

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS

**Integration, Infrastructure, Trade,
Democracy, Energy, Security,
Diaspora, Visas...**

Raila Odinga's Vision for Africa

**Tanzania-Magufuli City
Takes Shape**

**Malawi-Mutharika Set For
Chakwera Re-match**

**SADC-Mnangagwa's
Burden**

25 Years Of NEA In Egypt





CLG

previously Centurion Law Group

We Are CLG

Leading **Legal Practice** & **Business** Advisors

Contact Us Today! >

CONTENTS

| | | | |
|--|----|---|----|
| Editorial - Cameroon's Complex Samuel Eto'o Equation _____ | 2 | A Call For Unity and Renewal At Accra All-African Movement Assembly _____ | 42 |
| Zimbabwe Assumes SADC Chairmanship _____ | 4 | Here To Stay-Central African Think Tank Forum Gains Ground _____ | 45 |
| Tanzania Sets Sights On \$5 Billion New Capital City _____ | 7 | Zambia: ANC Freedom Fighters Going Home to South Africa. _____ | 47 |
| Burundi-Ndayishimiye Torched On Shrinking Civic Space _____ | 10 | Growing Concerns On The Mpox Menace _____ | 50 |
| South Africa-Seismic Political Shifts In Shivambu's Resignation _____ | 11 | A Race Against Time: Antimicrobial Resistance Remains A Silent Killer Of Africa _____ | 51 |
| Malawi-Mutharika Scales Hurdle For Chakwera Re-match _____ | 15 | Food Sufficiency Is Not A Mirage For Africa _____ | 53 |
| Nigeria-Assessing Twenty-Five Years of Democracy _____ | 16 | Photo News -Central African Think Tank Forum Heralds New Dawn _____ | 56 |
| Kenya-Odinga Flags Off AUC Chairmanship Bid In Style _____ | 20 | Journalist To The Rescue Of Breastfeeding African Mothers With New App _____ | 59 |
| Africa Can Do Better- Raila Odinga On AU Vision _____ | 23 | Africa's Trade Transformation: The Power of Technology for Sustainability _____ | 62 |
| Amb Omar Arouna on the Center for Cyber Diplomacy and Leadership _____ | 25 | The world Is coming to Nigeria For The Global Entrepreneurship Festival _____ | 65 |
| A Heavy Toll For Africa In Climate Change Fight _____ | 29 | Zanzibar- Brazilian Market and Luxury Resorts Fueling Tourism Boom _____ | 68 |
| AEC Condemns CRI's Campaign to Block Uganda Oil Project _____ | 32 | Francis Ngannou v Ferreira - A Battle of Titans to Shake the MMA World _____ | 70 |
| AEC's Ayukegba Touts Improved African Operating Environment At AAPG _____ | 34 | | |
| Zoom On 25 Years Of NEUMAN & ESSER In Egypt _____ | 37 | | |
| Burkina Faso- Traore Takes On Mining Sector In Nationalization Drive _____ | 41 | | |

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS

7614 Green Willow Court, Hyattsville, MD 20785

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

Managing Editor

Ajong Mbapndah L

Contributors

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

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

Advertising

Email:
pav@panafricanvisions.com,

Graphic Designer

Atemnkeng Jerry M,
(Young Jerry)
EC designs, Abudhabi - UAE
Whatsapp: +971 54 739 2997
inboxyoungjerry@gmail.com

Cameroon's Complex Samuel Eto'o Equation

By Ajong Mbapndah L

Hate him or like him, nothing has crystallized the news cycle and polity in Cameroon than the name Samuel Eto'o in the last three years and counting. Already a lightning rod is his heyday as a football, the emergence of the iconic star as President of Cameroon's Football Association has brought out his best and worst impulses. The raging debate on Eto'o have inadvertently exposed the deep fissures, anxiety, cacophony and ominous signs as President Biya inevitable approaches the sunset of his 40 plus years rule.

From serious issues like the choice of coaches, to basic ones like the choice of a stadium to host the recent AfCON qualifying match with Namibia, it has been a show of shame for a country with the football pedigree of Cameroon. In a country where humongous sums were spent on building and renovating stadia for the 2021, it is mind boggling that Cameroon for whatever reasons should be engaged in a dog fight on where to play games.

As a footballer, there was unanimity in Cameroon, Africa and the world about the talent of Samuel Eto'o. As FA Manager, the results, at least three years into his first term have been at best mitigated. His supporters still believe that he is the ideal choice to modernize and restore Cameroon's critically malaised football sector to its glorious past. His critics think as a manager, he should hang up his boots for chronically bad managerial decisions that have embarrassed the country on the continental and global stage.

As a global elite actor in the world of football, Eto'o has seen it all; he is in his element and should be able to produce great results. Indeed, Samuel Eto'o has been clear eyed in his critique of the management of football in Cameroon and his campaign manifesto was full of lofty promises. The campaign promises have however not been in sync with the results and no matter how sympathetic one tries to be, some of the errors have been of his own making, Yet, the fact remains that there are many within political and sports circles who seem to be rooting for Eto'o to fail for diverse reasons.

Known for his pride, generosity, supreme self-confidence, and oversized ego amongst other attributes,



Ajong Mbapndah L, Managing Editor

Eto'o is not one to easily back out of a fight and has stood his grounds in a fight with the Sports Minister on attempts to encroach into territory and prerogatives that he considers his as FA President.

As a self-avowed partisan of President Biya, Eto'o has earned the scorn of many within the opposition. To them, Eto'o cannot pretend to be an agent of change, while throwing his support behind a regime and a leader who incarnate the incompetence, corruption and nepotism that has brought Cameroon to the edge of the precipice.

For all his support to President Biya, it is paradoxical that some of the most acerbic critiques of Eto'o come from the ruling party cadres. He is viewed by some as too ambitious and in a TV interview earlier this year, Eto'o said part of his woes stem from the fact that regime apparatchiks have deep mistrust about his own political ambitions. While Eto'o says he has no political ambitions, there seems to be a school of thought that thinks he may be nursing presidential ambitions of his own and may be planning to emulate the example of former Liberian President George Weah, who was himself a global soccer star.

Hearing Cameroonians talk about Eto'o on TV networks, the social media and in the streets, you will get the impression that the man is either the prime source of the myriad of problems plaguing Cameroon, or he is the one with the magic wand to solve all the problems. Eto'o is probably none of these, but the divide is deep seated and growing stronger with ramifications that will go beyond the sphere of football.

For every passing day that Eto'o dominates the news cycle, no one talks about the conflict in the English speaking North West and South West regions of Cameroon, less attention is focused on the abysmal state of infrastructure, the endemic state of corruption, the filth that has engulfed major cities in the country, the galloping inflation and the monstrous unemployment rates.

Indeed, Eto'o is now the decoy to shun the collective responsibility needed to salvage Cameroon from the doldrums. One is even tempted to ask if the Biya regime is not surreptitiously fanning the flames of the chaos within football circles, so Eto'o continues to crystallize attention and divert attention from their own gapping short comings.

Atleast from his rhetoric, you get the feeling Eto'o genuinely has the desire to change things. His management style may be mercurial as his detractors say, but the FA that he runs was overdue for reforms and a management style more in sync with global standards and realities.

Though his leadership has been labeled corrupt with tales of match fixing, favoritism, and high handedness, the desire to get footballers treated with respect, and paid better has been consistent.

Sources close to the FA President say some of his misery stem from the fact that he has starved off access to many shady characters who had unfettered access to funds generated and meant for football and footballers.

Ultimately, Eto'o will be judged at the end of his mandate if he survives the chaos and minefields that continue to pop up against him. Few Cameroonians have the popularity that he has. He is not only good at sucking the pressure and criticisms that should have been directed at the regime but could also be an asset for the 91 years old President Paul Biya should he yield in to the growing chorus from his supporters to seek another term in 2025.

On a broader perspective, the challenges facing Eto'o maybe symptomatic of the issues that anyone seeking to replace President Biya should expect. The change Cameroonians yearn for will not come easy. That Eto'o is getting it

rough at the FA, facing resistance and strong criticisms even from some of the strongest voices who have been screaming change for years speaks volumes on the Cameroon anomaly.

If the passion that Eto'o has generated in the raging debate on football can be transposed to other sectors begging for attention, Cameroon will be a better. If the expectations and standards Cameroonians expect from him are the same standards expected from the President, the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Senators, MPs and others, Cameroon will be a better place. If Cameroonians can hold local government officials with the same vigor, the towns will be cleaner. Some of them have been in the same positions for decades and Eto'o is three years into his first mandate.

Hate him or love him, Eto'o has shown the desire to serve and the audacity to try. In a country where anything goes, his audacity to challenge the status quo when it seeks to thrive on illegality or defy its own conventions as it has so glaringly done in the past is commendable. Few are Cameroonians who pull crowds and generate passions the way he does. It is an asset and a liability that will be exploited in even greater intensity by his political friends, his enemies or those competing for the same space and why not himself? Ambitions are legitimate!

The change that Cameroonians and Africans want will not come from a different planet. They have to be the architect of the change they want. It is why Raila Odinga is leaving his comfort zone in Nairobi to take on the challenge of providing Africa with a more audacious Leadership at the African Union. In this issue of PAV, Mr Odinga shares insights into the transformative agenda he is mulling for Africa. The issue also takes a look at the endorsement of President Mutharika in Malawi for a rematch with his successor, 25 years of democracy in Nigeria, progress with the new capital city of Tanzania, the nationalization program of President Traore in Burkina Faso, the outcome of the 2nd edition of the Central African Think Tank Forum, and more. Happy reading!!!



NEUMAN & ESSER

Proven OEM Solution for the Refinery Segment

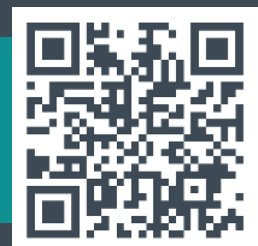


As an OEM for reciprocating and diaphragm compressor solutions, we cater to the traditional refinery business of Oil & Gas, Chemicals & Petrochemicals, as well as the emerging H2 economy. Based on a century of expertise in hydrogen compression, NEUMAN & ESSER delivers integrated H2 value chain projects, including electrolyzers, steam reformers, and HRS.

OEM service beyond pure maintenance and repairs. Revamping, rehabilitating, and modernizing get our clients' systems back to original state, ready for the next decades of high availability and reliability. For the NEUMAN & ESSER as well as for 12 other compressor brands, as certified and agreed license holder.

Family-owned for almost 200 years, a partner of trust in the industry: More than 1,500 employees in a global production and service network are bringing challenging projects to life – for the energy infrastructure of tomorrow.

Enjoy our new Web Presence:
www.neuman-esser.com



Zimbabwe Assumes SADC Chairmanship

By Prince Kurupati

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa is the new Southern African Development Community (SADC) chairperson. President Mnangagwa succeeds Angolan President Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco and will lead the 16-member bloc for the next 12 months.

The Zimbabwean President took the reins at the 44th SADC Heads of State and Government Summit held at the new Parliament building in Mt Hampden, Harare. In his acceptance speech, President Mnangagwa said he takes over the leadership of the regional bloc “with humility and grace” and promised to advance the regional agenda.

During his speech, the Zimbabwean leader largely called upon southern African countries to prioritize and embrace innovation, science and technology saying they are the pillars to the realization of maximum value in all of the region’s resources. He rallied southern African countries to be self-reliant and be masters of their destiny.

“Ultimately, the burden and responsibility to build our countries and the region as a whole for sustainable prosperity lies with us, the great peoples of SADC... In Zimbabwe, our development philosophy is that a country is built, governed and prayed



The theme of the summit was promoting Innovation to unlock opportunities for sustained economic growth and development towards an industrialized SADC.

for by its people... Likewise, our region, SADC, will be modernized and industrialized by its own citizens, through our individual and collective efforts,” said President Mnangagwa.

Emphasizing the significance of the theme for the 44th SADC Heads of State and Government Summit, which reads, ‘Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Growth and Development towards an

Industrialized SADC’, President Mnangagwa pinpointed innovation, science and technology as the main drivers towards the realization of the region’s industrialization and modernization ambitions.

“It is a clarion call for our respective countries to leverage on the region’s human capital to spur technology and innovation that will leapfrog the modernization and industrialization of SADC towards a higher quality of life of our citizens... to this end, it has become critically important and urgent to harness the potential of innovation to produce goods and services through value addition and beneficiation of our rich mineral and related natural resources,” President Mnangagwa said.

As the SADC Chairperson, President Mnangagwa will work with the immediate previous Chairperson and the next Chairperson in a Troika system. As stated on the official SADC website, “The Troika system vests authority in this group to take quick decisions on behalf of SADC that are ordinarily taken at policy meetings (SADC Heads of State and Government Summit) scheduled at

regular intervals, as well as providing policy direction to SADC Institutions in between regular SADC Summits. This system has been effective since it was established by the Summit at its annual meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, in August 1999. Other member states may be co-opted into the Troika as and when necessary.”

Significantly, as the Chairperson of SADC, President Mnangagwa will also act as the top representative of the regional bloc at international forums. During the African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) Summits, President Mnangagwa will get a front-row seat at important meetings and will interact with a wide array of global leaders. This, therefore, gives him the chance to enhance not only SADC but Zimbabwe’s international standing. With the Mnangagwa administration in Harare currently pursuing a re-engagement drive with the West, assuming the SADC chairmanship at this juncture for President Mnangagwa couldn’t have come at a much better time.

While assuming the SADC chairmanship is supposed to be routine as it comes on a country-by-



The burden and responsibility to build our countries and the region as a whole for sustainable prosperity lies with us, the great peoples of SADC, says Mnangagwa.

country rotational basis, things were quite different in Zimbabwe before, during and after the Summit. Ruling party supporters and pro-Mnangagwa sympathizers were overly impressed with everything. Leader of the Labour, Economists and African Democrats (LEAD) party, an opposition party in Zimbabwe albeit one which is largely viewed as an appendage to the ruling party had this to say:

“Congratulations to Zimbabwe on assuming the chairmanship of SADC, under the leadership of Head of State, President Mnangagwa. The milestone presents an opportunity for exemplary leadership, unity, and economic growth. With a united currency, SADC nations can enhance trade and propel the region into an economic powerhouse in Africa. This milestone is an opportunity to champion a new era of regional integration and prosperity. Under the leadership of President Mnangagwa, we trust that Zimbabwe will promote unity of purpose across all member states. Now is the time to take bold steps toward realizing a truly borderless SADC region where cooperation thrives and a shared currency strengthens our economies,” Masarira said.

Others were impressed with the Summit not necessarily by President Mnangagwa’s assumption of the SADC chairmanship, but rather, the work which was done in preparation for the event. The major roads in the capital city, Harare, were resurfaced, and streets were cleaned of vendors. The Robert Gabriel Mugabe Airport underwent a major touch-up,



Zambian President Hichilema was conspicuously absent at the Harare SADC Summit.

while the new Parliament itself has immaculate landscaping and is not surrounded by state-of-the-art villas.

However, not everyone was receptive to President Mnangagwa’s assumption of SADC chairmanship. Beyond the cosmetic improvements, the civic space significantly shrunk. In the lead-up to the Summit, there was heavy deployment of the security forces in all urban centres. Several pro-democracy activists were targeted with some arrested after being pulled off from the plane. Reports of many others who were arbitrarily arrested emerged. Lending truth to all the allegations were the pronouncements by the ruling party ZANU (PF) Secretary for Information and

Publicity Christopher Mutsvangwa who said all ‘unruly’ elements aiming to cause despondency when there are ‘visitors around’ will be dealt with accordingly. Further reinforcing the hand of the ruling party in the arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances of the pro-democracy activists were pronouncements of Christopher Mutsvangwa after the Summit commanding law enforcement authorities to release the pro-democracy activists as the ‘visitors’ were gone.

The targeting of the pro-democracy activists led the Democratic Alliance (DA) of South Africa, which is the second biggest party in the country’s Government of National

Unity (GNU), to call for a change of venue. DA said hosting the Summit in Zimbabwe, where pro-democracy activists were being hounded, is aiding ‘evil’. Despite the DA’s call, the Summit was still held in Zimbabwe.

While many of the past SADC Heads of State and Government Summits haven’t recorded a 100 per cent attendance, the absence of the Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema was viewed as nothing more but a snub. The Zambian President is viewed as an adversary by the Zimbabwean ruling party something evidenced by the constant public attacks on his person by some top Zimbabwean politicians aligned to the ruling party.

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

Ethiopian



**African
Energy
Week**

CTICC
Cape Town, South Africa
4-8 November 2024

AEW24 DRAFT PROGRAMME

BE IN THE KNOW



Buy Ticket
aecweek.com

MAKING
ENERGY
POVERTY
HISTORY
BY 2030



African Energy Chamber

www.aecweek.com

Tanzania Sets Sights On \$5 Billion New Capital City

By Adonis Byemelwa

The Government of Tanzania has embarked on an ambitious journey to construct a new capital city named Magufuli, with a staggering investment of \$5 billion. This new city, located 17 kilometers from Dodoma, the current capital, is poised to become the administrative heartbeat of the nation, designed to house government buildings and services across over 617 hectares of land.

Named in honor of the late President John Magufuli, who passed away in 2021, the city will be meticulously divided into zones, each dedicated to different government ministries and diplomatic offices.

Magufuli City is more than just a relocation of government functions; it represents a bold vision for the future of Tanzania. The Tanzanian government envisions this new administrative capital as a catalyst for enhancing government efficiency and streamlining bureaucratic processes.

With several government offices already under construction, the project is gradually taking shape, signaling the government's commitment to its completion despite the financial and logistical challenges that lie ahead.



Tanzania's \$5 Billion dream Magufuli City is set to redefine the nation's future. Photo file

The National Housing Corporation (NHC), responsible for much of the work on Magufuli City, acknowledged the daunting nature of the project but remains resolute in its commitment.

«We are aware of the financial and logistical challenges but are committed to seeing this project through. The benefits of efficiency,

economic growth, and improved quality of life are immense,» stated an NHC spokesperson. This sentiment accentuates the high stakes involved and the government's determination to deliver a modern, efficient capital that will drive Tanzania's progress on multiple fronts.

Tanzania's ambition to construct

Magufuli City is part of a broader trend across Africa, where countries are undertaking large-scale construction projects to improve quality of life and stimulate economic growth.

For instance, Ethiopia recently announced plans to build the continent's largest airport near Bishoftu, approximately 40 kilometers from Addis Ababa. This mega airport aims to process 110 million passengers annually by 2029, surpassing all other airports in Africa. Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tasew emphasized the economic significance of the project, stating, «The project will not only enhance connectivity but also drive economic growth and prioritize environmentally responsible practices in our country and beyond.»

Similarly, Senegal's \$6 billion Akon City, backed by the famous singer Akon, has captured global attention. However, despite its grand vision to transform an area south of Dakar into a futuristic metropolis, the project has faced significant challenges. The Senegalese government recently issued an ultimatum to commence substantial construction work or risk



The new capital city is named after late Tanzanian President John Pombe Magufuli .Photo courtesy.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (first left) browses vegetable stalls at a market in the newly established Dodoma City. Photo State House.

losing much of the 136 acres of land allocated for the project. Four years into the project, only a single arched concrete block marks its foundation, casting doubt on its future.

Back in Tanzania, Dodoma's transformation since its official declaration as a city in April 2018 has been remarkable. The population of Dodoma has surged from 410,956 in 2012 to 765,179 in 2022, reflecting an 86% increase in just a decade. This rapid population growth has brought about significant changes to the city's ecological systems, particularly its forests and natural vegetation. Environmental stakeholders have voiced concerns about the potential environmental impact of this population surge and have called on the government to ensure proper urban planning to prevent encroachment and unplanned construction.

During the 2024 Sustainable Development Forum organized by the Uongozi Institute in Dodoma, Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango highlighted the importance of preserving open spaces and parks amid the city's rapid development. He directed the Dodoma City Council to establish three parks by 2025, emphasizing the need for collaboration with the Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) and the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS).

«I am aware that the Dodoma City Authority has allocated areas for

these parks. I encourage the city to announce investment opportunities for these pioneer parks,» Dr. Mpango stated.

These parks, which will include green parks and a botanical garden, are intended to enhance Dodoma's appeal while contributing to environmental conservation.

Assistant Regional Administrative Secretary, Aziza Mumba, highlighted the significance of these green spaces in the city's Land Landscape Improvement Plan 2019–2039.

«The plan outlines that these areas should be planted with trees and preserve the existing natural vegetation. To beautify these areas, the plan is to plant trees and attractive flowers to make Dodoma more appealing and help purify the carbon dioxide produced by human activities,» Mumba explained.

However, the development and management of these green parks come with significant challenges, particularly in terms of financial resources. Mumba emphasized the need to adhere to the city's Master Plan and to survey and prepare titles for these areas to prevent encroachment by residents.

«There is a need to adhere to the presence of green park areas when preparing the city's Master Plan. We will survey and prepare titles for these areas to prevent encroachment by residents for other uses,» Mumba stated.

Urban planner Anna Paul raised concerns about the encroachment on road reserves within Dodoma, noting that businesses have set up garages and food stalls, contributing to the city's cleanliness issues.

«Businesses are setting up garages, and others are selling chips, which is making the city dirty. We have advised that these reserves be planted with trees and flower gardens, and if businesses must operate, they should do so in designated areas,» Paul said.

To address the broader challenges of urban growth, the Director of Land Rights, Cuthbert Tomito, stressed the need to control horizontal urban expansion and instead promote vertical development.

«This will help reduce the speed of urban growth, which leads to deforestation and the clearing of many forests to set up buildings,» Tomito advised.

He also called for the reintroduction of the land ranger system to protect open spaces from encroachment, recalling that these explorers played a crucial role during the first and second phase administrations before their removal led to significant intrusion on open areas.

As Dodoma continues its transformation, water supply remains a critical concern. With a population of over 3.07 million, the city currently meets only 42% of its water demand.

Dodoma District Commissioner, Alhaj Jabir Shekimweri, outlined the

government's efforts to address this issue, including the drilling of deep wells in the Nzuguni area, which will increase the water supply by 11% of the demand.

Long-term solutions include the Lake Victoria water project and the construction of the Farkwa Dam, which are expected to curb the water shortage. The preservation of open spaces also remains a priority, with Shekimweri urging local government leaders to monitor and protect these areas.

«The encroachment on open spaces is due to political, commercial, and economic interests,» Shekimweri noted, highlighting that more than 20 of the region's 150 open spaces have already been encroached upon.

As part of Dodoma's ongoing development, the completion of the Dodoma City Council project in the Government City, Mtumba, known as the Government City Complex, has been prioritised. With a budget of Sh 18 billion from internal revenues, the project is expected to generate an estimated Sh 108 million in monthly revenue once completed.

