

MAG 0125 - JAN. 2025

MARKETING AFRICAN SUCCESS STORIES & MORE

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS

Investment Insights With Rene Awambeng

Ghana: A New Dawn
Beckons

Malawi: Mutharika Braces
For Rescue Mission

Mozambique: A Nation
At Crossroads

DR Congo: Gloves Off
With Apple



WWW.PANAFRICANVISIONS.COM





CLG

Lawyers & Business Advisors



CONTACT US

Your **One-Stop Shop** for all your business needs.

Leading Legal **Practice & Business Advisors**



300+
Attorneys
& Business
Advisors



10
Core
Practice
Areas



57+
Countries



50+
Nationalities



25
Global
Offices

First **Africa-focused** firm to list on the **German Stock Exchange**

CLGGLOBAL.COM

CONTENTS

Editorial - Ghana's New Year's Message To Africa _____	2	"Drill Baby Drill"- AEC's NJ Ayuk Predicts Oil Boom Across Africa in 2025 _____	38
A New Dawn in Ghana-Mahama and Opoku-Agyemang At The Helm _____	4	A Message of Hope In Complicated Times _____	42
Ghana-Akufo Addo's Parting Gift To Africa _____	7	A Bridge Building Role For The African Diaspora In Japan _____	43
Rwanda-Kagame's Big Dreams _____	10	Cameroon Needs a Leader to Unite and Reform -Dr Fomunyoh _____	46
Tanzania- A Focus On Reforms & Unity For Samia _____	13	Angola Scales Another Hurdle In \$1 Billion Law Suit _____	49
Malawi-Mutharika Braces For Rescue Mission _____	16	Childhood Journeys-Unveiling the Complexities of Child Migration _____	51
Mozambique--Regional Security Under Threat From Deadly Election Crisis _____	19	Merck Foundation and First Ladies Unite for 2025 Vision _____	54
Africa's Strategic Shift as South Africa Takes G20 Helm _____	21	Ghana's Political Sovereignty And The Breast Of Life _____	55
Investment Insights With Rene Awambeng _____	24	Africa's Longest-Serving Leaders - Term Limits and the Battle for Democracy _____	57
Zimbabwe- Finance Minister Caves On Parliamentary Luxuries _____	28	Kenya-Fears For Dissenting Voices _____	60
A Mission To Scale Up Energy Access Across Sub Saharan For The UEF _____	31	Bribery, Betrayal, and Power Struggles Rock Chadema _____	61
African Energy 2024-Surging Investment, Waves of Change _____	34	Restoring Hope -Ugbobi's Christmas of Healing and Resilience _____	64
DRC Takes Legal Action Against Apple Over Blood Minerals _____	35	Rwanda's Formula 1 Ambition -A Bold Step in Sports Tourism _____	65
		Motsepe's First Term Legacy At CAF _____	68

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
Simmnikiwe 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

Ghana's New Year's Message To Africa

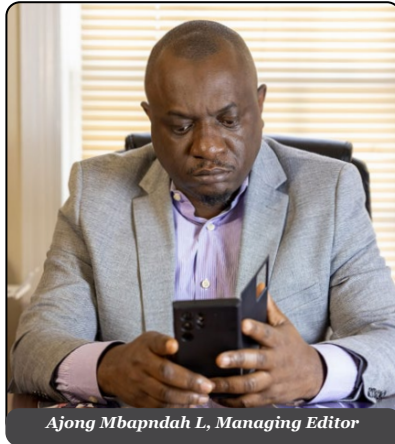
By Ajong Mbatndah L

For Africa, 2024 ended on a note of optimism with another successful elections in Ghana. From its conduct to the outcome, and the extraordinary show of maturity from both the victor and the vanquished, Ghana excelled in the December 7 elections to cap off a consequential year for Africa in terms of elections. 2025 is starting on a high note as well with Ghana still taking the lead in igniting hope through the swearing in of President John Mahama. The colourful ceremony was rich in symbols -symbols that highlighted the challenges that Africa still faces, but more importantly, the potential of a radiant future.

«As elected President, today we are also making a different kind of history, one that speaks to our maturity as a democracy. A nation of citizens with the authority to determine their political future. Today's exercise between the outgoing President, Nana Addo, and I feel a bit like *déjà vu*, as it's similar to the transitional exercise we performed eight years ago on January 7, 2017. At the time, I was the outgoing President, having served one term, and he was the incoming President, having been given a mandate by the people of Ghana to lead this great nation. He and I both understood then, as I'm sure we do today, that it's the people of Ghana we were elected to serve, » said President Mahama.

A poignant message from Mahama, not just for Ghanaians. but also, to the record number of African leaders who graced his return to power. Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Nigeria, Senegal's Bassirou Diomaye Faye, Burkina Faso's Ibrahim Traore, President William Ruto of Kenya, Felix Tshisekedi of the D R Congo, the transitional leader of Gabon Brice Oligui Nguema, President Maada Bio of Sierra Leone, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Guinea's transitional President General Mamady Doumbouya and former Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and Jacob Zuma of South Africa were amongst the dignitaries who came to celebrate another triumph of democracy in Ghana.

«This Black Star shines over this



Ajong Mbatndah L, Managing Editor

nation, and its rays spread across this continent with a sense of shared history, hope, compassion, unity, and devotion to our common welfare,» said President Ahmed Bola Tinubu of Nigeria, who is also the current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States.

«Never, never shall we harm others and never allow any outsider to hurt us or disrupt the unity for which so many of our heroes gave their sweat, blood, and very lives to achieve,» the Nigerian in words that sounded like music to the ears of many.

Rhetoric aside, that such a large number of leaders thronged to Ghana for Mahama's swearing in is testament to the esteem that the country of birth of Africa's foremost Pan Africanist Kwame Nkrumah deserves. For all the criticisms that outgoing President Nana Akufo Addo received, the Year of Return, Ghana 2019 was a master stroke that earned Ghana great credit. As a parting gift to Africa, Nana Akufo Addo further burnished Ghana's Pan African credentials by making Ghana a visa free destination for Africans beginning January 2025.

«I am proud to have approved visa-free travel to Ghana for all African passport holders, with effect from the beginning of this year,» Akufo-Addo announce in his last parliamentary address.

«This is the logical next step to the African Continental Free Trade Area and the workings of the largest trading bloc in the world,» outgoing President Nana Akufo Addo said.

With this move, Ghana became the fifth African country to offer unrestricted entry to citizens across the continent, following in the

footsteps of Rwanda, Seychelles, The Gambia, and Benin. The number of countries with visa free travel may appear small in a continent with 54, countries, but every milestone must be saluted while encouraging more countries to do same. The benefits to individual countries and the collective growth of the continent cannot be over emphasized again.

It was gratifying to see that an event could bring together leaders in the continent including those who do not see eye to eye. Burkina Faso's leader Ibrahim Traore may have taken his country out of ECOWAS, but here he was in the same space with the current ECOWAS President Bola Tinubu. Guinea's transitional President, General Mamady Doumbouya who has been sending mixed signals about his own political plans, answered present and saw firsthand what a celebration of democracy looks like.

Talk about Mahama's swearing in setting a good tempo to start the year and it will be hard to miss the fact that for the first time in its history, Ghana will have a female Vice President. By taking the oath as Vice President, Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang sent a strong message on the stronger role that women have to play in shaping the destiny of the continent. Already in 2024, the country saw the historic election of Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah as the first female President of Malawi. When she eventually takes office in March, Africa will have two female Presidents with Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania be the other. When you add to this the fact that former Ghanaian Foreign Minister Shirley Botchwey is the incoming Commonwealth Secretary-General. one cannot help but salute the barriers that are been shattered.

As the fanfare subsides, President John Dramani Mahama will be confronted with the realities of governance and delivering on campaign promises he made to the Ghanaian people during elections. He is no novice and comes in clear eyed on what the situation is and how daunting it will be to turn things around especially on the economic aspects. In a few months, people will

forget whatever shortcomings the previous administration had and will rather be expecting him to change the fortunes of Ghanaians.

Leaders who use hook and crook to be life presidents do Africa a great disservice. Instead of attributing messianic roles to themselves, leaders should know there is life after the presidency. Mahama survived been out of office after losing elections and here he is coming back in a big way. Olusegun Obasanjo and Jacob Zuma may be out of office and in Ghana they were, treated with great reverence. In Malawi, President Mutharika abided by the decision of the Supreme Court to annul his election victory almost a year into office and today he is at the verge of his own historic come back.

It is mind boggling when after forty plus years in office as president and in his 90s, a patriarch like Paul Biya of Cameroon instead of been urged to take a deserved rest, is been urged to seek another term of office in the 2025 elections. Politics maybe a game, but a country with the kind of epic challenges that Cameroon has from economic challenges to galloping unemployment, security challenges, abysmal state of infrastructure and more, using President Biya for political games and selfish agendas is dangerous to put it mildly. The country has people both within the ruling party and the opposition who can take the relay baton. Presidents will come and go and countries will remain. And to the CPDM folks pushing President Biya to run, what if he decides not to?

For all the excitement in the political side of Africa, investments remain crucial in shaping the economic trajectory of the continent. It is for this reason that we open the year with a seasoned investment professional Rene Awambeng , Founder and Managing Partner of Premier Invest . At the centre of deals in billions of dollars, Awambeng offers critical insights on the current situation and how the continent could attract more investors. The new dawn in Ghana, electoral crisis in Mozambique, the feud between the DRC and tech giants Apple, and more form part of the January 2025 issue of PAV. 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



A New Dawn in Ghana: Mahama and Opoku-Agyemang At The Helm

By Jessica Ahdor

On a crisp Tuesday morning, January 7th, 2025, Ghana's Independence Square bore witness to a historic moment as His Excellency John Dramani Mahama and Her Excellency Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang took the solemn oath to serve as President and Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, respectively. The scene was a vivid tapestry of unity, tradition, and hope as Ghanaians from all walks of life, alongside foreign dignitaries and global leaders, gathered to mark the inauguration of the duo who have pledged to lead the nation with vision, integrity, and courage.

A Ceremony Rich in Tradition

The program commenced promptly at 10 a.m., with the majestic arrival of key dignitaries including the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Alban Bagbin, and Chief Justice Gertrude Torkornoo, who played a pivotal role in administering the oaths. The choreography of the ceremony was a testament to Ghana's enduring democratic values. From the Speaker's call to order to the solemn swearing-in, the event



We are a people battered by economic crises and hardships, but there's hope on the horizon, said President Mahama

radiated decorum and a collective commitment to governance.

As the National Anthem echoed through the square, accompanied by a 21-gun salute, a palpable sense of

pride swept through the crowd. The oath of allegiance and office was taken with firm resolve by Prof. Opoku-Agyemang, Ghana's first female Vice President, marking a monumental step forward in the nation's pursuit of gender equality.

President Mahama, with a steady voice, repeated his oath of office, signaling his readiness to steer Ghana towards a path of economic growth, inclusivity, and sustainable development. "I promise to uphold the trust vested in me by the people of this great nation," he declared, as the crowd erupted into cheers.

A New Chapter of Leadership

In his inaugural address, President Mahama outlined his administration's priorities, emphasizing economic transformation, youth empowerment, and technological innovation. "Ghana must rise to the challenges of our time, not as

a divided nation, but as one people, united in purpose," he proclaimed, striking a chord with the aspirations of millions.

«As elected President, today we are also making a different kind of history, one that speaks to our maturity as a democracy. A nation of citizens with the authority to determine their political future. Today's exercise between the outgoing President, Nana Addo, and I feel a bit like déjà vu, as it's similar to the transitional exercise we performed eight years ago on January 7, 2017. At the time, I was the outgoing President, having served one term, and he was the incoming President, having been given a mandate by the people of Ghana to lead this great nation. He and I both understood then, as I'm sure we do today, that it's the people of Ghana we were elected to serve,» said President Mahama.

Equally inspiring was Vice President Opoku-Agyemang's brief but heartfelt remarks, where



VP Opoku-Agyemang called on Ghanaian women to dream big and actively contribute to national development.

she called on Ghanaian women to dream big and actively contribute to national development. Her presence on the dais was a powerful symbol of the strides women have made in leadership roles across Africa.

Unity Amid Diversity

The event was graced by former presidents, heads of state, and representatives from international organizations, underscoring Ghana's respected position on the global stage. The participation of the diplomatic corps and members of Parliament further demonstrated the commitment to fostering collaboration and dialogue in governance.

A significant feature of the inauguration was the blend of traditional and contemporary elements. From the cultural performances to the ceremonial attire of the Presidential Guard, the event showcased Ghana's rich heritage and its dynamic embrace of modernity.

The Conspicuous Presence of African Leaders

The return of Mahama as President was graced with presence of several African leaders including President Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Nigeria, Senegal's Bassirou Diomaye Faye,

Burkina Faso's leader Ibrahim Traore, President William Ruto of Kenya, Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the transitional leader of Gabon Brice Oligui Nguema, President Maada Bio of Sierra Leone, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, and others. Former Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and Jacob Zuma were amongst the dignitaries who came to celebrate another triumph of democracy in Ghana.

"This Black Star shines over this nation, and its rays spread across this continent with a sense of shared history, hope, compassion, unity, and devotion to our common welfare," said President Ahmed Bola Tinubu of Nigeria, who is also the current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States.

"Never, never shall we harm others and never allow any outsider to hurt us or disrupt the unity for which so many of our heroes gave their sweat, blood, and very lives to achieve," said the Nigerian leader.

"It is a real honour to be here with thousands of Ghanaians, Commonwealth family, and our international partners to witness



Former President Nana Addo and myself understand that it's the people of Ghana we were elected to serve, said President Mahama.

this day. Ghana's commitment to democratic principles and its ability to implement them effectively make it a cherished member of the Commonwealth. The impact of Ghana's smooth transitions extends beyond its borders, as the country has become a beacon for democracy in the region and beyond,» said the out Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland who will

be succeeded by Ghana's Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey .

The Road Ahead

As Ghanaians departed the square, the sense of hope was unmistakable. The Mahama-Opoku-Agyemang administration faces significant challenges, from economic recovery to addressing youth unemployment and climate change. Yet, the optimism surrounding their leadership is buoyed by their track records and promises of inclusivity and accountability.

In his closing remarks, Speaker Bagbin aptly summarized the sentiments of the day: "Today, we turn a page in our history, and the ink with which we write our future is hope. Let us work together to make Ghana a beacon of democracy and progress."

As the sun set over Accra, it cast a golden hue over the square, a fitting metaphor for the new dawn that beckons for Ghana. The inauguration of Mahama and Opoku-Agyemang is not just the beginning of another term; it is a call to action for every Ghanaian to contribute to the nation's renaissance.



African Leaders were conspicuously present at the swearing in of President John Mahama

Gas strategies for Africa

Through the collaborative development of gas resources, Perenco has been at the forefront of 'Gas to Power' in Central Africa, facilitating the shift from fuel to gas for power plants in Cameroon, Chad, DRC and Gabon. Through this transformation of gas to electricity, as well as gas to LPG, gas to industry, and gas to LNG, Perenco is actively enabling local development wherever it operates.

Perenco is proud to participate in the development and energy transition policies of its host countries in Africa.



Founded thirty years ago, Perenco is an independent hydrocarbon producer involved in the entire lifecycle of projects, from exploration to decommissioning. Gross production has reached 500,000 BOEPD.

The group's strength lies in the technical ingenuity and versatility of its 7,890 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. Perenco operates in 14 partner countries and is based in the United Kingdom.

Ghana's Landmark Move: Visa-Free Travel for All Africans

By Prince Kurupati



This is the logical next step to the AfCFTA and the workings of the largest trading bloc in the world, said outgoing President Nana Akufo Addo.

Ghana has announced that starting in early 2025, it will eliminate visa requirements for all African passport holders. This bold move positions Ghana as the fifth African country to offer unrestricted entry to citizens across the continent, following in the footsteps of Rwanda, Seychelles, The Gambia, and Benin. Ghana's decision to remove visa barriers is a significant milestone, not just for the country, but for Africa as a whole.

President Nana Akufo-Addo's announcement serves as a clear statement of Ghana's commitment to deepening regional ties within Africa. «This move aims to build stronger ties across Africa,» President Akufo-Addo remarked, underscoring the government's goal of promoting a unified continent.

By eliminating visa requirements, Ghana is opening its doors to

greater economic, cultural, and social interactions. Ghana's decision signals its desire to foster closer collaborations in trade, tourism, and education across the continent. The country is also looking to boost tourism, as African nationals will no longer have to go through the bureaucratic and often costly process of securing a visa.

One of the most significant benefits expected from Ghana's visa-free policy is the stimulation of intra-African trade. Historically, the free flow of goods and services across African borders has been stifled by the lack of streamlined movement for people. Complex visa processes have often hindered the ease of doing business, not just for individuals but also for entrepreneurs looking to expand their ventures across the continent.

The news comes as a welcome

development to many people including prominent businessman Aliko Dangote, one of Africa's wealthiest entrepreneurs who has long been an advocate for smoother travel across African borders. In a 2024 interview, Dangote expressed his frustration with the continent's visa system, stating, «As an investor, as someone who wants to make Africa great, I have to apply for 35 different visas». Ghana's decision to remove these barriers will not only ease the movement of business people but is also expected to make the country an attractive destination for investors across Africa.

Additionally, tourism stands to benefit significantly. With easier access to Ghana, more African tourists are likely to visit, boosting the local economy. Ghana has long been a hub for African history, culture, and art, with its rich heritage and historical

landmarks drawing international attention. By eliminating the visa requirement, Ghana will likely see an increase in cultural exchanges and educational tourism as well, attracting visitors who seek to learn about Ghana's pivotal role in the transatlantic slave trade and the country's broader contribution to African heritage.

Despite the optimism surrounding Ghana's policy, experts caution that its success hinges on effective implementation and regional cooperation. While Ghana has removed visa requirements for all Africans, many of the continent's borders remain tightly controlled. The African Union's Free Movement of Persons Protocol, designed to facilitate free travel across the continent, has been signed by many African countries, but it remains underutilized. As of 2024, only four

countries—Rwanda, Seychelles, The Gambia, and Benin—have fully implemented the protocol.

As Ghana embarks on this ambitious journey, trade and migration experts caution that Ghana’s move may not be enough on its own. They argue that for the full benefits of this policy to be realized, other African countries need to follow suit. Without regional buy-in, there is a risk of creating fragmented borders that will continue to hamper the objectives of economic integration.

Ghana’s policy will succeed in its goal of fostering a Pan-African community only if other African nations also consider removing visa barriers and harmonizing immigration policies. This will require significant political will and collaborative action across the continent.

Strengthening the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which was launched in 2021, aims to create a single market for goods and services across the continent, to boost intra-Africa trade by 52% by 2023. Ghana’s move to remove visa requirements is a significant step in advancing the AfCFTA’s goals.

Trade experts believe that the free



President Akufo Addo frequently touted the famed hospitality of Ghanaians in his two terms of office.

movement of people will enable a more dynamic workforce and an expansion of cross-border business opportunities. One of the key barriers to AfCFTA’s success has been restrictive travel policies, which have stifled the mobility of professionals, entrepreneurs, and even government officials who work to implement the agreement. Ghana’s initiative is expected to encourage other AfCFTA members to make similar moves, further strengthening the economic potential of the region.

A Step Toward Pan-African Unity

Ghana’s visa-free policy is not just about trade and tourism; it is about Pan-African unity and solidarity. It serves as a symbol of a commitment to overcoming the legacy of division that colonial borders imposed upon Africa. President Akufo-Addo’s government sees this decision as one of the key steps in building a more united and cooperative Africa, free from the historical restrictions that have often hindered the continent’s potential.

Ghana’s decision could inspire other nations to reconsider their visa policies and engage in a broader, continent-wide movement toward unification. In a world increasingly interconnected, Africa’s destiny lies in forging stronger bonds between its people and eliminating barriers that prevent them from realizing their collective potential.

As Ghana becomes the fifth African nation to implement visa-free travel for Africans, it marks the beginning of a new era of mobility, trade, and unity in Africa. The government’s bold decision not only strengthens Ghana’s position as a leader in African integration but also sets a powerful example for other countries to follow.

If successful, this move will not only transform the way Africans move across the continent but could also lay the foundation for a more integrated and prosperous Africa. However, the challenge remains for the rest of the continent to embrace this change and create a seamless, borderless Africa.

In the coming years, Ghana’s decision could prove to be a defining moment in the continent’s journey toward achieving greater economic integration, cultural exchange, and political cooperation. As the policy takes effect, the world will be watching to see if Ghana’s vision of a united Africa becomes a reality. _____



The decision makes Ghana the fifth country on the continent to allow the entry of all holders of African passports after Rwanda, the Seychelles, the Gambia and Benin, Photo courtesy



African Energy Week

CTICC Cape Town, South Africa
29 September - 3rd October 2025

Africa's Energy Pulse: Where Deals Are Made

29TH SEPTEMBER / 3RD OCTOBER

MAKING
ENERGY
POVERTY
HISTORY
BY 2030



Organised by

African
Energy
Chamber

Kagame's New Year Address: A Vision of Resilience, Sovereignty, and Ambition for Rwanda

By Adonis Byemelwa

In his New Year's address, President Paul Kagame delivered a poignant and resolute message that resonated deeply with both Rwandans and the global audience.

Blending reflection with ambition, and switching seamlessly between Kinyarwanda and English, he painted a vivid picture of Rwanda's milestones, challenges, and aspirations.

His tone was unflinching yet hopeful, a call to action and a reminder of Rwanda's sovereignty—a sovereignty that, as he emphasized, would be defended at all costs.

With 2024 promising to be a pivotal year in Rwanda's history, President Kagame began by wishing Rwandans and friends of Rwanda a happy New Year.

He underlined the significance of key upcoming events, including the presidential and parliamentary elections, the 30th commemoration of Kwibuka, the remembrance of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi, and Kwibohora, the Day of Liberation. These, he said, were moments for collective reflection, progress, and renewal of commitment to national unity. "Let us all together continue on that path," he urged.

Reflecting on the success of last year's elections, he praised Rwandans for their active participation and confidence in their leadership. "The elections went well," he stated. "Once again, Rwandans showed the trust they have in their leaders and institutions. I would like to thank Rwandans and friends of Rwanda for their support during those elections and on any occasion when that support is needed."

The President emphasized that the voice of Rwandans was clear: a desire for better service delivery and greater achievements. "Let us all work together to accomplish that," he said.

The year 2023 was not without its challenges. Chief among them was the Marburg virus outbreak, which claimed 15 lives, most of them



Rwanda's security and sovereignty will always be fully protected by all means necessary, says Kagame. Photo courtesy.

healthcare workers.

President Kagame offered heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and praised the courage of healthcare workers who sacrificed their lives.

"To the families who lost loved ones, we share your loss," he said. "I thank the healthcare workers for their bravery and our development partners for their invaluable help. Thanks to all of them, we had the lowest death toll ever recorded from a Marburg virus outbreak."

On regional matters, Kagame delivered a firm message regarding the persistent instability in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

He highlighted the continued failure to address the root causes of conflict and warned against attempts to destabilize Rwanda.

Stressing the indivisibility of peace, he declared, "We all need the same peace. Unfortunately, we continue to see instability in our region and along our borders. I want to assure you that Rwanda's security and sovereignty

will always be fully protected, by all means necessary."

The President dismissed shortcuts and temporary fixes, advocating instead for comprehensive solutions to ensure lasting peace for the region. "There has to be a comprehensive solution that deals with root causes in the medium and long term, guaranteeing peace for all the peoples of our region," he said.

He also reaffirmed Rwanda's commitment to historical clarity and its refusal to accept misrepresentation. "We will continue to stand for historical clarity regarding our situation and will never accept to be painted as something we are not."

Returning to domestic themes, Kagame reminded Rwandans of a message he has championed for years: self-reliance. "The development of Rwanda is based on a simple but essential truth: you cannot look to others for your progress without investing effort in your progress," he said. This message, aimed at

Rwandans, also carries weight for the broader African continent, particularly as it seeks to assert its agency and chart its path.

