

MAG 0723 - JULY 2023

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# Time To Learn From The Senegalese Exception

By Ajong Mbapndah L

The heightened tensions, speculations, and deadly protests in Senegal finally climaxed in a public declaration by President Macky Sall that he will not seek a third term in respect of constitutional term limits.

"My dear fellow citizens, my decision after long consideration is to not be a candidate in the election on February 25, 2024. Senegal is more than me and is full of capable leaders for the country's development," said President Macky Sall in a televised address recently. He said that his decision is inspired by the need to "preserve my dignity and stand by my word" as well as respecting the supreme law of the land. "The 2019 term was my second and last term, that's what I said before, and that's my decision tonight," he said.

A triumph of democracy it was for Senegal, literally the only country in Francophone Africa with a vibrant democratic culture that has seen a succession of peaceful power transfers over the years. The express confirmation from President Macky Sall that he will not seek another term went a long way to quell tensions, and deservedly, he got plaudits across the globe. As the dust settles on the calamity that might have befallen Senegal, there are several mind-boggling issues begging for attention. What did President Macky Sall mean when he talked about careful consideration? Is it plausible that indeed, he did entertain thoughts of a third term whereas the Senegalese constitution caps the term limits at two? Without the mammoth protests and bloodshed will he really have pushed this through?

The recent developments in Senegal highlight the broad challenges that Africa faces in its democratic journey. If a leader with continental wide respect like Macky Sall could dillydally on term limits, it speaks volumes on the work that lies ahead and the need for permanent vigilance. Macky Sall did not have to bow out on a limp considering

the heroic fight he led to bar his predecessor Abdoulaye Wade who nursed similar designs.

In Guinea, it is the third term folly of President Alpha Conde, that led to the emergence of military rule. A historic opposition figure with a cult following, few would ever have imagined that the defining legacy of Conde's long political history would be changing constitutional term limits and providing the military with a reason to seize power again. We have seen changes to constitutional term limits in Cote d'Ivoire. In Cameroon, the term limits have been changed and rechanged, a norm in Francophone Africa one will say.

That the Senegalese people resisted changes to constitutional term limits under President Abdoulaye Wade, and they did so under President Macky Sall speaks to the seriousness of a people who want to see democracy triumph at all costs. Macky Sall made the right call, but the bigger heroes in this story are the Senegalese people. Who ever comes after Macky Sall will think twice before entertaining any funny thoughts.

As usual, events like the one Senegal just went through often expose the gapping absence of continental leadership. It is a tale of silence from leaders in other countries, it is silence from the African Union. Concerns will often come from external actors or partners. This attitude is understandable in a continent where more leaders look after each other more than they look out for the people under their watch. For some analysts, it is curious that Macky Sall's speech came after his trip to Paris for Global Finance Summit... At the event, some members of his delegation had it rough with the Senegalese diaspora, .... did the sordid scenes and murmurs from some quarters in France push him to reason? Hard to say but the issue remains that Africa as a continent yearns for selfless, bold, clairvoyant leadership.



Ajong Mbapndah L, Managing Editor

On the global scene, Africa may be seeing glimpses of this in leaders like President William Ruto of Kenya.

Young, dynamic, daring, and visionary, the Kenyan Ruto who is only in his second year of office has endeared himself with Africans on issues that many consider as seminal. He sees no wisdom in all African leaders flogging to foreign countries for forums that could be addressed by two or three countries on behalf of the continent, he is increasingly advocating for the continent to speak in one voice. He thinks the international financial institutions are unfairly decked against Africa. In Sudan, he is one of the few African leaders who has been proactive in seeking solutions.

It maybe too early to see if Kenya's hustler President means business or is just trying to play the populist card, but there seems to be a growing consensus that he is speaking the language Africans want to hear. That he is articulating the right issues and is proving to be an effective spokesperson for the continent on the global scene.

In the mold of Ruto, Africa is increasingly flexing muscles on the international scene and taking stance on key global developments. While many may be accustomed to seeing European countries wading into diverse conflicts across the continent

and proffering solutions of sorts, it is very uncommon to see Africa trying to wade into crisis in Europe. That Africa should be trying to play a role in breaking the bloody feud between Ukraine and Russia is revealing.

For Africa to be fully respected and taken seriously externally though, it must work harder to get it right internally. It is what Afreximbank under the exemplary leadership of Prof Benedict Oramah has been doing. For an institution that is proving pivotal in the changing fortunes of the continent, it was only befitting to give its 30th anniversary the grit and glitz that was witnessed in Ghana.

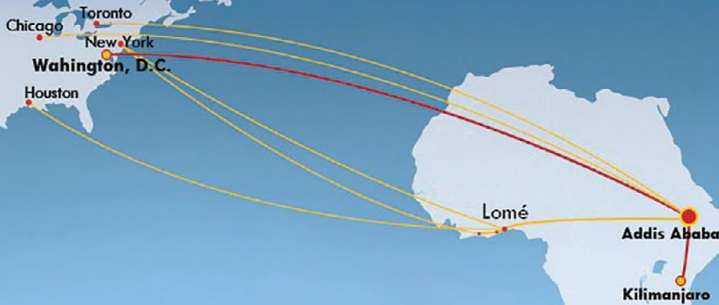
Challenges? The continent still has them in quantum. Is it the crisis in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon, is it the fighting in Sudan? Is it corruption, flawed elections.... It is a long list. When you look around the continent, however, you see progress. In the Senegalese example, we know that it is possible for the people to stop leaders who want to do away with term limits. In Afreximbank, the AfDB and other institutions, you see it is possible to take charge of its development priorities. Looking at what the African Energy Chamber is doing, you see that it is possible for Africa to defend its interests and champion its energy independence and renaissance.

Africa is a continent on the move, Africa is a continent with globally recognized potential, it is a continent generating more and more global attention. In the number of growing international forums like the Mo Ibrahim Governance Weekend in Kenya, Bloomberg New Economy Gateway Africa, or the recent USA-Africa Business Summit in Botswana, you get a feel of exciting times. In times like this, Africans should strive to be major players and actors and not mere spectators in shaping the destiny of their continent.



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# Senegal: Macky Backs Down In Political Standoff

By Prince Kurupati



*The 2019 term was my second and last term, that's what I said before, and that's my decision, says President Macky Sall. Photo credit Ludovic MARIN, AFP.*

In a move that has received global praise, Senegal's President Macky Sall, in a late televised address to the nation on Monday, 3 July 2023, announced that he would not compete in the upcoming presidential election. This, therefore, means he will bow out after serving two terms in office. In doing so, he maintains the established precedent for respecting term limits which Senegal has enjoyed for its past presidential transitions.

Addressing the nation using Senegal's official language French, President Sall said, "My dear fellow citizens, my decision after long consideration is to not be a candidate in the election on February 25, 2024. Senegal is more than me and is full of capable leaders for the country's development". He said that his decision is inspired by the need to "preserve my dignity and stand by my word" as well as respecting the supreme law of the land. "The 2019 term was my second and last term, that's what I said before, and that's my decision tonight," he said.

The address immediately brought to an end the rumblings and rumours which had engulfed the country that the president would seek a third

term in office. Suffice it to say, the rumblings and rumours were justified as President Sall himself opened the rumours' avenue by previously saying that a 2016 constitutional amendment allowed an incumbent to seek another term in office. President Sall and his supporters argued that the constitutional amendment 'reset' the provision that "no one may serve more than two consecutive terms"; hence he was eligible to seek re-election. This was, however, vehemently rejected by the opposition.

Inaugurated in April 2012, President Macky Sall has recorded many successes as the leader of Senegal. Chief among them are economic successes. As he prepares to leave office, he leaves Senegal as one of Africa's fastest-growing economies. Projections for 2023 state that the country's economic growth is set to rise significantly owing to much-improved gas and oil production. The International Monetary Fund, as reported by Bloomberg, reported that "expected start of oil and gas production in the fourth quarter could lift Senegal's economic expansion to 8.3% this year (2023)".

Perhaps the one main area where President Sall has been blamed for lacking is on the socio-political front. The president's biggest opponent Ousmane Sonko who is the leader of the main opposition, is currently languishing in jail after being convicted of "corrupting youth". Sentenced to serve two years in prison, there are serious threats to Sonko's desire to run for the presidency as he faces disqualification.

The probable disqualification of

give the incumbent's coalition, the Benno Bokk Yakaar coalition, an edge going into the elections. This despite the fact that the Benno Bokk Yakaar coalition doesn't have a candidate yet. By August, however, the country will know all the contenders as all presidential hopefuls are expected to have submitted their signatures to the country's electoral body.

Those expected to throw their names in the hat for the Benno Bokk Yakaar coalition include Idrissa Seck, the runner-up from the 2019 election. Also, likely to compete in the presidential race are Karim Wade, the son of former President Abdoulaye Wade and former Dakar Mayor Khalifa Sall. These two were prohibited from competing in the 2019 election after they were handed jail sentences for corruption and embezzlement, respectively. A recent change in the electoral law means both can compete in the 2024 election.

Commenting on President Sall's decision to step down at the end of his second term in office, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that it's a sign of great "statesmanship". "I would like to express my deep appreciation for President Macky Sall and the statesmanship he has shown. His decision represents a very important



*Despite his huge popularity, the political future of opposition leader Ousmane Sonko remains unclear.*



world,” Secretary General Guterres said.

Expressing the same sentiments was the former Niger President Mahammadou Issoufou, who tweeted, “The President, Macky Sall, has just shown great political intelligence. Thus, Senegal remains one of the torchbearers whose flame lights up our continent”. In agreement, the U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said, “President Sall’s clear statement sets an example for the region, in contrast to those who seek to erode respect for democratic principles, including term limits”. He went further, saying, “We are proud to support Senegal’s electoral institutions and civil society in the important work they do and will continue to partner with Senegal to support the Senegalese people’s enduring commitment to democracy”.

Dr. Christopher Fomunyoh, who is the Senior Associate of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI),

weighed in as he tweeted, “Thank you, President Macky Sall! I always knew you’d do right; for yourself, your legacy, your beautiful country Senegal and our continent Africa; Your dignified decision makes us all proud.”

As he prepares to leave the presidential seat, NJ Ayuk, who is the Executive Chairman at African Energy Chamber, said that “We may not have realised it at the time, but this fact is now clear. President Macky Sall is the bodyguard of Senegal’s democracy and civilisation. The greatest President since independence.” He went on to highlight some of President Sall’s successes during his two-term tenure, saying, “Am happy he has built infrastructure, not burn down cities... Under his leadership, Senegal is a country that is rising to higher heights, that dreams big, thinks big, and can achieve the impossible”.

Francois Conradie, a political analyst, said that the decision to step down after his second term may not necessarily be inspired by the desire



**Demonstrations broke out in Dakar recently after a criminal court sentenced prominent opposition leader Ousmane Sonko.**  
Photo courtesy.

to respect the Constitution per se. Rather, it’s a “risk-positive” decision as the prevailing unrest in the country will have shown President Sall that his political stock is fast dissipating. “The announcement is risk-positive, as a third term run by Mr Sall would have triggered more protests,” Conradie said. Conradie’s comments may hold water considering the fact that there has been an increase in the severity of

the protests which engulfed the whole of Senegal for the past few weeks.

In closing his address, President Sall called upon the nation to stop the protests and help chart a prosperous future for everyone. “Let’s abandon the populist postures that want to present our country as a lawless desert. We can be adversaries, but not enemies”.

## Kenya: Ruto Touts Pan African Credentials

By Samuel Ouma

**K**enyan President William Ruto has emerged as a fierce critic of Western powers for their unfair treatment of the African continent and its leaders. Ruto has left no stone uncovered since taking office as the president of the Eastern African nation in September 2022, calling for African solidarity to fight against ‘evil powers’ from their Western counterparts.

As the voice of African unification, Ruto recently criticized the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for categorizing African nations as high-risk borrowers and imposing higher interest rates on them than on developed nations, which receive low-cost loans from lending institutions.

Speaking during a round-table with President of France Emmanuel Macron, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and the President of the World Bank Group Ajay Banga at the



**It is not intelligent for 54 African Presidents to go and sit before one President from another country for a summit, said President Ruto at the 2023 Mo Ibrahim Forum.**

New Global Financial Pact Summit in Paris, President Ruto called for the establishment of a new financial architecture which promotes equality among nations.

Ruto boldly objected to the World Bank and IMF controlling

resources, claiming that the action primarily benefits a small group of people, particularly rich countries, while marginalizing poor countries, particularly African ones. He told off the leaders that Africa is not after free things as some regions think.

“We need a financial transaction tax at a global level where even countries like Kenya pay. We do not want anything for free,” said President Ruto.

“We want resources controlled not by IMF and World Bank because in

IMF and World Bank power is in the hands of few people.”

In response to unfair resource access occasioned by the two financial institutions, President Ruto emphasized that a new financial architecture will ensure that every nation, big or small, has equal access to resources. According to Ruto, the new financial order will help the world overcome poverty and climate change.

He echoed similar sentiments during a joint session of the Congolese Parliament in Brazzaville on July 7, where he was on a two-day state visit. Ruto said African leaders and parliaments must speak with one voice against what he termed as flawed international financial systems. He said leaders must lobby for reforms in global financial organizations to address the continent's debt crisis.

“It is, therefore, clear that if we do not solve the debt issue, it will be impossible to address the climate crisis.”

The Kenyan leader has also joined other nations such as China and India in a strong demand for de-dollarisation, urging African countries to abandon U.S. dollars in favour of local currencies when purchasing and selling goods. Ruto explained that the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has established a mechanism, the Pan-African Payments and Settlement



**Ruto, French President Macron, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, and World Bank Group Ajay Banga at the recent New Global Financing Pact Summit in Paris.**

System (PAPSS), allowing traders on the continent to conduct business in their local currencies.

In a speech to the Djibouti Parliament in mid-June 2023, Ruto emphasized the importance of reducing dependency on the dollar for trade transactions between Djibouti and Kenya, highlighting Kenya's support for the Pan-African payment and settlement system and quizzed the need to use the U.S. dollar in economic transactions between the two countries.

«Why is it necessary for us to buy

things in Djibouti and pay in dollars? Why? There's no reason,» said Ruto, clarifying that his intention is to advance free commerce among African countries rather than to oppose the U.S. dollar.

He recommended that while payments for purchases made from the United States might still be paid in dollars, payments made to Djibouti by Kenya or any African nation should be done in local currency.

In early June, Ruto made a similar remark at a Nairobi forum on the

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). He called out African nations to embrace the Pan-African payment system, noting that the U.S. dollar hamper trade across the continent.

“We have a mechanism where we can settle all our payments, whether between our countries or externally using our local currencies. And we have an organism like the one that has been put up by the Afreximbank so that we don't have to be hostage to any one currency or the other,” stated President Ruto.

President Ruto asked African heads of state to rally financial institutions in their nations to join the new system, saying that accepting PAPSS would be a key milestone in boosting regional economic integration and economic prosperity.

«My brothers, you have a compelling job to do. First of all, we must take decisive steps to strengthen our financial institutions to effectively support a strong private sector performance in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and general Pan African business,» added Ruto.

The vibrant Ruto also implored African leaders to fully support Afreximbank, saying it is the continent's organization that



**Africa must take decisive steps to strengthen its financial institutions, says President Ruto pictured here with a visiting delegation from Afreximbank.**



supports the development, financing, and implementation of identified projects, during a meeting with Afreximbank President Benedict Oramah and former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo at State House in Nairobi.

Additionally, Ruto has expressed his disappointment with how African presidents are treated during foreign trips. He provided an example of African presidents being put in a bus to attend Queen Elizabeth's burial ceremony in the U.K. during the Mo Ibrahim Governance Weekend at the Kenya International Convention Centre in Nairobi.

This was despite other International presidents driving themselves to the funeral. For example, U.S. President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden travelled in the «Beast», an armoured Cadillac.

«We have these meetings with Africa-USA, Africa-Europe, Africa-Turkey, Africa-India and now we are waiting for Africa-Russia and Africa-Japan. Sometimes we are mistreated you know, we are loaded into buses like schools kids and it is not right,» revealed Ruto.

While addressing the Pan-African Parliament Summit on Climate Policy and Equity in South Africa in May, the Kenyan Head of state revealed that African Presidents are not given enough time to share their issues in the forums abroad. According to Ruto, each president is assigned one and a half minutes to contribute to such meetings, which needs to be improved.

«What kind of outcome you expect where 50 heads are sitting and everybody is asked to use one and a half minutes?» asked Ruto.

Ruto highlighted that African leaders are interested in something other than gourmet meals and photograms but rather in the opportunity to discuss their concerns and find answers to their people's difficulties.

«This time around any other invitation must respect the rules of our continent. Anybody who wants us to take them seriously, they must first respect our architecture. If they want a fruitful engagement, they should



*President Ruto has taken the lead in efforts to call warring factions in Sudan to order.*

engage our continent in a manner that we can effectively represent our people and we can effectively discharge our mandate and articulate our issues,» added furious Ruto.

According to Ruto, the leaders have decided that the African Union will represent them going forward as a single entity to such forums by the A.U. chair and Regional Economic Committees.

«If we don't respect ourselves, nobody is going to respect us. And part of that respecting ourselves is when we talk about African problems and African solutions. We must be serious about the solutions and must not be rhetorical. It must be accompanied by what realistically and practically we are doing with our capacity,» he added.

Ruto has also called for an African Union Reform Agenda to guarantee that the roles of the Bureau and Summits are adequately rationalized. He suggested reviewing funding arrangements to ensure that members predominantly fund A.U. budgets.

He said that the A.U. budget, paid mainly by donors, stifles further growth in the continent since they decide how the funds are invested.

«The Pan-African Assembly must urgently review the funding arrangements to ensure that Africa union budgets are financed primarily by members and secondarily by

external partners. This will require a mechanism where African Union member states are up to date with their contributions with regard to all our commitments, as much as done our most core mandates depend on the goodwill of development partners,» reiterated Ruto.

Ruto has also called on the warring parties in Sudan to stop the violence and sign an unconditional ceasefire through a cessation of hostilities agreement. He spoke on July 10 in Addis Ababa during the IGAD Quartet Heads of State and Government meeting that focussed on the Sudan conflict.

Also present were Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed, IGAD Executive Secretary Workneh Gebeyehu, UN Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths, Djibouti Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mahamoud Ali Youssouf and representatives from South Sudan and rival factions.

Ruto expressed alarm over the escalation of conflicts, frequent violations of multiple ceasefire agreements, and the spread of violence outside of Khartoum, particularly in Darfur and Kordofan.

The Sudan conflict has claimed thousands of lives and displaced approximately 3 million people,

including 2.2 million IDPs and 615,000 refugees who have since crossed the border to neighbouring countries.

Members of the IGAD Quartet agreed to take substantial efforts to provide prompt humanitarian aid to all Sudanese affected by the conflict, with a special focus on vulnerable populations, including women, children, and people with disabilities.

They further resolved to call the East Africa Standby Force (EASF) summit to discuss the possibility of deploying the EASF to protect civilians and provide humanitarian access.

The leaders urged neighbouring states to increase their efforts to supply humanitarian help and take the necessary steps to remove any logistical hurdles to the delivery of humanitarian aid, such as visa and customs procedures.

Despite being in office for less than a year, President Ruto has spoken out against what other African leaders have failed to do in their entire life. The Kenyan president appears to be following in the footsteps of former Ghana President Kwame Nkrumah, who sought to unite, a move that will put him at odds with Western superpowers. Some people also compare him to the late Muammar Gaddafi, Libyan de facto leader.

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# Nigeria-Tinubu Scoffs At EU Election

By Prince Kurupati

The much-awaited European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) final report on the last Nigerian general elections was released on 27 June 2023. The report, which features 25 recommendations, stated that Nigerians demonstrated a great commitment to respect democratic values, but inherent systematic weaknesses in the country's electoral laws prevented a truly transparent and inclusive electoral process.

The EUEOM team led by Barry Andrews, the Chief Observer, started its work on 11 January. The mission arrived in the country at the invitation of Nigeria's electoral body, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Its task was to observe the presidential and National Assembly elections on 25 February as well as the governorship and state houses of assembly polls on 18 March. It ended up observing supplementary elections for some constituencies on 15 April. For the presidential and National Assembly elections, it jointly observed the elections with a delegation of the European Parliament.

The mission thus had ample time to observe the electoral environment during the campaign period, election days up to the inauguration date and the immediate aftermath. Speaking about the time it spent observing Nigeria's electoral environment pre-election, during the election and post-elections, EUEOM's Chief Observer Barry Andrews said, "We are particularly concerned about the need for reform in six areas which we have identified as priority recommendations, and we believe, if implemented, could contribute to improvements for the conduct of elections".