Mayor Prof. Davis Mwamfupe emphasized the importance of maintaining high-quality work standards despite the urgency of completing the project.

Retired Major Johnnick Risasi, CCM District Chairman, suggested revisiting the project contract to avoid delays in other projects. Dodoma stands at a critical juncture in its history, balancing rapid development with the need for sustainable urban planning.

The city's leadership, along with various stakeholders, is working diligently to ensure that Dodoma not only serves as Tanzania's capital but also sets a benchmark for planned, sustainable urban development in the country.

The future of Dodoma, and indeed Tanzania, hinges on the successful implementation of these ambitious projects, with President Magufuli City leading the way as a symbol of progress and a testament to the nation's aspirations.

CHICAGO

Thrice weekly to over 54 Destinations in Africa



Business friendly arrivals and departures to/from Africa

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

www.ethiopianairlines.com

Ethiopian
የኢትዮጵያ
THE NEW SPIRIT OF AFRICA

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

Burundi-Ndayishimiye Torched On Shrinking Civic Space

According to the human rights watchdog Amnesty International, there has been no slowdown in intimidation, harassment, arrests, detention and unfair prosecution of human rights defenders, activists, journalists and opposition members in Burundi, since the inauguration of President Evariste Ndayishimiye. The president's spokesperson deplores "false accusations, different from the reality on the ground."

By Egide Lucky

“Despite hopes that Evariste Ndayishimiye’s presidency and government would bring an end to the era of repression, Burundi has witnessed a relentless crackdown on past and present members of civil society and those who question the government narrative on human rights,” reads Amnesty International’s research briefing released on August 21.

The report mentions individual cases to justify the “new wave of repression” in Burundi under President Ndayishimiye’s leadership. One of them is the imprisonment of Fabien Banciryano, former Member of Parliament, who was arrested on 2 October 2020 accused of “rebellion” and “threatening internal security.” He was released in October 2021.

The human rights watchdog also reminds the conviction in absentia of five human rights activists and seven journalists, in February 2021, “falsely” accused of participating in the failed 2015 coup d’état. They were sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of undermining state authority, murder and damage to property.

Amnesty International recalls the imprisonment of Floriane Irangabiye, a journalist arrested in August 2022 and released recently on August 16 following a presidential pardon.

The report also denounces interference in NGO activities. It states that in March 2022, police shut down a press conference organized by two civil society organizations to discuss their concerns about the Ministry of Interior’s ban on bicycles, tricycles and motorcycles from entering Bujumbura city center.

Amnesty International finds worrying the imprisonment of 24 people who were arrested in Gitega, the political capital, on 22 February 2023, as “they attended a workshop



Burundi President Evariste Ndayishimiye promised to promote freedom of expression in his inaugural address on 18 June 2020.

on economic inclusion organized by an organization focusing on HIV/AIDS.”

They were accused of “homosexuality” and several members of the group were also accused of “inciting debauchery.” They were released in January and February this year.

A call on authorities to respect human rights of all people

In the same report, Amnesty International appreciates that between late 2020 and mid-2021, there were signs that President Ndayishimiye was seeking to “loosen the stranglehold over civil society and the media.”

“In addition to positive comments about human rights, including the right to freedom of expression and the work to reopen media houses and a civil society organization that had been suspended for two years,

six human rights defenders and journalists who were in prison at the time he became president were released within a six-month period,” reads the report.

It cites, among others, the release of human rights activists Nestor Nibitanga and Germain Rukuki, and four Iwacu journalists and their driver.

Amnesty International calls on Burundian authorities to end arbitrary arrest, detention and prosecution of human rights defenders, and allow civil society organizations to freely carry out their activities without any interference or reprisal.

It urges Burundian authorities to fully decriminalize media offences, lift the ban against Burundian media outlets and human rights organizations suspended in 2015, as well as facilitate their return to Burundi through an effective and

inclusive dialogue process.

The human rights watchdog also calls on the international community not to “drop their guard” on monitoring Burundi’s progress to improve respect for human rights.

“With parliamentary elections scheduled for 2025, Amnesty International urges President Ndayishimiye and his government to take immediate and effective action to end repression of civic space. The human rights of all people in Burundi must be respected,” said Tigere Chagutah, Amnesty International’s regional director for east and southern Africa.

In an interview with BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) on August 24, the spokesperson to President Evariste Ndayishimiye said Amnesty International’s accusations of repression of civic space are different from the reality on the ground in

Burundi.

“They mention cases of journalists and human rights activists who were convicted before President Ndayishimiye assumed office. Many of them have been released since he took office, some through a presidential pardon,” said Rosine Guilene Gatoni, Burundi President’s spokesperson, adding that Burundi is governed by the rule of law.

According to her, Amnesty International seeks to tarnish the image of Burundi by ignoring its efforts to promote human rights.

In his inaugural address on 18 June 2020, President Evariste Ndayishimiye announced that “no Burundian will be deprived of their expression right, whether they are in Burundi or abroad.”

He said that dialogue would be prioritized under his leadership: “Let everyone express their opinion, their point of view.”



With parliamentary elections scheduled for 2025, Amnesty International urges President Ndayishimiye and his government to end repression of civic space. Photo credit Reuters.

South Africa-Seismic Political Shifts In Shivambu's Resignation

By Prince Kurupati



Shivambu, a founding member of the EFF, moved to the Mkhonto weSizwe (MK) party led by former South African president Jacob Zuma.

August 2024 is a month that’s likely going to be viewed as a critical juncture in South African politics. This is necessitated by the resignation of Floyd Shivambu from the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), crossing floors to the uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) party. Though only switching from one opposition political party to another, Shivambu’s resignation has been heralded by political analysts to be a move which sets in motion seismic changes in the South African political landscape.

Floyd Shivambu has served as the official ‘Number 2’ for the firebrand, EFF party since its inception in 2013. He has perennially been viewed as the brains behind the fast-growing EFF party, which has risen to become one of the top political parties in South Africa. Considering the fact that during his tenure as the EFF deputy president and lieutenant commander in chief for 12 years, he mainly headed policy, research and international relations, Shivambu certainly was a central

figure in the fast growth of the party. One of his main achievements is the establishment of the EFF Student Command (EFFSC), which plays a key role in mobilizing youths and young adults to the party.

For much of his political career, Shivambu has always been standing side by side or acting as lieutenant to Julius Malema, the president of the EFF. The two were summarily dismissed by the African National Congress (ANC), after which they joined forces to launch the EFF. Through successive policy papers including election manifestos and the book they co-edited titled, ‘The Coming Revolution: Julius Malema and the Fight for Economic Freedom’, the two have always shared brotherhood and followed the same ideas and ideals.

Owing to the strong camaraderie which has characterised the relationship between Shivambu and Julius Malema, it came as a complete surprise when on the morning of August 15, during a press conference, Shivambu announced that he was not

renewing his EFF membership, opting instead, to join the newly formed MK party. While the news caught many by surprise, Malema included; the mere fact that the press conference was attended by both Shivambu and Malema and that it was held at the EFF headquarters was initially viewed as a sign of maturity.

Impressed by what he saw during the press conference, political analyst Dr Sysman Motlounge while speaking in an interview with Newsroom South Africa said the dignified way in which the EFF announced its former deputy president Floyd Shivambu's resignation from the party shows how much he's being respected. Motlounge says EFF party president Julius Malema's announcement that the door will remain open for Shivambu's return is something not to be taken lightly.

In the weeks after the resignation of Shivambu, when many political analysts have had ample time to digest the repercussions of Shivambu's move, all agree that the move is a critical juncture in South African politics, albeit differing on how the EFF, MK and South African politics, in general, will be affected.

After learning of Shivambu's new role within the MK party that of, National Organizer with several appendages which include Head of Policy, Chief Strategist, Head of Governance, Political School Principal, and Principal IEC Liaison, political analyst Professor Susan Booysen said Shivambu will leverage the experience he amassed during his time with the EFF and will be instrumental in the expansion and consolidation of the MK party in South African politics.

Professor Dirk Kotzé also agreed saying the contacts that Shivambu has especially in Parliament will come handy for the MK party. He, however, went on to state that the move will likely bridge the gap between far-left parties in the country, something that is quite significant considering the recent trends in the country's politics where coalitions are the order of the day. He said Shivambu's action might



No love lost between EFF leader Julius Malema and his former deputy Floyd Shivambu. Photo courtesy.

open the path for more cooperation, particularly as both parties negotiate the changing political terrain ahead of the next elections. This position does hold water, especially when drawing parallels with the sentiments expressed by Shivambu at his last press conference inside the EFF headquarters, where he said his resignation was not a sign of distrust in the EFF but a "revolutionary gesture that will unite progressive forces behind an agenda to work for progressive and revolutionary change".

In the aftermath of Shivambu's switch to the MK party, Colleen Makhubele, the leader of the SA Rainbow Alliance (SARA) disbanded her party and joined the MK party. Makhubele, who is a former Johannesburg council speaker, said the MK Party has "become a beacon of hope to unite and rally African leaders and their people." This

move thus solidifies the argument that Shivambu's switch to the MK party will help bridge the gap between far-left parties in South Africa.

Instead of strengthening the relationship between far-left parties in South Africa, some political experts argue the move taken by Shivambu will further destroy the EFF while elevating the MK party. They argue that the move done by Shivambu further showcases the ever-widening gap between the EFF and MK, as the MK party is responsible for dethroning the EFF from its 3rd biggest political party status to 4th in South Africa. They cite the results of the May 29, 2024, general elections as evidence for this.

Moreover, there is the fear that owing to Shivambu's high status in his previous role in the EFF party, in his capacity, he had a lot of supporters

who follow him rather than the EFF ideology. This, therefore, means with his move, others will follow hence weakening the EFF's support base. This argument does hold water as at the time Shivambu resigned and switched to the MK party, Honourable Mzanele Manyi switched sides also. Manyi has since been appointed as the new Chief Whip for the MK party. To all party supporters who harbour such ambitions, Malema said the party will not hold them hostage. "We have no reason to beg anyone. If you want to leave, leave now and leave us alone," Malema stated.

A couple of weeks after Shivambu left the EFF, Julius Malema addressed his party supporters and stated that "everything that looks like the former deputy president shall be dismantled in the EFF and gotten rid of with immediate effect." This essentially demonstrates how the EFF has already embarked on a broader re-evaluation drive. Among the casualties of this drive, according to many political analysts, will be key members of the party with strong links to Shivambu. Names of top party leaders touted to follow in the footsteps of Shivambu include national chairperson Veronica Mente, deputy secretary general Poppy Mailola and head of political education, Mbuyiseni Ndlozi.

Meanwhile, during the last two weeks of August, when the South African political landscape was dominated by the news of Shivambu's resignation and its effects, the African National Congress (ANC) officially expelled former President Jacob Zuma as a party member. Zuma was expelled after missing the 21-day deadline to appeal his expulsion. He was facing charges of registering and campaigning for the MK party while he is still an ANC member. Commenting on Zuma's expulsion, ANC Veterans League president, Snuki Zikalala said this is a message to those who undermine the party and take it as a stepping stone. "For him (Zuma) to establish the MK party is nothing else but counter-revolutionary," Zikalala said.



Shivambu is already taking on strategic roles in the running of the MK. Photo courtesy.



African Energy Week
Cape Town, South Africa
4 - 8 November 2024

**MAKING
ENERGY
POVERTY
HISTORY
BY 2030**

Invest in African Energies
**Energy growth through
an Enabling Environment**

Speak | Sponsor | Exhibitor: sales@aecweek.com

 **CTICC**, Cape Town



BUY Ticket
aecweek.com



African Energy Chamber



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

Are you looking for more product or brand awareness?
Are you trying to drive more traffic to your site?
Are you trying to grow your business or network with decision makers?
Do you need cost effective advertisement that will be seen by millions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTACT US

+ 1 2404292177

pav@panafricanvisions.com

www.panafricanvisions.com

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



Malawi-Mutharika Scales Hurdle For Chakwera Re-match

By Joseph Dumbula.

Former Malawi President Peter Mutharika insists one thing about the 2025 elections: That at the age of 83, it is only him with the mantra to address socio-economic woes that that Southern African nation continues to grapple with. He says he wants to save his people.

The bold Mutharika went unopposed during the convention for his party, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in Malawi's commercial capital Blantyre.

The Law Professor dared his party followers to remain united saying they intend to defeat the incumbent President Lazarus Chakwera who was also unopposed as torchbearer for the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) at its convention in the capital city Lilongwe.

Mutharika, who lost to Chakwera in 2020's fresh presidential poll as sanctioned by the courts over irregularities in the 2019 elections has also been insisting that the call by the courts was a 'coup'.

Taking to the podium, the former president said he is the only hope at the views that during his reign from 2014, his regime had been able to stabilize the currency, reduce inflation, restore security, and nurture a thriving business environment.

He therefore said, Chakwera's MCP cannot be voted into power by anyone, even a drunkard because



Prof Peter Mutharika says he will put Malawi back on the rails if elected in 2025.

his leadership is clueless, a banter that sent the entire delegates into laughter.

He has also said the narrative about his age, is being advanced by his competitors who know his worth and that he is the sole person to face them head on, before the ballots in 13 months' time.

He said: "I feel very strong recently and I had a stress test from a cardiologist and I was told that I have a heart of a 19-year-old. I can assure you that the day I feel that I cannot discharge my duties either as

a candidate or president because of my health I will know and I will quit. I have no intentions of embarrassing myself or my family no way not for any job on earth," he said in an interview with a local station Times Television.

"The country has been left to go to the dogs. From people spending nights on queues at the Immigration department to the World Bank reporting the worsening of poverty, the plight of Malawians has never been worse since we attained multiparty democracy. The economy on the other hand keeps tanking with silent devaluations, runaway inflation and unavailable forex to support local businesses and industries. In this darkness, I know that most people would easily lose hope. I am here, however, to urge you all Malawians to not lose hope,"

He added: " Help is coming next year and things will get better again. As the Malawi Electoral Commission will be rolling out voter registration, go out in numbers and register so we can kick out this clueless leadership. No suffering Malawian should be disenfranchised. We cannot survive

another 5 years of this tragic failure,"

Mutharika said he also insists to run for presidency because the votes his party got in 2019 and 2020 had been the same, permutations he believes show the trust that people have in his leadership.

He said: "I forgave you for voting without knowing the kind of leadership. See, all these problems now. But, here I am."

Under the Chakwera government, the Southern African has tumbled on the corruption index and faced the devaluation of the Malawi Kwacha by 44 percent, situations Mutharika subtly said he would have addressed. His party, the DPP has overtime been buoyed by the support from the Southern Region where he hails from.

Apparently, Mutharika has hinted on forming an electoral alliance with the United Democratic Front (UDF), the Aford and the UTM-which was led by Saulos Chilima, who was the Vice President until his death after a plane crash in June.

Aford, led by Enoch Chihana, son to revolutionist and politician Chakufwa Chihana and the UTM have recently left the Tonse Alliance, an electoral



Malawi's race to the bottom under President Chakwera must be stopped, says Prof Mutharika.

alliance which ushered Chakwera and Chilima into power.

The two parties accuse the MCP of greed, claims the party has reserved a response to.

Using the Biblical verses from the book of Daniel, Mutharika said Chakwera's government would be divided among the four parties saying Malawians are tired on an unstable

economy and maladministration.

Mutharika took over the DPP mantle from his brother Bingu who led the nation from 2004 as president before he succumbed to a heart attack in April 2012.

This poll will mean that it would be essentially his fourth time on the ballot regardless quoting from 2014, 2019, 2020 and 2025.

In the meantime, processes ahead of the polls have been launched by the Malawi Electoral Commission, a process that includes voter registration, monitoring the voters roll and setting of campaign periods.

The poll in 2025 will be the first for Members of Parliament slot which were increased from 193 to 229, after massive proposals due to

geographical challenges among other things.

Political commentator Wonderful Mkhutche was quoted in the local media highlighting that it would remain a hurdle now, for a party to solitary mark the required 50+1 electoral threshold.

Assessing Twenty-Five Years of Democracy in Nigeria

By Jude Mutah*

Twenty-five years ago, the Federal Republic of Nigeria transitioned from military rule to a democratic system. During a colorful event in Abuja attended by leaders worldwide on May 29, 1999, the military transferred power to Olusegun Obasanjo, the democratically elected president. Obasanjo was formerly a military head of state who voluntarily handed power over to the civilian Second Nigerian Republic in 1979. When the country plunged back into turmoil following a coup that ended the short-lived Second Republic, he rose to prominence as an international political figure resisting military rule and championing democracy. In his inaugural speech, Obasanjo promised to improve the quality of life for Nigerians, strengthen public institutions, combat corruption, and advance good governance, among others. Nigeria has held successful elections from one administration to another, often altering political parties in power since then. However, whether life has improved for ordinary Nigerians remains contentious and merits exploration. This article gleans from various public sources to examine the current state of Nigeria's democracy - the practice of social equality- based on multiple factors discussed below.

Security

Ensuring adequate security for all citizens remains a significant challenge in Nigeria. Key challenges



Former Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, Goodluck Jonathan, Muhammadu Buhari, and Bola Tinubu are amongst the democratically elected leaders in the last 25 years.

that continue to haunt the Federation include deadly farmer-herder clashes, banditry and kidnapping for ransom, separatist and gang violence, and Islamic insurgency, especially in the North East, North West, North central and the Niger Delta to a lesser extent. The issue persists despite successive administrations declaring these overlapping security crises as a critical concern and promising to address it. For example, the Boko Haram terrorist group, which emerged over two decades ago in the northeast,

continues to wreak havoc in Nigeria—extending its violence to neighboring countries such as Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. The group has displaced and killed over 2 million and 40,000 people, respectively. In 2014, Boko Haram kidnapped over 200 school girls in northern Nigeria. In March 2024, the group kidnapped over 100 people, primarily women and girls, in a market town in Borno State, Northeast Nigeria, and another close to 300 school children in Kaduna State. Nigeria has witnessed about 20

mass kidnappings in the last decade alone by such insurgent groups. The atrocities committed by Boko Haram led to the establishment of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), a security coalition composed of soldiers from the four affected countries in the Lake Chad Basin – Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger – aimed at collaborating to eradicate the group from their territories. While the MNJTF has recorded successes since its formation – such as the release of

hostages, recapture of territory, and the elimination of several Boko Haram militants – it has faced several challenges, including a lack of adequate and centralized command, poor coordination, and inadequate resources, particularly securing funding. The coup d'état in Niger, the resulting tensions with Nigeria, and internal political struggles in Chad may only encourage the terrorists to regroup and perpetrate violent activities in the Basin.

Pundits have pointed to various factors that drive insecurity in Nigeria, including high unemployment and poverty rates for the enormous youth population, corruption, and exploitation of ethnic and religious divides by elites. Other factors include poor governance, weak leadership, inadequate security apparatus, porous borders, marginalization, and widespread inequality. Nigeria's inability to manage diversity has also created an enormous basis for mistrust at the governmental and inter-personal levels, resulting in grave security concerns. While Nigeria has primarily maintained a centralized police security system, critics have advocated for a decentralized approach to prevent bureaucratic bottlenecks from stopping prompt responses to security threats. Nigeria is now beginning to consider decentralizing its police force to delegate authority to the state level, given the rising insecurity across the country.

Human rights

Since the return to civilian rule, Nigeria's human rights record has improved significantly. Arbitrary arrests, detention, and torture that were prevalent during military rule have since subsided, even as current day Nigeria continue to exert enormous pressure on the media and other forms of freedoms, including religion. Press freedom was strictly limited, and citizens, including activists and whistleblowers, faced detention and torture in dreaded confinement. Some of that still exist today and more work still needs to be done. According to



Bola Tinubu of the ruling APC party celebrates with supporters following his victory in the 2023 presidential elections which like previous ones were laced with allegations of fraud. Photo courtesy

Amnesty International, the civilian population has suffered casualties and displacements from the conflicts between armed groups - such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) - and government security forces. Resorting to old methods, Nigerian authorities have responded with arbitrary arrests, torture, detention, enforced disappearance, and severe restrictions on freedoms of peaceful assembly and expression, raising concerns of human rights backsliding. Despite these challenges and like every politically advanced nation, the Federation now has a constitution that safeguards its citizens' rights. Nigeria houses a vibrant media presence and hosts some of the world's big media groups, such as FES media, Internews Nigeria, and BBC Media World Service Trust. Nigerians are increasingly organized and motivated to advocate for their rights via various means, including protests, as seen with the EndSars demonstrations of 2020, advocacy with government institutions, and even quiet diplomacy .

Economy

According to World Bank data, Nigeria's economy has witnessed periods of significant growth. From 2000–2014, it saw an average 7% annual increase. However, between 2015 and 2022, GDP per capita dropped as the growth rate decreased, driven by exchange rates, monetary policy distortions, and other factors. Statisense argues that the country had grown by about 192% since 1999, when the West African nation transitioned to civilian rule. Despite its enormous oil wealth, Nigeria's GDP was only about \$59 billion in 1999. That amount skyrocketed to a whopping \$375 billion 18 years later in 2017, primarily attributed to an expansion of vital economic institutions and foreign investments that were absent during military rule. But Nigeria's economy relies heavily on oil, with petroleum representing about 80% of its export revenue. The economy suffered a big blow and went into recession for the first time in over two decades when oil prices crashed in 2016, and it has yet to recover fully. Unemployment and inflation remain high and calls for diversification have yielded no results. As of the third quarter of 2023, the unemployment

rate is 5%, recording an increase of 0.8% from the previous quarter. Tapping into the agricultural sector and investing in infrastructure would create employment opportunities for the colossal youth population in Africa's most populous nation, especially as about 50 million of Nigeria's 80 million hectares of arable land remain unexploited.

Late last year, the Nigerian government implemented bold reforms, including removing fuel and electricity subsidies and implementing a unified market reflective foreign exchange rate. These essential reforms ushered painful adjustments - for example, retail gasoline prices increased rapidly. In addition, Nigeria's currency, the naira, depreciated significantly against the U.S. dollar by about 30%. This January, the inflation rate rose to about 30%, causing untold suffering and protests in a country where about 84 million people live under the international poverty line. The January protest was followed by another nationwide protest seven months later this August primarily by young Nigerians decrying bad governance, especially

the persistently high cost of living. To overcome these challenges, Nigeria must remain committed to policy reforms, such as restoring macroeconomic stability, boosting private sector competitiveness, and expanding social protection for the poor and vulnerable. While Nigeria's social protection system cushions the blow for those in poverty, the system's coverage and benefits still fall short. Effectively addressing these concerns is crucial for Nigeria to realize its full potential, enabling it to redefine its narrative and establish itself prominently on the global stage as one time Africa's largest economy,

leveraging its abundant human and natural resources. Nigeria must also tap into its burgeoning tech sector, arts and culture economy wielding robust influence these days.