Amidst the challenges, Rwanda ended the year on a high note with the country hosting the International Automobile Association (FIA) annual awards for the first time on African soil. This milestone, Kagame said, symbolized Rwanda's ambition to play a leading role in global motorsport.

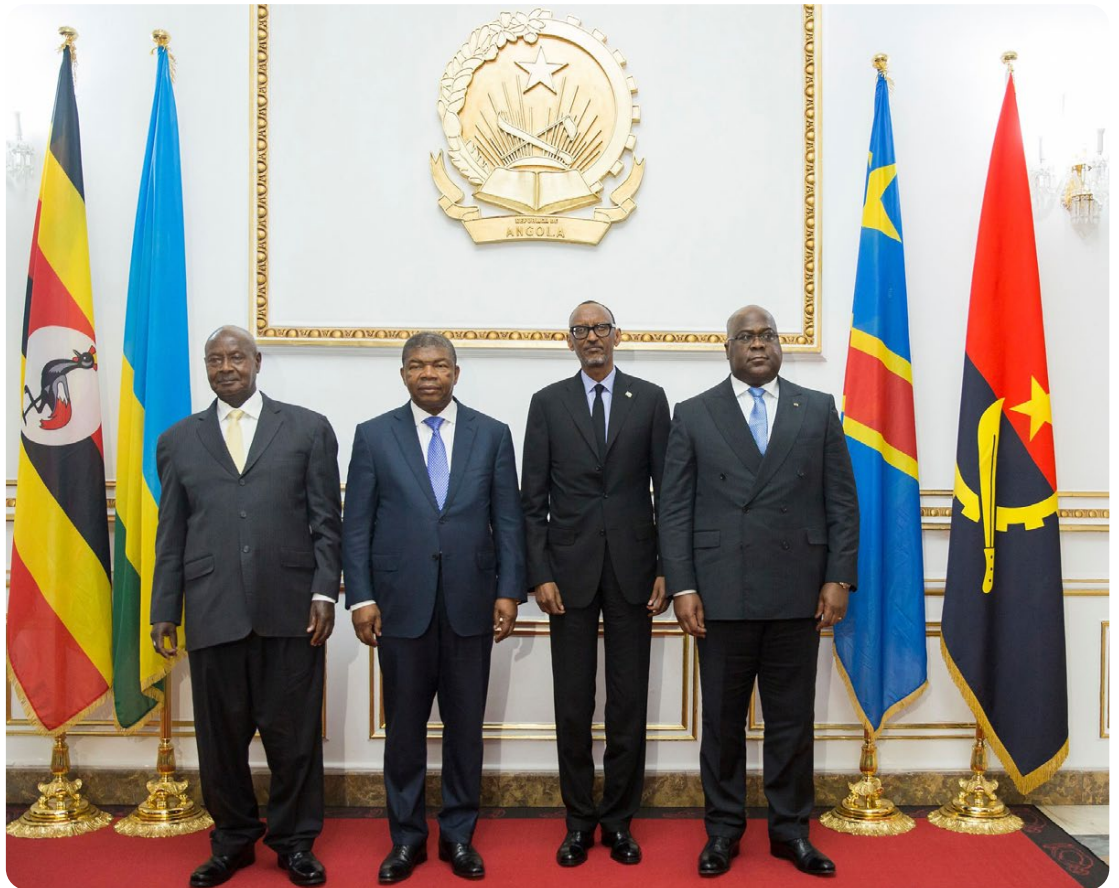
"We ended the year on a positive note by hosting the FIA General Assembly for the first time on the continent and announced our intention to bring world-class motorsport to Africa," he stated. Beyond the glamour, the President highlighted the potential economic benefits of such ventures, ensuring that every Rwandan could benefit from the resulting growth and opportunities.

To skeptics questioning whether Rwanda, a developing nation,

could handle such high-profile events, Kagame delivered a sharp rebuttal. “We take pride in aiming high because that is possible and the best way to live our lives. In any case, it is well within our means and capabilities,” he said. This sentiment reflects Rwanda’s broader ethos of striving for excellence and embracing innovation to achieve transformative progress.

Closing on an inspirational note, Kagame addressed Rwanda’s youth, urging them to lead the nation into a brighter future. “To our young people, it is to you we look to take Rwanda to the next stage, beyond what we even considered,” he said. “You must always be confident that we are capable of determining a future that we want and deserve.”

President Kagame’s New Year’s address was both a reflection on the resilience of a nation and a rallying cry for its people to seize the opportunities ahead. From asserting sovereignty to championing self-reliance, it was a message that underscored Rwanda’s commitment to progress, peace, and prosperity.



President Kagame dismissed shortcuts and temporary fixes, advocating instead for comprehensive solutions to ensure lasting peace for the region. Photo courtesy.



Invest in
**African
Energy**

13-14 May '25
PARIS, FRANCE



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.



President Samia Kicks Off 2025 with Bold Reforms and a Call for National Unity

By Adonis Byemelwa

On December 31, 2024, President Samia Suluhu Hassan addressed the nation, marking the end of a year filled with significant achievements and charting the course for 2025.

The President emphasized the importance of the «4R» philosophy—Reconciliation, Resilience, Reform, and Rebuilding—as the cornerstone of Tanzania’s continued socio-economic and political evolution.

“We have upheld the philosophy of R4, which focuses on fostering unity, tolerance, transformative reforms, and rebuilding our nation,” she said. She also praised Tanzania’s progress in media freedom, public expression, and assembly rights, calling them markers of the nation’s democratic growth.

Nevertheless, this progress has not come without criticism, as University of Dar es Salaam senior lecturer Dr. Faraja Kristomus highlighted during an interview with UTV.

He criticized the government for stifling dissent and opposition during civic elections tainted by violence, arguing that such actions undermine the principles of reconciliation and democracy.

Dr. Kristomus urged the nation to reflect deeply on its democratic journey, emphasizing, “It’s time we address the mistakes of the past 60 years to lay a strong foundation for a just and equitable society—a vision that the next generation can inherit with pride.”

President Samia acknowledged the challenges but remained optimistic about the future, emphasizing ongoing efforts to complete the National Development Vision 2025 with inputs from citizens.

“I congratulate all those who have contributed to this process and urge everyone to continue participating until its conclusion,” she said. The finalized vision, expected early in 2025, will serve as a roadmap for the



We have upheld the philosophy of R4, which focuses on fostering unity, tolerance, transformative reforms, and rebuilding our nation,., says President Samia.

nation’s development.

One of the key initiatives set for 2025 is the implementation of recommendations from the Presidential Commission on Tax Reforms. The President assured citizens that these reforms aim to enhance the tax system’s efficiency and create a more favorable business environment.

Additionally, reforms in criminal justice, including updates to policies and laws, are underway. She noted that nearly half a million citizens have already benefited from the «Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign,» which offers free legal services to those in need.

The upcoming year holds special significance for Tanzania’s democracy as it prepares for a general election to select leaders at all levels, from the presidency to local councils.

President Samia emphasized

the importance of maintaining the country’s democratic integrity, highlighting new electoral laws designed to ensure fair and transparent elections. “I call on citizens and all stakeholders to uphold Tanzania’s reputation as a democracy built on freedom and justice,” she said.

While the President’s message struck a hopeful tone, critics like Dr. Kristomus pointed out discrepancies in the government’s approach. He expressed concern over what he described as a “flawed” civic election process, marked by incidents of violence and suppression of opposition voices.

“These actions tarnish the principles of reconciliation and resilience that the President has championed,” he said, urging for greater accountability.

One of the more thought-provoking

aspects of the President’s address was her call for economic resilience in the face of various challenges.

She stressed the need for robust strategies to counter potential disruptions, be they economic, environmental, or social. This raises questions about the economic models underpinning her vision.

Critics, including economists like Mr. Khalfan Abdallah, a political analyst based in Dar es Salaam noted that the government to explore innovative financial systems, particularly those rooted in Islamic finance principles, which have demonstrated resilience during global financial crises.

“The 2008 financial crisis should have prompted a shift in economic priorities. Islamic finance offers a stable alternative, yet it remains largely unexplored in Tanzania,” Abdallah noted.

Islamic finance, which prohibits interest-based transactions, aligns with the values of many Tanzanians, particularly the Muslim majority in Zanzibar and parts of the mainland.

However, access to such financial products remains limited, with public financial institutions like the Presidential Trust Fund and Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank offering only interest-based loans. This exclusion forces many Muslims to choose between their faith and economic opportunities.

President Samia has emphasized equal economic opportunities for all citizens. "Reconciliation cannot be achieved in a society where discrimination persists, or where some are deprived of their economic and civil rights," she said.

Advocates hope her administration will address these disparities by implementing long-delayed reforms, such as those outlined in the IMF's report on Islamic finance, which has been with the Bank of Tanzania for nearly a decade without action.

The President's pledge to reform political, economic, and electoral systems was another highlight of her speech. "The goal is for Tanzania to move with the times and know when it's time to act, even if such actions are initially unpopular," she said. This sentiment resonates with calls for systemic changes to foster inclusivity and shared prosperity.

Among the government's ongoing initiatives are transformative projects



I call on citizens and all stakeholders to uphold Tanzania's reputation as a democracy built on freedom and justice. says President Samia. Photo courtesy.

in infrastructure, mining, energy, and agriculture. The President pointed to the Royal Tour campaign's success in revitalizing the tourism sector and promised "big changes" in agriculture to boost its contribution to the economy.

Yet, these sectors require inclusive and affordable capital access for all social groups, including those guided by faith-based financial principles.

As Tanzania embarks on the rebuilding phase of the 4R philosophy, there is a growing demand for financial sector reforms that accommodate diverse needs. Advocates argue that introducing Islamic financial products could create a more inclusive and equitable

system, fostering economic resilience and shared prosperity.

Despite the challenges, President Samia concluded her address on a hopeful note. She expressed gratitude to Tanzanians for their support and collaboration, which she said has enabled the government to fulfill its responsibilities effectively. "Let us build courage and integrity, working with diligence and expertise to contribute to our nation's development," she urged.

As the nation enters 2025, the President prayed for continued peace, health, and happiness for all Tanzanians. Her vision for the future—anchored on reconciliation, resilience, reform, and rebuilding—

sets an ambitious agenda.

However, as critics like Dr. Kristomus and Khalfan Abdallah have pointed out, achieving this vision will require addressing fundamental gaps in governance and ensuring that no Tanzanian is left behind in the journey toward progress.

The coming year promises to be pivotal, not just for Tanzania's democracy but for its socio-economic transformation. Whether the 4R philosophy will succeed in fostering unity and prosperity depends on the government's ability to translate words into action and navigate the complex realities of a diverse and dynamic nation.

**Congo
Energy
& Investment
Forum**

**25 - 26
March 2025
BRAZZAVILLE**
The Republic of the Congo



OPTIMIZING THE OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF THE WORLD'S ENERGY PRODUCING INDUSTRIES

Stay updated on our latest news and work opportunities

Follow us: [in](#) [@](#)

www.dietsmann.com

Dietsmann is a leading independent Operation & Maintenance and Maintenance Engineering & Inspection specialist for continuous-production plant in the energy industry. Being a global front-runner in development for 45 years, Dietsmann tests and applies New Technologies into its day-to-day operations in the energy industry. Therefore, it invests substantial amounts in Research and Development for the digitalization of maintenance to lead the way towards the SMART Operation & Maintenance focusing on Robotics and Digitalization & Data Analytics (MAINTENANCE 4.0).

SMART MAINTENANCE SOLUTIONS FOR CONTINUOUS PRODUCTION PLANT


Dietsmann
Maintaining Energy

Malawi: Mutharika Braces For Rescue Mission

By Prince Kurupati

As the year 2024 draws to a close, Malawi finds itself at a crucial crossroads. The words of Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, former President and current leader of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), resonate deeply with the nation's struggles, aspirations, and collective hope for the future. His end-of-year address provides not just a reflection on the harsh realities of the year but also a renewed call for hope, unity, and a prosperous future. As he reflects on the turbulent year and outlines his vision for 2025, Mutharika's message serves as both a critique of the current administration and a beacon of hope for a more stable and prosperous Malawi.

A Year of Struggles and Unyielding Hope

Mutharika's address begins on a solemn note, acknowledging the immense challenges that Malawians have faced in 2024. With inflation spiralling out of control and the cost of basic goods skyrocketing, many families find themselves struggling to make ends meet. In his words, "Families cannot afford the basics—food, soap, or maize. Inflation is devouring your hard-earned money." This stark reality has been compounded by a series of national crises, including a severe forex shortage, fuel shortages, and widespread food insecurity that has left many communities in a state of despair.

However, despite these struggles, Mutharika's message is not one of defeat but of resilience. "We have endured much, but we have also persevered," he says. This sentiment captures the unyielding spirit of the Malawian people who, despite the challenges, have found ways to survive and even rise above the hardship. This resilience, Mutharika reminds the nation, should not be taken for granted. It is a collective strength that will be crucial as Malawi looks ahead to 2025.

Reflecting on this perseverance,



Prof Mutharika has vowed to rescue Malawi from its race to the bottom.

Mutharika turns to the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) recent success. The DPP's historic convention in 2024 marked a moment of solidarity and reaffirmation of the party's commitment to the Malawian people. The convention, Mutharika notes, demonstrated the strength of democracy within the party and the firm resolve to rebuild the country. "Our convention demonstrated the

strength of democracy within our ranks and the determination we share to offer Malawians a leadership that is credible, capable, and compassionate," he says.

Through this, Mutharika emphasizes that the DPP is not just offering a vision for change, but a clear commitment to delivering leadership that will prioritize the needs of the people, ensuring that the

mistakes of the past are not repeated.

The Harsh Realities of 2024: A Broken Dream

Yet, as Mutharika speaks of hope and unity, he does not shy away from confronting the harsh realities that have cast a shadow over Malawi in 2024. "This is not the Malawi we built together," he laments. He lists the painful truths that continue to affect the lives of millions: spiralling inflation, collapsing agricultural support systems, and the exacerbation of youth unemployment. "The Affordable Input Program (AIP) has failed to reach farmers... Our young people, full of talent and potential, are left hopeless," he remarks, underscoring the critical areas where the current administration has failed to deliver.

The consequences of these failures are dire. The country faces one of the worst hunger crises in recent history, and with food becoming scarce, many families are forced to survive on alternative, non-nutritional foods. "Malawians are surviving on buffalo beans and many on boiled mangoes," Mutharika poignantly states. Such



The DPP's historic convention in 2024 marked a moment of solidarity and reaffirmation of the party's commitment to the Malawian people, says Prof Mutharika.

vivid descriptions serve as a powerful reminder of the human cost of poor governance.

Mutharika's reflections on these failures are not merely political commentary—they are a call to action. The broken promises of the current government, according to him, have left Malawi in ruins, but these ruins are not permanent. "This is not our destiny," Mutharika asserts, positioning the DPP's vision for 2025 as the turning point for a nation in dire need of change.

A Democracy under Threat: The Need for Justice and Fairness

Amidst these challenges, Mutharika also raises a crucial issue—one that threatens the very foundations of Malawi's democracy. He speaks out against what he views as a disturbing trend of selective justice, where opposition voices are silenced through arrests, harassment, and intimidation. "Selective justice has been weaponized against opposition leaders, threatening the very fabric of fairness and equality," he declares.

This attack on democratic principles extends to other sectors of society. Mutharika highlights the targeting of journalists, religious leaders, and media houses who dare to speak out or challenge the government. The freedom of expression, he argues, is under siege, and this is something that all Malawians must stand against.

In the face of this growing concern, Mutharika pledges that the DPP will not back down. The party's commitment to the rule of law, the freedom of the press, and human rights remains steadfast. "We will work tirelessly to restore the rule of law, protect the freedom of the press, and ensure that every Malawian can speak their truth without fear of retribution," he promises. This dedication to justice is a core pillar of the DPP's platform, one that he believes is essential for the restoration of Malawi's democratic values.

Mourning Loss and Embracing Unity

2024 has also been a year marked by loss. The sudden and tragic deaths



Together, we can rebuild our nation, restore its dignity, and forge a future of shared prosperity for all, says Prof Mutharika

of Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima and eight others have left a deep void in the hearts of many Malawians. Mutharika takes a moment in his address to pay tribute to the deceased and to remind the nation of the importance of unity during such trying times. "Let their memory inspire us to seek truth, embrace unity, and work tirelessly for a better future," he says, urging the people to honour their legacy by striving for a united Malawi.

This call for unity extends to other areas of national life. Mutharika emphasizes the need for collective action in the face of the agricultural crisis, particularly in light of the delayed rains that threaten food security. "Rain is life, and its absence threatens our food security and livelihoods," he says, urging the people to come together in prayer and faith. Unity in the face of adversity is, according to Mutharika, the key to overcoming the challenges Malawi faces.

2025: A Year of Transformation

Looking ahead to 2025, Mutharika underscores the importance of the upcoming elections. He calls on all

eligible Malawians to register and vote, emphasizing that "your vote is your voice." The 2025 elections, he believes, represent not just a political contest but a critical juncture in Malawi's history. The people must decide whether to continue along the path of instability or embrace a future of hope, stability, and prosperity.

With the DPP's commitment to fair and transparent elections, Mutharika assures the people that their votes will be protected. "The Democratic Progressive Party is committed to protecting every vote and ensuring that the upcoming elections are free, fair, and transparent," he declares.

Mutharika's vision for Malawi is one rooted in progress, equity, and opportunity. "We know the Malawi we deserve," he says, painting a vivid picture of a future where food is affordable, farmers are supported, businesses thrive, and every child has access to education. His vision also includes a Malawi where leaders are held accountable, and every citizen's vote counts. This vision, he argues, is not just a dream but a reality that can be achieved with the right leadership and the unwavering support of the

Malawian people.

"Together, we can rebuild our nation, restore its dignity, and forge a future of shared prosperity for all," Mutharika concludes, leaving his audience with a powerful message of hope, unity, and faith in the collective strength of the people.

As Malawi prepares for 2025, Mutharika's message serves as both a call to action and a reminder of the potential that lies within the nation. The challenges of 2024 are significant, but they are not insurmountable. With strong leadership, democratic principles, and a united people, Malawi can overcome these obstacles and achieve the brighter future that its citizens deserve.

The year 2025 is more than just another chapter in the nation's history—it is a defining moment for Malawi. Will the people embrace the vision of change that Mutharika and the DPP offer? Only time will tell, but one thing is certain: the fate of Malawi rests in the hands of its people. This is their moment to rise, reclaim their nation's destiny, and chart a path toward a prosperous future for all.



African Energy Week

CTICC Cape Town, South Africa
29 September - 3rd October 2025

29TH SEPTEMBER
3RD OCTOBER

Powering Africa's Growth

MAKING
ENERGY
POVERTY
HISTORY
BY 2030



Organised by

**African
Energy
Chamber**

Mozambique: Regional Security Under Threat From Deadly Election Crisis

By Adonis Byemelwa

Mozambique stands at a dangerous crossroads, a nation grappling with fiery street protests, mounting distrust in leadership, and a fractured society.

What began as an electoral dispute has escalated into one of the gravest crises the country has faced since the end of its brutal civil war 32 years ago.

For many Mozambicans, this moment is not just about a contested presidential election—it's about years of disillusionment boiling over into rage.

Since December 23, when Mozambique's top court upheld the contentious victory of Frelimo candidate Daniel Chapo, violence has spread like wildfire.

Protesters claim the election was stolen, and opposition leader Venâncio Mondlane has declared himself the true victor.

At least 125 lives have been lost in just over a week of demonstrations, pushing the death toll to 252 since October's elections.

As the flames of rebellion engulf cities and villages, international observers and neighboring countries watch with alarm, fearing Mozambique's instability could ripple across the southern African region.

"This is not a typical protest—it's a cry of desperation," said Tanzanian opposition leader Zitto Kabwe during a recent interview on UTV. "Mozambique is now a litmus test for democracy in Africa. The region must intervene before it's too late."

To understand the current crisis, one must look beyond the December court ruling. For decades, Frelimo, Mozambique's ruling party since independence in 1975, has been plagued by allegations of corruption, electoral fraud, and authoritarian tendencies.

Public anger reached a breaking point following revelations of a \$2 billion debt scandal that nearly collapsed the economy and defrauded



What began as an electoral dispute has escalated into one of the gravest crises the country has faced since the end of its brutal civil war

international investors.

This, combined with growing poverty, unemployment, and a perception that Frelimo elites were enriching themselves at the expense of ordinary citizens, created fertile ground for unrest.

"People feel betrayed," said Ibrahim Rabbi, a Tanzanian political analyst, during a UTV panel discussion. "Mozambique's democracy was already on shaky ground, but this election pushed it over the edge. The public no longer trusts the process or the institutions behind it."

Frelimo's candidate, Daniel Chapo, was declared the winner with 65% of the vote, a result met with widespread skepticism.

Independent election observers reported significant irregularities, including voter suppression, ballot tampering, and intimidation.

Mondlane, who finished second with 24%, galvanized the nation's youth by presenting himself as the face of change. His rejection of the results and fiery rhetoric have fueled the unrest, though some analysts warn that his

uncompromising stance could worsen the situation.

"Electoral fraud might have been the spark, but years of systemic issues are the real fuel," said Mussa Lugete, a commentator from Tanzania's Ununio suburb. "This is about a generation that feels robbed of its future."

The fallout has been catastrophic. Across Mozambique, protesters have set up burning barricades, looted buildings, and clashed violently with police and military forces.

Entire neighborhoods in Maputo, Beira, and other cities resemble war zones, with plumes of smoke rising from makeshift roadblocks.

In some areas, mobs have erected pay-to-pass checkpoints, forcing drivers to cough up cash to move through streets under their control.

Adding to the chaos, hundreds of prisoners escaped from detention centers amid the unrest. The growing lawlessness has led some observers to describe the situation as a «social revolt» rather than a political protest.

"It's as if the entire system is breaking down," said a human rights

activist in Maputo. "People feel they have nothing to lose."

The violence has taken a heavy toll on civilians, with reports of indiscriminate shootings by security forces. Mondlane's supporters accuse the government of using excessive force to suppress dissent, while the authorities argue they are trying to restore order.

The situation remains volatile, with fears that the violence will intensify as Chapo's January 15 inauguration date approaches.

Mondlane, who has fled Mozambique citing threats to his life, has refused to recognize Chapo's victory.

He has laid out a series of demands, including overhauling the country's electoral commission, penalizing those involved in election fraud, and instituting reforms to reduce political interference in state institutions.

However, his refusal to participate in dialogue without guarantees of safety has stalled efforts to resolve the crisis.

Mondlane's stance has garnered

both praise and criticism. While many see him as a symbol of resistance against Frelimo's dominance, others worry that his hardline approach could deepen divisions.

Two of his aides were fatally shot after the election, further fueling fears for his safety and adding to the tension.

"Dialogue is the only way forward," said Kabwe. "Mozambique has to return to the negotiating table, just as it did after the civil war. But this time, the talks must address the root causes of the crisis, not just the symptoms."

The international community has been slow to respond, leaving many Mozambicans deeply frustrated. Analysts argue that regional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) should play a central role in mediating talks between the opposing factions.

However, SADC's inconsistent and often ineffective handling of political crises in member states has drawn sharp criticism.

Hannah Danzinger da Silva, Mozambique director for Search for Common Ground, warned that ignoring the crisis could have devastating regional implications. "This isn't just about Mozambique. It's about preventing a domino effect that destabilizes southern Africa as a whole," she said.

Mozambique's neighbors, particularly South Africa and Tanzania, are under increasing pressure to act. "This instability doesn't recognize



Daniel Chapo, Frelimo's presidential candidate, celebrates with supporters in Maputo after the court upheld his disputed victory. Photo courtesy

borders," noted Danzinger da Silva. "It's about trade, security, migration, and human lives. Regional leaders cannot afford to stay on the sidelines any longer."