Namely, the areas that Chief Observer Andrews pointed out include the need to eliminate ambiguities in the law, ensure that election results are publicised in real-time, the need to establish a publicly accountable selection process for the electoral



*The EU report is the product of a poorly done desk job, says the Tinubu administration.*

body (INEC) members, putting in place stringent measures that guard against electoral offences for everyone, removing discriminatory practises against women in political circles as well as ensuring the safety and security of media practitioners covering the election.

Chief Observer Andrews, however, acknowledged Nigerians' commitment to democracy.

After receiving the EUEOM election report, President Bola Tinubu of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) said that the report is "a product of a poorly done desk job that relied heavily on a few instances of skirmishes in less than 1000 polling units out of over 176,000 where Nigerians voted on election day". He rubbished the comments passed in the report, which castigated the inherent systematic flaws in Nigeria's electoral laws and processes. In a statement relayed by the Presidential spokesperson Dele Alake, President Tinubu said, "We strongly reject, in its

entirety, any notion and idea from any organisation, group and individual remotely suggesting that the 2023 election was fraudulent".

The statement went further, alleging that the 2023 Nigerian presidential election was the best since 1999. "Our earlier position that the technology-aided 2023 general elections were the most transparent and best-organised elections since the return of civil rule in Nigeria has been validated by all non-partisan foreign and local observers such as the African Union, ECOWAS, Commonwealth Observer Mission and the Nigerian Bar Association," Mr Alake said.

Mr Alake went on to state that the EUEOM report was written well before the election was conducted, as the main objective of the report was to discredit the polls, especially the presidential election. Mr Alake said, "While we did not mention the name of the organisation in the said statement (earlier statement released by the Tinubu campaign team before the

polls), we made it abundantly clear to Nigerians how this foreign institution had been unrelenting in its assault on the credibility of the electoral process, the sovereignty of our country and our ability as a people to organise ourselves... We find it preposterous and unconscionable that in this day and age, any foreign organisation of whatever hue can continue to insist on its own yardstick and assessment as the only way to determine the credibility and transparency of our elections".

Furthermore, Mr Alake said, "Now that the organisation has submitted what it claimed to be its final report on the elections, we can now categorically let Nigerians and the entire world know that we were not unaware of the machinations of the European Union to sustain its, largely, unfounded bias and claims on the election outcomes... we have many reasons to believe the jaundiced report, based on the views of fewer than 50 observers, was to merely sustain the same premature

denunciatory stance contained in EU's preliminary report released in March".

The EUEOM report was also criticised by the electoral body INEC. The body's spokesperson Festus Okoye in a televised interview, said that "It is not fair to judge the entire performance of the commission on the basis of a glitch in the result upload for the presidential election".

The flaws highlighted by the EUEOM report may give credence to the People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Atiku Abubakar and the Labour Party (LP) leader Peter Obi's electoral disputes, which are before the courts of law, which accuse President Tinubu of ascending to power via rigging.



*Inherent systematic weaknesses in the country's electoral laws prevented a truly transparent and inclusive electoral process., says the EU observer mission.*

## Mozambique: End Of Renamo Nightmare

*Mozambique closed on 15 June the last base of the armed residual men of the largest opposition party Renamo.*

*By Jorge Joaquim*

Mozambique closed on 15 June the last base of the armed residual men of the largest opposition party Renamo in Vunduzi, Gorongosa district, Sofala province, as part of the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former opposition guerrillas. The outcome was possible thanks to the selfless commitment of Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi and Renamo leader Ossufo Momade to frank and open dialogue.

The disarmament process started in 2017 and covered 16 military bases with different kinds of ordnance. 5,221 former Renamo guerrillas were demilitarised, following a truce declared in 2016 by then Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama after several armed clashes.

The agreement initialled between the government and Renamo also calls for the integration of former guerrillas into the army, the police, or reintegration into society and civil life. Observers are unanimous that there is now a need to create mechanisms to ensure the preservation and consolidation of the gains registered so far, and the sustainability of peace



in the medium and long term.

As the Renamo leader said, achieving peace is a process that depends, above all, on everyone's involvement, and disarmament did not end only with the symbolic handing over of the last weapon.

The kits of miscellaneous material for reinsertion into civilian life that are already being distributed include building materials, household

utensils, blankets, agricultural inputs, footwear, among other materials.

Only 150 of the demobilized are to be recruited into the army and police, out of a total of 5,254 former guerrillas who should be demobilized. The number is small because most of the former Renamo fighters are well past the normal age for joining the defence forces.

### *A moment of politics without weapons*

The disarmament process will above all ensure that political battles in Mozambique are conducted without recourse to weapons. Civil wars between Renamo and government forces were common in the country, especially after the announcement of the election results. Renamo took up arms to claim what it



called electoral fraud by the Frelimo party, which has been in power since the first multi-party elections in 1994. Renamo's claims included shooting at civilians and government forces; blocking roads; destroying public and private infrastructure, among other incursions.

President Nyusi argues that political battles should from now on follow the legal and constitutional dictates of a democratic state, bearing in mind that the upcoming electoral contest will be held without armed political parties, in the context of the closure of Renamo's last military base.

«More than that, we can celebrate because, for the first time since 1975, the country no longer has an officially armed political party. We are all called to work to ensure that peace is effective and lasting,» he said at the official ceremony to close the demilitarisation process.

«We want the upcoming election to be an environment of celebration and consolidation of the achievements of our democratic state. It is a supreme milestone because, 32 years after the Rome Accords, our brothers in the Renamo party handed over the last firearm to the Mozambican state, its faithful custodian,» Nyusi added.

The Mozambique's largest business association CTA considers that, with



the end of the disarmament process and the consequent elimination of the sources of uncertainty that the existence of armed men represented, the necessary conditions are created to guarantee greater attractiveness of the country as a preferential destination and security for national and foreign investments.

Canada joined the international community in praising Mozambique for the conclusion of the disarmament process, considering it a significant step towards sustainable peace. It explained

that as the donor representative on the Peace Process Common Fund, Canada has contributed over \$4.5m Canadian to support disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and reconciliation efforts.

Frelimo across the country have marched in praise of President Nyusi for his determined search for effective peace, culminating in the closure of the last Renamo base, in Vanduzi.

### The pensions

The payment of pensions has been a key point of disagreement between

the government and Renamo, and Renamo has used it as an excuse for not dismantling its final military base, in the central district of Gorongosa.

The social reintegration bonus and the retirement pension will be calculated by multiplying the Renamo guerrilla's salary, corresponding to the military rank in force on the date of the 2019 Peace Agreement, by 10 years of service, divided by 35.

The disability pension will be calculated by multiplying the salary of the Renamo guerrilla, corresponding to the military rank in force on the date of the 2019 Peace Agreement, by the minimum wage in force in 2019, and also the percentage of disability contracted according to the Military Medical Board.

The survivor's pension foreseen in case of death of the demobilised Renamo member entitled to the social reintegration bonus or pension, for his/her relatives, is 75% of the pension or bonus to which the deceased demobilised member was entitled.

In addition, upon the death of a former guerrilla, his/her family members (spouse and direct descendants or forebears) will be entitled to a subsidy corresponding to six months' worth of the pension he or she earned or would earn on the date of death.



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# Zimbabwe – Bracing For Another Tense Election

By Robert Ncube

23 August is the day that Zimbabweans from all walks of life go to cast their vote in the country's 2023 Harmonised Elections. This simply means the election is nigh, and the campaigning window is well and truly underway.

The 2023 Harmonised Elections will see Zimbabwean citizens vote for their preferred presidential candidate, House of Assembly representative (by constituency) and Local Authority representative (by ward). At the close of the Nomination period on Wednesday, 21 June 2023, the country's electoral body Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) said that 11 presidential hopefuls successfully filed to run. Hundreds and thousands of others successfully filed for House of Assembly and Local Authority positions, respectively.

The 11 presidential hopefuls include the incumbent Emmerson Mnangagwa, the successor to long-time leader Robert Mugabe who is aiming to win a second term in office and keep Zanu (PF) in power for five more years. Zanu (PF) is the only party that has led Zimbabwe since it attained independence in 1980.

President Mnangagwa's key competitor, according to many political analysts and the general populace, is 45-year-old Nelson Chamisa, who leads the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC). Though the CCC is a relatively new party which was launched in 2022, its leader, as well as most of its top brass, are all familiar faces in the Zimbabwean political field as they were part and parcel of the now dissipating Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) – the first opposition party to lodge a fierce and sustained opposition to Zanu (PF)'s hegemony.

In the 2018 presidential race, President Mnangagwa narrowly won the presidential race garnering 50.8% of the vote, while Chamisa garnered 44.3%. The incumbent is looking to better this margin, while Nelson



*President Mnangagwa will be facing another stiff challenge from the opposition.*

Chamisa is hoping that he can reach and possibly exceed the 50% mark.

Largely working in favour of President Mnangagwa is the notion of preponderance of incumbency. As explained by Blessing-Miles Tendi, the preponderance of incumbency makes it difficult for an opposition leader to defeat the incumbent president, as the latter has at his disposal all state institutions. The President controls all state apparatus, including the police, army and state security – key actors in the elections. Also, he is the one who holds the key when it comes to top judicial appointments; hence when electoral contestations escalate and reach the courts, the presiding officers will more likely judge in favour of the incumbent so as not to bite the hand that feeds them.

Moreover, the incumbent has a huge campaign chest. Just to put this into perspective, all prospective House of Assembly candidates were given top-of-the-range off-road vehicles for campaign purposes. Funds have also been availed through party

lines to spearhead the campaigns in wards and districts. With the general populace in Zimbabwe relying more on politics of the stomach rather than politics of substance, Zanu (PF)'s huge campaign chest possesses the ability to win thousands, if not millions, of votes.

Furthermore, Zanu (PF)'s strongholds are in rural areas as compared to Chamisa's CCC party, which is more popular in urban areas. As stated by BBC's Shingai Nyoka, "Rural voters normally turn out in huge numbers, unlike urban and youth voters, which could work against the opposition".

President Mnangagwa's fierce rival Nelson Chamisa on the other hand, will be hoping that the country's ailing economy will push citizens away from Zanu (PF) rule and hence seek refuge in his party. The recent spike in inflation figures which saw the price of basic commodities skyrocket will certainly play a pivotal role in giving the electorate something to think about as they decide on who to give their vote to.

BBC reports that "in the 12 months leading up to May this year, prices rose by 86.5%, one of the highest annual inflation rates in the world". The ever-rising unemployment rate also makes Chamisa and his party CCC an appealing alternative as he promises to revamp the economy and take the country on an economic and industrial transformative path.

Posing a great danger to CCC's hopes of becoming the first opposition party to wrestle power from Zanu (PF) is not Zanu (PF) on its own but also CCC's own shortcomings. Most notably, these come on the administrative front. Before the votes have even been cast, Zanu (PF) already has a lead as it's uncontested in 53 local authority wards. It also has double candidates in several wards and constituencies across the country; hence the possibility of vote splitting between the double candidates is very high. In the 2018 elections, the then main opposition party MDC Alliance lost several key constituencies owing to fielding double candidates, and it looks like lightning will strike twice.



Perhaps posing a different but nonetheless significant threat to President Mnangagwa's aim to secure a second term in office is the candidature of Saviour Kasukuwere – an exiled former top Zanu (PF) top official who was dismissed from Zanu (PF) during the 2017 coup which toppled Robert Mugabe. From his exile base in South Africa, Kasukuwere managed to file his papers with ZEC and will be on the ballot come 23 August. Many political analysts are of the view that Kasukuwere will put a dent in Mnangagwa's presidential ambitions as he has huge support within Zanu (PF) structures, especially folks who were left disgruntled with the way Robert Mugabe was ousted from power. As such, there is a consensus that Kasukuwere can steal and split some Zanu (PF) votes.

To what extent – that remains to be seen.

While President Mnangagwa, Nelson Chamisa and Saviour Kasukuwere are the headline names for the presidential race, there are eight other aspirants. These include



*Opposition leader Nelson Chamisa is the most formidable force against President Mnangagwa.*

Lovemore Madhuku, the leader of the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA); Trust Chikohora, the president of the Zimbabwe Coalition for Peace and Development; Douglas Mwonzora, the president of Movement for Democratic Change; Joseph Makamba Busha of Freezim;

Blessing Kasiyamhuru of the Partnership for Prosperity, Wilbert Mubaiwa of the National People's Congress, Gwinyai Henry Muzorewa the president of the United African National Council and Peter Harry Wilson of the Democratic Opposition Party.

Political analyst Methuseli Moyo is convinced that only Mnangagwa, Chamisa and Kasukuwere are the key actors in the upcoming election. All the other eight contestants are just bridesmaids helping to legitimise the election. Among the three main actors, Moyo states that ultimately, the presidential race will pit President Mnangagwa against Chamisa, but Kasukuwere's "votes will disturb" the incumbent's numbers and possibly precipitate a presidential run-off. If Moyo's prediction transforms into reality, the country will hold a presidential run-off on October 2, 2023.

For the presidential race, Zimbabwe uses the 50%+1 system meaning a winner emerges only if one of the candidates garners more than 50% of the votes. In the House and Assembly and Local Authority elections, the country uses a first past the post system meaning the winner is the candidate who simply gets the most votes.



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**SCAN ME**



# South Africa- Defiance In 'Feud' With The West

By Prince Kurupati



*South Africa will not be compelled to change its foreign policy, says International Relations Minister Naledi Pandor.*

There is an African proverb (Swahili) which reads, “When elephants fight, the grass gets trampled”. The proverb illustrates the simple fact that when giants/superpowers clash, more often than not, there are many innocent victims caught in the crossfire. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine War is one such clash between superpowers especially considering the West’s backing of Kyiv. Caught in the crossfire of this war are several countries, most of which are on the African continent, who relied heavily on trade deals and diplomatic ties with the two warring parties.

One of Africa’s top economic powerhouse South Africa is one such country that, in recent times, has found itself embroiled in a nasty dilemma. Traditionally, South Africa has enjoyed cordial commerce and diplomatic ties with the West while at the same time enjoying commerce and political ties with Russia in the East. With the West openly showing its support for Kyiv, it has lobbied for

all its allies to take the same stance in the Russia-Ukraine War. This, in essence, means that South Africa, from the Western point of view, should be supporting Kyiv.

Since the eruption of the Russia-Ukraine war, South Africa has maintained a non-aligned stance, albeit pushing for a quick resolution to the conflict and a timeous return to normalcy. Its non-aligned stance has been supported on the African continent and rebuked in the West. For long, the West just rebuked the non-aligned stance in words only, albeit with some rumblings in the background alleging that South Africa was publicly propagating a non-aligned stance while in the background secretly supporting Russia. These rumblings were to some extent, justified following the joint China-Russia-South Africa military drills held along South Africa’s east coast from February 17 to 27, 2023. The West’s stance, however, changed from word-only rebuke to concerted action following the joint letter

penned by four U.S. Senators, which called upon the U.S. government to strip South Africa of its host nation status for the 2023 AGOA Forum.

Directed to the U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, national security advisor Jake Sullivan and trade representative Katherine Tai, the joint letter signed by foreign affairs senators Chris Coons, Michael McCaul, Gregory Meeks, and James Risch states that “We (signatory Senators) are seriously concerned that hosting the 2023 AGOA (Africa Growth and Opportunity Act) Forum would serve as an implicit endorsement of South Africa’s damaging support for Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and possible violation of US sanctions law... we encourage you to explore other possible locations to host this year’s forum.”

Not only did the joint letter propose that the AGOA Forum be shifted from South Africa to another host nation, but it also lobbied for Pretoria to lose her AGOA status.

“Further, these actions by South Africa call into question its eligibility for trade benefits under AGOA due to the statutory requirement that beneficiary countries ‘not engage in activities that undermine US national security or foreign policy interests’... we question whether a country in danger of losing AGOA benefits should have the privilege of hosting the 2023 AGOA Forum”.

In response, the Whitehouse via the special assistant to the President and senior director for African Affairs at the National Security Council, Judd Devermont, said that it “share Congress’ concern about South Africa’s potential security partnership with Russia”. It went on to state that “Russia is waging a brutal war against the people of Ukraine, and we’re constantly working to cut off support and funding for Putin’s war machine and to undercut Russia’s ability to carry out this conflict”. Devermont, however, said that the Whitehouse is in contact with South Africa but declined to provide many details

saying “I’m not going to get into the specifics of private conversations with South Africans but be sure we are having those conversations”.

Responding to the joint letter’s request for South Africa to lose her AGOA status, Devermont said: “With respect to AGOA we have a process every year where we revalidate AGOA membership, and the law is very clear on what we’ll follow, and that won’t change for South Africa, but we’ll go through the appropriate steps as we do every year as we look at AGOA eligibility”.

AGOA members enjoy favourable and, in some instances, free trade deals with U.S. companies and industries. South Africa has benefited immensely from being an AGOA member. In 2019, South Africa exported goods

and services worth \$8bn, while imports stood at \$9.8bn. Speaking on the potential effects of losing AGOA status, head of international liaison at the Solidarity Movement Jaco Kleynhans said, “South Africa is in real trouble. Our economy is highly dependent on AGOA and favourable export arrangements with the US. If we lose AGOA, the country’s economy could suffer such damage that it could lead to even greater unemployment, poverty and, without a doubt, anarchy. That is why we must convince the Americans not to kick South Africa out of AGOA”.

In light of all the benefits that South Africa stands to lose if it continues its nonaligned stance and refuses to side with the West, many would have assumed that the country would

ditch the non-aligned stance. Alas, however, South Africa stood firm and defiant. The country’s International Relations Minister, Naledi Pandor, came out saying that South Africa will not be compelled to change its foreign policy. She said that bowing down to pressure will only make things worse in future as there is a possibility of “regret... when even greater demands are made”.

Some analysts, however, say that the defiance may come with huge repercussions. Even if the US chooses not to place any economic sanctions on Pretoria, there is a fear that key aid and financial deals may be disrupted. Currently, there is a ‘just energy transition’ commitment of \$8.5 billion pledged primarily by the US to enable South Africa to

move away from fossil fuels towards sustainable and renewable power sources. If successful, South Africa will say goodbye to perennial load shedding, which has increased to scary levels recently. South Africa is also heavily reliant on Western support for key developmental and health programmes. The rift between Pretoria and the West, as described by a local South African bank, Nedbank Group, gives the country a “deeply negative sentiment”, something which strains the performance of the economy and the currency. In recent times, the South Africa Rand has been highly volatile, something which is attributed to the prevailing strained relations between the country and the West.

## A Continental Success Story For Afreximbank At 30

By Prince Kurupati

It’s 30 and still counting for the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank). Back in October 1993, several African heads of state and government, African private and institutional investors, as well as non-African financial institutions and private investors gathered in Abuja, Nigeria and jointly agreed to set up the African Export-Import Bank. The purpose of the bank was to “finance, promote and expand intra-African and extra-African trade”. By September 1994, Afreximbank had already commenced operations with its headquarters in Cairo, Egypt and other branches in Harare, Abuja and Abidjan. Counting 30 years later, Afreximbank is still going strong.

To celebrate its 30-year-long existence, Afreximbank committed to a year-long 30th anniversary celebrations running under the theme, “Delivering the Vision. Building Prosperity for Africans”. The peak of the celebrations ran from June 18 to 21, 2023, when the bank held its 30th Annual Meetings in Accra, Ghana.

Acknowledging the many people, organisations and institutions that have helped Afreximbank reach the top echelons of success, the President



*The hard work of the past three decades is paying off big, says Afreximbank President Professor Benedict Oramah.*

and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, Professor Benedict Oramah, invited thousands of people to attend the bank’s 30th-anniversary celebrations and Annual Meetings in Accra, Ghana. Among those invited were African and Caribbean leaders and senior

government officials, African and Caribbean policymakers, corporate leaders, bankers, academia and many other thought leaders.

A whole lot of activities were set up to ensure that all attendees get the chance to mix and mingle while at the same time expanding their network

through attending the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, various seminar programmes, plenaries, and other side events. The Annual Meetings were opened to everyone active or interested “in promoting African trade and supporting the socio-economic development of





**Africa needs strong financial institutions of its own to achieve growth objectives, says Ghanaian President Akufo-Addo**

African countries”.