Corruption

When Obasanjo ascended to power in 1999, he recognized corruption as Nigeria's worst problem and established an anti-graft institution to address it. Twenty-five years later, corruption remains «the greatest obstacle preventing Nigeria from achieving its enormous potential.» It continues to drain the Nigerian economy of billions of dollars, stall growth, weaken the social contract between the people and state, and foment conflict in the country. Nigerians struggle daily to deal with the devastating consequences of corruption and view the West African nation as one of the most corrupt worldwide. The menace cuts across various sectors and is often interconnected and perpetrated via multiple behaviors.

For example, electoral corruption is rife in the political sector, including the elites' kleptocratic capture of the political parties to unravel opportunities for progress and reform. Democratic norms are equally gravely undermined via brown-envelope journalism and other corrupt behaviors by the media. Nigeria also loses millions of dollars to corruption in the economic sector, including in the petroleum, agriculture, power,



People protest against hardship on the street of Lagos, Nigeria, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024. Photo credit AP, Sunday Alamba.

industrial, trade, and banking sectors. Moreover, Nigeria allocates enormous sums of money annually to secure the populace in a country where insecurity is a significant concern. However, corruption in the security sector – defense and police – is rampant and destabilizing, compounding insecurity, especially in conflict hot zones such as in the northeast, middle belt, and Niger Delta in the south. Graft in the educational, health, and humanitarian sectors saps the country of human and social capital, leaving the most vulnerable populations helpless. Rising insecurity and violence have resulted in citizens establishing self-defense or vigilante groups and ethnic militias for protection, often resorting to violence themselves in the absence of effective state intervention. For the past decade, conflicts related to farmers and pastoralists in north and central Nigeria alone have displaced over 3.5 million people and killed over 20 thousand.

Since 1999, all Nigerian presidents have identified corruption as a critical setback to the country's safety and prosperity. Yet, not much has been accomplished to eradicate the menace. According to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index 2023, Nigeria ranks 25 out of 100 (0 = highly corrupt; 100 = very clean), placing the Federation 145 out of 180 studied countries. Statistica, on the other hand, in 2021, raised Nigeria's rank to 154 from its 2012

rank of 149. Tackling corruption is challenging; in the words of former President Muhammadu Buhari, «If you fight corruption, corruption fights back,» insinuating Nigeria's unsuccessful struggle against graft.

Civil Society

Since the transition to civilian rule, civil society organizations have continued to advocate for the primary dividends of democracy to be shared among citizens. The amendment of the 1999 constitution recognized the essentiality of civil society for the country's democratic existence and allowed freedom of assembly and association. Nigeria's civil society has grown exponentially and continues to expand from religious bodies, traditional authorities, ethnic associations, development NGOs, and advocacy groups to media houses. Nigeria is host to over 30,000 non-governmental organizations. Civil society plays a critical role in Nigeria's democratization process.

The Nigerian civic space has made great endeavors toward democratic progress. The media, albeit with challenges, is more independent, even with flaws, election organizations are better, the government is more transparent, and some good legislation has been passed. However, enormous challenges abound. Press freedom, for example, is not fully realized, as journalists continue to face harassment, arrest, and detention primarily by state security agents. The

Center for Journalism Innovation and Developments reports that over a thousand journalists have been arrested and detained in Nigeria since the mid-1980s. The deteriorating condition for independent journalism in Nigeria is disconcerting, as highlighted by the recent arrest of 26-year-old Daniel Ojukwu on May 1, 2024, in Lagos. His arrest followed investigative reporting disclosing corruption involving senior Nigerian officials, which raised concerns about press freedom in the country. In any case, the Nigerian civil society organizations must remain strong,

united, and committed to advancing democracy and good governance for all Nigerians.

Conclusion

Nigeria has made remarkable progress since transitioning from military to civilian governance. Civil society has grown exponentially and remains committed to holding the government accountable, albeit with challenges. Press freedom and human rights have also witnessed some improvements or progress. While insecurity and corruption remain prevalent, Nigerians have not relented in raising awareness about these issues and exploring ways to address them. Continuing this commitment is the only way to continue Nigeria's progress. The Federation must recognize itself as a juggernaut on the continent, for what happens in Nigeria affects the entire continent. It is, therefore, important that Nigeria must not fail.

*Jude Mutah is a West and Central Africa programs officer at the National Endowment for Democracy. He served as an adjunct professor of International Affairs at the School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Baltimore in Maryland. He teaches Criminal Justice at the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University in California. Dr. Mutah holds a doctorate in public administration from the School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Baltimore, Maryland. —



GlobiQ
International

Expertise for Your Business Growth

Global Solutions, Local Insights

Our Services:

- **Market Entry and Due Diligence:** Comprehensive market analysis and secure ventures.
- **Governmental Relations:** Building and maintaining robust relationships with government entities.
- **Strategic Communications:** Crafting and executing effective communication strategies.
- **Crisis and Reputation Management:** Managing crises and maintaining a positive public image.
- **Media Placement and Training:** Securing media coverage and providing essential skills for effective communication.
- **Website and Wikipedia Creation:** Developing and maintaining professional websites and Wikipedia pages to enhance online presence and credibility.
- **Sports Business:** Leveraging sports as a platform for business development and investment opportunities.

Why Choose GlobiQ International:

- **Experienced Team:** Our team consists of highly professional individuals with training in law, AI, anti-corruption, finance, trade, diplomacy, policy, and politics. We also have former tier journalists working as consultants.
- **Proven Track Record:** We have successfully worked with listed firms, mining companies, high-net-worth individuals, politicians, governments, athletes, sports entities, energy companies, and wildlife organisations.
- **Comprehensive Services:** From strategic communications, due diligence, research advisory services to crisis management, we offer a wide range of services tailored to meet your needs.

Ready to Transform
Your Strategy?
Contact Us Today!



Kenya-Odinga Flags Off AUC Chairmanship Bid In Style

By Prince Kurupati

On 27 August, Kenya fresh from the turbulence of the Gen Z protests, officially launched the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairmanship bid for Raila Odinga. Popular politician Odinga who at one time was the Kenyan Prime Minister is looking to succeed Moussa Faki Mahamat of Chad as the next AUC Chairperson.

Odinga's bid for the AUC chairmanship has already received state backing and as a sign of the state's approval, the bid's official launch was held at the State House in Nairobi, Kenya. Gracing the event and lending massive support to Odinga were five heads of state and government as well as several other top public and private officials. Among the heads of state and government present at the official launch were Tanzania's Samia Suluhu Hassan, Uganda's Yoweri Museveni, South Sudan President Salva Kiir, Burundi Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca, and of course, Kenyan President William Ruto.

Former Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania who were the very first African statesmen to back



Hon Odinga Raila Odinga says he wants to transform the African Union into a people-centered organization.

Odinga in his quest to become the next AUC Chairperson were also in attendance.

Currently standing in between Odinga and his dream position of the AUC Chairperson are three

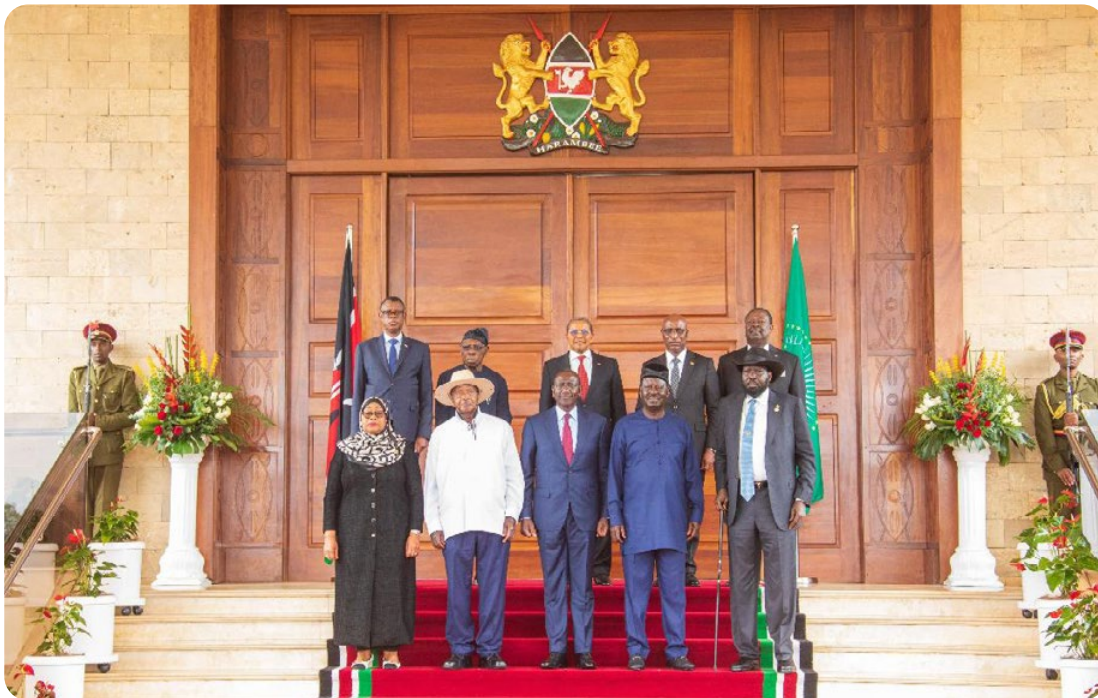
other aspirants namely, Djibouti's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahmoud Youssouf, Anil Gayan of Mauritius and Richard Randriamandrato of Madagascar.

Addressing all those in attendance

at the State House as well as the general populace of Africa, Raila Odinga in his speech promised to transform the African Union into a people-centered organization. He went on to state that he wants the organization to do what's right for the African citizens hence shake off the 'president's club' tag. This he said will be achieved through implementing comprehensive reforms.

"If elected chairman, I propose to utilize the transition period to critically analyze the existing proposals for reforms and building capacity of the AU Commission. The ultimate aim is to follow up on the implementation of the reports so far formulated," Odinga said.

Odinga acknowledged the plethora of problems that the continent is facing, which will likely affect him in implementing his proposed reforms. The former Kenyan Prime Minister stated, "Unfortunately, even as we rise, our continent still grapples with emerging challenges and vulnerabilities including identity conflicts and wars, hunger, poverty, violent extremism, adverse climate

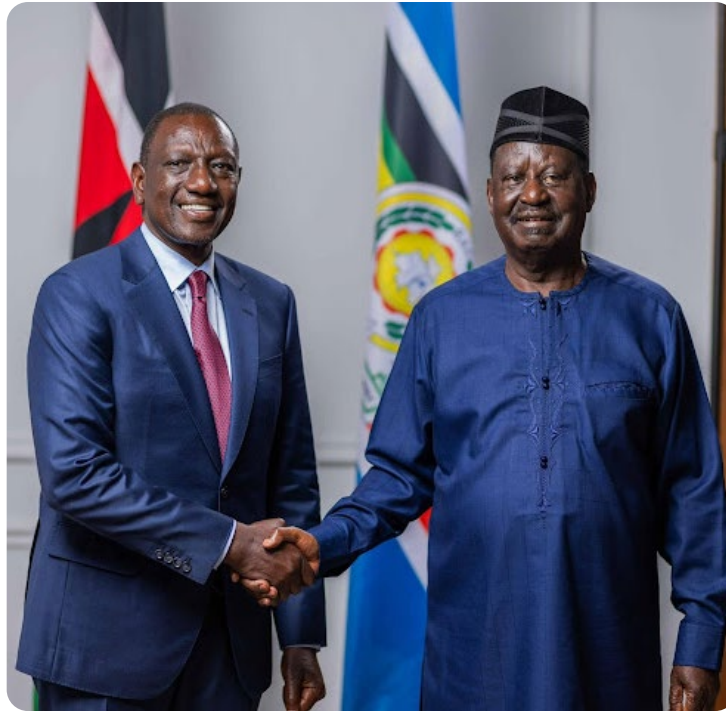


East African leaders have taken the lead in throwing their weight behind Raila Odinga's AUC Chairmanship bid.

change, acute unemployment among our youth, trans boundary pandemics and infectious diseases such as pox, and other threats to human security and dignity.” To this end, Odinga said every challenge will be faced head-on in collaboration with all African countries.

Moreover, Odinga added saying that as AUC Chairperson, he will not be an adversary to African governments but will complement the good work that all governments are doing. He noted some of the recent continental achievements and said he will work to ensure that the gains recorded continue to increase. “In February, the African Development Bank reported that Africa will account for eleven of the world’s 20 fastest growing economies this year. The continent is set to remain the second fastest growing region after Asia. I deeply appreciate your efforts in restoring hope on the continent, and it is my wish to have a chance to complement your efforts as AUC Chairperson,” Odinga said.

Kenyan President William Ruto who is a longtime political rival had a lot of good words for Odinga. Primarily, he said that the task of being the AUC Chairperson requires one to work for the betterment of the entire continent, and as such, everyone should get behind Odinga. “The assignment we are called upon to undertake at the African Union is



Hon Raila Odinga has a sterling reputation as a zealous Pan-African who has consistently demonstrated a strong faith in Africa’s possibilities, says Kenyan President William Ruto

the work of all Africans for all Africans and a noble course to bring our people and nations in touch with the glorious future... He (Odinga) has a sterling reputation as a zealous Pan-African who has consistently demonstrated a strong faith in Africa’s possibilities,” Ruto said.

Adding on, President Ruto said the longevity of Odinga in politics demonstrates his “unrelenting devotion to democratic change,”

hence one of the main reasons why he should be installed as the main advocate for African democracy.

Kenya’s deputy president Rigathi Gachagua who has also been reported to be an archrival of Odinga said he supports Odinga’s bid. He added saying any past differences were based on political competition and not personal.

With Odinga’s campaign bid for the AUC chairmanship officially

launched, the next critical process is to canvass the support of other African countries. The presence of several heads of state and government at the State House in Nairobi including the presence of Rwandan Foreign Affairs Minister Olivier Nduhungirehe means that Odinga already has a great starting point. Moreover, the support that Odinga has got from long back from Nigeria’s Olusegun Obasanjo and Tanzania’s Jakaya Kikwete means that he has powerful allies who will help him canvass the necessary numbers he needs.

As a major sign of confidence placed in him by East African countries, Odinga learnt from Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni that only he will have Uganda’s support. President Museveni said he welcomed Djibouti’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahmoud Youssouf in Uganda during his visit to canvass support. However, President Museveni said he was frank with him as he said he will only support Odinga.

On his campaign trail, Odinga will also be aided by a Secretariat jointly agreed on by Odinga himself and President Ruto. The Secretariat consists of Kenya Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Korir Singoei, former Kenyan Ambassador to the United States Elkanah Odembo as well as five other members from all five regions in Africa.

NKEMNJI

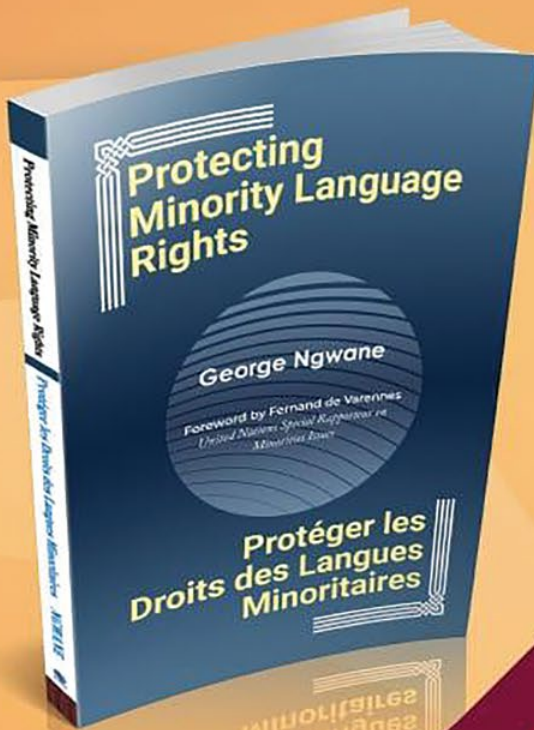


GLOBAL TECH
Graphic Design & Publishing



NEW RELEASE NOUVELLE PARUTION

By/Par George Ngwane



BOOK DETAILS

156 Pages | 6 x 9 | © 2023

ISBN: 9781957296104 (Paperback)

ISBN: 9781957296111 (eBook)

Also available as an eBook on
Google Play Books

“Le livre propose des idées sur la manière de rendre les Commissions linguistiques plus efficaces et de leur donner des capacités de mise en oeuvre.”

— Fernand de Varennes, Rapporteur Spécial sur les questions relatives aux minorités, Genève.

“... The book will offer those interested in linguistic rights, insights into the dilemmas facing African countries, set against the backdrop of developments in the international framework for the promotion of linguistic rights...”

— Professor Joshua Castellino
Executive Director & Professor of Law
Minority Rights Group International, London, UK



SCAN ME

CONTACT AUTHOR FOR COPIES

- +237-677-668-479
- gngwane1960@gmail.com
- Buea, Cameroon

PUBLISHER DETAILS

- info@spearsmedia.com
- www.spearsbooks.org
- Denver, Colorado, USA



Africa Can Do Better- Raila Odinga On AU Vision

By Ajong Mbatndah L

In prime position to serve as the next African Union Commission Chairman, Kenya's emblematic opposition leader and one of Africa's elder statesman Raila Odinga is resolute in his believe that Africa can do better. As part of his campaigns, Mr Odinga has met with over twenty heads of states and interacted with people of all walks of live as he measures the depths of challenges and how to put some spine for better results for an institution that has so far not lived to the expectations of many Africans.

From his own wealth of experiences and the outreach he has been doing, Odinga is clear eyed on what it will take to move the continent forward. Fielding questions from PAV ahead of the recent high profile official launch of his campaign in Nairobi Kenya, Raila Odinga shared his thoughts on issues ranging from integration, to infrastructure, the AU Agenda 2063, visas, energy, the African diaspora, and more.

Hon Raila Odinga, thanks for accepting to field questions from PAV, why the interest to run for the AUC Chairmanship at this moment, could you walk us through the thought process that led to your decision?

I have over the years developed a deep-rooted sense of African identity,



I have over the years developed a deep-rooted sense of African identity, extensive knowledge of the continent, and a well-known commitment to Pan-Africanism, says Hon Odinga

extensive knowledge of the continent, and a well-known commitment to Pan-Africanism. Following my four (4) year tenure as the AU High Representative for Infrastructure Development in Africa, there is inside me a deep conviction that AFRICA CAN DO BETTER. At the end of my tenure as AU High Representative for

Infrastructure Development in Africa, numerous friends, and especially African Leaders, have encouraged to consider continued service to Africa. It is therefore something I have given serious consideration and, consulted about extensively.

You have been crisscrossing the continent meeting with African leaders, what are these leaders telling you about the state of the AU and their expectations from the next AUC Chair?

Since announcing my interest and candidacy, I have met with and/or spoken with no less than 20 African Heads of State. Of course, I intend to meet with all of them ahead of the Elections in February. A common concern that I have gathered from the Leaders is the need for the AU Commission to ensure the Implementation of the numerous Resolutions

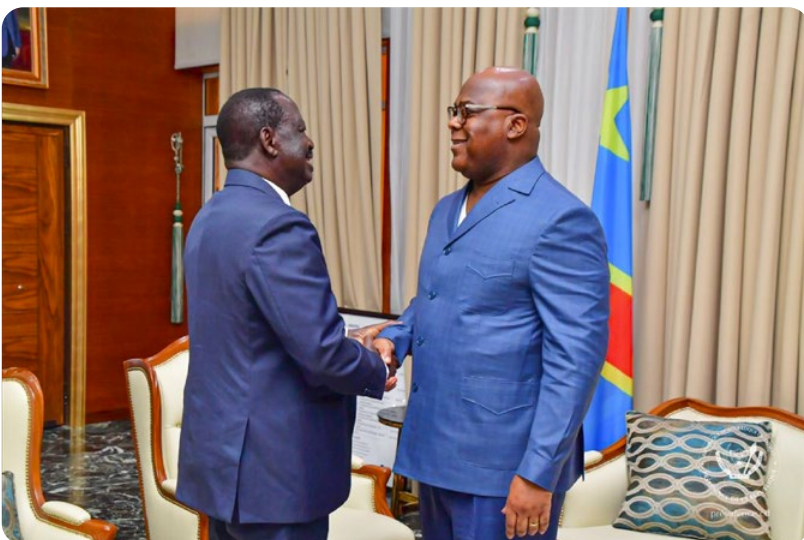
passed by the AU Summits, and other organs of the AU. Many are keen to see the process of Institutional Reforms completed. And many of the Leaders have expressed the desire to see the AUC reclaim its global status as a pre-eminent continental organization. Further, I sense the urgency for the AUC to effectively represent and advance Africa's interests on the continental stage.

From your own reading of the current state of the continent and vision, what are some of the priority areas or sectors that your leadership of the AUC will focus on?

In my application for the position of Chairperson of the AU Commission, I have prioritized five (5) issues:

- Ongoing institutional reforms within defined timelines and rationalized budgets.

- Ensuring that the AU is able to finance its own programs and operations. This is an enduring credibility concern for the African people.



Raila Odinga meeting with DRC President Tshisekedi. Many of the Leaders have expressed the desire to see the AU reclaim its global status as a pre-eminent continental organization, he says.

-Meaningful and effective Implementation of AU Agenda 2063, through a robust program of Implementation of the next 10-year plan (2024-2034) AND, the full Implementation of of the AfCFTA including swift elimination of non-tariff barriers.

-Embark on an urgent program to build strong, global, strategic PARTNERSHIPSwith the UN and the various regional organizations and institutions around the globe.

-Strengthen the African Peace and Security organ for sustainable and durable peace. This explicitly entails adequate investment in the continental peace and security architecture.

You previously served as High Representative for Infrastructure Development in Africa; may we know your legacy from this role and what are some lessons you drew from it on the depth of challenges facing the AU?

