighting for will empower Chadian people to exercise particularly the freedom to choose their leaders in democratic local and national elections. As you know, Chad had held six presidential elections in 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021 but no election has ever produced a peaceful transfer of power. Under former President Deby Sr., parliamentary elections in Chad were purposely delayed for more than a decade. We aim at reinforcing on one hand the capacity of the army of Chad to make it more efficient and stronger so as to be able to protect and defend Chadians and their territory, but also to intervene within Africa alongside local and other international forces to defend democracy, human rights, and contribute to peace and security when needed in the fight against terrorism; and on the other hand, to build a strong economy and create conditions

for entrepreneurship and wealth, while bringing more individual and social wellbeing for the citizens.

Our vision is to transform Chad from a one-legged country into a two-legged country where security and development are delivered through a democratic and inclusive leadership. Our method as explained in our program available on our app (<https://app.transformateurstchad.africa>), is to establish accountability at all levels of the leadership through contracts of performance with KPI's. We intend to bring a private sector mindset in the public sector, to deliver for the people.

In the face of the kind of backing that Gen Mahamat Deby gets from France, the former colonial power, how challenging is it for progressive voices like yours and others to bring about needed reforms in Chad?

Dr Succès Masra: The events that occurred on October 20, 2022, which are now referred to as "Bloody Thursday," shows General Mahamat Deby's level of confidence because of the silence from France, the African Union and the International Community as a whole. Deby Jr. felt empowered because he has been granted a permit to kill without facing any consequences. Since he seized power, Deby's son has ordered his militia to kill hundreds of peaceful protesters; they have hunted down and killed people with discordant voices. Journalists have been killed, and some people close to the regime have received the green light to kill others without any fear of being brought to justice. This has been very challenging for political parties like mine, which strive for democratic changes through peaceful actions.

Peaceful demonstrations, even those that are authorized, are systematically and violently repressed. Our struggle is for justice and equality, and it is a peaceful one based on democratic values. I don't have weapons, France knows that, and the International Community knows that too. So, I hope that they



By giving the Chadian military junta a pass, the African Union opened the floodgates for other coups to flourish the continent, says Dr Succès Masra.

will hear the voice of the Chadian people who, since the independence, have never got a chance to participate in fair and transparent elections, and choose freely their president. General Deby Jr lost his honor when he didn't respect his commitments made for an 18-month transition. He lost his soul when he ordered the killing of hundreds of peaceful protesters. It's time to stop this dynastic transmission of power. I can hear a great American remind us that there comes a time where silence is betrayal, and another great African adding that in a situation of injustice, if you are neutral, you have chosen the camp of the oppressor.

One of the reasons advanced by State Department Officials in justifying the presence of Mahamat Deby in Washington, DC, is that Chad is not under AU sanctions, what do you make of the way the Moussa Faki led AU has approached or handled the crisis in Chad?

Dr Succès Masra: The United States is strong enough to act on its own. I understand that they can work in synergy with partners but not when human rights and real democracy is

at stake. When the African Union, did not condemn the coup in Chad as dictated by the AU charter, I made a statement saying that AU buried itself in Chad. By making an exception to the rule, and arguing that Chad's context is unique, the continental organization opened doors to a series of coup d'états in Africa. Within months of the coup in Chad, there were coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Guinea. I wish I wasn't right, but history has proven us right. Therefore, to save face, the AU must come back to Chad and dig itself out by applying the rule in the AU charter, which recommends sanctioning the military junta. What is clear to all the African People, today, the African Union lost its credibility in Chad. This is why we are bringing the Chadian situation to the United Nations level.

As we start a new year, what are your hopes and what are your fears for Chad?

Dr Succès Masra: You know, we are at a crossroads. In Chad, we have a man, General Mahamat Deby and his clan who represent less than 2% of the population, who have a permit to kill because of the initial support from France which influenced the US

and international allies to support him for the 18 months. He lied to our people and the international community and therefore, lost his honour and soul. I do have hope that the international community will stop their support to the junta and its leader Mahamat Kaka Deby, support the pro-democracy forces and therefore stop the dynastic power in Chad. My people are courageously doing their homework and what we need is support for the resistance, a shield to protect the dignity and security of the people. Otherwise, my legitimate fear is that Chad will be dislocated with more than one Chad to lead because Chadians reject the dynastic plan that is being put in place and are fed up with injustice and all other atrocities they face in their country since independence. If the dynastic armed system led by General Deby Jr is not stopped now, the ongoing "Sudanisation of Chad" will result in two countries. My hope is that we should never let the darkness of a dynastic armed system, overcome the light of democracy based on the backbone of justice and self-determination of my people in the choice of our leaders.

YOU'LL
NEVER
WALK
ALONE



TRINITY ENERGY
Energy for Life™



@TEL_AFRICA



TRINITYENERGYSOUTHSUDAN



TRINITYENERGYLTD.COM

Truly Meaningful Change Possible in Nigeria - Only if Peter Obi is Elected Next President -Obasanjo

By Prince Kurupati

The word 'change' has been used countless times in electoral politics in Nigeria according to former president Olusegun Obasanjo. However, he said as the country is looking towards the election of a new president in a coming couple of months, the nation will know exactly what "truly meaningful change" is if they vote for Peter Obi.

In his New Year message to the people of Nigeria, former President Obasanjo said that the time is nigh for "Nigerians especially young Nigerians" to take a "collective decision" that will spearhead the country on a developmental trajectory of economic, political and social success.

While acknowledging the efforts of the outgoing Muhammadu Buhari administration, Obasanjo said that all their efforts, unfortunately, failed to bring the desired change for the Nigerian population. It's against this background that there is a need to elect a new president who is driven by the need to bring meaningful change to the people of Nigeria.

"The last seven years have no doubt been eventful and stressful years for many Nigerians. We have moved from frying pan to fire and from the mountain top to the valley. Our leaders have done their best, but their best had turned out to be not the best for Nigeria and Nigerians at home and abroad. For most Nigerians, it was hell on earth," Obasanjo said.

Drawing comparisons from his tenure as Nigeria's president from 1999 to 2007, perhaps boastfully in some way, Obasanjo said that every aspiring presidential candidate he has met "want to do what I did during my Presidency and to take Nigeria back to where



Obasanjo's endorsement strengthens the need for Nigerians to give Labour Party flagbearer Peter Obi a stronger look. Photo courtesy.

it was at the height of my Presidency and immediately after". Though 'flattered' by this, Obasanjo said he wants to remind the presidential hopefuls that the environment has completely changed hence the "instruments used in 1999 to 2007

and methodology used will grossly be inadequate for the perilous situation we now find ourselves".

The challenges that the next Nigerian president will face are more immense as the country is now riddled with high "level of pervasive

and mind-numbing insecurity, rudderless leadership, buoyed by mismanagement of diversity and pervasive corruption, bad economic policies resulting in extremes of poverty and massive unemployment and galloping inflation".

Looking at the prevailing situation in the country, Obasanjo said that he knows the "character, attributes and attitude that are necessary for the job of directing the affairs of Nigeria successfully and at a time like this". Collectively, these can be classified as TVCP (track record of ability and performance).

The person that Obasanjo picked as the one who satisfies the TVCP attributes is Peter Obi. Though relatively young

as compared to many of Nigeria's presidential hopefuls, Obasanjo said Obi reminds him of his younger self when became President at 39. At that age, he managed to take the country from the past to the future and likewise, Obi can do just that.

The former president went further stating that all the ills facing Nigeria are the result of the current administration's shortcomings. "Nigeria has no business with insecurity, poverty, insurgency, banditry, unemployment, hunger, debt, division and disunity. We are in these situations because advertently or inadvertently, our leaders have made the choices," Obasanjo said.

He did, however, remind the nation that no human including Peter Obi come with no flaws. However, there are those flaws that can be tamed and hence cannot affect one from executing his duties. The former president advised the nation to be tolerant of the flaws of an individual



A victory for Obi will be a big upset as PDP candidate Atiku Abubakar and ruling APC candidate Bola Tinubu are still considered as front runners.

saying “Mind you, I reiterate that no human being is an angel let alone a Messiah, but there are elements of these attributes and on a comparative basis and by measure of what we know of, and what some of us have experienced from the front runners, we must assess judiciously and choose wisely... I pray not to be proved right again in the base sense but rather to be proved right in the positive and glorious sense of Nigeria becoming what God had created it to be – a land

of plenty and prosperity united for common purpose of inclusive society, common security, shared prosperity, equity, egalitarianism, justice and equal stake.”

Obasanjo’s endorsement of Obi did draw the ire of the ruling APC. APC said the endorsement is worthless and the only reason they responded to it is because of “calls by journalists from various media houses who asked for our reaction”.

The APC said it’s Obasanjo’s

democratic right to choose a candidate of his choice but him picking Peter Obi will not cause our candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tunubu to “lose sleep”. It’s public knowledge that Obasanjo is “notorious for always opposing progressive political forces, as he did against MKO Abiola in 1993”.

The statement went further stating Obasanjo isn’t a democrat as he claims something which is demonstrated by his desire to amend the Constitution in 2007 so that he runs for a third

term. The endorsement, therefore, is actually a negative for Peter Gregory Obi as it’s “not a political currency Mr Peter Obi can spend anywhere in Nigeria because he is not a political force, even in his part of the country”.

To Peter Obi, APC said that he need not look any further than the 2019 elections in which the preferred Obasanjo candidate Alhaji Atiku Abubakar of the People’s Democratic Party was “walloped by Buhari with a wide margin in the election”. _____

Malawi: A Year Of Rude Awakening For President Chakwera

By Joseph Dumbula

In the year just ending, Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera has had to fire four of his ministers and close allies over corruption related cases and had working terms with vice President Saulos Chilima literally tainted in public.

Chakwera publicly told the nation that he chose to withhold delegated duties for Chilima before he fired the head of the Malawi police in the wake of recent investigations into an alleged state capture.

This followed the end of 21-day ultimatum that he gave to the Anti-Corruption Bureau to investigate matters related to a British national, Zunneth Sattar, on allegations that he had been bribing public officers in exchange for Government contracts.

According to Chakwera, the Bureau found that in the four years between 2017 and 2021, the Malawi Police Service and the Malawi Defence Force awarded 16 contracts worth over 150 million US dollars to five companies belonging to Sattar.

The President also suspended Chief of Staff at State Residences, Prince Kapondamgaga, to pave way for investigations, has fired Inspector General of Police, George Kainja.

Chilima has been accused of receiving \$280,000 along with other items, according to the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

He is facing six counts bordering on Corrupt practices by public Officer, advantage for using influence



Many things have not gone as planned since Chakwera took office.

in regard to contracts and failing to make a full report to officers of the Bureau.

Sattar who has been denying any wrong doing was arrested in the UK two years ago and is now on bail.

Chakwera has over the last three years of office, sacked four ministers for alleged corruption.