In his remarks at the Annual General Meeting, Prof Oramah thanked everyone who has contributed to the success of Afreximbank over the years while reserving high praise for Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo who allowed the bank to celebrate its 30th anniversary in Ghana. “We thank His Excellency President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and his Government for graciously accepting to host Afreximbank’s 30th Annual Meetings. Thirty years ago, the founding fathers of Afreximbank launched a bold initiative for Africans. The hard work of the past three decades in pursuit of that vision has shaped what Afreximbank has become today. Member states, clients, customers and partners, the business and international trade community, all those in Africa and the diaspora who strive for the prosperity of African people are invited to join us in Accra to celebrate the Bank’s achievements and reflect on its future in an increasingly turbulent world,” Prof Oramah said.

Given the honour of officially opening Afreximbank’s 2023 Annual Meetings, Ghanaian President Akufo-Addo said Africa needs strong financial institutions if its to achieve “its growth

objectives”. He lamented the under-capitalisation scourge, which affects many African financial institutions, as the chief reason behind their failure to achieve intended objectives. He gave the example of China Exim Bank, which has “a capital of \$54 billion while Afreximbank had only \$6 billion”. To address this challenge, President Akufo-Addo “urged African countries and Africans to contribute to Afreximbank’s general capital initiative by subscribing to their allotted shares”.

Despite the under-capitalisation challenge that Afreximbank currently faces, President Akufo-Addo “commended Afreximbank for its catalytic role in Africa and urged it to strive to further improve its rating with the credit rating agencies in order to enhance its operations and be able to work consistently for Africa and the African Diaspora”.

Speaker after speaker commended the bank for its stellar role in promoting African intra-trade. However, many said that more needs to be done when it comes to integration in the face of the challenges “resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the adverse economic challenges due to the Ukraine crisis and other global conflicts”. Wamkele Mene, who is the Secretary General

of the AfCFTA Secretariat, said the emergence of AfCFTA will do a lot in fostering integration and boosting intra-African trade. Mr. Mene said the Afreximbank and AfCFTA were like “twins born 30 years apart”. He said their complementary role in fostering integration and boosting intra-African trade can be traced back to the “vision for an integrated African market in the founding treaty of the OAU”.

Following in the footsteps of the founding fathers of the OAU, Prof Oramah said that Afreximbank, in partnership with the African Union, introduced the biennial Intra-African Trade Fairs (IATF). The two IATFs held so far in Cairo and Durban, South Africa, attracted “an aggregate of about 40,000 visitors and about 75 billion US dollars in deals”. Essentially, this makes IATF “the largest gathering of African businesses and traders”. The next edition of IATF is set for Cairo, Egypt and will run from November 9 to 15, 2023.

In the spirit of promoting oneness when it comes to intra-African trade, Afreximbank, during the Annual Meetings, took time to launch AFREXInsure. AFREXInsure is a wholly owned insurance management services subsidiary of Afreximbank.

Initially established in 2021 but set to commence operations this year, AFREXInsure will “offer speciality insurance solutions for trade and trade-related investments across Africa with access to quality, best-in-breed speciality insurance that are tailor-made for Africa”.

As a wholly owned subsidiary of Afreximbank, which has 30 years of experience in African trade and business, AFREXInsure will leverage its parent company’s “risk expertise by using its continent-wide presence and deep understanding of the African market to provide solutions around cargo handling, construction, operations and energy – sectors critical for the growth and establishment of trade and investment intercontinentally”.

The former President of Niger, Mahammadou Issoufou, praised Afreximbank for helping in the integration drive in light of its AfCFTA Adjustment Fund and the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS). Afreximbank launched PAPSS “in order to allow for intra-African trade payments to be made in local currencies”. The Afreximbank President weighed in, saying that PAPSS “will save the continent 5 billion US dollars in intra-African transfer charges. It will also expedite and enable payments for intra-African trade in African currencies”. By domesticating all intra-African payments, we move “one step closer to a full integration of African and CARICOM economies”.

More praise towards the work Afreximbank is doing came from Akol Ayii, who is the Founder of Trinity Energy Limited. He said that “by fostering connections, strengthening networks, and promoting intra-African through the AfCFTA, Afreximbank is unlocking the immense potential of our continent and creating countless opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs through a single market of over 1 billion people”.

As one of the attendees at the Afreximbank 30th anniversary celebrations, Akol Ayii had warm words to the organisers of the event,



*The celebration was graced with the presence of several sitting and former African leaders.*

saying it afforded all attendees a great platform to discuss and share truly dynamic ideas, something which reflects "Afreximbank's commitment to uplifting African economies and enabling sustainable development". He said it's because of this commitment that the bank "has played a crucial role in driving economic growth and transforming lives across Africa over the last 30 years". Going into the future, Akol Ayii said the bank's commitment "to capacity building, as evidenced by their various initiatives such as training programs, knowledge sharing platforms, and mentorship opportunities," will do a lot in "equipping individuals and institutions with the necessary tools to thrive in an ever-changing global

landscape".

Also extending their best wishes to Afreximbank was Philip Davis, Prime Minister of The Bahamas and Chairman of CARICOM, who said the bank has created strong linkages and synergies between Africa and the Caribbean. He also thanked Afreximbank for its stellar role in promoting climate finance, saying this is of critical importance to the Caribbean as Caribbean "countries were on the frontlines of the threat of climate change".

Running on the sidelines of the Afreximbank Annual Meetings was the inaugural Afreximbank Pan-African Business and Development Awards. Several titans of business received recognition for the work

they are doing "within the African business and finance sectors". Those who were recognised include Aliko Dangote, who won the Afreximbank Founder of the Year Award on the back of the recent official opening of his \$19 billion petrochemicals plant and Africa's largest refinery, which received substantial support from Afreximbank.

Other winners include industry greats Zimbabwean Strive Masiyiwa and the Togolese Koffi Gervais Djondo. Masiyiwa, as described on the Afreximbank website, "is the founder of Liquid Intelligent Technologies, which has the largest network of fibre optic cables on the continent, Cassava Technologies, and Econet, the largest telecoms and mobile

payment operator in Zimbabwe". Djondo on the other hand "helped found Ecobank, the leading African group in terms of footprint, as well as regional airline Asky".

Institutions that were recognised include Ethiopian Airlines, the recipient of the Pan-African Business of the Year award. Other recognised institutions include telecoms operator MTN, Egyptian business ElSewedy, National Bank of Egypt, First Bank of Nigeria and Coris Bank.

Also recognised for the incredible work they do at the bank were eight Afreximbank staff members, including the President and Chairman of the Board, Prof Oramah, who has been at the Bank for over 29 years.

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# Africa Talks Tough Africa At New Global Financial Pact Summit

By Prince Kurupati

In late June, several African heads of state and government travelled to Paris to attend the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact. At the end of the Summit, two very important conclusions emerged. First, Africa still has a long way to go in grabbing an equal seat at global gatherings. Second and presumably more important, Africa now speaks with one voice when lobbying for key demands.

Arriving in Paris, African leaders wanted to air their views with regards to the age-long question of how to solve the financial challenges that the Global South is facing in its fight against climate change. This, of course in light of the fact that “some 97% of people affected by extreme (climate) events live in developing countries, even though these countries contribute the least to CO2 emission,” as stated by Yara Rizk.

Standing in Africa’s corner clamouring for favourable climate finance terms was France President Emmanuel Macron, whose pre-Summit remarks read, “We are going to push for a reform agenda of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) to provide more funding to countries that need it most”.

The impressive thing this time around for Africa is that African leaders arrived in Paris with one voice and a common position. All of them wanted Africa’s debt to be restructured more favourably. From the outgoing Senegalese President Macky Sall to the Zambia President Hakainde Hichilema, African leaders demanded that the Bretton Woods, as well as Washington financial institutions, should relook and restructure their credit terms for both current and future credits.

Another common position that African leaders lobbied for, as encapsulated in the African Centre for Economic Transformation report,



*Africa was not shy in articulating its interests at the Summit For New Global Financial Pact in Paris.*

is for a “real solution to the pending shortfall of concessional funding from the International Development Association (IDA), which is expected to hit in 2024”. In contrast, the leading global nations have already secured their funds, most, if not all African countries are yet to receive guarantees that their financial demands will be met.

In the past few years, Africa has attended several climate change and climate finance summits. Some of these have even been hosted by African countries. In most, if not all, of those summits, Africa has received multimillion commitments from foreign nations and companies for green investments. However, some of the commitments have lapsed, with no real significant green investments happening on the continent. Arriving in Paris, Africa reiterated with one voice the need for “climate finance that delivers on previous promises and creates new opportunities for green investment”. Apart from the climate finance issue, Africa also

called upon foreign powers and financial institutions to transition from mere talk to action when it comes to all other promises and commitments.

At the forefront of calling for financial institutions which haven’t their climate finance commitments to honour them timeously was the African Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwumi Adesina. In a statement, President Adesina said, “Africa alone losses \$7 to \$15 billion a year because of climate change, and that’s going to rise to almost \$50 billion a year by 2040. So, the world has to meet its commitment to the developed countries of the \$100 billion. I mean, it’s a very small amount of money compared to the scale of the problem, but by not meeting in it, it has a crisis of trust in developing countries”.

Africa’s demand for a transition from mere talk to action seemed to have worked instantly as by the end of the Summit, several of the promises and commitments made during the

World Bank IMF Spring Meetings in April were put into practice. Most notably, the World Bank immediately paused debt repayment for countries hit by natural disasters. IMF agreed to restructure Zambia’s debt in the process allowing the country to reschedule its \$6.3 billion debt, including \$1.3 billion in arrears. The partnership for a just energy transition in Senegal was ratified, while France and other Western countries agreed to amplify Africa’s call for the African Union to have a seat at the G20.

Another key achievement, as reported by the African Centre for Economic Transformation, is the “positive progress (realised) towards meeting the required \$100 billion commitments for the recycling of Special Drawing Rights, which would provide much-needed liquidity to African countries facing economic shocks, climate change and funding constraints”.

Africa’s oneness in Paris wasn’t really surprising considering the



immense efforts undertaken by the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in bringing all African leaders to a roundtable table to discuss pertinent green infrastructure investment issues on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact.

While the Summit is heralded for showing African unity as it used one voice to call for demands, Mavis Owusu Gyamfi of the African Centre for Economic Transformation said Africa's common position in Paris is a "good start, but not enough". Gyamfi said there is a need to continue building "a strong coalition of African leaders and organisations committed to concrete change in the global financial system". To ensure that Africa remains unified in calling for much-needed reforms on the global stage, Gyamfi said they are developing at the behest of African



**Spectators no more. The Paris Summit was another platform for African leaders to talk tough.**

finance ministers "a Marrakesh Declaration, to be adopted in October, what is needed to make this agenda and government partners across the continent and worldwide". that will set out Africa's position and range of civil society, think tanks

## Africa's Peace and Security Challenges: A View from the Nkafu Peace and Security Forum

***Human Security does not seek to supplant state security, but rather to complement it. Such a holistic approach has the potential of contributing to more resilient societies where people are safe from chronic threats such as abject poverty, hunger, disease & violence***

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

Greater investment in human security is critical to counter peace and security challenges in Africa, said experts at the Nkafu Peace and Security Forum as they reviewed strategies to enhance human security on the African continent.

Under the theme "Human Security and Strategic Peacebuilding for Sustainable Development in Africa", the second edition of the Nkafu Peace and Security Forum, organized by the Peace and Security Division of the Nkafu Policy Institute, a think tank of the Denis and Lenora Foretia Foundation took place June 21, in Yaounde.

The main objective of the Nkafu Africa Forum was to discuss strategies to advocate and promote investment in human security and strategic peacebuilding for sustainable peace and development in Africa.



**The main objective of the Nkafu Africa Forum was to discuss strategies to advocate and promote investment in human security and strategic peacebuilding.**



Human Security does not seek to supplant state security, but rather to complement it. Such a holistic approach has the potential of contributing to more resilient societies where people are safe from chronic threats such as abject poverty, hunger, disease & violence.

Each year, more than 1.6 million people worldwide lose their lives to violence. For every person who dies as a result of violence, many more are injured and suffer from a range of physical, sexual, reproductive and mental health problems. Violence places a massive burden on national economies in health care, law enforcement and lost productivity.

The production and trade of arms and weapons is undoubtedly one of the greatest threats to peace, not least because of the economic, financial and social dimensions of arms production. The production and export of arms are often encouraged on economic grounds with little consideration for the impact on peace and security. World military spending is steadily increasing.

## Human security is people-centred

Human security is an important component of the global political and development agenda. It encompasses the protection of individuals as a strategic concern for national as well as international security and spells out the security conditions for people's development. Human security does not seek to supplant state security, but rather to complement it.

"The issue of human security in Africa has played a big role in the conflicts that arrived in Africa. Many governments including the African Union, AU, have been negligent in meeting the challenges of Africans as far as human security is concerned," Francis Tazoacha, Director of the Peace and Security division of the Nkafu Policy Institute said. "Human security is about looking

into the wellbeing of the normal citizen, it is putting the human interest at heart, more than that of the nation, and it doesn't mean we should not protect the nation from outside invaders."

"The Human security issue is not known to Africans. There is a need for countries, communities to invest in the security of individuals. Human security and the military option should be a balance of scale. That is why the Nkafu Policy Institute has taken that move to assist states, RECS and the African Union to put on board what we have today."

It is evident that if world nations and leaders collaboratively focus on enabling human security in the peacebuilding and development process, they have a chance of meeting their citizens' aspirations for security, and peace, thereby

contributing towards a peaceful and equitable society and by extension also contributing to sustainable development.

"Thanks to this initiative, we have to start thinking differently because this is the moment we need to start thinking as humans and not as people from different nations," Otia Vitalis, a participant at the Peace and Security Forum said. «We need to stand as one people in Africa. A lot is going on social media but there is a need for action as one body on the continent.»

## Violence only leads to more violence

According to Kemi Okenyodo, governments need to take into consideration the needs of the people and the aspect of colonialism still explains why many governments in Africa still prefer the military solution

in bringing to an end a conflict.

She said: «We need the element of human security and the military approach. We need to move away from the thinking that the military approach is the only option and that human security plays a small part. The two go together and the military is needed to protect the country.»

Dr Emmaculate Asige, says there is a need to avoid overdependence on military solutions as it often fails and leads to further conflicts in the long run. She has advocated for a multidimensional approach to solving the various conflicts on the continent. «Military plays a role in peace and security of a country but should not be the single approach. Conflicts are complex and relying on military solutions often fails. There need to be more long-term approaches in dealing with conflict solutions. Conflict prevention and peacebuilding should be factored in when looking at solving a particular conflict,» Dr Emmaculate Asige added.

War and violence inevitably result in the denial of human rights. Building a culture of human rights is a pre-condition to achieving a state of peace. Sustainable, lasting peace and security can only be attained when all human rights are fulfilled. Building and maintaining a culture of peace is a shared challenge for humankind.

## About the Nkafu Policy Institute

The Nkafu Policy Institute is a nonpartisan, independent think tank at the Denis & Lenora Foretia Foundation in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Its mission is to provide independent, in-depth and insightful policy recommendations that advance the Cameroonian economy and the economies of other sub-Saharan African countries. Nkafu seeks to advance public policies that help all Africans prosper in free, fair, and sustainable economies. Its reputation is founded on its independence, high-quality research and innovative policy prescriptions.





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## South Africa- Ramaphosa Ushers New Dawn for African Diplomacy Financial Pact Summit

By Prince Kurupati

Africa, for long, perhaps since time immemorial, has always been known to be a continent which receives help. The help comes in different forms, be it aid, credit, peacekeeping missions or diplomatic missions meant to deescalating conflicts. However, this past month – June 2023 – Africa crafted a new path, a path of extending help to external actors beyond the African borders.

Pushed by the desire to de-escalate the tensions and bring the war to an end, leaders from several African countries visited Ukraine and Russia this past month. The objective was to hold talks with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to find common ground and bring the fighting to an end. The first part of the objective was met as African leaders managed to discuss the ongoing war with both leaders. However, the efforts by African leaders haven't necessitated a ceasefire, at least as yet.

The African peace mission comprised the leaders of South Africa, Zambia, Comoros and Senegal. Also accompanying these leaders were top officials from Egypt, Uganda and Congo-Brazzaville. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa heralded the peace mission as a "historic initiative" as "it is the first time African leaders have embarked on a peace mission beyond the shores of the continent".

President Ramaphosa and his counterparts were welcomed to Kyiv with an air raid, something which demonstrated to them from the word go how grim the situation was in Ukraine. According to the South African president's spokesperson, President Ramaphosa had to seek shelter during the air raid. In his address to journalists afterwards, President Ramaphosa said, "Today, as we were here, we heard of missile



*It is the first time African leaders have embarked on a peace mission beyond the shores of the continent, says President Cyril Ramaphosa.*

strikes, and those types of hostilities are not good for fostering peace... We argue that there must be de-escalation on both sides".

President Cyril Ramaphosa, while addressing the media after meeting both President Zelensky and President Putin, said that their mission was a success as "one of the key achievements (was) the positive reception" from both Kyiv and Moscow. Thanks to the positive reception, President Ramaphosa said, "Africa is in the frame". He, however, went on to state that the "real success obviously will be measured on the ultimate objective of stopping the war".

Heading over to Ukraine first and then Russia, the African mission had earmarked ten principles as the main agenda in its meetings with President Zelensky and President Ukraine. The ten principles, as encapsulated by Africa News, entail "de-escalation (of the war), the recognition of countries' sovereignty, security guarantees for all countries, unimpeded grain exports through the Black Sea and sending prisoners of war and children back to their countries of origin".

The African mission's trip to Russia was given a huge boost when President Putin said that he was "open to a constructive dialogue with

all those who want to implement peace based on the principles of justice and respect for the parties' legitimate interests". Though the explicit details of all the deliberations with Putin haven't been made public yet, President Putin praised the African delegation for its "balanced" approach.

With President Zelensky, things were rather straightforward (on the demands front) but tense as he explicitly stated beforehand and during the meeting with the African mission (as reported by various media) that any effective dialogue will occur if Ukraine first recovers the territories that it has lost to Russia. Beforehand, President Putin had made it clear that negotiations would need to take into account "new territorial realities". With the deliberations between the African mission and President Putin still a private affair, it's not known as yet if significant inroads were made in regards to persuading Russia to cede the territories it 'conquered'.

Following the Africa mission's trip to Kyiv and Moscow, political analysts said that this reinforces the continent's desire to remain neutral in the war. Though several African countries have voted for and against the invasion of Ukraine by Russia

at the UN, many others have chosen to refrain from the vote. The mission's objective to seek a cease-fire thus shows its desire to remain neutral, albeit politically. Senegalese President Macky Sall said the only side that Africa would take in the war is peace. "We don't want to be aligned on this conflict. Very clearly, we want peace... That's the African position," President Sall said.

To other political analysts, the African mission was largely driven by the need to restore the grain supply chain, which has been disrupted by the war. Before the Russia-Ukraine war, UNCA, in its report, states that between 2018 and 2020, Africa imported 12% of its wheat from Ukraine and 32% from Russia. Since the emergence of the war, the numbers have significantly plummeted hence necessitating a sharp rise in wheat products across the continent. During the meeting with President Putin, the African mission was advised that the break in the supply chain was more a result of the West machinations instead of the war. "The crisis on the global food market is by no means a consequence... We do not believe that shipments of Ukrainian grain supplies can solve the problems of poverty and hunger," Putin said.

The African peace mission caused various debates in various circles, with many questioning its significance and feasibility in light of China's unsuccessful peace mission just a few weeks earlier. However, President Cyril Ramaphosa was quick to state that Africa is more than equipped to bring peace to the warring parties as it has a long history of undertaking such processes. "We gave ourselves this mission because as Africans, unfortunately, we have had to manage numerous conflicts, and it's through dialogue and negotiations that we have succeeded at resolving them".



## Africa50 Invests In Infrastructure Worth Over \$6.6 Billion In Six Years

*African and global institutional investors to unlock infrastructure investment in Africa under new Fund*



*AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina (3rd left), Togolese President Faure Gnassingbé (4th left) at Africa50 Infra Forum and General Shareholders Meeting in Lomé.*

In just six years of operation, Africa50 has invested in critical infrastructure with a total value of more than \$6.6 billion, African Development Bank Group President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina said on Monday during the Africa50 Infra Forum and General Shareholders Meeting in Togo's capital Lomé. The event was attended by Togolese President Faure Gnassingbé.

Africa50 is an investment platform established by African governments and the African Development Bank to mobilise financing for mega infrastructure projects with significant development impact. Adesina chairs the Africa50 board of directors.

Prominent African and global institutional investors attending the meeting signed subscription agreements and letters of intent to commit funds to the \$500 million African Infrastructure Acceleration Fund—the first private vehicle infrastructure platform launched by Africa50.