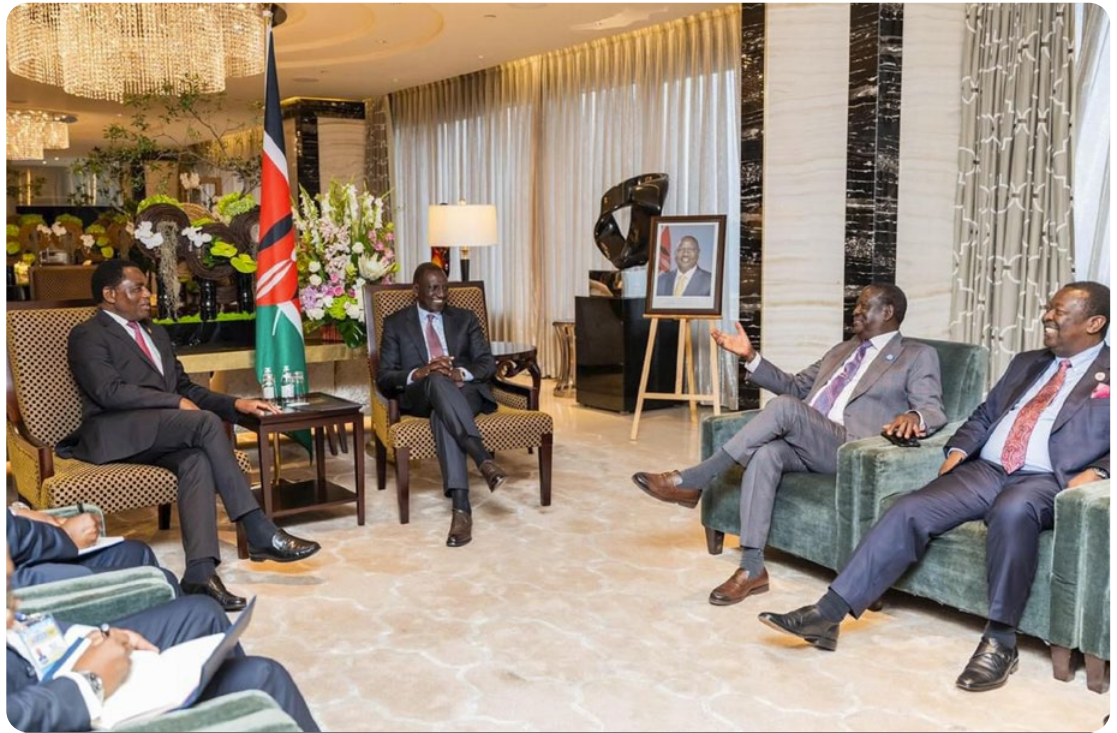
It was a great honour and privilege to serve as AU High Representative for Infrastructure. But keep in mind that my tenure also coincided with the global COVID pandemic.

I am proud of investing time, energy, and expertise in strengthening the efforts of the Commission in the implementation of the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) , rallying political support from Member States and the Regional Economic Communities(RECs) to advance Africa's infrastructure development , connectivity and integration.

In the last couple of years, there has been a surge in coups, especially in West and Central Africa, how concerned are you with this phenomenon especially with the growing fondness that many Africans now embrace these coups?

Yes, I am deeply concerned about the numerous coups (and attempted coups!) and, Elections that don't truly represent the will of the people.

Coups and Poor Elections management are symptoms of the challenges of maturing democracies,



Kenyan President Ruto and AUC candidate Raila Odinga in discussions on shared vision for Africa with Zambian President Hichilema. More needs to be done to ease travel across Africa , says Odinga

as well as the inability (thus far!) for many governments to fully internalize the value of GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY. And you can see that all over the continent the majority Youth population are raising fundamental issues of governance and accountability. Furthermore, the AU must restore the Union's ability and stature in resolving and/or averting conflict.

A few years ago, the AU passport was launched in Rwanda to much fanfare, no one talks about it today, and travel across the continent for most Africans is very frustrating even for people like Aliko Dangote, how will Hon Odinga as AUC Chair address this?

The Aliko Dangote case is a sad statement of the failure of our Leaders to appreciate the value of regional trade and integration and, why we must remove the barriers to movement of people across borders in Africa. this is a matter that I will place high in my «to do list» once I get to Addis. It really is common sense that if we want to grow our economies, facilitate trade, and hasten regional

integration, then our people must be able to move across borders without unnecessary restrictions and bureaucracies.

Considered as the 6th region of the AU, there is so much cacophony and frustration within the ranks of diaspora when it comes to its role, what is your vision when it comes to engagement between the continent and its diaspora?

Yes, the AU declared our Diaspora as the AUs 6th Region. A good first step. But what have we done to ensure that the incredibly RESOURCEFUL Diaspora is fully integrated into our Agenda 2063! What systems, mechanisms, and institutions have we put in place to meaningfully make the Diaspora an integral part of our continent's development? I raise these questions and concerns because this is the feedback my team and I are getting from our engagement with Diaspora groups. The answers to some of these questions will be the bases of a comprehensive program of engagement that we shall develop with Diaspora groups.

Should you win, you maybe taking

over at a time of great turmoil around the world Israel and Palestine, Russia and Ukraine, the debate on fossils versus renewable energy and so on, where do you see Africa on these global challenges?

GLOBAL TURMOIL

As mentioned earlier, the AU must step up and be counted in matters global. You have mentioned specifically the conflicts of Israel-Palestine, as well as Ukraine-Russia. And while this may not be the right forum to address these crisis, suffice it to say that the AU must stand up and support MULTILATERALISM.

But don't forget that right here in Africa we have the world's most urgent Refugee Crisis in the Sudan. The Sudan is an example of multilateralism being sidelined by parochial, vested interests.

FOSSIL FUELS/ RENEWABLE ENERGY

You have heard me state on numerous occasions that despite being the least contributor to global warming, Africa suffers the most from the effects of Climate Change.

Yes, it is time to phase out fossil

fuels if we are to save the planet. But this transition to renewables must be a just transition to allow Africa to exploit some of its natural resources as we prioritise manufacturing and value addition to create jobs for our people, create wealth, and grow our economies.

Even more importantly, you have heard me say on numerous occasions that Africa must harness our renewable energy sources of hydro, solar, geothermal,

and wind to ensure that our people have access to electricity and, for Africa to take the lead in the clean, green, renewable energy era.

May we know the support you have received from President William Ruto and the Kenyan government in fostering your ambition of serving as AUC Chair?

The Campaign for the AUC



Raila Odinga says a thorough evaluation will be done in view of a comprehensive program of engagement with the Diaspora.

Leadership is a NATIONAL PROJECT. I would not have embarked on this important agenda without the assurance and full support of H.E. President William Ruto AND the Government of Kenya. The Campaign Team includes people from the Presidency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and my Office. _____

Amb Omar Arouna on the Center for Cyber Diplomacy and Leadership

By Ajong Mbatndah L

For many African countries, the creation of the Center for Cyber Diplomacy and Leadership-CCDL could not have come at a better moment considering the critical stakes in the increasingly global world of today. The CCDL enhances cybersecurity awareness and practices among African leaders, aligning them with U.S. standards and equipping them to effectively address cyber threats and integrate cybersecurity into national security strategies.

“Our focus is on educating high-ranking leaders, including heads of state, ministers, ambassadors, and senior officials, to foster digital resilience and proactive cybersecurity governance across Africa,” says Ambassador Omar Arouna, Founder and Board Chair of the CCDL.

By enhancing cooperation and knowledge-sharing among African leaders, we aim to create a unified front against cyber threats, ensuring that African nations are not only



The CCDL is a manifestation of my belief that cybersecurity is integral to Africa's national security framework and future prosperity, says Ambassador Omar Arouna.

prepared to defend their digital infrastructure but also to lead in global cybersecurity governance, says Ambassador Omar Arouna in an exclusive interview with PAV. With a focus on cyber diplomacy and leadership, promoting a safer and more secure digital environment for all and programs designed to build capacity in areas such as cyber risk management, international cyber law, and national cybersecurity

strategies, the CCDL is well placed to help African governments, corporate institutions, Diplomatic missions, academic institutions and others to catch up with the rest of the world in boosting and better securing its digital space.

The CCDL is a manifestation of my belief that cybersecurity is integral to Africa's national security framework and future prosperity, says Ambassador Omar Arouna in the interview which also discusses the ground breaking partnership with the George Washington University and upcoming programs.

Ambassador Omar Arouna, thank you for joining us today. To start, can you tell us about the Center for Cyber Diplomacy and Leadership (CCDL) and why it was created?

Ambassador Omar Arouna: Thank you for having me. The Center for Cyber Diplomacy and Leadership (CCDL) was established to address the growing need for comprehensive cybersecurity strategies and leadership across Africa. Cyber threats have become increasingly sophisticated, posing significant risks to nations that lack the necessary digital infrastructure and strategic frameworks. I have spent my career advocating for African development, both through diplomatic roles and private sector engagements, and I saw a critical gap in how African nations approach cybersecurity. Thus, CCDL was created to fill this gap, empowering leaders with the tools and knowledge to protect their digital sovereignty, foster international cooperation, and drive positive change on the global stage.

You've had a distinguished career in diplomacy and leadership. How does your background inform your work with CCDL?

Ambassador Omar Arouna: My journey has been one of resilience and a deep commitment to the African continent. I have served as Benin's Ambassador to the United States, Mexico, and the Organization



The CCDL offers several high-impact programs designed to strengthen cybersecurity leadership in Africa, says Ambassador Omar Arouna.

of American States, where I was involved in strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in economic development and security. After my tenure as an ambassador, I focused on addressing the emerging challenges of cybersecurity in Africa. My experience on the global stage, from securing significant development aid through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) for Benin to my leadership roles in both the public and private sectors, has given me a unique perspective on the importance of digital resilience. The CCDL is a manifestation of my belief that cybersecurity is integral to Africa's national security framework and future prosperity.

The CCDL has partnered with George Washington University (GWU). Can you elaborate on this partnership and its significance?

Ambassador Omar Arouna: The partnership with GWU is strategic and deeply personal. I obtained my MBA in Cybersecurity from GWU, which provided me with invaluable

insights into the complexities of digital governance and cybersecurity. This collaboration allows us to leverage GWU's academic strengths to enhance cybersecurity education, promote research, and develop innovative solutions tailored to the challenges faced by African nations. Our joint efforts focus on equipping African leaders with the skills needed to navigate and address complex cyber threats, thereby fostering a secure digital environment that supports economic growth and stability.

Can you tell us about the Executive Director of CCDL, Dr. Pape Cissé, and his role in the organization?

Ambassador Omar Arouna: Dr. Pape Cissé is a key figure in CCDL, serving as our Executive Director. With over two decades of experience in cybersecurity and information technology, Dr. Cissé brings a wealth of expertise to the organization. He is the Founder and Principal of Digital Sources LLC and has served as Chief Information Officer for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

His academic background as an adjunct faculty member at George Washington University and his extensive experience in cybersecurity transformation, compliance, and planning are invaluable to CCDL. Dr. Cissé's leadership is central to our mission of fostering cybersecurity cooperation and developing robust cyber strategies that are crucial for Africa's future.

What are some of the key programs and initiatives that the CCDL offers?

Ambassador Omar Arouna: The CCDL offers several high-impact programs designed to strengthen cybersecurity leadership in Africa. One of our notable initiatives is the Distinguished Diplomacy Cybersecurity Fellowship. This program brings together a group of dedicated cybersecurity professionals who lead innovative research projects, provide thought leadership, and mentor the next generation of cybersecurity leaders across Africa. The fellows work closely with our leadership team and our partners,



The CCDL, GWU joint efforts will focus on equipping African leaders with the skills needed to navigate and address complex cyber threats, says Ambassador Omar Arouna.

such as GWU, to advocate for robust cybersecurity policies and drive forward impactful cybersecurity initiatives.

Additionally, our African Ambassadorial Cyber Diplomacy Roundtable is a significant forum tailored for African Ambassadors to collaborate with American cybersecurity leaders and experts. This event includes workshops, briefings, and simulations, such as a tabletop exercise simulating a cyber-attack on critical infrastructure, which provides valuable practical experience in managing and responding to cyber threats.

Could you share more about the goals of the CCDL and how they align with the needs of African nations?

Ambassador Omar Arouna: The primary goal of the CCDL is to empower African leaders and organizations to address the evolving

challenges in the digital landscape. We focus on cyber diplomacy and leadership, promoting a safer and more secure digital environment for all. Our programs are designed to build capacity in areas such as cyber risk management, international cyber law, and national cybersecurity strategies. By enhancing cooperation and knowledge-sharing among African leaders, we aim to create a unified front against cyber threats, ensuring that African nations are not only prepared to defend their digital infrastructure but also to lead in global cybersecurity governance.

Why is cyber diplomacy such a critical area of focus, especially in the 21st century?

Ambassador Omar Arouna: Cyber diplomacy is essential because it addresses the need for international cooperation in safeguarding digital infrastructures. The digital age has reshaped global interactions, making

cybersecurity a critical component of national security and foreign policy. Cyber diplomacy involves using diplomatic tools to manage cyberspace, align interests, and promote peaceful relations. For Africa, it is vital to engage in cyber diplomacy to protect its digital sovereignty and ensure its interests are represented in global cybersecurity norms and frameworks. By doing so, African nations can build resilience against cyber threats, promote stability, and foster international cooperation.

Finally, what is your vision for the future of CCDL and its impact on cybersecurity and diplomacy in Africa?

Ambassador Omar Arouna: My vision for CCDL is to be a leading force in promoting cybersecurity and cyber diplomacy across Africa. We aim to expand our programs, build stronger partnerships, and create a robust network of cyber

diplomats and professionals who can navigate the complex cyber landscape. Our fellowship program is central to this vision, as it cultivates future leaders who are well-versed in both the technical and diplomatic aspects of cybersecurity. Ultimately, we strive to empower Africa to become a formidable player in the digital economy, ensuring a secure, prosperous, and sovereign digital future for all African nations.

Thank you, Ambassador Arouna, for sharing these insights. It's clear that CCDL is poised to make a significant impact in the field of cyber diplomacy and cybersecurity leadership in Africa.

Ambassador Omar Arouna: Thank you. It was a pleasure discussing these important issues with you. I look forward to continued conversations on how we can advance our shared goals in cybersecurity and diplomacy.

P E R E N C O



HELPING PROVIDE ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Perenco's core business is developing mature and marginal oil and gas reserves in a sustainable manner. Our strategy is based on the acquisition of assets and the exploration and development of new opportunities, in particular where our specific know-how makes a difference.

As we strive to participate in our host countries' development and energy transition policies, gas has become increasingly key in our strategy. Perenco has been at the forefront of 'Gas to Power' in Central Africa, facilitating the shift from fuel to gas for power plants in Gabon, Cameroon, Chad and DRC. Through this transformation of gas to electricity, as well as gas to LPG, gas to industry, and gas to LNG, Perenco is actively assisting local development wherever it operates.

Founded thirty years ago, Perenco is an independent hydrocarbon producer involved in the entire lifecycle of projects, from exploration to decommissioning. Gross production is over 510,000 BOEPD. The group's strength lies in the technical ingenuity and versatility of its 7,470 employees, who deliver safe and environmentally aware solutions to oil and gas fields around the world. By enhancing and developing local resources, Perenco is proud to support economic growth and social development wherever it works. Perenco operates in 14 partner countries and is based in the United Kingdom.

Africa Faces Massive Poverty and Economic Hardship in the Name of Fighting Climate Change

Pressure is building to phase out fossil fuels in Africa to fight climate change

By NJ Ayuk*



NJ Ayuk is Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber.

Organizations ranging from the World Bank to the European Investment Bank (EIB) have dropped support for African fossil fuel production in hopes of encouraging a transition from oil, gas and coal to sustainable energy sources like wind and solar power.

Now there are legitimate concerns that investor support for oil and gas production will dwindle as well. Blackrock, which controls \$7 trillion in investments, and the Royal Bank of Scotland have said they'll be moving away from investments that support fossil fuel production.

The anti-fossil fuel fervor is being demonstrated in what may seem like surprising ways: the Bank of England was criticized for having an oil company executive its board of directors.

Pressure is coming from within the

African continent, as well. Western funded NGOs from Kenya and the surrounding region, for example, recently petitioned the African Union to put a stop to coal usage and look into phasing out oil and gas usage over the next three decades in hopes of eliminating emissions that contribute to global warming.

I agree that climate change should be taken seriously, but we cannot accept knee-jerk responses. We must not rob our continent of the significant benefits it can realize from oil and gas operations, from the economic opportunities of monetized natural resources to critically important gas-to-power initiatives.

I am not, by any means, calling for a stop to sustainable energy programs. They are being implemented, and I hope to see more. I'm simply saying it's too soon for an either-or approach

to green energy sources and fossil fuels.

What's more, it should be Africans, not well-meaning outsiders, who determine when the timing is right to phase out fossil fuels in Africa, if ever. Pressuring Africa to do otherwise is insulting, no better than throwing foreign aid at us with the assumption that Africans are incapable of building a better future for ourselves. It's also hypocritical for countries and people who enjoy the security, greater life expectancy, comforts and economic opportunities associated with plentiful, reliable energy to say, "Time's up, Africa. No more fossil fuels for you. Desperate times call for desperate measures."

What about the desperation that the 600,000-plus Africans without power live with every day?

Is it reasonable to expect them to

wait for green energy to evolve while domestic natural gas and crude oil reserves can be exploited to create electricity and heating fuel far more quickly?

Addressing Energy Poverty

We cannot move forward with phasing out fossil fuels in Africa before we address the huge swaths of our continent existing in energy poverty. I strongly agree with the late OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo, who said in his 2021 address: "The almost one billion people worldwide who currently lack access to electricity and the three billion without modern fuels for cooking are not just statistics on a page. They are real people... Nobody should be left behind."

Closer to home, more than two-thirds of the population of sub-

Saharan Africa, more than 620 million people, lack access to electricity. Even more infuriating, that number is likely to increase. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has predicted that by 2040, approximately 75 percent of sub-Saharan Africa will lack access to electricity. Why? Surging populations are far outpacing the spread of infrastructure.

As I wrote in my book, *A Just Transition: Making Energy Poverty History with an Energy Mix*, living without electricity is much more than an inconvenience. It keeps people from modern health care, and it exposes them to toxic air pollution caused by burning unsafe fuels indoors. It also reinforces poverty and contributes to economic stagnation: Businesses, factories and schools need electricity to function and grow.

I'm convinced that one of our continent's best chances of eliminating energy poverty is to strategically exploit our abundant natural gas resources instead of exporting and flaring it. Africa had 503.3 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves available to us as of 2024. Natural gas can be used to fuel electricity generation: It's available; it produces less carbon dioxide emissions than diesel, gasoline or coal; and it's affordable. In fact, its price recently fell. What's more, natural gas can be integrated with wind and solar power to produce energy that's both sustainable and reliable.

While gas-to-power will require effort, from the creation of intra-African trade agreements that make natural gas available to countries without it to cooperation from power producers, it represents a very doable way for Africans to resolve one of the continent's greatest challenges.

In addition, Namibia has seen some amazing discoveries by TotalEnergies, Shell, and Galp Energia. Greenfield spending — that is, foreign direct investment in new projects — is being driven by Mauritania, Senegal, Uganda, Congo, Mozambique, Ghana, Angola, and Cote d'Ivoire. With that in mind, this is a horrible time to stop producing and using



natural gas in Africa. This is why African Energy Week is important because it represents where Africans stand on energy and their future. The game has changed.

African Companies, Monetization and Economic Growth

Phasing out fossil fuels in Africa also would be harmful to the many international and indigenous oil and gas companies that contribute to the continent's revenues and make a positive social impact here. I've written extensively about companies that do real good for African communities, such as Oando Plc, Etu Energias, Platform Petroleum, Seplat Energy PLC, Green Energy International, Lekoil Nigeria Ltd, AMNI International Petroleum Development Company Ltd, Sahara Group, Shoreline Energy and many, many more. These indigenous companies create jobs for Africans, buy from African suppliers, and do business with other African

companies, in addition to their extensive community outreach efforts. We have, and need, foreign companies that do the same—and share their technologies.

And that's only part of the picture. Africa has not fully capitalized on a game-changing opportunity: monetizing our oil and gas resources. This starts with using oil and gas as a feedstock to create other value-added products. Natural gas, for example, can be used to make liquid transport fuels, base oils, paraffin, and naphtha. The resulting revenues can be used to build infrastructure and diversify economies. This is not an abstract, pie in the sky idea. In Equatorial Guinea, for example, initiatives aimed at monetizing the country's massive natural gas reserves has led to the creation of new infrastructure. It is helping the government build a natural gas mega hub that could make Equatorial Guinea a major player in the global liquified natural gas market and bring in \$2 billion in revenues. There's no reason that other African

countries can't do the same.

Our Opportunities, Our Timing

I am realizing that fully capitalizing on Africa's oil and gas resources poses significant challenges, but it is doable. All my three bestselling books, *Billions at Play* and *Big Barrels: African Oil and Gas and the Quest for Prosperity*, *A Just Transition: Making Energy Poverty History with an Energy Mix*, living provide practical steps for realizing the African Energy dream. They show there are ways to strategically harness our oil and gas resources, create economic growth and promote stability, the kinds of changes that impact everyday people throughout the continent.

d gas is not about greed or lining the pockets of a select few. If we work to use these resources wisely, they really can power a better future for Africa. And we're not ready to toss them aside.

*NJ Ayuk is Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber



HERE TO STAY

NEUMAN & ESSER
in Egypt

AEC Condemns CRI's Campaign to Block Uganda Oil Project

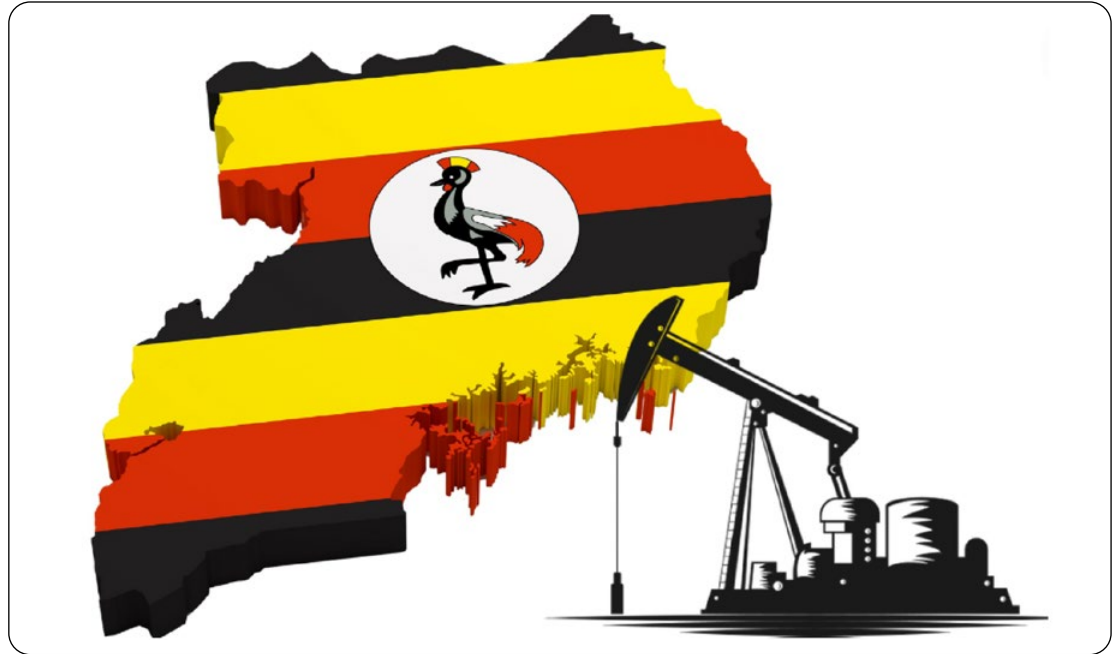
By Prince Kurupati

The African Energy Chamber denounces Climate Rights International's attempts to halt Ugandan oil investment and their interference in the country's energy future.