The consequences of Mozambique's turmoil stretch far beyond its borders. As a key gateway linking southern Africa to global markets, the country's strategic importance cannot be overstated. Its offshore natural gas reserves—among the largest in the world—have drawn billions of dollars in foreign investment, but the escalating violence threatens to unravel years of economic progress.

Moreover, the country's battle

against an Islamic State-linked insurgency in its northern Cabo Delgado province remains a pressing concern. The unrest risks providing terrorist groups with the chaos they need to expand their foothold, alarming Western powers that have invested in containing extremism in the region.

Teodoro Waty, a member of Frelimo's top decision-making body, emphasized the urgency of reconciliation. "We need immediate reforms, starting with making electoral institutions transparent and credible," Waty said. "The people of Mozambique need to know their voices matter, or

this cycle of distrust will never end."

While some have floated the idea of a unity government that would include opposition figures, such proposals have met stiff resistance from Frelimo loyalists. Others argue that significant electoral reforms and an independent investigation into the election are essential to restoring public trust.

But time is running out. As the January 15 inauguration date for Daniel Chapo approaches, the tension in Mozambique's streets is palpable. Protesters have vowed to intensify their demonstrations, and fears of even deadlier clashes loom large.

"This is about more than the presidency," said Danzinger da Silva. "It's about rebuilding a nation's soul after years of disillusionment."

Waty agreed, underscoring the fragility of the current moment. "Without reconciliation, Mozambique risks tearing itself apart. We need to rise above party lines and power struggles to save our country."

As the world watches, Mozambique teeters on the edge, its cries for justice growing louder by the day. Whether its leaders can prioritize reconciliation over division—and whether the international community will step in to support peace—remains to be seen. For now, the streets remain volatile, and the future hangs precariously in the balance.



Opposition leader Venâncio Mondlane will be instrumental in ending the reign of chaos that has engulfed Mozambique.

Africa's Strategic Shift as South Africa Takes G20 Helm

By Prince Kurupati

South Africa's assumption of the presidency of the G20 in December 2024 is a significant development, not only for the nation itself but for the African continent as a whole. This marks the first time an African country has taken the leadership of the influential group, which consists of the world's largest economies. The presidency provides South Africa with a unique platform to amplify African voices in global economic and political discourse, advocate for issues central to the continent's development, and leverage its position to address key challenges facing both Africa and the world.

This article delves into the implications of South Africa's G20 presidency for the country and Africa, analyzing the potential benefits and challenges, while also considering expert opinions and global perspectives on this historic shift.

Significance for South Africa and Africa

South Africa's role as the first African nation to hold the G20 presidency offers an unprecedented opportunity for the country to shape global discussions. The G20 presidency comes with the responsibility of steering the group's agenda, setting the tone for discussions on economic growth, climate change, debt relief, and social inclusion. President Cyril Ramaphosa, upon assuming the role, expressed that South Africa would focus on "fostering solidarity, equality, and sustainable development," underscoring the country's commitment to prioritizing Africa's development in the global agenda. The leadership of the G20 also strengthens South Africa's position as a key player in international diplomacy.

For Africa, this presidency is a strategic moment to advocate for its long-standing concerns on the global stage. With the African Union now included as a permanent member of the G20, South Africa's leadership



South Africa's role as the first African nation to hold the G20 presidency offers an unprecedented opportunity for the country to shape global discussions.

can amplify the continent's voice on critical issues such as poverty alleviation, debt relief, climate finance, and sustainable infrastructure development. This enhanced representation positions Africa to engage more actively in global economic governance, challenging historical disparities and advocating for policies that benefit the Global South.

As President Ramaphosa emphasized, South Africa intends to build on the work of previous emerging-market G20 presidencies, such as Brazil and India, to consolidate a unified voice from the Global South. The presidency also aligns with Africa's growing recognition in global affairs, signalling a shift toward a more inclusive global governance structure. South Africa's leadership will help reshape global conversations by bringing African priorities to the fore.

Potential Benefits for South Africa and Africa

Advocacy for Debt Relief and Sustainable Finance

One of the most pressing issues for African countries is the mounting debt crisis, worsened by global economic

shocks, climate change impacts, and underdeveloped financial infrastructure. South Africa's G20 presidency offers an opportunity to push for reforms in global financial systems to better support African nations. This includes advocating for debt relief, restructuring of loans, and fairer global financial terms for developing countries. South Africa has already indicated its intention to prioritize debt relief and sustainable finance, seeking innovative solutions that address both immediate financial crises and long-term development goals.

The G20 presidency provides South Africa with a platform to lead discussions on reforming multilateral development banks and ensuring that Africa's financial needs are adequately met. This includes addressing the high-risk premiums and sovereign credit ratings that hinder many African countries from accessing affordable capital. These efforts could have a lasting impact on Africa's economic growth by improving financial access and promoting stability.

Promotion of Inclusive Economic Growth

South Africa's presidency of the G20 comes at a time when global inequality is at an all-time high. The global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic remains uneven, with developing countries, particularly in Africa, facing disproportionate challenges in terms of unemployment, poverty, and access to healthcare. By prioritizing inclusive economic growth, South Africa aims to steer global policies toward addressing these disparities.

The country plans to push for increased support for sustainable infrastructure projects, regional integration, and the strengthening of trade relationships within Africa. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents a major opportunity for Africa to increase intra-continental trade, and South Africa intends to use its G20 presidency to promote regional economic cooperation. This focus on inclusive growth will also align with the African Union's Agenda 2063, which aims to transform Africa into a united, prosperous, and peaceful continent by 2063.

Climate Change and Just Energy Transition

Climate change disproportionately affects African nations, with rising temperatures, droughts, and floods threatening agricultural productivity and exacerbating poverty. South Africa, as a leader of the G20, aims to focus on climate finance and the just energy transition. The country is home to vast mineral resources, including critical metals for renewable energy technologies, such as lithium and cobalt. South Africa plans to advocate for fair trade and climate justice, ensuring that African nations can transition to green energy without sacrificing their economic development.

One of the key aspects of South Africa's agenda is ensuring that Africa benefits from financing to mitigate the effects of climate change and transition to renewable energy. South Africa intends to lobby for climate financing mechanisms that recognize Africa's unique vulnerabilities while promoting sustainable development. This aligns with global efforts to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and achieve net-zero emissions by mid-century.

Reform of Global Governance Structures

South Africa's presidency of the G20 provides an opportunity to advocate for broader global governance reforms. These reforms could focus on making multilateral development banks more responsive to the needs of developing countries, ensuring that they are equipped to tackle cross-border challenges such as climate change, pandemics, and inequality. In particular, South Africa will push for changes in the governance structures of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to make them more inclusive and representative of the Global South.

This would involve revisiting sovereign credit ratings and promoting policies that encourage fair and equitable financing for developing nations. The G20 presidency provides



©Reuters

For Africa, this presidency is a strategic moment to advocate for its long-standing concerns on the global stage. Photo credit Reuters.

South Africa with a powerful platform to address these systemic issues and advocate for a more equitable global economic order.

Expert Opinions and Analysis

Experts agree that South Africa's G20 presidency offers significant potential for both the country and the broader African continent. Professor Danny Bradlow, a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Pretoria, notes that South Africa's leadership could drive much-needed reform in global financial systems, particularly in the management of sovereign debt. He suggests that South Africa could leverage its presidency to create a global debt roundtable with the IMF, World Bank, and G20 member countries, facilitating creative solutions to manage debt crises in the Global South.

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, CEO of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), emphasizes that South Africa's G20 presidency offers an opportunity to deepen regional cooperation and increase Africa's representation in global decision-making processes. She suggests that South Africa's

leadership should focus on key issues such as climate finance, trade, and infrastructure development, ensuring that the continent's needs are adequately addressed within the G20 framework.

The African Union, as a permanent member of the G20, has also voiced support for South Africa's leadership, with AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat expressing optimism about Africa's growing influence in global affairs. Mahamat emphasized the importance of using the G20 platform to advocate for Africa's economic and development priorities, including support for the AfCFTA and the reduction of trade barriers.

Challenges Ahead

Despite the immense opportunities, South Africa's G20 presidency is not without challenges. Geopolitical tensions between major powers, particularly between the United States, China, and Russia, could complicate efforts to reach consensus on key issues. South Africa must navigate these complex dynamics while ensuring that Africa's interests remain central to the discussions.

The return of U.S. President Donald Trump could also pose challenges, particularly in the areas of trade and climate change. However, South African officials remain confident in the G20's ability to manage such challenges, citing the group's resilience and ability to adjust to shifting global dynamics.

South Africa's G20 presidency represents a transformative moment for the country and the African continent. It offers a strategic platform to advocate for Africa's priorities, promote sustainable development, and push for meaningful reforms in global economic governance. By focusing on debt relief, climate finance, inclusive growth, and governance reforms, South Africa can drive positive change not only for the continent but for the Global South as a whole. As Africa's first G20 leader, South Africa stands at the forefront of a new era in global diplomacy, with the potential to reshape the world's economic and political landscape.

The presidency is an opportunity for Africa to assert its voice, unite on key development priorities, and work toward a more inclusive and equitable global order.



CURATED BY



GASTRONOMY

PANAF

The Ultimate (Pan) African Food Experience

An immersive culinary experience at Expo 2025 Osaka, celebrating Africa's diverse flavors and vibrant cultures

PANAF African Dining Room



CENTRAL AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICA



EAST AFRICA



DIASPORA FUSION



NORTH AFRICA



WEST AFRICA

Experience a new African culinary adventure unknown in Japan

At EXPO 2025, we'll have an entertainment restaurant featuring performances, and natural organic African cuisine.

music, fashion,



Contact to:

Africa Diaspora Network Japan (ADNJ)
Email : info@adnjapan.org
Phone: +81-070-4111-6707 (David Kpondehou)

EXPO Duration:
April 13, 2025 - October 13, 2025

Investment Insights With Rene Awambeng

By Ajong Mbatndah I

With the right leadership and collaboration, Africa's potential is limitless, says Rene Awambeng, the visionary Founder and Managing Partner of Premier Invest. With a strong and growing reputation as one of Africa's most consummate deal makers, Rene Awambeng says while the investment climate remains a mixed bag with tremendous opportunities alongside challenges, there is every reason to remain optimistic about Africa in 2025 especially with initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) gaining steam.

"Africa needs to focus on simplifying regulatory frameworks, enhancing governance and transparency, and building robust infrastructure to attract investors. Policies that encourage public-private partnerships and leverage technology will be critical. Consistent stakeholder engagement and alignment with global ESG standards (Environmental, Social, Governance) can further position Africa as a prime investment destination," says Awambeng in an interview with PAV.

Awambeng describes Premier Invest as a partner that genuinely cares and invests in the success of African countries and corporates. An approach deeply rooted in understanding the unique needs of each client and market, a combination of local expertise with global insights primed for innovative practical and impactful solutions, and a seasoned team with diverse experiences and dedication to building long relationships, have contributed to the solid credentials of Premier Invest under Awambeng's leadership.

"As a start-up, we successfully expanded our footprint in Africa, secured key partnerships in the UAE, and supported projects in critical sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and financial services. We facilitated over US\$ 2,4 billion in investment flows and growth in our client portfolio pipeline was US\$4 billion," Awambeng reveals.



With the right leadership and collaboration, Africa's potential is limitless, says Rene Awambeng, the visionary Founder and Managing Partner of Premier Invest.

Describing the AfCFTA as a game changer for Africa with the promise of unlocking \$3.4 trillion in economic potential, Rene Awambeng says Premier Invest was actively working to facilitate cross-border investments and projects that align with it.

"We believe our expertise in structuring complex deals and building partnerships makes us uniquely positioned to support its realisation," says Awambeng who was recently named amongst the 100 Most Influential Africans of 2024 by New African Magazine.

Happy New Year Mr. Awambeng, may we start with an introduction of Premier Invest for those who may not be familiar with its services?

Happy New Year and thank you for having me. Premier Invest is a specialist financial services investment holding company operating in ADGM focused on South-South Trade.

We are in the processing of obtaining regulatory approval for Premier Bank a CAT 1 Deposit Taking

Financial Institution/Bank in ADGM- Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and Premier Investment Partners, a CAT 3C Fund Manager & Financial Advisory in ADGM- Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Premier Bank will be a regulated specialist wholesale structured trade and transactional financial institution providing Trade Finance, Structured Trade & Commodity Finance, and Transactional Banking Services (Payments, Foreign Exchange, Alternative Currencies, Swaps, Collections, Clearing & Settlements).

Premier Investment Partners will be a regulated fund management company with specialist funds in Trade Finance, Energy and Energy Infrastructure, Financial Technology, Agriculture, Corporate Finance and Financial Advisory.

These entities will be the go-to-investment firm to originate, advise, structure, fund, co-invest, distribute, transact and settle trade assets in Africa.

Our ambition is to be a dynamic investment firm focused on providing innovative financial solutions.

We pride ourselves on delivering bespoke advisory services, financing structures, and investment strategies tailored to the unique needs of our clients. Our mission is to empower our partners to achieve their financial goals while fostering sustainable economic growth in the regions we operate in

What kind of clientele does Premier Invest look out for and how is your geographical spread in Africa and other parts of the world?

Our product offering is a wholesale model. Our clientele includes a diverse range of stakeholders such as governments, development finance institutions, banks, and large corporates and commodity trading companies. While our primary focus has been on Africa, we have also established connections in the UAE, Europe, and Asia to facilitate cross-border investments and partnerships. This global presence helps us bridge gaps and bring transformative investments to Africa

How did 2024 go for Premier Invest and any figures or scope of activities that you may want to share with us?

2024 was an exciting year for Premier Invest. As a start-up, we successfully expanded our footprint in Africa, secured key partnerships in the UAE, and supported projects in critical sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and financial services. We facilitated over US\$ 2,4 billion in investment flows and growth in our client portfolio pipeline was US\$4 billion. This growth is a testament to the trust our clients place in us and the significant need for funding in Africa.

What makes the services of Premier Invest stand out and why should African countries, corporate interests, and others prioritize your services as opposed to those of others in the same business?

Our approach is deeply rooted in understanding the unique needs of each client and our markets. Our energy and drive for execution and impact is unparalleled. We combine local expertise with global insights, ensuring that our solutions are not only innovative but also practical and impactful. Moreover, our team's



Rene Awambeng describes Premier Invest as a partner that genuinely cares and invests in the success of African countries and corporates.

diverse experience and dedication to building long-term relationships set us apart. For African countries and corporates, we are a partner that genuinely invests in their success.

What is your take on the investment climate in Africa and projections for 2025?

The investment climate in

Africa remains a mixed bag, with tremendous opportunities alongside challenges such as high risk perception, regulatory uncertainties, funding gaps, and infrastructure gaps. However, with initiatives like AFCFTA gaining momentum, I am optimistic about 2025. We anticipate increased intra-African trade and investment flows, with sectors

like energy transition, fintech, and manufacturing driving growth.

Any policy recommendations or tips you normally share or will like to share with those African countries interested in making investment climates more friendly or attractive to investors?

Africa needs to focus on simplifying regulatory frameworks, enhancing governance and transparency, and building robust infrastructure to attract investors. Policies that encourage public-private partnerships and leverage technology will be critical. Consistent stakeholder engagement and alignment with global ESG standards (Environmental, Social, Governance) can further position Africa as a prime investment destination.

With the AFCTA, is there any progress you are seeing, and what role do you see for Premier Invest in making it live to its full potential and promise for Africa?

The AFCFTA is a game-changer for Africa, promising to unlock \$3.4 trillion in economic potential.



There is every reason to remain optimistic about Africa in 2025 especially with initiatives like the AfCFTA gaining steam, says Awambeng.

At Premier Invest, we are actively working to facilitate cross-border investments and projects that align with the objectives of the AfCFTA. We believe our expertise in structuring complex deals and building partnerships makes us uniquely positioned to support its realisation.

The AfCFTA will be the largest free trade area since the formation of the World Trade Organisation, given Africa's current population of 1.2 billion people, which is expected to grow to 2.5 billion by 2050. Some of its expected benefits include:

- Increasing trade among African countries which currently ranges between 15-18%.
- Stimulate production through the development of regional value chains, to ensure that manufacturing, agro processing and other activities across the continent are stimulated to supply the market.
- Strengthen the capacities of African companies to access and supply world markets.
- Strengthen African's economic and commercial diplomacy.

Prior to Premier Invest, you had a consequential stint at Afreximbank, how did this shape your vision for Premier Invest?

We did incredible handwork to develop the Africa agenda, expand the membership footprint, grow the capital base, business and returns exponentially. My time at Afreximbank deeply shaped my vision for Premier Invest. I learned the importance of leveraging



Energy is a cornerstone of Africa's development, and Premier Invest is proud to contribute to this vital sector, says Rene Awambeng.

financial innovation to address Africa's developmental challenges. This experience reinforced my commitment to creating an investment platform that not only drives growth but also prioritizes the socio-economic well-being of communities in Africa.

Energy seems to be one the sectors of Premier Invest is active in, what is your take on the work of the African Energy Chamber and the African Energy Week which hits the symbolic five-year mark in 2025?

Energy is a cornerstone of Africa's development, and Premier Invest is proud to contribute to this vital sector. The African Energy Chamber and

African Energy Week have played a pivotal role in shaping the continent's energy narrative. Reaching the five-year mark in 2025 is a testament to their impact. We look forward to collaborating with stakeholders to champion sustainable and inclusive energy solutions.

New African Magazine featured you in its list of 100 Most Influential Africans of 2024, what did this recognition mean to you?

This recognition is truly humbling and serves as a reminder of the responsibility we have as leaders to drive positive change. It's not just about personal achievement but about inspiring others and contributing

meaningfully to Africa's growth story.

A last question on the future of Africa, what gives you hope and what are your fears?

What gives me hope is Africa's resilience and the creativity of its people, particularly the youth. They are our greatest asset. My fear, however, lies in the persistent challenges of inequality, governance, climate change and the slow pace of implementing policies that attract investment. Addressing these requires collective effort, and I remain optimistic that with the right policies and partnerships, we can overcome them. With the right leadership and collaboration, Africa's potential is limitless.

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

Pan African Visions Magazine, 7614 Green Willow Court, Hyattsville, MD 20785
Tel: 2404292177, email: pav@panafricanvisions.com, editor@panafricanvisions.com



FROM ROCKS TO REVENUE

Optimizing Oil & Gas Opportunities



YACHTZE LUCHIN
President & CEO

Our focus is supporting host countries in Africa to monetize hydrocarbon resources that have been considered marginal by major oil companies. Our innovative development techniques allow us to unlock and maximize viability.



OUR COMPANIES

UNITE OIL & GAS INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING

- Comprehensive data development
 - Superior project selection
- Enhanced understanding of risk and uncertainty
 - Alignment of company goals

UNITE OIL & GAS INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

- Drilling rigs and equipment
- Directional drilling and well management
- Production facility, equipment and services

UNITE OIL & GAS INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION

Our focus is the development and production of hydrocarbon assets located onshore and in shallow water.

We are an international team of highly qualified professionals who has worked in over 60 locations on six continents in every aspect of the hydrocarbon lifecycle, including exploration, production, development and operations.

Contact Us Today

Herve Plick
Hplick@uniteogi.com

Zimbabwe: Finance Minister Caves On Parliamentary Luxuries

By Prince Kurupati

In a move that has ignited widespread criticism, Zimbabwe's Finance Minister, Mthuli Ncube, has capitulated to parliamentarians' demands for increased perks, including second vehicles and higher allowances. This decision comes at a time when the nation is mired in economic challenges and grappling with an El Niño-induced drought, raising ethical and practical concerns about government priorities.

Zimbabwean parliamentarians recently intensified their demands for improved benefits, arguing that their current packages are insufficient. Among their requests are second vehicles—luxury off-road vehicles—along with residential stands in affluent suburbs, fuel allowances, and other significant perks.

Addressing other members of Parliament, Marondera Central MP Caston Matewu said, "All Portfolio Committee Chairpersons agree with me that every week we are always on the road, constantly travelling. As it stands, if you look at the distances travelled by vehicles we were given, mine has already clocked around 40,000 kilometres because we are always on the move as Chairpersons. Therefore, we are requesting that within the 2025 budget, funds be allocated to purchase a second set of vehicles, but ones that are not expensive, to enable us to carry out our parliamentary duties as stipulated by our Standing Orders."

All current members of parliament upon assuming office in August 2023 were requested to choose and receive one vehicle from the following: Toyota GD6, Toyota Fortuner, Ford Ranger, Ford Everest or the latest Isuzu models valued at US\$60,000. Chairpersons were requested to choose vehicles valued at US\$70,000.

To accommodate these requests, the Finance Ministry in its parliamentary budget allocation, disbursed more funds. Detailing the additional perks for parliamentarians, the finance minister allocated \$10



Finance Minister, Mthuli Ncube, has capitulated to parliamentarians' demands for increased perks, including second vehicles and higher allowances.

million on second cars (on top of those already provided), \$2 million for allowances, \$2 million for office supplies, and \$2.9 million for fuel allowances. This move, while pleasing the MPs, has drawn widespread condemnation from the public and various stakeholders who believe such expenditures are unwarranted during an economic crisis.

Zimbabwe is no stranger to economic turbulence. The country is battling soaring inflation, a depreciating local currency, and chronic unemployment. Adding to the woes is the devastating impact of an El Niño-induced drought that has crippled agricultural productivity and left millions food-insecure. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), over 4 million Zimbabweans are at risk of hunger, with the situation expected to worsen in the coming months.

The agricultural season of 2023-2024 was declared a national disaster, with harvests plummeting and rural communities bearing the brunt of the crisis. Water shortages have also become a pressing concern, with urban centers like Harare facing

prolonged water outages due to reduced dam levels.

Compounding the woes is the further widening of the taxable sectors and products. Already bearing the brunt of over taxation, the finance minister as a way of generating more revenue added additional taxes on fast foods and gambling winnings. This, essentially, can be interpreted as a way of extracting funds from the poor and vulnerable to distribute to the rich and affluent.

The decision to prioritize parliamentarians' perks has sparked anger across the country. Many Zimbabweans have taken to social media to express their frustration, questioning the morality of allocating resources for luxury benefits while the majority of citizens are struggling to meet basic needs.

"It is a betrayal of public trust," said one X (formerly Twitter) user. "At a time when the government should be focused on addressing food insecurity and bolstering social safety nets, they are instead indulging the selfish demands of a privileged few."

Painting just how dumbfounding and out of touch with reality that

Zimbabwean Parliamentarians are, investigative journalist Hopewell Chin'ono said, "Both Zanu (PF) and opposition CCC members of parliament united yesterday to betray ordinary Zimbabwean citizens, aided by Zimbabwe's finance minister, Mthuli Ncube. The MPs, both Zanu (PF) and opposition CCC, requested an additional car for portfolio chairpersons, despite recently receiving new vehicles. Mthuli Ncube approved their request, and he also provided US\$2 million for their office supplies such as stationery, US\$2.9 million for their fuel allowances, and US\$10 million for their extra cars, on top of what Parliament had already provided. Here is the punch line, they even got residential stands from the government which will be funded by YOU the taxpayer!"

Chin'ono went further stating that "This is happening at a time when Zimbabwean hospitals lack basic medicines and medical equipment, schools have no modern blocks, urban areas lack clean drinking water, unemployment stands at 95%, roads are potholed, and Zimbabwe has the highest inflation

in the world... Zimbabwe has 360 Members of Parliament, it means YOU the taxpayer will buy 460 pieces of upmarket land for them. That is around US\$36 million of taxpayers' money if they get half an acre each, or US\$72 million if they get one acre each."

The decision to allocate funds for these luxuries has raised broader ethical questions about governance in Zimbabwe. Critics argue that it reflects a disconnect between the ruling elite and the everyday struggles of ordinary citizens.