The fund will catalyse further investment flows to invest in the development of critical infrastructure across the African continent.

President Gnassingbé said: "There is a huge need for infrastructure across the continent, and this is indeed a condition for development. Without roads, bridges, airports, hospitals,

schools, power, communication networks, and water supply, there is indeed no possible development in Africa."

Gnassingbé said infrastructure issues lie at the heart of his country's development roadmap.

"Togo has assets, but to take advantage of them, we need to invest in infrastructure," the Togolese president said. He added: "The public sector finances more than 90% of infrastructure investment, but public spending will not be enough... the involvement of the private sector is essential."

He stressed that projects must be bankable to appeal to private investors. «Without a stable and consistent regulatory environment, it will not be possible to attract private capital,» he emphasised.

Adesina said Africa50 was rapidly playing a strategic role in closing Africa's infrastructure financing gap, from energy to transport and logistics to digital infrastructure.

He said: "Africa50 is doing amazing work as an institution, developing projects to bankability and financing projects. At the heart of our work is to help close the US\$68 to US\$108 billion annual infrastructure financing gap for Africa."

Africa50 CEO Alain Ebobissé said his institution was ready to take on the challenge of creating the

infrastructure needed to grow the African continent.

"For instance, with the support of the African Development Bank, Africa50 has developed the first program of asset recycling in Africa," Ebobissé said. "And today we are happy to welcome Togo, Gambia, and Zimbabwe as the first countries to join this programme with emblematic assets."

Asset recycling is an innovative initiative for governments to monetize existing infrastructure assets through a concession to the private sector with funds received being reinvested in other priority projects.

Ebobissé explained that Africa50's investment over six years covered 21 national and regional infrastructure projects in 22 countries.

"We understand the expectations of the African population. This is why we must act with a real sense of urgency."

Speaking about financial resources for Africa's development needs, Adesina said the reallocation of International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) through the African Development Bank would mean much more funding to support all the regional development banks in Africa as well as Africa50.

He explained that these resources would unlock additional resources to finance climate change mitigation and adaptation, infrastructure

for agriculture, transport, digital, airports, water and sanitation, education, as well as health. He added that the added resources would support African countries like Togo, where the African Development Bank has invested heavily and is the largest development partner supporting the country's agricultural sector.

The African Development Bank invested more than \$32 million to support inclusive growth in the sector, helping to reduce the importation of key food commodities like rice, maize, and soybeans.

Speaking later at the Africa50 Infrastructure Acceleration Fund signing event, Adesina said, "This is the time to change the investment narrative on Africa. It is remarkable and unprecedented to have 17 African institutions participating in such a transforming initiative to invest in an African infrastructure fund. With the Fund, we are positioning the Africa50 Group to play a lead role in helping to tap into the more than \$98 trillion of global assets under management."

The African Development Bank is investing \$20 million in equity in the African Infrastructure Acceleration Fund.

There is much that can be done to close Africa's infrastructure gap, Adesina told the forum. "Since most of Africa's infrastructure has yet to be built, there is an excellent opportunity to build it green and to green the existing infrastructure."

«Africa's future is green, so let's green all of Africa's infrastructure. Together we will make Africa the centre of green infrastructure in the world. Africa50 and the African Development Bank and our partners will make this a reality," he concluded.

Africa50 has attracted support from across Africa and today has 31 African countries as shareholders and 3 African institutional investors.

\*Africa50

# Sierra Leone: Bio Scales Second Term Hurdle

By Ishmael Sallieu Koroma

**J**ulius Maada Bio was declared winner in Sierra Leone's June 24th elections after the country's electoral commissioner announced the incumbent leader of the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) had polled 56.17% of the votes beating his main rival and challenger Samura Kamara of the main opposition All Peoples Congress (APC) Party who polled 41.16% of the total votes cast.

The June 24th elections were the fifth elections that this west African nation has held since its war ended in 2002.

Bio's main challenger Samura Kamara rejected the results calling the figures released by the country's electoral commission as "not credible".

Kamara's party, the All-People's Congress rejected the results announced by the electoral Commissioner referring to it as skewed, manipulated and unverified.

"Over the last few days, the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL), under the leadership of Mr. Mohamed Konneh has demonstrated



Chief Justice Babatunde Edwards during Bio's swearing in ceremony.

a total lack of transparency and accountability in the critical stages of our electoral process. Of particular significance, Konneh's handling of the tallying process flouts even the barest minimum of international best

practice, dangerously undermining the peace and stability of our beloved nation," Kamara said in a statement. International observers like the European Union Observation Mission (EU EOM) in the country

in its preliminary report published on June 26th said the west African nation's June 24th elections lacked transparency at critical stages of the elections.

In a joint statement by the European union, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Ireland and the United States on 28th June, shared their concerned about the lack of transparency in the counting process of the elections.

"We share the concern of the national and international observation mission about the lack of transparency in the counting process," they said in a joint statement.

"The EU EOM calls on Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone to promptly publish disaggregated results data at polling station level, to ensure transparency and public scrutiny," the European Union Elections Observer mission said last Wednesday.

On June 14th Kamara in an address to the media, civil society organisations and international observers lamented their party's "grave concerns" over the country's



Jubilant SLPP supporters in Freetown. Photo credit office of the First Lady.



Chief Electoral Commissioner Mohamed Konneh and the security forces effort in undermining electoral integrity in Saturday's nationwide polls which he said has the potential of creating instability in the west African nation.

However, the country's foremost and leading local election observatory Group, National Election Watch (NEW) in one of their many statements on their election's observation claimed that "No candidate will reach the constitutional threshold of 55% of votes cast in the first round" whilst also contending with the figures of the elections results announced the electoral commission of the country especially on the presidential results.

President Elect Julius Maada Bio immediately after been sworn-in by the country's chief Justice Babatunde Edwards thanked Sierra Leoneans for imposing in him for another five-year mandate.

"With this second term mandate, you have proven beyond every doubt, your abiding faith in my capacity to sustain and advance the transformational work that we began



*Bio delivering his acceptance speech at State House in Freetown.*

in 2018," Bio said in his acceptance speech.

Bio added that the June 24th polls were part of a peaceful electoral process that produced an incontestable result that truly reflects

the will of the people thus thanking all citizens for their abiding belief in the country's democracy.

On June 30th the main opposition party called for the re-run of the elections in the west Africa nation

which they say should be over seen by credible individuals and institutions to ensure fair and transparent elections.

"We insist on a re-run of the elections within six months to be overseen by credible individuals and institutions who will ensure a fair and transparent process," a statement of the main opposition said.

It added that their party will not participate in any level of governance including the legislature and local councils as they believed the results have already been tampered with to give the ruling SLPP an unjust majority at all level.

"The APC declares its non-participation in any level of governance, including the

legislature and local councils, as the results have already been tampered with to give the SLPP an unjust majority at all levels,"

The West African nation is facing high cost of living, rising inflation and one of the weakest currencies in the world.

Bio's second term has pledged rapid transformation in agriculture, the continuation of his Free Quality Education and improving the living and economic standards of Sierra Leoneans.



*The main opposition candidate Samura Kamara is challenging the outcome of the elections.*

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# Zimbabwe's Inflation Blues

By Robert Ncube

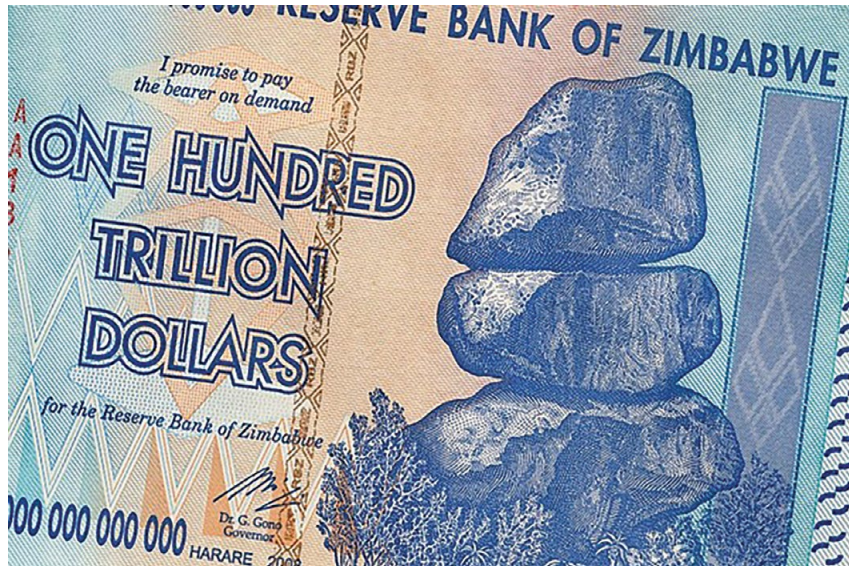
Whenever discussions about hyperinflation emerge, one of the most common examples given is that of Zimbabwe. While inflation figures for most countries come in double-digit figures only and at most triple figures, the inflation figures in Zimbabwe in January 2008 stood at over 100,000%; by May, it was over 1,000,000% and a couple of months later, in June, it stood at over 250,000,000%! Putting this into context, if one boarded a taxi going to work in the morning for a fare

of \$1000 Zimbabwe dollars, by the time s/he clock out, the fare for the taxi will have tripled or quadrupled! Most workers, therefore, resorted to walking both to and from work, even for distances exceeding 10km.

It's now over a decade since Zimbabwe experienced hyperinflation in 2008. However, if recent developments on the economic front are anything to go by, then it seems the country is accelerating back to the past. In the past two months – June and July – the prices of basic commodities have more than doubled. In June alone, the local currency crashed by more than 50% hence rendering the salaries and wages of most workers almost worthless.

The country's statistics agency, the Zimbabwe National Statistics (ZimStats), concurs that inflation figures have soared over the past months. In its month-on-month report for June, it stated that inflation figures for June soared to 175.8% from 86.5% for the previous month. ZimStat said that this is a "continued deviation from the downward trend observed since the beginning of the year". ZimStat also went on to state that consumer prices jumped by a record 74.5% in June – a significant rise from the 15.8% rise in May.

ZimStat uses what it terms the



"blended" average of both United States dollars and Zimdollar prices for calculating inflation figures. This owing to the fact that Zimbabwe is a multi-currency economy which predominantly uses the United States dollars for daily transactions. However, this method has its fair share of critics. One such critic is Gift Mugano, the executive director at Africa Economic Development Strategies. While speaking to a local Zimbabwean publication Newsday, Mugano said that the mere fact that ZimStat, through its "blended" inflation figures, now concur that the country is on a downward spiral inflation-wise should be enough to show how dire the situation is.

"The issue is I don't want to read much on the meaning of inflation when it is blended inflation. To start with, it's a rigged inflation figure, but when the rigged inflation figure becomes spiral you have to worry... What is very clear is that the Zimbabwean dollar inflation is increasing at a faster rate. It tells you the Zim dollar inflation is quite high because, naturally, you don't expect a component of the small weight to drive up inflation because US dollar inflation is not going up... The moment month-on-month inflation goes above 50%, we are in hyperinflation because what I can tell

you without any shadow of a doubt is that ZimStat has got two inflation figures. They have the Zim dollar inflation and US dollar inflation that they are not publishing," Mugano said.

Economist Prosper Chitambara echoed the same sentiments, albeit making it clear that the brunt of the emerging hyperinflation will be felt to a large extent by ordinary citizens. Chitambara said, "This is probably the third hyperinflation that we have experienced in our history. It is a big challenge in the sense that it puts us in a very bad light in terms of even trying to unlock capital and investments because, obviously, inflation is a key variable that is considered... Obviously, it also affects even the standard of living for the people when prices are increasing rapidly, there is a rapid erosion of people's incomes whether its household, families or individuals and even corporates".

Concurring with Mugano, albeit using his inflation dashboard is Steve Hanke, a professor of applied economics at John Hopkins University in the United States. Using his own calculations, Prof Hanke said that the closing inflation figures for June stood at 1 298%. This figure, according to Mugano is more realistic than ZimStats' "blended" inflation figures.

Even more ominous for the country is that it's nearing the 2023 Harmonised Elections, according to Mugano. Mugano said that the announcement by the government that it is going to increase the salaries both in US dollars and Zimdollars for civil servants as a way of cushioning them against the harsh economic conditions "is going to drive more inflation, push the rates upwards". According to most economic analysts, the move is just a campaigning gimmick which will leave the country in more turmoil.

In a move to contain the downward spiral of the local currency, the Zimbabwean government, through the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, recently announced that it would begin selling foreign currency at market-determined exchange rates. Moreover, the government also announced plans to issue a supplementary budget. Commenting on this, Mugano said, "There is going to be liquidity on the market. In as much as the blended is not the correct figure for inflation, it tells you there is hell on earth. It tells you the current measures being put by the government are not working".

Businessman and economic commentator Trust Chikohora differed with Mugano saying the measures being put in by the government to contain the downward spiral of the local may bear fruit. "Maybe it will start to even out as we move forward in July and beyond, especially if the government continues to move with measures, they have been putting in place now... That's to minimise activity on the parallel market, to have (a) situation where interest rates are higher than inflation, money supply growth needs to be curtailed so that government is not pumping Zim dollar money into the market".

# Angola's Sonangol's Journey Towards Partial Privatization and Shifting Mission

By NJ Ayuk\*

The company had previously served as a national concessionaire while also acting as a partner or shareholder in oil and gas development projects.

The petroleum industry is one of the mainstays of Angola's economy, accounting for more than a third of the country's GDP and more than 90% of its exports. It also generates about 70% of the government's total budget revenues and is the biggest source of foreign direct investment (FDI).

Moreover, its importance is not likely to diminish any time soon. Angolan crude oil production levels have been trending downward for some time due to the maturation of existing fields, but the country was still extracting more than 1.1 million barrels per day (bpd) as of May 2023, and it is encouraging foreign investors to search for new reserves in the untapped sections of its offshore zone. Additionally, Angola has been paying closer attention to its natural and associated gas resources and is working to increase production in a bid to take advantage of rising demand, especially in Europe.

These are the kind of circumstances that make resource nationalism — a policy approach under which governments, acting in the name of their constituents, assert and retain control over natural resources rather than allowing private-sector entities to become full stakeholders — attractive. But Angola has not succumbed to this temptation. Instead, its government, under the direction of President João Lourenço, is pursuing a remarkable reform program designed to allow Sonangol, the national oil company (NOC), to represent local interests while also working cooperatively with outside investors.

## First Step: Shifting Sonangol's



## Mission

The government began laying a foundation for these reforms in 2019, during Lourenço's first term as president. In February of that year, the president signed a decree establishing the National Agency for Oil, Gas, and Biofuels (ANPG). The decree stated that ANPG would act as the country's concessionaire for oil and gas projects, thereby making the new agency solely responsible for regulating, supervising, and monitoring activities related to oil and gas exploration and production.

In so doing, it stripped Sonangol of this function. The company had previously served as a national concessionaire while also acting as a partner or shareholder in oil and gas development projects. Once ANPG took over the role of concessionaire, though, it was no longer responsible for regulatory tasks and could focus on operational matters.

It is true that the NOC was already taking steps in this direction anyway. It had been working since mid-2017 to divest non-core units — that is, subsidiaries focusing on other types of economic activity, such as finance, real estate, travel, and food services. But it was the creation of the new agency that truly set the stage for Sonangol to function more like an oil company and less like a government bureaucracy.

## Next Step: Partial Privatization

It's no wonder, then, that the Lourenço administration took things further. In September 2021, Diamantino Azevedo, Angola's Minister of Mineral Resources, Petroleum, and Gas, announced that Sonangol was preparing for an initial public offering (IPO), an event that would allow outside investors to become shareholders in the company.

That announcement was not immediately followed by a stock exchange listing. Instead, the NOC worked to formulate a concrete plan for partial privatization, and in September 2022, shortly after Lourenço's election to a second term as president, the government began unveiling its new roadmap.

Initially, that roadmap was incomplete. It provided for the sale of up to 30% of Sonangol's stock but did not specify exactly how that process would unfold. That is, it did not say when or on what terms the shares might be offered to potential buyers.

Since last September, though, Angola's government has clarified its intentions. It has stated that the IPO will only move ahead once Sonangol meets a number of key milestones. In November 2022, Sebastião Gaspar Martins, the company's chairman and CEO, listed the following requirements:

- Bringing the share of total oil and gas output coming from fields

operated by Sonangol up to 10%

- Increasing domestic refining capacity to reduce the country's dependence on imported fuels
- Developing and constructing at least one petrochemical plant
- Expanding and monetizing fuel distribution and marketing networks, as well as logistics networks
- Increasing domestic storage capacity for petroleum products

- Reducing carbon dioxide emissions by at least 20% in exploration, production, and refining operations
- Launching renewable energy projects and increasing carbon capture

Martins explained that Sonangol would have to meet all of these targets in order to proceed with the IPO, as they had been formulated to make the company stronger and more self-sustaining. He said the government had not set a firm deadline for the launch of the stock issue and added that he expected the company to work toward these aims through 2027.

## End Goal: A National Oil Company Focused on Core Activities

Then, in January 2023, Martins indicated that Angolan authorities had finalized the IPO roadmap. He stated that the government was planning to sell up to 30% of the NOC's stock and noted that shares would be listed in two venues — first on the Angola Debt and Stock Exchange (BODIVA) and then on an international exchange. He reiterated that Sonangol would have to meet certain criteria prior to the listing and said he expected the company to hit its targets by 2027.

Additionally, he noted that the NOC was working to assess its projected



future valuation in comparison to its current declared share capital of USD12 billion. The process will help the company assess its own value accurately in light of the changes that will be made in 2023-2027 and optimize the results of the IPO, he said.

All of these planned changes are designed to further the process of transforming Sonangol from an instrument of the state, an entity

with regulatory as well as operational functions, into a corporate-style organization focused on operational matters and not bogged down by peripheral concerns. This transformation, in turn, should allow Sonangol to work more smoothly together, not just with foreign partners such as Chevron (U.S.), Shell (UK), and Azule Energy – the joint venture formed last year by BP (UK) and Eni (Italy) – but eventually with

the outside investors that will gain stakes in the company via the IPO.

At the same time, though, Sonangol will continue to serve Angola's own interests. The company will continue to be majority government-owned, and it will work to expand local capacity with respect to upstream, midstream, and downstream projects. Moreover, it will represent the country in projects involving foreign investment – as it has been doing,

but more competently and efficiently, thanks to its divestment of regulatory functions and non-core assets.

The African Energy Chamber commends Angola's government for following this course and expects Sonangol's future achievements to serve as a testament to the foresight of the Lourenço administration.

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

## Exploring Precolonial Free Trade in the North West Region of Cameroon

By Francis Tazoacha\*

A team of researchers from the Nkafu Policy Institute – a think tank of the Denis and Lenora Foretia Foundation – visited the Mankon Fandom in the Northwest Region of Cameroon in February 2023. This visit was in line with the Initiative for African Trade and Prosperity (IATP) at the Vinson Centre for the Public Understanding of Economics & Entrepreneurship and the Nkafu Policy Institute to better understand pre-colonial intra-African trade in the area that makes up modern-day Cameroon and its neighbouring countries.

During the visit, the team met with the Fon of Mankon, Fon Angwafor IV Fru Asaah, and some elders of the Kingdom and conducted an in-depth interview with them on how free trade was carried out in the precolonial time in the kingdom. According to Mankon-renowned elite Tse Peter Angwafo, Mankon (in the past spelt Mankong) is a geo-historic community comprising a large part of Bamenda in Cameroon, formed as an amalgamation of about five different ethnic groups. The Mankon Fandom is as old as humanity, but the first established king of Mankon was Nde-Magha I, who established this kingdom in 1197.

According to Fon and Tse Peter Angwafo, the Mankon kingdom is one of the oldest kingdoms among the grass field people of the Northwest of Cameroon. The Fon and the council of elders further said that the fondom is



ruled by a Fon with rights to kingship inherited by birth. The crowned Fon is the son of the deceased king, who was born during the reign of the king. According to Tse Peter Angwafo Mankon is among the kingdoms that were ranked as a first class Fondom (Kingdom) located at the Mezam Division of the North West Region. It is situated about 1,000 meters above sea level with an estimated surface area of 315 square kilometres and a population of about 250,000 inhabitants. This Fondom is bounded in the North by Bafut, East by Bamendankwe and Nkwen, West by Ngymbu, Meta, and Bali, and South by Mbatu and Nsongwa fondoms.

Findings from the interviews revealed that the people in the kingdom as well as in other grassfield Fondoms carried out free trade

on different commodities. African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) may learn lessons from the history of free trade in the grass field area, specifically in Mankon in the precolonial period.

