

A New Dawn Beckons

**APPO SG Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim
On Africa's Interests In
Energy Debate**



**Zoom On Basketball
Africa League With John
Manyo-Plange**

**Nigeria : Buhari's Tough
Choices On Succession**

**Ghana: A Ticket To Economic
Recovery In E-L Levy?**

**Cameroon: Apartheid Chief
Negotiator Roelf Meyer Comes
Calling**

**Rwanda: A Migration Deal With
More Questions Than Answers**

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

 Ethiopian



SAA VOTED BEST AIRLINE FOR STAFF SERVICE IN AFRICA
AND RETAINS 4-STAR RATING

Thank you for making it all possible




SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



CENTURION

Lawyers and Business Advisors

PAN-AFRICAN
PRO-AFRICAN

www.centurionlg.com

C O N T E N T S

Editorial From Hero To Villain - Djamel Belmadi's Show Of Shame _____	2	Negotiator Roelf Meyer _____	28
Nigeria: Buhari's Tough Choices On Succession _____	4	Rwanda: Worries And Outrage Over UK Migrants Deal _____	31
Kenya: Surprises In Party Primaries Ahead Of August Polls ____	5	From Malawi A Fresh Call On Leaders To Bridge Gender Disparities _____	33
Burkina Faso - Nemesis Catches Up With Campaore On Sankara's Murder _____	8	Angola - A Sigh Of Relief In \$1 Billion Lawsuit _____	35
Time For Africa To Take Ownership Of Its Oil & Gas Industry - Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim _____	9	Mozambique - Growing Challenges in Terrorism Fight _____	37
South Africa: Investments Bring Renewed Hope _____	14	Photo Album - A Meteoric Rise For Basketball Africa League ____	42
Ghana-E-Levy Debate Rages On _____	16	African Churches and the Rise of Spiritual Opportunism (With pathways to liberation) _____	45
Zoom On Basketball Africa League With John Manyo-Plange _	19	South Africa - Hundreds Perish in Deadly Floods _____	49
Cameroon -Divergent Views From U S and Russia On Crisis ____	23	Cameroon - Many In War-torn West Cameroon Left Without Healthcare As Gov't's Hostility Drives Out DWB _____	52
Kenya: Mixed Legacy Of Departed Third President Mwai Kibaki	26	South Africa - Is Freedom Still Coming 'Tomorrow'? _____	55
Cameroon: A Message Of Peace & Dialogue From Apartheid Chief		The Revolt of Nationals In Soccer Management _____	57

PAN AFRICAN VISIONS

7614 Green Willow Court, Hyattsville, MD 20785

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

Managing Editor

Ajong Mbapndah L

Contributors

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

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

Advertising

Email:
marketing@panafricanvisions.com

Graphic Designer

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

From Hero To Villain - Djamel Belmadi's Show Of Shame

By Ajong Mbatndah L

As a player Djamel Belmadi was good but not in the pedigree of Algerian legends like Rabah Madjer or Lakder Belloumi. His fame came from winning the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations -AfCON in Egypt. In a continent where third-rate foreigners are preferred over competent national or domestic talent when it comes to coaching, AfCON 2019 in Egypt was no different. It was heavily dominated by foreign coaches, but the final pitted Algeria led by Belmadi, and Senegal led by Aliou Cisse. Algeria won the trophy and Belmadi became a hero. A triumph of African talent many thought...well until recently when Djamel Belmadi showed his ugly and possibly true side when a last second defeat at the hands of the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon in March ended Algeria's dreams of a place for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

The painful defeat in a game that had Algeria on the driver's seat until the very last seconds left the country shell shocked. It also left the future of Belmadi in doubt especially with the abysmal showing at the 2021 AfCON in Cameroon where cup holders Algeria was knocked out in the first round with defeats from little fancied sides like Equatorial Guinea.

Instead of taking responsibility for the lapses that snatched qualification from Algeria, Belmadi shifted blame to the match officials especially the Central Referee Papa Gassama from Gambia. Yet, Gassama handled the game with incredible poise and professionalism. Belmadi went on record to indicate that he personally confronted Gassama when they met on transit in Istanbul, Turkey. In what was seen by many as a call to violence, Belmadi said he was shocked to see his compatriots sit by quietly as Gassama sipped coffee at the airport in Algiers while waiting for his return flight to Gambia. From the other imbecilities Belmadi spewed, many found racial undertones, and a not-so-subtle call



Ajong Mbatndah L, Managing Editor

for violence. It would have been easy to ignore this if the antics of Belmadi did not have a precedent and were not having serious consequences.

On 23 August 2014, Albert Ebosse a Cameroonian footballer playing for the Algerian club JS Kabylie died under questionable circumstances after a game that did not end well for his side. To the Algerian authorities, it was crowd trouble that led to Ebosse sustaining head injuries that eventually led to his death. However, a report from a pathologist hired by the family raised sufficient doubts leading to the conclusion that Ebosse may have been murdered. The shoddy way Algerian authorities handled the grave incident did little to help matters. His family believes he was murdered, and many Cameroonians hold similar views till date. With incidents like this, the professional that Djamel Belmadi is ought to know better, yet he has continued to pour gasoline on fire, and no one knows when someone will take the queue and do something stupid.

In Qatar for the draws of the 2022 world cup, Cameroon's Football Association President Samuel Eto'o and National team coach Rigobert Song were confronted by a handful of irate Algerians. Despite been

one of the standout performers for his French Club, Lyon, Karl Toko Ekambi whose decisive goal knocked out Algeria has been confronted by Algerian fans of the club. Algerians have protested in front of the FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland about twice already.

It is a tale of sour losers, a tale of poor sportsmanship, a pathetic show of shame that has brought infamy to Algeria and the continent. The vituperations of Belmadi and other Algerians blindly following him means any team from Africa, a continent he now talks about so condescendingly should be careful when playing in Algeria. If the best we have in the continent like Papa Gassama are so unduly targeted, it means any referee from "Africa" called upon to officiate in Algeria should brace up for the worse. Will CAF sit by idly and let this happen? Will FIFA let this kind of callous behavior go unchecked?

While Belmadi is working so hard to give Africa a bad name, the Basketball Africa League is toiling hard to show the world a different side of Africa. Only in its second season, BAL is giving a global meaning to Basketball in Africa. Beyond a sporting perspective, the management has a solid vision of using BAL to market

the best of Africa and so far, things seem to be shaping up well.

In The Oil And Gas Sector, the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO) led by its Secretary General Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim thinks it is time for Africa to take ownership of its destiny. While prospects of this nature may have been easily dismissed in the past, the present trends leave the continent little choice but to up its game.

"Africa must take ownership of its oil and gas industry by itself at a time when foreign partners are losing interest in fossil fuels. To do so, African capacity building, technology appropriation, African oil market development, and financing of the sector are the major challenges that Africa must address," says Dr Farouk.

Prominent for his role in negotiations that led to the end of apartheid in South Africa, Roelf Meyer was recently in Cameroon to talk peace and share experiences in a number of academic institutions. People in Cameroon are suffering and paying a price when there is a solution, Roelf Meyer said. With the kind of experiences he has, there could be a thing or two that Cameroon can learn from him as it grapples with a vicious crisis in the English-speaking regions of the country that will simply not be wished away.

From insightful interviews with APPO Secretary General Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim and John Manyo-Plange Vice President, Head of Strategy and Operations at the Basketball Africa League this issue of PAV also takes a look at preparations for high stakes elections in Nigeria and Kenya, the fight against Islamic State terrorists in Mozambique, the curious deal between Rwanda and the UK on migration, the guilty verdict on Blaise Compaore in Burkina Faso for the death of Thomas Sankara, the E-Levy Debate in Ghana and more-Happy Reading,,,

CHICAGO

Thrice weekly to over 54 Destinations in Africa



Business friendly arrivals and departures to/from Africa

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

www.ethiopianairlines.com

Ethiopian
የኢትዮጵያ
THE NEW SPIRIT OF AFRICA

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Nigeria: Buhari's Tough Choices On Succession

By Richard Mammah

From analysing the soundbites running through Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari's speeches and with the benefit of an understanding of his now very familiar body language, discerning observers would not be in any doubt as to where the outgoing President would want the power pendulum to tilt to in the forthcoming 2023 polls in Nigeria. The challenge however is that there are indeed 'many rivers to cross.'

It is against this backdrop then that the decision of the National Executive Council, NEC of the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC to transfer its powers to the Abdullahi Adamu-led National Working Committee, NWC until July 2022, may be seen by some as a preliminary master-stroke to ensure a less rancorous primaries process. But that however may only be half the story as sources familiar with the origins of the development say it may not be unconnected with continuing efforts to manage the tough challenge that the retired General is having in the succession politics arena.

The decision to transfer the crucial powers of NEC to the NWC at this most auspicious time when the succession race is in frenetic motion already was disclosed to the public through the party's National Secretary, Dr Iyiola Omisore at the close of the recently held 11th National Executive Committee meeting of the APC that took place at the Transcorp Hilton, Abuja.

As it is now playing out, with this transfer of power, the NWC would be at liberty to make crunch-time decisions that would ordinarily have required the approval of the broader and more all-inclusive NEC for the next 90 days.

According to Omisore, the Senate President and leader of the party at the National Assembly, Dr Ahmed Lawan, moved the motion for the transfer of powers and it was consequently seconded by Kaduna State Governor, Nasir el-Rufai.



President Buhari is still to publicly declare support for any of the candidates battling to succeed him after two terms in Office.

Among those present at the crucial meeting were President Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, members of the NWC, the Progressive Governors Forum and Party State Chairpersons.

Instructively, the NEC meeting is the first the ruling party is holding after its long-delayed National Convention which was finally held on March 26, and in which the Governor Mai Mala Buni-led Caretaker and Extraordinary Convention Planning Committee was dissolved and a new leadership based on a consensus list was to be inaugurated. And as sources suggest, part of the rationale for this NEC-NWC power transfer at this point is to attempt to insulate the President and his office from the potentially messy recriminations that may arise in the next few weeks when presidential contenders and their backers increase the tenor of their activities and engage in political hardball.

However, in what could conveniently pass as a Freudian slip, Buhari had in a rare television interview granted a few months ago, let it out that his favoured aspirant was indeed not going to be very likely

to be openly embraced.

"No, I wouldn't say because he may be eliminated if I mention. I better keep it," the President had averred in the course of the interview.

And as is playing out on the field presently, the myriad of aspirants that are daily announcing their intentions to run within the party are pushing in all directions, with the members of the public wondering who exactly is Buhari's preferred one.

Indeed, there is already widespread concern that the APC is almost at the moment being torn apart by a maelstrom of clashing presidential ambitions, of which that between former Lagos Governor, Bola Ahmed Tinubu and incumbent Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo is quite notable. Then you have the strivings of other contenders that include Transportation Minister, Rotimi Amaechi; Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello and the latest entrant, former Senate President, Ken Nnamani.

Evidently, the most difficult of all of the aspirations to manage is that of Tinubu. The putative National Leader of the party, Tinubu and his supporters believe that he not only

has the right to first refusal for the APC presidential ticket, but also that the party hierarchy and other contenders should simply and plainly defer to him in this matter.

Particularly very miffing to Tinubu loyalists is the candidacy of Osinbajo. As a long-time political associate of Tinubu, they see his accepting to run as an act of betrayal, if not 'ingratitude to his political benefactor.' On his part, the VP has encouraged his own supporters to not join issues with his former boss, in the hope that there would yet be room for rapprochement going forward.

However, there are several other notable players within the party that are not favourably disposed to the idea of just handing over the ticket to Tinubu, with some back street insinuations even suggesting that Buhari himself may fall into this category. While the President has of course tried his best to not be drawn into affirming or refuting this claim, he has however continued to mouth soundbites that he would want someone that would continue with his legacy and who is not unpopular to fly the ruling party's flag and ultimately succeed him.

Other than micro-managing its National Convention and now preparing to micro-manage its primaries process, one other notable development in the APC field is its purportedly zoning its presidential ticket to the Southern part of Nigeria. But even this has not stopped candidates from Northern Nigeria from also throwing their hats into the ring, making some to wonder how all of that would pan out.

On the side of the main opposition platform, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, it has also been a herculean challenge navigating the minefields of candidate selection.