As the voice of the African energy sector, the African Energy Chamber (AEC) is vehemently opposed to the Climate Rights International's (CRI) – an organization fixated on perpetuating global energy poverty – in its efforts to prevent financial institutions and insurers from providing support to Uganda's energy industry. With an electrification rate of less than 60% in urban areas and less than 20% in rural areas, Uganda should be allowed every right to tap into its 1.4 billion barrels of recoverable oil reserves and half-trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves to ensure economic growth and social development in the country.

Fixated on disseminating energy poverty in Uganda, CRI Executive Director Brad Adams has called on the international community to divest in the development of the country's Kingfisher oil field. Due to be commissioned in 2025, the project, which has created more than 1,500 local employment opportunities, is poised to become the first commercial oil field in Uganda. The field is estimated to hold 560 million barrels of oil and demonstrates the potential to bring untold benefits to the country and her people.

Determined to improve the landscape of the African energy sector, the AEC has been to Uganda. The Chamber has spoken with investors in the project and the communities of Uganda, who are wholehearted in their support for this crucial project. Yet, despite



Uganda's dedication to leveraging its resources to ensure reliable oil and gas supplies to meet local demand, a lack of investment in production and infrastructure development as a result of interference from developed nations has resulted in a stagnant market for the country.

Growing international pressure for the world to transition to renewable energy on the terms of the Global North is crippling energy progress in Africa. As Ugandans struggle to keep the lights on, to keep their families fed and healthy, average monthly U.S. crude oil production established a monthly record high of more than 13.3 million barrels per day (bpd) in December 2023. Meanwhile U.S. natural gas production continues to grow, reaching an average of nearly 100 billion cubic feet per day just a couple years ago. In Norway, the country reached an average daily gas output of roughly 11.4 billion cubic feet while daily oil production showed over 2 million barrels. The UK uses

half a million tons of coal for energy production while Germany clocks in at the fourth largest consumer in the world with 257 million tons. And there are no signs of slowing.

In a 156-page report published this month, CRI said it documented widespread human rights abuses and environmental damage at the Kingfisher site in eastern Uganda. As a result of these insinuations, the CRI has called on all financial institutions and insurers to cease all support for the project, bringing untold harm to dozens of communities and millions of people in the country. Having visited the project on a number of occasions, the Chamber wholeheartedly denies these unfounded accusations of abuse and instead bids the CRI to beckon the U.S. and Norway to stop producing. To stop the UK and Germany from burning coal. Instead of beckoning Uganda to halt its development, perhaps Adams should ask Norway and Germany to cancel their gas deal rather than fixating on

keeping Uganda poor.

“The time for Uganda to exploit its immensely valuable resources is now. Africa will not give in to international coercion to prevent the continent from energizing and bringing wealth to its people. Africa will not succumb to pressure to adhere to the energy transition on anyone else's terms. We know what is good for African energy and we will do everything in our power to ensure that the continent's resources benefit her people,” states AEC Executive Chairman NJ Ayuk. The AEC is determined to improve the landscape of the African energy sector and explore the continent's full potential in a way where our people benefit first. The AEC collaborates with African and international partners across the government and private sector spectrum in all areas of the energy industry, and the Chamber is unremittent in its passion to drive energy development throughout the continent

Endorsed by
Busoga Kingdom



Eastern Uganda
The Land of The
Sunrise



LWA

CULTURAL & MINERAL TOURISM SUMMIT

Driving Uganda's Strategic
Economic Growth Through
Sectorial Tourism



8-14 SEPTEMBER
2024



SOURCES OF THE
NILE HOTEL, JINJA
UGANDA

SOUTH AFRICA

admin@leadingwomenofafrica.com
+27 79 887 7297

UGANDA

africanpeaceadvocates@gmail.com
+256 772 362145

AEC's Ayukegba Touts Improved African Operating Environment At AAPG

By Ajong Mbapndah L



Ayukegba called on AAPG members to aggressively pursue opportunities across Africa in collaboration with local companies that have been able to build competencies and capacity in recent years.

Invited to headline the American Association of Petroleum Geologist's (AAPG) Division of Professional Affairs luncheon on Africa, on the sideline of AAPG's yearly conference, Verner Ayukegba, Senior Vice President of the African Energy Chamber-AEC spoke to invited guests on the diversity of opportunities to invest in Africa's oil and gas and energy sectors.

Building off the ExxonMobil's outlook for 2050, published in 2024, Ayukegba told the audience that more than 50% of the world's energy consumption will still be generated from oil and gas, despite significant improvements in technologies to reduce consumption and emissions

as well as the increasing abilities of renewables. Global demand for oil and gas is expected to grow steadily, driven by population growth, increased urbanisation as well as increased industrial activity in developing countries, he said.

According to VP Ayukegba, Africa remains one of the most underexplored regions for oil and gas, producing only over 8% of global oil output and 6% of global gas output. To meet rising demand, we are likely to see a significant rise in exploration across Africa with spending now expected to increase over the 5 years outlook, marking a reversal from the 60% drop between 2015 and 2020, Ayukegba said.

Touting the potential, Ayukegba said sourcing oil and gas to meet this growing demand to 2050 and beyond, presents a major opportunity for investors and E&P companies alike. Citing the IEF, Ayukegba said the annual Upstream capital expenditure is expected to rise to 22% by 2030 in a bid to meet this growth in demand.

"Many African countries, including major producers like Angola, Algeria and Nigeria, recognise that they face stiff competition from other regions for these investment dollars and have embarked on major regulatory changes to improve their operating environments. In order to increase the attractiveness of their countries for investors, and to avoid the risk of being saddled with stranded resources, African countries have multiplied reforms intended to provide incentives to increase drilling, streamlined their tax systems to meet globally acclaimed standards,

and introduced specialised upstream regulators," Ayukegba said.

Using specific examples to buttress his case, Ayukegba cited Nigeria that enacted its long-awaited Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) in 2021, which led to the creation of an upstream focused regulator the NUPRC as well as a downstream and mid-stream focused regulator, the NMDPRA. The NUPRC has the technical competencies to respond swiftly to changing market conditions and continuously foster an ever-improving industry environment for investors, he said. Ayukegba told the enthused audience that bid rounds are now held frequently with the focus being on ceding licenses to companies that have the technical and financial capacity to fulfil their work program obligations.

"The new act has also brought about much needed transparency in the governance of the sector as well



According to VP Ayukegba, Africa remains one of the most underexplored regions for oil and gas.

as simplified the taxation regime in place. Tax incentives for new drilling programs are readily available. Whilst there is still more that can be done in terms of reforms, we expect Nigeria's prolific basins to see increased capital inflows over the next decade," said Ayukegba.

Like Nigeria, Ayukegba said Angola has also embarked on the road of

constant reforms aimed at ensuring that the country regains and keeps its competitive edge.

"In 2019, Angola enacted vast reforms in its oil and gas sector. Key to those reforms was the creation of the upstream regulator ANPG, which immediately embarked on simplifying the attribution of new licenses with a multi-year bid round,

Angola also simplified its taxation structure for the sector, leading to increased exploration activity, said Ayukegba.

According to the AEC VP, other countries that have benefited from an increase in exploration spending in Africa include Namibia, Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal, Mozambique and South Africa. The result has been

groundbreaking discoveries that underline Africa's huge potential, Ayukegba said.

Ayukegba called on AAPG members to aggressively pursue opportunities across Africa, ideally in collaboration with local companies that have been able to build competencies and capacity in recent years.

Nouvelle Collection Vista Gui 2022 !



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

Promotion jusqu'au 30 avril 2022

*carte visa sans contact !



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



African Energy Week

Cape Town, South Africa
4-8 November 2024

In Partnership with:



“Africa is the future for our energy transition. Africa will play a central role in our transition to a clean energy future. Africa can lead the way to develop sustainable supply chains.”

Joshua Volz

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Africa, Middle East, Europe & Eurasia, U.S. Department of Energy

MAKING ENERGY POVERTY HISTORY BY 2030

BUY Ticket
aecweek.com

African Energy Chamber



African Energy Week

CTICC
Cape Town, South Africa
4-8 November 2024

Invest in African Energies: Energy Growth Through an Enabling Environment

24+

DELEGATIONS

45+

MINISTRIES

70%

FROM OUTSIDE RSA

5,212+

ATTENDEES

30%

FROM RSA

BOOK YOUR SPOT NOW



African Energy Chamber

www.aecweek.com



MAKING ENERGY POVERTY HISTORY BY 2030



Zoom On 25 Years Of NEUMAN & ESSER In Egypt

By Ajong Mbapndah L

On June 1, 1999, NEUMAN & ESSER (NEA) Middle East was established as a subsidiary of NEUMAN & ESSER in Cairo. Until the foundation of NEUMAN & ESSER Middle East, the sales area was represented by an agent. Following the development of the site from a representative office to an independent company in its early years, the company was renamed in 2008. Under the new name NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt Ltd., the company has now taken over installations and commissioning as well as local sales support in the region.

25 years on and counting, NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt is not only waxing strong but has become an iconic partner in the overall development of the Northern African nation.

“During its history, NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt has been able to demonstrate its resilience and adaptability, successfully mastering the challenges, and it has been continuously growing its business activities,” says Carlo Terragni, Managing Director of NEA Italy, responsible for North Africa.

More than 50 compressors and 3 mills and classifier systems, including two of the largest pendulum mills ever built, have been delivered by the Group through NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt to the Arabic Republic in the last 25 years, Terragni tells PAV.

“NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt always puts the focus on its customers. All activities are designed to satisfy customers, to improve sales as well as service activities and to consolidate their position as a premium brand. The strong bond of trust and mutual respect between NEUMAN & ESSER and their customers results from the expertise and honest advice as well as the exchange of experiences,” says Terragni in sharing the success story in Egypt that NEA is very ready to replicate across the continent when called upon.

Could you start with an



NEA Egypt has been able to demonstrate its resilience and adaptability, successfully mastering the challenges, and continuously growing its business activities, says Carlo Terragni

introduction of NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt for us?

NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt is the branch company of NEUMAN & ESSER in Cairo. Since its foundation on June 1st, 1999, initially under the name of NEUMAN & ESSER Middle East then changed to the current legal entity's name in 2008, the company has taken over installation and commissioning as well as local sales support in the region.

NEUMAN & ESSER's presence in Egypt dates back to the 1960s and covers various areas, including the mill and classifier system as well as compressor business. Until the foundation of the local company, the sales area was represented by an

agent. During its history, NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt has been able to demonstrate its resilience and adaptability, successfully mastering the challenges, and it has been continuously growing its business activities.

More than 50 compressors and 3 mills and classifier systems, including two of the largest pendulum mills ever built, have been delivered by the Group through NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt to the Arabic Republic in the last 25 years.

What kind of specific projects or products are offered by NEUMAN & ESSER in Egypt?

NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt's business is the sale of piston compressors and compressor systems, electrolyzers, mills & classifier systems as well as regular, emergency and preventive maintenance service of NEUMAN & ESSER compressors and other brands.

The company is also offering repair activities on compressor valves and other production parts such as cylinder liners for NEA compressors as well as compressors from other brands, hand in hand with the Repair & Coordination Center (RCC) from NEUMAN & ESSER Gulf in Dubai.

How will you situate the importance of NEUMAN &

ESSER in Egypt today?

NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt is playing a very important role in a country, that, in parallel to the further consolidation of the traditional Oil & Gas sector, has significant potential in renewable energy generation, particularly in wind and solar energy, and it is seeking significant investment in green hydrogen, both for domestic use and export.

NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt is a reliable partner, that supports its customers in the implementation of the energy transition towards CO2 neutrality by offering its sustainable solutions for Oil & Gas, LNG, compression of technical gases, chemical processing and petrochemical sectors as well as H2 and circular economy.

The numerous long-term strategic partnerships established by NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt with local clients and stakeholders in the last years confirm the strategic positioning and the importance of the company in the local territory.

It has been 25 years of operations in Egypt for NEUMAN & ESSER, what has the experience been like doing business in Egypt?



Compressor System with Two-crank horizontal compressor size 190. NEA has offered state of the art solutions for 25 years in Egypt.

It has been an exciting journey indeed.

In the history of NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt we have had great successes as well as challenging times. Agility, flexibility, adaptability to the local market's requirements and resilience have been key factors for the continuous growth and

development of the company.

In addition to that, the building of local expertise and the empowering of our local people, that are the greatest asset of the Company, have been fundamental to make this experience a success.

Only through proximity to the clients, understanding their needs

and providing excellent solutions business can be repeated.

May we know some of the most significant or landmark projects of NEUMAN & ESSER in Egypt?

A significant milestone was achieved in 2010, when an important local refinery placed a purchase order for a two crank horizontal compressor size 190 for hydrocarbons mix gas. This order demonstrated the high performance of NEUMAN & ESSER and marks and highlight in the history of NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt. The smooth and efficient handling of the project laid the cornerstone for future success and further development.

In 2020, always from the same customer, NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt in cooperation with NEUMAN & ESSER Italia received the largest contract in the company's history for three horizontal piston compressors size 190, followed by a further order for two piston compressors size 30 in 2021.

When it comes to After Market, the first partnership with a major international oil company having operations also in Egypt,



Agility, flexibility, adaptability to the local market's requirements and resilience have been key factors for the continuous growth and development of NEA in Egypt.

encompassing service and repairs for compressors and compressor systems, was concluded in 2020 and initially agreed until 2025.

In 2023, another milestone was reached, when a repair order was completed for an important customer in the refining business. The contract included the repair of 88 valves installed in compressors from both NEUMAN & ESSER and other brand.

What makes the services and products of NEUMAN & ESSER unique from those of other competitors?

NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt always puts the focus on its customers. All activities are designed to satisfy customers, to improve sales as well as service activities and to consolidate their position as a premium brand. The strong bond of trust and mutual respect between NEUMAN & ESSER and their customers results from the expertise and honest advice as well as the exchange of experiences. Thus, NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt always finds the best solution to minimize downtime and maintenance costs and achieve higher product quality.

How is the business climate like in Egypt, anything the government is doing to ease the investment climate for companies like NEUMAN & ESSER?

The Government of Egypt has introduced several legal and regulatory reforms in the past years, with the target to improve Egypt's investment and business climate and help the economy realize its full potential.

These actions are mainly aimed to improve investors' ability to obtain legal residency and conduct banking transactions, expand investment



NEUMAN & ESSER is ready to replicate its success in Egypt across Africa , says Carlo Terragni.

incentives, establish new duty-free zones, create financial incentives for certain industrial investment projects, and eliminate preferential tax treatment.

After having hosted the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27) in November 2022 and retained the COP presidency until November 2023, Egypt has continued to adapt to climate change. As we all know, the country has a significant potential in renewable energy generation and it aims to add more than 4 gigawatts of renewable capacity during the next five years, in order to raise renewable contributions in its generation mix to 42 percent by 2030, with most of the growth coming from wind and solar capacity. The local government continues to seek investment to finance several projects.

The country has access to the Mediterranean and the Red Sea,

not to mention the Suez Canal that connects Europe with Asia. This strategic location has been giving access to global markets in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

It also offers one of the continent's most qualified workforces at reasonable costs.

In this scenario, I see Egypt as a promising country for further growing of business and opportunities.

What would you think other African countries could benefit from partnerships and services of NEUMAN & ESSER?

We would see there three major advantages and benefits for other African countries to cooperate with NEUMAN & ESSER.

We are offering state-of-the-art solutions. Not only products or equipment, but with our very long history of experiences with plant engineering, we do provide tailored

solutions to our clients to tailor and fit the best to their demands and applications.

Secondly, we do support our installations and later operation by also developing local aftermarket support. We are having a clear strategy of development of service workshops to make sure, that we are close to our customers and understand their local demands while still providing superior OEM quality.

Finally, NEUMAN & ESSER has developed very strong Local Content Concept including the development and training of people and local capabilities. And NEUMAN & ESSER Egypt is an excellent example. We started in the market with a low profile being represented by agent. By time we grow to being in position of having our own subsidiary with trained and skilled people. This model we would be very happy to repeat in other countries of Africa, too. ———

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

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER Ethiopian



Powering the Future of Sustainable Energy

We bring together visionary entrepreneurs and eager investors to spark innovation and drive sustainable energy solutions.

OUR MISSION

To provide a platform that facilitates connections between innovative energy entrepreneurs and investors.

Tabe Innovation places a significant emphasis on sustainable and green energy initiatives, recognizing the vast potential within this sector.



Call For More Information
(240) 9600439



Ideation And Refinement Platform

Refine your ideas with our expert guidance.



Investor Network Access

Connect with a curated network of investors ready to support your innovative projects.



Energy Investment Consulting

Access detailed market analysis, sustainable investment opportunities, and ongoing support

Why Choose Us ?

Empower your energy vision with Tabe Innovation, where transformative solutions meet unwavering support.

- Forge connections with the right investors through our curated platform.
- Access expert support to refine your energy ideas and effectively pitch your project.
- Experience a partnership rooted in innovation, integrity, and a customer-centric approach at Tabe Innovation.
- Join a community committed to driving eco-friendly solutions and making a positive impact in the energy sector.

FUELING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

2810 N Church St PMB 810155 Wilmington, Delaware 19802-4447 US

[\(240\) 9600439](tel:(240)9600439) [@ info@tabeinnovation.com](mailto:info@tabeinnovation.com) www.tabeinnovation.com

Burkina Faso- Traore Takes On Mining Sector In Nationalization Drive

By Prince Kurupati

Fresh from creating Africa's newest regional bloc, the Confederation of Sahel States with Mali and Niger, whose main mission is to foster "greater integration" among each other, and disengage with predatory states from the West, Burkina Faso is already implementing the latter part as demonstrated by its latest nationalization drive. The drive sees all mining licenses held by Western nations revoked, with the state getting the sole rights to mine the country's precious resources.

"Imperialists beware!" declared Burkinabe President Ibrahim Traore in his address to the nation on 11 July 2024. A couple of weeks later, in another address, he also declared, "No more mining for the West. Our so-called friends have been sucking our wealth for a long time. We will withdraw the mining licenses." Among a raft of measures, President Traore said his administration was looking to banish foreign powers from dictating which weapons the military receives, block the reception of specific military equipment and the continued exploitation of the landlocked African country's natural resources.

The Burkinabe President said the move should be emulated in other African countries as it will emancipate the suffering citizens. "The fight we are pursuing is not just a fight for Burkina Faso, it is a fight for the whole of Africa," President Traore said.

Suffice it to say, it didn't take much time for President Traore to put his words into action as his administration has started revoking the mining licenses of western companies operating in the country. While President Traore's declaration seemed as if he was seeking to impose a sweeping blanket ban on all foreign mining entities in the country, reports have since emerged that some



The fight we are pursuing is not just a fight for Burkina Faso, it is a fight for the whole of Africa, says President Traore . Photo courtesy.

companies may be spared. Those that are to be spared are foreign owned mining companies that are ready to engage in a reciprocal win-win relationship with the country will be left to operate.

The African Stream reports that President Traore and "Burkina Faso has made one thing clear: If you are going to use its mines, it has to be in exchange for something of value, such as access to weapons needed to end terrorism." This precondition put in place by Burkina Faso is necessitated by the constant terror attacks which have riddled the country since 2011 following the NATO backed overthrow of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi - a move which destabilized the central and West African region.

Burkina Faso is one of the world's major gold producers. The extraction of the precious yellow mineral has, however, been fronted by foreign mining companies since the country attained its independence. Among the companies to lose their mining licenses are some Eastern companies

mainly from Russia are reported by Media Wire Express.

Ever since President Traore embarked on the nationalization drive, he has received massive praise from African citizens from all over the world. Commenting on a Facebook post, one user by the name Atobalo Rasaki said, "I love you President Ibrahim Traore of Burkina Faso, you are a nationalist who has freed his country from the imperialist called French government and citizens of his country a sense of belonging and total freedom. I hope Nigeria government dismantle imperialists in our economy and its cabals within that holds our development hostage."

Thousands of other African citizens across different platforms where the news was published from Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) to TicTok all praised the move and called upon their respective governments to emulate the move. There are others, however, who are more concerned with what President Traore will do with the resources as he is now solely

in charge. Facebook user Sun geni Precious Maloya said, "The question now is what will he do with the raw minerals? And now that he has cut the small and exploitative but essential revenue, what will he do with the budget deficits that will most likely follow? Such decisions generally result in shocks in the economy resulting in inflation and lack of essential goods on the consumer market, how will he handle the average working man that will wake with either a devaluing salary or a normal salary but without essential goods on the market?"

Others expressed concern on Burkina Faso's ability to honour property rights. They expressed concern on how investors including locals can feel motivated to pour their capital in a country where property rights aren't respected. X user Trust Manjengwa said, "Who is going to bring any capital to a land where someone can arbitrarily take it? Even Burkinabe will take their money somewhere else if there is a government that does not uphold and

honour contracts.”

Agreeing with the above sentiments is Keith Rowley of the Sydney Business Web who said, “When you need foreign investment, this behavior will ensure that investors avoid you like a plague. Investors need stability, the rule of law and the certainty of contracts.”

The move taken by President Traore aligns with the nationalization programs implemented in both Mali and Niger by the ruling junta. All three countries castigate the West, especially France for plundering

their resources for her own benefit. By forming the Confederation of Sahel States, the three mainly aim to foster deeper integration and combat terrorism. They view disengaging with their colonial master France as the first condition needed to achieve these objectives. By disengaging with France and nationalizing resources, the aim is to generate own revenue to spur economic growth and combat terrorism. This strategy is being applauded by the general citizenry across the African continent but heavily criticized by economic and

security experts.

The Institute for Security Studies states that, “Despite these initiatives, however, security in Burkina Faso has worsened.” The African Centre for Strategic Studies reinforces this stating that “deaths caused by militant Islamist violence have nearly tripled compared to the 18 months before the January 2022 coup, and violence has increased by 46%.”