"Leadership is about sacrifice, especially in times of crisis," said another 'X' user. "What message does it send to the public when leaders demand luxuries while citizens go hungry? It undermines trust in government and erodes the social contract."

From a practical standpoint, the expenditure on perks diverts much-needed funds from critical sectors such as healthcare, education, and disaster response. Zimbabwe's healthcare system, for example, is in dire need of investment, with hospitals lacking essential medicines and equipment. Similarly, the education sector is struggling, with teachers frequently going on strike over unpaid salaries.

This is not the first time Zimbabwean parliamentarians have come under fire for extravagant demands. In previous years, MPs have benefited from luxury perks, sometimes without proper authorization. For instance, during the tenure of former Reserve Bank Governor Gideon Gono, parliamentarians controversially received luxury vehicles without prior



Investigative journalist Hopewell Chin'ono says both Zanu (PF) and opposition CCC MPs united in betrayal of ordinary Zimbabwean citizens.

approval from the Finance Ministry, sparking public outrage.

Such incidents highlight a pattern of entitlement among Zimbabwe's political elite, further fueling disillusionment among the populace.

As Zimbabwe continues to navigate a complex web of economic and environmental challenges, the need for accountable and ethical leadership has never been more critical. Many are calling for a reassessment of government spending priorities, urging leaders to focus on addressing the nation's pressing issues rather than indulging in self-serving

demands.

Civil society groups have proposed measures such as greater transparency in budget allocation, a cap on luxury perks for public officials, and a reallocation of resources towards social welfare programs. While these proposals may not immediately solve the country's deep-rooted issues, they represent a step toward restoring public trust and ensuring that leadership serves the people, not personal interests.

The Finance Minister's decision to bow to parliamentarians' demands for luxuries is a stark reminder of

the challenges facing governance in Zimbabwe. In a nation where millions are battling poverty and hunger, the prioritization of personal perks over public welfare is both tone-deaf and morally questionable.

As Zimbabweans endure the dual burdens of economic hardship and climate-induced crises, the actions of their leaders will remain under intense scrutiny. It is imperative for the government to realign its priorities, demonstrating empathy, accountability, and a commitment to serving the people it represents.

NKEMNJI

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

GLOBAL TECH
Graphic Design & Publishing

A Mission To Scale Up Energy Access Across Sub Saharan For The UEF

By Ajong Mbapndah L

In a continent where over 600 million still live without electricity, the Universal Energy Facility (UEF) is making its mark with critical action to tackle the problem and improve lives. Launched in 2020, the UEF hit the ground running with a focus on mini grids in Benin, the DR Congo, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Nigeria with a programme boosting stand-alone solar solutions for businesses and households.

As a multi-donor fund, the UEF provides results-based financing (RBF) incentives to clean energy companies, with the objective of speeding up and scaling up energy access across Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond, in line with SDG7 and the Paris Agreement.

“Africa’s vast and diverse landscape offers numerous opportunities for renewable energy solutions, such as solar mini-grids and standalone solar units with battery storage. The UEF is committed to making sustainable energy accessible and affordable for all Africans,” says UEF Senior Director Anita Otubu in an interview with PAV.

Buoyed by the steady progress, the UEF plans to continue its positive trajectory by engaging with donors, governments, the private sector, and local authorities to reduce the clean energy access gap.

With sustained commitment to the transformative power of electricity access, we can achieve significant change in the next ten years, says Anita Otubu.

Could you start with an introduction to the Universal Energy Facility (UEF) for us?

The Universal Energy Facility (UEF) is a global partnership platform designed to accelerate the delivery of clean, affordable, and reliable energy access in Africa. It brings together governments, international financial institutions, development finance institutions, philanthropic



Africa’s vast and diverse landscape offers numerous opportunities for renewable energy solutions, says UEF Senior Director Anita Otubu.

organizations, and the private sector to mobilize and deploy finance for energy projects across the continent.

In a continent as vast and varied as Africa where the energy needs are chronic, what does the Universal Energy Facility consider as clean energy and how available and affordable is access to it for Africans?

Africa’s vast and diverse landscape offers numerous opportunities for renewable energy solutions, such as solar mini-grids and standalone solar units with battery storage. The UEF is committed to making sustainable energy accessible and affordable for all Africans. This involves not only financially supporting renewable energy developers but also strengthening the entire energy market ecosystem by collaborating with governments, the private sector, philanthropies, and other key stakeholders. By supporting a robust

regulatory and financial framework, we can significantly impact the productivity and development of the countries we serve.

This approach yields multiple benefits, including climate change mitigation through reduced CO2 emissions, green job creation, the growth of clean energy markets, and improved access to energy for MSMEs, healthcare centers, and schools.

May we know the impact of the Universal Energy Facility since its creation-any figures or verifiable stats to back up its impact?

As of today (December 16, 2024), we are proud of our achievements, particularly in the last two years. We are on track to connect nearly 60,000 people to electricity by the end of the year, a number that will be significantly exceeded early next year. This translates to approximately

4,000 electrified businesses and public institutions.

This means shops can extend their operating hours, tailors can work at night, and supermarkets can offer refrigerated products. Schools and healthcare facilities can provide better education and healthcare services, respectively.

Beyond the direct impact on people’s lives, our work has led to the removal of almost 5,000 tons of CO2 emissions annually. We have also empowered women by connecting nearly 3,500 female customers to clean, reliable, and sustainable energy.

Considering the hundreds of millions that have no access to energy, and at the current pace of things, what impact does the UEF hope to achieve in the next ten years?

We aim to continue our positive trajectory by engaging with donors,

governments, the private sector, and local authorities to reduce the clean energy access gap. With sustained commitment to the transformative power of electricity access, we can achieve significant change in the next ten years.

What are the criteria used in selecting or providing grants to eligible entities both those used in providing the services and those at the receiving end?

Our team of experts in energy and finance carefully evaluates each project's viability based on its financial, implementation, and risk profile within our results-based approach. We prioritize projects that align with our goals and have the potential to deliver significant impact.

What mechanisms does the Universal Energy have in place to ensure that the grants are been used efficiently to produce the desired results?

As a results-based mechanism, we focus on achieving milestones outlined in detailed implementation plans. Our team maintains regular communication with developers to track progress and provide support as needed. This ensures that funds are used efficiently and effectively.

May we know some of the challenges that the UEF has faced in the implementation of its projects?

While challenges are inevitable,



Sierra Leone's VP Jalloh commissioned UEF's second mini-grid in Kalangba that powers hundreds of homes and cuts carbon emissions.

they have provided valuable lessons and strengthened our operations. Macroeconomic disruptions and supply chain issues can impact project viability and timelines. Additionally, government priorities may shift, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, our most significant challenge is the need for consistent and increased funding. Our results-based financing approach has proven effective, and we have a robust pipeline of pre-approved projects ready for implementation. We are actively seeking new partners to help us bring electricity to more communities in Africa.

Africa has 54 countries, and it looks like UEF operations are in about six countries, how were these countries selected and what plans are in place to extend to the rest of Africa?

When selecting countries for our operations, we consider factors such as government commitment, the political and financial environment, and the alignment with existing energy access initiatives. We also collaborate with other organizations within the Results-Based Financing Group to coordinate efforts and avoid duplication.

We recently expanded our operations to Zambia, supporting a presidential initiative to build

multiple mini-grids in partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation. We continue to explore opportunities for further expansion in other African countries.

Can you shed light on the Financing Energy Prosperity Campaign that the UEF launched recently?

The Financing Energy Prosperity campaign aims to highlight the human impact of our work. By showcasing real-life stories, we demonstrate how our investments contribute to climate action, job creation, education, and healthcare. This campaign helps us engage partners and mobilise additional resources.

May we know the reaction or response of governments and people in countries you currently have projects in, and what plans does the UEF have for 2025?

Governments and communities in our operational countries have expressed positive feedback. They appreciate our support in achieving their energy access goals and improving the lives of their citizens.

In 2025, we will continue constructing mini-grids in our operational countries and actively seek new partnerships to expand our impact. By addressing the energy access challenge, we can contribute to the sustainable development of the African continent.



UEF partnered with Mionwa to power thousands of households, businesses in Benin through mini-grids.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA OFFICIAL ENERGY, OIL AND GAS EVENT

N.I.E.S.2025



CONVENER



Federal Government of Nigeria

NATIONAL HOST



**24TH - 27TH
FEBRUARY 2025**

PRESIDENTIAL BANQUET HALL - ASO VILLA | ABUJA CONTINENTAL HOTEL, FCT

CONFERENCE THEME:

**BRIDGING
CONTINENTS:**

Connecting Investors Worldwide
with Africa's Energy Potential

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



REGISTER NOW
WWW.NIGERIAENERGYSUMMIT.COM

EVENT PRODUCERS:



Office of the Permanent Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources,
Block O, 8th Floor, NNPC Towers,
Central Business District, Abuja.

Wuse II, Abuja Via 4 Mainland Close,
Darban Street, Ademola Adetokunbo,
Abuja, Nigeria
+234 706 334 5050, +234 815 944 8287

Mayfair, London
15 Stratton Street,
W1J 8LQ United Kingdom
+44 203 890 8574

For Sponsorship, Exhibition & Delegate Bookings Contact:
www.nigeriaenergysummit.com
james@brevityanderson.com
kunk.stevenson@brevityanderson.com | +234 802 324 1280

www.nigeriaenergysummit.com     #NigeriaEnergySummit | #NIES2025

African Energy 2024: Surging Investment, Waves of Change

Capex trends all demonstrate that investors won't limit themselves to mature fields: Eyes are on fresh locations, fresh facilities, and fresh opportunities in Africa

By NJ Ayuk*



I've said for years that African energy is a vital investment. Backers clearly agree — to the tune of USD47 billion. That's how much capital expenditure (capex) 2024 saw in African oil and gas, showing a 23% increase from last year. Better yet, we expect growth to continue through the end of the decade.

This capex activity is a welcome sign that energy majors are deepening their long-term interests in Africa. And as our 2025 State of African Energy report details, their momentum has created unique opportunities for local communities, indigenous companies, and national oil companies (NOCs) from other continents.

Emerging Players

While the majority of 2024's capex was driven by established producers like Angola and Nigeria, emerging players are making noise in the

industry. Take Senegal, which saw its first offshore oil production this year. Ghana, following a five-year slump, increased oil output during 2024 by 10% and gas output by 7%.

Exploration hotspot Namibia also deserves a special mention: The Southern African nation aims to drill over 12 offshore wells next year, begin production by 2029, and become one of the top-five African producers by the 2030s. Good work for a nation that only discovered its enormous reserves in 2022! I frequently cite Namibia because it proves that a complete newcomer can attract serious foreign investment with smart, swift policy changes — and poise itself to shake up the energy industry.

Increased Exploration

An exciting question remains: Just where will we find the next Namibia? Thanks to a resurgence in exploration, another hotspot may be around the corner. There were 1,060 wells

drilled in Africa this year — more than any time since 2015. Africa has also become a global leader in drilling high-impact wells, which have the potential to significantly increase overall reserves. That strategy is already paying off: Notable 2024 finds include Namibia's Mopane complex, which holds approximately 10 billion barrel of oil equivalent (boe) — “one of the world's largest offshore finds,” according to Offshore Magazine. Even while global exploration as a whole remains stagnant, Africa is stepping up to meet growing energy demands.

When exploration is successful, new fields follow. We also expect to see African greenfield spending exceed brownfield by 10% by 2030. These capex trends all demonstrate that investors won't limit themselves to mature fields: Eyes are on fresh locations, fresh facilities, and fresh opportunities in Africa.

A Gas Future

As we highlight in our 2025 report, one of those opportunities is natural gas. Africa holds nearly 18 trillion cubic meters of reserves, which will prove essential for a just energy transition as natural gas can provide significant near-term emissions reductions while fostering energy security and economic development. Global demand for this clean-burning resource is also growing, particularly in Asia. That's why I'm glad to see a greater emphasis on developing natural gas resources. In 2023, capex spending on natural gas was about 30%, but this is projected to grow 10% by 2030. It's another sign that more investors are thinking in the long term about Africa, and interested in being part of a just energy transition.

Take Senegal, where the Greater Tortue Ahmeyim gas field will begin production next year. A Final Investment Decision is also expected in 2024 on Yakaar-Teranga. The West African nation is another fantastic

example of how operator-friendly policies, political stability, and vast reserves can attract significant foreign investment: I'm excited to see Senegal transform itself from an oil importer to a gas exporter.

M&A Opportunity

The past year saw a huge increase in divestment by O&G majors: Large IOCs are aggressively streamlining their African portfolios. As a rule, they're selling mature, high-emission, and high-cost assets. While large divestments often signal trouble, they're actually creating some promising changes for African O&G.

For one, Asian and Middle Eastern nations are purchasing more assets: Dubai, Qatar, the U.A.E., Malaysia, and Chinese NOCs acquired stakes in Egypt, Mozambique, Namibia, Kenya, and South Africa this year.

As global demand for energy grows, particularly in Asia, I'm glad to see these nations looking to Africa for long-term solutions.

Foreign divestment also matters because it's creating opportunities for indigenous companies. Thanks to a recent Shell acquisition, Aradel Holdings became Nigeria's most valuable oil company. In Angola, IOC Afentra has acquired Azule's (a joint BP and Eni venture) assets and plans to dramatically increase the nation's overall output.

"Having the big players sell to independents is the future," oil trader Trafigura said in a statement.

It's a promising pattern: Majors sell off mature assets and use the capital to invest in fresh fields and facilities. Independent foreign or indigenous companies use their acquired assets to expand but are spared the expense

of building facilities from the ground up. These smaller companies are also strongly motivated to further develop and reduce emissions from these existing fields — an environmental and financial win for everyone.

The Angolan government clearly agrees, encouraging regional players with tax incentives and reduced government profit shares. It will be truly fascinating to watch this industry shakeup in Nigeria and Angola, which have been dominated for decades by majors.

It's no secret that Africa needs O&G majors to stay: They drill over half of our exploration wells and hold a quarter of the continent's equity production. However, I'm thrilled to see indigenous companies growing and harnessing these assets to their fullest extent.

Conclusion

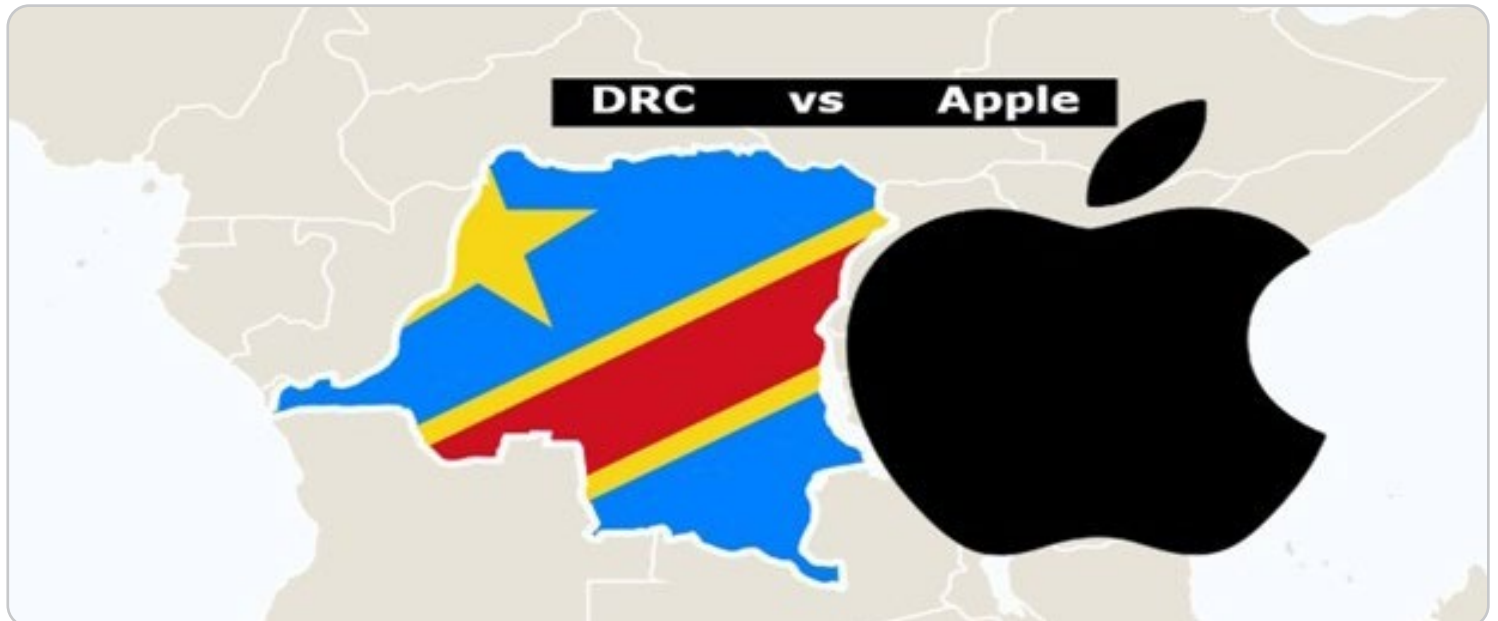
Just what prompted this surge in African capex? A great deal of credit goes to common sense policy changes in nations such as Namibia, Senegal, Mauritania, Egypt, and Angola. We can also point out that the COVID-19 pandemic artificially slowed capex for several years, so an uptick was inevitable once the world opened up again.

However, I believe a lot of it comes down to economic reality: Global energy needs are rising. Africa has vast, untapped resources. I urge all parties to continue building a thriving energy industry that takes Africa — and the world — into the next century.

* By NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman, African Energy Chamber

DRC Takes Legal Action Against Apple Over Blood Minerals

By Prince Kurupati



The DRC's lawsuits, filed in Paris and Brussels, accuse Apple of sourcing minerals from suppliers that have connections to conflict zones. Photo credit Business Empires Africa

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has initiated legal proceedings against Apple Inc. and its subsidiaries, accusing the tech giant of benefiting from the illicit trade of conflict minerals, commonly referred to as

«blood minerals.» These minerals, critical for producing electronic devices, are often extracted under conditions rife with human rights abuses, corruption, and environmental destruction. This case marks a significant escalation in the

global fight to ensure ethical sourcing and corporate accountability.

The Context: Blood Minerals and the DRC

The DRC is home to some of the world's richest deposits of tin,

tantalum, tungsten, and gold—collectively known as 3TG minerals. These resources are indispensable in the production of high-tech components like microchips, batteries, and circuit boards. Despite this wealth, the DRC remains plagued

by poverty and instability, with much of the mineral extraction occurring in the country's conflict-prone eastern regions.

For decades, armed groups have seized control of mining sites to finance their operations. Reports from the United Nations and Amnesty International document widespread violence, including forced labour, sexual exploitation, and child labour. Minerals from these mines often find their way into global supply chains, creating a direct link between the tech industry and these atrocities.

The Allegations against Apple

The DRC's lawsuits, filed in Paris and Brussels, accuse Apple of sourcing minerals from suppliers that have connections to conflict zones. According to the plaintiffs, Apple's due diligence measures have been inadequate, enabling the perpetuation of violence and exploitation. The legal filings reportedly cite evidence from international watchdogs and investigative journalism that highlight gaps in Apple's supply chain oversight.

The plaintiffs argue that despite being aware of these issues, Apple continued to procure materials linked to the region. By failing to act decisively, the company allegedly violated international laws on corporate responsibility, including the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Alex Kopp, senior campaigner of the Global Witness NGO's transition minerals teams in an interview with Al Jazeera said that in the DRC, "they (rebels) occupy mines and also the trading routes. They basically force the workers in the mines to work for free for a day per week and they illegally smuggle the minerals through places like Rwanda. The minerals then get exported legally and may end up in the supply chains of big electronic and tech companies."

The profits derived from the

mineral exports will then be used to prop up armed groups' activities. One such group is the Rwandan-backed armed group M23, which controls coltan production in the Rubaya area in DRC. The region supplies about 15 per cent of the world's tantalum, the metal into which coltan, used in the manufacture of mobile phones and laptops, is processed.

Apple's Defense

In response, Apple has issued statements denying the allegations, emphasizing its commitment to responsible sourcing. The company asserts that it has implemented industry-leading measures to ensure its supply chain is conflict-free. These measures include supplier audits, partnerships with third-party certification programs, and the increased use of recycled materials.

When it was first approached by the DRC lawyers, Apple responded by issuing a statement that reads, "We found no reasonable basis for concluding that any of the smelters or refiners of 3TG determined to be in our supply chain as of December 31, 2023, directly or indirectly financed or benefited armed groups in the DRC or an adjoining country."

Apple also points out that it has taken proactive steps to disengage from high-risk regions, including halting mineral procurement from the DRC and neighbouring Rwanda due to escalating conflicts. However, critics argue that this disengagement could harm local economies, leaving miners and communities vulnerable to further exploitation.

Just recently, when news about DRC's lawsuits emerged across various media platforms, Apple responded again with the following statement, "As the conflict in the region escalated earlier this year, we notified our suppliers that their smelters and refiners must suspend sourcing tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold from the DRC and Rwanda.

We took this action because we were concerned it was no longer possible for independent auditors or industry certification mechanisms to perform the due diligence required to meet our high standards."

Legal Proceedings: Complexities and Implications

The cases filed in France and Belgium are in the early stages, with courts set to review evidence presented by the DRC's legal team. These include reports from the United Nations and documents alleging that Apple knowingly benefited from suppliers operating in conflict zones. The plaintiffs aim to hold Apple accountable for enabling systemic abuses through its supply chain practices.

Legal experts note that such cases face significant challenges. Establishing direct liability for companies operating globally requires clear evidence of complicity. International business law posits that to prove liability, the plaintiffs must demonstrate not just knowledge but also a direct benefit derived from the illegal activities. The extraterritorial nature of these claims further complicates matters, as different jurisdictions have varying thresholds for corporate responsibility.

If Apple is found liable, the consequences could be far-reaching. The company may face substantial fines, reputational damage, and court-mandated reforms to its sourcing practices. Additionally, the case could set a precedent for other corporations to face similar scrutiny.

The Bigger Picture: Corporate Accountability

This lawsuit underscores growing calls for multinational corporations to prioritize ethical practices across their supply chains. For years, voluntary measures like the U.S. Dodd-Frank Act's conflict minerals provision have sought to curb the

use of blood minerals. However, enforcement gaps and inconsistent implementation have limited their impact.

Advocates argue that legal action is a necessary step to compel corporations to act. They state that tech companies have had ample opportunity to self-regulate, but the persistence of these issues shows that voluntary guidelines are insufficient. Binding regulations and strict enforcement are the only way to ensure accountability.

What Lies Ahead?

The outcome of this case will likely influence global supply chain practices and corporate accountability. If successful, the DRC's legal action could pave the way for other resource-rich nations to challenge multinational corporations. This could lead to more stringent regulations and oversight mechanisms for industries reliant on natural resources.

For Apple, the case represents a pivotal moment. The tech giant, often lauded for its innovation and environmental initiatives, now faces the challenge of addressing systemic issues within its supply chain. Whether through settlements or court rulings, the company may be forced to adopt more transparent and ethical sourcing practices.

The DRC's legal action against Apple is more than a lawsuit—it is a call to action for the global community to address the enduring issue of conflict minerals. As the case unfolds, it will serve as a litmus test for the effectiveness of international laws governing corporate responsibility. Whether it leads to justice for affected communities or highlights the limitations of existing frameworks, this case is set to have a profound impact on the future of ethical sourcing and human rights in the tech industry.



**A sustainable
and resilient
future beckons
with increased
clean energy
use.**



UNIVERSAL
ENERGY FACILITY

"Drill Baby Drill": AEC's NJ Ayuk Predicts Oil Boom Across Africa in 2025

By Boris Esono Nwenfor



The African Energy Chamber (AEC) strongly supports the development of oil and gas in Africa and remains committed to facilitating deals between African and global players.