Just two of them, Kezzie Msukwa who was lands minister and Newton Kambala who was energy minister are facing the law while Ken Kandodo who was labour minister faced a presidential exoneration but remains axed from his role.

All the four are alleged to have used their position for corrupt acts.

Msukwa, who stands accused of profiting off land deals involving a Malawian businessman based in the U.K while Kandodo, has before been accused of siphoning COVID-19 funds; and Kambala, who is accused of illegally manipulating fuel import deals.

The more recent one was Lobin Lowe, minister of agriculture over alleged un-procedural purchase of fertilizer under a high-profile subsidy program known as the Affordable Input Program.

The axing came after Malawi was reportedly been duped money amounting to US\$727,000 (K750 million) to a meat company for the procurement of fertilizer meant for AIP.

Efforts to retrieve the funds have since been initiated by the Office of the Attorney General.

The Southern African nation is amongst the smallest countries on the African continent as well as one of its most densely populated.

It is one of the world's poorest countries, with nearly three-quarters of its population living on less than \$2 (€1.77) a day. Malawi has suffered massive floods, prolonged drought, crop-destroying pests and the coronavirus pandemic leaving 15 per cent of its population in desperate need of food aid.



Chilima no longer being delegated by Chakwera.

And in the meantime, former President Peter Mutharika has taken turns to slam Chakwera over the situation asking him to resign accusing him of failing to tame corruption and various socio-economic ills including a rise in the cost of living.

Mutharika has further proposed that the Southern African nation should now have a caretaker government or government of national unity.

"The country is faced with a shortage of forex and fuel and the government is yet to start procuring fertilizer for input subsidy programme. But worse still, the President [Chakwera] is travelling to the United States for the United Nations General Assembly when the nation is in the middle of an economic crisis. This is unfortunate," said the 83-year-old who is president for the Democratic Progressive Party.

But Chakwera remains adamant

and in his New Year address said he will be reconstituting the cabinet.

He said he would be naming a lean cabinet to change the dynamics of the nation.

In the year, his leadership has also been heavily criticized over energy woes.

There has been a notable reduction in the power supply by 100 and 135 megawatts due to the effect of climate change on the Kapichira power plant, amid calls by authorities for Malawi to now have options aside from hydropower.

Chakwera has said the situation requires emergent attention because industries have been underproducing.

Now, the nation is faced with a cholera outbreak which has until now killed nearly a thousand people, a situation that has also seen government order the delayed opening of schools in the capital Lilongwe and Blantyre.

However, private schools are protesting the decision saying it lacks medical backing.

According to Hastings Boyce Moloko, a trustee of the Private Schools Association of Malawi, the decision by government to delay opening of schools has been sudden as most students are already at school.

He added that there is no study or any science-based evidence indicating that children contract cholera more at school than at home hence the need for government to reconsider its decision.

The Chakwera leadership will also have to start the year in dealing with an impending strike by civil servants who are seeking a pay rise.

This is after a stalemate has not been reached between the two sides over calls for improved working conditions.

OUR SERVICES

01

TUNGSTEN+ PLUS: BLOCKCHAIN-POWERED REBATE MANAGEMENT

A blockchain-powered rebate management system that delivers the accurate and immutable administration of rebates as well as effectively identifying and removing (upfront) all ineligible claims including 340B.

02

HIGH PERFORMANCE PHARMACY NETWORK

RxParadigm's exclusive high performance 340B network provides unique solutions to Payers, Covered Entities, and Pharma.

03

CHRONIC DISEASE DRUG MANAGEMENT

Optimizes drug efficacy (right medication, for the right patient at the right time)

04

AT-RISK PBM SERVICES

Fully guarantees pharmacy spend even if spend exceeds projection.

ABOUT US



Injecting much needed life and vibrancy into a pharmacy marketplace mired in stagnation. By utilizing innovative Pharmacy Solutions and advanced technologies at all levels, we deliver enhanced outcomes, extreme transparency and afford our clients the opportunity to appropriately manage and control their total healthcare costs.

CONTACT

RxParadigm
650 Naamans Rd
Claymont, DE 19703
302-524-4179
www.rxparadigm.com

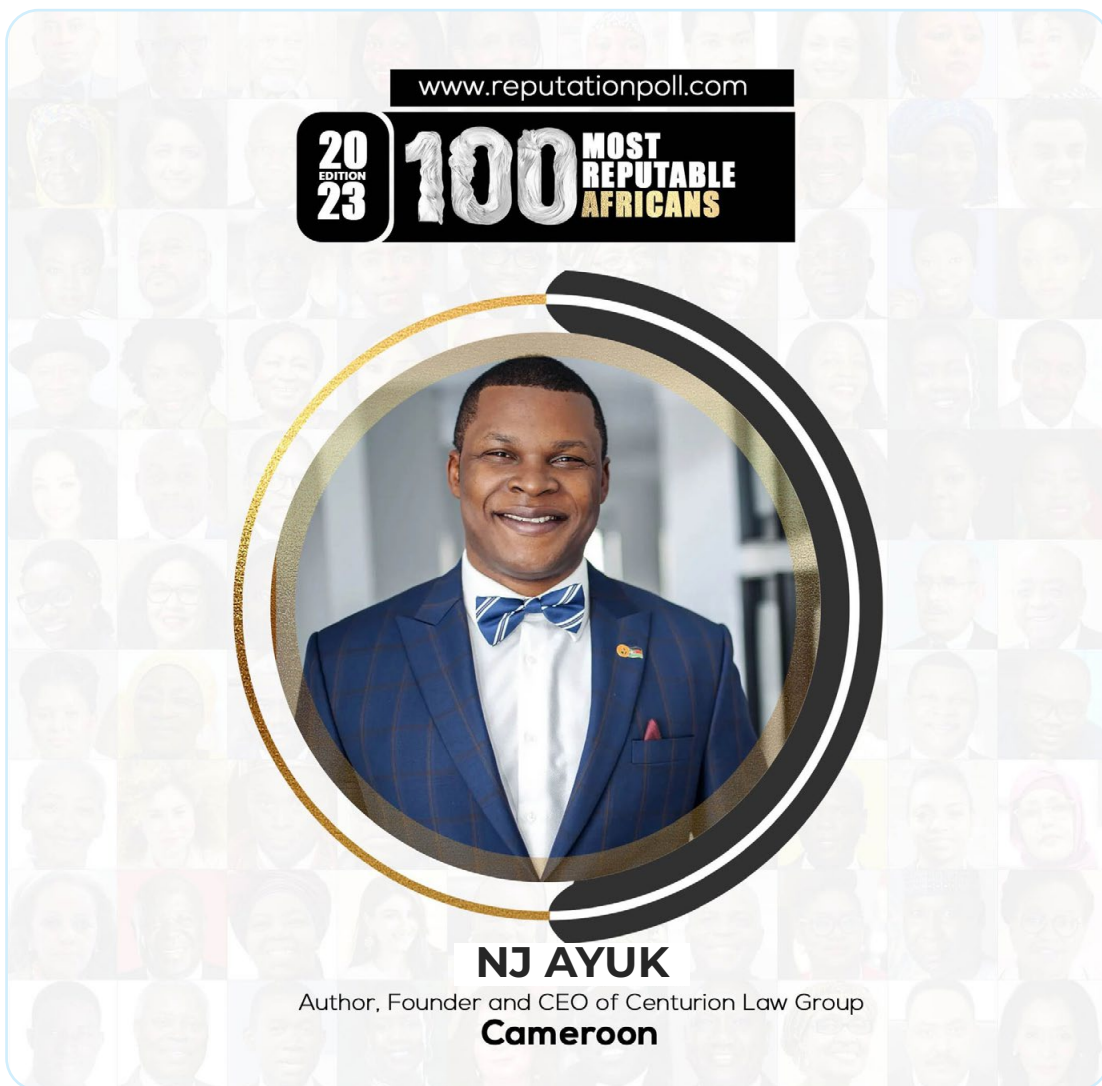
NJ Ayuk Listed Among 100 Most Reputable Africans in 2023

By Boris Esono Nwenfor & Sonita Ngunyi Nwohtazie

Author, Founder, and CEO of Centurion Law Group, NJ Ayuk, has been placed in the 70th spot on the list of 100 Most Reputable Africans of 2023 published by Reputation Poll International, a leading global reputation firm.

A leading authority in the African energy sector and a strong advocate for African entrepreneurship and the indigenous energy sector, NJ Ayuk is recognized as one of the foremost figures in African business today. He earned a degree in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland College Park, a Juris Doctor in Law at the William Mitchell College of Law and later an MBA at the New York Institute of Technology. He started by working for a frontline law firm in the US before working with one of the agencies of the United Nations.

NJ Ayuk moved on to a multinational energy corporation before deciding to start his law firm. NJ, as he is popularly known, is the CEO of Centurion Law Group, a pan-African legal and advisory conglomerate with its headquarters in South Africa and offices in Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Cameroon and Mauritius. He is also the Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber, AEC, the organization responsible



NJ AYUK

Author, Founder and CEO of Centurion Law Group
Cameroon



NJ Ayuk, Author, Founder, CEO of Centurion Law Group and Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber, AEC.

for organizing African Energy Week, AEW.

From robust engagement with OPEC to a multitude of webinars to key stakeholders, helping governments navigate complex situations and building bridges with partners in Africa and the world, NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber spared no efforts in the quest for solutions to sustain and keep the African energy sector ticking.

"Africa's voice must therefore be heard loud and strong as part of the global energy discourse. The Chamber has identified this and therefore has as one of its objectives to federate the different aspirations of Africans in the energy sector and articulate this in a

constructive manner that will foster investment in the African energy sector, says NJ Ayuk in an interview with PAV magazine.

The list of 100 Most Reputable Africans of 2023 published by Reputation Poll International features individuals from diverse sectors including governance, human rights, education, entertainment, and business. Some of the notable names listed in the business category include Kenya's Amina Chawahir Mohamed; South Africa's Bonang

Mohale, Chancellor at the University of the Free State and Professor at Johannesburg Business School; and Cameroon's Njoya Tiku, Manager of the UNDP Regional Office in West and Central Africa.

In addition to the individuals recognised on Reputation Poll International's 100 Most Reputable Africans list for their various achievements, there are also those who are celebrated for their contributions to social impact and social entrepreneurship, helping to

transform businesses in Africa and positively impacting lives without causing controversy.

Bullish on the way forward, Ayuk believes that Africa must make the most of its energy potential and this starts with getting activity levels across the entire energy value chain in Africa back to pre-COVID-19 levels, said Ayuk. In a show of its seriousness on the way forward, the African Energy Chamber recently published its road to recovery book which provides practical guidance on how African countries

can enhance compactivity globally to attract investment.

«The energy sector's challenges and the trials and tribulations have made the African Energy Chamber's work more important now, more than ever. We are committed to helping Africa's energy sector stakeholders navigate a complex and ever-changing global energy landscape. We will continue our mission to support the dynamic private sector and unlock the continent's remarkable energy potential,» said Ayuk.