Doubts have also been raised in regards to Burkina Faso’s capability to feed its citizens after alienating with the West, which through various

humanitarian programmes has been able to provide basics. Even though Burkina Faso is looking to take full control of the economic apparatus, economic experts are skeptical about the country’s capabilities. The Institute for Security Studies stated, “With nearly two million people internally displaced and over 36 000 refugees, Burkina Faso needs about US\$877 million to provide essential aid, shelter, healthcare and support. But the funding gap remains, with dire consequences for those in need.”

A Call For Unity and Renewal At Accra All-African Movement Assembly

By Samuel Ouma

The tone of conviction resonated powerfully during the All-African Movement Assembly held by Africans Rising in Accra, Ghana, from August 29 to 31, as participants voiced a collective desire for transformative change across a continent grappling with political, economic, and social challenges.

The assembly, themed «Towards Pan-African Solidarity: United We Stand, Divided We Fall,» drew over 400 physical participants and 1,000 virtual attendees, including human rights defenders and activists from all corners of the continent.

The gathering allowed movement members to reflect on their African roles in pursuing unity, justice, peace, and dignity. It also served as a platform to advocate for a borderless Africa, climate justice, and reparations.

The conference commenced with a poignant visit to the Cape Coast Castle, where delegates confronted the brutal history of the transatlantic slave trade. The visit stirred deep emotions among the participants, many of whom condemned the colonial powers for the inhumane treatment of their ancestors.

«We visited the most horrific places you can find on the planet—places where Africans were stored as slaves before being sent to Brazil, the



Many of our political leaders behave like modern-day slave owners, serving their northern masters rather than their own people, says Kumi Naidoo.

Caribbean, and the U.S.,» said Kumi Naidoo, Africans Rising Ambassador and Human Rights advocate.

«What we saw is traumatizing. Slavery would not have been successful if our own leaders had not colluded with the colonialists to sell their subjects to foreign masters.»

Naidoo lamented that, in the 21st century, Africa continues to be shackled by the legacies of colonialism. He criticized African

leaders for prioritizing the interests of Western institutions like the IMF and World Bank over the well-being of their own people.

«Many of our political leaders behave like modern-day slave owners, serving their northern masters rather than their own people,» he declared.

Naidoo also accused Western leaders of hypocrisy, noting that while they often preach about human rights, they continue to violate the

rights of Africans.

“African cannot take counsel from Europe and the United States and those countries who think they can preach to us about human rights and so on. Unless they can do right and reverse the legacies of the justices that they did to us, then we can talk about how valid their perspectives are. The important thing is that we all need confidence, because right now, far too many of African political leaders have

joined forces with the oppressors to make our lives difficult.”

The delegates at the assembly called for a radical overhaul of Africa's leadership structure, issuing a bold demand for the continent's longest-serving presidents to step down and make way for younger, more dynamic leaders.

The call specifically targeted Uganda's Yoweri Museveni, Cameroon's Paul Biya, and Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, all of whom have been in power for over 30 years.

Naidoo questioned the relevance of these ageing leaders in a continent where most of the population is under 35.

“If they were good enough to be leaders 30 years ago, when they were much younger in the projects. Why is it not young stood that young people today will better understand the world, better understand what we need future. Why should they not be qualified?” he questioned.

“Also, our continent is a very young continent, meaning that you look at the demographic profile we have, the majority of our people on the continent are young, right? They are under 35 years old. Now, how can we have that is the profile of the people on the continent but have a leadership that looks older and older all the time,” he added.

The assembly also championed the idea of a borderless Africa, arguing that the colonial borders drawn across the continent have long hindered its potential. The movement envisions a borderless Africa to promote economic integration, peace, and unity.

By removing these borders, Africans Rising believes the continent can unlock business opportunities, create jobs, and reduce poverty while fostering a shared identity and purpose.

Hardi Yakubu, the movement's current coordinator, emphasized the need to abolish visa



If Africans speak with one voice, nobody will say they can't hear us, says Samia Nkrumah, daughter of Ghana's first President Kwame Nkrumah.

requirements for intra-African travel and to roll out a common African Passport.

«How can people who share the same culture and customs be stopped from moving around the continent just because of visa restrictions?

Enough is enough. We call for free movement across Africa,» he declared.

Naidoo reinforced this sentiment, criticizing the outdated travel restrictions that often force Africans to travel through Europe and other

countries before reaching another African country.

He told the West that Africa is not interested in charitable donations. Instead, it only demands quality and better trade and aid. Naidoo stressed that Africa is not asking for charity but is demanding reparative justice in the form of meaningful and practical aid.

“We are not asking them to give us charity. We are saying you exploited our societies. You took our resources, and you still continue to take our resources. So, when we ask you for better and more quality, we're not asking you for charity. We're asking you to understand it as redress, compensation for the crimes against humanity that were committed on the people of Africa for more than a century,” said Naidoo.

He also condemned Western nations for failing to fulfil their commitments to international development, pointing out that most developed countries have not met their promise to allocate 0.7% of their budgets to this cause.

“The countries of the world that colonized us made a commitment decades ago that they will allocate less than 1% (0.7%) of the budget for International Development. Most of the developed countries never met that goal, and still don't meet that goal.”

The assembly also featured notable attendees such as Emma Nyerere, daughter of the late Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, and Samia Nkrumah, daughter of Ghana's first President, Kwame Nkrumah. Both women called for the unity of Africans to propel the continent forward.

“Africans must have a common political unity, political integration, a common market, a common currency, and a monetary zone. If Africans speak with one voice, nobody will say they can't hear us,” Samia stated.



Imperative to abolish visa requirements for intra-African travel and to roll out a common African Passport.,says Africans Rising Coordinator Hardi Yakubu.

ELSEWEDY ELECTRIC

30k+ MVA

Transformers Annual
Capacity

85+

Years of Experience

110

Countries of Export



Engineered to Excel

Here To Stay-Central African Think Tank Forum Gains Ground

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

The second edition of the Central Africa Think Tank Forum organized by the Nkafu Policy Institute, a think tank of the Denis and Lenora Foetia Foundation, through its mandate to catalyze Africa's economic transformation, has wrapped up in Yaounde, Center region of Cameroon, fostering regional cooperation and progress across the Central African region.

The 2nd edition of the Central Africa Think Tank Forum from August 21 – 22 was under the theme: "Empowering independent voices in the Central African Region." The ability of think tanks in Central Africa to operate effectively has been a daunting challenge that has consequently led to the short life span, fragmentation and ineffectiveness of some think tanks, research centres and advocacy groups.

Discussions during the Forum centred on leveraging Digitalization for Inclusive Economic Transformation in Central Africa; enhancing the Resilience of Think Tanks in Response to the Shrinking Civic Space in Central Africa;



Dr Denis Foretia, co-chair of the Denis and Lenora Foetia Foundation and Executive Chairman of the Nkafu Policy Institute.

accelerating Regional Trade and Integration in ECCAS; collaborative Action to Strengthen Health Systems in Central Africa and navigating Growth and Management Challenges in African Think tanks

Dr Denis Foretia, co-chair of the Denis and Lenora Foetia Foundation and Executive Chairman of the Nkafu Policy Institute said: «The important thing is that in our region, the Central African region, we have

the need to expand the civic space to ensure that we help contribute to the democratic transition in our country, but more especially to ensure that we have development that works for the people.»

“Our main goal is to figure out how we support and work with governments to ensure we can bring and expand the development input we get to our communities. Fundamentally, we want to ensure that our public policies first work for us as Cameroonians and citizens of Central Africa. Our public policies work for us,» Dr Denis Foretia added.

«Secondly, we want to aid our governments and public authorities to ensure that we are more efficient, more effective in all our policies. Third, we want to make sure that our citizens benefit in very practical terms, in putting food on their table, in the amount of money that they earn every month to be able to help grow their families. So, it's an issue of how we catalyze our transformation, how we ensure that development comes in



Despite their significant contributions, think tanks across the Central African subregion face numerous challenges like limited funding and political interference.



The 2nd edition of the Central African Think Tank Forum had as aim to empower independent voices from the Central African Region.

very substantive terms.»

Collaboration with international organizations and other think tanks has become a key strategy for resilience. By forming alliances with global partners, Central African think tanks can access a broader pool of resources, expertise, and platforms to amplify their voices. These networks also offer protection, as international visibility can deter government crackdowns on local institutions.

Dr Denis Foretia added: “It’s no secret that our Central Africa region is the least integrated region on the continent. And with less integration, you don’t have enough, a lot of development with less integration. So, we want to ensure that we can push that. Also, the level of openness in our society to deal with our diversity is something that we need to work on. And so that’s also the reason why we are coming here to ensure that we can move forward in this agenda.»

“As Central Africans, we need to stop talking about the potential but move to what we are doing. Our research, and not just our research, research from other organizations in Cameroon and our partners in Central Africa shows that the way for us to move forward is accountable governance, openness, open trade, and open investments, make sure

that our economies, when people are starting businesses and trying to grow their businesses, our tax laws are favourable and it’s very transparent. So those are the things that we want to help promote our government, support our government to bring and put into place to ensure that our economies can transform.»

Shrinking space for CSOs, NGOs, think tanks and others

Central Africa has long been a region where civil society organizations, including think tanks, play a crucial role in advocating for transparency, good governance, and human rights. However, the past decade has seen a noticeable tightening of civic space, with many governments enacting laws that restrict freedom of expression, assembly, and association. In some cases, think tanks have faced harassment, funding cuts, or even closure, stifling their ability to contribute to public discourse and policy development.

Nkongho Felix Agbor, Founder of the Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa, CHRDA said: «There is a need for government to understand that they need to think tanks. Think tanks help them to shape policies, to make recommendations, which must not necessarily be

offensive against the state. They might make contributions and things that the government feels are not right, they cannot accept it, but don’t throw the baby under the bat.

“Think tanks help a lot in Cameroon and the central region. They contribute to governance. Also, in the private sector, they are very important. But think tanks also should not want to try to see how they can replace the state or the government. They should not be like an opposition party where everything they say is negative. I think that a responsible think tank like some that we have, just like civil society, is to construct.”

Nkongho Felix Agbor added: “Think tanks would have to be able to network, to build synergy across the board. Also, because they make recommendations and they need organizations, other organizations like advocacy and civil society organizations to do advocacy on some of these things, to be the ones now to be the interface with the state and to try to put the state under pressure and to urge the state to accept or follow some of the recommendations from the think tank. But also, the leaders of the think tank, need to be able to build networks because you live in a repressive sub-region where

you might be picked up, you might be arrested, you might be killed, you might be kidnapped, just for proposing something to the state.”

“Especially in some of these countries where they are in transition. Some people want to maintain the status quo at all costs. So, whatever you say that they don’t agree with, it becomes a problem. So, you have to build your network nationally and internationally with the friends of the state, diplomatic missions, and international organizations, because this network is like your shield. You have to be careful because you are involved in something that more often than not, the state considers you, I don’t want to say an enemy, but the state doesn’t like the kind of things you are doing.”

The Nkafu Policy Institute through its mandate to catalyze Africa’s economic transformation is committed to bringing together policymakers, donor organizations, renowned researchers, think tankers, and practitioners from all over the world in a common platform to deepen understanding and brainstorming across common challenges, enhance the potential and empower independent voices in the Central African Region.

Zambia: ANC Freedom Fighters Going Home to South Africa. -A historic moment is happening in Zambia.

By Bishop Musonda Trevor Selwyn Mwamba*

Mr Fikile Mbalula the Secretary General of the African National Congress (ANC), in a letter to Bishop Musonda Trevor Selwyn Mwamba, President of the United National Independence Party (UNIP), has informed him on a party-to-party level about historic developments.

A South African delegation comprised of various ministerial departments working on the implementation of exhumation and repatriation project, arrived in Zambia 30th of

August 2024, until the completion of the process.

The African National Congress (ANC) together with the South African government have embarked on an initiative to repatriate and honour the liberation struggle combatants who selflessly gave their lives in the fight for South Africa's freedom.

The families of heroes and heroines of the freedom fighters travelled to Zambia to perform traditional rites in preparation for the exhumation of their mortal remains.

Among the revered heroes and heroines whose mortal remains are being repatriated are Advocate Duma Nokwe, former Secretary General of the ANC (1959-1978) and Comrade Kemoabele Florence Mophosho, former Head of the ANC Women's Section (1975-1985); Also, Comrade Adophus Mvemve and Todd Matshikiza as well as those

whose remains are at the Nakating burial grounds in Livingstone, Zambia.

A Service of Repatriation of the remains of ANC Freedom Fighters buried at Leopards Hill Cemetery, Lusaka, Zambia, was held on Saturday 31 August 2024, officiated by

the UNIP President Bishop Trevor Mwamba together with the Chaplain General the Reverend Joseph Maphatsoe of the South African Defence Force.



Left to right Mrs Josephine Mbele, Chaplain Maphatsoe, Nes Yolisa Modise, Bishop Mwamba, Ms Sibongile Nkula, Dr Nokwe.

Bishop Mwamba paid tribute to Comrade Philemon Pearce Dumasile Nokwe and the gallant freedom fighters.

"In 1962 Kenneth Kaunda remembered meeting Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela 'two young men' as he called them in Ethiopia. The three of them had discussions. It was in the spirit of Ubuntu and pan Africanism.

He remembered telling them how UNIP had already made a stance that when Zambia became independent, she would support our brothers and sisters in the ANC in fighting for freedom. The pledge was resolute.

The ANC together with many other liberation movements in the region found a home in Zambia.

Zambia was blessed to have great freedom fighters, men and women, heroes and heroines, like Comrade Duma Nokwe in its midst.

Duma Nokwe is a great star in the history of the ANC and South Africa. And for as long as the history of South Africa is recounted to generations to come his name shall be honoured and shine brightly among the greats as Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, and Walter Sisulu.

These men played an important role in shaping the future of South Africa. They were architects of South Africa's democracy.

Comrade Duma Nokwe like Oliver Tambo trained as teachers. They both were excellent teachers, but the oppressive forces of apartheid drove them out of their chosen profession for fear that they were abusing their position to teach their students to aspire to greater heights than those determined by their oppressors.

Little did they foresee that inspired and helped by the wise man of the ANC Walter Sisulu; they would

become lawyers.

So, Duma Nokwe studied law and became the first black lawyer to be admitted to the Transvaal Supreme Court.

He was also the first African to be admitted to the Johannesburg Bar. Though welcomed by the leaders of the profession, the supporters of the apartheid regime threatened that if he came into the Bar common room, they would report the matter to the group areas inspectors to charge him and the Bar Council with the offence of allowing a native into a place where seating was available for refreshments.

The Bar Council told Duma that he was a fully-fledged member but that he would have to make a decision for himself as to whether he would risk prosecution if he insisted on his rights. Duma consulted Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo.

There was a difference of opinion. Nelson and Duma thought that he should take the risk. Oliver however agreed with Walter who said that the African people had been trying for a whole generation to have an African advocate; the opportunity should not be lost for the sake of a cup of tea.

Duma Nokwe was a brilliant Secretary General of the ANC. He was at the core of the life of the ANC.

We remember him at the the formation of the ANC Youth League on Easter Sunday, 1944. And from 1953 to 1958 became the Secretary of the Youth League.

We remember Duma Nokwe passionate and committed to the purposes of the ANC as he participated in the Defiance Campaign and represented communities and individuals in court.

He did this until he could not practise because he was accused in the 1956-61 Treason Trial.

We remember Duma Nokwe when he was elected secretary general of the ANC in 1958, a post he held until 1969.

We remember Duma Nokwe when the Sharpsville massacre took place, being a member of a small group comprising Walter Sisulu, Joe Slovo, Nelson Mandela holding an all-night meeting in Johannesburg to plan a response.



Nokwe's grave.

One of the response was to burn their passes. The president of the ANC Chief Luthuli accepted that and on March 26, in Pretoria, publicly burned his pass and called on others to do the same. Chief Luthuli also announced a nationwide stay-at-home on March 28, a national Day of Mourning and protest for the atrocities at Sharpeville. In Orlando, Duma Nokwe and Nelson Mandela burned their passes before hundreds

of people and dozens of press photographers.

We remember In 1963 Duma Nokwe being ordered by the ANC to flee into exile and leaving the country to Zambia. And how he helped establish the ANC in exile.

We remember Comrade Duma Nokwe as a cheerful and positive man who brought joy and happiness to his family, friends, and colleagues.

In his memoir Madiba recalled a

moment in 1955 before he was about to embark on a mission to Durban, the Transkei and Cape Town. And Duma Nokwe and others gathered at his home one night to see him off.

He wrote that Duma Nokwe was in his usual jovial mood and as the evening lengthened, he became more lucid and talkative and kept every body roaring with laughter. And occasionally he would burst into song singing some Russian and Chinese songs he had learned at a conference in Bucharest and sometimes gesticulating zealously as if conducting an imaginary choir. The fun continued up to midnight.

In remembering Duma Nokwe and his colleagues this afternoon before their repatriation we thank God for their lives, and service and sacrifice to South Africa from apartheid oppression.

We thank God for these great people who played an important role in shaping the future of South Africa. They truly were the architect of South African democracy. They were gifted with the spirit of service and sacrifice, of intelligence and wisdom, and leadership.

* Bishop Musonda Trevor Selwyn Mwamba is President of the United National Independence Party (UNIP)



Ms Mvulazana Nokwe, President of UNIP, Bishop Trevor Mwamba, Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe; Ms Nosizwe Nokwe Macamo. Daughters of the late Advocate Duma Nokwe, Secretary General of the ANC

CONNECTING ATLANTA

FOUR TIMES WEEKLY TO OVER 136
DESTINATIONS IN AFRICA,
MIDDLE EAST AND BEYOND



Growing Concerns On The Mpox Menace

By Prince Kurupati

While still reeling under the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic especially on the economic front, Africa fears another pandemic. The new pandemic which is threatening to show its ugly head is mpox, previously known as monkey pox. Ominously, the country worst affected is the Democratic Republic of Congo which also faced the Ebola outbreak in late 2022 to early 2023.

The Guardian reports that as of August 4, 2024, there had been 38,465 cases of mpox and 1,456 deaths in Africa... including more than 14,000 cases and 524 deaths in the DRC alone this year. Considering these huge figures and the fact that there are many “massive unknowns” about the new mpox variant, the World Health Organization was quick to declare mpox an international public health emergency. The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also declared mpox a continental public health emergency.

Owing to the “massive unknowns” of the new mpox variant, scientists are still to ascertain the people at most risk of contracting the disease. The dominant theory, however, at the current moment according to Trudie Lang, a professor of global health research at Oxford University, is that the disease spreads via sexual networks. Owing to this, she said, “vulnerable, young, exploited sex workers” are at high risk.

Professor Lang said the absence of definite data when it comes to the new mpox variant makes it a potent disease. “What I’m truly worried about is the amount of cases that are not severe. If people have got a milder infection that is potentially hidden, especially if it’s a sexually transmitted genital infection, they can be walking around with it... The big question that we’ve got is when is it most infectious, and when is it being transmitted,” she said.

Agreeing with Professor Lang is Professor David Heymann who said more scientific data is required



The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared mpox a continental public health emergency. Photo courtesy.

to inform the vaccination effort. Prof Heymann said while vaccines are coming to Africa, there is need to understand the “outstanding questions about the epidemiology of the circulating mpox virus, about its natural history and how it affects children and people with HIV, and whether it may be asymptomatic in some individuals – we don’t currently know enough to develop a sound strategy.”

Despite the “massive unknowns”, the relative quick declarations have been praised by many health experts. They say the declarations necessitate the relevant authorities to quickly mobilize resources needed in combating the disease before it spreads – using the mpox vaccines currently in stockpile. Dr Ebere Okereke who is an associate fellow in the global health programme at Chatham House said the swiftness with which the declarations came show that important lessons were learnt during the Covid-19 pandemic. She went on to state that failure to heed to the lessons learnt may prove disastrous not just to Africa but the world at large.

“The consequences of failing to respond robustly to these declarations could be severe, potentially leading to the increased spread of new and more dangerous variants. The risk of a failure to act now is not just a risk to Africa, but to the rest of the world,” said Dr Okereke.

The director of Global Justice Now, Nick Dearden said the inequity challenge which showed its ugly face during the Covid-19 pandemic between richer and poorer nations when it comes to access to vaccines, tests and PPE is still prevailing. Nick Dearden said while mpox medicines are there, the world only started to take action to avail the medicines to Africa when the outbreak posed a threat to the West.

“We saw this same inequity play out during the Covid pandemic, where lives lost in the global south were shamefully treated as collateral damage in pursuit of more and more pharmaceutical profiteering. It is inevitable, then, that the global South’s trust in the West has plummeted.” Spearheading the medicines’ inequity according to Dearden are pharmaceutical

corporations that continue to “impede equitable access to vaccines in pursuit of higher profit”.

Illustrating the inequity that exists when it comes to accessing mpox vaccines is Le Monde which wrote that “the good news is that an effective vaccine against mpox does exist. The bad news for Africa is that only two laboratories produce it; Denmark’s Bavarian Nordic, whose MVA-BN vaccine has been approved by most of the world’s health authorities, and Japan’s KM Biologics, whose LC16 is less widespread. Most vaccines have been pre-ordered by wealthy countries.

Following the declaration of the mpox public health emergency by both the World Health Organization and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, several foreign countries and health organizations have pledged to donate mpox medicines to Africa. The United States through the US Agency for International Development (USAid) pledged 50,000 doses of the Jynneos vaccine. Back in 2022, the United States also donated thousands of the Bavarian Nordic’s Jynneos vaccine

doses to help stop the spread of mpox.

The Director General of WHO Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the mpox outbreak in Africa is “very worrying” and as such, his organization has already disbursed \$1.5 million from its contingency fund and plans to release more. He also called upon more donors to step up and help fund the rest of the \$15 million needed to stamp out mpox.

The European Union (EU) pledged to procure and donate 175,000 doses of mpox vaccine to be distributed by the African CDC, with the manufacturer donating a further, 40,000. EU is also working to expand access to diagnostic kits and lab capacity in the region of a 3.5million EUR expected in early autumn.

Nigeria, the first African country to source mpox vaccines well before it was declared a global health emergency recently received its



The US has donated 10,000 doses of Mpox vaccines to Nigeria. Photo courtesy.

donation of 10,000 doses. Nigeria – which has confirmed 40 mpox cases this year but says the true number could be more than 700 – received its vaccine doses as a donation from the U.S. Officially handing over the

donation to the Nigerian government, U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria Richard Mills praised Nigeria for “leading a coordinated effort to respond to the outbreak before it escalates”.

While graciously welcoming the

donations, Africa CDC has stated that it’s looking at medium to long term sustainable solutions to the problem, which include manufacturing vaccines and medicine on the continent.

A Race Against Time: Antimicrobial Resistance Remains A Silent Killer Of Africa

By Jessica Ahdor

“Medicine is medicine whether you buy and don't finish taking it, someone else can also use it provided the person is suffering from the same condition as you were” says a 37-year-old driver David Tandoh, at Akweteyman a suburb of Accra.