In addition to some of the identified challenges of the APC that it shares, indeed the PDP comes to the table with two additional critical burdens. One, it is not playing on the incumbency turf and two, it is also carrying some of the geo-political burden related to the fact that the outgoing President of the country is from the Northern part of the country.



APC Chieftain Bola Tinubu and Vice President Yemi Osinbajo are among the frontliners to succeed President Buhari.

While the former suggests that like in 2019, the PDP would very well be at the receiving end once again in terms of the 'leverage' to use and deploy 'sympathisers' within critical agencies like the Independent National Electoral Commission, the security services and the judiciary, the latter challenge of a geopolitical burden has equally put a wide chasm in the way of the party and its aspirants in a country where geo-political location and the clamour for zoning and rotational

presidency is still fever-pitched. Particularly being boxed to the spot on this score are the aspirations of the likes of former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, Senate President, Bukola Saraki and Bauchi State Governor, Bala Mohammed, and the concern over what they would do should they not be favoured.

Beyond the pressures within the parties are the larger challenges with the political environment and larger society. In a climate where the

poverty numbers are colossal and vote buying remains rife, virtually nothing has been done in terms of taming the reckless propensity of political players to abuse the system through throwing money around. A primary evidence of this can be seen in the humongous figures being demanded of political actors by their parties as a pre-condition for their participating in the process. In this, the ruling All Progressives Congress leads the way, slamming a N100m fee on potential presidential aspirants. And they are paying

up. The activist and commentator, Jonathan Ishaku lays the blame for this on a feeble INEC which largely looks the other way when such matters arise. But others say it is the reality of our situation.

Whichever way all of this pans out, this would indeed be a succession to remember. But first it has to survive the continuing spiral of threats in most notably, the country's security space. And last the distance. _____

Kenya: Surprises In Party Primaries Ahead Of August Polls

By Samuel Ouma

Kenya's major political parties conducted their primaries between April 16 and 22 and now the focus has shifted to campaigns ahead of the August 9 polls which is less than four months away.

The exercise was conducted under the new law which only allowed party's supporters to vote unlike in the past where all eligible voters were free to vote for aspirants from parties they do not support.

Some of the parties that carried out primary exercise were Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), United Democratic Alliance (UDA), Jubilee, Amani National Congress (ANC) and Wiper party. Others did not hold primaries due to lack of stiff competition for tickets. The outfits held nominations for the positions of Governors, Senators, MPs, Woman Representatives and Ward representatives.



Laikipia woman representative after casting her vote during UDA primaries.

This year's primaries were not only special but came with unexpected surprises. What caught people's attention is a 24-year-old girl winning UDA Bomet Woman Representative ticket in the country's Rift Valley. Miss Lillian Chepkorir alias "Toto" defied all odds to emerge victorious in the race that attracted nine other candidates.

The Bachelor of Business Administration graduate from Chuka University garnered 53,944 votes, ahead of Beatrice Chepkorir (20,495), Chepkoech Mutai (16,644), Chepkirui Faith (6,863), and Byegon Edah (4,906). A section of Kenyans led by Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu hailed her win terming it a victory for the youth and women.

"Congratulations Linet Chepkorir (Toto) for winning the Bomet Woman Rep nomination at that young age. An inspirational win to the girl child across the country. Nothing is impossible if you put your mind to it. Onwards and Upwards to parliament," posted Governor Ngilu on Facebook page.

Her friends and well-wishers supported her journey to the nomination.

"I could not have reached some parts of the county without the help of well-wishers, family, and friends, to whom I will be eternally grateful. I will continue to rely on their support in the run-up to the General Election," said the 24-year-old candidate.

The young candidate said if elected, she will pursue youth and women agenda.

"As a lady who lived with my mother for a long period of time, I am aware of the difficulties that women face, and my focus will be on assisting them with the available resources," she explained.

A slew of well-known names were also beaten by newcomers in the nomination process, leaving them out in the cold politically. The majority



Former Energy CS Charles Keter casting his vote at Kapmaso polling station in Kericho during UDA primaries.

are supporters of Deputy President William Ruto's UDA. Among the casualties is Charles Keter, who resigned as Energy Cabinet Secretary in February to run for Kericho Governor, but was defeated by Dr. Eric Mutai.

Laikipia Woman Representative Ms. Cate Waruguru, who was eyeing Laikipia East parliamentary seat, lost to the incumbent Mr. Amin Deddy despite being deemed as the favourite for the seat. She garnered 5,595 votes against Mr Deddy's 12,743.

Caleb Kositany, a close ally of Ruto, was defeated in his bid to become Governor of Uasin Gishu, finishing fourth with only 17,150 votes against winner Jonathan Bii, who received 71,152 votes. Senator Isaac Mwaura, ran unsuccessfully for the Ruiru parliamentary seat. Other casualties include former Governors Ferdinand Waititu, Samuel Ragwa, MPs Patrick Wainana, Tetu MP James Gichuhi, Daniel Rono, James Murgor, Moses, Cheboi, and Charles Njagua, former Kenya National Union of Teachers secretary-general Wilson Sossion, Senator Christopher Lang'at, among many others.

In ODM, notable names were MPs Imran Okoth (Kibera) and Fred Ouda (Kisumu Central).

According to University of Nairobi lecturer Herman Manyora, some UDA members lost because they insulted President Uhuru Kenyatta for allying with opposition leader Raila Odinga. President Kenyatta has come under fire from Ruto's supporters for supporting Odinga's fifth presidential bid.

"Some politicians have also hurled insults at President Kenyatta. They could have been punished for engaging in unsanitary politics," said Mr. Manyora.

Political nomadism and inconsistency are also to be blame for the unfortunate losses, noted Manyora.

"When you switch political allegiances frequently, you become inconsistent and, eventually, untrustworthy. That explains why some politicians, such as Waruguru, were unable to win UDA primaries. Over time, the electorate has come to believe you are untrustworthy and thus unfit to lead," added Manyora.

Some leaders may have lost because of a lack of development records. It is claimed that a generation of current leaders has thrived on political waves, with no development track record to show for it.

"The voters punished them. Many

do not have a track record of development success; instead, they rely on the political tide. It teaches some that insulting leaders and the electorate does not translate into votes," said political analyst Steve Kabita.

While some of the primaries' losers have declared that they would vie as independent candidates, others are yet to announce their next move with May 2 deadline set by the Independence Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) looming.

The exercise was also marred with low voter turnout especially in Mt. Kenya region perceived to be Ruto's UDA bedrock. After Ruto traversed the region for four years rallying residents behind his presidential bid,

only a handful of voters took part in the primaries contrary to his expectations. For instance, in Kiambu County where there are almost one million voters, only about 10,000 people turned out to vote.

Ruto's critics from vote-rich Mt. Kenya could not hide their joy after voters boycotted the exercise. Political analyst Mutahi Ngunyi stated that low voter turnout may foreshadow the outcome of the August elections, stating that numbers do not lie.

Nyandarua Governor Francis Kimemia said the low voter turnout is an indication that UDA is not popular in the region. He attributed low voter turnout to the activation of Jubilee party by President Kenyatta.

"We have a surprise for them in the coming months; they should brace themselves for a heartbreaking defeat," said Governor Kimemia.

A Kenyan-American professor Makau Mutua said, "UDA should be afraid of the low voter turnout in party primaries in Mt Kenya. In some places, only 2% of the registered voters bothered to come out. Disaster awaits William Ruto the community after years of assiduous courtship and lavish spending in Mt Kenya."



Simon TIEMTORE
Founder and CEO

Simba was founded by Simon Tiemtoire a West African immigrant from Burkina Faso. He came to the U.S. in 1998 to pursue higher education and greater opportunities for himself, his family, and his community.

He experienced first hand the many challenges immigrants face on their journey and vowed to one day find better ways of providing financial services to truly meet the needs of immigrants

simba 

0\$ Money transfer fees.

Get a mobile banking account with no minimum balance and no monthly maintenance fees

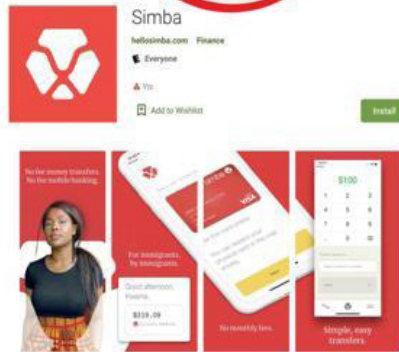


Send money to VISA debit or prepaid cards

Currently serving 20 african countries.



CONTACT US:
experience@hellosimba.com



Mobile banking and international money transfers in one app. Simba is your partner on the journey to prosperity, and empowers all immigrant communities to achieve our dreams.



JOIN US

simba 



African Energy Week

V&A Waterfront
Cape Town, South Africa
18-21 October 2022

Learn more about the African Energy Week 2022 by visiting aecweek.com

REGISTER NOW



OFFICIAL PARTNER

Burkina Faso - Nemesis Catches Up With Campaore On Sankara's Murder

By Prince Kurupati



The ghost of Thomas Sankara continues to trail former President Compaore. Photo credit Sia Kambou, AFP.

Deposed former Burkina Faso president Blaise Compaore was given a life sentence by a military tribunal in absentia. Compaore, 70, was deposed through a popular rising in 2014 after 27 years in power. Compaore succeeded the widely popular Thomas Sankara after his assassination on October 15, 1987. Since Sankara's death, there was a consensus amongst many people both within and outside the Burkina Faso borders that Compaore had taken the life of his friend in his quest to become the president. However, for so long, the matter was kept under the rugs as Compaore's tentacles as the country's president ensured that the circumstances leading to the death of Thomas Sankara remained a mystery.

After his deposal from office, Blaise Compaore faced a barrage of lawsuits from the Sankara family and other interested parties. All of the lawsuits wanted Compaore to admit his role in the assassination of Thomas Sankara. Compaore denied all the allegations stating that he had no role in the death of Sankara. However, the Sankara family was adamant and convinced that the former Burkina

Faso president died at the hands of Compaore. As such, they persisted in collecting evidence that proved the involvement of Blaise Compaore in the death of Thomas Sankara.

The Sankara family's preoccupation with collecting evidence against Blaise Compaore was made easier when France president Emmanuel Macron agreed to declassify all relevant documents on the 1987 coup in Burkina Faso. Though only a portion of the documents has been declassified as yet, the Sankara family was able to use some of the information available to build a strong case against Blaise Compaore.

After collecting the evidence, the Sankara family approached the military tribunal seeking justice. The prosecution team during the court proceedings wanted Blaise Compaore to receive a 30-year jail sentence. The prosecution team also wanted Compaore's accomplices to receive the same fate. After all the evidence was presented, the military tribunal found Compaore guilty and gave him a life sentence. One of Compaore's close aides General Gilbert Diendere who was one of the commanders

during the 1987 coup was also given a life sentence. Eight others were given varying jail sentences ranging from three to twenty years.

As soon as the sentence was given, great applause erupted in the courtroom. The sentence wrapped up a matter that had been lingering in Burkina Faso for close to three decades. Though Compaore was given the sentence in absentia, there was a general feeling that now Compaore has to carry the burden of his actions at all times. The likelihood of Compaore returning to Burkina Faso from his current base in Ivory Coast where he is in exile is highly unlikely.

Speaking after the trial, Prosper Farama the lawyer representing the Sankara family said they approached the courts as they wanted "justice not revenge" for Thomas Sankara. He went on to state that they were appalled by the accused persons who failed to confess or accept their role in the death of Sankara. "None of the accused confessed or repented – not a single one!" he said. Contrary to the general belief that Sankara together with 12 others who were killed on 15 October 1987 was shot by a hit squad,

the accused claimed that the victims "died in a botched attempt to arrest Sankara after he and Compaore fell out over the direction the country's revolution was taking."

While the news of Compaore's conviction was warmly welcomed by many people both within and beyond the Burkina Faso borders, Bruno Jaffre who has written several books on Thomas Sankara said the trial failed to expose the role of the international community in Sankara's death. Jaffre is convinced that Compaore and his accomplices did not work alone but rather, received commands from powers that be in the international community. "The inquiry into events in Ouagadougou was dissociated from the wider investigation into the international plot to oust Sankara – which remains open... We know that, on the ground, the coup was staged by Compaore, Diendere and other Burkinabe officials. What we still need to shed light on are the preparations and the political context that made it possible," Jaffre said. Jaffre is convinced that the military tribunal quickly settled the case as they wanted to complete the case while the key witnesses are still alive.