The charismatic and outspoken Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber, AEC, NJ Ayuk, has predicted a year of unprecedented growth for Africa's oil and gas sector this year. Ayuk's bold forecast comes as two of the world's biggest banks, Citigroup and JP Morgan, have suddenly announced their exit from the Net Zero Banking Alliance, according to reports from Bloomberg and a renewed focus on fossil fuels as essential for Africa's economic and energy security.

Speaking recently to Arise TV, NJ Ayuk offered sharp analysis and actionable insights saying it's time for Africa to drive the global energy conversation forward. He also outlined a future where oil and

gas exploration across the continent would not only increase but also play a central role in alleviating energy poverty and boosting industrialization.

"There's going to be more oil, abundant oil. We're going to be blessed with oil in 2025, believe me, because we need to drill baby drill. Oil is also important. It is a gift from God and we are going to produce it," NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber said.

NJ Ayuk's call for a renewed focus on oil and gas exploration encapsulates the bold vision needed to address Africa's energy challenges. Ayuk's rallying cry of "Drill Baby Drill" resonates as both a challenge and an opportunity as the continent

enters what could be a transformative year for Africa. Whether through regional collaboration, or strategic investments, Africa's energy sector is poised to make headlines this year – driven by leaders like Ayuk, who refused to settle for anything less than making energy poverty history on the continent.

Key talking points during the discussion centered amongst others on AEC's NJ Ayuk Raises the Curtain on the New Year – Bold predictions and strategic moves for Africa's energy industry; Citi, JPM Exit Net-Zero Banking Alliance – What it means for Africa's energy financing; Senegal vs. Mozambique: Good News vs. Bad News – Regional energy developments that will shape 2025;

Ayuk's Top Project Picks for the New Year – The deals and projects to watch in 2025 and watching Trump, Putin, Xi, and Others – Global geopolitics and their impact on Africa's energy sector.

Two of the world's biggest banks, Citigroup and JP Morgan, have suddenly announced their exit from the Net Zero Banking Alliance, according to reports from Bloomberg. How much more about this can you tell me? What's going on there on Wall Street?

NJ Ayuk: I think they are reacting to pressure from some of us who have always told them they were wrong on getting that net zero alliance. They are

reacting to markets and they are reacting to fundamentals. When you see where the industry and the world are going, the world needs oil.

Oil is also important. It is a gift from God and we are going to produce it. But what was done is that you found a net zero alliance where banks stopped lending to oil and gas projects and they realized that it was not beneficial for them. They are shareholders and investors, and also you saw the critical role that oil continued to play. The ESG narrative that they tried to shove down our throats in Africa is falling apart.

You would see a lot of pension funds, be it in the US, be it in Europe, they're saying we're going to take our money out of these banks. And believe me, boys, there's going to be a lot more banks that are going to back away from that because this transition has been mishandled by radical extremist politicians. It's been run by Just Stop Oil Extinction, rebellion and Green Peace.

The NGOs have never created a job. We need to get free markets. We need to get energy developers, and producers and let the markets work. We are going to have a coalition of the willing to drive up energy, and build energy poverty, not an axis of evil. We do it with these green groups and banks not wanting to give money to African oil projects. We think oil projects are here to stay. We are going to drive more oil. We don't need less oil. We need more oil. We need more gas. And in some stages, we even need more coal to fire up Africa and drive up our energy security.

Well, let's step back into the continent. We're going to see how the Net Zero Banking Alliance begin to unwind in a manner of speaking.

NJ Ayuk: They had had a challenging project. It's never happened before. But they're going to become first gas producers. You don't even know what is even better here. Something that has not happened in Africa, two nations, Senegal, and Mauritania, cut



Expect more big deals at Africa Energy Week this year in October., says NJ Ayuk.

a deal, and came together on cross-border development. They did that and they built that LNG project that is going to be the best, one of the best in our continent, and it came right in the dying hours of 2024.

These guys will work. The GTA is going to be an amazing project. BP, Cosmos, did a brilliant, fantastic job in getting a challenging project going. And I think we need to give credit to them for what they've done. But you're also going to see a lot more in the next phase because the next phase of the GTA is going to be big. And that next phase is going to be great for Senegal because it's going to go a lot into providing gas for the country, for industrialization, gas to beat energy poverty.

I think BP and Cosmos and both Petrosen and the Mauritanian National Oil Company need to be given so much credit. These guys just did a good job of getting this stuff done. And I'm so proud of them. And I'm proud of the leadership of both countries. But they need to honour the sanctity of contracts. They need to work hand in hand with the oil companies. They need to find ways

to improve national participation and continue to encourage these investors to continue building on the next phases. Don't stop there. Keep moving, keep driving and keep drilling for more gas in those two countries.

Let's look at some ongoing political developments in Mozambique. The unrest after the presidential election is ongoing. How sad is this news? What are you laying on the ground? How quickly do you think TOTAL will be able to get back on the ground, and deal with these political issues, even with the existing insurgency in the northern corridor of the country?

NJ Ayuk: I just spent the last 10 days in Mozambique, I was in Mozambique, and I was on the ground. I saw some of the violence and I saw a lot of the unrest. But I can tell you this, don't bet against Mozambique. Don't bet against Mozambicans. They're going to get this together. They got a fledgling democracy that is struggling but is

going to come back.

TotalEnergies is going to move into Mozambique this year. The new president, a young man, Chapo, 47 years old. I can tell you this, this guy is going to get these projects on and he's going to push it on. He has a very strong commitment to ensuring that gas projects are developed, whether it's the Exxon projects other projects around Rebouma, or the projects by E&I. But he is going to do what the past or previous leadership has not done, engage with the people.

He comes from a younger generation. He is connected with everyday young Mozambicans. And you see the violence is going down. It's subsiding because he's been on the phone engaging with various parties of the opposition to build a big, strong coalition and then govern with true purpose.

So, I think we should look at Mozambique. What is really going to be even more interesting is how he's able to bring in those dollars from the United States Exxon Bank or the UK Exxon Bank to finance some of these gas projects, because those are some of the biggest gas reserves in the

world. Mozambicans must not let this opportunity pass by. And that is what we must be driving there.

I'm ready to go back to Mozambique. I spent 10 days there, liked it a lot. It was challenging, but I'll be going right back there with them. I think we need to stand with them shoulder to shoulder and we need to go very strong forward with drill, baby drill in Mozambique, but also do it peacefully.

I also saw in your write-up about Nigeria, some of the deals there. I'm thinking about what your top energy project picks for Africa will be in the new year. When you look at Nigeria, with the Total, the Rwanda deal, the ExxonMobil deal. Tell me more about some of these projects that you are very enthused about in the new year.

NJ Ayuk: I think we've got to pay attention to the Bunga deal with Shell. I think that development is something that was delayed, but it's gone up and it's moving big. I like that project a lot. The Rwanda deal is a very special one. They got into those fields, they've been working, and they've increased production. And you know what that means? It means that an African company, when they put it together, they can do well and as good or as better than their international counterparts. But they do it in a very cost-effective way. And they're doing all the oil recovering, they're doing the infill drillings. So really watch out.

But this is a big one, which I'm a big fan of. UTM Offshore. UTM Offshores project will be Nigeria's first floating LNG. They're going to make history. And if Nigeria is going to have the first floating LNG, it's not going to be done by an international company, it's going to be done by a Nigerian company. A Nigerian entrepreneur coming together and saying we're going to take Nigeria's gas industry with innovation, have a floating LNG project, that it's going to reshape how that is done.

UTM is probably going to be the only African floating LNG owned by

an African. And that sets the pace for this company to expand across Africa and also across Nigeria, really driving up gas. And yesterday's nobody becomes today's somebody. So whatever people thought Nigeria was going to be a disaster is going to become a bonanza because you see Nigerians saying they're going to shape up.

We also got to continue keeping the pressure on the president's administration. The minister was at the Energy Week with us. I had a very fruitful conversation together with the advisor. They were very, very intense and very direct that they were going to get it done. So, I need to give them credit that all the promises made during Energy Week, they kept it. And they got those approvals, those permits done. And we and we've seen how things are moving.

But local content and other things around Nigeria, this African giant, this African leader must continue leading. Please don't bet against Nigerians. They are going to shock the world with energy development. And I see that as somebody who has a lot of love for that country. I hope they give me a passport someday and I'll move there.

If we step outside Nigeria, you look at Angola, Namibia, around Africa's basin in the southwestern part of the country and elsewhere, what are you looking at? What are some of the projects you're very keen about?

NJ Ayuk: Pay attention. GALP yesterday made a successful appraisal discovery in Namibia. Namibia keeps, I mean, everybody drills in Namibia and gets discoveries. TotalEnergies expects to get FID on venues. It's a big discovery in Namibia in 2025. Exploration campaigns by Woodside and Chevron are already taking off in Namibia. BW Offshore is going to move more. So, Namibia is still going to be a hotspot. But look down in South Africa around the Orange Basin. You see a lot. TotalEnergies is going to do two wells and work on wells on these blocks just south of Namibia.

Potentially a big, massive discovery. I'm seeing some multi-billion-barrel

discovery that Total is going to have up there. You also got to look at Angola. Before the end of the year, the first gas on Chevron's projects. Now, Angola has that project that they have been working on. They had first gas. More exploration is going to come out of Exxon. And then Total is going to develop a formal Cobalt project.

Angola is going to continue to be a hotspot. But here's the beauty of Angola. If you reform, if you change, if you get things done, you do it right, as Diamantino and his team have done, then you're going to see a lot of investment come in. Shell just moved into Angola after many years. They're going right back into Angola. Azule, a joint venture between E&I and BP, they're going to do more exploratory work and even extend it into Namibia.

Don't forget the north of Africa. Exxon and Chevron are pursuing an oil play in Egypt. That's going to be big. Keep an eye on that. But also look at what Turkish Petroleum is doing in Somalia. They're going to spot a wildcat well around Somalia. But come right back to Central Africa. Congo Brazzaville, 650 million dollars going right into the TotalEnergies project. Small companies like AMAD and even the other big boys like Parengo, they're going to be doing a lot of independent wells.

This is going to be a 2025 of drill, baby drill Africa. We are going to drill everywhere on this continent. Governments just have to meet the drillers at the right spot with the right fiscals and move on with this project. So, I'm excited this year. We're going to announce some big ones at Africa Energy Week this year in October.

What other major global developments are you watching this new year, and what do you think that would mean for Africa's energy industry?

NJ Ayuk: I think a big part of it is that we are going to welcome the Trump administration with open arms and be willing to work with this administration and see how the African energy industry can work with them. A big part of what we expect, seeing the market, the volatility in the

market is not good, but we need to be able to start that conversation and to see how we get prices to a stable period, places where consumers and producers are happy.

But pay attention to, the substance and real depth, that substance, real depth, what Africans are looking at is the chokehold on financing. You just talked about the Net Zero Alliance collapsing. But that financing is, we got billions of dollars stuck in the US Bank that was destined for a lot of African energy projects. It's not coming in. A lot of stuff could go into that Total Energies Mozambique project. They need it. A lot of money could go into Exxon's or Chevron's projects. They need it. And we need to close that distinction that you've got to only fund green energy.

We're going to have potential allies in the US government and many other Western governments that we could start driving, financing for fossil fuels and really be able to develop that. But African states got to do their own. We need to really start looking at how we tap into onshore Africa.

That's something we're not looking at. Onshore Africa is going to be so important. It's going to be exciting if you see us spotting wild card whales onshore and small African players can do it, especially those who have been experiencing Nigeria. It's going to be a very interesting dynamic and we are going to do very, very well with the Trump administration policy of drill, baby, drill. We think it is in sync with us, but they're going to work on American energy security. And we got to put an Africa first strategy and African energy security.

That's what is going to mean. For once, we will not have a US presidency that is going to be on our necks saying get rid of fossil fuels. At least we have an opportunity for four years. We need to drive up African energy development with drill, baby, drill policies, fire up every natural gas project we can do, turn out some of the coal mines that we have abandoned and drive that up and take off our energy security. That must be our crying call for 2025.



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

A Message of Hope In Complicated Times

By Bishop Trevor Mwamba*

On December 25, 2024, the first night of Hanukkah harmonised with Christmas Day. This wonderful alignment of two important religious events of two faith traditions was a moment of oneness and shared celebration.

The overlap of Christmas and the start of Hanukkah does not often happen. In the last century it has happened only five times, in 1910, 1921, 1959, 2005, and recently Christmas Day 2024.

Peering into the future the next harmonisation will be in 2035 and 2054.

The message for humanity is that both Christmas and Hanukkah are one sharing and with other great Faiths of the World, themes of light, hope, and peace in the darkness of our world.

The darkness is manifested in the Ukraine war, in the war in the Sudan, in the war in Yemen, in the genocide in Gaza, in the post election conflict in Mozambique; in all the evil leadership which strives to divide people and nations. The source of humanity's darkness is the loss of its moral compass and spirituality.

Yet there is an ancient message but timeless message of hope that speaks to our darkness.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned..."

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end" (Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7).

Christ the Light of the World and Prince of Peace is the world's moral compass we need to embrace.

Its Christ's Spirit which flickers in the candles on menorahs and is the Light of Christmas trees reminding us of the common hope that binds humanity. Humanity exists to live in



Bishop Trevor Mwamba is the President of the United National Independence Party - the oldest political party in Zambia.

the Light that dispels the darkness of the world and to nurture peace and hope for a wholesome world rooted in justice and righteousness.

To do so humanity needs a positive shift in relationships and wise leadership amongst our world leaders not driven by fear and prejudice.

For ultimately peace is about good relationships. As the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. succinctly said in 1964, «We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or we will perish together as fools.»

This echoes what the brilliant philosopher Martin Buber termed the I-Thou relationship.

All his teachings were summed up in this sentence, 'All real living is meeting'.

By meeting, he meant opening ourselves, not hiding behind a rigid code or ritual or tradition. It's relating to God, people, and nature with our whole being: this is the I - Thou relationship.

Such relationship is a genuine meeting, a give and take, engaging our hearts in our capacity to love, to be compassionate and caring makes us human.

The opposite is what Buber posited as the I - It relation. This is not a genuine meeting it implies treating God, people, and nature, as things or objects to be used. It's to think of

God, people, and nature as objects, subjects, things, not on the same level as oneself. It's an arrogant belief that people and things exist for ones own benefit. This is the capacity of hate and greed.

The I - Thou relationship is what in Africa is called Ubuntu. Ubuntu is the reverence of our common humanity - I am because you are and you are because I am. And without each other we cannot be.

Or in the words of the English poet John Donne, "No man is an island entire of itself everyman is a piece of the continent, a part of the main".

Our I am is a "part of the main" the Great I AM - Christ the Light of the World and Prince of Peace. We can only exist in relation to the Great I AM.

We advocate Ubuntuism in our pursuit for World peace and dispelling the darkness of wars in our world. Only when we see each other in the I - Thou relationship shall peace flourish in our lives and world.

Its God's own Peace on Earth we realize in the I-Thou relationship. A message the world desperately needs to hear now more than ever.

President John F. Kennedy in his Peace Speech at the American University in 1962, sagaciously discerned genuine peace as collective, global and international because,

"There is no single, simple key to this peace no grand or magic formula to be adopted by one or two powers. Genuine peace must be the product of many nations, the sum of many acts. It must be dynamic, not static, changing to meet the challenge of each new generation."

The message of hope calls on every citizen of the world to be peace and to seek to resolve conflicts through peaceful negotiations, and to condemn the enormous danger to the survival of the planet posed by the evil of war.

Our prayer for ourselves and the world is to be enfolded by Peace and strengthened to spread good will to others.

We can begin now not tomorrow to find our moral compass and rediscover the spirituality we have lost in order to regain our Ubuntuism.

As President John F. Kennedy eloquently stated, "For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal."

May we always place our mortality in the Hands of the Immortal One with hope inspired by Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957) poem entitled God Knows:

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

And he replied:

'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'

So, I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East."

*Bishop Trevor Mwamba is the President of the United National Independence Party - the oldest political party in Zambia.

A Bridge Building Role For The African Diaspora In Japan

By Ajong Mbapndah L

Created in 2019, the African Diaspora Network in Japan (ADNJ) is making great strides in forging another layer of stronger bonds between the Asian nation and Africa. Made up of some 300 organizations and more than 5000 individual members, the ADNJ has excelled in its mission of creating a sustainable intercultural bridge between Africa and Japan to promote mutual business partnerships. In a Q & A with PAV, Christian David Kpondéhou, the ADNJ President says the ADNJ will continue to play a leadership role through a broad range of activities and initiatives to strengthen ties between Africa and Japan.

Could you introduce the African Diasporan Network in Japan, why it was conceived and its missions?

The African Diaspora Network in Japan is a network of the African community in Japan, including those of African descent that operate different associations with an aim to strengthen Japanese and African socio-economic development ties.

ADNJ was conceived out of David's



ADNJ was conceived out of David's desire to create impact by connecting the continent of Africa and Japan.

desire to create impact by connecting the continent of Africa and Japan, which was borne out of his own experiences in Japan.

ADNJ's mission is to build a strong tie between Africans and African descendants in Japan and support

the Japanese community by creating a sustainable intercultural bridge between Africa and Japan to promote mutual business partnerships.

When was the network created and how strong is its membership

in terms of numbers, African nationalities and geographical spread?

ADNJ was created back in 2019 and has a membership of both individuals and organizations from Africa and Japan. As of today, ADNJ has over 300 organizations and more than 5000 individuals as members.

May we get insights into the ties that exists between the African diaspora and Japan, is the diaspora well integrated in the country, do they have access to opportunities?

Africa and Japan have maintained cooperative relations for decades. The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) highlights this long-standing relationship, marking 30 years since its inception and showcasing over three decades of collaboration between Africa and Japan.

During this period, Africans in Japan have integrated in various capacities, including those who



The Osaka Africa Business Forum is now pivotal in the bridge building role of the ADNJ

initially came for higher education and chose to either remain in Japan or return to Africa. The African diaspora in Japan is organized through professional associations, student networks, and diplomatic missions, reflecting a strong sense of community and engagement.

What are some of the activities that are used by the Network to maintain its identity and market African culture and opportunities to Japanese?

As part of Africa Diaspora Network Japan's activities to foster Africa-Japan business relationships and youth employment opportunities, we organize every year Osaka Africa Business Forum in partnership with Higashi-Osaka City, the organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation of Japan, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce, Osaka Prefectural Government, Osaka EXPO Organization, JICA and JETRO, UNDP Japan, UNIDO, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, African Embassies in Japan and several sponsors...A summary of our past activities -

- Osaka Africa Business Forum 2022 - total of 227 participants and 110 companies:
- Osaka Africa Business Forum 2023 Day1- total of 363 participants and 208 companies:
- Osaka Africa Business Forum 2023 Day2 - total of over 1000 participants

We are currently working with the Japanese youth organization, Asia Africa Youth Nest (AAYN) on youth-led policy proposals to impact TICAD, youths in Africa, Japan, and youths around the World supported by UNDP Japan, and JICA (Summary video of the Youth Drive session during TICAD Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo in August 2024.

ADNJ upcoming initiative is PANAF (African Dining Room), at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan which will celebrate Africa and its Diaspora by showcasing their rich diversity, flavors, art, and vibrant cultures to a global audience of over 28 million expected attendees. (View



ADNJ is currently working with the Japanese youth organization, Asia Africa Youth Nest (AAYN) on youth-led policy proposals to impact TICAD.

PANAF's proposal. In addition, we organize Africa-Japan Business Tour – to showcase Japanese businesses to African businesses which promoted business to business (B2B) partnerships.

The network hosted a virtual forum recently on the integration of youth into TICAD 9, what was the outcome?

ADNJ partnered with other organizations to host a successful virtual briefing on TICAD9 and how young people can engage. This virtual briefing is part of a series of events that ADNJ will be hosting until August 2025, with the aim of developing an outcome policy proposal and action plan dubbed “Youth Agenda2055 – The Future We Want.”

From someone who lives in Japan, how will you sum up the importance of TICAD in fostering stronger ties between Japan and Africa?

I will use one word to describe the importance of TICAD to Africa and Japan. This word is ‘CO-CREATION.’ TICAD offers a very unique opportunity for Africa and Japan to come together and work in a collective and supportive manner to

design, implement, and benefit from each other.

What kind of reaction or support have you received from African government and Institutions on the work of the Network?

As ADNJ, we have received immense support including technical, knowledge, partnership, and diplomatic including financial support. We continue to be grateful for the kind of support we get from Africa and Japan.

Can you shed light on some of the big projects that you will be working on for 2025?

- We have several including:
- 2nd Africa – Japan TICAD9 Youth Drive, scheduled for February 23 – 25 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
 - TICAD9 Youth Preconference in August 2023, dates are TBC
 - PANAF – April 13 to October 13, 2025 in Japan.
 - Osaka Business Forum in October 2025, during the Expo 2025

Any other proposals that the Network will like to make both to African countries and Japan that could help in strengthening bonds?

ADNJ calls for more support and outreach from both Africa and Japan.

With PANAF’ (African Dining Room) concept we are working on for Osaka EXPO 2025. We are looking for a sponsor and partners to bring this vision to life. The project goal is to showcase African cuisines and cultures per region including the African Diaspora during the 6 months of the Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan. We have secured a venue of 420 m2 for the project and the interior designer work is underway. The space is designed for around 200 seats with a VIP room, stage, and gift shop. Additionally, we plan to help the African country to organize their National Days event at our PANAF’ venue. We are changing the narrative and we are inviting you all to join us as partner or sponsor to celebrate Africa’s rich diversity, its flavors, art, and vibrant cultures to a global audience. And of course, we offer you a great opportunity to showcase your business and activities with us.

Together, let’s create a powerful platform to connect Africa with world!

Be part of PNAF’ story – bringing Africa to the World



A stylized white outline map of the African continent is centered on a dark blue background with a geometric pattern. The map is overlaid with several circular logos representing different regions: 'KALAHARI' (red), 'SAHARA' (yellow), 'NILE' (green), and 'FINALS' (gold). Text labels for cities and dates are placed around the map.

RABAT, MOROCCO
5-13 APRIL

KIGALI, RWANDA
17-25 MAY

DAKAR, SENEGAL
26 APRIL - 4 MAY

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA
6-14 JUNE

BASKETBALL AFRICA LEAGUE EXPANDS FOOTPRINT IN SEASON 5

#AFRICASCORES

BY NINETEEN31

Cameroon Needs a Leader to Unite and Reform, Says Dr Fomunyoh

“The three R’s – reform, reconciliation and rebuilding – must guide the next leader,” Fomunyoh asserted, underscoring the urgency of addressing systematic issues that have persisted for decades

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

Dr Christopher Fomunyoh Senior Associate for Africa, Regional Director and Special Adviser to the President at the National Democratic Institute, NDI, a figure recognized for his contributions to international and African development, has advocated for a generational shift in leadership, post the Biya era.

Speaking in an interview with Dash TV, Fomunyoh was asked on the multiple calls that have been ongoing for President Biya to seek reelection, at a time when the country faces major crises.

“We all know that with the challenges that Cameroon faces today, the country needs a leader who would be awake and hardworking on 24-hour, seven-days-a-week basis. But if the party (CPDM, a party headed by President Biya) makes its choice, that will be their choice and I think they will be prepared to live with the consequences,” Fomunyoh said.

With more than four decades in power and now past the age of 90, President Biya remains at the centre of Cameroon’s political discourse. Calls from his ruling Cameroon Peoples Democratic Movement, CPDM and allied groups have been rife, calling on him to stand for the 2025 Presidential election.

Biya’s supporters argue that his leadership has provided the stability needed to navigate the complex political and economic challenges that the country has faced over the years. To them, his potential candidacy is a continuation of his legacy, citing his long stay as evidence of his ability to lead.

Critics, however, see it differently. They say calls for Biya to seek reelection is a glaring indictment of Cameroon’s political stagnation and a refusal to embrace generational change.