One of the 13 flagship projects of African Union Agenda 2063 as it demonstrates how trade in precolonial Africa was carried out freely with little or no barriers. Historically, the Mankon kingdom had trade relations with other kingdoms within and beyond the frontiers of contemporary Cameroon. However, trade was not yet an established occupation, as most people in the village were hunters and farmers.

The Mankon people had trade dealings with neighbouring kingdoms, such as the Momo clans, who were reputed for oil production.

They also traded with the villagers of the Ndop plain, who were noted for blacksmithing, where they purchased spears and other metallic objects in exchange for foodstuffs. In addition, they traded with the villages around the Santa regions with the Mbuh people, fondly called the Bafuchuh people, and the Babah people, from whom they got kola nuts in exchange for mostly foodstuff.

They also traded with the Calabar Kingdom in present-day southeastern Nigeria, where they exchanged foodstuffs for salt, clothes, etc. The main actors who were noted for these trade ventures in Mankon were families like the Ndifombi, the Awasum-chelam, and another family in Tangyem. The medium of exchange at the time was simply trade-by-barter. With the coming of the

Indians, cowries and metals became the medium of exchange.

Later on, these trade ventures were gradually carried out in established markets. Wherever there were human settlements, there was a small area where people gathered to exchange items. However, the business environment was very timid because people had to trek for long distances with items on their heads, and only very rich families could afford horses. Apart from trading in basic commodities, there was equally a prominent infamous slave trade.

Slaves were transported from Mankon to Europe through Nigeria and Liberia and were exchanged for bottles of whiskey, mirrors, pieces of cloth, and hurricane lamps. However, trade in humans was not very popular in Mankon, as the kings were not very friendly with the whites who went to the area to buy their children as slaves. This accounted for the resistance during the slave trade and colonial period from the Mankon people.

It is also worth noting that during that time, there were no trade tariffs,

because there were no organized governments who could fix the tariffs. Trade in precolonial Mankon, in particular, and the grass field was not without challenges. Firstly, there was no medium of communication. Also, there was a problem with transportation as people had to trek for long distances, passing through forests with the danger of being attacked by wild animals and hostile kingdoms or villages.

Another challenge was that there was no established medium of exchange or currency. In addition,

there was a prevalence of inter-tribal wars that perturbed the trade. These challenges made trading quite difficult at the time. People had to survive these difficulties, as there were no available instruments to mitigate them.

\*Francis Tazocha is the Director of Peace and Security at the Nkafu Policy Institute. He has a Master's Degree in Natural Resources and Peace from the United Nations University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica.

## Building Bridges For Economic Prosperity Through Exploring The Complementary Attributes Of Mauritius And Gabon

By Michael Adjei\*

Gabon and Mauritius, two nations situated in diverse regions of Africa, exhibit unique attributes that contribute to their positions in the global landscape.

Mauritius, in particular, combines the inherent benefits of an offshore financial centre with the added advantage of being a treaty-based jurisdiction. It boasts a favourable tax environment, including exemptions from capital gains tax, withholding tax, and capital duty on issued capital. Moreover, the confidentiality of company information, exchange liberalization, and the ability to freely repatriate profits and capital further strengthen its appeal as an international tax planning jurisdiction. The presence of a robust network of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) enhances the jurisdiction's reputation as a reputable International Financial Centre.

In contrast, Gabon possesses its own distinct advantages that contribute to its unique position in Africa. While it may not have the same offshore financial centre status as Mauritius, Gabon boasts other notable attributes. The country is rich in natural resources, particularly oil and minerals, which have played a crucial role in its economic development. Additionally, Gabon has made significant strides in diversifying

its economy, with a focus on sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy. These efforts contribute to the country's image as a promising investment destination and a gateway to opportunities in the African continent.

While Mauritius and Gabon differ in their approaches and advantages, both countries exemplify the potential for economic growth and development in Africa. Their unique attributes and strategic positioning create opportunities for investors, businesses, and individuals seeking to tap into the continent's potential. By recognizing and leveraging these distinctive qualities, stakeholders can forge mutually beneficial partnerships

and contribute to the continued progress of these nations and the broader African region. For example:

**Trade:** Gabon's main exports to Mauritius include petroleum products, wood products, and iron ore while Mauritius exports to Gabon mainly consist of textiles, clothing, and electrical equipment. In 2020, the total trade volume between the two countries was approximately US\$35 million.

**Investment:** There have been increasing bilateral investments between Gabon and Mauritius in recent years. Gabonese companies have invested in sectors such as finance, hospitality, and real estate in Mauritius while Mauritian investment

in Gabon primarily focuses on sectors such as telecommunications, banking, and infrastructure.

**Tourism:** Mauritius is a popular tourist destination among Gabonese travellers. Many Gabonese tourists visit Mauritius for its pristine beaches, water sports activities, and luxury resorts. In 2019 for example, around 4,500 Gabonese tourists visited Mauritius.

**Diplomatic Relations:** Gabon and Mauritius established diplomatic relations on December 8, 1975. The Gabonese embassy in Mauritius is located in Port Louis, while the Mauritian embassy in Gabon is in Libreville. Both countries have signed various agreements focusing on



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cooperation in areas such as trade, tourism, education, and healthcare.

**Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement:** Gabon and Mauritius have signed a double taxation avoidance treaty that will prevent both parties from being taxed twice on the same income. This agreement will apply to taxes on income and profits earned in Gabon and Mauritius.

**Language:** While French is the official language in Gabon, in Mauritius English, French and Creole are widely spoken.

Aside that there are several connecting flights available through major African airline hubs such as Addis Ababa, Johannesburg, or Nairobi.

For the purpose of this article, we will focus mainly on the DTAA between Mauritius and Gabon.

### **DTAA between Gabon and Mauritius**

On July 18, 2013, Gabon and Mauritius entered into a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), which is currently pending ratification by both nations. This agreement aims to eliminate the possibility of double taxation on the same income for both parties involved.

It is important to note that Gabon does not provide foreign tax credits. However, the tax responsibilities of non-residents may be influenced by a tax treaty between Gabon and the taxpayer's country of residence.

Gabonese nationals or Gabonese companies investing through the Mauritius investment vehicle may benefit from maximum tax rates on income declared from the Mauritius entity, such maximum tax rates to be published at time of ratification of the DTAA.

The benefits arising from a Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between these nations extend beyond tax advantages and the avoidance of double taxation on the same income. This agreement not only provides greater certainty in terms of tax obligations and reduces the cost of conducting business in both countries but also fosters:

**Increased investment:** The DTA agreement will remove the barriers that might discourage investors from conducting business between Gabon and Mauritius. This way, it will increase the flow of foreign direct investment into both countries, which can eventually lead to economic growth and job creation.

**Enhanced economic cooperation:** By removing tax barriers, the DTA agreement between Gabon and Mauritius can foster greater economic cooperation between the two countries. This can lead to the development of new trade relations and the expansion of existing ones, which can be beneficial for both nations. This will also strengthen the relationship between the two nations.

**Improved transparency:** The DTA agreement requires both countries to exchange information on tax matters. This will help prevent tax evasion and improve the effectiveness of tax enforcement. It will also promote greater transparency in the financial dealings of businesses and individuals in both countries.

The Mauritius-Gabon DTAA will also bring the competitiveness of Gabonese companies at par with other African countries already having already ratified a DTAA with Mauritius. The agreement will encourage cross-border investment and enhance bilateral cooperation in tax matters between the two countries. It will enhance cooperation in tax matters and will allow Gabonese investors to enjoy more favourable tax rates than under the domestic law.

### **Effects of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements**

It is not unusual for a business or an individual who is resident in one country to make a taxable gain (earnings, profits) in another – by using the Mauritius Global Business Company (GBC) to invest in opportunities in other jurisdictions. This person may find that he/she is obliged by domestic laws to pay tax on that gain locally and pay again in the country in which the gain was made thus leading him/her to incur double taxation. Because this is

inequitable and may discourage cross border investments, many nations enter into bilateral DTAA's with each other. DTAA's are international tax agreements which aim at reducing or eliminating the unfair burden of double tax on the same income and for identical or overlapping periods due to connecting factors.

The key components of a DTAA are:

1. Source rules define the agreed source of various income.
2. Assignment rules allocate the taxing rights to one or both states.
3. Relief rules eliminate or relieve juridical double taxation. A DTAA will achieve the objective of eliminating double taxation through various methods, namely that of Exemption, Credit and Tax Sparing or a combination of these methods.

The Exemption Method is for the residence country to exclude foreign income from its tax base and the exclusive right to tax such incomes goes to the source country. This is known as complete exemption method and is sometimes followed in respect of profits attributable to foreign permanent establishments or income from immovable property.

The Credit Method reflects the underlying concept that the resident remains liable in the country of residence on its global income, however as far as the quantum of liabilities is concerned credit for tax paid in the source country is given by the residence country against its domestic tax as if the foreign tax were paid to the country of residence itself.

With Tax Sparing the investor is allowed to preserve to himself benefits of tax incentives available in the country of investment for such investments. Where the credit is allowed by the country of its residence, not only in respect of taxes actually paid by it in the country of investment but also in respect of those taxes the country of investment foregoes due to its fiscal incentive provisions under its tax legislation.

Lastly, a DTAA will also often provide a reduced rate of withholding tax than is otherwise applicable in

the source country. They also provide the resident state with the right to tax capital gains (subject to certain restrictions).

In summary, the Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between Gabon and Mauritius holds significant importance as it has the potential to bring about positive outcomes for both nations. Once ratified, this agreement can facilitate increased foreign direct investment, eliminate barriers to trade, and enhance transparency in tax-related matters.

The DTAA serves as a crucial tool for promoting economic cooperation between Gabon and Mauritius. By providing clear guidelines on taxation, it instils confidence in investors and encourages them to explore business opportunities in both countries. The elimination of double taxation ensures that businesses and individuals are not burdened by multiple tax liabilities, thus reducing costs and promoting a more favourable investment climate.

Furthermore, the DTAA paves the way for improved trade relations. By removing tax obstacles, it facilitates smoother cross-border transactions, encourages bilateral trade, and strengthens economic ties between Gabon and Mauritius.

Transparency in tax matters is another significant aspect of the DTAA. The agreement establishes a framework for exchanging information and cooperating in tax-related investigations. This fosters a more open and accountable environment, deterring tax evasion and promoting fair taxation practices.

While the DTAA is currently awaiting ratification, it is hoped that both countries will expedite the process. Once ratified, the agreement can unlock its potential benefits, boosting economic growth, attracting foreign investments, and fostering mutually beneficial partnerships between Gabon and Mauritius.

\* \* Michael Adjei is International Business Development Executive at Órama .

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# African Energy Chamber Launches New Media Award

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

**B**uea, July 10, 2023 – The African Energy Chamber, AEC, the voice of the African energy sector, has launched a new award for media professionals, and organizations, ahead of the annual African Energy Week, AEW, Awards 2023.

This award according to the African Energy Chamber recognizes outstanding achievements in journalism, communication, and media coverage within the energy sector. It celebrates individuals or media organizations that have demonstrated exceptional storytelling, in-depth analysis, and effective communication of energy-related topics to a wide audience.

It acknowledges the recipient's ability to effectively inform, educate, and engage the public on critical energy issues and recognizes commitment to journalistic integrity, accuracy, and the promotion of informed public discourse surrounding energy-related topics. It covers journalism, marketing, research, analytics, broadcasting, filmmaking and other forms of media.

Nominations for the AEW Awards 2023 are now open on the official AEW website. Professionals, organizations, and the public are invited to nominate those who have made a significant impact on Africa's Oil and Gas/energy sector. The winners will be announced at a prestigious ceremony during AEW, where global industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders will gather to discuss and collaborate on the future of Africa's energy sector.

«Through the African Energy Awards, we are shining a spotlight on the champions of Africa's energy sector, those individuals and organizations who are driving the continent's progress towards energy independence and sustainable growth," said NJ Ayuk, Executive

Chairman of the AEC.

"These awards honour the visionaries and innovators who have dedicated their expertise and resources to transform Africa's energy landscape. By recognizing their achievements, we inspire others to follow in their footsteps, creating a ripple effect that propels Africa towards a brighter and more prosperous energy future."

The award categories for AEW Awards 2023 include:

## **H.E Mohamed S. Barkindo Lifetime Achievement Award (non-voting category)**

This award is the highest honour bestowed upon an individual who has made outstanding and enduring contributions to the oil and gas or energy industry over their distinguished career. The recipient is a visionary leader who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and significant impact in shaping the trajectory of the industry, leaving a lasting legacy.

We recognize the recipient's tireless dedication, unwavering commitment, and significant influence in advancing the energy sector, thereby promoting the well-being of Africans and the socio-economic stability of the continent or particular country.

## **National Oil Company of the Year Award**

As the continent faces the energy transition, National Oil Companies are playing a fundamental role in reducing the energy poverty of their nations, while ensuring pro-business investment environments, energy security, and leadership in the hydrocarbons sector. This award honours an exceptional NOC that has demonstrated outstanding achievements, industry leadership and significant contributions to the energy sector within a particular country and across Africa through innovative operational and revenue management strategies.

## **ESG Leader Award**

As ESG (environmental, social and governance) is a central element in developing Africa's natural resources, the continent needs champions that will protect and promote local populations while ensuring fair and safe operations. This award recognizes outstanding achievements and leadership in integrating sustainability principles and responsible business practices within the sector.

The award celebrates oil and gas/energy companies that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and strong corporate governance, setting a benchmark for sustainability and ESG performance within the industry.

## **Operational Excellence Leader Award**

This award honours exceptional achievements in operational efficiency, performance, and best practices within the oil and gas/





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

make bold decisions, and inspire their organization to achieve exceptional results and recognizes their role in fostering a culture of excellence, driving operational efficiency, and creating long-term value for stakeholders.

## About African Energy Week

African Energy Week (AEW) is the African Energy Chamber's annual event, uniting African energy leaders, global investors and executives from across the public and private sectors for four days of intense dialogue on the future of the African energy industry. An interactive conference, exhibition and networking event, AEW was established in 2021 under the premise to make energy poverty history by 2030, hosting panel discussions, investor forums,

energy sector. It is granted to an organization that has demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation, technological advancements and continuous improvement in optimizing its operations, driving efficiency gains, and setting new benchmarks for excellence in the industry.

## Gas Monetization Award

This award recognizes companies and projects that are upheaving gas monetization in Africa to

close the energy poverty gap. It celebrates innovative strategies and successful commercialization efforts of companies or projects that have demonstrated outstanding leadership in maximizing the value of gas resources. The recipient of this award showcases a commitment to maximizing the value of natural gas resources, driving economic growth, and meeting the energy needs of both domestic and international markets.

## CEO of the Year

This award recognizes individuals that have demonstrated outstanding leadership, strategic vision, and outstanding accomplishments of an exemplary CEO within the industry. We honour an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities, driving innovation, sustainable growth, and significant contributions to the success of their organization and the broader energy sector.

It acknowledges the recipient's ability to navigate complex challenges,

industry summits and one-on-one meeting opportunities, and driving the discussions that will reshape the trajectory of the continent's energy development.

At the forefront of the African energy industry, AEW promotes the role Africa plays in global energy matters, centred around African-led dialogue and decision-making. Covering the entire energy sector and value chain, AEW represents the only conference on the continent representative of the entire sector.

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# Tanzania: A Game Changer For Rural Livelihood, Economic Development In Njombe Region With Luponde Hydro Project

By Prosper Makene

The Luponde Hydro and Rural Electrification Power Project (LHREPP), an integrated renewable energy infrastructure project in Njombe District, Njombe Region is a real game changer with immediate results obtained in poverty reduction, improvement of rural livelihood and economic development.

Construction of the LV and HV network for the six villages in the Region namely Miva, Lusitu, Luhololo, Iduchu, Igola and Uliwa under the project's Licensed Distribution area is now complete, and all 6 villages and their sub-villages are electrified. The project has to date connected more than 800 customers. This is inclusive of all 4 dispensaries/clinics, 8 schools in the project area, as well as 14 religious institutions and 101 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The project which incorporates two adjacent Small Hydro Power sites totalling 2.9 MW and an associated rural distribution network, which is planned to benefit a population of over 14,000 directly or indirectly, has shown a great impact after the first



LHREPP Project Manager Eng. Maxwell Mugombe (Left) and Msafiri Kalinga, Assistant Power Plant operator looking at the operation of the pelton turbine for the 0.9 MW LHREPP Project in Njombe.

phase was completed in 2019.

"Phase I, the 0.9 MW Luhololo part of the 2.9MW project and the associated 41 km of rural distribution network has already been completed and commissioned since 2019. Phase II, the 2MW Igola part of the 2.9MW project is still under construction,"

LHREPP's Project Manager Eng. Maxwell Mugombe told reporters over the weekend during the media tour at the project site.

Eng. Mugombe has further said that the total projects cost is approximately US\$7,000,000 and a total investment to date into Luponde

Hydro project has amounted to above USD 4 million which represents approximately 57% of the estimated final project capital cost.

"The value includes a total of USD 2,975,000 spend under Phase I, a combination of development costs incurred on the 0.9MW Luhololo project and the rural distribution network and USD 1 million spent on the pre-development and construction of the Phase II hydro structures," he said.

## Project Progress and Benefits

The Project Engineer has further said that the Phase II (0.9MW Luhololo) part of the 2.9MW Luponde hydro project has been running smoothly in grid operation since the 8th of February 2021 when it was successfully interconnected with TANESCO (having initially been commissioned in island mode in June 2019).

"The plant has to date delivered a total of more than 11.5GWhrs to the national grid. The plant on the other hand over the period has frequently been operating in an 'extended island mode' providing reliable



LHREPP Project Manager Eng. Maxwell Mugombe and Msafiri Kalinga, Assistant Power Plant operator looking at the operation of the tail race for the 0.9 MW LHREPP hydro-electric project.





*Israel Kiwele and Lemik Sambala are among the carpenters in Lusitu Village, Njombe District, who benefit from LHREPP*

power to both our own customers as well as significant sections of the neighbouring TANESCO Njombe grid during periods of main grid outages and load shedding. The extended Island covers two major factories (Luponde Tea Factory and Unilever Tea Estate) and a lot of SMEs, schools and hospitals,” he said.

He noted: “Additionally when grid-connected, the plant continues to provide much-needed voltage support at this ‘end of grid’ location, and has significantly reduced the voltage fluctuations that have been historically encountered by the industrial customers in the surrounding area, whilst also already measurably reducing the transmission losses within the surrounding TANESCO grid.”

He further said that the SPPA for the remaining Phase II (2MW Igola) part of the 2.9MW project was finally closed in November 2022. “We are currently endeavouring to achieve financial close on a suitable loan facility to fund the remaining construction costs. A shareholder bridging loan amounting to US\$ 595,867 was availed in March ahead of financial close to place an order for the turbine (which forms the critical

path for the project implementation).”

He insisted: “Orders for the headrace and penstock pipes will soon be done once financial close with the commercial loan facility has been reached, and this is expected in July.”

He underscored that the addition of phase II (Igola 2MW plant) to the network will further increase the extended Island operation to cover any main grid outage periods as well as further stabilize the grid, thereby providing reliable and quality power supply to the Njombe network.

The project under its sister company Mwenga Power Services Limited continues to actively promote the Productive Use of Electricity to its customers through the supply of electrical gadgets such as pumps, electric motors, electric stoves, heaters, irons, kettles, blenders and washing machines, amongst other things.

### Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the project have commended Mwenga Power Services Limited for bringing the electricity project to their villages, saying that the power has improved their economic activities.

Israel Kiwele and Lemik Sambala are among the carpenters in Lusitu Village, Njombe District who benefit from LHREPP, a rural electrification programme that is helping reduce poverty and improve rural livelihood.

Kiwele and Sambala are planning to expand their workshop after being connected to the electricity through LHREPP. “We are optimistic about earning more income from timber works after being connected to electricity through Luponde Hydro and Rural Electrification Power Project.”

Sambala insisted: “After electricity was connected in the village, we’re now using electrical machines and our work has become easier and we’re making more money.”

Apart from that, the electrification project has also improved individual quality of life, facilitates community services such as health and education and enables business entities to carry out their activities for rural populations.

Luhololo Secondary School Assistant Head Master said that after getting power from the project, their students are now performing better in examinations as they get more time to study. “We don’t have division

zero after getting the electricity; our students have now enough time for the preparations during the night hours.”