Historian Amzat Boukari-Yabara said that Sankara's death was not a loss to the Burkinabe people alone but it's a huge loss to Africa as a whole. "His originality was to defend the principle of people's emancipation, rather than the emancipation of states. He called on the people of Africa to join forces around regional struggles such as fighting desertification, and around continental challenges like ending debt bondage... On matters of governance, women's rights, fighting forced marriage and female genital mutilation, climate and culture, he was a pioneer... His assassination clearly marked the end of revolutionary pan-Africanism," Boukari-Yabara said.

Time For Africa To Take Ownership Of Its Oil & Gas Industry - Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim

By Ajong Mbapndah L



Africa must take ownership of its oil and gas industry by itself at a time when foreign partners are losing interest in fossil fuels, says Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim.

While it appears that energy transition poses a serious challenge to our countries that have come to rely heavily on oil and gas revenue from exports, it could also be an opportunity for our countries to take their destinies in their own hands, says the Secretary General of the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO) Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim.

With over 125 billion barrels of proven crude and over 600 trillion cubic feet of gas, Africa is indeed a force to reckon with in global oil and gas affair, but things are changing especially with the global paradigm shift away from fossil fuels to renewable energy. For Dr Farouk, this reality far from been a fatality should serve as the wake-up call Africa needed to take ownership of its oil and gas industry.

“APPO is committed to pooling the resources of African oil and gas producing and potential producing countries together to create an enabling environment for the industry to survive in the absence of foreign funding, technology and markets,” Dr Farouk says in an exclusive interview with PAV Magazine.

The aggressive pursuit of energy transition by the developed countries may leave us with no choice but to have to master the industry and produce oil and gas for the use of our own economies and peoples, says Dr Farouk as he harps on the need for Africa to take destiny into its hands.

“Africa must take ownership of its oil and gas industry by itself at a time when foreign partners are losing interest in fossil fuels. To do so, African capacity building, technology appropriation, African oil market

development, and financing of the sector are the major challenges that Africa must address,” says Dr Farouk in the interview which also dwells at length on the 8th African Petroleum Congress and Exhibition (CAPE VIII) coming up later in the month.

For people who may not know, could you introduce APPO for us?

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim: The African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO) is an African intergovernmental energy organization created in January 1987 by eight African oil producing countries, namely Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Libya and Nigeria. Today APPO has 15 full Member Countries and three Observers from within Africa and outside.

The idea of the founding fathers is to promote cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons between Member Countries and other international institutions and to foster fruitful collaboration and partnerships while using hydrocarbons as a catalyst for energy security, sustainable development and economic diversification in Africa. Its headquarters is currently in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.

APPO seeks to promote cooperation and capacity building among its Member Countries and with other international energy organizations in all areas of the oil and gas industry, including commercial, scientific, technical, technological, legal, fiscal and human resources. We also work to promote the development of regional energy market and coordinated energy integration strategies on the

continent and the oil sector in African countries.

In what shape did you meet APPO when you took over and what are some of the milestones that the organization has seen under your stewardship?

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim: I assumed office in January 2020 after the reform and restructuring of the then APPA had been completed. Not long after my assumption duty, COVID-19 struck. And you know, for most of 2020 the world was not what we had always known it to be. Lockdowns paralyzed the global economy which seriously affected the stability of the global oil market. Again, as you may be aware, our countries were among the worst hit, due to the high dependence of our economies on oil and gas revenues.

In addition to the immediate challenge posed by COVID 19, there was also the challenge of energy transition, where the world, especially the developed countries of Europe and America that Africa had depended on for decades to explore, produce, refine, and market its oil came to the conclusion that the use of fossil fuels is to be discouraged and eventually stopped.

How important is Africa when it comes to Petroleum related issues and stakes?

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim: Africa produces about 8 million barrels of oil per day, 8mbd, or about 9% of global daily production. Most of Africa's oil is exported outside Africa for two reasons. First is lack of refining capacity, either because the refineries are not enough, or the existing ones are not operating optimally. The second reason, which is more structural is that traditionally most Africa countries that have gone into petroleum exploration and production had done so to serve external markets. They saw petroleum as commodities to be produced not so much for their citizens but to export and get money



With its huge potential Africa should be a key player in international gas geopolitics, says APPO SG Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim.

with which to pay for imported goods and services. That explains why the oil and gas infrastructure in most African countries – pipelines, depots, terminals - run from the hinterland to the coasts.

But things are changing, especially with the global paradigm shift away from fossil fuels to renewable energies. Africans are now taking their destinies in their own hands. Many countries are making progress with local content development in the petroleum industry, with the support of APPO.

With over 125 billion barrels of proven crude and over 600 trillion cubic feet of gas, Africa is indeed a force to reckon with in global oil and gas affairs.

There has been this debate on fossil fuels and renewable

energy, what is APPO doing to ensure that the needs and interests of the African continent are protected?

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim: First, APPO does not contest the science of climate change, nor are we against objective and reasonable measures aimed at limiting greenhouse gas emissions, and thereby making the world a better place for all. Our position is that there are many ways to limit greenhouse gas emissions, other than complete elimination of fossil fuels in the energy mix. Technology can drastically limit emissions. But not much effort is being put into the research and development of emission reduction technologies by those who possess the technology. Instead, a lot of resources are being channeled into research and development of alternative energies.

Africa's petroleum industry is one of the most structurally dependent industries one can find anywhere. Most African countries saw petroleum as commodities that were to be produced and exported for foreign exchange with which to make imports of goods and services. That industry was not developed with the primary objective to serve the citizens. That explains why after so many decades of being in the industry, few African countries can claim to have mastered its technology from Upstream to midstream and downstream. Because the target markets are external to Africa, the technology, expertise and funding also became largely external.

APPO is committed to pooling the resources of African oil and gas producing and potential producing countries together to create an enabling environment for the industry to survive in the absence of foreign funding, technology and markets.

We have identified three challenges in the African oil and gas industry that must be addressed if we are to continue to exploit our God-endowed resources for the good of our people and these are technology, finance and markets. And APPO is working to address the challenges.

Can you shed some light on the 8th African Petroleum Congress and Exhibition (CAPE VIII) coming up in May?

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim: The African Petroleum Congress and Exhibition is a major African event on energy in general and oil and gas in particular. The CAPE is an initiative of APPO which aims to provide a platform for developing relationships and links between decision makers and professionals in the sector, a forum for sharing expertise and discussing strategies, opportunities for business development, investments, partnerships, etc. It is a triennial meeting between oil specialists from around the world and senior African executives in the

oil and gas sector. It is organized every three (3) years on a rotational basis in APPO Member Countries. The one in May in Luanda is the 8th edition with the main theme «Energy Transition and the Future of the Oil and Gas Industry in Africa: Opportunities, Challenges and Development». The event will bring together for three days the actors of the energy sector and the decision-makers of the African and international oil and gas sector who will exchange thoughts on topical issues at the end of which ideas and directives to reconcile the energy transition and the oil and gas industry in Africa for the benefit of Africa will be provided.

CAPE VIII is different from other CAPES in the sense that this is the first CAPE since the start of COVID 19 and it promises to attract some of the key and influential players in the industry. For the first time in over a decade we are going to have a Meeting of the Forum of CEOs of APPO Member Countries NOCs. In addition, the first meeting of the APPO Long Term Strategy Committee is also taking place. Furthermore, there will be the Africa Local Content Roundtable. These are in addition to the Scientific Sessions and the Exhibitions.

In nearly 20 years, 9 Member Countries have hosted CAPE. The first edition was hosted by Tripoli in 2003, followed in 2005 in Algiers, Cotonou in 2007, Kinshasa in 2010 and CAPE V was hosted by Libreville. CAPE VI and CAPE VII were respectively hosted by Abuja and Malabo in 2016 and 2019.

Energy Transition And The Future Of The Oil And Gas Industry In Africa: Opportunities, Challenges And Development is the theme, how does this tie in with the present realities in Africa?

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim: The main theme of the Congress is well chosen and relates to the major concerns of African oil and gas producing countries in this era of energy transition.



Omar Farouk Ibrahim says APPO is working with key partners to address the challenges of technology, finance and markets needed for Africa to take charge of its destiny in the oil and gas industry

The choice of the theme of CAPE VIII was very carefully thought-through. It aims to bring to the fore the key issues of concern to Africa's oil and gas industry. It aims to provide a forum for these issues to be very well articulated for solutions to be found. It aims to disabuse the minds of many who do not understand the position of Africa on energy transition. Key energy policy makers from APPO Member Countries and beyond are going to articulate our position and the way forward for the industry on the continent.

While it appears that energy transition poses a serious challenge to our countries that have come to rely heavily on oil and gas revenue from exports, it could also be an opportunity for our countries to take their destinies in their own

hands. The aggressive pursuit of energy transition by the developed countries may leave us with no choice but to have to master the industry and produce oil and gas for the use of our own economies and peoples. Necessity, it is said, is the mother of invention. Africa must take ownership of its oil and gas industry by itself at a time when foreign partners are losing interest in fossil fuels. To do so, African capacity building, technology appropriation, African oil market development, and financing of the sector are the major challenges that Africa must address. The African countries must go in synergy to face these challenges. Beyond local content development, we are now looking at regional and continental centres of excellence for the development the technology and

expertise for the industry in Africa.

From Congress to Congress, how is APPO able to measure progress and successes?

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim: We are able to measure progress from the value addition that participants bring to CAPE that was not brought in a previous CAPE. This value additions could be in the mastery of technology, projects undertaken and capacity building. For example, country A may report that at CAPE 5 it could boast of 20 per cent local content in the industry. But by CAPE 8, that is five years later, it has been able to move to 25 per cent. Furthermore, we measure progress by the number of collaborative projects we are able to record between the events, where the Organization facilitates these collaborative efforts. In addition, we measure our success by the rate of execution of the resolutions or decisions arrived at the Congress.

In all these respects, we have been satisfied with the records so far.

The petroleum sector has strong foreign interests and stakes, how does APPO ensure that there is a balance between foreign partners and presence and indigenous African actors?

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim: As I mentioned earlier the oil and gas industry in Africa was historically developed to service external markets. It is no wonder therefore that foreigners have dominated the industry. Now that the world is committed to abandoning the industry, we are also likely to see less expatriates in the African oil and gas industry. That opens opportunities for Africans.

I also need to state that the oil industry is not a local industry. It is international and has been so from the very beginning. Even under energy transition Africa is not averse to foreign oil and gas experts working in Africa. What is important is what value addition they are bringing to our production process.

We see the African Energy Chamber listed as one of your partners, do you plan on attending the African Energy Week in Cape Town and how important are the chamber and its activities in strengthening the African voice when it comes to petroleum related issues?

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim: The African Energy Chamber, through African Energy Week, and the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO) are committed to Africa's energy and economic future. Focusing on energy transition, oil and gas finance, upstream and technology, the partnership will be critical to the continent as it strives to develop new resources, increase oil and gas production and ensure that Africa is in a strong position to fight energy poverty.

APPO is a partner in the African Energy Week. We were partners last year and we are partners this year. So, it is obvious that we are participating and taking part in the discussions on the future of Africa in the global energy sector.

African Energy Week is an annual exhibition and networking event initiated by the African Energy Chamber and has the full support of APPO. Like last year, this year AEW 2022 will bring together African energy players with international investors and partners to stimulate industry growth and development and promote Africa as an energy investment destination.

And the reason we went into this partnership is to enable the two organizations to expand the dialogue on energy transition including financing oil and gas projects on the continent.

This is a win-win partnership, both for the future of African producers and other partners.

There has been talk about the



With NJ Ayuk, Chairman of the African Energy Chamber, Dr Farouk says APPO will be a partner at the African Energy Week to continue discussions on the future of Africa in the global energy sector

crisis in Ukraine and its impact, any lessons you think APPO, and African countries can draw from this?