Cameroon’s struggles are well-



Reform, reconciliation, and rebuilding must guide the next leadership of Cameroon, says Dr Fomunyoh.

documented. From the security threats posed by the Boko Haram insurgency in the Far North to the ongoing separatist fight in the North West and South West Regions, Christopher Fomunyoh noted that Cameroon faces challenges that demand active and visionary leadership. The economic growth in the country also remains stunted and infrastructure projects have lagged behind expectations.

Will Fomunyoh Stand If Called Upon?

Some political parties, civil society organizations and even press organs have fancied Fomunyoh to be Cameroon’s next president. “I’m humbled by the thought,” Dr Fomunyoh said in response to speculation about his candidacy. “But this is not about one person, it is about addressing the fundamental challenges facing Cameroon today.”

“I’m humbled by that thought and it could be flattery, but I want to thank

them and I hope that it’s sincere on their part. I can imagine from some of the messages that I get from fellow compatriots that they realize the challenges that the country faces. They realize that the democratic process in the country is broken, that the security situation in the extreme north with Boko Haram requires vigorous action, and that the crisis or conflict in the South West and North West regions of the country warrants maximum attention and resolution.

Fomunyoh added: “They look at some of the things that I do around the world or across Africa and have an appreciation that were I to join efforts with other compatriots that we could lift our country into a better place than it is today. However, I think the subject matter is still premature, and the alignment isn’t quite there but I feel honoured that some of my compatriots think along those lines. There are multiple ways in which I

could continue to contribute to lift our country from the current situation in which it finds itself.”

Fomunyoh’s Ideal Leader For Post-Biya

While many Cameroonians have expressed diverse opinions about the qualities needed in the country’s next leader, Dr Fomunyoh hinges his opinion on the three R’s – reform, reconciliation and rebuilding, which to him must guide the next leader, underscoring the urgency of addressing systematic issues that have persisted for decades.

He said: “The country needs a strong visionary leader who can undertake massive reforms of the multiple sectors that are currently broken and that are in disrepair across the country. We need a leader who can reconcile, who can embrace national reconciliation as a national priority, just given the excessive polarization that we see in Cameroon, the excessive

fragmentation that we see, the disaffection between even citizens and the state, the lack of functionality of various state institutions, that reconciliation is going to be a top priority.”

“You need a leader who can rebuild, who can rebuild our communities, our regions, and who can rebuild the country, who can lift it, not just at the level of where it was even 10, 20 years ago, but lift it to be a leading nation on the African continent and a major actor on the global stage. And I would say that a leader who can meet these three criteria would be my preferred choice for the next president of Cameroon.”

The lingering Anglophone crisis

Now in its eighth year, the Anglophone crisis remains one of Cameroon’s most pressing challenges. The conflict in the North West and South West Regions has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths, over 800,000 internally displaced persons, and 100,000 refugees in neighbouring Nigeria. Villages have been razed, and the socio-economic fabric of the



Cameroon needs a leader who would be awake and hardworking on a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week basis, says Dr Fomunyoh

affected regions affected.

“It’s very sad because eight years ago in 2017, in 2018, I was out there with many others. Many of us were out there saying force is not the way to go, saying dialogue negotiations

should happen, saying the grievances are legitimate and are real and should be dealt with in a very honest, honest manner,” Fomunyoh said. “And that the root causes of these grievances should be looked into. And of course,

fast forward to today, we’ve lost tens of thousands of lives, innocent lives of citizens and of people in uniform.”

“I still feel that until we sit around the table and deal with the root causes, until we bring into the room the people who have been the most aggrieved and most impacted by this conflict, until we give them a voice to speak for themselves and say precisely what it is they want, we’re not going to be able to resolve this crisis. And I will just say today, honestly, as I said five, seven, eight years ago, that no government in the world has ever benefited from a frozen conflict with its citizenry. We should not assume that even if the guns stopped firing, the conflict would have been resolved.”

For Cameroonians, the upcoming months are expected to be a time for reflection and decision-making. It is still uncertain if President Biya will seek reelection, but all indication points to him doing so in due time. Whether he runs again or passes the baton to a new leader, the hope is that the next administration will address the country’s pressing challenges and usher in an era of renewal and progress.



Imperative that we sit around the table and deal with the root causes of the crisis in the English speaking regions of Cameroon, says Dr Fomunyoh.

Angola Scales Another Hurdle In \$1 Billion Law Suit

By Ajong Mbapndah L

The Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has handed Angola another decisive victory in the \$1.1 billion case brought by Aenergy for breach of contract. The decision taken on December 20, 2024 basically confirms the decisions taken by previous jurisdictions that the dispute must be resolved in Angola.

“We view this ruling as complete vindication of Angola’s argument that this matter must be decided in Angola as we have consistently asserted since inception of litigation here almost 5 years ago,” says Attorney Michael D. Ehrenstein who successfully defended Angola working in tandem with Henrique Abecasis and Kiran Gore.

Fielding questions from PAV, Michael D. Ehrenstein says the decision should finally end the litigation of Aenergy’s claim in the United States. On broader ramifications, Ehrenstein thinks the decision may be important to those considering investments in Angola, because the case reconfirms that Angola provides an “adequate alternative forum” for adjudication of disputes.

“American companies should view this series of US judicial decisions as confirmation that Angola provides an adequate alternative forum—one in which investments may be adequately protected by the rule of law. I am optimistic that the ties between the United States and Angola will continue to grow. Of course, there are geopolitical reasons pushing our countries closer—but there are also common democratic and economic values which are in my view at least equally important drivers of this burgeoning relationship,” says Ehrenstein

Your firm just secured victory for Angola again Against \$1B Lawsuit at a US Appeals Courts,



We view this ruling as complete vindication of Angola’s argument that this matter must be decided in Angola as we have consistently asserted says Michael D. Ehrenstein

can you shed light on this for us?

We were honored to defend the Republic of Angola and help it prevail against Aenergy’s claims seeking enormous damages in the United States’ federal courts. According to Aenergy, Angola breached and wrongfully terminated a series of its contracts for the provision of energy services valued at over 1Billion, and wrongfully expropriated Aenergy’s property by seizing certain turbines which Aenergy claims to own. Of course, Angola disagrees on the merits, and accused Aenergy of improperly using Angola’s credit for Aenergy’s benefit without Angola’s permission. But the merits of the dispute were never reached by the US courts, which have repeatedly dismissed Aenergy’s claims in favor of adjudication on Angola because the case involves contracts between Angolan parties for the provision of energy services to the Angolan people in Angola, and these contracts were

negotiated, executed, performed, and terminated in Angola, under Angolan law.

Aenergy started its US litigation on May 7, 2020, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Judge Cronan dismissed that case, recognizing that this uniquely Angolan matter must be resolved in Angola. Aenergy appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, which affirmed Judge Cronan’s judgment. Aenergy then sought review by the United States Supreme Court, which declined to consider the case. Undeterred, Aenergy then initiated an almost identical claim for supposedly unpaid services in the United States District for the District of Columbia. Judge McFadden dismissed Aenergy’s complaint finding it barred by the prior decisions of the New York Court and the Second Circuit. Again, Aenergy appealed—this time to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. And on

December 20, 2024, the DC Circuit court of appeals affirmed dismissal, again confirming that this dispute must be resolved in Angola.

For those who may not understand the case brought by AENERGY, S.A. against Angola and what does the decision mean?

This decision is important for at least two significant reasons. First, the decision should finally end the litigation of Aenergy’s claim in the United States. Second, and more broadly, the decision may be important to those considering investments in Angola, because the case reconfirms that Angola provides an “adequate alternative forum” for adjudication of disputes. Generally, US courts are loath to dismiss claims unless there is another forum available to adjudicate the dispute within the rule of law. Here, the finding that Angola provided

an adequate alternative forum may provide some comfort to potential investors that Angola has substantive and procedural safeguards to fairly protect their investments

What is the mood like on the Angolan side that your represented in the case?

Our client, the Republic of Angola, is obviously happy with the result. Likewise, our team (including Ehrenstein|Sager, Henrique Abecasis and Kiran Gore) is pleased that the Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia affirmed dismissal of Aenergy’s claims. We view this ruling as complete vindication of Angola’s argument that this matter must be decided in Angola as we have consistently asserted since inception of litigation here almost 5 years ago.

From the feel of things does this settle it, is AENERGY giving up or there are indications that there will keep pushing the case?

This decision should finally end the litigation of Aenergy’s claims against Angola in US courts. Aenergy may still pursue its claims elsewhere.

The case has dragged on for several years now, what impact has it had on Angola?

I am sure this case has been a a time consuming and expensive distraction from Angola’s primary objective—which is to govern and serve its citizens.

The victory comes on the heels of the visit of President Biden to Angola, and in a few months as well, Angola



American companies should be re-assured that Angola has substantive and procedural safeguards to fairly protect their investments, says Michael D. Ehrenstein.

will be hosting the US-Africa Business Summit, what should American companies take from this decision, and how do you envision ties between Angola and the USA going forward?

In my view, American companies should view this series of US judicial decisions as confirmation that Angola provides an adequate alternative forum—one in which investments may be adequately protected by the rule of law. I am optimistic that the ties between the United States and Angola will continue to grow. Of course, there are geopolitical reasons pushing our countries closer—but

there are also common democratic and economic values which are in my view at least equally important drivers of this burgeoning relationship.

Can you tell us about your firm and how it got involved in the case, and in follow up are cases of this nature involving US companies and African countries common?

Ehrenstein|Sager is a litigation boutique located in Miami, Florida. Though small, the firm litigates very large matters on an international scale, including matters involving sovereign representation. We

became involved in this case when it was filed. Through our relationship with Henrique Abecasis, an attorney with connections to Angola and who acted as counsel for Angola with our firm in this case, we were engaged to represent Angola. While not “common”, cases involving disputes with African countries are litigated in US courts with some regularity. Many of these matters involve efforts to enforce arbitral awards or foreign judgments, some focus on commercial disputes, and still others address expropriation, human rights and related claims.

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

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER Ethiopian



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!



Childhood Journeys: Unveiling the Complexities of Child Migration A Look at the International Symposium on Child Mobility and Migration

By Henrietta Nyamnjoh, Erdmute Alber, and Gabriel Sangli*

Introduction

Human mobility, encompassing migration and various forms of movement, significantly impacts individuals and societies. While adult migration has been extensively studied, child migration remains an under-researched area. The 2020 International Organization for Migration (IOM) report sheds light on the migration and mobilities of children, a topic often overlooked.

An international symposium titled “Mobility and Migration of Children: Transitions to Adulthood in the Context of South-South Migration” was held at the Institute of Social Sciences (INSS) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from November 12th to 16th, 2024. This symposium, funded by the German Research Foundation under the Point Sud Programme, delved into the intricate components and processes associated with child migration and mobility, particularly focusing on the opportunities encountered by children as they transition to adulthood.

The symposium attracted 35 researchers and practitioners from diverse countries including Burkina Faso, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Britain, Nigeria/France, Germany, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Netherlands, South Africa, and Uganda. Their collective expertise facilitated a comprehensive exploration of the unique characteristics of child migration.

Recognizing that children often face distinct vulnerabilities during migration, the symposium emphasized the significant adaptation challenges they encounter. These challenges necessitate children to navigate complex social, economic, and cultural environments while striving to make sense of their mobile lives.



Participants came from diverse countries including Burkina Faso, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Britain, Nigeria, France, Germany, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Netherlands, South Africa, and Uganda

Diverse Perspectives on Child Migration

The symposium featured ten panels, fostering a rich exchange of ideas and insights. Discussions centred on the heterogeneous nature of child migration, encompassing diverse motivations such as work, education, opportunity seeking, and survival. Noticeably absent from the presentations were themes and representations that focused on the benefits or advantages of childhood migration, with most presentations framing migration solely as a crisis, and highly skilled migration and its impact on children. A more nuanced, inclusive and comprehensive approach in framing these issues would significantly open up to a holistic understanding of childhood mobilities.

Challenging Traditional Definitions

A key focus of the symposium was challenging traditional definitions of “childhood” and “migration.” Participants emphasized the need to consider factors beyond age, such as gender, socioeconomic status, and cultural context. The concept of “mobility” was proposed as a more nuanced lens through which to view child migration. Mobility encompasses temporary, circular, seasonal, or repeated movements, providing a more comprehensive understanding of children’s diverse experiences.

Defining children raises issues beyond the age criteria typically set by legal frameworks and international conventions, such as the UN and AU Conventions on the Rights of the Child (under 18 years). When differentiating between

children, adolescence, and youth, it is essential to move beyond age as the sole defining category. While age provides a basic framework, other intersecting factors, such as gender, socioeconomic status, and cultural context, play a critical role in shaping these identities. Researchers and stakeholders emphasize that this standard approach ignores the cultural, social, and contextual realities that shape childhood in different environments. Against this backdrop, researchers suggest the following considerations beyond age:

- the socio-cultural roles, and maturity levels of children in various contexts (e.g., child workers or heads of household);
- Integrate elements related to their cultural environment and local norms to better understand their status and needs;
- Consider the child’s own view of

their status in society.

The experiences of mobilities differ significantly between boys and girls, as they are affected and respond in distinct ways. Family obligations tend to weigh more heavily on girls than on boys. This shift in roles often leads to questions about when children cease to be children. Themes of intersectionality, inequality, and patriarchy are particularly prominent in these dynamics.

The concept of “mobility” in lieu of “migration” encapsulates the children’s trajectories given it reflects a more nuanced and inclusive approach to understanding displacement dynamics, particularly among children and youth. This term encompasses all forms of movement, including temporary, circular, seasonal or repeated movements. It highlights the varied motivations, such as work, education, the search for better opportunities or survival in a context of vulnerability. As regards “migration”, it is often associated with a definitive movement between two distinct locations (departure and arrival), thus emphasizing the temporal dimension. However, this definition excludes certain types of movements, such as circular or temporary movements, which are nevertheless essential and must be considered for a more complete and nuanced understanding of population dynamics, especially that of children whose trajectories are never linear.

For instance, the movements of children within Burkina Faso or Ethiopia is influenced by the background of their own societies, which shape their perception of themselves and their sense of age. Researchers and stakeholders emphasize that this standard approach ignores the cultural, social, and contextual realities that shape childhood in different environments.

Unveiling Research Gaps

The symposium also highlighted critical research gaps, including the need for more investigation into rural-urban mobilities of children and the mobilities of children from non-poor families. It stresses the importance

of recognizing that not all migrant children originate from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, as some are sent on the move for education, opportunities, or to engage in family networks or businesses. Significantly, it is important to emphasize on the pathways of mobilities of boys and girls and how they are impacted.

Innovative Research Methods

Researchers emphasized the importance of using flexible research methods that are sensitive to children’s experiences. By involving children as co-creators in the research process, they are empowered as both actors and participants. This approach recognizes the value of their unique perspectives in understanding their experiences, especially the adjustments they make to reach their desired destinations, given the challenges faced by migrant children.

Additionally, the researchers highlighted the importance of understanding the underlying reasons for migration, including the inherent human desire for movement and the search for better opportunities. To ensure ethical data collection, the use of creative methods such as photos, drawings, videos, and technology was suggested to facilitate communication and capture the complexities of their experiences.

In the quest for innovative research methods, participants maintained the need for an inclusive and sensitive way of data collection that include:

- Use of photos and photovoice, drawings or videos to allow children to express their experiences in a creative and non-intrusive way;
- Use of technologies that facilitate indirect communication such as the telephone to reduce barriers related to mistrust or intimidation.

The Importance of Personal Connection

The symposium underscored the importance of establishing personal connections with children affected by migration. Building trust and rapport can help researchers gain a deeper understanding of their experiences.

It points out how the connection

between Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, and other neighbouring countries exemplifies the aspirations and hopes that drive migration. By the same token, connection between the stay-behind and Dr Sangli (one of the symposium organisers) resulted in the children participating and interacting with researchers at the symposium. These are children whose parents migrated to Côte D’Ivoire to work in the cocoa plantations.

Following security concerns, an initial planned meeting with the children in one of the villages with the most migrant parents, was shelved and the children travelled to Ouagadougou to interact with the participants. The selected children came under the auspices of the Action for Children and Health in Burkina Faso (AES/Burkina), coordinated by one of the conference organisers Dr Sangli Gabriel who explained that the main criterion for choosing the children who participated at AES/Burkina was the vulnerability of the host household after a survey of all the households to which the stay-behind lived in, in the intervention zone of the AES project.

Thus, 32 parents or guardians of the stay-behind children were trained in trades, including 31 in livestock breeding and 01 in weaving. As for the stay-behind children, 11 including 6 girls and 5 boys were trained in different trades (mechanics, weaving, sewing, welding and carpentry) of their choice and provided with seed capital upon completion. Of these numbers, five were present at the symposium including two guardians. The funding for training was made possible through the Migration Development and Inequality (MIDEQ - <https://www.mideq.org/en/>) project funded by UKRI.

Child Mobility: A Complex Issue

The symposium concluded with a call for greater attention to the complexities of child migration, for those who migrate as well as those who stay – the stay-behind. Participants emphasized the need to move beyond generalizations and recognize the diverse motivations and

experiences of children on the move.

The situation of children in Burkina Faso (as well as Ghana, Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Madagascar, South Africa and Uganda) calls on researchers to intentionally and prudently observe ethical parameters of child research while seeking personal connection in the interest of the child. Such an approach not only alleviates their experiences but also emphasizes the need for researchers to be fully present and empathetic during the research process.

Conclusion

The symposium on child mobility and migration provided invaluable insights into the complex and multifaceted nature of this phenomenon. By challenging traditional definitions, unveiling research gaps, and advocating for innovative and ethical research methods, the symposium has set the stage for a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of child migration. The emphasis on personal connection, understanding the diverse motivations and experiences of children on the move, and recognizing the importance of context and intersectionality are crucial steps toward creating effective policies and interventions that protect and empower children affected by migration.

*Dr. Henrietta Nyamnjuh, a researcher based at the University of Cape Town, focuses her work on the complexities of child migration and human mobility.

Henrietta.nyamnjuh@uct.ac.za

Professor Erdmute Alber, an anthropologist at the University of Bayreuth, investigates social change in West Africa (specifically Benin, Togo, and Ghana), with a particular interest in the interplay between politics and kinship.

Dr. Gabriel Sangli is a geographer-demographer and lecturer in Geography at the Higher Institute of Population Sciences at Prof. Joseph KI-ZERBO University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. His research explores the intersection of geography and population dynamics.

Forging a Healthier Tomorrow: Merck Foundation and First Ladies Unite for 2025 Vision

By Prince Kurupati



The First Ladies and Dr. Kelej underscored the importance of education and advocacy, urging decisive action by 2025.

The Merck Foundation Africa Asia Luminary 2024, 11th Edition, served as a dynamic platform for collaboration, bringing together Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation, and First Ladies from Africa and Asia. This annual event spotlighted urgent global healthcare priorities, including the elimination of infertility stigma, enhanced access to specialized care in oncology and diabetes, and bolstering media capacity to raise health awareness.

The First Ladies and Dr. Kelej underscored the importance of education and advocacy, urging decisive action by 2025 to establish sustainable healthcare systems. Notable discussions focused on innovative programs to empower medical professionals through scholarships and training while fostering cultural shifts to address societal taboos surrounding infertility.

In her address, Dr. Kelej

emphasized that equitable access to healthcare and education is pivotal for achieving transformative societal change. The event also showcased the foundation’s impactful initiatives, such as partnerships to improve healthcare infrastructures and strategic collaborations with media to amplify public health campaigns.

Dr. Kelej stated that “Merck Foundation’s partnership with the First Ladies has been crucial in achieving this milestone of transforming the patient care landscape and leading Africa and Asia toward a better, healthier, and stronger future.”

All the First Ladies who were part of the gathering broadcast live across various platforms, including all social media handles of Merck Foundation and Senator Dr. Kelej outlined how the partnerships between their countries and the Merck Foundation were ushering tangible results on the healthcare front.

Zimbabwean First Lady H.E. Amai

Dr. Auxillia Mnangagwa stated, “We have a long standing partnership with Merck Foundation, since 2019, and we have been able to provide 122 scholarships to young Zimbabwean doctors in many critical and undeserved specialties...it is history in the making. Additionally, through the ‘Educating Linda’ program to support girls education, we have provided scholarships to 40 schoolgirls to complete their education by covering their tuition fees till they graduate.”

Mozambique First Lady H.E. Isaura Ferrao Nyusi was also grateful for the support that her country has received thanks to its partnership with the Merck Foundation. In her address, the First Lady said, “I am proud to share that through our partnership with Merck Foundation, we are strengthening healthcare capacity in my country. We have so far provided 16 scholarships to our Mozambican medical graduates, of which 14 scholarships have been provided for the Diabetes Master course,

specially developed in the Portuguese language. These scholarships are very critical for us since in Mozambique as per the available data, there are more than 86% cases of undiagnosed diabetes.”

The Mozambique First Lady went further, stating, “Moreover, as a part of Merck Foundation More Than a Mother campaign, we organized Online Health Media Training for our journalists to emphasize the important role that media plays to influence our society to raise awareness on a wide range of social and health issues. The training session benefitted many of our journalists.”

This gathering not only highlighted shared goals but reinforced the collective responsibility of governments, organizations, and communities to work towards an inclusive and healthier future. Through collaboration, the Merck Foundation and its partners continue to inspire impactful actions to improve the lives of millions globally.

CONNECTING ATLANTA

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



Ghana's Political Sovereignty And The Breast Of Life: Pre-Emptying Both NDC And Constitutional Review

By Charles Prempeh*

A few years ago, an early teen young man in Ghana, whose mother's encouragement piqued his interest in reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation was stunned to take a step back into questioning a much-vaunted inspirational book. The young boy enjoyed reading the Bible until he got to the Songs of Song, possibly written by Solomon. Knowing how much his mom had told him about recklessly mentioned the tabooed words such as breast, coming across the expressions such as "Your breasts are like two fawns, a twins of a gazelle" (Song of Solomon 7:3) in the Bible stunned him. The words fawns and gazelle were unmistakably new to him, but certainly not, "breast."

Upon asking his mom, he realized that the Bible, in chronicling the Bible, God, the ultimate author God, leveraged penultimate human authors to use words that are historically and culturally comprehensible to readers across cultures. The issue, therefore, was/is not about the obscenity in the Bible, as it is more about the Bible's capacity to accommodate Anthropos in the real sense of the word.

I have had a cause to preface my reflections of Ghana's election as an insight for re-shaping the nation's social contract, democratic values with the above, to hem myself from being potentially charged as male chauvinist in an enchanted cosmos.

Nevertheless, among many African ethnic groups, including that of my own, the Akan of Ghana, a woman's breast is not subject to objectification and commodification for voyeurism. Instead, the breast is primarily a source of life. It is also the source of the primordial socialization of every child who enters into the affairs of this world. This rendition is supported by the anthropologies of the Bible and other pre-modern societies. For example, it is recorded in the Gospel of Luke 11: 14-28 that after Jesus had demonstrated peerless cognitive



Another peaceful transfer of power between Akufo Addo and John Mahama speaks volumes on the state of democracy in Ghana.

ability in confiscating his dissenters simplistically conflated His spiritual prowess with the demonic spirit of Beelzebul. Even so, we are told that a woman (emphasis mine) excitedly exclaimed from the crowd in celebration of Jesus, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you."

There are a few questions that must be asked about the woman's choice of attribution. Was she not aware that it was Jesus Christ speaking those words of life/as bread of life? Was she not among those who saw Jesus Christ leveraging his supra-human wisdom to prove the fecundity of the law of contradiction in any cogent argument? Certainly, she knew, because we are not told Jesus' mother was present; neither are we told that

she found out about her.