On her part, Martha Mwasenga, a nurse at Lusitu Dispensary in the project area said: “After being connected with the electricity, we are now offering much better health services to our patients – for example, night-time care for maternity and other emergency services and refrigerators for vaccination as well drugs.”

Others, like Emela Muhle, a businessman of Lusitu village in the district switched to a more profitable activity after a power connection in his village.

He has opened an entertainment spot at the village and employed young people as his assistants.

Muhle said: “Before we were connected to electricity, we did not have entertainment services such as music, party halls and big bars in this area, when someone needed the services, had to travel a long distance to Njombe town and it was expensive.”



A stylized map of Africa is the central element, rendered in two shades of green. The top half is a lighter green and contains silhouettes of three wind turbines and two solar panels. The bottom half is a darker green and contains a silhouette of a ship. The title 'A JUST TRANSITION' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the map. Below the title, the subtitle 'MAKING ENERGY POVERTY HISTORY WITH AN ENERGY MIX' is written in smaller, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom of the map, there is a silhouette of a power plant or refinery with smokestacks and pipes.

# A JUST TRANSITION

MAKING ENERGY  
POVERTY  
HISTORY WITH  
AN ENERGY  
MIX

N J A Y U K

# Mabeta: A Cameroonian Community Yearning for Development

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

The road, which largely winds through the Bimbia forest and parts of CDC oil palm farms, easily gets muddy and impassable when it starts raining. And you can be stuck for more than two hours just to navigate yourself through the popular “Jamstone” stretch on a bad day. All issues inhabitants of Mabeta go through daily.

Mabeta, located in Limbe III Subdivision, South West Region of Cameroon, is mostly a fishing community with agriculture and other activity carried out in the area. The road network is peculiar with extremely bad roads, especially with the advent of the rainy season in the South West. From the Bimbia slave trade village, getting to Mabeta and passing through the Jamstone stretch, is as daunting as the word.

“This particular place always troubles us during the rainy season,” Bomtu Felix, a tractor driver for the Bota Palms Estate, told Pan African Visions. “The council has done their best in putting the road to some standard but we are pleading that the council should come again and put gravel in this jamstone area. They



*Mabeta, located in Limbe III Subdivision, South West Region of Cameroon, is mostly a fishing community.*

(Council) worked on the spot but did not put gravel and if they had done so, we would not be facing difficulty to pass.”

The lack of technical support and adequate infrastructure for rural communities such as Mabeta is a source of hardship for vulnerable

people, as these factors severely hamper local development between communities. Today, many of them, have long been victims of reduced mobility and other difficulties due to the poor condition of the roads that they use in their daily activities.

The challenges traversing the road

are just enormous according to Bomtu Felix. He said the Jamstone stretch of road is just about 200m but causes a lot of havoc to drivers and taximen. “When rain falls, it is difficult for us to climb this particular hill. Sometimes we need to use chains to draw other cars from even making it up the hill. So, that is how we work here during the rainy season,” Bomtu Felix added.

## Difficulty in access

The road link is of immense importance to Limbe III and the entire country, because it leads from Bimbia to Mabeta Fishing Port, which is the economic heart of this subdivision and where the largest catch and trade in crayfish is done all along Cameroon’s coastline. Smoked crayfish leaves from here in tons to almost every other region of the country.

But due to the poor state of the road during the rainy season, owing to badly executed road maintenance work, it is very expensive to access Mabeta. In 2011, it cost FCFA 6,000 for a bike to ferry one from Limbe to



*Bike riders face difficulties transporting produce to Mabeta with the poor road network.*



and from Mabeta. Today, you need a four-wheel car to even attempt the road during a rainy season, while inhabitants will resort to motorcycles.

«If you move now from Chopfarm here to Mabeta, even in your four-wheel drive, you cannot make it,» said Chief Samuel Epupa Ekum of Dikolo, Bimbia

“When you look at the Mabeta road, there is no gutter, which makes it difficult for the water to pass. As there is no gutter, the water is forced to pass through the road which damages it,” Brandon Chisom, a bike rider, told Pan African Visions.

“We are calling on the Limbe III and City Councils to maintain the road as we have suffered a lot due to the poor state of the road. We have not even entered the heart of the rainy season, yet the road is already bad. When we enter fully, it means we won’t even be passing through the road.»

#### A decline in tourism activities

The Mabeta stretch of the road sits an important touristic potential, that of the Bimbia Slave Trade village. But with bad roads, it is making it difficult for tourists to visit the popular slave trade village. In the 18th century,



*The lack of technical support and adequate infrastructure for rural communities like Mabeta is a source of hardship for vulnerable people.*

Bimbia was a slave trade port, where historians have confirmed that at least 10 per cent of enslaved Africans passed through, before being forced onto boats sailing to Europe and the Americas.

Little has been done to develop the site as a place where tourists can easily visit. A road leading to the site has still not been constructed and local tour guides have been trying to encourage more Cameroonians to

visit the site. However, in 2017, the Cameroonian government declared it a National Cultural Heritage and has also been working towards making the historical slave port a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Although covered in overgrown bamboo, bush, and vegetation, the ruins of this coastal slave port are intact. From chains that are almost two meters long to the bells and bracelets still visible, the pain and

hardships of those who were enslaved become even clearer. The pillars of the prisons still stand tall.

“The road from Man O’ War Bay to Dikolo has remained a bone of contention to this municipality. After much water under the bridge, we are finally seeing some actions from the new contractor that we hope will not emulate the poor example of the former”, Mayor Nseke Dibotti of Limbe III Council said.



*From the Bimbia slave trade village, getting to Mabeta and passing through the Jamstone stretch, is as daunting as the word.*



# Just How Tribalism, Nepotism Kill Competency In Africa

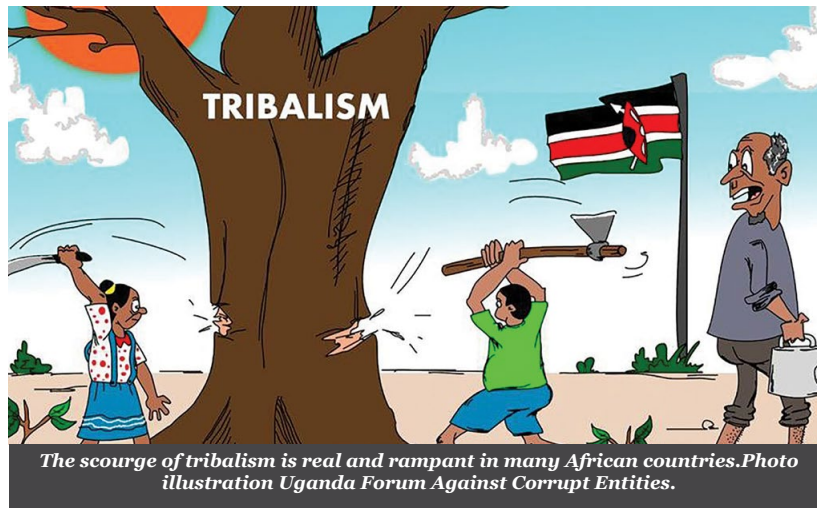
By Adonis Byemelwa

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, President Samia appointed a good number of leaders in Local government departments, thanks to the unprecedented reshuffle at the District and Regional levels. The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania entitles The Head of State to appoint ministers, board members, District Executive directors, and regional and district commissioners, the list might be innumerable in this think piece.

Following the appointments, social media remained awash with congratulatory remarks on various political leaders who landed prestigious positions. The so-called felicitation, which leaves people's tongues wagging, was due to the appointments of brethren, kith, and kind of 'bigwigs' in the ruling machinery to land lucrative jobs. The blessed range from Godfrey Nnauye, Justice Kijazi, Shauri Selenda Msuya, Reuben Chongolo, Saud Majaliwa John Nchimbi to Ruth Magufuli, the list looks long, to mention but a few, due to editorial space.

Political pundits insinuate that the incessant reshuffle and re-appointment of well-known kith and kins is an ongoing process to set strongholds for the 2025 elections, as the local government is always used as a benchmark to winning the General Election. The appointed leaders will be given two major mammoth tasks: to push for the CCM landslide victory alongside maintaining the elites' status quo Yusuph Makamba, The Former Tanzania ruling party, CCM, General Secretary and longtime politician defended nepotism by saying, it is not strange for a driver to have his many other children drivers-passing through father's footsteps. Makamba has many of his children enjoying plum jobs in politics.

If my civics knowledge is anything to go by, nepotism is the habit of people utilizing their positions to favor those of their kin. Their tribal



colleagues, their relatives of their spouses even more. Their children are given positions that they cannot manage in some ways, only to create jobs for them or to function as their protectors. This is very serious in Tanzania's politics.

Common sense forces one to ponder over the meaning of self-employment sung by top political leaders whose children enjoy appointments. One would also think of the difficulties endured by university graduates to queue for job opportunities, all to be told in the end that chances are slim. Slim in the sense that, the available job slots are shelved for a few members of the elites' families.

The slimness of job opportunities in the name of presidential appointments reminisces my late teacher educator, Mr Soudy Rashid Khalfan who schooled with President Benjamin Mkapa at a village Primary school. In the 2000s, the then head of State had made a tour of Mtwara Teachers College, oblivious of the presence of his primary schoolmate. The tutor made several abortive attempts to see the top leader, thanks to the presence of shrewd security detail that thwarted means of stalling the set protocol. In the end, Mkapa saw Khalfan and allowed his guards to him closer to vent out feelings.

According to the tutor, after a brief nit-nut and bizarre tee-tee- with the President, he asked him for a lucrative appointment saying, Mzee Mkapa

nikumbuke 'katika ufalme wako', loosely translated as, please consider me in your appointments and Mkapa retorted 'mpo wengi', means I meet so many of your type. Khalfan retired at Mtwara Teachers College as a normal tutor, Mkapa completed his phase, so far, by appointing several other people for reasons best known to himself.

Nepotism is a crime against humanity. It robs people of equal opportunities to advance in life and undermines the legitimate interests of individuals. Nepotism robs nations of valuable resources to develop their economy. It compromises the rule of law and causes citizens to lose faith in the values of democracy and in government institutions.

The Hard Talk Interview of 28 July 2021 between the BBC's Sarah Montague and Malawi's President encourages questions about Chakwera's authenticity as a leader. The period in the interview devoted to Chakwera's family appointments particularly reveals a political leader who lacks authenticity.

Montague broached the issue of nepotism, although she didn't explicitly use the term, by first citing passages from Chakwera's inaugural address as President of Malawi in July 2020: «I challenge those in parliament to act professionally, to set a good example. The time of giving free handouts is passed.» Later in the interview, Montague quoted

Chakwera from an address he had made in Malawi's parliament in 2019, criticizing the then-ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) over ethnicity and nepotism:

«If there's a vacancy at a foreign embassy that requires a professional and career diplomat, the DPP will send someone unqualified whose only credential is being related to someone at State House by tribe or blood, because it is a chance for someone to steal from Malawians.»

Chakwera clearly understood in 2019 that ethnicity and nepotism were problems in the Malawian government. Montague asked Chakwera whether his appointment of his daughter, Violet, as a diplomat to Brussels, was a good example. Chakwera denied that this was true but failed to clarify the matter. Earlier in the month of the interview, several Malawian news publications, among them those citing the President's Press Secretary Brian Banda, reported otherwise

Whatever the case regarding Violet's alleged appointment to a post in Brussels, the BBC released a story in early January 2022, confirming that Chakwera's daughter had been appointed at the Malawi High Commission in London as the First Secretary responsible for investments. It seems that even if Violet was «not going as a Third Secretary to a mission in Belgium» at the time of the Hard Talk interview, she was always going to be taking up a diplomatic position somewhere.

Favoritism reduces the attractiveness of the state to attract investors. It decimates the credibility of the state in order to ensure peace, prosperity, security, and stability for its citizens. It is simply disgusting, when leaders use positions to benefit people of their own kin, especially if they are not even qualified. When every lucrative position is awarded to elites' children, regardless of



qualifications it is corruption. Full stop.

However, it will also be wrong to reject their rightful applications simply because they are CCM politicians' relatives. If many children from former Presidents, Mkapa, Kikwete Membe (Tanzania's former foreign minister), and Lugola's (Former home affairs minister) families vie for Parliamentary primaries under the ruling party by jumping the queue it will be wrong. It is normally a case of corruption if leaders use the information, they have in advance to give an unfair advantage to their kin-be it in the form of advance notice or tip, preferential treatment, or denying or distorting the information to others.

On a lighter note, it is not uncommon to find people in positions they are not capable of, without appropriate qualifications, given higher privileges than others, or awarded contracts that they cannot manage. Sometimes they have sufficient qualifications but they do not pass through the same system and are given without due process. Africa had suffered many losses because of this stupidity.

In what came to be known as the Lugumi scandal, the Tanzanian Police Force in 2011 contracted Lugumi Enterprises Ltd to install 108 fingerprint machines in police stations across the country at a price of Tsh37 billion (\$17.3 million). The contractor received Tsh34 billion (\$15.8 million) of which only 18 units were installed, while only eight were functioning.

Alarmed by the Controller and Auditor General's report, the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) demanded to see the contract document but the police did not make it available to the lawmakers, saying it should be in the hands of the Home Affairs Ministry. Sources privy to PPRA told reporters that involvement in the tender process was limited to publishing in the government gazette the outcome of the tender, while section 2 (2) of the Public Procurement Act of 2011 to Section 2 (4) instructs defense and national security organs to comply



with this Act subject to section 2, subsections (3) and (4). To say the least, the Lugumi contract is a damning indictment of nepotism hills, if citing examples could trigger sedition but the Lugumi contract was awarded to an in-law of the Head of State, all to end up in shame. This is the tip of the iceberg among many other despicable corruption scandals.

It is disheartening that many competent people have been driven out of work, or frustrated to futility because of nepotism. In addition, employing relatives is always biased and any action against them means a break of even more important relationships outside work. I will never be forgiven by my brother who did not get a teaching at the interview I was chairing! And when we employ them even without positions of authority, their superiors are afraid of dealing with them as others. Imagine of Tanzania's Prime Minister probing into corruption scandals at the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources, when the minister responsible for the docket is an in-law of the Head of State! This would sound ridiculous, isn't it?

The expose by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists on the decades-long avers that nepotism practices by the former Angolan President Dos Santos favoured his daughter which earned her the title of the richest woman

in Africa with a wealth of over U\$3 billion; the imprisonment of his son for diverting oil revenues from Angola's sovereign wealth fund; and how the current President of Angola, Joao Lourenco is trying to rebuild the trust of the nation and to ensure that government resources are rightful returned and used to develop the country for the benefit of all citizens.

According to Transparency International, Mobutu Sese Seko (Joseph-Desire Mobutu; 14 October 1930 – 7 September 1997) embezzled over U\$5 billion from DRC, ranking him as the third-most corrupt leader since 1984 and the most corrupt African leader, who awarded his close relatives and fellow members of the Ngbandi tribe with high positions in the military and government. He sold the nation's rich natural resources while the people live in poverty, and he groomed his eldest son to succeed him as president, but fate had it differently.

Developed nations are also not immune from nepotism. It was very much thinking whether some of our leaders were following the fiasco at the World Bank in yesteryear, when Paul Wolfowitz, as President was a capable manager, I guess. Nobody accused him of squandering money or not doing his job. His commitment to Africa was commendable. But the mistake he made of promoting and giving a high pay to his girlfriend

(maybe actually his wife without marriage papers) was totally intolerable. Nobody said this lady was incapable but the action cost him his reputation and his job.

To avoid nepotism and corruption, leaders should not overstay their welcome. The Constitution must be respected as the Supreme Law that protects all citizens. Trust is a fundamental pillar and the most constructive factor in mutual relationships as it puts an end to chronic suspicion in society.

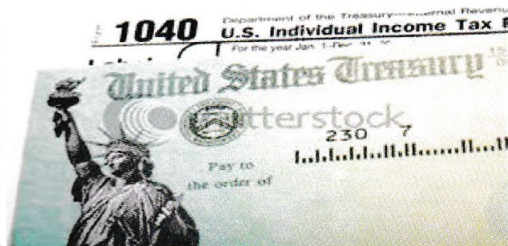
It is time we stopped justifying nepotism as an act of human nature – that as long as the selected individual fulfills the qualification, we consider nepotism an acceptable act. Justifications for nepotism can influence how a country perceives it. The arrangement of strategic networking by corrupt governments to protect their status; and the exploitation of national resources and wealth for personal gain through introducing policies that favour personal interests by those in power must be condemned.

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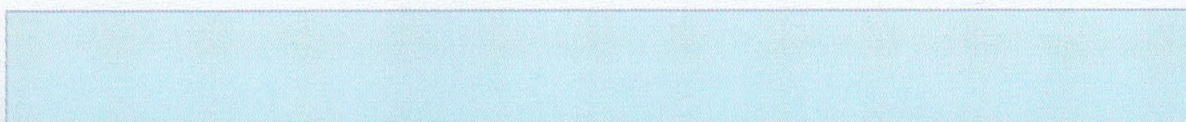
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# The Promise of Angola's Growing Natural Gas Industry with a Ready-Made Market

By NJ Ayuk\*

Since taking office in 2017, President João Lourenço has maintained a positive bearing on strengthening and enhancing Angola's oil and gas sector and focusing on enriching its population.

From exploration to production and export, the Angolan oil and natural gas industry is bustling with new initiatives. This past year alone, international oil companies and the Angolan government partnered to award numerous regional operators with service contracts worth billions of dollars in combined value.

The African Energy Chamber has been particularly pleased to see Angola driving its natural gas industry forward.

In August 2022, solidified plans to develop the Quiluma and Maboqueiro gas fields in the Lower Congo Basin offshore Angola saw Italian multinational oilfield services company Saipem granted USD900 million between three engineering, procurement, and construction contracts for both onshore and offshore work associated with the project at three separate sites.

Movement on these endeavors is due in part to the establishment of the New Gas Consortium (NGC) and its relationship with Angola's National Agency for Oil, Gas & Biofuels. Investment in the NGC is multi-national, with Italian hydrocarbon giant ENI at the helm and France's TotalEnergies, British Petroleum, and Angola's Cabinda Gulf Oil Company and Sonangol signed on as shareholders. The NGC expects production at the Quiluma and Maboqueiro fields to begin in 2026 and to produce at an estimated rate of 4 billion cubic meters (bcm) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) per year.

## The Right Approach

This success story, just one among many in Angola, wouldn't be possible without the welcoming and investment-friendly environment



that Angolan leadership has worked to cultivate in recent years.

Despite its status as sub-Saharan Africa's second-largest oil producer, boasting an approximate output of 1.55 million barrels of oil per day (bpd), Angola rejects complacency and strives to grow those numbers by starting new wells while reevaluating its more mature facilities. Angola's approach and its commitment to continued progress should serve as a template for every other African country to follow.

Angola sits atop 27 trillion cubic feet of natural gas — a largely untapped wealth of resources that represents a path toward vast employment opportunities, a route away from energy poverty, and a bridge to an eventual energy transition. One of the key elements ensuring that this economic development evolves in both Angola's and Africa's favor is a competent administration to help guide it.

## The Right Leader at the Right Time

Since taking office in 2017, President João Lourenço has maintained a positive bearing on strengthening and enhancing Angola's oil and gas sector and focusing on enriching its population.

Employing a rational, long-term mindset in the effort to expand Angola's LNG exports and further develop its gas industry, President Lourenço has been managing a multi-faceted master plan that he hopes will set Angola in an exponentially more prosperous position over a 30-year timeframe.

Lourenço's actions in this regard have been proactive and comprehensive and performed in support of a healthy national oil and gas industry. By working to improve Angola's business environment and rooting out internal corruption, Lourenço has made the nation much more attractive and favorable to foreign investment. The reappointment of Diamantino Pedro Azevedo as Minister of Mineral Resources — a key player in Angola's regulatory overhaul and an outspoken

advocate for the African energy industry — demonstrates Lourenço's commitment to preserving a cabinet that produces meaningful results.

President Lourenço's outlook includes much more than the successful export of Angola's hydrocarbon resources. His plan includes provisions for expanding the country's refining and storage facilities as well as preparations for the transition to a low-carbon economy through the implementation of photovoltaic power plants, the production of green hydrogen, and a pledge to increase Angola's own use of energy from clean sources like hydroelectric.

Lourenço has confidence that his country will be able to achieve these goals in part by fostering productive international relationships, a practice that he contends will also secure future business partnerships.

## A Ready-Made Market

President Lourenço's 2022 Whitehouse meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin concluded with Blinken's declaration of Angola as a strategic partner and the announcement of a €1.8 billion U.S. investment in a system that will supply four provinces in southern Angola with photovoltaic power.