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim: It is important to note that Africa accounts for more than 13 percent of world oil exports and more than 7 percent of gas exports. It also has over 125 billion barrels of proven oil reserves and over 600 trillion cubic feet of gas. These are no mean reserves.

Gas, which represents a little over 17% of the world's energy mix, is 70 percent controlled by about 13 countries. Among these countries, we have APPO Member Countries such as Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, Egypt and Equatorial Guinea. In the meantime, other large natural gas discoveries

have been made in other African countries such as Mozambique, Uganda, Senegal, Mauritania, as well as Tanzania, Niger, Namibia, etc.

This will make Africa a key player in international gas geopolitics. Already Europe is pushing for the actualization of the Trans-Saharan-Gas Pipeline Project, which starts from Warri in Nigeria and passes through Niger Republic through Algeria and finally to Europe. The crisis in Ukraine has increased the urgency for completion of this project. The seriousness with which these three countries take this project was demonstrated last February when the Ministers of Energy of the three APPO Member Countries, Mohammed Arkab of Algeria, Mahamane Sani

Muhammadou of Niger and Timipre Sylva of Nigeria met in Niamey to sign an agreement to expedite the completion of the project. When completed the 4,128 kilometers gas pipeline shall carry 30 billion cubic meters of gas per annum. The completion of that project shall also usher a new era in the provision of energy to the cities and towns in the counties along which the pipeline shall pass.

While it is good to have foreign markets for African gas, it is important to note that when Europe becomes dependent on African gas, Africa cannot fail to provide gas to Europe when Europe needs it. Russia can afford not to supply gas to Europe and there is little that Europe can do to Russia. But that will not be the same for Africa. These are matter we should always have at the back of our minds as we go into partnerships.

Besides CAPE VIII, how would the rest of the year look like at APPO?

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim: CAPE is just one of many activities organized by the APPO Secretariat. We are preparing for the APPO Summit of Heads of State, our Ministerial Council Meetings and the Secretariat is always busy pursuing its mandate. We are working on developing a Long-Term Strategy for the Organization in the Light of the Energy Transition. We are also working on bringing more oil and gas producing countries into the organization especially in the light of commitment to developing regional and continental energy market which can best be facilitated by the provision of cross border energy infrastructure across the continent.

The APPO Secretariat also conducts studies on various topics related to the entire value chain of the petroleum sector.

LONSA

GROUP OF COMPANIES

Lonsa, a Mauritanian corporate holding entity, is a principal investment entity investing in the energy, industrials, logistics and property sectors in Southern Africa. Lonsa was formed in 2004 and has a track record of concluding complex corporate transactions. Lonsa's principals have unrivalled experience and knowledge of working and delivering value in its chosen businesses gained by investing in excess of 2.5 Billion USD in the continent over the past 17 years. Lonsa operates from offices in Johannesburg, Harare, Ebene and London.

Lonsa controls the following entities:



Infrastructure development



Infrastructure development



Infrastructure development



Logistics



Housing



Renewable Energy

South Africa: Investments Bring Renewed Hope

By Phumla Williams*

Every time Statistics South Africa releases the results of a Quarterly Labour Force Survey, which continues to show a sharp rise in unemployment figures, especially among the youth, some people tend to express doom and gloom. Nevertheless, there is a glimmer of light as more potential foreign and domestic investors continue to show confidence in South Africa's economy. Investments lead to the establishment of job-intensive businesses that invariably create employment opportunities for youth.

Four years ago, South Africa set an ambitious target of raising about R1.2 trillion in new investments over a five-year period. Since the first South Africa Investment Conference (SAIC) in 2018, South Africa has attracted R1.14 trillion in investment commitments across a wide range of economic sectors, the majority of which are being realised and contributing to changing lives for the better.

Plants are being built, jobs are being created and production is underway. This change is happening across our economy in multiple sectors, including automotive; information and communications technology; fashion and textiles; energy; health; pharmaceuticals; infrastructure, minerals and manufacturing.

Investments in these key sectors of the economy are changing lives, bringing renewed hope and placing us on a path towards a sustainable economic growth. Despite the continued rise in our unemployment figures, we draw comfort in the investments commitments made to make a life-changing difference.

In his February 2022 State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa sent a strong message that the country was open for business and that working in partnership with business, labour and civil society, government was creating a conducive environment for businesses to flourish and create jobs.

The crucial bumper harvest



GCIS Director General and SA Cabinet Spokesperson, Ms Phumla Williams 2.

received in new investments at the 4th SAIC held on 24 March 2022 complements the overarching Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP) that supports the economic recovery towards growth and a rebound in employment through structural reforms and investment in infrastructure.

While the wheels continue to turn in the automotive sector with seven new pledges amounting to R20.4 billion, the energy sector received five new investments to the value of R19.6 billion.

Infrastructure is at the heart of the ERRP and this has been further boosted by pledges of R37.6 billion in infrastructure, property and logistics.

Our budding entrepreneurs and

and hi-tech industries. Government also supports existing industries with high-growth potential such as automotive, clothing and textiles, gas, chemicals and plastics, renewable energy and agriculture.

Although massive progress has been made since the first SAIC, much work still needs to be done to fast-track economic growth. Government has made massive strides towards a consensus of working towards economic growth with labour, business and communities. Massive work also continues to support and further grow the core productive sectors of manufacturing, mining, infrastructure, technology and telecommunications, which all offer good expansion opportunities.

Given the need to attract investors and make the country an investment destination of choice, government has created 13 special economic zones across the country, which provide investors with targeted investment incentives, preferential tax rates and export support.

To promote the setting up of businesses and attract investments in South Africa, government introduced the National Invest South Africa: One Stop Shop, which makes it easier to establish a business in the country by simplifying administrative procedures and providing a single portal for investors to access all their needs.

In an economy everything is interlinked and small individual actions form part of the larger ecosystem. When a local community business employs just one person it kicks off a greater cycle of economic activity, employment and consumer demand. When amplified across the country and economy, it becomes an unstoppable force in growing our economy and creating sustainable jobs.

When consumers buy South African products they support a local company or manufacturer. By the same token, companies which invest in local skills and expertise are in

fact investing in our nation's future success.

Since attaining freedom in 1994, the country has unveiled solid economic fundamentals which underpin everything for potential investors. Investments are safe, and the country has prudent fiscal management and monetary policies that have given rise to high levels of macroeconomic stability, promoted competitiveness and increased the economy's outward orientation.

Government is not ignorant of the various headwinds facing the nation, including structural challenges. The recent devastating floods in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape have thrown another curveball that sets the country back on its economic growth trajectory. Sadly, these floods led to the loss of lives, and destruction of property and infrastructure.

The disaster, which President Ramaphosa has described as "a catastrophe of enormous

proportions", has driven home the need for the country to raise awareness on the realities of climate change and how we mitigate against such phenomenon.

Meanwhile, South Africa's strength lies in its ability to rebound, even under most difficult circumstances. As we slowly recover from the devastating impact of COVID-19 and the destruction caused by the July unrests, all hands must be on deck to regrow our economy and create

much-needed jobs.

Everyone has a role to play in bringing about change. Working together, we can build the South Africa of our collective dreams where citizens, labour, government and civil society work together for a better and prosperous future.

* GCIS Director General and SA Cabinet Spokesperson, Ms Phumla Williams

Nouvelle Collection Vista Gui 2022 !



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

Promotion jusqu'au 30 avril 2022

*carte visa sans contact !



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

E-Levy: Ghana's Ticket To Economic Recovery?

By Papisdaff Abdullah

Sani Ibrahim is a dealer of imported cars at Roman Ridge, one of the hubs for such merchandize in Accra. Between November 2021 and March 2022, he has had to pay about 30 percent more in cedis to get the dollar value of goods he imports into Ghana. This problem is linked largely to the increasing depreciation of the Ghana cedi to major trading currencies like the Dollar, Euro and British Pounds. Like Sani, members of the Ghana Union of Traders (GUTA), are also faced with the same dilemma. These traders import goods including building materials, automobile spare parts, clothes and food items among other critical day-to-day needs. The problem is felt down the value chain as the extra cost incurred by the traders is passed on to consumers of the goods and services they offer.

According to the governing New Patriotic Party, the newly introduced electronic transfer levy is the key to unlocking the economic woes facing the West African county as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's infamous invasion of Ukraine. In the years past, governments led by the two major parties would opt for a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help cushion citizens and restore the economy, but the current managers of the Ghanaian economy contend that this move is untenable.

Finance Minister Ken Ofori Atta argues that the E-Levy will widen the tax base of Ghana's economy because it offers opportunity for all citizens to contribute in revenue generation efforts for national development. The minister maintains, the newly introduced tax regime offers a comprehensive system to get all potential tax payers to contribute their quota. He says the rate of 1.5 percent on all transactions and exemption of the first GH¢100 transfer per day make the tax pro-poor. Mr Ofori Atta believes it is a major means of raising adequate revenue to execute government's growth agenda and



Finance Minister Ken Ofori Atta argues that the E-Levy will widen the tax base of Ghana's economy.

create jobs for the country's youth.

"Ghanaians are largely in favor of paying the E-Levy, contrary to the impression being created from Parliament; but we have to explain to them the levy's merits and the positive consequences it will bring," he said. He is confident that the levy, which is scheduled to kick start from May 1 will raise a projected sum of GH¢7billion.

The minister cited the upsurge and growth in the value of mobile money(momo) transactions from GH¢78billion in 2016 to almost GH¢950billion in 2021 as the basis of targeting users of the platform. "Mobile money has clearly become a tax handle for the future, and must be utilized in the development of Ghana," he stressed.

According to data from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), only 2.4 million people pay direct taxes compared to more than 20 million who could have been paying. This, the GRA has maintained, needs to be addressed in order to widen the tax net for revenue growth and national development.

Economy

Delivering the 2022 State of the Nation Address at Parliament on March 30, President Akufo-Addo affirmed that the country's ability to navigate the challenges of the spiraling economy will be hard and long.

According to the President, government has already taken realistic steps to address the economic downturn.

"Mr Speaker, there are many problems and we have to overcome them to get back to where we ought to be. I need your support; no President, no government could undertake this all by themselves; I need all Ghanaians to pull and push together," he added. The President later told the BBC Ghana is instituting measures to help the country recover from the ravages of COVID-19. He says the world is going through difficult times and «Ghana is no exception», he acknowledged.

«There is no country in the world that is escaping the ravages of both Covid-19 and also the impact of the Ukraine [invasion] but what you need to look at, where are the elements being put on the ground that look beyond the Covid and beyond the

Russian Ukraine war? I think that you will find that in Ghana» the President told Peter Okwoche of the BBC.

About the levy

According to the Finance Minister, the E-Levy will affect mobile money transfers between accounts on the same electronic money issuer (EMI); mobile money transfers from an account on one EMI to a recipient on another EMI; transfers from bank accounts to mobile money accounts; transfers from mobile money accounts to bank accounts; and bank transfers on a digital platform or application which originate from a bank account belonging to an individual to another individual.

What it will not cover

Mr. Ofori-Atta added that certain transactions will be exempt from the E-levy. This, he said, includes cumulative transfers of GH¢100 per day made by the same person; transfers between accounts owned by the same person; transfers for the payment of taxes, fees and charges on the Ghana.gov platform; and electronic clearing of cheques. It also includes specified merchant payments

(i.e. payments to commercial establishments registered with GRA for Income Tax and VAT purposes); and transfers between principal, master-agent and agent's accounts.

Economists and Tax experts

Former Finance Minister under the erstwhile Mahama administration, Seth Terkper for his part doubts the Electronic Transactions Levy (E-Levy) would be able to rake in enough revenue to address the country's economic challenges. Mr Terkper notes that the E-levy is a distortion of the country's tax structure and would not achieve government's target.

"E-levy taxes savings which is my basic and fundamental opposition to it. It tells you how dire the situation is for us. Ghana, wanting to tax savings, no, it is never done," he stated.

He said the projections of proceeds from the levy have been exaggerated by the government, thus impossible to address the economic challenges. "I urge you to look at the appendix to the budget. The projections for the E-levy are there for the next four years...is that what is going to resolve the fact that we have to borrow to pay our debt and then even the interest on that debt? if you pay and after paying compensation is not enough, is that the solution to it? If you look at our re-financing is it a question of 7 billion? ... I beg to differ," he said.