Zimbabwe: Election Mode Activated For Mnangagwa's Succession

By Prince Kurupati

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), a body responsible for conducting national elections in Zimbabwe recently stated that the country will constitutionally hold the presidential election in July or August this year. The statement ignited the start of the election mode as all parties are now working to win power on Election Day.

The ruling party ZANU (PF) which has been in power since the country attained its independence dominates the state media proclaiming that it will retain power and get the mandate to carry on for the next five years. The opposition largely the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) is also assuring the nation that a power transition will occur in Zimbabwe for the first time since independence come July 2023.

Though the exact election date hasn't been proclaimed as yet, the main parties in the country have already begun their campaigns albeit on different notes. The ruling party freely gathers in different wards and districts across the country. It also uses some civic events in the campaign, especially in rural and remote areas where non-governmental organisations gather citizens for various initiatives which include women empowerment programmes and youth-centred activities.

Things are a whole lot different for the opposition, especially the main opposition party CCC whose political activities and gatherings are largely prohibited by the country's law enforcement department. This has often led many to conclude that the police force is working as an extension of the ruling party as it only prohibits gatherings of the opposition while permitting those of the ruling party.

Across social media platforms, the hashtag #RegistertoVote keeps dominating the space. The ruling party uses the hashtag albeit sparingly



Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Chairperson Priscilla Chigumba is tasked with the responsibility of making the polls credible

in its mission to attract more voters so as to meet its 5 million votes for ED (Emmerson Mnangagwa) target. The opposition is also using the hashtag albeit with a different mission. The opposition's mission is to persuade the youths to register to vote as they are convinced the youth vote will be enough for it to wrestle power from ZANU (PF).

With the majority of the average folks especially those in urban centres lamenting the poor living standards they are being subjected to by the ruling party, the opposition is hoping that this would be enough to push many to vote for change and hence cast their votes for the opposition. Fadzai Mahere who is the spokeswoman of the main opposition party CCC said her party is the only alternative that the citizens should vote for.

"The citizens of Zimbabwe have unequivocally placed their faith in the Triple C, our citizens movement. And, against all odds, we demonstrated that we are a competent, credible alternative to Zanu-Pf dictatorship, violence and corruption... For progressive Zimbabweans who want

transformation, opportunities and prosperity, we demonstrated that we are the only game in town," Mahere said.

A pro-Zanu-PF political pundit Gibson Nyikadzino differed with Mahere stating "They know there is no chance because of lack of structural and institutional organisation, which are key elements in ensuring there is political mobilisation and the quest to win an election". Nyikadzino's sentiments are in relation to the lack of structures in the CCC party which currently states that it operates structureless.

For Alexandar Rusero a political analyst at Africa University, elections in Zimbabwe are just an academic exercise as they don't bring any meaningful change to the daily lived realities of the populace. Rather, they are just exercise done to lend political legitimacy to the winner. Once the winner is declared, things remain the same regardless of who is in power. Looking ahead to the 2023 election, Rusero predicts that this will remain the same with elections being used as a power contestation and not taken as a vehicle to gauge the citizens' opinion

hence act accordingly.

"In Africa in general and Zimbabwe in particular, we have not reached a stage where an election really matters in terms of changing the livelihoods, seeking an alternative that will fulfil their aspirations... This is simply an election which is meant to legitimise Mnangagwa's dominance, continued rule in Zimbabwe".

Rusero's sentiments are somewhat validated by the composition of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission. The appointment of persons linked to the ruling party's elite as ZEC commissioners has led many to doubt the credibility of the electoral body. Many suggest that it's impossible for the appointed persons to disappoint the hand that feeds them as they were brought up and appointed to their current positions as a result of patronage.

The current ZEC commissioners include Abigail Millicent Mohadi who is the daughter of former Vice President and current Second Secretary of ZANU (PF) Kembo Mohadi. There is also Cathrine Mpfu who is the daughter of ZANU (PF) Secretary for Administration

and former mines minister Obert Mpofu. The son of current foreign minister Fredrick Shava is also a ZEC commissioner.

The Zimbabwe Democracy Institute (ZDI) an independent body which oversees the electoral process in Zimbabwe also doubts the credibility of ZEC to conduct a free and fair election as it stated in a report that “the fact that Abigail Ambrose’s father Kembo Mohadi is an interested party in Zimbabwe’s elections is enough to dismiss her appointment as part of a patron-client relationship which is detrimental to the conduct of credible elections in Zimbabwe... she cannot be an independent commissioner as she is supposed to be, in electoral processes involving her father who is a deputy president of the ZANU-PF party – an election contestant”.



President Mnangagwa and opposition challenger Nelson Chamisa will likely be the main attractions of the elections. Photo Facebook

Zambia: From Washington With Smiles For Hichilema

By Prince Kurupati

Towards the end of last year, U.S. President carried on with the tradition of his Democratic predecessor Barack Obama of inviting African leaders to the U.S.-Africa Summit. The Summit had taken a 5-year hiatus as the Republican leader Donald Trump chose to prioritise other regions of the world outside of Africa.

Suffice it to say, all the African leaders who visited Washington D.C during the Summit returned home with something to show. For Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema, the Summit was very much fruitful as his country was one of those that benefited from the Summit’s biggest deals.

The U.S.-based Kobold Metals made “a commitment of over \$150 million dollars into Zambia’s mining sector”. This was said by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo who said that the deal underlines what the U.S. needs to do in its mission to establish and strengthen relations with the African continent. “I think this is a model of what we need to be doing more. It’s a big deal,” Raimondo said.

Kobold Metals entered the multimillion-dollar deal with



President Hichilema at the Summit. KoBold Metals announced a \$150 million investment to explore and develop Zambia’s Mingomba Deposit.

Zambia’s public/private mining company ZCCMIH and EMR Capital, a global mining investment firm. The deal will see the mining entities partner in mining for cobalt and

processing it for value beneficiation purposes before its processed. Zambia is set to benefit immensely from the project in terms of finances but also at the same time, it will help

in the fight against climate change as cobalt is one of the key ingredients in lithium-ion batteries used in electric vehicles, laptops, smartphones and tablets among others.

Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema said he was happy to be helping in the fight against climate change through this deal. "This is not about Zambia, this investment today is not about Kobold and ZCCM, it's not about Zambia, it's about all these and the rest of the world as we grapple with climate change issues, as we grapple with replacing climate-damaging fuels with green fuels, and therefore electric vehicles, very, very important to us," President Hichilema said.

Speaking after signing the deal, the president of Kobold Metals Josh Goldman said they picked Zambia as the prime investment destination owing to the investor-friendly policies and laws implemented in the country which make it a "safe and peaceful place where we can hire exceptional people, where the laws support investing for the long term, where we can operate in ways that protect the environment and support local communities and where government supports our investment with actions that are fair, transparent and fast".

The Summit also proved to be a major win for the African continent as a whole as the newly launched African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Trade representative Katherine Tai. The MoU paves way for the U.S. government and the AfCFTA to expand collaboration "with the goal of developing inclusive trade practises, promoting responsible digital trade and expanding economic growth across the Free Trade Area's 54 member states". The first meeting post the U.S.-Africa Summit



Under Hichilema, relations between Zambia and the USA have grown stronger.

between AfCFTA and the U.S. Trade department is set for 2023 and afterwards, there are plans for annual meetings to take place so as to discuss the implementation of the agreement.

The governments of Benin and Niger entered into a \$504 million deal with Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). The deal will see the U.S. firm spearhead trade and investment projects in the two countries. Of the \$504 million, MCC said that \$150 million is exclusively targeted towards supporting climate adaptation investments. The work of MCC is already evident in Africa as it entered into partnerships with the government of Lesotho and Malawi earlier this year.

To ensure that Africa benefits more from U.S.-Africa trade opportunities, Prosper Africa Investments said that it will provide up to \$170 million through public and private sectors in African countries. The funds

are geared towards improving and increasing Africa's trade volumes (exports) to the U.S. to meet this objective, Prosper Africa said that it will establish an e-commerce and digital trade alliance with U.S. companies as well as a \$25 million partnership with TradeMark East Africa and USAID that will help in the creation of Trade Catalyst Africa. Trade Catalyst Africa will work as an African investment facility whose main mission is creating linkages and networks between African and U.S. firms.

USAID also aims at increasing its foothold on Africa's healthcare front by injecting as much as \$1.3 billion annually from 2022 to 2024. The main focus of USAID in the coming years is to increase Africa's health workforce while at the same time improving the quality of the workforce already in place. This will be done through "implementing

workforce training programs, education and investments targeted at country-specific needs". USAID will also be aided by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through its National Public Health Institute (NPHI) program which provides technical assistance and training to Africa CDC staff.

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) which has helped many young Africans to learn critical entrepreneurial and leadership skills will also continue albeit with more funding. U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris said that the investment for the YALI program will reach \$100 million which will be used to bolster "efforts to scale leadership development initiatives, increase access to skills training, especially among women and other underrepresented groups, and enhance alumni networking in Africa".

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

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Ethiopian



Pan African Visions MAGAZINE, 7614 Green Willow Court, Hyattsville, MD 20785
Tel: 240 429 2177, email: pav@panafricanvisions.com, editor@panafricanvisions.com



A JUST TRANSITION

MAKING ENERGY
POVERTY
HISTORY WITH
AN ENERGY
MIX

N J A Y U K

Important For US To Grasp African Energy Realities - C. Derek Campbell

By Ajong Mbatndah L

The U.S.'s rhetoric may suggest some modicum of understanding about energy realities on the Continent but policy initiatives and lack of acknowledgement regarding the dynamism of the African energy basket mix suggest that there is little understanding about the market realities regarding energy and energy transition in Africa, says C. Derek Campbell of the African Metals Group-AMG.

Speaking after hosting the U.S.-Africa Energy Investment Reception on 14 Dec 2022 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Washington, D.C. on the sidelines of the USA-African Leaders Summit, Derek Campbell said to give African energy sector leaders a chance to have their opportunities showcased to the American investor community.

The high-profile reception had over 150 participants from the American investment community, African energy & mining sector, multi-lateral capital institutions, and dignitaries from the United States and many African nations. Guests included Equatorial Guinea Minister of Mines – the Honorable Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima, Principal Secretary Alex Wachira of the Ministry of Energy of Kenya, Wale Tinubu of Oando PLC, Steve Hightower of Hightowers Petroleum, Dr. Hippolyte Fofack – Chief Economist of AFREXIM BANK, and Yemisi Awonuga – Head of the Energy & Natural Resources Practice of TEMPLARS International Law Firm. The speakers harped on the potential Africa has and the change dynamics that the USA needs to understand.

Building on the success of the reception, C. Derek Campbell has other events lined up to tout African energy prospects to potential investors.

Could we start with an introduction of the African Metals Group, its areas of interests, and operations in Africa?