Assuming I am right, what then inspired the woman's attribution of Jesus' sagacity from Him to His mother? The answer to this question lies in the primacy of the breast of life in the lives of every human being. I have stated, the breast remains the source of what every human being needs to survive. It is the answer to the why and how of life. From the breast as a source of nurturing (socialization), every child acquires the cognitive and philosophical capacity to answer the existential why question of life, such as who am? Why am here? and where do I go after here? Every child also acquires the bread of life (the mundane food in this context) needed to build the physical capacity to answer the how

questions of how to build a house, improve upon transportation and communication, etc.

Meanwhile, the breast enables women to acquire the necessary power to negotiate a world that has historically being profile as a man's world. For example, a popular proverb says that, "Where there is breast, there is no brain."

Drawing on the above as hindsight in insightfully guiding the next journeys ahead of Ghana's democratic experiment, we need to appreciate the criticality of family and faith as key indexes of every nation's social contract. In a previous article, published by this prestigious magazine, I argued that contrary to the overly simplification of statistical rationalities as explanatory



Beyond the glamour of the ceremony, Ghanaians will expect President Mahama to deliver on campaign promises.

model for why the incumbent New Patriotic Party (NPP) decisively lost to the National Democracy Congress (NDC), there was an underlying enchanted context that provided a point of convergence between the past and present to inform the voting behavior of electorate. It is that which also defines the custodians of Ghana's sovereignty.

The outcome of the elections has reinvigorated a call from a cross-section of Ghanaians for the country's 1992 Constitution to be reviewed, henceforth. To be sure, there are credible reasons for this call. But we need to also disengage the conversation from the main culprit that makes this call, both necessary and providential. After all, it has served the nation for a little over 3 decades.

The focal point of my argument, from hindsight of Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's behavior in office, is that the constitution should certainly be reviewed through the prism of answering the following questions: How much power should be given to the executive head of the country? What should define the boundaries between faith and family in the re-constitution of Ghana's sovereignty and public governance? To what extent should the political class define the limit of Western ideological globalism, informed by faith and

family?

These questions, in my valorization of Ghana's elections must certainly answer a certain puzzle of why NPP claimed to have done so much and yet lost the elections. In his last State of the Nation Address (SONAS) to the people of Ghana, via Parliament, the outgoing president, Nana Akufo-Addo, boldly claimed with some statistical evidence that Ghana's economy is not broke. Meanwhile, granted, without admitting that Ghana's economy is not broke, why did his party suffered such a monumental defeat to the NDC?

As he consoled himself that posterity would remember him, the current generation and assuredly posterity would remember him, based on, inter alia, the above question. But more specifically, he would be remembered for how he personally re-membered the centrality of faith and family in drawing the ethical and ontological boundaries of Ghana's sovereignty and the (in mundane sense) the ultimate aspiration of the people of Ghana.

After Akufo-Addo had given his speech of self-assessment, an interlocutor, Armah-Kofi Buah, from the opposition NDC reminded him that he would be re-membered as a President who beginning and ending of his regime ended on a failed promise. This was about the proposed

national cathedral that Akufo-Addo promised to build in expressing his gratitude to God for God's protection of the stability of the country. Citing from the Bible, Buah further passed a verdict that Akufo-Addo would be remembered as a political figure whose debut in Ghana's presidency needs not to be modelled after.

Already, the incoming president, John D. Mahama and his party, NDC are aware of what Ghanaians expect. The fact that their representative in the chamber mentioned religion and also championed the protection of Ghana's family values, they should also be informed that the stakes are high when dealing with pre-political and pre-constitutional institutions (i.e., faith and family).

All this signals the breast of life as a critical anchor upon which public governance, sovereignty and transnational diplomatic transactions and policies draw their boundaries. Ghanaians cherished their family values, phallic competency and uterus capacity. Compared to the rest of the world, specifically the Euro-Americans and the late industrialized Asian countries, Ghana's economic strength is weak. Yet, there is a paradox: Whereas a cross-section of Ghanaians are financially living on shoestrings, they dare all the oddities of life to express their phallic competency in having as many

children as possible. The same is not true of the Euro-American and Asiatic world, which are currently suffering massive population decline—obviously a bleak in their civilization.

Here is the question: What accounts for the paradox? Well, some have jokingly said that Ghanaians and by extension many Africans do not have the luxury of materialism for entertainment. So, sex pleasurable for recreation. This causality is superficially true, but fundamentally false. Because sex is enjoyed by majority of human beings. The issue is about what people do with sex (whether it is only for recreation and forestalled through abortion) or the type of sex (whether it is same-sex for self-pleasure or heterosexual engagement for recreation and potential recreation), and why they decide to have children (a form of sacrifice as a result of it being a divine-cultural mandate). In effect, the breast of life is a major issue in defining where the people of Ghana would place their sovereignty.

Regrettably, the outgoing president, Nana Akufo-Addo who came beckoning the religious constituency with his mantra of the "Battle is the Lord's" succumbed to international pressures, not least the International Monetary Fund. Meanwhile, his Ghana beyond aid was also about untying Ghana's financial apron

ties to the IMF. Concurrently, when the coronavirus pandemic and its attending consequences gripped the world in 2020 Akufo-Addo submitted to a disordered fear. Instead of fearing God who sanctions the breast of life as a divine-cultural mandate, with the same constituting the valve of Ghana's sovereignty, he listened to the IMF.

He spurned the multiple pleas for the Christian and Muslim clerics, traditional priests and authorities, and venerable politicians, including some members of his party, to assent to the country's Proper Human Sexual and Family Value Bill, which was passed as a bill in Parliament in February 2024.

Submitted to Parliament, as private member bill from politicians including those of the NPP for consideration

in February 2021, the processes of getting the bill through the legislative processes took not less than three years to finish. It was subjected to extraordinary scrutiny from MPs from both parties, civil society organizations and representatives of the international community. The Ghana's Legal Committee is reported to have received not less than 400 memoranda, as part of the public's counter-comments on the bill.

Eventually, it was passed in Parliament, as I have said above. But Ghana's President allowed himself and his party to fall into the prey of undermining the sovereignty of Ghana. Almost as if the gods first had to make them mad before subjecting the NPP to a humiliating defeat. In the end, the President who had vowed not to hand over power to

JD. Mahama, whom he had defeated twice, would have to do so in humility of a tethered lamb, come 7 January 2025. His party's MPs, having lost many seats (a few under contestation) have transitioned from holding onto the slimmest majority control the country's 8th Parliament to what could be described as a picturesque position in the 9th Parliament.

What accounted for this? I ask and answer questions as introspective reflection for the next NDC government to take a cue from. Mahama has promised to assent to the bill, in case Akufo-Addo decides to ultimately leave office without responding to it. It is unlikely Akufo-Addo would do, as he did not mention the bill and his much-touted national cathedral in his SONA. So, the burden would fall squarely on Mahama to

decide on what he does with the nation's pre-political institution. All this would shape the contours of the constitutional review Ghana is seeking which significantly pre-empt the power the president would have and how he would apply same to the breast of life.

May the Triune God be with the next president and keep the outgoing one long enough with good health to his relish of knowing how Ghanaians would appraise and re-member him. Long live Ghana; long live Ghanaians, long life Africa.

*Charles Prempeh, Ph.D., Research Fellow, Centre for Cultural and African Studies, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (charles.prempeh@knust.edu.gh)

Africa's Longest-Serving Leaders: Term Limits and the Battle for Democracy

By Adonis Byemelwa

At 92 years old, Cameroonian President Paul Biya's recent statement hinting at his intention to run for another term has stirred political debate across Africa and beyond.

Speaking during his annual end-of-year viral address, Biya subtly indicated that he still harbors ambitions for another presidential term, despite his advanced age and four decades in office.

His remark adds to a growing trend among African leaders who continue to defy term limits, raising important questions about political longevity, the concentration of power, and the consequences for democratic institutions across the continent.

Biya's potential candidacy for the 2025 election is not an isolated case. His assertion that Cameroon is preparing for a "challenging" election is both a recognition of the political unrest in the country and a veiled indication of his intent to remain at



A file picture of Africa's longest serving leaders. Photo courtesy.

the helm.

As leader of the Cameroon Peoples Democratic Movement (CPDM), Biya has managed to position himself as the party's sole candidate, in line with the party's constitution. His long tenure, marked by a centralized power structure, reflects a wider pattern seen across various African nations.

President Paul Biya's long reign is reminiscent of other leaders who have held on to power for decades.

In Rwanda, President Paul Kagame, now in power for over two decades, has also found ways to bypass term limits, most notably through a 2015 constitutional amendment that allows him to remain in power until 2034.

Like Biya, Kagame has argued that his continued leadership is necessary for the stability and development of his country, particularly after the genocide of the 1990s. Yet, critics argue that this longevity has come

at the expense of democratic practices, stifling political opposition, and consolidating power in the hands of a few.

Similarly, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who took power in 1986, continues to cling to power, defying the limitations placed by the Ugandan constitution.

Museveni's reign has been punctuated by his controversial removal of presidential age limits in 2017, allowing him to stay in office indefinitely.

While he is praised by some for bringing stability to Uganda after years of turmoil, critics see his extended rule as a threat to Uganda's democracy. The presence of an entrenched political leader who has no apparent plans to relinquish control only raises questions about the future of the country's political landscape.

In Equatorial Guinea, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema stands as one of the longest-serving leaders in the world, having ruled since 1979

after seizing power in a coup.

Despite his age and the growing discontent from his people, Obiang's grip on power has remained unshaken. Political analysts point out that his government is notorious for human rights abuses, suppression of political opposition, and corruption.

Yet, he continues to win elections, often under questionable circumstances, and remains firmly in control, demonstrating the lengths to which some leaders are willing to go to extend their rule.

These leaders share a common thread: the refusal to relinquish power. While each country has its unique historical and political context, the pattern of leaders who defy term limits raises significant questions about the future of governance in Africa.

For one, the extension of presidential terms has often come at the expense of democratic norms.

In many cases, political opposition is either marginalized or outright eliminated, while leaders consolidate power within their inner circles.

As seen with Biya, Kagame, Museveni, and Obiang, leaders often justify their continued rule by citing national security concerns, economic development, or the threat of instability, suggesting that they are irreplaceable and that their leadership is the only path to progress.

However, political analysts argue that this trend of extending presidential terms is not without its consequences. According to Professor Adebayo Olukoshi, an expert in African politics, the longevity of these leaders often leads to the erosion of democratic institutions.

«When leaders remain in power for extended periods, they start to personalize power, weakening the institutions that are supposed to hold them accountable,» Olukoshi explains. «This creates a dangerous environment where the rule of law is undermined, and the separation of powers is blurred.»

Another significant issue raised by the continuation of these long-term leaders is the suppression of political opposition. In countries like Uganda



At 92 years old, Cameroonian President Paul Biya's recent statement hinting at plans to run for another term has stirred political debate across Africa.

and Rwanda, opposition parties face significant challenges in gaining substantial traction. With leaders who have been in power for decades, the political environment becomes increasingly hostile to dissenting voices, stifling the emergence of alternative political ideologies and leadership.

«The longer these leaders stay in power, the harder it becomes for new political voices to emerge,» says Dr. Linda Mhlanga, a Zimbabwean political analyst. «The result is a political landscape that lacks the vibrancy needed for healthy democratic debate.»

In addition to the risks posed to democracy, there is also the issue of economic stagnation. While some of these long-serving leaders point to their economic achievements, such as infrastructure development or poverty reduction, there is little evidence that their policies have led to long-term, sustainable growth.

Many African countries under prolonged leadership have experienced corruption, inequality, and rising unemployment, all of which are exacerbated by a lack of political accountability.

Critics argue that the concentration

of power in the hands of one individual or a small group of elites hampers innovation and economic progress, as decisions are made with little regard for public opinion or broad-based consultation.

International observers have long raised concerns about the democratic backslide in countries where leaders hold on to power for extended periods.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index, countries like Rwanda, Uganda, and Equatorial Guinea are considered «hybrid regimes»—with some democratic elements but marred by authoritarian practices.

The trend of leaders refusing to cede power undermines the idea of free and fair elections, with many of these leaders winning elections in tightly controlled, often rigged, environments.

In Biya's case, his continued dominance within the CPDM further complicates the notion of democratic competition. With no viable alternative candidates within the party, Biya's candidacy for a sixth term could be a repeat of the same political dynamics that have kept him in power for years.

The implications for the African political landscape are significant. While some argue that the political stability offered by these long-serving leaders is crucial for economic and social development, others contend that their continued rule stifles democracy, oppresses opposition, and delays the necessary reforms that could elevate these nations to new heights. As analysts point out, the failure to encourage political transition and leadership renewal often leads to stagnation and crisis.

Ultimately, the enduring grip of leaders like Biya, Kagame, Museveni, and Obiang raises a crucial question: Is Africa's future one of political renewal and democratic expansion, or will it remain locked in a cycle of prolonged rule by entrenched leaders?

For now, the answer remains unclear, but the debate surrounding term limits will continue to shape the continent's political discourse for years to come. The ongoing struggle for a more democratic Africa hinges on the ability to push back against these longstanding leaders and create a political environment where new voices can rise and the aspirations of the people are truly represented. _____

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).

Kenya: Who Is Abducting Kenyans With Dissenting Views?

By Samuel Ouma

Recently, Kenya has witnessed a troubling increase in abduction cases, leading to widespread fear and condemnation from various groups. Allegations of government involvement in these incidents have escalated tensions, particularly as many victims are known for opposing the current administration which is accused of rampant corruption, looting of public resources, and overburdening citizens through over-taxation. The recent kidnapping of cartoonist Kibet Bull, who faced accusations of mocking President William Ruto through his artwork, has sparked a heated discussion about freedom of expression and human rights in the East African nation.

One significant case is that of blogger Maverick Aoko, a strong critic of government policies, who was discovered in a disoriented and traumatized condition at the Kenya-Tanzanian border weeks after she went missing. Her distressing experience highlighted the severe psychological and physical impact these abductions have on victims. Sadly, some individuals have not made it through these harrowing experiences, with bodies found in morgues or remote locations under suspicious circumstances.

The recent disappearance of cartoonist Kibet Bull sent shockwaves through both the artistic and activist communities. Renowned for his satirical cartoons that challenge authority, his abduction has been widely seen as an assault on creative freedom. Youth-led protests erupted in Nairobi on December 30, 2024, with demonstrators chanting slogans that called for accountability and justice for victims like Kibet Bull.

Embu town also came to a halt on Thursday, December 26, 2024, as residents flooded the streets to protest the mysterious abduction of Billy Mwangi, a prominent local businessman. Chanting slogans and holding placards demanding justice, hundreds of demonstrators gathered



The recent kidnapping of cartoonist Kibet Bull, who faced accusations of mocking President William Ruto through his artwork, sparked heated discussions on freedom of expression

in the central business district, urging authorities to ramp up efforts to find Mwangi and hold those responsible accountable.

Mwangi, 34, vanished under unclear circumstances. His family reported that he was last seen leaving his shop one evening, but he never returned home. His vehicle was later discovered abandoned on the outskirts of town, raising concerns about foul play. The protest led to temporary business closures as demonstrators blocked roads and set bonfires to express their anger. Others who were alleged to have been abducted during the festive seasons were Naomi, Peter Muteti, and Barnard Kavuli for mocking President Ruto.

The protests have garnered considerable attention, with young people flooding the streets in major towns and cities. Signs proclaiming “Stop the Abductions” and “Protect Our Freedoms” were prominently displayed during the demonstrations, highlighting the urgency of the matter. In Nairobi, thousands marched peacefully, urging the government to tackle the escalating insecurity and rebuild public trust.

Human rights groups like Amnesty International and the Kenya Human

Rights Commission have joined the movement, denouncing the alleged state-sponsored abductions. These organizations are calling for transparency and the prosecution of those accountable.

“Ruto has ruled through fear and force, and his doubling down on abductions shows a deliberate disregard for our democracy and human rights,” said the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC).

Amnesty International Kenya said, “The Government of Kenya must uphold the Constitution and guarantee freedom and security for all, as enshrined under Article 29.”

Prominent leaders have expressed their views, with opposition leaders led by Kalonzo Musyoka strongly opposing the abductions. Kalonzo said that the government is trying to stifle dissenting voices through intimidation.

“Let us not pretend about this. What is clear - no matter the type of white washing, chest thumping and sugar-coating Mr Ruto’s misguided social media gang attempts to do by sponsoring all manner of hashtags - is that Mr William Ruto is the Chief Commander of the Abduction Squad,” said Kalonzo.

“We demand that the Chief

Commander of the Abduction Squad, Mr. William Ruto, put an end to this repulsive and criminal activity.”

Other leaders, such as Raila Odinga and Martha Karua, have expressed similar views, highlighting the importance of accountability. They have requested parliamentary inquiries into the cases and have urged international human rights organizations to take action.

President William Ruto’s regime has denied any allegations of involvement in the abductions. Through the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and the police, the government has labelled these claims as unfounded propaganda intended to damage its reputation.

“For the avoidance of doubt, we are not involved in any abduction and there is no police station in the country that is holding the reported abductees,” said the National Police Service.»

However, critics contend that these reassurances fall short. The absence of concrete results from investigations, coupled with ongoing reports of disappearances, has prompted many to doubt the government’s dedication to justice. The demand for independent investigations has

intensified, with activists advocating for the creation of a judicial inquiry.

The recent wave of abductions has sparked significant worries regarding the state of democracy and human rights in Kenya. Experts caution that if this trend continues, it could undermine public trust in the government and result in increased unrest.

“These abductions pose a direct threat to the freedoms guaranteed by Kenya’s constitution,” stated Professor Peter Wanyande, a political analyst.

The situation has garnered international attention, prompting foreign missions in Kenya to voice their concerns regarding the reports. Both the European Union and the United States have called on the government to look into the allegations and to safeguard human rights.

“We express concern over ongoing



Maverick Aoko, a strong critic of government policies was discovered in a disoriented and traumatized condition at the Kenya-Tanzanian border.

reports of arbitrary arrests and ensure the rule of law prevails and High Commissioners in Kenya in a enforced disappearances despite that judicial rulings are respected,” joint Statement Dated October 31, High Court rulings. It is crucial to said European Ambassadors and 2024.

Bribery, Betrayal, and Power Struggles Rock Chadema in Leadership Showdown

By Adonis Byemelwa

Tanzania is gripped by a political firestorm as Tundu Lissu, the outspoken Vice Chairman of Chadema for Mainland Tanzania, drops bombshell allegations against Abdul, the son of President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

According to Lissu, Abdul brazenly attempted to bribe him—a claim first revealed during a fiery rally in Iringa this past May and reiterated in subsequent gatherings.

With the nation now abuzz, Lissu’s refusal of the alleged overture has sparked intense public debate, putting the presidency under an uncomfortable spotlight. The story has ignited passions across the country, raising questions about ethics, power, and the battle for Tanzania’s political soul.

What remains unclear, however, is the purpose behind this alleged bribe. Lissu’s revelations come amid persistent murmurs that some Chadema leaders have been



Lissu’s critics argue that his disclosure about Wenje is an “afterthought. Photo courtesy.

“sweetened” since the party reached a political reconciliation with the ruling CCM in 2022. The main figure accused of benefiting from these so-called “sweets” is Chadema Chairman Freeman Mbowe.

During a January 21, 2023 rally at Furahisha grounds in Mwanza, Mbowe defended the reconciliation, acknowledging internal dissent within the party. Some have linked Lissu’s

comments about rejecting Abdul's bribe to a broader narrative aimed at distinguishing himself as incorruptible—unlike others who allegedly succumbed to such inducements. While Lissu didn't name Mbowe directly, the implication is hard to ignore.

Mbowe's endorsement of reconciliation has been both his badge of honor and his Achilles heel. The political détente led to the dropping of all politically motivated cases, the reopening of public rallies, and the return of exiled politicians. Critics ask, how can one disparage such achievements?

Many forget that Mbowe spent seven months in jail before being freed in March 2022, paving the way for reconciliation.

He had been accused of terrorism, arrested on July 21, 2021, and released on March 4, 2022. Was his support for reconciliation a result of succumbing to inducements? Or was it a pragmatic move to restore political stability?

The debate over Abdul's alleged bribe remains contentious. Lissu has hinted at broader motives but initially refrained from naming anyone specific. It wasn't until the Chadema leadership race intensified that he accused Ezekiah Wenje, the party's Lake Zone Chairman, of facilitating Abdul's visit.

"The person who brought Abdul to my home to offer me a bribe has declared his candidacy for Vice Chairman and has publicly pledged his support for Mbowe," Lissu said. The timing raises questions: why did Lissu withhold Wenje's name until now? Was it strategic silence? Or was it leverage in case of betrayal?

Lissu's critics argue that his

disclosure about Wenje is an "afterthought"—a reaction to Wenje's alignment with Mbowe in the leadership race.

Whether true or not, this insinuation has added fuel to the party's internal turmoil. Wenje, for his part, denies the bribery allegations but admits to facilitating Abdul's introduction to Lissu under different circumstances.

"I met Abdul at a public event and questioned him directly about why his mother's government had not settled Lissu's medical bills," Wenje stated, referencing the attack on Lissu in September 2017 when he was shot multiple times. Wenje's version portrays Abdul as a neutral party rather than an emissary of corruption.

The medical bill issue remains a contentious chapter in Lissu's political narrative. After the attack, Lissu was rushed to Nairobi's Aga Khan Hospital instead of Tanzania's Muhimbili National Hospital, bypassing standard protocols.

The government cited security concerns, fearing his attackers might pursue him to Muhimbili. Consequently, a nationwide fundraising campaign was launched to cover Lissu's medical expenses, with significant contributions from Tanzanians at home and abroad. Yet, questions persist about how those funds were managed.

"If the funds raised covered Lissu's treatment, why is the government still being asked to pay?" one political observer noted. This lingering ambiguity fuels skepticism about Lissu's financial claims.

Wenje's defense highlights Abdul's willingness to accompany him to Lissu's home to discuss the medical bills. "Abdul is a gentleman. He didn't

have to entertain this issue, but he did," Wenje remarked, deflecting accusations of bribery.

Critics, however, question why Abdul, who holds no official government role, was involved in such discussions.

This saga has left many Chadema supporters torn. "Who should we believe, Lissu or Wenje?" asked a coffee shop patron in Kariakoo. For some, Wenje's straightforward narrative carries more weight than Lissu's layered accusations.

The internal conflict has also spilled onto social media. Prominent lawyer and activist Peter Madeleka sided with Lissu, questioning Chadema's consistency.

"If Lissu was deemed fit to run for president in 2020, how can the same party now claim he's unfit for chairmanship?" Madeleka argued. Former Arusha MP Godbless Lema echoed similar concerns, warning that failure to address internal divisions could lead to the party's demise.

Meanwhile, former President Jakaya Kikwete's resurfaced remarks on Twitter added another dimension. "Dr. Slaa would have been a better presidential candidate than Lissu," Kikwete once said, describing Lissu's fiery rhetoric as divisive. This sentiment reflects the broader challenges within Chadema as it navigates leadership transitions.

Fatma Karume, a renowned lawyer and human rights activist, has also weighed in, urging Mbowe to step aside. "If Mbowe wants to leave a legacy, he should pave the way for fresh blood to lead the party," Karume stated, underscoring the need for generational change.

Political analysts in Shinyanga believe Lissu's central Tanzania

roots and his history as Singida East MP could help Chadema shed its "Northern party" label. "A free and fair election could position Lissu as the next chairman," they contend, provided internal factions do not undermine the process.

Others argue that Lissu's candidacy could revitalize the party's national appeal. "If he's trusted to carry the party's presidential banner twice, denying him the chairmanship now creates unnecessary contradictions," Madeleka noted.

Nevertheless, some Chadema insiders remain wary of Lissu's motives. Yericko Nyerere, a vocal party member, has accused Lissu of being power-hungry and divisive. Yet, critics have unearthed past tweets where Nyerere praised Lissu as a "patriotic and loyal Tanzanian." This contradiction prompted retired lecturer Dr. Azaveri Lwaitama to dismiss Nyerere as "unreliable," likening his narratives to "fictional propaganda."