According to him, the country's economic problem is government's expenditure. "We have thrown all of these loans and oil revenue, levies and things at expenditure and still we are not getting any resolution. We need to re-finance," he added.

His position is buttressed by Economist and Chairman of the National Development Planning Commission, Prof Stephen Adei, who also suggests the country's expenditure be reduced. "If you are exceeding your income, then you must accept to live below your income, which is the easy way, otherwise if you are earning GH¢3,000 and you are in debt of GH¢10,000 you cannot on a day to day spend GH¢3,000. For you to get out of the rag, you will have to cut your expenditure to GH¢2,000 because you must service



your debt. So we are in that situation as a country," he said.

Again, Economist and Head of Applied Economics Department of the University for Development Studies (UDS) intimates that the Electronic Transfer Levy (E-Levy) may eventually create room for the government to keep borrowing. Dr Michael Ayamga-Adongo explained that relentless efforts to make E-Levy work in the country were an attempt to assure investors that government had the political mandate to implement sweeping revenue measures. He said, "this may halt investors leaving largely as we see now and possibly create room for more borrowing."

The economist, noted that the E-Levy would rekindle investor trust in government to keep lending to it. Dr Ayamga-Adongo said the introduction of the E-Levy in the quest to stabilize the economy could make the country more indebted in future. He said, "the fact is that Ghana's sovereign spread is in thousands and our economy is designated as a debt distressed one."

President's response to E-Levy on the BBC

When interrogated about the approved Electronic Transaction levy, which targets people who do business on their mobile phone by sending money and those who remit funds to loved ones and relatives, President Akufo-Addo's response was that: «The digital economy, the mobile economy, is emerging as the biggest economy in the country and for a long period has not had any taxation at all. So it is important now that they also

come into the net.»

«Our country has one of the lowest tax to GDP ratios of any country in West Africa and of an equivalent economy. The Ecomas area, the general average, today, tax to GDP average is about 18%. Ghana we are 13%, so if you're talking about a country, which is already overtaxed, if anything at all, it's undertaxed.»

Avenues for legal evasion

Since the approval of the controversial Electronic Transaction Levy (E-levy) it has become the worry of many Ghanaians. Some have become apprehensive about how the new tax will impact their finances. A Tax and Management Adviser, Fred Kwashie Awuttye outlined six legal modes that Ghanaians can reduce risk of exposure to the controversial tax.

Chase the chequebook

Mr Awuttye noted that since clearing cheques by electronic means is exempted from the tax, it provides an alternative to reduce risk of exposure.

Do 'physical' cash-in and cash-out

Mr Awuttye maintains, the tax does not cover cash-out and cash-in. That is an option opened. But, with this, individuals must be guided by the dangers of carrying cash along.

Make payments through merchant short code (for shops and supermarkets)

The levy does not cover payments made through merchant's short

code who are registered with the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) for purposes of paying income taxes and VAT.

"To minimize the exposure, when you go to a shop, you have to find out whether the vendor is registered with Ghana Revenue Authority before you start to initiate the transaction."

Update bank, mobile money account details with the Ghana Card

Noting that E-Levy does not cover transfers between two or more accounts held by one person with unique identity number with Ghana Card, he advised that Ghanaians should ensure they update all their accounts with the card.

"In this case, to minimize the impact, individuals must update their bank accounts, mobile money accounts with the Ghana Card so that such individuals will not be affected by the tax when they transfer money from one account, say Vodafone, to another account say, MTN momo."

Regulate the volume of electronic payments at the bank

For the purpose of making payment by the electronic platform through the bank, an individual may have to regulate the payment.

It is expected that the Minister of Finance determines the minimum threshold on the bank payment so that concerns on payment are addressed.

Pay your taxes through the Ghana.gov platform

To reduce risk of exposure to E-Levy while paying other taxes, do it through the Ghana.gov platform. The tax expert explains that that platform is exempt from charging the E-Levy.

As governments wait to officially start collection of the electronic transaction levy from May 1, the question of whether or not the touted e-Levy would be the surest way out for Ghana's economic recovery amid growing concerns over the dire effects of the economy people living in the country.



African Energy
Week 2022

Cape Town, South Africa
18 - 21 October 2022

#AEW2022

**THE AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER LAUNCHES
HYDROGEN SUMMIT AT AFRICAN ENERGY
WEEK 2022 IN CAPE TOWN**



**MAKING
ENERGY
POVERTY
HISTORY
BY 2030**

BUY TICKET NOW!

www.aecweek.com

African Energy Chamber



African Energy
Week 2022

conference
and exhibition

Learn more about
the African Energy Week
2022 by visiting

aecweek.com

Welcome to our
INTELLIGENCE Partner



RYSTAD ENERGY

**MAKING
ENERGY
POVERTY
HISTORY
BY 2030**

Cape Town, South Africa
18 - 21 October 2022

African
Energy
Chamber



African Petroleum Producers' Organization

APPO aspires to be the World's reference and lead institution on Africa's hydro-carbon matters.



Zoom On Basketball Africa League With John Manyo-Plange

By Ajong Mbapndah L

A brilliant concept, solid vision, abundance of talent, competent and dynamic leadership coupled with a strong response from the public have contributed to making the Basketball Africa League a force to reckon with in its first two seasons.

The rise of BAL has given fresh meaning and importance to the sport in the continent. Beyond the sporting aspect, it is also an economic engine says John Manyo-Plange Vice President, Head of Strategy and Operations at the Basketball Africa League

“We are here to be a catalyst for growing and expanding the entire ecosystem for sports and entertainment on the African continent. Part of that is spurring sports tourism – so moving this around so that we can showcase world-class modern-day infrastructure and African cities is part of our strategy,” says Manyo in an exclusive interview with PAV.

While the initial season was limited to Kigali, Rwanda, season two started in Dakar, Senegal, moved to Cairo Egypt and will end in Kigali Rwanda. With over 20 years of experience in the NBA’s global operations and management, John Manyo-Plange believes firmly on the mission and potential of the BAL. In Between a hectic schedule and in the heat of season two games in Cairo, he took time out to field questions from PAV on the growing stock of the BAL, its potential and perspectives.

Could we start with an introduction to the Basketball Africa League and what motivated its creation?

John Manyo-Plange: Basketball Africa League otherwise known as the BAL is the premier Pan African club basketball competition on the continent. When you think about it from a sporting perspective, you think of the champions league for club



We are here to be a catalyst for growing and expanding the entire ecosystem for sports and entertainment on the African continent, says John Manyo-Plange.

basketball on the African continent. It is a league that allows us to wrap our arms around the entire continent and showcase the best that Africa has to offer from a club basketball perspective.

May we know the relationship or link between Basketball Africa League and the NBA?

John Manyo-Plange: The Basketball Africa League is one of the five affiliate leagues of the NBA, so when you think of the NBA you think of it in terms of these overarching branches that have lots of very interesting and global products underneath it. From a league perspective, we have the NBA, we have the WNBA, G-League, 2K League and now we have the BAL; the fifth affiliate league and the only one that is outside of North America.

How has this league fared since its creation; we understand it is in its second season.

John Manyo-Plange: We have been thinking about the BAL from a formation standpoint for many years and have built the foundation for it for a minimum since 2010 or before then. The NBA has been coming on to the continent for tours, but we decided in 2010 to open up physical offices and boots on the ground. We opened an office in South Africa and that office then built and developed the sport of basketball from an NBA perspective; built the brand; built the business for the following ten plus years – things like grassroots basketball, junior NBA programme, Basketball without Borders and then built an academy for promising young professional basketball players in Dakar Senegal and have a plan to expand that

network across the continent. Very early on, we had this thought that to grow the brand and grow the business and sport, we needed to put into place a top tie professional elite basketball league that will be on the continent to showcase African talents. We had been planning this for years and we were slated to launch in March 2020 then the pandemic hit, and we were really about a week for the launching and had to take a step back and recalibrate.

We were able to launch in a bubble format last year in Kigali, Rwanda, where we play the entire season in a safe and secure health and safety bubble. Zamalek came out as the champions. For season two, we are looking to be ambitious, and we decided to play in three different countries. We started the season playing in Dakar, Senegal in March

and we are here playing in Cairo in April and we will be taking the playoffs and finals back to Kigali in May.

What criteria does BAL use in selecting the teams participating?

John Manyo-Plange: The club infrastructure here on the African continent varies depending on the country that you are in. Some countries have a very strong domestic league, and there are other countries where it is not so much a professional ecosystem. But we wanted to find a way to make sure that the BAL was acting as a catalyst for the growth development and investment in the sport of Basketball. The format that we came up with was to look at those countries that we felt had a big population, strong economies and good basketball pedigree. You have countries like Angola, Senegal, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia and in these countries, we decide that the domestic league champions of that country will automatically qualify for the BAL. So, out of the 12 teams, six countries fit that criterion.

The other six are then open slots that are available for the rest of the continent that can compete. In the first year, we had about 38 countries out of the 54 that were competing for those six additional slots. Those qualifying tournaments are running in conjunction with FIBA and start in the September – October timeframe and go into the middle of December. Coming out of that we then have our 12 teams because those six then join the other six that came from the automatic qualification by terms of their champions automatically qualifying for the BAL.

Africa has 54 countries, what plans do you have going forward to ensure that the games are evenly spread to cover the entire continent?

John Manyo-Plange: The ideal scenario for us will be to have a league where you can have your teams and play home and away matches – that is the classic format we all know. If you

have Zamalek playing Nigeria, you will be playing in Cairo and Lagos. If you had Ghana playing Cameroon, you will either be playing in Accra or Yaounde. But we also have what we consider to be a global product and so certain standards must be met for us to be able to showcase Africa to the world in a proper light. For us to do that there must be some basic and minimal infrastructure – so the current state of stadium and facility development on the African continent is not consistent. Some countries have favourable facilities and others don't. If you go into this with the 12 teams and you are not sure which countries are going to qualify, you are not sure which facilities you are going to have access to, to put on this world-class product you need that certainly and that time to plan.

What we decided on was a caravan format – where we bring all 12 teams to one location, or we split it where for this year we have two conferences (6 teams for the Sahara conference and 6 teams for the Nile conference) and brought each of the conferences to different locations to play. Moving these games to different locations is definitely on the agenda for us. We are going to go where there is decent infrastructure, we are going to go where the basketball ecosystem is starting to grow and become more robust, there is interest in investing in it and we want to be the catalysts for that.

In addition, it is very important for us that the BAL is not just a sport, it is also an economic engine. We are here to be a catalyst for growing and expanding the entire ecosystem for sports and entertainment on the African continent. Part of that is spurring sports tourism – so moving this around so that we can showcase world-class modern-day infrastructure and African cities is part of our strategy.

How has the public reacted to the emergence of the BAL?

John Manyo-Plange: The evidence speaks for itself – the reception has been incredible, and our president Amadou likes to say that he doesn't



With over 20 years of experience in the NBA's global operations and management, John Manyo-Plange believes firmly on the mission and potential of the BAL.

know if this is to be taken as a compliment or otherwise but people keep saying that they don't believe that this is happening in Africa. For us, we want that to be something that is normal, and no one has to say that. Why can Africa not deserve a top tier world-class product that is of such high quality that it is broadcast in 215 countries around the globe? That is part of how we thought about the league- the same standard that we have at the NBA. It is a global standard, and it is a product that is made in Africa for Africans by Africa – showcasing Africa's talents but consumed globally.

In terms of monetary value,

how much is BAL worth now, and what projections do you anticipate for the future?

John Manyo-Plange: It is not for sale, and we have not put a number on it, but rest assured that it is incredibly valuable to us, and we are looking forward to its growth and expansion over the years to come.

Could you share with us some of the issues and challenges you have had in running the league.

John Manyo-Plange: Some of those challenges we have already spoken about – about the fact that we have fifty-four countries that are in different stages of development from an infrastructure standpoint and different states from an

organizational standpoint, from a political standpoint. When you play games in China, you still have a billion people, but they are all under one country and one umbrella. When you move from place to place or city to city you don't have to go through customs and go through immigration checks. Those pose serious operational challenges for us but as Africans (I am originally from Ghana) that is also what we embrace and the diversity of that billion people that is what makes this a credible unique so that we all feel the same way. A Cameroonian feel very strongly about its culture and we want to embrace that - a Nigerian feels very strongly about their language and food, and we also want to embrace that. As much as this is Africa, it is also very specific to the countries, and we try to weave that into the product that we put on.