C. Derek Campbell: African Metals



AMG intends to hold additional African Energy Investment Receptions throughout 2023 to facilitate meaningful deal-oriented discussions, says C.Derek Campbell.

Group (AMG) is a London-based company (with a point of presence in the United States) providing innovative financing and equity investment for sustainable mining projects in Emerging & Frontier Markets – with a particular focus in Africa. We invest long-term capital and technical expertise to accelerate mine development, while securing access to in-demand precious and strategic metals at scale and generating returns for our shareholders. We are currently negotiating with assets in Tanzania, South Africa, Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Ghana, and Egypt.

What is your general take on the recent USA-African Leaders Summit?

C. Derek Campbell: We believe the Summit created a great opportunity for Americans – both those in government and those from the commercial investment sector – to deliberately engage decision-makers and opportunity holders from the African energy sector. AMG made it a point to host our event during the

middle of the U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit in order to give African energy sector leaders a chance to have their opportunities showcased to the American investor community – a much different focus than the geopolitical discussions that were underway in the U.S. capital during the Summit.

Can you shed some light on the side event that the African Metals Group hosted on the sidelines of the Summit?

C. Derek Campbell: AMG hosted the U.S.-Africa Energy Investment Reception on 14 Dec 2022 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Washington, D.C. at the famous Lincoln Library Room. The event's mission was to establish networks and partnerships between African energy opportunity holders and overseas investors.

There were over 150 participants from the American investment community, African energy & mining sector, multi-lateral capital institutions, and dignitaries from the United States and many African nations. Our speakers during the

remarks portion of the U.S.-Africa Energy Investment Reception included – the Honorable Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima from Equatorial Guinea, Principal Secretary Alex Wachira of the Ministry of Energy of Kenya, Wale Tinubu of Oando PLC, Steve Hightower of Hightowers Petroleum, Dr. Hippolyte Fofack – Chief Economist of AFREXIM BANK, and Yemisi Awonuga – Head of the Energy & Natural Resources Practice of TEMPLARS International Law Firm.

AMG felt it necessary to ensure that during the government-to-government meetings there was also an event that could showcase commercial-to-commercial engagements between principals in the African energy sector and American investors/capital markets decision-makers.

What are some of the challenges companies like yours typically face in doing business with Africa and any recommendations that could help strengthen corporate ties?

C. Derek Campbell: Some of the salient issues that companies like AMG and others face while operating in multiple jurisdictions in Africa are challenges with:

- Repatriation of Capital
- Cost-creep generated by vague Local Content Laws – especially regarding Tribal Sovereignty claims.
- Regulatory Guidelines that are non-dynamic/archaic
- Establishing Local Partnerships with partners that have access to their own banking/financial resources.

Besides some major regulatory and commercial transactional guideline overhauls to address the aforementioned issues, one major recommendation is to have a better “PR” campaign for the entire Continent. There needs to be an active effort to showcase the business successes that foreign companies have while operating in Africa. When investments are made in Africa, particularly in the energy transition sector, double-digit returns are made. Not enough is being done to highlight this type of positive business activity which is happening Continent-wide.

Looking at the energy landscape, do you think the US understands the current energy realities and needs of Africa?

C. Derek Campbell: The U.S.’s rhetoric may suggest that they have some modicum of an



From L to R AMG CEO C.Derek Campbell, Robert. S. Bright, Minister Gabriel Obiang Lima, and Sergio Pugliese of the African Energy Chamber in Angola at the high profile energy reception.

understanding about energy realities on the Continent. However, their policy initiatives and their lack of acknowledgement regarding the dynamism of the African energy basket mix suggest that there is little understanding about the market realities regarding energy and energy transition in Africa.

You were in South Africa last October for the African Energy Week 2022; may we get your take on how things went and some major takeaways from this year’s edition?

C. Derek Campbell: African Energy

Week 2022, sponsored by the African Energy Chamber, of which I am a committee-member, was an amazing platform that showcased the myriad of demands and opportunities across the Continent for massive energy investment – in both dollars and technical expertise.

African Metals Group (AMG) was honored to be featured in several speaking session regarding Strategic Metals & Critical Minerals in Africa, the Nuclear Energy Sector in Africa, and the EV/Battery Market in Africa.

It was inspiring to see participants from all over the globe come together to discuss ways to partner with

Africans in order to enhance and optimize the energy and natural resource assets of the Continent.

As the new year starts, any big plans in view, what should the public expect from the African Metals Group?

C. Derek Campbell: African Metals Group (AMG) is currently in Capital Raise mode as we showcase investment opportunities in the Metals & Mining space that support global Energy Transition in a low-risk format. Investing with AMG gives opportunity-seekers a chance to have exposure to the precious and strategic metals & minerals market that is currently in high-demand because of global industrial and energy market supply chain gaps.

AMG is also planning on hosting additional opportunities for investors to interface with African energy asset owners/operators, like we did with the U.S.-Africa Energy Investment Reception at the Waldorf Astoria.

AMG intends to hold additional African Energy Investment Receptions throughout 2023 to facilitate meaningful deal-oriented discussions between the global investment community and African energy asset owners/operators. Be on the lookout for events in Washington, D.C, London, and Abu Dhabi.

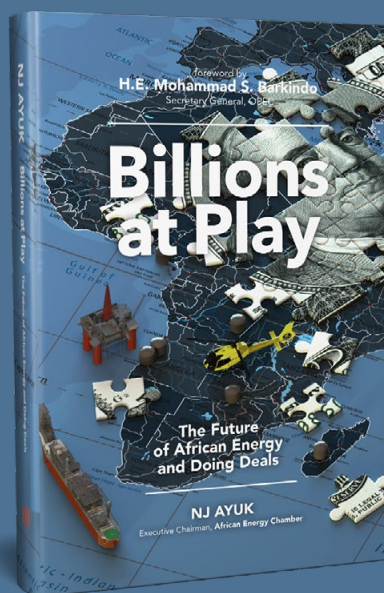


Derek Campbell with Adewale Tinubu, Group Chief Executive of Oando Plc united in a common course on energy investment.

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



Cameroon: ICT University signs MoU with Anderson University to Aid Academics, Research

By Boris Esono Nwenfor



From L-R, Professor Mbarika and Anderson University Provost, Dr. Ryan Neal signing.

The renowned technological institution in Cameroon, the ICT University, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, with Anderson University, a private Christian University in Anderson, South Carolina, to enhance its educational programs.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Professor Victor Mbarika and Anderson University Provost, Dr. Ryan Neal is expected to open doors for the two institutions to explore collaboration in programs of study and research, among other areas.

Professor Mbarika said that Anderson University and ICT University have much in common: they are both members of the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs; also, they were both built on the foundation of Christian faith and biblical teaching. That said, both teams discussed the

possibility of exploring evangelical outreaches in Cameroon through education.

Professor Mbarika highlighted the major areas of cooperation: mentoring, exchange of students, exchange of faculty and/or staff, professional development, and training, joint research activities and sharing of online library resources.

Dr. Gilbert Eyabi, Interim Dean of the Anderson University College of Engineering and Professor of Mathematics said: "I believe the MOU between our two universities will be mutually beneficial."

"A good number of the programs offered at ICT university have direct equivalencies with our programs in the College of Engineering, College of Business and Center for Cybersecurity. I can't wait to be a part of a Study Abroad program that takes our students to ICT University in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and expose

them to some of the programs they have like robotics, CISCO, nanosatellites, artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity and renewable energy, just to name a few."

The ICT University Cameroon, it should be said operates a purely US-based curriculum to provide quality ICT and Managerial Human Capacity Development specially targeted for Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia. The ICT University is a vibrant institution which aims at imposing itself as the premier destination for research, innovation and training of scholars relevant to the context of developing economies.

Ann-Margaret J. Themistocleus, Director of the Center for Global Engagement at Anderson University said: "Anderson University's strategic plan includes internationalization and expanding our global reach. We look for academic excellence in our global partners, but we also try to

partner with universities that also share our Christian values, mission and purpose. These similarities create a strong foundation for a fruitful partnership to develop."

"Among numerous research and grant possibilities that this partnership will allow, we are also exploring the possibility of a summer study abroad program which would be led by Anderson University faculty in Cameroon. To support such efforts, the Center for Global Engagement and the College of Engineering will be submitting a joint grant proposal to the U.S. Department of State IDEAS program (Increase & Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students) to obtain funding to support international travel for students and faculty to visit ICT University for mutual exchange. The partnership with ICT University will also support additional international efforts like letters of affiliation for faculty and



L-R, Ann-Margaret Themistocleous, Director, Center for Global Engagement; Dr Foluso Ajeni, Vice-President, Board of Trustees, ICT University; Professor Victor Mbarika, Ph.D, President, Board.

student's Fulbright applications."

Serving more than 15,000 students worldwide via on-site and online programs, the ICT University develops productive and relevant Diploma, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level scholars to utilize their research and

training in solving the substantial problems in their countries.

With a plethora of programs at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels, including diploma and certification programs, the ICT University offers a dynamic and

flexible learning environment that inspires innovation and creativity and places emphasis on student access.

About the ICT University

The ICT University Cameroon is a private institution based in Yaounde, which provides learning in

the fields of ICT, renewable energies, telecommunications management, educational sciences and the development of managerial capacities specially targeted for Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia. It also has a French-speaking section in Cameroon.

ICT University started in 2010 and it currently serves more than 15,000 students on-site and online. The University develops productive and relevant Diploma, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level scholars to utilize their research and training in solving the substantial problems in their countries.

The ICT University Foundation is registered and chartered in the USA. It is the funding organ of all ICT University campuses. It also funds donations of ICT equipment, E-Learning laboratories and E-Libraries for many universities in Africa. The headquarter of African campuses is in Cameroon and the ICT University campus was accredited by Cameroon's Ministry of Higher Education in 2012.



The major areas of cooperation between the two institutions will center on mentoring, exchange of students, exchange of faculty and/or staff, professional development and others.



First world economies have been seeking ways to help grow those of the third world. There's no amount of help that can be given without showing exploitative tendencies. This might not be meant but it's what all the efforts amounts to.

Tingo has developed home grown technologies and other innovations that can make investments in Africa, Nigeria in particular worth its while and begin to reflect positively on improving their economies and trading more viably with other parts of the world.

Tingo's success is built on over a decade of relationship with rural Nigeria. It uses local content to drive its services. The world doesn't need another mobile phone manufacturer or another technology company to meet the needs of Africa's farmers, because Tingo has been doing this over the years in such a manner that any other organisation cannot

manage...the phones are simple to operate, cheap to buy and with apps that enable the farmer to access needed information that will enable him or her to save his or her farm without extension workers. These apps are based on local languages or any applicable language.

Tingo has indeed disrupted the way mobile phones are sold and the way technology is accessed. Even the batteries to the phones are made in such a way that the farmer can go for days without charging provided that he or she has not been unduly frivolous with utilising the phone in areas that do not really help the farm. Electricity may be difficult to access in some areas and solar charged phones are options many farmers go for. Nigeria is blessed with abundant sunshine all the year round.