The wide-ranging difficulties extending from the ongoing war in Ukraine have put Europe in a precarious situation concerning its natural gas provisions, the bulk of which came from Russia until the start of the conflict. President Lourenço has confidence that Angola can offer Europe an alternative source of LNG through European investment in the country and cooperative relations between the two regions.

Angola may get to a more sizeable position in the global LNG market,

and sooner than expected, even without Europe's immediate support. Lourenço foresees an economic boom on the horizon that will put Angola's LNG production and export on the fast track in the coming years.

## System-Wide Improvements

In addition to the developments at the Quiluma and Maboqueiro fields, other Angolan natural gas projects are well underway.

The Angola LNG Project, a joint venture led by Chevron and Sonangol north of Luanda in the province of Soyo, processes and monetizes 1.1 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day while reducing gas flaring and greenhouse gas emissions.

Sonangol has also been hard at work in Cabinda, modernizing,

automating, and subsequently tripling their plant's gas filling capabilities from 3,000 12-kilogram gas cylinders per day to 9,000 cylinders per day, which should increase regional gas availability by 28%.

By next year, Angola expects the 750 MW Soyo II combined-cycle power plant to be operational, which will contribute to a nationwide effort to expand the population's electricity access by nearly 20% via gas-to-power generation.

Angola's Falcão Natural Gas Project promises to diversify the country's stake in the natural gas industry by providing a means of producing fertilizer, reducing reliance on importation while cutting overall agricultural costs.

These developments — paired

with Minister Diamantino Azevedo's assurances at the 2022 International Conference on Angola Oil and Gas that Angola will soon have floating liquid natural gas platforms off its shores — paint a positive picture for Angola's energy future.

"We celebrate Angola's progress in the LNG sector. Natural gas offers a clean and practical energy source with the power to eradicate energy poverty and boost local economies across the continent while also providing a pathway toward a just energy transition. We encourage all the nations of Africa to join Angola on the trail they are currently blazing". Stated Sergio Pugliese, President of the African Energy Chamber-Angola.

\* NJ Ayuk is Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber

## Trinity Energy Pre-commissions the Wau Power Plant, Ushering in a New Era of Reliable and Affordable Energy in South Sudan

Juba, 8th July 2023 – Trinity Energy Limited, the leading indigenous energy company in South Sudan, has today announced the pre-commissioned Wau Power Station in Wau, Western Bahr el Gazhal State in South Sudan. This is a significant milestone in the rehabilitation and upgrade of this key project, which represents a major investment in the country's power infrastructure.

The Company has been working closely with the Ministry of Energy and Dams which has played a pivotal role in this initiative by signing a contract with Trinity Energy for the rehabilitation, upgrade, and operation of the existing power plant and distribution network in Wau. The Company has also been working closely with the South Sudan Electricity Corporation (SSEC) whose team has been instrumental in providing technical support for the project.

The pre-commissioning event was graced by senior delegation of State officials from Western Bahr el Gazhal led by the Deputy State Governor, Honourable Zachariah Joseph Garang. During his speech,



Hon. Zachariah Joseph Garang praised Trinity Energy for their unwavering commitment and expressed appreciation for their contribution to the country's energy sector. He assured the public of the government's dedication to ensuring citizens have access to reliable and affordable energy. Furthermore, he emphasized the expected positive

impact of the Wau Power Station on economic growth and reaffirmed, "Development has started from today onward. From today, we are going forward with development."

The first phase of the project will witness the production of 6.5 MW of power, with the full commissioning expected to take place within the next few months.

Furthermore, the project entails the rehabilitation of the previous engines and acquisition of additional engines as well as comprehensive replacement of the distribution system, starting with the distribution and transmission poles, followed by the replacement of transformers, aluminium conductors, and the introduction of prepaid meters.





The ambitious vision of the Wau Power Station project extends beyond the initial phase. The next focus is the establishment of a 20 MW solar power plant, positioning Wau as the pioneer of hybrid (Thermal and Solar power plant) technology in East Africa. This hybrid plant will prioritize renewable energy sources while augmenting the generation capacity, in line with our commitment to clean energy solutions and sustainable development.

Speaking at the pre-commissioning, Trinity Energy's Head of Human Resources and Administration, Mr. Dhor Aher Arol said «Today marks the dawn of a new era in Wau's power infrastructure. We embark on a journey that not only addresses the immediate needs of the people but also paves the way for a sustainable

and environmentally friendly future. We reiterate our unwavering commitment to collaborating hand in hand with the government to bring the vision of accessible and affordable energy to all citizens. Together, Trinity Energy and the South Sudan Government strive to transform the energy landscape and uplift the well-being of our population.»

The Wau Power Station project is set to have a substantial social and economic impact. Currently, households spend upwards of USD 50 cents per kilowatt hour on small standalone generators, but with the project's implementation, they will enjoy a significant cost reduction significantly easing financial burden on households and businesses in Wau. The launch of the project will also

revitalize Wau City, re-establishing its rich legacy as an industrial hub. Additionally, by reducing the initial power cost and connecting the city to the grid, the project will unlock numerous benefits and stimulate economic growth in the region, creating both direct and indirect job opportunities. This holistic approach aims to empower communities and foster sustainable development.

“Together with our esteemed partners, stakeholders, and the vibrant community of Wau, we are confident that this project will uplift lives, propel economic growth, and create a brighter tomorrow for all. Trinity Energy is committed to transitioning to green energy solutions, aligning with our sustainability commitments and agenda. While economic growth

remains a top priority for us as a company, we are equally dedicated to ensuring our operations are responsible, sustainable, and in harmony with the needs of future generations,” said Mr. Dhor Aher.

The pre-commissioning of the Wau Power Station represents a significant step towards achieving the shared vision of reliable and affordable energy access for all in South Sudan. Trinity Energy remains committed to its mission of driving sustainable development and looks forward to the positive transformations this project will bring to the country.

#### About Trinity Energy Limited

Trinity Energy is South Sudan's largest privately-owned independent energy company, providing its customers across Africa with reliable access to high-quality fuel products since 2012. The company holds a global footprint to structure bespoke solutions for customers with offices in South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the United Arab Emirates, ensuring our clients enjoy versatile service, quality products, and a secure supply of vital fuel products.

Trinity Energy commits to the principles of the United Nations Global Compact. Our core values of accountability, transparency and ethical conduct direct our corporate processes and vision. Through these values and our commitment to furthering Sustainable Development Goals, we meaningfully contribute to a sustainable future in the markets we operate in.





# The African Union at 20

African perspectives on progress,  
challenges and prospects



Edited by Wafula Okumu and Andrews Atta-Asamoah



# Kenya: Tough Times Ahead As Shilling Plummets Further Against US Dollar

By Samuel Ouma

The depreciation of the Kenyan shilling is accelerating and does not appear to abate anytime soon. By the time this publication was made, the shilling had hit a new record high of 140.75 against the US dollar, complicating matters for ordinary Kenyans struggling to put food on the table as a result of the high cost of living.

Economists anticipate the shilling will decline even further, with many predicting it would fall to 150 against the dollar in the coming months. As a result, they have implored firms to tighten their belts because the situation is expected to worsen over the next 24 months.

"There is a chance that the shilling will drop considerably further. It will depreciate faster since forces in the US are not assisting us with the high interest rates," said Alpesh Vadher, CEO of PKF East Africa.

"The US dollar is a global currency used for printing in order to increase demand for the US dollar. As a result, the dollar will always be in demand and this will determine the strength of Kenyan shilling."

The Kenyan shilling has been steadily plummeting since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, with the lowest exchange rate recently being 119.80 in August 2022. According to data from the Bank of Kenya, the shilling was trading at 139.6 in June, 137.2 (May), 134.395 (April), 129.89 (March), 125.14 (February) and 123.5 in January 2023.

The drop can be ascribed to many factors, including a global increase in interest rates by the Federal Reserve in the United States. With US inflation hitting a record high in 2022, the US central bank acted quickly to raise interest rates in an attempt to bring prices back under control.

As a result, the value of the US dollar has risen compared to other currencies, such as the Kenyan shilling. This is because increasing



*We are working very hard and the public should not panic, says Treasury Principal Secretary Chris Kiptoo.*

interest rates make holding USD more appealing to investors. Even though the Central Bank of Kenya presently raised rates by 75 basis points to 9.5% in an attempt to boost the shilling's appeal, the measure has been ineffective as the shilling continues to decline day after day.

"The situation is expected to remain unchanged for the next 18 to 24 months, mainly because of the mechanisms put in place by the US government including raising the interest rates of the US Fed results which has strengthened the currency," added CEO Alpesh.

Growing dollar demand from oil sellers and general goods importers has also weighed on the shilling. The Russian-Ukrainian conflict has worsened this, causing worldwide oil price spikes. Since March 2022, the East African country has been experiencing a dollar shortage, forcing importers to travel to neighbouring Tanzania in search of dollars. The dollar scarcity has been blamed on frantic purchases of dollars from banks and forex bureaus. Kenya's Treasury also

criticized manufacturers and financial institutions for dollar holding.

"We expect inflows from our development partners and then we will discuss what we call development policy operations, where we expect to get \$1 billion dollars. We're working very hard and the public should not panic," said Treasury Principal Secretary Chris Kiptoo.

Furthermore, Kenya's severe taxation policy has driven away investors, while others are selling their stakes to fund capital deployment in other jurisdictions. To make matters worse, it is projected that more investors are set to leave the country as a result of the Finance Act 2023 that introduced tax increase. The Act, signed by President William Ruto, imposed a 30% corporate tax on enterprises with yearly revenues of more than \$25 million.

The opposition's anti-government marches have also exacerbated the situation. Kenya's prominent opposition leader, Raila Odinga, mobilized his supporters to protest against what he termed as Ruto's illegal administration and high

cost of living, a move that has tarnished the country's image in the eyes of international investors, lowering demand for the shilling. Businesses are forced to close during demonstrations for fear of looting and destruction, reducing government taxation revenue.

The terrible drought that afflicted the country also contributed to the depreciation of the Kenyan shilling. With millions of Kenyans suffering famine as a result of the drought caused by a lack of rain, the government has been compelled to import food to feed the country's hungry people. This means that food imports, which usually have costs in dollars, have grown increasingly expensive. The Ukraine-Russia conflict also impacted global food supplies, forcing prices to reach an all-time high.

Kenya's sinking currency has resulted in high living costs for millions of citizens burdened by severe taxation. As a result of the drop, the price of imported products and services has risen, raising the cost of living. A spot check conducted by Pan





Kenya's sinking currency has resulted in high living costs for millions of citizens.

African Visions in the supermarkets, stores and shops across the country shows that commodities prices have more than doubled in the last few months.

Additionally, investors will be anxious about the currency's stability and the general economic prospects in the coming months, prompting them to demand higher interest rates on government bonds or to withdraw their investments entirely. Kenya's debt burn is also expected to rise as the shilling's depreciation makes debt repayment more expensive.

Kenya may find itself in chronic economic conditions as the US Federal Reserve is committed to containing inflation, the Ukraine-Russia war continues, and anti-government protests intensify.

## Trinity Group CEO Akol Ayii Shares Ways Of Unlocking Africa's Economic Potential

By Samuel Ouma

The CEO of the Trinity Group, Akol Ayii, believes that Africa will realize its full economic potential when its members take complete charge of the continent's affairs.

During an interview with CNBC Africa, Mr. Akol said the continent needs strong financial support to help it achieve its goals and overcome economic challenges it has been grappling with for decades.

He lauded the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) for being at the forefront in the provision of finances to various industries across the region to promote development, stating Trinity Group as one of the beneficiaries of the bank's funds.

«Afreximbank has been able to provide the needed finance because that's what the continent lack basically and finance is provided from an angle of people who understand our needs and our challenges and I think Afreximbank has been doing,» said CEO Akol.

«Our great bank will lead the



The discussions and ideas shared during the AGM were truly dynamic, reflecting AfreximBank's commitment to uplifting African economies, says Akol Ayii.

continent to the needed goals so that our own people can liberate themselves from the economic challenges that we face.»

According to Mr. Akoli, the continent stands to benefit greatly by banding together and using its immense natural riches to support development goals toward more tremendous economic success.

He expressed worry over why most African countries are facing hunger while having enormous resources in comparison to other continents.

«Africa has resources, yet we are defined by the headline of famine when we might be productive. So, I believe that institutions such as Afreximbank, as well as ourselves, are required to unlock our actual potential or that of the continent,» he added.

Africa is endowed with a variety of natural resources, ranging from forests, water, oil, natural gas, minerals, and arable land. It also boasts of a significant amount of the world's natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable.



The continent also has the world's greatest cobalt, diamond, platinum, and uranium reserves.

Mr. Akol also mentioned capacity building through training, and he singled out Afreximbank, which is running creativity industry training for young entrepreneurs. He also lauded the bank for launching the Pan-African Payment Settlement System that promotes intra-African trade.

He further mentioned capacity building through training, highlighting Afreximbank's creativity industry training for young entrepreneurs. The Pan-African Payment Settlement System, which facilitates intra-African trade, was also launched by the bank.

He advocated for the use of technology to maximize economic potential by enabling innovation, efficiency, and new opportunities. Akol gave an example of the Trinity Group that developed South Sudan's first mobile money company, which presently has 1.5 million customers and might reach 2 million by the end of 2023. The mobile money company



can send money to 30 African countries without constraints.

Lastly, he rallied the continent to stay true to its vision to mobilize

resources, whether funds or human resources, to realize its dreams.

He said, «I believe that it is doable through discipline, consistency and

focus as well as having a clarity of what you want to do.”





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# Trinity Ushers In New Era of Reliable And Affordable Energy In South Sudan

By Prince Kurupati

**T**rinity Energy Limited, the leading indigenous energy company in South Sudan, recently announced the pre-commissioned Wau Power Station in Wau, Western Bahr el Gazhal State in South Sudan. This is a significant milestone in the rehabilitation and upgrade of a key project,

which represents a major investment in the country's power infrastructure. PAV Shares images from the event which ushers in a new era of reliable and affordable energy in South Sudan.









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# Revisiting Free Trade in the Bimbia During the Precolonial Era from an Oral Perspective

By Francis Tazoacha & Dr Delmas Tsafack

In early January 2023, a team of the Nkafu Policy Institute visited Bimbia and met Chief Samuel Epupa Ekum, chief of Dikolo in Bimbia. From the discussion, it emerges that the slave trade, even though it was illicit, was free. This history of free trade in Bimbia in the precolonial era may inspire the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), one of the 13 flagship projects of Agenda 2063, as it presents how to trade in precolonial Africa was conducted freely with no or fewer barriers. After the signature of the Duala-German treaty signed in 1884, Bimbia was annexed by the Germans and incorporated into the protectorate of Kamerun. It lies in Southwest Region, to the south of Mount Cameroon and the west of the Wouri estuary.

The predominant Isubu oral history holds that the ethnic group hails from Mboko, the area situated in the southwest of Mount Cameroon. Today, Bimbia is a small locality in Limbe 3 Subdivision in the Fako Division of the Southwest Region, Cameroon. Bimbia consists of three villages namely: Dikolo, Bona Ngombe, and Bona Bille. Bimbia was the first place where Europeans, Jamaican and English Baptist missionaries led by Rev.

Alfred Saker set foot on the Cameroon shores in 1858, from Fernando Po (Bioko). Bimbia has been famous in the pre-colonial era as a trading hub; especially as far as the slave trade was concerned. According to Chief Samuel Epupa Ekum, Bimbia was an independent state of the Isubu people of Cameroon.

Because of the geo-strategic location of Bimbia, the locality became an important centre; it was a trading hotspot in the precolonial period. Trade during that period was reciprocal traffic, exchange, or movement of materials or goods through peaceful human agency. Trade was free. Initially, trade and exchange facilitated the direct or indirect transfer of ownership of goods or services from one individual, group,



or community to another in exchange for other commodities, known as barter and no barriers were hampering it. It was not a surprise that this trade was rarely seen traditionally not as a form of trade.

The first Europeans who arrived in the 1400s on the coast of West Africa, Bimbia inclusive, were in search of goods. During the pre-colonial period, the trading commodities were slaves and later goods. The Bimbia used to catch some non-natives and sell them as slaves to the Spanish ships that came to Bimbia but never landed because they were afraid of the natives whom they termed "savages".

The slave trade became lucrative, and the Bimbians went into the hinterlands and picked up non-indigenous people, which they brought to Bimbia and sold to the interdiarmeries who sold them to Europeans staying in Bioko (Fernando Po), Equatorial Guinea. From Bioko, the slaves were transported to the Americas to work on the plantations. These human beings (slaves) were exchanged for mirrors, ceramics, tobacco, hurricane lamps, pieces of cloth, etc.

By the 16th century, the Isubu was second only to the Duala in trade. The principal trading partners were the Portuguese, Spaniards, Greeks, Germans, French, and English who came for raw materials like gold, iron, copper, and other minerals. These goods were bartered for pieces of cloth, ceramics, hurricane lamps, tobacco, mirrors, etc. Unlike contemporary,

the precolonial trade in Bimbia had no barriers. It was free trade. The earliest Isubu merchants were likely tribal chiefs or headmen.

Bimbia, the primary Isubu settlement, grew quickly. According to Chief Samuel Epupa Ekum of Dikolo, Bimbia, European traders cooperated with friendly chiefs against their contenders, flattering them with titles such as «King, Prince, or Chief». In exchange, these indigents offered trade monopolies to their patrons and sometimes ceded land. An Isubu chief named Bile became the leader of the Isubu as King William, although Dick Merchant of Dikolo village and other chiefs eventually opposed his dominance.

Isubu society was changed fundamentally by European free trade. European goods became status symbols, and some rulers appointed Western traders and missionaries as advisors. The Chief further emphasised that as a result of the free trade, a greater number of Isubu people became wealthy, leading to rising class tensions. For example, his great-grandfather was one of such rich people who benefited from the trade. Competition intensified between coastal groups and even between related settlements.

He further mentioned that between 1855 and 1879, the Isubu alone engaged in at least four conflicts, both internal and with rival ethnic groups. Traders exploited this atmosphere and beginning in 1860, German, French,

and Spanish merchants established contacts and weakened the British monopoly.

Apart from the intercontinental (Europeans) trade with the Bimbians, there was also regional trade where the people of Bimbia traded with the Nigerians, Ghanaian and Beninese traders from West Africa. Just like the trade with the Europeans, the trade was bartered and free with no barriers. While trade and embedded exchange were often disorganized, they too could be organized and institutionalized with permanent or shifting distribution and redistribution centres such as markets. The itinerary, which involved traders moving from area to area to trade, was also a well-developed system of trading and exchange by different groups in parts of Africa.

When compared to purely commercial trade, barter was much broader and included the reciprocal exchange of goods through mechanisms such as gifts, tribute payments, piracy, brigandage, and even marriage alliances. As with trade, barter also involved direct or indirect contact, migration, political conquest, and much more. Barter, a free trade system that saw the direct exchange of goods and services for other goods and services without the use of a medium of exchange such as currency, was the earliest form of trade and exchange.

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# TotalEnergies Endorses African Energy Week 2023

By Ajong Mbapndah L & Samuel Ouma

The African Energy Chamber (AEC) on July 17 announced French multinational integrated energy and petroleum company, TotalEnergies as Diamond Sponsor.

In a statement, AEC said the French company will also be the Sustainable Energy Partner for African Energy Week (AEW) 2023, slated for October 16-20 in Cape Town, South Africa.

As an AEW partner, TotalEnergies will support the high-level panel discussions, country spotlight sessions and networking events.

The company will also showcase its latest advancements in renewable energy technologies and local content, driving various workshops and collaborative discussions.

"We are delighted to welcome TotalEnergies as a Diamond Sponsor and the Sustainable Energy Partner for AEW," states NJ Ayuk, the Executive Chairman of the AEC.

"Whether it is conducting exploration in North Africa or making discoveries in West Africa or driving large-scale LNG facilities in East Africa, TotalEnergies represents a worthy partner for our continent."

According to NJ Ayuk, TotalEnergies remains one of the companies that has become one of Africa's largest taxpayers and employers, with most of its operations in Africa spearheaded by Africans.

He further noted that the company has empowered Africans to take on leadership and drive developments. More is expected from them as AEC drive gas development and energy security across the continent.

"Their global leadership in the energy sector and commitment to sustainable development align perfectly with the goals and vision of Africans," added Mr. Ayuk.

The corporation will use the sponsorship to promote Africa's energy industry, support sustainable development efforts, and usher in a new age of energy security and economic success.