What kind of relationship does BAL have with local basketball federations across the continent and any other programs you have given helping to grow the game and local talents?

John Manyo-Plange : The good thing about this is that when we started conceptualizing the idea of the BAL, we could have just decided that as the NBA we will come in and put up our product into the market place but we felt it was important for us to help the local ecosystem grow and develop from all aspects of the sports – not just on the court, but off the court as well from an administrative standpoint. The first thing we did is to partner with FIBA – the BAL is a product that is born of this partnership between the NBA and FIBA. By



Strong leadership from President Amadou Gallo Fall and Vice President, Head of Strategy and Operations John Manyo-Plange has made BAL a force to reckon with.

default, the national governing bodies are part of us as we go, and this product is owned by them as much as it is owned by us. In addition, we have very strong relationships with all of the federations, and we are pushing to help grow and develop that ecosystem by doing training programs for referees (even indicative of how the league is structured).

When you look on the court, there are three referees, one of those is a G-League ref – this is a very highly trained and skilled referee that is on the floor. Over the year, we have our pool of African referees that we are training, educating and turning into

world-class professionals in their field. Having that G-League ref there to mentor them, train them and work with them on the court is an example. We are doing the same thing on the coaching front, doing the same thing for player development and not just on the court itself but seminars and programs that look to educate them off the court as well.

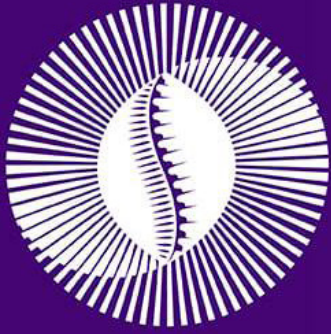
As we wrap up this interview, looking forward what gives you hope for BAL and what are your fears, how do you envisage the future?

John Manyo-Plange : I think for us the hopes and fears for BAL are

tied to the hopes and fears of the African continent. As much as this is a product that is in the sports and entertainment space, we are operating within an ecosystem of communities and people and ultimately it is really about how our product-the game brings people together. So, the hopes and fears of the BAL are directly tied to the hopes and fears of the people of the African continent, and we hope to be a catalyst for helping to grow and develop and push forward the continent that we all love so much, that runs in our veins and move that forward.

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





PAPSS

Pan-African Payment
& Settlement System

Faster, Cheaper, Simpler

Supported by



Get Connected
www.papss.com

US Grants TPS To Fleeing Cameroonians As Government Signs Military Cooperation Deal With Russia

By Andrew Nsoseka

On April 12, Cameroon's Minister Delegate to the Presidency in charge of Defence, Joseph Beti Assomo made an under-the-radar trip Moscow during which he signed a military cooperation deal with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Shoogou. This came at a time Russia is carrying out an offensive military campaign in Ukraine, to the disgust of most of the West, and pretty much several countries around the world.

Whether coincidentally or fashioned as a retaliatory move, the US government two days later, for the first time after staying indifferent to pressures, designated Cameroon for the Temporary Protected Status, TPS, which grants Cameroonian asylum seekers and migrants in the US, freedom to live and work for the next 18 months, with a possibility of renewal if the situation in Cameroon is deemed not to have improved.

The granting of TPS to fleeing refugees from Cameroon, especially those fleeing from the war in Anglophone regions of Cameroon is seen as a big blow to the Cameroon government that has over the years prayed the US government to repatriate such persons back to where they were fleeing from. When repatriated back, such persons were treated as "enemies of the state". Several have been locked up in detention centres and the whereabouts of others can't be traced.

As a country wallowing in conflicts on several fronts, especially a war of secession launched by separatist fighters with the aim of restoring statehood to the two English-speaking regions of Cameroon that joined with their French-speaking counterparts of East Cameroon to form the modern-day Cameroon, one of Cameroon's greatest wishes has been for the US government to make its country hostile to those fleeing the country to America because of the conflict.



The mission of Defence Minister Joseph Beti Assomo to Russia was shrouded in secrecy.

This is largely so because Southern Cameroonians in the US form one of the biggest block of funders to the war back in Cameroon, and also because the government believes those fleeing are sympathisers to the secession agenda.

The Cameroon government has on several occasions appealed to the US and other countries to repatriate those who have fled Cameroon as a result of the war, as well as separatist leaders residing in the US back to Cameroon, where the government hopes it can restrain them and put an end to the secession agenda and the Ambazonia-state dream. Though such calls are hardly ever heeded, except for the case of Nigeria that repatriated and sent separatist leaders to Cameroon, Cameroon has always remained hopeful that many countries will heed its call. But now with the US setting a precedence, it will be sheer luck for the government to have any country send back asylum seekers, so that they can interrogate and lock up for

"tarnishing" the country's image.

The TPS that began on April 14, 2022, is anchored on the ongoing armed conflicts in Cameroon and "extraordinary and temporary conditions" that prevent safe deportation, stated the US Department of Homeland Security, DHS, which made the announcement on April 15.

"The United States recognises the ongoing armed conflict in Cameroon, and we will provide temporary protection to those in need," said DHS Secretary, Alejandro N. Mayorkas.

"Cameroonian nationals currently residing in the US, who cannot safely return due to the extreme violence perpetrated by Government forces and armed Separatists, and a rise in attacks led by Boko Haram, will be able to remain and work in the United States until conditions in their home country improve."

The DHS, however, noted that the TPS designation is only for Cameroonians who have been

residing in America as of April 14, 2022 and it will not apply to people who are still to travel to the US. The status is open for renewal.

Several human rights organisations, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and migrant advocacy groups in America have lauded the decision, which comes following years of advocacy.

"This news was long awaited and will provide temporary relief from deportation, as well as work permits to thousands of Cameroonians in the United States," said Lauren Seibert, Human Rights Watch's Researcher for Refugee and Migrant Rights.

In a joint release on April 15, 2022, five groups that have been advocating for an end to US Government deportations lauded the TPS designation, among them Cameroon Advocacy Network, Haitian Bridge Alliance, CASA, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, and Amnesty International.

These advocacy groups said they

“are pleased at the Biden-Harris administration’s decision to designate Cameroon for Temporary Protection Status, TPS.”

“Due to longstanding socio-political tensions and armed conflicts in Cameroon, which have left thousands dead, 4.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and over 1 million people internally displaced, it is impossible for those currently in the United States to make a safe return to Cameroon”, they added.

Under the Trump administration, several asylum seekers of Cameroon origin were repatriated to the country they fled from. According to Human Rights Watch, many of those deported have been held in detention centres where some have been tortured and others raped among other rights violations.

Deepening Crisis Situation In Cameroon

Cameroon has been facing two armed conflicts – in the Far North, Northwest and Southwest Regions – that have triggered a humanitarian crisis and human rights violations.

In the Far North Region, the Government has been fighting Boko Haram insurgents since 2014, while a secession conflict in the two Anglophone Regions has caused over 4,000 deaths since 2016, according to the United Nations.

Rights groups have estimated that 4.4 million people are in need of humanitarian aid while over 1 million others are internally displaced.

“The situation in the Northwest and Southwest Regions (NW/SW) remains tense with continued violence and targeted attacks. The civilian population, as well as health and education providers continue to face high risks when accessing facilities or when delivering health care and education services. They are continuously facing threats, direct attacks and armed incursions,” an OCHA report on March 9, 2022, said.

The report added that 3,223 out of 5,724 primary and secondary schools are non-functional because of the Anglophone Crisis and an estimated



The United States recognises the ongoing armed conflict in Cameroon, and we will provide temporary protection to those in need,says DHS Secretary, Alejandro N. Mayorkas.

462,000 students need emergency education assistance.

Separatists have continued attacks on the military, Government officials and civilians, human rights organisations have reported; while the military has equally been pushing hard on the Separatists, with accusations of also harassing the civilian population.

The Anglophone Crisis has caused the emigration of several English-speaking Cameroonians, some of who have sought asylum in America. But the successive Governments of Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden deported dozens of them back to the country, where Human Rights Watch reported that they were subjected to cruel human rights abuses.

In the report released on February 10, 2022, HRW said the US Government used a “discriminatory border expulsion policy” to bar Cameroonian asylum seekers from entering the country in 2020, using COVID-19 as pretext.

Not only that, the US also detained Cameroonians asylum seekers in

immigration camps for months or even years before deporting about 190 of them since 2019, the HRW report said.

Back in Cameroon, deportees are said to have faced “serious human rights violations including rape, torture and other physical abuse, arbitrary arrest and detention, inhuman and degrading treatment in detention, extortion, and threats.”

What TPS, Cameroon Russian Military Cooperation Could Mean For Anglophone Crisis

By formally recognising the conflict in Cameroon, the US stance towards how the issue is addressed will change. Instead of limiting itself to condemning the numerous despicable war atrocities committed by both sides in the conflict, the US in the days ahead may start issuing out sanctions to those seen to be worsening the conflict.

The military cooperation between Yaoundé and Moscow could also place Yaoundé and Washington at opposite ends especially as the US is trying to rally the rest of the world to cut ties

and sanction Russia for its war in Ukraine.

In a tweet released in reaction to the Cameroon-Russia military cooperation agreement which is still shrouded in secrecy, the former US Assistant Secretary for Africa, Tibor Nagy said the timing is very wrong. “Can’t believe Cameroon Gov’t’s incredibly bad timing of signing military deal with Russia - at height of aggression in Ukraine. This is poke in the eye of US and France, two countries Cameroon may need help from in future. But good for Ambazonians!” Nagy tweeted.

The military cooperation will aid Cameroon acquire more weapons, but in return, it will put Cameroon on a tight spot and give the US and some Western powers a reason to also ally with Cameroon’s enemies, especially Ambazonia separatists whom many western powers have said, have some legitimate claims. This could further make things worse for Yaounde that is already exhausted by the several years of fighting one of its most difficult wars in its history since independence.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL
FORUM
KIGALI 2022

17-19 May 2022
Kigali Convention Centre
#SEforALLForum



Registration
is now open!



Kenya: Mixed Legacy Of Departed Third President Mwai Kibaki

By Samuel Ouma

Kenya's former President Emilio Stanley Mwai Kibaki, died on April 22, 2022, aged 90, throwing Kenyans into a mourning mood.

Late Kibaki was the third President of the Eastern African nation. He took over from his predecessor, the late Daniel Moi, in 2002 and ruled until 2013.

Kibaki, whose presidency left behind a mixed legacy in the country's history, will be remembered for reviving Kenya's economy. When he took power in 2002, Kenya's GDP was at 0.6 per cent, and by 2007, it had it 7 per cent. He also oversaw Kenya's growth in infrastructure, including 44.5 kilometres of the Thika Super Highway, which connects Nairobi to central Kenya.

Kibaki also inaugurated the Olkaria 280 MegaWatt (MW) geothermal project, which was to increase the total capacity of Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) by 25%.

«Even as Head of state, Mwai Kibaki continued to serve as Finance Minister. His gaze was always drawn



Mwai Kibaki served as the third President of Kenya.

to the National Treasury, and his thoughts were constantly focused on revenue and expenditure. Figures had to add up, and projects could only begin when he was confident he could finance them," said the ODM party boss Raila Odinga.

Kibaki also prioritized the development of Kenya's neglected and largely underdeveloped arid and semi-arid regions in the Northern part of the country.

In 2003 he introduced Free Primary Education, and as a result, more

than one million learners enrolled in school. The initiative drew positive attention, including a commendation from Bill Clinton.

In the same year, he established the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), which was created to support constituency level and grassroots development projects, particularly those aimed at combating poverty at the grassroots level. The CDF saw the drilling of boreholes and water projects across the country, while health and education facilities also grew.

Kibaki oversaw the adoption of the 2010 Constitution, which has been lauded as one of the most progressive in the world. He also led the development of Kenya's Vision 2030, a long-term development strategy aimed at raising GDP growth to 10% and transforming Kenya into a middle-income country by 2030.

During Kibaki's regime, revenues collection increased, and relations between Kenya and Japan, China and other non-western countries improved.