In the bustling cities and remote villages of most African countries, a silent killer is on the rise, threatening to undermine decades of medical progress. Although it is often overlooked by many antimicrobial resistance (AMR), is the ability of microorganisms to withstand the effects of drugs that once killed them. Experts say it is becoming a significant public health crisis on the continent.

Despite the dire consequences, the issue remains largely unnoticed by the public, often overshadowed by more visible health challenges like malaria and HIV/AIDS among others.

Antimicrobial resistance occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites evolve and become resistant to the drugs used to treat the infections

they cause. This resistance develops primarily due to the overuse and misuse of antimicrobial medicines in humans, animals, and agriculture. In Africa, where healthcare systems are often under-resourced, the problem is particularly acute.


Like David Tandoh, buying antibiotics is generally unregulated in most parts of the continent. The sale

of over-the-counter medications is normal without a prescription from a qualified physician.

Dr Yaw Adu-Sarkodie, a leading infectious disease expert at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana, warns of the impending crisis: «Antimicrobial resistance is spreading rapidly across the


continent, making infections that were once easily treatable with antibiotics increasingly difficult, and sometimes impossible, to cure. In Ghana, we are seeing more cases of drug-resistant infections, particularly in hospitals where the misuse of antibiotics is rampant.»

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Africa is




African Union Member States Report Cases

As of 19 August 2024 6pm EAT



Since the beginning of January 2024, 12 AU MS have reported 18,910 cases (3,154 Confirmed; 15,756 suspected) and 541 deaths.

- Central Africa: 18,833 case and 538 deaths
- Eastern Africa: 7 cases and 0 deaths
- Southern Africa: 24 cases and 3 deaths
- Western Africa: 46 cases and 0 deaths
- Northern Africa: No AU MS reporting mpox



*Africa numbers are taken from official Member State reports.

Safeguarding Africa's Health

expected to see some of the highest increases in antibiotic use globally, driven by population growth, increased access to healthcare, and unregulated sales of antibiotics. However, with this increased use comes the heightened risk of resistance.

AMR is already having a profound impact on public health in Africa, although the true extent of the problem is difficult to quantify due to limited surveillance and reporting systems. In Ghana, for instance, infections caused by drug-resistant bacteria lead to longer hospital stays, higher medical costs, and increased mortality.

Dr Raji Tajudeen Head, Division of Public Health Institutes and Research of the Africa CDC, explains, «AMR is an invisible epidemic. Unlike diseases that cause immediate symptoms, the effects of drug resistance can take time to manifest. Patients with resistant infections may not respond to standard treatments, leading to prolonged illness and a greater risk of death. The ripple effect on families and communities is devastating.»

In many parts of Africa, including Ghana, the burden of AMR disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, and those with weak immune systems. Infections acquired during childbirth, surgery, or through the use of medical devices are becoming harder to treat, putting millions of lives at risk.

Celestine Ativor, a mother of three went through a caesarean section to have the last two of her children laments «I am mostly in pain at the operated area so to ease the pain I take Amoxiclav, or Tramadol. I have been treated for the infection several times yet the pain is on and off, she asserts.

Experts have attributed the rapid spread of AMR across Africa to several factors. The over-the-counter availability of antibiotics, often without a prescription, leads to widespread misuse. Many people self-medicate, often using incorrect dosages or taking antibiotics for viral infections like the flu, which do not respond to these drugs.



Dr Kaseya warns that tensions of increasing demand of vaccines by Western nations and the monopoly in the manufacturing of vaccines puts Africa at a disadvantage.

«In Ghana, antibiotics are readily available in pharmacies and even in local markets, often without the need for a prescription,» says Dr. Bernice Dery, a public health expert in Ghana. «This easy access, combined with a lack of awareness about the dangers of AMR, means that people are using antibiotics when they don't need them or are not using them properly. This is one of the main drivers of resistance.»

Agricultural practices also play a significant role in the spread of AMR. Antibiotics are commonly used in livestock farming to prevent disease and promote growth, leading to the development of resistant bacteria that can be transmitted to humans through the food chain.

Moreover, the lack of robust healthcare infrastructure in many African countries means that healthcare providers often prescribe antibiotics as a precaution, even when they are not necessary. Inadequate diagnostic facilities also contribute to the problem, as doctors may prescribe antibiotics without confirming the bacterial nature of an infection.

One of the most concerning aspects of AMR is that it often goes unnoticed until it is too late. Unlike diseases that cause immediate outbreaks or epidemics, AMR creeps up silently,

spreading through communities and healthcare settings. By the time its effects are fully realized, the damage is often irreversible.

«In many ways, AMR is a silent killer,» says Dr Muyembe Tamfum, Director-General of the Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. «It doesn't cause the dramatic outbreaks that we see with diseases like Ebola, but its impact on public health is just as deadly, if not more so. We need to act now to prevent a future where common infections become untreatable.»

Combating AMR in Africa requires a coordinated and multi-faceted approach, involving governments, healthcare providers, the agricultural sector, and the public. The Africa CDC has been leading efforts to develop a continent-wide strategy to tackle AMR, focusing on surveillance, regulation, and public awareness.

«One of our top priorities is to strengthen surveillance systems so that we can better understand the spread of AMR across the continent,» says Dr Ogwel Ouma. «We also need stronger regulations to control the sale and use of antibiotics, particularly in the agricultural sector. Public awareness campaigns are crucial to educate people about the dangers of misuse and the

importance of completing prescribed courses of antibiotics.»

In Ghana, initiatives like the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance have been launched to address the crisis. However, experts agree that more needs to be done. «We need to invest in healthcare infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, to ensure that antibiotics are used correctly and only when necessary,» says Dr Adu-Sarkodie. «Education is key—both for healthcare providers and the public.»

The fight against AMR in Africa is a race against time. If left unchecked, the silent killer could reverse decades of medical progress, leaving millions vulnerable to infections that were once easily treatable. The stakes could not be higher.

«We are at a critical juncture,» says Dr. Muyembe Tamfum. «The decisions we make today will determine whether we can continue to rely on antibiotics to save lives, or whether we will face a future where even minor infections become deadly. The time to act is now.»

As Africa continues to battle this growing crisis, it is clear that the continent's future health depends on the collective efforts of all stakeholders. By working together, Africa can overcome the threat of AMR and ensure that the silent killer

does not claim more lives.

Africa CDC has been actively coordinating with various stakeholders, including the AU Member States, WHO, and other international partners, to bolster the continent's response to the outbreak. In his letter, Dr. Kaseya detailed the comprehensive efforts to enhance case detection, improve diagnostic capabilities, and mobilize resources for vaccine distribution. «A continental strategy for Mpox was developed which is used to mobilise resources to coordinate the outbreak response,» he noted.

However, significant challenges remain. Only three African

countries—Nigeria, South Africa, and the Democratic Republic of Congo—have approved the utilization of Mpox vaccines, and there is a growing concern about the continent's ability to secure enough vaccines to meet demand. Dr Kaseya warned that «the tension of the increasing demand of vaccines by Western nations and the monopoly in the manufacturing of vaccines puts Africa at a disadvantage.»

In light of these challenges, the Africa CDC has called on African leaders to unite in their response to the outbreak. «There is a serious risk that Africa will not be considered in the distribution of the vaccines and

other medical countermeasures if African leaders don't come together to make their voice on the fight against this disease,» Dr Kaseya urged.

To support the affected countries, Africa CDC has activated its Emergency Operations Centre and deployed over 200 epidemiologists and logisticians to the hardest-hit regions. Additionally, the agency is working closely with AU Member States to implement intensive training programs for healthcare workers and enhance public awareness campaigns to educate communities about Mpox prevention.

As the continent grapples with this escalating health crisis, the

importance of a unified and robust response cannot be overstated. Dr. Kaseya concluded his letter with a call to action: «The Africa CDC will remain at your disposal for any request that can help to address this health issue in our continent.»

The situation remains fluid, with the Africa CDC continuing to monitor developments closely and adjust its strategies accordingly. The hope is that with sustained effort and international support, Africa can bring the Mpox outbreak under control and prevent further loss of life.

Food Sufficiency Is Not A Mirage For Africa

By Raila Odinga*

The late Prof. Calistus Juma once stated that “An African woman with a hoe on the shoulders” is the default symbol of African agriculture but yet they grow the bulk of the continent’s food on smallholder farms. The mass of food production in Africa is still undertaken in small farms typically an acre on average and mostly by traditional inefficient methods. With all the generous natural endowments of the continent, we remain paradoxically trapped in a perpetual ring of poverty and hunger.

In a short six years from now, members of the United Nations had agreed to achieve a hunger free world through the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite a marginal decline globally in the numbers of people still suffering hunger, nearly 1 billion still remain malnourished leaving little hope for the attainment of the UN zero hunger and all forms of malnutrition target by 2030. Of the billion still living in hunger, approximately three quarters of that number are in Africa and facing food insecurity levels that are generally regarded as severe.

Hunger and in fact extreme hunger has been associated with Africa for several decades and there are varied factors that are attributable to this state of affairs. Conflicts in the horn of



With a Continental food import bill of over USD 40 billion annually, it is probably high time that food insecurity in Africa is declared as an existential threat, says Raila Odinga

Africa and in some parts of the West and Central Africa contribute the highest to hunger numbers followed by unfavorable weather patterns and general poverty. This situation was compounded by COVID-19 effects that exacerbated poverty and the ongoing Ukraine war with Russia that has greatly disrupted the global supply chain especially of grains and fertilizer both of which have a direct

bearing to food security.

With 60% of the worlds available arable land, it disconcerts me greatly that Africa remains the hungriest continent globally. On the flip side, Agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood for 70% of the population in the continent. Despite the importance of Agriculture, the sector is immensely bedeviled with constraints of low productivity

and low value addition, poor rural infrastructure, under investment, policies that only favor urban development, land tenure policies and lack of productive capital for women and youth.

Over several decades, there have been numerous intervening policy declarations and pronouncements meant to fast-track increased agricultural production, improve

food and nutrition security that have yielded little to alleviate the hunger challenge in our continent. Little progress has been reported on the last biennial review on the implementation of the current cycle of the Malabo commitments. Hardly any country was reported as being on track to meet the goals by 2025 and with just a handful recording some marginal improvement. In the considered view of the evaluators, the lack of progress was mainly due to lack of stronger political leadership and commitment at the required levels to propel implementation.

When COVID-19 pandemic broke out, all predictions pointed to an Africa that would bear the biggest brunt of the outbreak and probably lead to a disaster. But contrary to the predictions, the pandemic spread was

much slower in the African continent than in the rest of the world due to diverse reasons but mainly because of a strong political will coupled with the good coordination among Government leaders at the highest levels with relevant Continental and International institutions. Notably, we witnessed such coordination being keenly overseen at the highest levels of governments for more effective and timely action.

A good example that I recall, was the President of Seychelles doubling up as the Minister of Health in order to effectively and expeditiously deal with the pandemic. In Ethiopia, the National Disaster Risk Management Council that coordinated the fight against the pandemic was led by the Deputy Prime Minister.

With a Continental food import

bill of over USD 40 billion annually, it is probably high time that food insecurity in Africa is declared as an existential threat and granted the overdue attention of a disaster perhaps similar to that of COVID-19. In order for example to meet a key Malabo goal of countries committing 10% of public expenditure to agriculture, a strong political will at national levels will be undoubtedly necessary.

Domiciling the food security function in the highest national offices may potentially provide the needed leverage for both high attention and funding. The successful implementation of however well-intentioned declarations and treaties will always remain heavily dependent on the willingness of the leadership of the member states and

in particular at the national level. Unlike the implementation of other treaties that may be constrained by the actions of other states in the international system, most actions towards attaining food security are purely national and only require the necessary political will.

Africa may be struggling towards achieving the SDG target of a hunger free world by 2030 as well as her own Malabo goal of eradicating hunger by 2025, but we have the right policy instruments at the continental front. All we need is to galvanize the right political will at the highest level and the shame of hunger will be history.

*Raila Odinga is former Prime Minister of Kenya and candidate for AUC Chairperson



African Energy Week
Cape Town, South Africa
4 - 8 November 2024

If the transition doesn't mean eradicating energy poverty, it doesn't make sense for us.

H.E Bruno Jean- Richard Itoua

Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo

MAKING ENERGY POVERTY HISTORY BY 2030



African Energy Chamber

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FESTIVAL

The biggest entrepreneurship event in the World
with 12 events holding simultaneously



Central African Think Tank Forum Heralds New Dawn

From the massive turnout, the growing enthusiasm, unbridled excitement, robust debates, impeccably professional organization and more, the second edition of the Foretia Foundation chaperoned Central African Think Tank Forum was a home run. For a sub region considered is

a weak link on most metrics of the African development kaleidoscope, the African Think Tank Forum is a harbinger of great hope. PAV was there and shares the event in pictures.





LUMEN CHRISTI HEALTH CARE INC.

We' ve built a long standing relationship based on trust

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



+1 (617) 479 0206

ABOUT US

OUR OBJECTIVES AMONGST OTHERS

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



OUR MISSION

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



MODERN MEDICAL FACILITIES

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



OUR SERVICES

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

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

Journalist To The Rescue Of Breastfeeding African Mothers With New App

By Adonis Byemelwa



Janet Otieno displaying Nyonyesha App features. Photo courtesy.

In rural and urban Tanzania, breastfeeding can be a daunting challenge for many mothers. Misinformation, deeply rooted cultural stigmas, and limited access to healthcare resources often leave these women feeling isolated and unsupported. This scenario is not unique to Tanzania but is prevalent across many parts of Africa, where traditional practices often clash with modern healthcare advice.

Amidst these challenges, Kenyan journalist Janet Otieno-Prosper has emerged as a beacon of hope for African mothers. Drawing from her personal experience as a first-time mother, Janet transformed her challenges into a mission to empower women across the continent.

Her solution? The Nyonyesha app—a Kiswahili word meaning «breastfeed.» This innovative digital tool provides accurate, culturally sensitive information on breastfeeding, maternal, and child

health, filling a critical gap in many African communities.

Recently, Pan African Visions Senior Reporter, sat down with Janet Otieno-Prosper, an award-winning journalist and International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) Fellow, to discuss her journey from journalism to digital innovation, and how the Nyonyesha app is making a difference in the lives of parents across Africa. Here are excerpts from their conversation.

What inspired you to create the Nyonyesha app, and how do you envision it impacting parents' lives across Africa?

The inspiration for Nyonyesha came from my personal experience as a first-time mother. I noticed significant gaps in accessible and reliable breastfeeding information, which made the journey quite challenging. This app was developed to fill those gaps by offering practical,

easy-to-understand guidance on breastfeeding, maternal, and child health. I envision Nyonyesha becoming a vital resource for parents across Africa, empowering them with the knowledge to make informed decisions. This, in turn, should improve breastfeeding rates and enhance the overall health and well-being of mothers and children across the continent.

How has your experience as a journalist influenced your approach to tackling issues related to women's and children's health in Africa?

My background in journalism has been crucial in shaping my approach to these issues. Reporting on health and human rights taught me the importance of credible, evidence-based information. I've always believed that this information must be accessible to everyone, especially vulnerable groups. My journalism

experience equipped me with the skills to research, analyze, and present complex health topics in a way that is easy to understand. This approach is reflected in the development of Nyonyesha, where I ensure that the information provided is accurate, culturally relevant, and user-friendly.

Can you share some of the challenges you faced as a first-time mother that motivated you to develop Nyonyesha?

As a first-time mother, I faced several challenges, primarily due to misinformation and societal pressures surrounding breastfeeding practices. There was a lack of reliable resources specifically tailored to the unique needs of African mothers. This motivated me to develop Nyonyesha, a tool designed to provide accurate, culturally sensitive information to support mothers through their breastfeeding journey and beyond. I wanted to create something that

would help mothers navigate the often-overwhelming experience of new parenthood with confidence and the right information at their fingertips.

With your extensive career in journalism, what key lessons have you learned about reporting on health and human rights issues in Africa?

One of the most important lessons I've learned is the necessity of empathy and sensitivity when reporting on health and human rights issues. It's crucial to listen to and amplify the voices of those directly affected by these issues. Storytelling is a powerful tool for change—it can bring attention to overlooked topics and influence policy. Another critical lesson is the importance of collaborating with health experts to ensure that the information presented is accurate. These principles have guided my work and are deeply embedded in the content we offer through Nyonyesha.



In rural and urban Tanzania, breastfeeding can be a daunting challenge for many mothers. Photo courtesy.

What role do you believe digital platforms like Nyonyesha play in addressing gaps in maternal and child health information in Africa?

Digital platforms like Nyonyesha are essential in bridging the information gap in maternal and child health across Africa. These platforms offer immediate access to critical health information, which is particularly valuable in regions with limited healthcare infrastructure. By leveraging technology, we can reach a broader audience and provide them with the tools and knowledge they need to make informed health decisions. Nyonyesha, for instance, offers tailored content that resonates with African mothers, helping to demystify breastfeeding and child care in a culturally relevant way.

How did your fellowship with the International Center for Journalists shape the development of the Nyonyesha app?

My fellowship with the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) was pivotal in shaping the

Nyonyesha app. The fellowship allowed me to attend the 71st World Health Assembly in Geneva, where breastfeeding was a major topic. It also provided opportunities to network with other journalists and health experts, helping me gain insights into the intersection of media, technology, and health communication. The experience honed my skills in leveraging digital tools to create impactful content, which directly influenced the design and functionality of Nyonyesha. Moreover, it reinforced the importance of evidence-based journalism, a principle that underpins all the information provided through the app.

As a media trainer and mentor, what advice do you offer young journalists who aspire to cover health and development issues in Africa?

My advice to young journalists is to approach health and development reporting with curiosity, empathy, and a commitment to accuracy. It's vital to understand the cultural and social contexts of the issues you're covering

and to give a voice to the marginalized communities affected by these issues. Always seek out credible sources and collaborate with experts to ensure the accuracy of your reporting. Additionally, I encourage young journalists to embrace digital tools and platforms—they are powerful means to reach wider audiences and create meaningful impact. This is especially important in today's digital age, where information can spread quickly and influence change.

What are your plans for Nyonyesha, and how do you see it evolving to meet the needs of African mothers and children?

Nyonyesha has already made a significant impact, but there's still so much more to do. I plan to expand the app's features to include more comprehensive content on maternal and child health, tailored specifically to different regions in Africa. We are also looking at ways to integrate interactive features, such as live chats with health professionals, to provide immediate support to mothers. Additionally, I'm exploring partnerships with local health

organizations to increase the app's reach and effectiveness. My ultimate goal is for Nyonyesha to be a trusted companion for every African mother, helping to improve health outcomes for both mothers and children across the continent.

Finally, how do you balance your work as a journalist, app developer, and mother? What drives you to keep pushing forward in all these areas?

Balancing these roles is challenging, but my passion for improving the lives of others keeps me going. As a journalist, I'm driven by the desire to tell stories that matter and make a difference. As a mother, I want to create a better world for my children and other children across Africa. As an app developer, I'm motivated by the impact that Nyonyesha is having on the lives of African mothers and their children. Each role feeds into the other, and I'm constantly inspired by the potential for positive change. It's not always easy, but knowing that my work is making a difference keeps me pushing forward.



WE ARE COMMITTED TO YOUR HEALTH

**OUR SERVICES ARE
RENDERED 24 HOURS A DAY**



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

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

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

Skilled Nursing Services, Personal Care Services, Home Care Companion

Call Us — 443 982 3052

8611 Lugano Road, Randallstown, MD 21133

www.infinityhcs.com

Africa's Trade Transformation: The Power of Technology for Sustainability

By Arnaud Bouraima*

In the face of mounting global environmental challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, and increasing focus on environmental, social and governance (ESG) awareness, sustainable trade practices and supply chains have the potential to radically transform Africa's economic future.

From green logistics to fair trade and circular economy principles, sustainable trade practices have a significant positive impact on global and local trade. In addition to environmental benefits, they enhance market competitiveness and open access to new markets that value a commitment to sustainability.

However, the transition to eco-friendly and sustainable supply chains is reliant on several factors, not least a significant investment in the infrastructure and technology needed to streamline port and customs operations and ensure a smooth entry of goods into the country in question. An understanding of the importance of digital transformation by governments and regulatory bodies is also a key factor in adopting digital solutions over more traditional manual systems.

African countries that understand and embrace these requirements are well on their way to laying the groundwork for sustainable trade practices.

As an example, the port of Cotonou in the West African country of Benin handles an average of 80 to 90 merchant vessels monthly. According to the African Development Bank, Cotonou deals with 90 percent of the country's international trade, serving up to 100 million consumers. In 2022, the port handled 12.5 million tonnes of goods, a figure that is predicted to almost double by 2038, reaching 23 million tonnes.

In a gesture of confidence, the recent extension of an €80 million loan by the African Development Bank for significant infrastructure



upgrades will expand the port's operations even further. Yet despite the vast and complicated operations of one of Africa's busiest ports, Benin has jumped to 66th place on the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index, an astonishing leap of approximately 100 places in just under a decade, positioning the country as West Africa's key trade hub.

But this wasn't always the case. High shipping costs, low efficiency, and poor logistical facilities threatened to stifle any hopes the port had of becoming a key trade route, despite the fact that the country is a crucial transit route for West Africa, connecting millions of people in the landlocked countries of Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, and the northern regions of Nigeria.

Technology is revolutionising The Webb Fontaine and Benin trade practices story

The solution? Leveraging technology to break through the complexities, inefficiencies, and obstacles impeding effective trade, and transform Benin into an economically competitive trade hub.

This is a story that replicates itself in trade ports along Africa's entire coastline. Operators and customs entities are constantly looking for ways in which to alleviate the backlogs and delays caused by the high volumes flowing through these trade entry points, and digitisation, along with improved physical infrastructure, is proving to be an extremely effective solution. Partnerships and collaborations with specialist service providers hold the key to success.

Backtracking from the current situation, and highlighting the importance of long-term public-private collaborations in modernising and streamlining trade landscapes, Webb Fontaine started working with Benin's Ministry of Finance and Benin Control in 2017. Implementing a suite of innovative solutions including Webb Single Window, Webb Transit Tracking, Webb Valuation, Webb Ports, and Webb Customs, we are proud to be playing a pivotal role in transforming trade in the country.

Webb Single Window has been a game changer. It forms the basis of GUCE Benin, a digital platform with over 6,500 users in the logistics chain that facilitates import, export, and transit operations, and incorporates

electronic payment via Paylican, Webb Fontaine's official payments partner. Webb Single Window has also automated the processing of key administrative operations like issuing licenses and authorisations, overseeing currency exchange operations, managing exemptions, and communicating with tax services.