The farmer needs to know why some areas are more flood prone these days, while other areas suffer drought. The farmer can ask these questions and get instant answers that satisfy his interest and suggest how the effects can be mitigated without professorieties. Tingo is the ultimate answer for farmers all over the world, as every farmer's need in every location can be addressed without undue challenges.

www.tingogroup.com
info@tingogroup.com
+1888 590 2103



African Metals Group Hosts Energy Stakeholders

The African Metals Group spiced up the energy component of recent US-African Leaders Summit with a high profile reception at the Waldorf Astoria in Washington, DC. In attendance were several U.S. energy investors and African energy asset owners. The event's mission was to help establish networks and partnerships between African energy actors and overseas investors.

The high-profile reception had over 150 participants from the American investment community, African energy & mining sector, multi-lateral capital institutions, and dignitaries from the United States and many African

nations. Guests included Equatorial Guinea Minister of Mines – the Honorable Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima, Principal Secretary Alex Wachira of the Ministry of Energy of Kenya, Wale Tinubu of Oando PLC, Steve Hightower of Hightowers Petroleum, Dr. Hippolyte Fofack – Chief Economist of AFREXIM BANK, and Yemisi Awonuga – Head of the Energy & Natural Resources Practice of TEMPLARS International Law Firm. The speakers harped on the potential Africa has and the change dynamics that the USA needs to understand.





It's time to make the switch

The new standard for controlled substances inventory management

Web-based solution

Good afternoon, Anastasia

What would you like to do today?

[Dispense](#) [More](#)

Overview This Month

All Transactions **1.1k** +12.2% My Transactions **248** -1.5% Amendments **65** +24.9%

You're almost set up!
[Order integration](#)
[Add your inventory](#)
[Add teammates](#)

Designed with you in mind

Tools to improve accuracy

	ACTIVITY	STARTING	COUNT	ON-HAND	
fate 60 mg TAB 28	Dispensed	630	-100	530	...
ug/h PATCH 0378-9127-98	Dispensed	20	-20	40	...
Today, 14:09 Anastasia S. Fentanyl 87.5 ug/h PATCH 0378-9127-98	Received	30	30	60	...
Today, 13:45 Jeff M. Dexcedone HCL and APAP 2.5/300 mg TAB 72245-193-03	Lost/Stolen	15	-15	0	...

Stress-free compliance

C2keep.com

A Transformative African Agenda with the Órama Way For 2023- Keseena Chengadu

Last year was an amazing experience for Órama. We had a decent kick-off, meeting all the robust regulatory requirements and beefing up the team with some formidable fresh bloods and ignited our global presence through a series of events and campaigns – Our Órama way to set forth our footprint and an overall magnificent journey from where we started.

2023 is full of prospects, looking back at the drawing board, the stage is set for a promising and astonishing adventure. While we are very optimistic about the future, we aim to deliver even better customer service experience to our clients, ensuring the best solutions are optimised to maximise their business growth. Órama means Vision and our Órama is to make our company the ambassadors of our clients- accompany them in any African country they would like to establish while ensuring their head office is in good hands. The success and growth of our clients' businesses defines our mission which is embedded in our morals and conducts, the very essence of our existence.

Therefore, we are working assiduously to build a free-trade continent that can regain its influence within global markets by providing entrepreneurs, companies and investors with the opportunities to thrive and shape a prosperous future, to establish and expand their businesses globally based on good governance to ensure business development and sustainable growth across business verticals- That's what we call the "Órama way".

I welcome you all to embark on this awesome journey with us and I wish you all a happy and successful new year!

Keseena Chengadu, CEO Órama Corporate Services



Keseena Chengadu, CEO Órama Corporate Services.

Bakassi's Catholic Hope.

-How The Hope & Purpose Ministries Association Is Filling The Development Void In Oil Rich Peninsula

By Ajong Mbapndah L



Hope and purposefulness in the lives of people places me on a better pedestal to minister, says Rev Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen.

Cameroon and Nigeria were at the brink of war, and it eventually took decades of hearings at the International Court of Justice, and later diplomatic efforts led by the late UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for peace to be brokered. Yet, the oil rich Bakassi Peninsula adjudged be Cameroonian suffers from mind boggling neglect.

For Rev Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen, a Roman Catholic Priest, Isangele, Bakassi was not the kind of station you may want to be in for Pastoral duties for a myriad of reasons. Land locked, no vibrant Catholic community, amenities for modern life grossly missing and more.

Far from wailing, Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen embraced his Pastoral duties with passion, braved the odds, and is giving fresh hope to his Parishioners and the people of Bakassi with the Hope and Purpose Ministries Association. From building of Church infrastructure to water

projects, bridge construction, and growing agricultural projects to give meaning to life for people in Isangele, the Hope and Purpose Ministries Association is giving fresh hope to a forgotten people.

"We are happy with our clarity of vision; we see great light and progress coming to Bakassi through our relentless passionate efforts," says Father Elias Mengnjo in an interview with PAV.

May we start with the introduction of your parish and how you ended up there?

Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen: My parish is Saint Michael the Archangel parish Isangele, Bakassi. The parish was created by Bishop Emmanuel Bushu of Buea diocese in 2012 and erected on April 26th, 2015. My first appointment to this parish was in 2014 under the then Buea Diocese. with the creation of Kumba diocese I was again sent there in 2017

where I have been serving till date.

The Parish has a population of about 100 Christians majority being children which for me is a sign of great hope for the future.

Our Parish has a total of 13 mission stations and yet only one is accessible by land. Without a good transport boat as it is the case with us here leaving insecurity aside, it is practically very difficult to function as a pastor here.

What is peculiar about our parish is that it is in an enclaved and remote area and the population continues to suffer from post-traumatic war experiences as many inhabitants were displaced and lost their family members and properties during the Bakassi crisis.

In what shape did you meet the parish and what has changed under your leadership?

Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen When you look at the population of our Parish, you can realize that it is

actually a special parish. The Parish was created without the necessary infrastructure. Besides the old church building with open and bare windows for decades, there was equally no Parish house. What I met was temporary mission station structure where priests spent just few days before going back to Ikassa which was the mother Parish by then.

I remember, I had to buy dishes, pots, gas cooker and water storage facilities since my predecessor due to hardship just borrowed all these from Christians who in turn collected their belongings upon his departure. Thank God I had some little funds with me to do all these initially. What shocked me still was that our marriage register was embarrassingly blank. No marriages celebrated.

Despite the poverty situation I met the Parish without any income generating project. However, the first Parish priest had acquired a 6-hectare piece of land from Amoto community. He equally nursed some palms which provided a base for me to begin and to continue in his footsteps. There was no drinkable water, no electricity no communication network and this made life very unbearable.

As to what has changed in my leadership, we have celebrated 3 marriages since I took over the parish, hence our marriage register is no longer embarrassingly empty. We have baptized some few adding to the community members. As for infrastructure we have continued to renovate the church building by putting window glasses and painting to make it beautiful for the liturgy. We have begun the construction of the parish house and the building has progressed right up to lintel level awaiting roofing. We have already established a plan to build a sacristy whenever we are through with Parish house construction.

Under my leadership we have made great strides towards improving the

living conditions of the population. We initiated electronic boreholes for the whole village, and this has benefited the community with drinkable water and have greatly resolved the pronounced stomach problems that the population hitherto suffered from. We installed a satellite communication network that benefits not only the priest but also villagers to communicate with their relatives out of the Bakassi Peninsula. Consequently, our

Parish house is now a liaison communication point where information easily comes and goes out of the village.

We installed a 6-battery solar system unit that provides electricity for the parish house and also benefits the community members to charge their phones and equipment. Besides the 49 hectares project for Hope and Purpose, we have opened are developing a 20 hectare of palm farm for the parish community in view of generating income for the future. These and others are the changes that have taken place under our leadership.

How is life like generally in the area, what potentials does the area have and what are some other key challenges?

Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen Life in the Bakassi Peninsula is generally very difficult. In the first place Bakassi is enclaved with

no roads and no communication network. we have no electricity, and most areas still face the challenge of portable water. There is no single market in Isangele which is the headquarters of Bakassi and consequently there is generalized hunger. Some people survive on biscuits and peanuts for their daily meal. Our nearest market is nearby Nigeria, and the poor population suffers from sporadic attacks and looting from pirates in the water in their endeavor to go buy from Nigeria and survive their families.

In terms of potentials, it is worth noting that the area is located along the Niger Delta and is not only limited to being rich in oil reserves but there is much forest and valuable wood in Bakassi, the water is full of fish, shrimp and all sorts of rich aquatic life, we have vast uncultivated land in Bakassi, the soil is very rich and agriculturally friendly.

Moreover, the Korup forest which is more than 600 years old is rich with various species of birds, animals, trees and medicinal plants. This is a wonderful touristic asset for Cameroon but for no roads leading to Bakassi.

The Bakassi Peninsula has so many touristic beaches that could host resorts and Will attract tourists from within and without. You discover all these along the seaside as you travel to Bakassi from Idenau by sea.



Local bridge building initiatives facilitated by the Hope & Purpose Ministries Association serve the development needs of the entire community.



A sign post introducing a palm oil project of the the Hope & Purpose Ministries Association.

As for challenges, the core leaders of our Parish and most community members are in a situation of notorious concubinage. Since the creation of the Parish in 2012 we have just three marriages under hard struggle. Being such a small community, so many interwoven relationships prevent marriages. Being so enclaved as well, it is difficult to convince girls from the city to come live there for Marriage purposes. The end result therefore is a vicious cycle of promiscuity.

The concept of single motherhood is very common since the women hardly marry or are married to nor stay in marriages and consequently there is generalized cohabitation. The burden of child upbringing and education in Isangele lies on these poor women.

Given the fact that it has been a war zone, so many military men who fathered children here once transferred abandon the burdens to the poor girls here. Sad to say that most children here lack balanced parental love and care. These are the Christians one has to deal with.

Syncretism is common especially with the influence from Nigeria. Most of the Christians seek protection from charms and will readily rush to Nigeria to pay huge sums either for charm or for destructive purposes known as "Mbiam" Swearing of "juju" or "nyamkwe" or "mbiam" is so common among the population.

Most community members are very lazy and consider manual work as stress. Consequently, there is so much stealing including food from people's farms and houses in the area. This also accounts for insecurity in the waters from piracy.

We also have the challenge of rural exodus because everyone wants to make it out of Isangele due to the pain of surviving there and mostly the old, the aged and the sick are those that are left. The end result is that the village becomes scanty, unproductive, and boring.

Can you shed light on the Hope and Purpose Ministries Association that you created?

Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen: Actually, when I came to Bakassi Peninsula in 2014 life was unbearable and I had to resort to hunting fishing trapping gardening and eventually farming in order to make a living. I realized that the income levels of the population were so poor especially from their offerings on Sundays (ranging from 3000frs to 10000frs ie less than \$10) as our financial records would attest and I could equally read poverty and misery in the faces of those I encountered on the streets of Isangele.

Almost on a daily basis I was thinking of what and how I would eat the next day. I for one felt the real pain of an empty stomach and an empty pocket. This is not the

normal lifestyle of a Priest in our area because normally most priests have breakfast lunch and supper at ease. I had to ask God for the grace to bring out something positive from my suffering and from my pains. I always remember and pray for one priest, the then Principal of Saint Francis college Fiango, who would go into his store and give us some food stuff especially to survive with as no one else seemed to know our condition and we didn't think it wise to move around crying our poverty from door to door begging for food from other Parishes.

I still remember vividly a list in my file well preserved of foodstuffs which we forwarded to the Bishop's house upon his request and after he approved those in-charge refused to give us the food stuffs and for my very first time I banged the Bishops door and told them that I will never return to ask for anything. I kept to my words.

In all these painful situations, I decided to light a candle than curse the darkness. To bring him in the midst of despair. To fight to resolve the food security issues through agriculture and to fight against poverty through offering opportunities for young people and creating jobs. These are the core values of Hope and Purpose Ministries Association Cameroon.

How do the activities of the Association tie with your Pastoral Ministry?

Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen: From the moment of our creation, we focused on touching lives. Due to the hardship in the area, we worked on creating opportunities especially for the youth, exploiting our immediate environment to create wealth, in short, we are actually out to fight and why not eliminate poverty because even from the perspective of our theology grace builds on nature. As a pastor I attend to all the duties that I have in the parish and given the fact that it's a farming area I have decided to make agriculture a hobby but am fully conscious and committed to my pastoral duties.

Moreover, given the post war traumatic situation of which the

population of Bakassi is victim, the experience of bringing Hope and purposefulness in the lives of people places me on a better pedestal to minister to the lives of those affected by the Bakassi war through preaching, teaching, and counseling. Our association activities are therefore not just an appendix to the Bakassi condition but a welcome good news to it.

In terms of the achievements of the association, what are some that you can share with us?

Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen: We have constructed electronic boreholes and continue to supply portable water to the community. We have installed a 6-battery solar system in the village to help address electricity problems but also to promote and encourage the use of clean energy.

We have installed satellite network to facilitate communication among the community members with those out of the community. Hence it is easy for us to send and receive information.

Of course, our 40 hectares project is the biggest in the area and through this project we have provided job opportunities for young people thereby raising their income levels, we have directly or indirectly employed close to 100 young Cameroonians in the project. we are addressing issues of food security as we now supply consumable palm oil to the local population and even beyond, and then we are also encouraging farmers to plant cash crops so that they can raise income for themselves and be able to solve their immediate financial problems as well as foster the education of their children with ease in the near future.

We have constructed wooden bridges and even maintain roads with our very hands to show an example in the area of voluntary service as well as promoting the sense of the common good. Moreover, using our little resources for all these endeavors equally fall in line with our business



Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen actively participates in all the development initiatives of the Hope & Purpose Ministries Association.

ethical principle of giving back to the community.

How is the association funded and what are some of the resources you need to help enhance its growth and productivity?

Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen: From the initial stage of the project, it has been funded solely through the donations from Deacon Larry Oney and Andi Oney founders of Hope and Purpose Ministries worldwide with their strong belief that the preaching of the gospel message or evangelization must be accompanied by a certain degree of entrepreneurship. As we started with sanitary harvesting in 2022, the income we get has equally assisted greatly in maintenance and expansion of our project. However much still lies in store to be done thus requiring more financing.

What then are the resources we need? we need trucks for transportation purposes, housing for workers, a more than 50 hectares capacity processing unit, we need funding for our fish and pig farming since our vision encompasses animal husbandry. It should be noted that our project is conceived to carry out a cycle or chain production. The by-products of palm will constitute anima/birds/fish feed.

What has been the reaction of your church hierarchy traditional and political authorities to the work of the association?

Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen: Hope and Purpose Ministries Association Cameroon has been a welcome news to my bishop Mgr Agapitus Nfon. One of the reasons he sent me back to Bakassi was to ensure the progress, success, and sustainability of our project there.

However, we face a lot of resistance from some locals who think that we have simply come to grab their land. In this light, they consider the idea of a Rev. Father's involvement in agriculture as a taboo and a sure sign of derailment from the mission and mandate of Christ to preach the good News.

We continue to face repeated attempts to destabilize our project through sabotage and to jeopardize all we have for humanity in the area by some individuals for their selfish motives.

Recently some individuals attempted exploiting the situation of political unrest to tarnish our image before security and the administration. Due to xenophobic tendencies they refer to every worker we bring from outside as "amba", that is separatist fighter without any single proof. They thus present

our Association as a threat to public security with the aim of destroying our relationship with the government and consequently crumbling our initiative. But all these manipulations have failed because by God's grace we have been consistently focused on our goal. We keep reminding all who relentlessly fight to crumble every developmental initiative such as ours we consider that it is due to human limitations of wickedness, selfishness, greed, jealousy and ignorance.

These limitations are equally the challenges that have continually made us stronger. The human limitations are not strong enough to hold our vision captive. Our passion for the common good is so strong that no amount of selfish interest can blur our vision or distract us from our goal. We have not ceased to remind all negative people of that "If you blow off my candle, it doesn't make yours to shine any better but if you allow my candle to shine alongside yours, we will have sufficient lighting in the room and all of us will see better."

How do you envisage the future, what other big projects do you have in mind for 2023?

Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen: Despite our challenges we look at the future with great hope and expectation. Our vision will expand in the nearest future to include animal, bird, and fish farming. We look

forward to having permanent workers on salary rather than concentrating on hired labour. We look forward to working in solidarity with other small holders and why not transport and process their produce in our project site the more reason we must envisage a processing unit of higher capacity. We are more determined and committed to succeed and are so passionate to see our dreams realized.

As for the projects we envisage for 2023, we look forward to addressing our needs of food preservation. Since we envisage to produce birds, pigs, and fish we need a good energy source and deep freezers. Hence, we need a good lister generator or a strong and sustainable solar system (clean energy)

We need to establish our piggery, poultry, and fish farm. In this light we will effectively manage the waste from our palm processing. It is good to note that the kennels are feed for pigs and birds. The slush is feed for fish and pigs and then the droppings of pigs and fowls constitute feed for fish. Hence, we shall ensure a chain or cycle production, and this will generate more opportunities and ensure more capacity building for the youth.

We envisage in the near future to spear head the creation of a micro finance for purposes of financial education and management among the population since no such thing



The development initiatives of the Hope & Purpose Ministries Association have helped to strengthen the faith of the people in the Catholic Church.

exists here. While encouraging a saving mindset, we will also safely handle our finances as we cannot keep sales from such a huge project as ours under the pillow. This endeavor will require heavy financing.

Furthermore, we need capacity building for all our workers to enable them to acquire the required skills in various sectors to effectively manage our project. This will entail lots of cost to get the experts do the job.

Any last word to the potential partners out there on what support will mean to the association and to the governmental or authorities on what to do to address the plight of the people in that area?

I thank you immensely for bringing Hope and Purpose Ministries Association Cameroon and all we are doing for humanity in the Bakassi Peninsula to the limelight. We remain a committed, reliable, passionate, and trustworthy partners in fostering community development through touching lives. We welcome donations from any well-wishers and assure you that your support in a while will certainly take us a mile in our dream journey.

To our government, our Association remains the greatest peace lover and peace giver. We give equal

opportunity to all Cameroonians willing and committed to work with us and that is why we keep rejecting all xenophobic and discriminatory philosophies being forced into us by some few individuals in Isangele for selfish motives. Over 100 Cameroonian youth have come to discover and work in Bakassi through our Association.

Moreover, our multiple farm operations keep the youth employed and focused thus avoiding any unnecessary distractions. We look forward with government assistance to reversing in the near future the unfortunate situation of rural-urban migration which is negatively affected the Bakassi Peninsula.

We believe that if our nation is to emerge, each of us must make our little efforts from our little corner and that is why we keep reminding all who relentlessly fight to destroy our initiative of this: "IF YOU BLOW OFF MY candle it doesn't make yours to shine better, but if you allow my candle to shine alongside yours we will have sufficient lighting in the room and all of us will see better"

We are happy with our clarity of vision; we see great light and progress coming to Bakassi through our relentless passionate efforts and your support.

*Father Elias Mengnjo Bongayen and The Hope & Purpose Ministries Association can be reached via email- mengjoe@gmail.com



Oil Palm products from the Hope & Purpose Ministries Association farms serve the local population in Isangele ,Cameroon, and neighboring towns in Nigeria.



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

Malawi Losing Billions Through Illegal Mining

By Joseph Dumbula

In Malawi's parliament, in May last year, Welani Chilenga who leads the committee on natural resources told the house that the country is losing \$25 Million on daily basis through illegal mining in the lakeshore district of Mangochi and Mzimba in the northern region and other places.

The remarks followed a direct response to President Lazarus Chakwera in whose State of the Nation Address said Malawi is looking into other economic options to replace tobacco as the major forex earner and that sights have also been put on mining.

In Mangochi, through its trail of inquiries, PAV has established that people from neighboring Zambia and Mozambique are both leading illicit deals in mining, that is not taxed or regulated by government.

Malawi has several minerals, such as Phosphates bauxite, kaolinitic, coal, kyanite, limestone, rare earths graphite, sulphides (pyrite and pyrrhotite), titanium and vermiculite.

In an interview, one of the traders whom we shall only refer to as Thom* says it is evident that more minerals



Hills of this sort being depleted through illegal mining.

are being taken out of Malawi.

"It becoming a big business and everyone knows that there is no regulation at all. You just need to trade carefully at the markets. As a Malawian, I am just getting worried

because the resources are ours," he says.

Apparently, PAV learns that some foreign nationals have even been able to hire locals into working either as agents or drillers of the minerals from

the precious hills of Namizimu in Mangochi, Malingunde in the capital Lilongwe, Vuwa in Nkhotakota and Perekezi in Mzimba district, places that Chilenga even outrightly names in parliament.

The highly sought commodity has been gold which other media reports also said was being dug in Mwanza district which neighbors Mozambique. A gram of gold has been illicit sold around \$ 25, according to what we learn.

However, as Thom* details, more and more illegal traders are going on untraced by authorities.

"You must understand that in the villages where we live, we see vehicles around some even carrying sand, but we are aware of the trade they undertake in. In the past someone dared to report to police, but nothing tangibly has been done and communities are now joining the trade. It appears easy," he says.

But two years ago, local authorities in the northern region district of Mzimba managed to force Chinese



Some companies are however operating. BIZ Malawi.

mining companies to stop operations in areas under their jurisdiction following allegations that they were operating illegally through physically set markets.