However, all these successes were



President Kibaki was buried with full honours.

tainted by his mistakes and blunders during his tenure. He rigged the 2007 elections leading to ethnic conflict, which claimed more than 1000 lives and displaced about 600,000 from their homes.

The second failure was an inability to fight corruption. Several graft scandals marred Kibaki's ten year-rule, including the multi-million-dollar Anglo Leasing case in 2004 that led to the loss of public funds. Public funds were paid to a complicated web of foreign companies for various services that never materialized, including naval ships and passports. He established anti-corruption courts but failed to prosecute those involved in corruption.

He also promoted tribalism by appointing his tribes' men as advisors and in several government positions. This was contrary to the Memorandum of Understanding they signed with those who supported his presidential bid under the National Alliance Rainbow Coalition.

Kibaki was born on November 15, 1931, in Othaya, Nyeri County, central Kenya. He studied at Mangu High School in Kiambu County before joining Uganda's Makerere University in 1951, where he pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, History and Political Science.

While in Makerere, he served as



Big crowds turned out to pay last respects to the departed former President.

the Vice-Chairman of the Makerere students guild between 1954 and 1955. In 1955 he received a scholarship to study at the London School of Economics, where he excelled in Economics and Public Finance, graduating with distinction in 1958.

After serving as an assistant lecturer in Makerere in the Department of Economics from 1958 to 1960, he returned to the country and joined

Kenya African National Union (Kanu) party. In 1963, he won a seat in the National Assembly for the Donholm constituency, now Makadara, in Nairobi County.

Between 1965 and 1969, he served as the Minister for Commerce and Industry and that of finance. In 1978, he became vice president but was replaced by Josephat Karanja and transferred to the Ministry of Health in 1988.

Three years later, he resigned from Kanu and formed the Democratic Party, an outfit he unsuccessfully used to run for the presidency in 1992 and 1997. In 1998, he became head of the opposition.

In conclusion, Kibaki was the longest-serving Kenyan lawmaker from 1963 to 2013.

CAPE VIII

8TH AFRICAN PETROLEUM CONGRESS & EXHIBITION

The most influential oil & gas event in Africa
A triennial initiative of APPO

Register at africape.com

16 - 19 MAY 2022
LUANDA, REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA



Cameroon: A Message Of Peace & Dialogue From Apartheid Chief Negotiator Roelf Meyer

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

The Chief Negotiator In 1990 For The Former South African Government To Bring An End To The Apartheid System In The Country Opened Up To Some Of The Worsening Situations Being Felt In Cameroon's North West And South West Regions As He Concluded An Intellectual Discussion With Students Of Various Educational Institutions In The Country.

Roelf Meyer Who Played A Key Role In The Signing Of The National Peace Accord Spoke To Students And Officials Of The Heritage Higher Institute Of Peace And Development Studies, HEHIPEDS, Yaoundé On April 20. Before That, Roelf Meyer Had Visited The Yaounde International Business School, YIBS, On April 19 Where He Shared His Experience On How Conflicts Could Be Resolved.

"People In Cameroon Are Suffering And Laying A Price Which There Is A Solution," The Former National Party Cabinet Minister Said. "We Succeeded In Making Peace In South Africa About Thirty Years Ago. From That Experience And Work I Have Been



People in Cameroon are suffering and paying a price when there is a solution, says former South African Cabinet minister Roelf Meyer

Doing, I Can Say No Problem Cannot Be Resolved And I Believe Also With The Case Of Cameroon. I Believe That Our Experience In South Africa Can Be Extended And Be Valuable To The

People Of Cameroon." Roelf Meyer Equally Met Various Stakeholders In The Country Ranging From Civil Society Actors, Religious Officials, Members Of Government

And Opposition To Ascertain From Them What It Will Take For Cameroon Or Come Out Of This Bloody War That Is Presently Being Felt In The Two English-Speaking Regions Of The Country.

At A Time That Country Is Presently Witnessing What Has Become Known As The Anglophone Crisis In The Country's North West And South West Regions For The Past Five Years Now, There Have Been Calls Made For Both Sides To Sit At The Dialogue Table For A Meaningful Solution To Be Gotten. According To UN Statistics, The Crisis In The Two English-Speaking Regions Has Seen 4,000 Plus Civilians Killed With 700,000 Internally Displaced And A Further 63,800 As Refugees In Neighbouring Nigeria.

There Have Been Several Dialogues Held Over The Past Years With The Major One Being The Major National Dialogue That Ran From September 30 To October 4, 2019. It Brought Together The Government And Various Opposition Parties, Religious Authorities And Csos But Many



Roelf Meyer, delegation from Fomunyoh Foundation pose with students and officials from Yaounde international Business School. Pic by Boris Esono, PAV.

Political Observers Castigated It As Just Being A Farce As The Renowned Separatist Leaders Were Either In Jail Or Refused To Participate As They Were Afraid Of Being Arrested If They Had Set Foot In The Country.

According To Roelf Meyer, Dialogue Between The Warring Parties Is The Only Way That Cameroon Can Come Out Of The Bloody War In The North West And South West Regions. While He Ascertained That The Process Is Not An Easy One With So Many Stumbling Blocks And Sometimes On And Off Discussions, He Said The Parties Must Be Genuine And Have An Intent To Carry Out The Process And Have A Vision For Where They Want To See The Country Move To, If Not, The Agreed Peace Process Will Not Take Long To Collapse.

«We Haven't Been To Some Of The Regions Where The Conflict Is Playing Out But What We Have Learned Is That The Ongoing Conflict And Killing Of People Happens Weekly. It Is Not Stopping And Escalating” Roelf Meyer Said When Asked About The Conflict That Is Ongoing In The Country.



Roelf Meyer with the founder of HEHIPEDS, Yaoundé, holding a peace plant.

“That Is A Big Concern Not Only For Us But Also A Big Concern For The People Of Cameroon. The Sooner It Can Be Brought To An End The Better. Everybody Should Focus On What Can Be Done To Make That Happen.” The Chief Negotiator In 1990 For The Former South African Government Believes That For Any Country That Is Seeking A Peaceful Solution To Any Conflict, Like The

Case In Cameroon, The Will And Intent To Get To A Meaningful Solution Must Be Present, If Not, Such A Process Will Not Bear Any Fruit.

“The Success In South Africa Relied On Its Being Inclusive, Succeeded In Building Trust Across The Divides And We Took Ownership And Responsibilities Ourselves. I Think If Those Basic Principles Are In Place, The Conflict In Cameroon Can Also Be Brought To An End Successfully. We Must Inspire The People Of Cameroon To Find Their Solutions,” Roelf Meyer Added.

«If We Could Resolve Our Problems In South Africa That Lasted For Centuries, If We Succeeded In Bringing That To An End, There Is No Reason Why The Same Can't Happen In Cameroon. But, You Have To Change Your Mind And Take The Responsibility To Solve The Crisis.”

«The Normal Thing Unfortunately For Leaders Is To Blame The Other Side. We Have To Make It We Approach And Not Us And Them. Let Us All Work Together In Finding The Answers,” He Said.

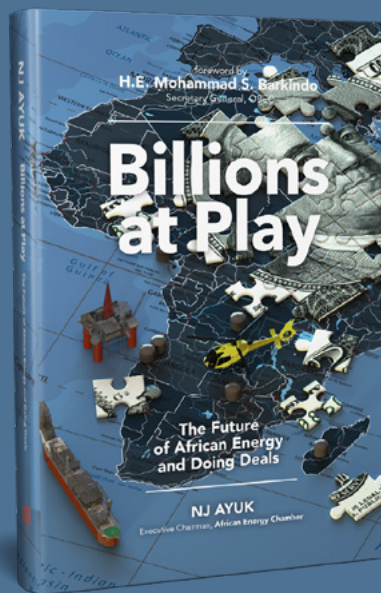


Roelf Meyer, former Minister of Constitutional Affairs and Communication was presented with a traditional bag by Prof Elizabeth Tamajing, YIBS Director. Pic by Boris Esono, PAV.

Billions at Play

The Future of African Energy and Doing Deals

by NJ AYUK



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

MOHAMMAD SANUSI BARKINDO

Secretary General, OPEC.

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

JOÃO MARQUES

Energy analyst and Editor

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

ANN NORMAN

General Manager for Sub-Saharan Africa, Pioneer Energy

billionsatplay.com



Rwanda: Worries And Outrage Over UK Migrants Deal

By Maniraguha Ferdinand

It has been two weeks since Rwanda and United Kingdom signed agreement that will see the former, receiving hundreds of migrants who crossed illegally into UK.

The deal of five years was announced on 14th April in Kigali, in front of Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Vincent Biruta and UK's home secretary, Priti Patel.

The agreement dubbed by both government as 'humanitarian' and set to act as a deterrent to migrants who make illegal boat crossings to Britain.

UK would contribute an initial 120 million pounds (\$156 million) to the scheme.

After the announcement, Criticisms about the deal outnumbered welcomes both in Rwanda and UK.

Those who criticize the move say that it is inhumane and irresponsible for UK to send migrants away, in a country which is not at the same standards of living as the UK.

Justin Welby, the high respected Archbishop of Canterbury, in his Easter Day address also criticized the deal.

He said that sending asylum-seekers overseas posed «serious ethical questions».

“It is the opposite of the nature of God who himself took responsibility for our failures” he added.

According to report by a British think-tank, MigrationWatch in 2016 it said that the cost to Britain of mass immigration is £16.8 billion every year.

President Paul Kagame on Wednesday, 20th April while he was virtually attending a seminar led by Stephen Kinzer at the Brown University, United States, he hit back at those who oppose the move.

He said that Rwanda did what it could in its little capacity, setting an example for others who have failed for a long time, to find a solution to migrants' crisis.

“It would be mistaken for people to just make a conclusion, You know Rwanda got money! We are not



Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Biruta shaking hands with UK's home secretary Priti Patel after signing.

trading humans. This is not the case. We are actually helping” he said.

United Kingdom which is going to send migrants, is ten times bigger the size of Rwanda.

For Dr Habineza Frank who is an MP and the leader of Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, “ rich countries including the UK should not shift their international obligation to receive refugees and transfer them to third countries, just because they have the money to influence and enforce their will”.

“Rwanda has already a high population density in Africa and already land is not sufficient for us all, with a lot of land conflicts and competition for the natural resources”, he added.

Habineza said that receiving more migrants will increase the land burden and survival challenges for the limited natural resources available.

However, Deputy spokesperson of Government of Rwanda, Alain Mukuralinda, on Saturday 23rd April 2022 while on local radio, said that those who oppose the move, shall use the legal ways including going to

court to challenge it.

He said that at least Rwanda and UK offered a solution they think is suitable to solve the problem, urging critics to offer theirs so that people can compare.

While addressing the diplomats accredited to Rwanda during a dinner that took place on April 26, President Paul Kagame said that the deal does not intend to infringe on migrants rights.

“I have heard some people claim that the UK gave us money wanting to dump people here. No, we don't do that kind of thing. We are not involved in buying and selling of people. We can't do that because of our core values,” he said.

President Kagame added his country's intervention was aimed at saving lives and offering decent life for migrants instead of business.

“ There are things you can't buy about us. We are who we are and proud people and we are not involved in buying and selling people. People will have different views about it, but at the end of the day we have to do something,” he emphasised

Eviction from the house of migrants?

The house in which migrants from UK will be using, is the one known as ‘One Dollar campaign’, built a decade ago to cater for vulnerable orphans of genocide against the Tutsis. The building stands in the outskirts of Kigali, in Kagugu suburb, North East of Kigali.

After the deal, it was reported that those children who used to live in, will be evicted to give a way to migrants.

Mukuralinda denies such reports, labeling them as fake news. He said that the building has capacity to accommodate more than 200 people but It has been accommodating fewer than 20 people who are no longer younger to be looked after.

He promised that none will be hurt through the process of their relocation. Those whose financial problems will be helped to start their own life.

Rwanda and Denmark too are in dialogue to send to the tiny East African country some asylum seekers who crossed into the Scandinavian country.



Trinity Holdings

From Malawi A Fresh Call On Leaders To Bridge Gender Disparities

By Joseph Dumbula, Blantyre Malawi.