It is also anticipated to deliver

economical, clean, and dependable energy solutions that contribute to African people's well-being and the continent's growth.

TotalEnergies has established a comprehensive plan focusing on increasing overall operating efficiency and supporting sustainability to achieve Net Zero by 2050 while advancing energy security and resilience.

It is also taking steps such as streamlining processes, technologies, and infrastructure to reduce energy waste and the company's carbon footprint.

Furthermore, the energy company targets local content, significant advancements, and collaborations, adopting a 'Africa-first' strategy for industry growth and investment.

The firm further prioritizes environmental, social, and governance issues and inclusion and opportunity for women and youth in Africa's energy sector.

TotalEnergies has recorded several achievements in Africa. In Nigeria, TotalEnergies is active in several areas, including oil and gas exploration, production, natural gas liquefaction, and retail operations.

The firm has five exploration licenses in South Africa, a refinery, and a stake in the Prieska the sun's project. It was also responsible for two significant gas finds in 2019 and 2020: Brulpadda and Luiperd.

TotalEnergies has been present in Libya for over 60 years, with stakes in various oil concessions, including the Al Jurf, El Sharara, Waha, and Mabruk fields, as well as the Murzuk basin.

The energy company has worked in Algeria since 1952, holding many oil and gas fields. TotalEnergies distributes gas to the French market through its producing fields via the Fos Cavaou LNG facility.



meeting opportunities are tailored to bolster key discussions that will reshape the trajectory of the continent's energy development.

Representing the Southeast African region at African Energy Week (AEW) will be Clement Fleury, a Senior Exploration Geophysicist who is expected to bring forth his rich background, expertise, and extensive involvement in TotalEnergies' endeavors in Africa. With a decade

TotalEnergies also has a significant position in the Egyptian energy sector, with stakes in the Ikdu LNG facility (Train 1), two offshore oil exploration blocks in the Mediterranean, and two solar projects under development.

The energy company is leading the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and the Tilenga project in Uganda. The 1,443-kilometer-long EACOP is essential for moving oil from Uganda's Kingfisher and Tilenga oilfields to international markets via Tanzania.

Further south, TotalEnergies is making headway on the Mozambique LNG project, a \$20 billion project aimed at producing up to 12.8 million tons of LNG per year.

It also worked with QatarEnergy and NAMCOR in Namibia's Orange Basin, resulting in substantial oil finds, including Venus-1X.

Established in 2021 under the premise to make energy poverty history by 2030, African Energy Week (AEW) is the African Energy Chamber's annual event, uniting African energy leaders, global investors and executives from across the public and private sector for four days of intense dialogue on the future of the African energy industry.

The interactive conference, exhibition and networking event, panel discussions, investor forums, industry summits and one-on-one

of experience at TotalEnergies, Fleury has been instrumental in advancing the field of geophysics and contributing to the success of various energy projects across the globe. His proficiency and extensive knowledge make him an ideal candidate to address the pressing energy challenges faced by the African continent. His insights and contributions are poised to shape sustainable solutions for Africa's energy future, says the African Energy Chamber.

Under the theme The African Energy Renaissance: Prioritizing Energy Poverty, People, the Planet, Industrialization, and Free Markets, AEW 2023 returns bigger and better than ever before, serving as the official meeting place for Africa's energy elite. At the forefront of the African energy industry, AEW promotes the role Africa plays in global energy matters, centered around African-led dialogue and decision making. Covering the entire energy sector and value chain, AEW represents the only conference on the continent representative of the entire sector.

The endorsement of TotalEnergies is the latest in the cascade of key energy actors and stakeholders from across the globe who have confirmed presence and participation at the AEW 2023.





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# Tanzania -A Solution To Dar es Salaam Transport Woes With BRT

By Prosper Makene



*Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transport is easing transportation woes for many.*

Public transport in Tanzania's business capital of Dar es Salaam has now at least improved, thanks to the introduction of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) which is a first-ever project implemented in the East Africa region that has seven member states of Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Sudan, South Sudan and DRC Congo.

The BRT system project that was launched six years ago in the first phase brings relief to the Dar es Salaam residents who were in need of transport solutions that the informal 'daladala' (commuter buses) sector was unable to meet. The BRT came as an essential mobility link in the city, which is now home to over 7 million people.

The DART's BRT system has dramatically reduced commute times for the residents who previously faced upwards of 4 hours stuck in traffic each day to 45 minutes.

For passengers taking BRT, a trip from Dar es Salaam's Kimara to Kivukoni or Gerezani or Kariokoo

now takes only 45 minutes. In addition, most stations have overtaking lanes, allowing a portion of the fleet to provide express services to key destinations.

The introduction of Bus Rapid Transport in Dar es Salaam City has been of much benefit, the livelihood of the residents and the productivity of the national GDP have also improved.

## **BRT Reduce Traffic Congestion**

The DART's BRT has reduced the congestion on the road, which many people left their private cars at home and shifted to public transport.

"The demand for public transport in Dar es Salaam is expanding very fast and by 2025 the Agency must have 1,975 buses so as to provide public transport to accommodate over 2,590,000 people in the city," DART Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Mhede said recently in a statement, adding:

"Among the 1,975 buses that will be needed to provide public transport in Dar es Salaam, 695 buses will be with

a length of 18 meters and other 1,280 buses with a length of meters 12."

"Likewise, it is estimated that by 2030, public transport users will increase to 3,050,000 per day and thus a total of 3,290 buses will also be needed," the CEO said.

Dr Mhede has further said that by 2025, Dart is planning to establish 80 route services. "In addition, by the year 2030, the BRT service in Dar es Salaam City will increase to about 129 routes, of which 47 routes will be on the main road (Trunk Services) and 82 routes will be feeder services."

The key role of the DART Agency is to establish and operate the Bus Rapid Transit system for Dar es Salaam.

## **Dart's BRT project implementation**

The DART's Bus Rapid Transit project was designed in 2005 in order to tackle transport challenges that had already affected the residents of Dar es Salaam city.

One of the challenges that surfaced and continued to slow down the pace

of development in social and economic aspects was the escalation of traffic jams which was mainly caused by poor conditions of private commuter buses and the infrastructure that did not allow all road users to enjoy their daily mobility.

"DART is implementing the BRT in six phases in Dar es Salaam and the construction of the first phase began in 2010. The construction of the infrastructure for the other phases continues to be implemented as planned," he said.

He also said that the Agency, through the Dar es Salaam Urban Transport Improvement Project (DUTP) has in August 2019 conducted a study with support from World Bank to understand the transport needs of Dar es Salaam City.

"As a result, the project increased Kimara route to Kibamba (13.7 kilometres) and Mbagala Rangi Tatu to Vikindu (4.5 kilometres) which was also included in the sixth phase of the project and thus has a road network of 154.4 kilometres," he said



He added: "Along with the road network, a total of 24 terminals will be needed. In addition, the new plan has identified 14 areas for depots that will be used to serve all the six phases of the DART's BRT project."

Infrastructure construction of the next phases

#### **DART's BRT project phase two**

The ongoing BRT infrastructure development of Phase 2 covers 20.3km with two lots of infrastructure development including road works and building works.

Phase Two of the DART's BRT project is currently implemented along the Kilwa Road from the city centre to Mbagala Rangi Tatu, other parts of the corridor start from South Kawawa road at Morogoro Road junction to Mgulani JKT round with 20.3 km.

"Phase two is being implemented through the financing support from African Development Bank (AfDB) provided US\$141.71 Million," the DART Boss said.

In implementing phase two, the government has paid Tsh30.25 billion as compensation to 92 people in Mianzini (Mbagala), Azizi Ali and Chang'ombe whose areas were affected by the implementation of the project.

The infrastructure construction on road works in phase two is planned to be implemented for a period of three years at a cost of Tsh217.48 Billion. The construction started in May 2019 and it has reached 80 per cent. The construction of the road infrastructure is expected to be completed by March 2023.

"After completing the construction of the infrastructure, the Agency will find service providers whereby a total of 759 buses will be required to provide services in phase two," Dart said.

#### **DART's BRT project phase three**

The implementation of the DART phase three goes through the Nyerere Highways from Gongolamboto, Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) to the City Center and some area



of the Uhuru Road from Tazara to Kariakoo to Gerezani, which covers a total of 23.6 kilometres. Three of the DART corridor covers Nyerere Road from Gongo la Mboto to the City Center and Part of Uhuru Road from TAZARA to Kariakoo - Gerezani with a total of 23.6 km.

The construction of the infrastructure of phase three is implemented with the financing support of the World Bank at a cost of US\$148.2 Million.

In implementing phase three of the DART project, the government already disbursed Tsh5.21 billion to 78 people who have been affected by the project.

After the completion of phase three, a total of 661 buses will be needed to provide transport services on the main roads and feeder ones.

#### **DART project phase four**

The implementation of the DART phase four starts in the centre of Dar es Salaam which includes Bibi Titi, Alli Hassan Mwinyi and Bagamoyo roads to Tegeta as well as Sam Nujoma road with 30.1 kilometres.

Phase four is also connecting with other phases, especially Phase 1 in Kivukoni and Morocco as well as Phases 1 and 5 in the new main

station which is being built at the Ubungu Bus Stand from Sam Nujoma road through Mawasiliano road.

The phase four project is planned to be implemented with a loan from the World Bank through the DUTP project on US\$97.9 Million.

However, the infrastructure design work for phase 4 has been completed. Meanwhile, the design goes hand in hand with the evaluation of the assets that are touched on in the implementation of the project that deserves to be compensated.

#### **The implementation of the DART phase five**

Phase five of the DART's BRT project includes Nelson Mandela roads (from Ubungo to Mwl. Nyerere - Kigamboni bridge), Tabata and Kigogo (from Tabata Segerea through Tabata Dampo, Kigogo to Kawawa road) with a total length of 27.6 Kilometers.

The French Government through its public financial institution namely the French Development Agency (FDA) will finance the construction of the infrastructure. The work of detailed infrastructure design has been completed.

#### **The implementation of the**

#### **DART phase six project**

Phase six of the DART's BRT project will involve Mwai Kibaki road, and extension roads from Kimara Mwisho to Kibamba Shule/Kibaha for the first phase and from Mbagala Rangi Tatu to Vikindu for the second phase with a total length of 26.5 kilometres.

#### **Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit Agency (Dart)**

DART Agency is a government entity established by GN No. 120 on 25th May 2007 under the Executive Agencies Act No. 30 of 1997 and its subsequent amendments.

The Agency operates under the guidance of the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG).

However, since the initiation of the project, approximately 12 countries brought their delegation to Tanzania to learn how to implement the Bus Rapid Transit system in their respective countries.

Such countries that sent their people to learn the BRT system in Tanzania include Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Senegal, Ghana, Rwanda, Angola, Botswana, Nigeria and Liberia.



# Marc-Vivien Foe: Cameroon Legend Gone But Not Forgotten

*-In a fitting respect, English side Manchester City retired Marc-Vivien Foe's number 23 shirt permanently as a mark of respect*

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

**M**arc-Vivien Foe died tragically in the summer of 2003 whilst on international duty for Cameroon, collapsing on the pitch during a game with Colombia in the semi-final of the Confederations Cup in Lyon. With no one around him, he fell to the ground and was unable to be resuscitated despite 45 minutes of attempts by medics to get his heart started again after being taken from the field, according to the BBC.

20 years on, the memories of the 28-year-old's death are still fresh in the memories of Cameroonians, who wondered what he would have become had the tragedy not befall. A first autopsy failed to establish the cause of the 28-year-old's death, but a second found he had been suffering from a condition called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

«Marc was a great man and someone we all loved. He was our brother and we must continue playing for our brother. We must come to terms with this tragedy, but it will take so long,» Cameroon legend Roger Milla said back then.

After consultation with Foe's



**Marc-Vivien Foe died tragically in the summer of 2003 whilst on international duty for Cameroon.**

widow, Marie-Louise, as well as his parents, FIFA decided that the Confederations Cup final between France and Cameroon should go ahead as planned. Many of France's players, including striker Thierry Henry, were in tears as they lined up before the game.

Foe was buried on the site of the

football academy he had been having built in his hometown of Yaounde. He used to send a proportion of his wages home to his father Martin each month to fund the construction of the complex, but N-gwa Niba says it now «sadly has practically been abandoned now because of lack of funding».

## A promising career cut short

Born on May 1, 1975, in Yaounde, Cameroon, Foe's passion for football was evident from an early age and his career spanned over a decade. He began playing for Canon Yaounde before going on to play in France with Lens before migrating to England to play for West Ham and Manchester City.

«He was just 28 and you wouldn't meet a nicer bloke in football. Marc was a great player for West Ham and a terrific footballer. We grew close during his time at West Ham and often after we went our separate ways, he would phone me and joke «Harry, I want to play in your team,» Harry Redknapp.

«He was a fierce competitor on the pitch but he was harmless. He was a gentle giant. He will not have had an enemy anywhere except on the pitch, because he was such a strong competitor. He was a great young man. He wore a permanent smile and you couldn't help but like him. This is a sad day for football.»

«Marco was a very private person



**In a fitting respect, English side Manchester City retired Marc-Vivien Foe's number 23 shirt permanently as a mark of respect.**



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France went on to win the 2003 Confederations Cup.

though he wasn't averse to saying something when it needed to be said. He was one of the most genuine likeable blokes you could ever meet and I know I speak for all the lads when I say that. You could say he was a gentle giant, an incredibly strong bloke, a great athlete with a great caring side, too," Nicky Weaver said.

### Foe's Legacy – improvement in medical testing

A positive result of Foe's death has been huge improvements in both the testing of footballers for heart problems and the treatment they receive during matches. Foe's legacy has seen heart screening become a

regular part of football across the world, and his contribution to the game.

«That's what I remember first and foremost: what he stood for as a man. He was a very quiet, very humble family man, and as you say, it's poignant that we're here today, and rightly so.» Stewart Pearce.

Professor Sharma admits he was shocked when he watched footage of the on-field treatment that Foe received. «A player went down without any contact, his eyes rolled back, he had no tone in his body, so it was clear something terrible had gone wrong,» he said.

«It took quite a while for the penny

to drop that this was not going to get better with the magic sponge or fluid being poured on his head though. As cardiologists, we like resuscitation to start within a minute and a half of someone going down, and for the defibrillator to be used within three minutes.»

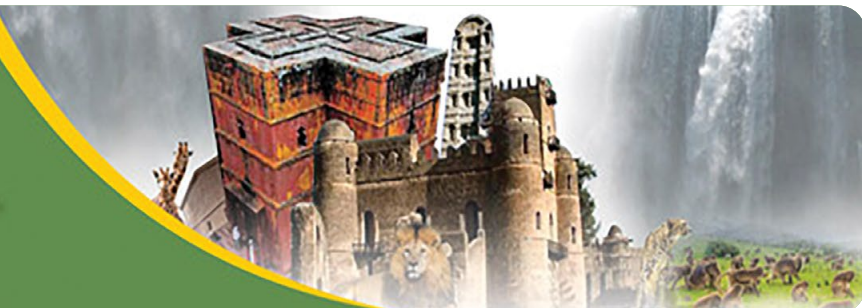
«That gives us an outcome of about 70% living. Yet a good five, six minutes went by before I could see any positive action with Marc-Vivien Foe. That was perhaps because this was the first time something like this had happened in football. After all, you don't expect a champion footballer like this to go down and die.»

Then Fifa's chief medical officer, Jiri Dvorak, admits big improvements had to be made following Foe's death. «We have done a lot of work to reduce the risk of sudden cardiac arrest since then,» he told BBC Sport. «At all levels, we have an examination of players before arrival at a competition.

«We have also trained the sideline medical teams in CPR and using defibrillators. We have a plan if something happens and the equipment - including for the team physicians of all teams. The medical personnel are adequately educated.»

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# Tanzania- How Young Africans Rose To Continental Giants

By Prosper Makene

Tanzania's football champions, Young Africans Sports Club, commonly referred to as Yanga based at Jangwani Street in Dar es Salaam in the 2022/23 season made a triumph of strategies and ultimately become the most successful club in East and Central Africa under the Tunisian Coach Nasreddine.

The East African giant football club which plays their home games at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam for the first time in May this year made history by qualifying for a Continental final after defeating South Africans Marumo Gallants in the semi-final, but the Jangwani Boys lost the 2023 CAF Confederation Cup final against Algerians USM Alger on an away goal.

Founded in 1935, Young Africans made light of their work in the CAF Confederation Cup quarter-final after recording a 2-0 away victory against Rivers of Nigeria.

In a match that was played at the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium in Uyo, Nigeria, Yanga scored all two goals through striker Fiston Mayele in the second half.



Young Africans were unfortunate finalists at the 2023 CAF Cup.

However, the Tanzania football club which ranked among the top ten clubs in Africa, at number 9, by the International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS) in their May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023

rankings is making major transfers to gain more success in 2023/24 football season.

After parting ways with their Tunisian head Coach, Tanzania Premier League record champions Yanga have announced the appointment of Argentine Miguel Angel Gamondi as their new head coach.

The 56-year-old Argentinian international coach takes over the controls from Nasreddine Nabi, who bid farewell to the club after observing the Dar es Salaam giants won 29 Tanzania Premier League titles and a number of domestic cups as well as participated in multiple CAF Champions League editions.

Young Africans who have also won the CECAFA Club Championship five times,

are in the final stages to announce the new signings so as to make a prosperous 2023/24 season.

The Yellow and green club is currently in a process that will keep the club ownership at 49 per cent for investors and the rest 51 per cent will go to the club fans.

The Tanzanian current football champions holds a long-standing rivalry with their cross-city rivals Simba Sports Club which is also one of the best clubs in Africa.

Young Africans and Simba SC's derby which is also known as Kariakoo derby was ranked 5th as one of the most famous African derbies.

## Young Africans Sports Club's roots

The club's roots can be traced as far back as the 1910s, but the officially recognised history of the club started in 1935 when Dar es Salaam residents, who were grouped as Africans by the colonial administration in Tanganyika, decided to form a football club to compete in a league which was



A powerful blend of players from Tanzania and other African countries is producing excellent results.



full of «non-African» football clubs. The name New Young is said to be the club's first name. Later it was replaced by the name Dar es Salaam Young Africans SC, and eventually, the name changed to Young Africans Sports Club.

After its establishment in 1935, its members squabbled over their team's poor performance and results. The club had an even poorer and unsatisfactory performance in 1936 which caused some of the members to split and form another team.

The proponents of breaking away were Arabs who saw fit to cause conflict among the club members which led to a split. They succeeded, and together with dissidents formed a club known as Queens F.C. (currently Simba). The two teams, Young Africans and Simba, have been rivals ever since.

## Young Africans deal with La Liga

In 2020, La Liga La entailed a deal they signed with Tanzanian giants Young Africans. La Liga, in conjunction with Sevilla, entered into a historic strategic consultancy agreement deal that targets to help the record Tanzanian league champions transform in various development aspects.

The deal with La Liga is one of the decisions made by Young Africans sports club's fans move to change their club's ruling structure to allow private investments from other



Uganda Cranes Midfielder Khalid Aucho has extended his contract with Tanzania Premier League side Young Africans Sports Club until 2024.

companies.

## Young Africans players for 2023/24

### Goalkeepers

Mali international Djigui Diarra (worth €200,000), Tanzanians Metacha Mnata (worth € 50,000) and Abuuwalib Mshary.

### Defenders

Congolese internationals Djuma Shabani (Right-Back worth €100,000), Lomalisa Mutambala (Left-Back worth €300,000), Malian Mamadou Doumbia (Centre-Back), Tanzanians- Ibrahim Hamad (Centre-Back), Dickson Job (Centre-Back), David Bryson (Left-Back), Ally Kibwana Shomari (Right-Back).

### Midfielders

Congolese internationals Yannick Bangala (Defensive Midfielder worth €375,000 ), Gaël Bigirimana (Central Midfielder worth €100,000), Ugandan Khalid Aucho (Defensive Midfielder worth €250,000), Burkinafaso international Stephane Aziz Ki (Attacking Midfielder worth €150,000) as well as a Tanzanians Denis Nkane (Attacking Midfielder) and Mudathir Yahya (Defensive Midfield worth €125,000).

### Attackers

Congolese internationals Fiston Mayele (Centre-Forward worth €250,000), Ducapel Moloko (Right Winger), Tanzanians Yusuph Shabani Athuman (Centre-Forward), Faridi Mussa (Left Winger) and Clement Mzize (Centre-Forward), Zambia internationals Lazarous Kambole (Centre-Forward worth €125,000) and Kennedy Musonda (Centre-Forward).



Fans are a strong part of the success equation of Young Africans.





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