At the heart of concern of lack of action by law enforcers lie the matter in which government has not yet established the Mining Regulatory Authority.

Back in parliament, Member of Parliament for Zomba Central, (a district that nears Machinga, where a trail of illegal mining reports has also been highlighted) Bester Awali called for the suspension of all mining activities until Authority is set up.

His call was in response to Awali expressed concern that some mining companies are still operating.

"Honorable Members, you may wish to note that all minerals that were taken out of the country as samples but were not brought back after failing tests should be considered sold and appropriate royalties be deposited in Government Accounts. We keep losing more money by letting the mining and extractive industry to do business as usual," said Awali.

The piece of legislation in use is the 1981 Mines and Mineral Act which regulates mining in Malawi, but its stipulations are believed to be rather

weaker.

In its inquiry, PAV has learnt that In Mwanza, law enforcers had been probing the activities but arrests were not done prompting communities near hills to be involved in the trade.

"We have only known that there are minerals around here because of the foreigners we see around here" says an anonymous member of community around Machinga district.

In recent years, the ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining has been issuing statements making a stern caution to individuals involved in illegal mining to stop or face eviction citing the 1981 law.

But Kossam Munthali who leads an influential organization in the sector- Natural Resources Justice Network

in Malawi wondered why government has been coy on the matter and not been pushing for effective laws to tame the situation.

His view has also been widely shared by Chilenga who has also served as minister of mining during the reign of Peter Mutharika until 2022.

But Albert Mbawula, the current minister of mining insists that government is aware of problems in the mining sector that include alleged corrupt practices as well as smuggling of minerals by foreign nationals.

Among other things, he says government is setting out means to push for the regulation of the industry.

His view comes at a time when government has stated that money in excess of 9.4 Billion Kwacha has gone into the hands of artisanal gold miners.

"By November 2022, the Reserve Bank of Malawi has received 187 kilograms of gold through the structured market we are building. At the moment, we are also due to open the gemstone market which will facilitate a competitive market," he says.

So far, Mbawala has also revealed that the Malawi government has ignited engagements with international consultants to assess investment options for Malawi.

However, as Awali argued in parliament, Malawi first needs to have laws and institutions to manage the sector, a plan Mbawala says remains in the pipeline although a section of Malawians online feel government continues to play lip service casting expectations on deliberation for the next sitting of parliament.

At the loss of \$25 Million per day, Malawi evidently appears to lose not just its resources, but also a fortune that can transform the economy of the Southern African nation which still banks on tobacco as major forex earner.



Chakwera said in parliament that Malawi wants mining adventures.



Mbawala insists the Malawi government will sanitize the industry.



Chilenga has been critical of the industry.



**No fee money
transfers and
mobile
banking in
one**



**Download at
hellosimba.com**

Ernest Ouandié and the Unfolding Verdict of History

By Chief Charles A. Taku*

Pan African revolutionary hero Ernest Ouandié was condemned to death by a neo-colonial court-martial in Yaoundé, La Republique du Cameroun on January 5 1971 and executed in Bafoussam on January 15, 1971. He did not testify during the neo-colonial court-martial. He left on record, the following prophetic message full of historic and ideological significance to victims of colonialism and neo-colonialism in Africa and beyond which LRC and its court-martial were representative executioners:

" You will one day have to answer for this mockery of a conviction before history! As far as I am concerned, I am ready, under these conditions, to be executed rather than submit to a mockery of a trial".

This message relates to the sham independence which predatory neo-colonial France purported to grant to Cameroun. The supposed structures of governance of neo-colonial



Chief Charles Taku is a former President of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA).

Cameroun are remote-controlled oppression.

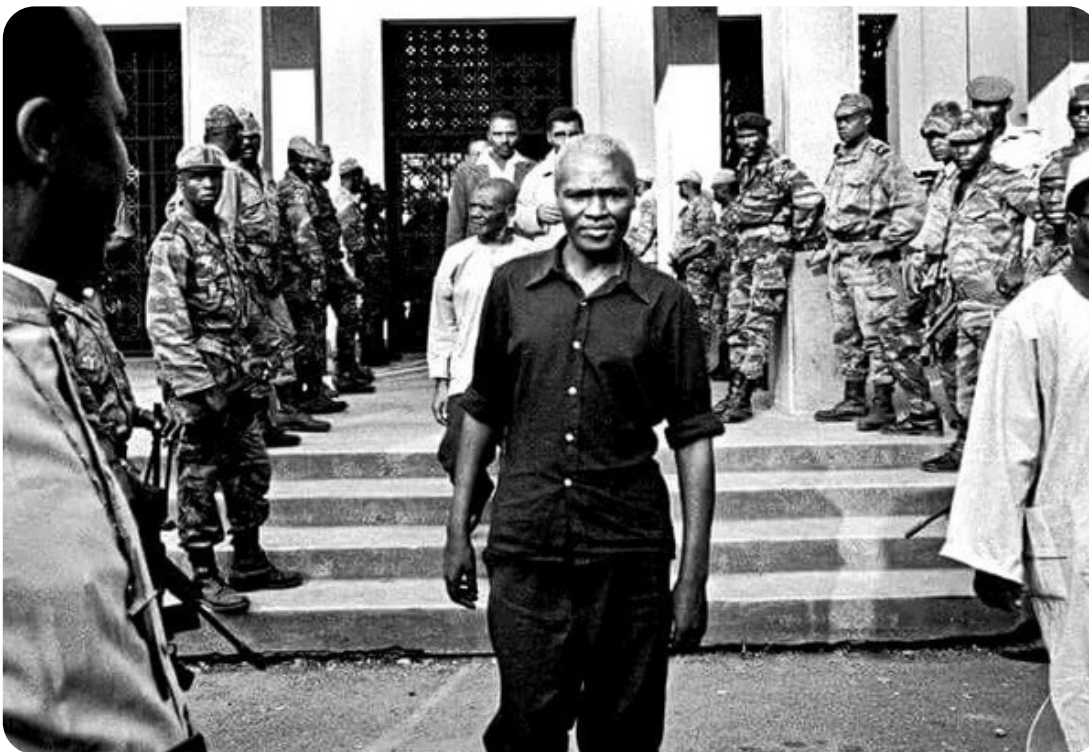
by colonial treaties and puppet leaders. The judiciary, the military and security architecture of the neo-colonial state are mere instruments of

These coercive instruments of oppression were relied on to enforce the assassination of Ernest Ouandié who was a leading African voice of

freedom from colonial rule and neo-colonialism. Because of his historic stand against colonialism and neo-colonialism, Ernest Ouandié must be celebrated as an African liberation hero and not as a citizen of La Republique du Cameroun.

It is hard for me to characterize him as a Camerounais. He may be one by birth but his revolutionary message resonated beyond La Republique du Cameroun. Albert Mukong, a revolutionary contemporary of Ernest Ouandié who spent time with him in Ghana and in the dungeon of La Republique du Cameroun prior to his assassination, told me that the revolutionary leader was not afraid of death because for him, alive or dead, the struggle for the total liberation and genuine independence of LRC and Africa would not abate and therefore, killing him was an exercise in futility.

The events that followed the assassination of Ernest Ouandié on January 15, 1971 validate the struggle for the genuine freedom of Africa and the independence of La Republique du Cameroun which Ernest Ouandié and his fellow freedom fighters



Ernest Ouandié a Cameroonian and African hero was a leading African voice for freedom from colonial rule and neo-colonialism.

engaged in. This struggle was radically opposed to the sham independence of LRC which occurred on January 1, 1960. It is significant to note that shortly after the assassination of Ernest Ouandié the FranceAfrique neo-colonial vassal state of LRC invalidated January 1, 1960 as the date of its sham independence, proceeded to annex the Southern Cameroons and imposed the date of this criminal act May, 20 1972 as its supposed date of independence. Therefore, La Republique du Cameroun has never been independent; not on January 1, 1960 and not on May 20, 1972. The assassination of Ernest Ouandié and other opponents of colonialism and neo-colonialism was intended to obfuscate this reality and to kill the genuine revolutionary quest in LRC for genuine independence.

Prior to the assassination of Ernest Ouandié, the sham independence of LRC was mired in the blood of freedom fighters. On January 3, 1964, Tankeu Noe was assassinated and 15 freedom fighters were assassinated as part of the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the independence of LRC. No record of a genuine trial of these freedom fighters meeting international standards has been shown to exist. Following from this, agents of neo-colonial vampire state of LRC have fine-tuned their genocidal proclivity in slaughtering Southern Cameroonians and plundering of its economy. The entire territory has been blighted, ancestral civilian settlements torched and systemic rape used an authorized weapon of war. For these acts of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity,

the President of LRC in his end of year address to his nation delivered at the threshold of the anniversary of the sham independence on January 1, 2023, praised soldiers and militias who he deployed to commit these atrocities crimes for their effectiveness and rapacity in carrying out their assigned tasks.

The assassinations of LRC's freedom fighters, in the supposed independence month of January starting from the blood which was spilled on the very day of the supposed independence, January 1, 1960, make the month of January and the anniversary date of the sham independence signposts for the collective memory of the assassination of the freedom and independence of the people of LRC. The assassination of the freedom hero

on January 15, which is the mid of the month of January, carries symbolic weight necessitating the individual and collective recommitment of freedom lovers in Africa to intensify the struggle against colonialism, neo-colonialism and a total rejection of FranceAfrique and its enslaving legacy of puppetry leadership and neo-colonial vampire economy.

* Chief Charles A. Taku, a traditional Chief from Cameroon, is an International Lawyer with thirty-six years' of trial experience. He specializes in International Criminal, Humanitarian, and Human Rights Law and Practice. He is also a former President of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA)



AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY

As demand for food grows with the increasing population so does the opportunity for greater employment in agriculture and the supporting sectors. The more we are able to produce in country rather than importing (Nigeria is Africa's largest consumer and importer of rice) will make food and produce more affordable

"There is increasing recognition from agriculture corporations that solutions are needed for these challenges. In the last five years, agriculture technology has seen a huge growth in investment, with \$6.7b invested over that time and \$1.9b in the last year alone. We aim to support the farmers in Nigeria with the latest technology to allow their farms to generate higher yields and reduce post-harvest losses..."

Dozy Mmobuosi
Group Chief Executive,
Tingo International Holdings, Inc.

www.tingogroup.com
info@tingogroup.com
+1888 590 2103

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).

Cameroon: Samuel Eto'o Clocks One Year as FECAFOOT President; Blessings or Stagnation at FECAFOOT?

By Sonita Ngunyi Nwohtazie & Boris Esono Nwenfor



Eto'o's one year has borne more positive fruits than negative. «To me, I can rate his one-year ruling to be 80 per cent so far,” Buea-based sports journalist Ekema Njoku said.

“Firstly, it has been a difficult reign for him because he came in with a lot of critics from the older ruling power who saw him be unfit to handle that position. Despite that looking at the way things are going multitude now believe in him, especially with the several changes he carried out during this one year of ruling both in the national team and various local championship tournaments. Son to me he has been a powerful instrument in developing our football and we await patiently to see him do more while still in power.”