The Chadema leadership race has become a battlefield of alliances and accusations. Even external observers, such as Kagera's UVCCM Chairman Faris Buruhan, have weighed in. Buruhan mocked Chadema for clinging to long-serving leaders like Mbowe, questioning the opposition's credibility as a model of democracy.

As the party heads toward its January 2025 elections, the stakes have never been higher. Whether Lissu's claims of bribery, Wenje's denials, or Mbowe's reconciliation efforts dominate the discourse, Chadema's future hinges on its ability to navigate these turbulent waters. Only time will reveal whether the party emerges stronger or succumbs to internal divisions.

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

Restoring Hope: Ugbobi's Christmas of Healing and Resilience

-A Community Rising from the Ashes

By Aminu Adamu

The Apa and Agatu regions, located in Benue State, Nigeria, have long been fertile grounds for agriculture and culture, but in recent years, they have borne the scars of devastating conflict. Once peaceful communities, they became the epicenter of violent clashes between herders and farmers, leading to the destruction of homes, loss of livelihoods, and the displacement of thousands. Among the hardest hit was the Ugbobi community, where stories of grief and survival have become the norm.

In 2018, the crisis peaked when Fulani herdsman launched a series of attacks that left many communities in ruins. Entire villages were sacked, families were torn apart, and an overwhelming sense of fear permeated the region. The social fabric of Ugbobi unraveled as schools were shut down, markets deserted, and healthcare became a mirage. This is the context in which the Apa/Agatu Development Project stepped in, bringing a glimmer of hope to a people in dire need.

«We cannot rebuild everything at once, but we can start by healing hearts,» said Mr. Apochi, the passionate Team Lead of the Apa/Agatu Development Project. His words resonated deeply as the team arrived in Ugbobi few days to Christmas Eve, armed not just with supplies, but with love and determination.

For days, the volunteers had planned this outreach meticulously. Their mission was clear: to provide relief, foster unity, and remind the Ugbobi community that they were not forgotten. The day's agenda was packed—medical care, meals, clothing distribution, and moments of joy designed to uplift spirits.

The outreach began with a medical camp that quickly became a lifeline for many. Over 271 people



received medical attention, including 12 pregnant women whose prenatal care had been disrupted by the crisis. Doctors and nurses worked tirelessly, diagnosing ailments, providing medication, and offering much-needed reassurance. One elderly man, who had walked miles to attend, said with tears in his eyes, «This is the first time in months that I feel like someone cares about us.»

Next came the meal distribution, a moment that brought the community together in a powerful display of solidarity. Over 1,500 individuals were served hearty, nutritious meals. For many children, it was their first proper meal in days. The sight of families sharing food under the shade



of trees was both humbling and heartwarming.

The clothing distribution followed, benefiting 240 men, women, and children. Each piece of clothing was more than just fabric; it was a symbol of dignity and renewal. A young mother, holding up a dress for her daughter, smiled and said, «Now she can go to school without feeling ashamed.»

But the most poignant moments of the day were those filled with laughter. Fun games, live painting sessions, and face painting brought a sense of normalcy that had been absent for far too long. Children ran around, their faces adorned with colorful designs, while adults joined in with

hesitant but genuine smiles. «For the first time in years, my children are laughing,» one father said, his voice trembling with emotion.

The Apa/Agatu Development Project's outreach was more than just an act of charity; it was a powerful statement of resilience and solidarity. The tangible outcomes were clear: improved health, nourished bodies, and clothed families. Yet, the intangible impacts were even more profound.

«This is not just about what we gave; it's about what we received in return,» Mr. Apochi reflected. «The smiles, the gratitude, and the renewed hope remind us why we do this work.»

The outreach reignited a sense of community in Ugbobi. Neighbors who had grown distant due to fear and hardship began reconnecting. Children's laughter echoed through the village, a sound that had been sorely missed. And for the volunteers, the experience reinforced their commitment to making a difference.

While the Christmas outreach was a success, it is just one chapter in the larger story of rebuilding Apa and Agatu. The region's challenges remain immense: displaced families need homes, farmers require tools and seeds to restart their livelihoods, and children deserve access to quality education.

The Apa/Agatu Development Project is determined to address these issues through sustainable initiatives. Plans are underway to establish community health centers, provide agricultural support, and rebuild schools. «We're not just here to provide relief; we're here to build resilience,» Mr. Apochi emphasized.

A widow who received medical care and clothing for her children, Mama Ene said «I lost my home and my husband in the attacks.

Today, I feel like life is starting again,» She said. While for Daniel, a young farmer whose land was destroyed said “Seeing my community come together like this gives me hope that we can overcome anything,» He said.

Amina, a schoolteacher displaced by the violence «This day has shown me that we’re not alone in this struggle. There are people who care,» She said.

The story of Apa and Agatu is a reminder of the resilience of the human spirit. It’s a evidence to what can be achieved when individuals and organizations come together with compassion and purpose. But the journey is far from over.

The Apa/Agatu Development Project calls on more people to join the cause—to volunteer, donate, and advocate for the rights and needs of these communities. As Mr. Apochi aptly put it, “Hope is contagious. When we give hope, we inspire others to do the same.”



In Ugbobi, Christmas was not just a day of celebration; it was a turning point. It was a day when despair gave way to hope, when scars began to heal, and when a community took its first steps toward recovery. The Apa/

Agatu Development Project proved that even in the darkest times, light can prevail.

As the sun set on that unforgettable day, the sounds of laughter and song lingered in the air. For the

people of Ugbobi, it was more than an outreach—it was a promise of a brighter future. And for the volunteers, it was a reminder that true change begins with small, meaningful acts of kindness.

Rwanda's Formula 1 Ambition: A Bold Step in Sports Tourism

By Prince Kurupati



Hosting a Formula 1 Grand Prix is anticipated to further enhance Rwanda’s developmental trajectory. Photo KT Press.

Rwanda’s ambition to host a Formula 1 Grand Prix marks a bold and strategic move in the country’s ongoing efforts to establish itself as a global hub for sports tourism. Announced by President Paul Kagame during the FIA General Assembly in Kigali, this initiative

represents a significant milestone for Africa, as it aims to bring Formula 1 back to the continent for the first time since the South African Grand Prix in 1993. The proposed race venue, a cutting-edge circuit near Bugesera International Airport, symbolizes Rwanda’s determination to align

its development with international standards of excellence.

“I am happy to formally announce that Rwanda is bidding to bring the thrill of racing back to Africa, by hosting the Formula One Grand Prix. A big thank you to Stefano Domenicali and the entire Formula

One team for the good progress in our discussions so far. I assure you that we are approaching this opportunity with seriousness and commitment, which it deserves,” President Kagame stated during the FIA General Assembly.

This audacious move builds upon



We are approaching this opportunity with seriousness and commitment, which it deserves, said President Kagame stated during the FIA General Assembly. Photo Reuters.

Rwanda's successful «Visit Rwanda» campaign, a multi-faceted sports tourism initiative that has already brought the country into the global spotlight. Launched in 2018, the campaign includes partnerships with top-tier European football clubs such as Arsenal FC from England, Paris Saint-Germain from France, and Bayern Munich from Germany. These collaborations have made «Visit Rwanda» a visible brand across football jerseys, stadium advertisements, and digital platforms, reaching millions of fans worldwide.

The impact has been tangible. In 2022, Rwanda recorded over one million visitors, generating nearly \$445 million in tourism revenue. The visibility gained from these partnerships has not only boosted tourism but also attracted foreign investments and strengthened Rwanda's global reputation as a forward-thinking nation.

Hosting a Formula 1 Grand Prix is anticipated to further enhance Rwanda's developmental trajectory. Beyond the prestige associated with hosting such an event, the accompanying infrastructure developments—such as constructing the racing circuit, upgrading roads, and enhancing hotel

accommodations—will create jobs and stimulate local economies.

Bugesera International Airport, already envisioned as a key element in Rwanda's economic expansion, will serve as a focal point for international arrivals, offering seamless connectivity for Formula 1 teams, fans, and media. The influx of visitors is expected to boost local businesses, from tourism and hospitality to retail and transportation.

Formula 1 races attract a global audience of over 1.5 billion viewers annually, offering Rwanda an unparalleled platform to showcase its culture, landscapes, and progress. With Rwanda's focus on eco-tourism, including gorilla trekking and the conservation of national parks, the Grand Prix could act as a gateway for tourists to explore the country's unique offerings.

Moreover, such global exposure helps in nation branding. Rwanda's efforts to emerge as a safe, clean, and innovative country stand in stark contrast to its troubled past, making the Formula 1 venture a powerful narrative of transformation and resilience.

Earlier in the year during an interview with Motorsport.com, Formula 1 CEO Stefano Domenicalli

expressed his enthusiasm about Rwanda's potential, revealing that the country had presented a solid plan for a permanent Formula One track. "They are serious. They have presented a good plan and actually, we have a meeting with them at the end of September. It will be on a permanent track," Domenicalli stated.

Despite the potential benefits, Rwanda's Formula 1 ambition has not been without controversy. Critics argue that the hefty investments required for such high-profile events might divert resources from pressing domestic issues such as poverty alleviation and healthcare. These critics label the move as «sports washing,» a term used to describe the use of sports to deflect attention from political or social challenges.

However, proponents view the strategy as a calculated risk. Simon Chadwick, a professor of sport and geopolitical economy at Skema Business School, suggests that Rwanda's focus on global sports as a development tool could yield significant long-term benefits. "If managed correctly, investing in global sports can help nations like Rwanda enhance their economic and geopolitical standing," Chadwick

notes.

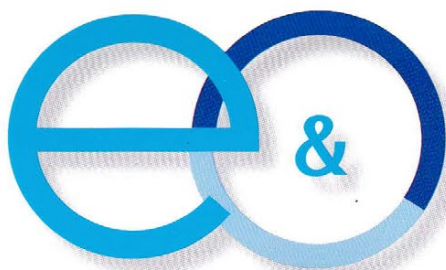
Formula 1 has long faced calls to expand its reach to Africa, the only inhabited continent currently without a Grand Prix. Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton has been a vocal advocate for bringing Formula 1 back to Africa, emphasizing the potential for the sport to contribute to tourism and economic development.

"We can't be adding races in other locations and continuing to ignore Africa, which the rest of the world just takes from. No one gives anything to Africa. There's a huge amount of work needs to be done there. I think a lot of the world that haven't been there don't realize how beautiful the place is, how vast it is. And probably they don't even know what the countries are doing still to those places in terms of holding back. So I think having a Grand Prix there will really be able to highlight just how great the place is and bring in tourism and all sorts of things," Hamilton said.

Rwanda's bid positions the country as a frontrunner in this conversation, potentially setting a precedent for other African nations to leverage motorsports as a tool for growth. With a history of hosting successful global events, Rwanda has proven its capacity to manage large-scale international gatherings.

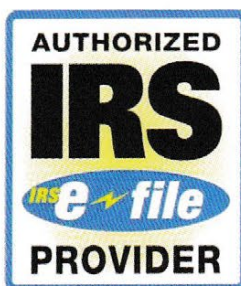
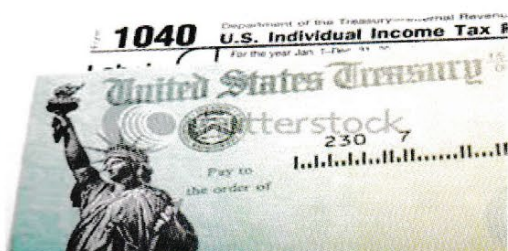
Rwanda's pursuit of hosting a Formula 1 Grand Prix encapsulates the country's vision of positioning itself as a dynamic player on the global stage. By integrating this initiative into its broader sports tourism strategy, Rwanda aims to boost economic growth, foster job creation, and solidify its reputation as a leader in innovation and development.

While challenges and criticisms remain, the potential benefits of this bold step far outweigh the risks. Rwanda's Formula 1 ambition is not just about racing; it is a testament to the nation's ability to dream big, take calculated risks, and pave the way for a brighter future. Whether the initiative succeeds or faces hurdles, it undeniably marks a new chapter in Africa's engagement with global sports.



CONSULTING, LLC

ACCOUNTING • TAXATION • CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS



OBENNY TIKU
Tax Consultant

INCOME TAX RETURN
Prepared For

[Redacted area for client name]

**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

CAF's Revival? Motsepe's Achievements and Challenges After Three Years

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

When South African billionaire and then president of South African side Mamelodi Sundowns was elected as President of the Confederation of African Football, CAF on March 12, 2021, there was optimism that his election would bring a new lease of life to the African continental body, plagued by scandals, financial instability and tarnished global reputation.

Dr Patrice Motsepe, 62, an accomplished South African businessman and philanthropist is no stranger to football. For almost two decades, he was the President of a South African club, Mamelodi Sundowns. His election, largely unopposed and backed by FIFA president Gianni Infantino, was heralded as a new dawn for African football.

In his acceptance speech, the new boss of the Confederation of African Football declared, «I'm absolutely confident that working together we will indeed succeed in making African football amongst the best in the world.»

Before Dr Motsepe's engagement in the battle for the CAF Presidency, his compatriot Danny Jordaan, president of the South African Football Association declared: «We are convinced that his business acumen, his strict respect for governance, legal training, his global commercial network, his commitment and his love for African and world football makes him a revolutionary choice for the leadership of African football».

More than three years after taking the reins, and with a few months to the end of his first mandate as CAF president, the question arises: how has Patrice Motsepe fared at the helm of CAF? His balance sheet shows a complex mix of achievements and ongoing challenges.

Growth In Sponsorship And Financial Stability

When Dr Patrice Motsepe took



Hosting a Formula 1 Grand Prix is anticipated to further enhance Rwanda's developmental trajectory. Photo KT Press.

over office, his team said they started on the back foot financially, inheriting a deficit of between \$40-50m left by former president, Ahmad Ahmad. The Malagasy became the first CAF president to be banned by FIFA for ethics abuses, including misappropriation of funds.

The administration was further burdened by having to pay a \$50m settlement fee to French media company Lagardere after Ahmad's regime cancelled the biggest broadcast deal in African football history in 2019. Sponsorship deals were drying up, and the organization's credibility was at an all-time low. Three years later, the financial situation has improved a great deal.

Under his leadership, CAF has secured several lucrative sponsorship deals, notably with TotalEnergies which extended its partnership for CAF's flagship tournaments, including the Africa Cup of Nations, AFCON. CAF has also partnered with prominent broadcasters, ensuring wider coverage and increased revenues.

With promises of transparency, and commercial growth, Motsepe introduced measures to improve

financial transparency. These steps have gone a long way to restore trust among stakeholders. However, critics say that CAF's financial turnaround is still a work in progress.

Failed CAF Super League Rebranded

One of the controversial projects under Dr Motsepe has been the introduction of the African Football League, a project that had to be rebranded from its initial name of the CAF Super League.

While its potential to attract investment and improve competition standards is undeniable, the project has faced criticism. «Some sponsors say the history of the Super League in Europe was not good and if you associate the name 'super' with a football competition, it has a negative connotation. A name change is, therefore, on the agenda,» conceded Motsepe at the time.

Despite the criticisms, the first edition of the competition eventually went ahead with South African side Mamelodi Sundowns crowned champions, defeating Wydad Athletic Club in the final.

Its debut format brought together eight of Africa's most famous and

successful teams — Wydad, the Sundowns, Tout Puissant Mazembe (Congo DR), Espérance Sportive de Tunis (Tunisia), Enyimba Football Club (Nigeria), Atlético Petróleos de Luanda (Angola), Simba Sports Club (Tanzania) and Al Ahly FC (Egypt) — and kicked off with teams paired in two-legged quarter-finals. The competition was set to increase to 24 teams in 2024, but the year came and went without any additional competition.

Zero Tolerance of Corruption
Motsepe's commitment to governance reforms has been the cornerstone of his tenure. «The zero tolerance of corruption and bribery in football will transcend to zero tolerance of bribery and corruption in politics, in business and on the African continent,» Motsepe suggested.

«We had to make people - all of the member associations - realise that governance, ethics, compliance with the FIFA and CAF statutes and regulations are in the benefit of everybody, as are good referees and match commissioners.»

Motsepe's CAF has doubled the annual grant handed out to member associations to \$400,000, while also

introducing a new \$50,000 payment to clubs that exit continental club competitions in the preliminary rounds.

The theme of improved ethics was one that Motsepe - who refuses to draw a salary from CAF, diverting his wages instead to women's football, staff bonuses and special emergency projects - was keen to stress. This is despite the fact that CAF's general secretary Veron Mosengo-Omba is under investigation for misconduct. The Swiss-Congolese denies any wrongdoing.

AFCON, CAF's Crown Jewel

The Africa Cup of Nations, AFCON, CAF crown jewel, has been seen as a source of pride and contention for Motsepe. The 2021 edition of the AFCON which was staged in Cameroon in January 2022, was a logistical challenge. Despite the initial concerns about infrastructures, the tournament was successfully organized with Senegal claiming their maiden title.

Motsepe has also overseen discussions to align the AFCON with the global football calendar, proposing a shift to every four years instead of two. The idea that gained support from FIFA was, however, fiercely contested by African stakeholders, who argue that frequent tournaments are vital for the continent's footballing identity.

«I propose holding the African Cup of Nations every four years, to make it more commercially viable and more attractive on a global level,» he said at



CAF President Motsepe and FIFA President Infantino. The FIFA boss has been a strong support of the CAF president.

the time in support of FIFA's proposal for the AFCON to be held after four years.

Guy Kossi Akpovy, the president of the Togolese Football Federation opposed the thought of taking AFCON every four years. He said: «This competition is highly anticipated by Africans who love football, whether they are directly involved in the final phase or not. It is a special moment for the players and coaches involved.»

Motsepe eventually abandoned the idea and welcomed the AFCON being hosted every two years. «This is one

area where there are different views among different people - I have no doubt it has to be every two years,» the South African said.

Second Mandate on the Horizon

In the final year of his first tenure, Patrice Motsepe is edging closer to a second mandate as president of CAF. The presidential election is scheduled for March 2025. Motsepe's decision to seek re-election was announced in October last year, just hours after the CAF general assembly had taken place in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

«The key issue is for us to build on the legacy,» said Motsepe. «I was partly taken aback by the huge insistence about continuity,» the 62-year-old, also the owner of South African club Mamelodi Sundowns, told BBC Sport Africa.

«There was some concern that there may not be the same degree of emphasis on governance, on ethics and the sort of fundamental changes that we've had to introduce. There's a lot of good, good progress that has been made, but there is still a lot of work to be done,» he added.

Motsepe is the first to declare as a candidate, with some reports suggesting that Egypt's Hany Abo

Rida and former Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o, a four-time African Footballer of the Year, could also make bids. However, the latter has instead thrown his weight on becoming one of the Vice presidents of CAF.

Despite the backing he has received, Motsepe said he would welcome challengers. «I am confident there are many, many presidents that could take over from me right now, let alone in future,» he said.

The challenges ahead for Dr Motsepe are as daunting as those he faced upon taking office in 2021. The ongoing need for financial stability, effective governance and grassroots development will require sustained effort and innovation, at the same time, opportunities abound.

The expanded FIFA World Cup slots, the Africa Football League, and the growing interest in the women's game provide a platform for CAF to showcase African talents on the global stage. Motsepe's legacy will ultimately depend on his ability to balance competing priorities while staying true to his vision of making African football have a global appeal.



The CAF Super League had to be rebranded as the African Football League after it faced backlash, like its European counterparts.



PAN AFRICAN VISIONS



PAN AFRICAN VISIONS
MARKETING AFRICAN SUCCESS STORIES & MORE
MAG 0721 908 16, JULY 2021

AFRICA & COVID-19

Dr Ameenah Garib-Fakim On Reforms and Way Forward

Kenya: Scramble for Mt Kenya Votes
Mozambique's More Questions Than Answers From Hidden Debt Traps
Zambia's Early Victories For Hottelima

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS
MARKETING AFRICAN SUCCESS STORIES & MORE
MAG 0721 908 16, JULY 2021

A Fight With Big Stakes To Rescue Mozambique

South Africa: Kenneth Kaunda's Final Chapter
Cameroon: Dangote Adds Oil & Gas to his Menu
Zimbabwe: Compensation For White Farmers
Burkina Faso: A Year Of Presidential

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS
MARKETING AFRICAN SUCCESS STORIES & MORE
MAG 0122 908 16, JANUARY 2021

Home Stretch For Uhuru Kenyatta

A Question of Legacy As Kenyan Leader Enters Last Year in Office

Gambia: A Unique Voting System Producing Results
Burundi: Recognition For 1974 Hutu Genocide
South Africa: Demand Tutsi Forever
Energy Transition In Focus At African Business Forum

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS
MARKETING AFRICAN SUCCESS STORIES & MORE
MAG 1221 908 16, DECEMBER 2021

Chief Timipre Sylva: Man With A Big Task

A Focus On Energy Reforms For Nigeria's Petroleum Minister

Burkina Faso: Tutsi Investment Potential
Mozambique: Still Banking On Oil
African Nations Task WHO

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS
MARKETING AFRICAN SUCCESS STORIES & MORE
MAG 1027 908 16, OCTOBER 2021

Fears... and Hopes For Nigeria At 61

Kenya: Scramble for Mt Kenya Votes
Mozambique's More Questions Than Answers From Hidden Debt Traps
Zambia's Early Victories For Hottelima

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS
MARKETING AFRICAN SUCCESS STORIES & MORE
MAG 0720 908 16, FEBRUARY 2021

MOHAMMED VI STOKES PAN AFRICAN FLAMES

Of George Floyd and Making African Lives Matter
Malawi: Challenges to New Sheriff in Town
Senegal: Senegal's New Sheriff in Town
Mozambique: Deputy President Ruto Fights Back
Cameroon: A heavy toll on Boko Haram's Angolians Strategy

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS
MARKETING AFRICAN SUCCESS STORIES & MORE
MAG 0001 908 16, FEB 2021

D.R.Gongo: Turning Point For Tshisekedi

Will Faki Make or Mar in Second Term?
Kenya: Kamau's Tough But Wimbable War On Corruption
Senegal: Time For A Concrete Agenda
Ruhogo: Ambassador Arega Sets The Record Straight

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS
MARKETING AFRICAN SUCCESS STORIES & MORE
MAG 0002 908 16, FEBRUARY 2021

Africa's Healer In Chief: Rajoelina Bullish On Merits Of Covid Organics

Insight Into Africa's Covid-19 Response
Covid 19 and its Stakes for Democracy
Kenya: Gloves Off In Uhuru/Ruto feud
Guinea: A New Ally for Conde in Parliament

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS
MARKETING AFRICAN SUCCESS STORIES & MORE
MAG 0623 908 16, JUNE 2021

Far From A Death Sentence

Matawa's Prof Peter Mutharika on Post Presidential Life

Kenya: Will Covid-19 "Rattle" Ruto?
Mali: Arabid Gambia Take Charge After Two Congo
Nigeria: Germany's New Colonial Era
Cameroon: Focus On The Fomayong Foundation

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS
MARKETING AFRICAN SUCCESS STORIES & MORE
MAG 1020 908 16, NOV 2020

Changing Direction For A Sinking Ship

President Lazarus Chakwera On building the foundation for A New Malawi

Cameroon: Global Outrage over School Killings But No Affirmative Action
#EndSARS: And The Nigerian Youth Spoke out in Bolhari Disrespect?
Kenya: New Panacea For A United Nation
South Africa: Racial Tensions Over Farm Killings

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS
MARKETING AFRICAN SUCCESS STORIES & MORE
MAG 0000 908 16, DEC 2020

Nigeria At 60

A Birthday That Could Have Been Better

Mozambique: President At 70
Cameroon: Catholic Bishop's Sound Advice
Cote d'Ivoire: The Crisis of The Past
Senegal: Africa's Future Still In Focus



CLG Plus
Lawyers & Business Advisors



CONTACT US

World-class talent tailored to your business needs



CLGGLOBAL.COM