In practical terms, this means streamlining the process needed to get containers out of the port. Digitising processes to create efficiencies, using new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), reduces the time spent on clearance of goods, for both customs brokers and administrators. Benin now ranks as West Africa's top port and holds the third-highest rating in Africa behind Egypt and South Africa. Release times have been reduced by 30%, with a remarkable 50% of containers being released within only two days.

Along with operational efficiency at the ports themselves, economic growth is a key benefit. From digital skills development to higher revenues

as a result of streamlined operations, technology is playing a crucial role. For example, reducing the clearance time from 47 days to only a few days allows for more cycles of importation, increasing tax revenue and creating a healthy economic cycle. This also attracts foreign direct investment, making the port more attractive for investors and traders.

However, the use of technology in port operations is just one aspect in a larger framework of sustainable trade. The resultant benefits, such as automated systems and data analytics have the potential to lead to more efficient operations, reduced emissions, and less waste, which are all key components of sustainable trade practices. For instance, quicker turnaround times not only reduce the carbon footprint of shipping and logistics operations, but they also reduce the need for extended storage, in turn decreasing energy consumption and waste.


Is Africa ready for sustainable and eco-friendly supply chains?

Despite the challenges faced by African countries, many are making great strides. Togo's new container platform, Nigeria's planned green port, Liberia's green economy reforms – all are notable examples. Yet much still needs to be done to fully embrace the digital transformation journey, while at the same time addressing issues like infrastructure development.


All stakeholders have a role to play in implementing sustainable and eco-friendly trade practices and policies. African governments, for instance, can make a commitment to investing the funds and resources needed to create infrastructure that will support both trade and digital advancements, as well as support sustainability initiatives. The African Continental Free Trade Area can play a crucial role in developing a standardised approach to these issues, based on learnings from other countries on the continent.


Africa is a continent that has immense potential when it comes to creating and maintaining sustainable trade practices that will drive economic growth. The continent's success stories demonstrate this, and serve as a call to governments, industry stakeholders, policymakers and the private sector to work together to find tangible solutions that will promote further growth and development. Webb Fontaine is already playing a crucial role in supporting Africa's governments on their trade facilitation journeys, with specialised port technology that is securing customs revenue, mitigating trade fraud, and streamlining clearance times. In the same way, when all stakeholders collaborate and contribute to improvements in their respective areas, Africa's economies will reap the collective rewards.


* Arnaud Bouraima is Deputy Chief Commercial Officer, Webb Fontaine








SEND AND RECEIVE MONEY ACROSS THE WORLD, INSTANTLY! FROM YOUR MOBILE PHONE






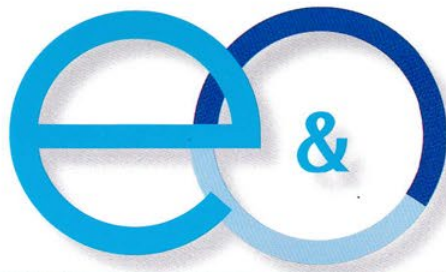
DIAL *355*1*4#
ON YOUR  LINE OR VISIT AN **mGURUSH AGENT** TODAY

WhatsApp "Hi" to  **+211 912 188 811** | Download mGURUSH on  

CUSTOMER CARE:  **+211 911 403 000 / +211 917 609 107/8** |  **customercare@mgurush.com**

 **mGurush @m_Gurush www.mgurush.com**

F A S T • E A S Y • S A F E • C O N V E N I E N T



CONSULTING, LLC

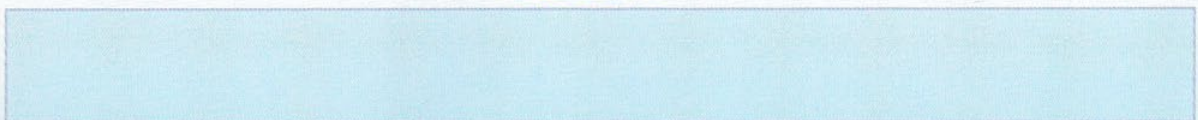
ACCOUNTING • TAXATION • CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS



OBENNY TIKU
Tax Consultant

INCOME TAX RETURN
Prepared For

**THE
PREFERRED
TAX
SERVICE**



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

The world Is coming to Nigeria For The Global Entrepreneurship Festival



The Global Entrepreneurship Festival (GEF), the world's biggest gathering of entrepreneurs, innovators, investors, creatives, policy makers and industry leaders, is set to take place at the Entrepreneurship Village in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria, from November 22 to 24, 2024.

As the world grapples with significant challenges, including climate change, hunger, poverty, and inequality, the need for enhanced international cooperation, innovative solutions, and entrepreneurship is becoming more significant. The GEF aims to build on the outcomes of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA2024) and the Summit of the Future, accelerating progress toward the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The reaffirmed commitments from these global events will guide

entrepreneurial discussions and business creation at the GEF.

The festival's theme, «Beyond Boundaries: Poverty Eradication through Entrepreneurship,» with a focus on SDG 1: No Poverty was unveiled by the GEF Board Members and key partners at the exclusive Global Press Conference held at the Lagos Oriental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria, on August 20, 2024. The press conference which was streamed live across ten countries worldwide, including the United States, United Kingdom, South Africa, Canada, Ghana, India, Liberia, Dubai, and Benin sets the tone for the event leading up to the world's largest entrepreneurship festival.

Mr. Dan Walkovi, a member of the Global Entrepreneurship Festival Board and Chairman of the Entrepreneurship Village, emphasised the festival's role in

fostering a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem. The festival's core is the spirit of entrepreneurship and collaboration. GEF will bring together the brightest minds in business, innovation, technology, and creativity for an extraordinary convergence of ideas and inspiration.

Dr. Summy Smart Francis, Special Adviser to the Ondo State Government on Entrepreneurship and Innovation and Project Lead for the Global Entrepreneurship Festival highlighted the festival's comprehensive lineup. Over three impactful days, the festival will bring together over 5,000 participants during the conferences and 15,000 on Day 3 during the closing concert. It will feature twelve concurrent events designed to engage, inspire, educate and enable thousands of entrepreneurs, youth, local and global audiences. The events include

conferences, networking sessions, business pitches to investors and VCs, an award gala, an innovation and robotics expo, a hackathon, art and creative exhibitions, a trade fair/exhibition, a global leadership forum, an international women's congress, a fashion show, and a closing concert.

«The festival is designed to address Africa's challenges and shift mindsets, creating a hub for deal-making, idea creation, design thinking, co-creation of solutions, and business pitches to over a hundred investors, venture capitalists, and local and international financiers. «This event is not just about addressing poverty; it's about transforming the way we think about entrepreneurship,» added Francis.

The Ondo State Governor, Hon. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, represented by the State Commissioner for Information, Hon. Wale Akinlosotu, expressed the

government's commitment to hosting this monumental event. «The theme «Beyond Boundaries' resonates deeply with our mission in Ondo State. Entrepreneurship is a powerful tool to combat poverty globally. With our rich resources and business-friendly environment, our state is proud to host this groundbreaking event,» Akinlosotu stated.

A notable highlight of the press conference was the announcement of the 50th Anniversary of the «Rumble in the Jungle» Boxing Bout, which will bring together global champions to promote Sport for Development. This announcement was made by Mr. Don King, who was represented by Anthony Jones Esq., Founding and Managing Partner of the Jones Firm in the United States.

Other GEF Board members, including GEF Chairman, Otunba



‘Wanle Akinboboye (Founder, La Campagne Tropicana Beach Resort, Ms. Foluke Michael (CEO/Project Director of Solution17), Hon. Shina Peller (CEO of Aquila Group of Companies), Anjani Mistry-Singh and Dr. Joy Smart Francis (E-Village Executive Director, Initiatives and Partnerships), spoke on various festival components. They reiterated the importance of collaboration and partnership in mobilising the global community to tackle SDG 1: No Poverty while addressing the interconnected nature of other global goals. The festival aims to ignite an international movement positioning youth development and entrepreneurship across different business sectors as critical economic and social transformation drivers.

At the Global Entrepreneurship Festival, we envision a world where entrepreneurship is accessible, celebrated, and supported, equipping

the next generation with the necessary tools, networks, and platforms to thrive.

The Conference, a ended by members of the diplomatic community, government representatives, private sector leaders, influencers, ambassadors, youth groups, and media personnel, concluded with a resounding message: the Global Entrepreneurship Festival (GEF) is not merely an event but a global movement poised to redefine the future of entrepreneurship and youth engagement. The doors are now open to welcome new partnerships and collaborations.

By leveraging the outcomes of the United Nations General Assembly, particularly the Pact for the Future, GEF is set to pave the way for enhanced global cooperation and sustainable development.

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

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER Ethiopian



Your Gateway to Strategic Investments

At Invest Global, we specialize in identifying lucrative investment opportunities and facilitating seamless transactions.

Empowering Africa's Growth

Our expertise in Africa positions us as a trusted partner for businesses and investors. We drive economic development by connecting Africa with the world, offering comprehensive services in deal origination, investment facilitation, trade, and strategic advisory.



Invest Global

Explore strategic investment opportunities with Invest Global.

Visit us at www.invest-global.org.
Email: ceo@invest-global.org

Zanzibar- Brazilian Market and Luxury Resorts Fueling Tourism Boom

By Adonis Byemelwa

Unguja: Zanzibar's tourism industry is set to reach new heights as the Brazilian government and top travel agents from the country have pledged to promote the island's attractions through television and social media platforms in Brazil.

This partnership promises to inject fresh energy into Zanzibar's thriving tourism sector, tapping into Brazil's enormous market and reshaping perceptions of the island as a premier destination.

Brazil's Consul in Zanzibar, Honourable Abdulswamad Abdulrahim, confirmed the government's commitment during a business meeting with tourism stakeholders. He revealed that this effort would bring a wave of Brazilian tourists to Zanzibar, a market that has previously remained untapped. According to Abdulswamad, part of the hesitation from Brazilian tourists has been due to inaccurate information about Zanzibar, which had negatively impacted its appeal.

However, with the recent visit of top travel agents and media representatives from Brazil, this tide is set to turn. The agents, impressed with Zanzibar's stunning beaches and cultural heritage, have vowed to market these attractions aggressively.

The Brazilian delegation is poised to showcase the island's charm across Brazilian TV networks and social media platforms, unlocking a new influx of tourists eager to explore the hidden gems of Zanzibar.

"They have shown a keen interest in our tourism sector, and their visit is just the beginning of a long-lasting partnership that will help place Zanzibar on the map for Brazilian tourists," said Abdulswamad.

Khalifa Mohammed, Chairman of the Zanzibar Association of Tour Operators (ZATO), echoed similar sentiments. He said the meeting with the Brazilian delegation was a crucial platform for discussing the island's



The Brazilian Consulate in Zanzibar, in collaboration with the Tanzanian Embassy in Brazil, has welcomed a delegation of tour operators and journalists from Brazil.

untapped potential in sports and beach tourism, particularly targeting Brazilian visitors.

"Brazil is a nation with a rich sporting culture, and Zanzibar offers the perfect combination of serene beaches and sports activities. We are confident that this partnership will attract more Brazilians to Zanzibar's shores," said Mohammed.

Tourism is the backbone of Zanzibar's economy, contributing over 30% to its GDP. More than 70% of the island's foreign exchange earnings come from tourism, making it the single most critical sector for Zanzibar's economic survival. The new wave of Brazilian tourists will add to the already booming tourism numbers, further bolstering Zanzibar's position as a global tourist hotspot.

The strategic push to attract Brazilian visitors to Zanzibar aligns with Tanzania's broader vision of making Brazil one of the top 10 countries sending tourists to the

country. Brazil, a nation of over 212 million people, holds immense potential for Tanzania's tourism sector.

This was emphasized during a meeting on August 27, 2024, between Tanzania's Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr. Hassan Abbas, and the Brazilian delegation. Dr. Abbas expressed optimism about the new partnership, stating that the visit is a direct outcome of Tanzania's strategic efforts to promote its attractions abroad.

"These travel agents and media representatives are here to experience our beauty first before bringing tourists from Brazil. We've already hosted them in Dar es Salaam, and now they are heading to Arusha to visit the Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Tarangire, and other cultural sites, and then they will proceed to Zanzibar. They are excited about the opportunities, and we are confident that this will lead to more Brazilian

tourists coming to Tanzania," said Dr. Abbas.

Brazilian travel agents have also shown interest in the luxury segment of Zanzibar's tourism. A key attraction that is already generating excitement in both local and international markets is the recently announced \$230 million Anantara Zanzibar Resort.

The resort, set to open in 2027, will feature 110 luxurious rooms and suites, along with 94 apartments and villas available for purchase. This development, located on the pristine shores of Nungwi, promises to elevate Zanzibar's status as a top-tier destination for luxury travelers.

A spokesperson from the Zanzibar Tourism Board expressed excitement about the project, noting, "This is a significant milestone for Zanzibar's tourism. The Anantara Zanzibar Resort will not only bring in high-end travelers but also create jobs and contribute to the local economy. It will strengthen Zanzibar's reputation



Zanzibar's tourism has already witnessed remarkable growth in recent years. Photo courtesy

as a luxury destination.”

Zanzibar's tourism has already witnessed remarkable growth in recent years. In 2023, the island recorded a 16.4 percent increase in international arrivals, welcoming a record 638,498 tourists, according to the annual tourism report. This is a substantial leap from the 548,503 visitors recorded in 2022, painting a clear picture of Zanzibar's rising global appeal.

European visitors continue to dominate the island's tourism market, with French tourists leading the pack, followed by visitors from Poland, Germany, and Italy. But what is truly notable is the significant increase in arrivals from emerging markets like India and Russia, signaling that Zanzibar's appeal is expanding beyond traditional European markets.

Air travel remains the primary mode of entry for the majority of tourists, with over 84 percent of visitors arriving via Zanzibar's airports. However, there is a growing trend of tourists opting for sea ferries from Dar es Salaam, with nearly 64,000 visitors choosing this route in 2023.

This trend reflects Zanzibar's growing popularity as part of multi-destination itineraries, where tourists combine the island's tranquil beaches with mainland Tanzania's safari experiences.

The evolving demographics of visitors are also worth noting. Millennials and Generation Z now account for over 86 percent of all arrivals. This tech-savvy generation is drawn to Zanzibar for its authenticity, unique experiences, and shareable moments that resonate with social

media audiences.

The average stay for tourists on the island is eight nights, suggesting that visitors are keen to explore Zanzibar beyond its beaches, delving into its rich culture and history.

Moreover, there has been a noticeable shift in gender demographics, with female visitors now making up nearly half of all tourists. This could point to changing travel patterns, particularly the rising trend of solo female travelers seeking safe, authentic, and culturally rich destinations like Zanzibar.

With these positive indicators, Zanzibar's tourism sector is positioned for even greater success. The partnership with Brazil, along with ongoing efforts to attract visitors from both traditional and emerging markets, is expected to propel Zanzibar to new heights as a global

tourism hub.

As Consul Abdulswamad aptly put it, "Zanzibar has so much to offer. This is just the beginning, and we are excited about the future of our tourism industry." The island's tourism stakeholders are equally optimistic, believing that with continued strategic efforts, Zanzibar will become not only a preferred destination for Europeans but also for travelers from Brazil and other parts of the world.

Zanzibar's blend of natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and strategic partnerships is sure to keep the island on an upward trajectory in the global tourism arena. The future looks bright for this island paradise, as it continues to capture the hearts and imaginations of tourists from all corners of the world. _____

Francis Ngannou v Ferreira: A Battle of Titans to Shake the MMA World

By Boris Esono Nwenfor



Ngannou will face off against Ferreira on October 19

In what promises to be one of the most electrifying matchups of the year, two of the most feared heavyweights in Mixed Martial Arts, MMA are set to clash as Francis Ngannou squares off against Renan Ferreira. This fight, already being hailed as a «Battle of the Titans» is expected to send a shockwave throughout the MMA community and the Predator returns to MMA after several boxing fights.

Ngannou left the UFC and relinquished the promotion's heavyweight title in early 2023, before signing for the Professional Fighters League (PFL), a rival company. Since signing with the PFL, Ngannou has not featured in an MMA fight but instead has been involved with boxing.

Francis Ngannou said: "I'm going to be honest, it's nice to be here and I was very, I'm very excited about this and also a little nervous. I was just behind the stage, I'm like okay it's

been a long time since I haven't been here but I remember like when I got back to the gym like two months ago I was also nervous like maybe I have forgotten how to fight but as soon as I get in the map I realized he was always there, I felt like I never left, so it's quite excited and I'm looking forward to this."

"Everyone is a problem to some extent and then he's definitely a problem for some people and as long as I'm concerned, he's not a problem against the predator. He's a great athlete but the cage is the cage. I'll say it again, he has a big problem ahead of him, he knows I have knockout power, I can wrestle him, I can bring him down to the ground, I can knock him out, I can submit him, so again, he has a big problem ahead of him," Ngannou added.

A clash of heavyweights

Known as «The Predator,» Francis Ngannou has carved out a reputation

as one of the most fearsome fighters in combat sports. With a record that includes devastating knockouts and a legacy cemented by his UFC Heavyweight Championship reign, Ngannou's return to the MMA cage has been the subject of much speculation. Now, the wait is over, and the world will witness Ngannou's prowess against Ferreira, a formidable opponent who has risen through the ranks with a series of impressive victories.

Ferreira, a powerhouse in his own right, has earned respect for his relentless fighting style and technical skill. His ability to dominate opponents with a mix of power and strategy makes him a worthy adversary for Ngannou. As the two heavyweights prepare to collide, the stakes couldn't be higher.

Francis Ngannou will fight Renan Ferreira in his MMA return after the Brazilian knocked out Ryan Bader in just 21 seconds. Ferreira and Bader

were fighting in the main event of PFL vs Bellator's Championships event in Saudi Arabia for the chance to serve as Ngannou's next opponent in the cage.

Renan Ferreira said: "It doesn't bother me, I know my accolades, I know what I bring to the table and what I've done with, for the sport, with the sport and here at the PFL. Once we get locked inside the cage, doesn't matter whose name's first, second or, what's said before, fight's a fight."

"For sure, yeah, this fight seals the deal as far as who's the best heavyweight in the world, these are two guys at their prime, heavy hitters, very similar style, insane knockout power, and they only know one motion, and that is forward."

The fight is more than just a contest between two athletes; it's a meeting of two men who embody the spirit of competition at the highest level. For Ngannou, this bout represents an

opportunity to reaffirm his status as one of the most dangerous fighters in the world. After transitioning from UFC to pursue new challenges, his return to MMA is highly symbolic, marking the next chapter in a storied career.

Ferreira, meanwhile, views this fight as his chance to make history. A victory over Ngannou would catapult him into the upper echelon of heavyweight fighters, solidifying his legacy in the sport. With everything on the line, both fighters are expected to bring their best, leaving nothing to chance.

I never left MMA – Ngannou

According to Francis Ngannou, he never left MMA and he is also quite clear that he has not left boxing. He hopes to combine the two sports. He said: I never left MMA. Also, I haven't left boxing. I'm not returning



Francis Ngannou has 12 knockouts in 17 wins in MMA.



Ferreira made quick work of Bader to book a fight with Ngannou

to MMA, I never left MMA. That's the confusion.»

Ngannou has just three losses in 20 MMA fights and 12 knockouts in those victories. Ferreira, 34, has 11 knockouts in his 13 wins. Despite losing a controversial split decision to Fury and then suffering a heavy knockout defeat by Joshua, Ngannou does not see his switch to boxing as a «negative» experience.

«The fact that those fights even happened, it was something exceptional,» he said.

«I had that dream for over 20 years and I finally put it to fruition. That was dream chasing, a life-long dream I completed.»

As the date of the fight approaches, anticipation continues to build. Fans are eager to see how Ngannou's power and precision will match up against Ferreira's resilience and tactical acumen. Will Ngannou's legendary knockout power prevail, or will Ferreira's strategy and determination carry him to victory?

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

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Ethiopian





Central Africa Link

Facilitating and Supporting your Investments



About Us

Central Africa Link Ltd is an investment advisory and facilitation company, with a mission to assist industrialists and financial partners looking to expand in Africa.

- We specialize in intermediation, business development, consulting, strategy, management of complex projects on the African continent, international business development, as well as communication consulting for private, public, and parapublic organizations.
- Pan-African & International Business Development, Intermediation, Business Provision, Trade, Participation, Financial Engineering, Strategy World/Africa.

Our Vision

Our expertise lies in the identification and structuring of investment operations, the presentation of investors and/or lenders to public decision-makers and private sector leaders, securing project financing if necessary, and mitigating the risks associated with investments in Central Africa.

- With our innovative and strategic approach, we facilitate investment and project financing, thereby contributing to the expansion of essential infrastructure and the development of sustainable urban projects.
- Our areas of interest are primarily focused on the development of infrastructure, mining, oil, gas & other natural resources, energy, manufacturing industry, agriculture, and real estate. Our passion for these sectors stems from recognizing their potential to drive economic growth and social development in Central Africa.

▪ We have also built a network of partners specialized in other sectors such as the carbon credit market, digital & fintech, and import and export.

▪ Our strong ability to identify and capitalize on emerging opportunities has positioned us as a key player in driving impactful and sustainable investments in Central Africa.

Our Approach

Central Africa Link Ltd is recognized as a trusted partner in both the public and private sectors. Our agility in establishing and maintaining strong relationships, coupled with our deep knowledge of the regional business environment, has made us an indispensable resource for decision-makers seeking expert advice on investment strategies and financing opportunities in Central Africa.

- Our commitment to economic development and our experiences in investment facilitation make us a preferred partner for those looking to navigate the complex investment landscape in Africa's dynamic markets.
- Our dedication, expertise, and corporate values continue to bring about positive change and sustainable growth in the region.

Contact Us

Ready to tap into this market? Contact us and let's start your best investment journey today.

Davy LEBOA
Managing Partner
davy.leboa@centralafricalink.com
+ 242 05 377 9191 (WhatsApp)



PAN AFRICAN VISIONS



Tel: +1 240 429 2177

pav@panafricanvisions.com | marketing@panafricanvisions.com

www.panafricanvisions.com



CLG

previously Centurion Law Group

A graphic featuring a torn paper effect. The top part of the paper is white and contains the CLG logo icon and the text 'CLG Lawyers & Business Advisors'. The bottom part of the paper is blue and shows a map of Africa. The background of the entire page is a low-angle shot of a modern skyscraper with a grid-like facade.

NEW OFFICE

Pan-African Legal Group CLG Opens Office in Brazzaville
CLG's expansion across Africa aligns with the firm's mission to support oil and gas transactions in the continent.