«It was to be expected. Eto'o was one of the best players in the world. He played in big clubs [FC Barcelona, Inter Milan, Chelsea etc.], and he is a strong personality, very media-oriented. Everything he says and does take on proportions that would not have been the same if FECAFOOT had been presided over by someone else,” said Claude Jabéa Bekombo, the coordinator of the Center for Research on Sport in Africa, in Yaoundé. Since he took office, the former striker has made a series of spectacular and increasingly contested decisions.

Out goes Conceição, in comes Rigobert Song

Although one of Samuel Eto'o goals was to increase and restore the international and national visibility of the national team, he replaced Conceição whose contract was to expire within a few months with former Cameroonian international Rigobert Song. Conceição responded by suing FECAFOOT which FIFA ruled in his favour, ordering Cameroon to pay him nearly 1.5 million euros in compensation.

The performance of the Indomitable Lions during the Qatar expedition

December 11, 2022 marked one year since former Indomitable Lions captain Eto'o became the president of FECAFOOT.

In Cameroon, Samuel Eto'o enjoys great popularity among the majority of fans, who have not forgotten the grand career of the man who was one of the best strikers in the world, and perceive him as the only one capable of turning Cameroonian football around by improving the status of players, who have long been underpaid and under considered. «Everything he says or does will be dissected. His enemies and there are quite a few of them, are waiting for him at the bend,” says a former international player. «If he makes the slightest mistake, they won't let up.»

Elected on the 11th of December 2021, the President of the Cameroonian Football Federation FECAFOOT and former indomitable Lions player, clocked one year in power. The two times Africa Cup of Nations, AFCON winner, regarded as one of the best strikers in the world, and referred to as one of the Greatest African players of all time, won the African player of the year a record

four times in 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2010.

The former Cameroon striker, who lifted the Champions League with Barcelona and Inter Milan, won the election with 43 votes from members of FECAFOOT's general assembly. «We have to bring footballers to the centre of our policies,” he said afterwards. «It is our role to ensure that those who play this discipline make a decent living out of it.» Outgoing president Seidou Mbombo Njoya, who is also a Confederation of African Football vice president, got 31 votes.

A New wind of change

Four days after he ascended in office, the newly elected president fired some staff and security guards who came late to work on arrival at the FECAFOOT office in Tsinga Yaoundé. The FECAFOOT president also dismissed Bill Tchato, a former Indomitable Lion without any reason, and equally a host of others who did

not respect his news rules binding to competency.

Again, he carried out about 25 appointments of officials both in the central and regional bureaus of FECAFOOT with the majority being Francophones like the appointment of Jean-Paul Akono as a member of the Professional Football Transition Council headed by the then General Pierre Semengue.

At a national level, the former FC Barcelona striker had committed to revitalizing domestic competitions. He succeeded in doing so, ensuring the smooth running of the championship and the Cameroon Cup which saw the massive return of the population back to stadiums. In line to develop the Cameroonian local championship, the president of FECAFOOT Samuel Eto'o signed a contract with the lone state media CTRV though its terms were not made public; it was to give the local championship more visibility.

To some Cameroonians, Samuel



We have made a commitment to restore all the greatness of Cameroonian football, our dream is a reality that is built on a daily basis - Eto'o.

may have shown Cameroonians that it is time we stick to our local coach. Despite not qualifying out of the group stages yet again, Cameroon with Rigobert Song did win a match in twenty (20) years and succeeded in becoming the first African side to defeat five-time World champions Brazil in a FIFA World Cup match.

Reports coming out of the press suggest that FECAFOOT have extended the contract of Rigobert Song for a further two years, though that is yet to be confirmed by authorities in Tsinga. With the AFCON on the horizon, Eto'o will once again be trusting his former Indomitable Lions captain to take his country to the Senegal jamboree and why not the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the USA, Mexico and Canada.

"Let's say that in terms of the change of coach, Eto'o is within his role, since he felt that Conceição was not the right man to qualify Cameroon for the World Cup. The facts proved him right, as the Indomitable Lions

(played) in the tournament, but it's a high price to pay, even if qualification will bring money into the federation [a minimum of €8m paid by FIFA]. On the other hand, in the dispute with Le Coq Sportif, we are waiting for his explanation, but Eto'o has this flaw of wanting to control everything, to take care of everything; and since he doesn't have good people around him, he makes bad decisions," a source close to FECAFOOT, speaking on condition of anonymity told Alexis Billebault of the Africa report.

"Retroactive" Extension of his mandate

Few months after his elections as president at the helm of FECAFOOT, his term of office was extended from four to seven years. This information is contained in a communiqué released by Ernest Obama head of the communication department of FECAFOOT. To some FECAFOOT delegates, Samuel Eto'o needed more time to carry out his project for

«Let's unite our forces, silence our selfishness, look together in the same direction, Let's stop the sterile wars, the useless conflicts, the inopportune fights... Together, my dear brothers, let's make Cameroon football great again. Let's give Cameroonian football all its greatness.»

«Samuel Eto'o Fils cannot carry out his project for Cameroonian football to the end. It is for this reason that they first wanted to modify the agenda that was proposed to them by putting back on the table the number of years that a president must serve at the head of the association. "It is for this reason that all 66 delegates voted that from now on, this term will be reduced from 4 years to 7 years." A statement reads.

Samuel Eto'o still has some years left at the head of the Cameroon FA to realize a lot of pending promises made to the Cameroonian public of taking football to another level like the construction of stadiums in Cameroon, His "detractors" will have to be patient. Unless the former formidable striker loosens his grip a little.



Samuel Eto'o is one of the most successful African players ever.

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

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Ethiopian



The Subtonomy advantage

Founded in Sweden in 2012, Subtonomy works with some of the world's most advanced operators. Our technology helps our clients deliver premium experiences, personalized support and proactive care, providing world-class service at a lower cost. Subtonomy's Platform is proven to provide unprecedented real-time insights across any combination of networks (2G, 3G, 4G, 5G NSA, 5G SA, broadband and gigabit fiber), seamlessly extending visibility as you add new networks. Our easy-to-use applications utilize this rich data to enable:

- customer support teams to isolate and resolve problems faster
- operational teams to prioritize fault fixing and network build according to customer need
- business teams to up-sell to both business customers and consumers
- wholesale teams to understand the service they're delivering to MVNO clients and other partners
- B2B teams to prepare performance reports faster and at lower cost.



“

Subtonomy is incredibly proud to have a 100% satisfied client base, and we see it as a great honor to be shortlisted for Best Customer Experience in the World Communication Awards.

”

Fredrik Edwall, EVP Sales & Marketing, Subtonomy

Selected customers



For more information on how we can help you please visit our website subtonomy.com, or speak to one of our account managers:

Europe – FREDRIK EDWALL fredrik.edwall@subtonomy.com	Africa & Middle East – SORAB BOUBAKOUR sorab.boubakour@subtonomy.com	Asia-Pacific – SIMON KONG simon.kong@subtonomy.com
---	--	---

Young, hip and prepaid

Get ready for the next stage of growth with Subtonomy

The next phase of growth in Africa will be driven by young adults. This generation is the most talked about and the biggest in history. And they're 100% digital.

By 2025, SubSaharan Africa will have*:

- 120 million new subscribers
- 170 million new mobile internet users
- 40% of the population using mobile internet.



But what do Gen Z want?

Digital they're tech savvy and see technology as a tool to live their best possible lives.

Creative they want to make and consume music, video and social media.

Social their lives are centred around their phones for work, play and education.

Entrepreneurial they want to build businesses and trade both locally and internationally.

This is how you should support them >>>

* GSMA

Gen Z are discerning and demanding customers who expect an end-to-end digital journey and the freedom to choose what they want. Delivering the uninterrupted experiences they expect means CSPs need to be able to see EXACTLY what's going on in their networks.

Subtomy delivers:



24x7 scalable digital support empowered by accurate holistic data.



Any combination of support channel now or in the future - email, chat, self-service, chatbots or social media.



360 degree data at your CSRs' fingertips.



Valuable B2B insights, with SLA monitoring & alerting, and support for 5G network slicing.



Support every customer, network, service and channel from ONE place with Subtonomy

Subtonomy is designed to be fast and easy to implement, with minimal disruption. In as little as 3-4 months you could transform the way your customers are supported.

- Subtonomy re-uses existing data sources.
- We can take data from passive probes (eg Commprove, Viavi, Tektronix, Polystar, TEOCO and Netscout), cell-level data, BSS, OSS and device data.
- Real-time insight can be displayed in our applications or in your existing contact center applications.
- Multiple teams can use the data to improve business, customer and operational performance.

Unprecedented customer results

-20%

Reduce calls to contact center by 20%.

75%

Automate 75% of technical support cases.

-47%

Reduce average handling time per case by 47%.

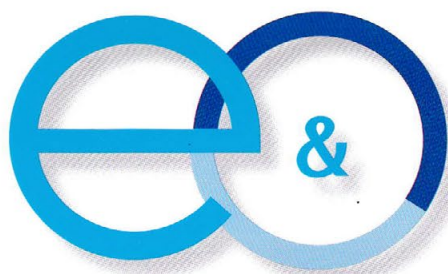
-60%

Reduce escalations by 60% and improve first call resolution.

24/7

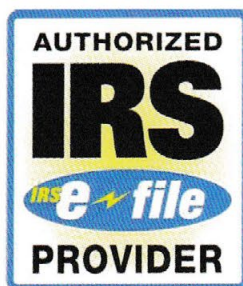
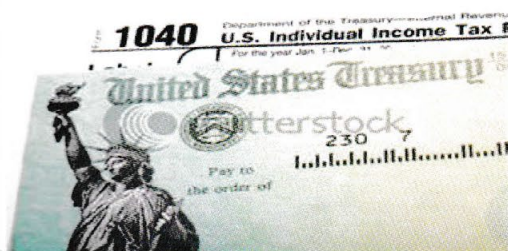
Deliver 24/7 access to digital customer support channels.





CONSULTING, LLC

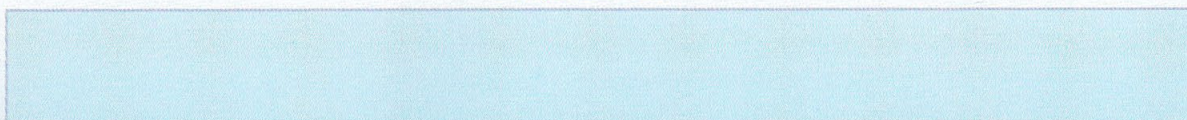
ACCOUNTING • TAXATION • CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS



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



PAN
AFRICAN
VISIONS



Tel: +1 240 429 2177
pav@panafricanvisions.com | marketing@panafricanvisions.com
www.panafricanvisions.com



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