Top African leaders engaged in a high-level meeting from 9th to 12th April in Lilongwe, Malawi's capital for the Generation Equality Conference where centrally, a substantial challenge was placed on regimes across the region for soul searching to end growing differences between men and women.

Drawn from across distinct experiences and fields, the delegates filled up the Bingu Conference Centre which lies close to Malawi Parliament held a series of interactions most of which exposed issues lack dwindling efforts for financial inclusion, stereotypes, physical and mental assault, all which have evidently caused gender disparities continent wide.

More so, the donor community while making commitments to support various efforts to improve the welfare of women noted that, there is need for gender related projects to primarily be resolved on mindset change.

Some of the high-profile people in attendance were Malawi President



Former Malawian President Joyce Banda was instrumental in putting the forum together. Photo, Joseph Dumbula, PAV

Lazarus Chakwera who opened the conference, the First Lady, Former Malawi President, Joyce Banda, the country's first female leader, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former Liberia President, Catherine Panza, former

President of the Central African Republic, Jewel Taylor, Vice President of Liberia and Joyce Mujuru, Former Vice President for Zimbabwe, Dr Christopher Fomunyoh, Senior Advocate and Regional Director for Central and West Africa for the National Democratic Institute as well as members form international and regional organizations.

Chakwera was in his opening remarks quick to state that conference gives leaders a right time to reflect on flaws of various policies that appear essentially to impinge on women.

His core statement was: "That is why my administration will push in the next election for unified parliamentary representation. Let us take insights from this engagement with seriousness these issues deserve."

Speaking during a panel discussion that also had Mujuru, Panza and Taylor, Dr Christopher Fomunyoh, noted that nations are left with unprecedented tasks to uniformly tame challenges that women are facing.

According to Dr Fomunyoh, African nations should go beyond usual formulation of policies but must

essentially work into putting them into use.

He then challenged leaders to appreciate how narratives about women empowerment are changing across the world, a thing he says demonstrates that efforts to empower women are now taking center stage.

Earlier on, Shigeki Komatsubara, United Nations resident Coordinator pledged the organization's support for nations in the region in a bid to beef up the effectiveness of various development agendas such as the Vision 2063, which Malawi is now enforcing. PAV caught up with Dr Christopher Fomunyoh a leading resource person at the forum for more insights and the road Africa needs to travel in the challenging task of bridging gender disparities.

You attended a high-level interaction on a series of events marking the Generation Equality Conference in Lilongwe, Malawi's capital. You also took part in a special panel discussion on gender insights across the region. What were your key messages



Dr Christopher Fomunyoh following proceedings on the opening day. Photo, Joseph Dumbula, PAV.

in the discussion?

Dr Fomunyoh: First, I listened in awe and learned a lot from the fabulous women leaders and former presidents present who have served in the highest offices in the land in their respective countries and made their countries and the continent of Africa proud. I'm referring to former president Joyce Banda of Malawi who was the prime convenor of the conference, former president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, the first woman elected president in Africa and the only woman to have served two full terms of 12 years total, and former transition president Catherine Samba-Panza of the Central Africa Republic.

These are great world leaders who just happen to be African, and we have to honor them and celebrate their success as trailblazers and a source of inspiration for the younger generation of African women. I then made two principal points: one, that while we acknowledge these rare gems of success, we must recognize that a lot still needs to be done on gender equality and women's empowerment across the continent; and two, that we must go beyond declarations like came out of the Beijing conference 25 years ago or the UN security Council resolution 1325 on the inclusion of women in peacemaking and peacebuilding, and take concrete steps to enhance and speed up women's access to political

and economic power on a continent where women make up more than 50 percent of the population and are the pillars of our families and communities.

One of the issues raised had to do with poor financial inclusion of women in money lending institutions, how big of problem is this?

Dr Fomunyoh: Lack of financial resources needed to propel women to positions of economic autonomy and political leadership remains a significant

drawback for women across the continent. This situation is triggered by the combination of traditional and customary norms that in many countries make it difficult for women to earn and accumulate wealth as well as the challenges of accessing modern mechanisms of fundraising and resource mobilization.

It was very heartening that during the Lilongwe conference one of the major financial institutions of Malawi stepped forward and opened a facility to provide access and training to women so they could benefit from electronic banking which is now commonplace in most of our countries. Even the regional body COMESA promised to open a center



President Chakwera receiving a gift from Sirleaf and Banda on his government's efforts in promoting women. Photo, Joseph Dumbula, PAV.

to support women entrepreneurs across the region, to be based in Lilongwe, Malawi.

African countries must reform the laws on matters such as land tenure, inheritance and succession to give women equal rights and opportunities as men. Come to think of it, it is really absurd that women give birth to us males, and then we get into power and suddenly treat them as less equal to us. This is not simply unequal or unfair; it is inhumane, nonsensical and very counterintuitive to the economic and political development that we seek for our peoples and countries.

Some of the high-level speakers challenged African governments to empower women and girls across the region, why do you think governments have generally not done more to bridge the gender gap?

Dr Fomunyoh: It's a question of leaders having the political will to do right by providing equal opportunities to all its citizens and lacking a vision that seeks to raise the wellbeing of all citizens without bias based on gender or other form of difference. These leaders

should look at the statistics of how women leaders are better performers on so many indicators of governance.

What other suggestions do you have on the way forward?

Dr Fomunyoh: We need all African leaders to demonstrate boldness in their policies on equity and inclusion such as we see in Rwanda where over 50 percent of legislative seats are held by women, or in Niger where, despite many cultural impediments, genuine efforts are being made to enhance the access to education for young girls, or Tanzania where President Samia Hassan, now the only female Head of State in Africa, is providing ample opportunities for women in her cabinet or government and in other positions of influence.

I was impressed to hear from President Chakwera of Malawi that 41 percent of his cabinet ministers are female, as are 45 percent of the diplomatic corps and 50 percent of judicial appointments. President Chakwera pledged during the conference to do more towards achieving gender parity between now and 2025. These progressive, forward-looking leaders should engage their colleagues and the continental body, the African Union, to respond positively and aggressively to the aspirations of African women and democrats as a whole as we march into the 21st century.



Panelists pose after a discussion focused on shared experiences. Photo, Joseph Dumbula, PAV.

Angola Survives \$1 Billion Lawsuit

By Prince Kurupati

In a huge victory for the Government of Angola, the United States Second Circuit seconded and reaffirmed the District Court’s ruling which dismissed the \$1 billion lawsuit filed against the Angolan government by Aenergy. This, in essence, absolves the Angolan government from settling a near billion receipt.

Aenergy, a local Angolan company owned by Ricardo Machado in partnership with General Electric struck a deal with the Angolan government in 2013 to “construct and service electricity generating facilities in Angola”. The relationship blossomed and by 2017, Angola “awarded Aenergy thirteen contracts totalling \$1.1 billion.” Angola secured the funds for the contracts via a \$1.1 billion credit facility from a General Electric affiliate.

Amongst the provisions enshrined in the contracts was the stipulation that Aenergy had to “provide power plant services and to sell Angola eight General Electric manufactured turbines”. Aenergy however presumably under the belief that the government of Angola would order more turbines went on to purchase 14 turbines – six more than the eight which the Angolan government had ordered in the contract. Aenergy followed up on this by requesting the Angolan government to amend the contract and input 12 instead of 8 turbines. During the negotiations, the CEO of General Electric Angola Wilson da Costa fabricated letters indicating that the Angolan government had already agreed to the amendments. Wilson da Costa started to circulate the fabricated letters to other General Electric employees. Unfortunately, his plans to convince the Angolan government to amend the contract hit a brick wall as the government refused.

The conduct by Aenergy and the CEO of General Electric angered the Angolan government. This ultimately led the Angolan government to terminate its contracts with Aenergy



Michael Ehrenstein’s firm defeneded the interests of Angola.

opting instead to work directly with General Electric. The move was a huge blow for Aenergy as it lost multi-million contracts. As its next step, Aenergy approached the courts citing a breach of contract by the Angolan government. Aenergy lodged its case with the Angolan Supreme Court but did not stop there. The company also filed a complaint in the U.S District Court on May 7, 2020. Aenergy sued the Angolan government “under exceptions to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA)” citing breach of contract. Aenergy alleged that General Electric “tortuously interfered with AE’s (Aenergy)

contracts and prospective business relations in violation of New York State Law.”

After deliberations, the District Court on May 19, 2021, conditionally dismissed Aenergy’s complaint “on forum non-conveniens grounds, finding that the courts of Angola would be a more ‘convenient’ forum.” A few months later, the District Court on June 24, 2021, removed the conditions and dismissed the case. Aenergy did not accept the District Court’s ruling. In a statement, the company said the District Court “abused its discretion” in dismissing its lawsuit. Aenergy thus moved the

case to a higher court the Second Circuit.

Unfortunately for Aenergy, the Second Circuit reaffirmed the ruling of the District Court. The Second Circuit ruled that the “District Court properly held that Aenergy had failed to meet its initial burden of production” and went on to state that Aenergy failed to proffer evidence that “Angolan courts secretly gave (the turbines) to Angola or any other impropriety”. The Second Circuit also went on to state that “it is ‘anomalous’ for Aenergy – an Angolan corporation – to enter into multiple contracts worth more than a billion dollars with the Angolan government, subject to Angolan law and adjudication in many cases in an Angolan forum and ‘then to argue to an American court that the Angolan system of justice is so... corrupt as not to provide an adequate forum for the resolution of... contractual disputes.”

The lawyers for the Angolan government in the case Ehrenstein/Sager agreed with the ruling by both the District Court and the Second Circuit. Lead counsel Michael Ehrenstein said that “This case demonstrates the respect of the U.S. courts for the Angolan judicial system, as well as its government officials, who should not have been hauled into our courts at great expense and inconvenience to testify about their executive decisions... It is unfair to drag a sovereign country to defend itself in New York over alleged conduct which occurred in Angola, concerning contracts entered in Angola, for provision of power plants.”

Michael Ehrenstein went further to state that the ruling is a huge win for Angola as it demonstrates the country’s resolve to honour all contracts it enters into. “Foreign investors in Angola can be confident of independent and fair treatment. It also means that FISA does not deprive courts of the ability to abstain from exercising jurisdiction,” Ehrenstein said.



Picture Credit: Africa Intelligence

simba

No fee money transfers and mobile banking in one



Download at hellosimba.com

SADC And Rwanda Unable To Help Mozambique Stop Islamic State Attacks

Rwandan troops and The Southern African Development Community Mission in Mozambique fighting alongside Mozambique's Defence and Security forces have not succeeded to stop the Islamic State terrorist attacks that have been ongoing in the country since October 2017.

By Jorge Joaquim



Despite the reinforcement that Mozambican forces are receiving from their partners, terrorist attacks continue in Cabo Delgado province, where the rebels have adopted new strategies to maintain their criminal incursions.

The district of Mocimboa da Praia was known as the military base of the terrorists, but with the armed response of Rwanda and SADC, after Mozambique acknowledged its weak military capacity, the rebels were driven out, but are now showing power again from the district of Macomia, where reports of attacks are reported almost every day.

Reports from Cabo Delgado suggest that the Rwandan force is now operating beyond the districts of Palma and Mocimboa da Praia, now at least as far as Macomia. Security problems in Nangade and Macomia suggest a lack of effectiveness on the

part of SADC forces stationed in those districts, in comparison with the performance of the Rwandan force in Palma and Mocimboa da Praia.

SADC troops have failed in their attempts to contain guerrillas in Cabo Delgado, allowing them to split up and stay mobile. The failure of the containment strategy represents months of delay in the eventual stabilisation of security in Cabo Delgado by allowing the armed groups to find alternative shelter and gain time to prepare new attacks. The creation of a buffer zone between Mocimboa da Praia and Palma is now being considered by the authorities and multinational companies as a solution to a scenario in which guerrilla activity is constant.

The situation reflects the vulnerability of SADC troops to different contingents operating understaffed and under equipped

namely in the vulnerable districts of Macomia and Nangade. This situation was discussed at the last SADC summit in Lilongwe, and will be reviewed again at the next summit, expected to be held in June.

The number of internally displaced people due to the insurgency rose by 7% in three months to 784,000 people. The increase is due to attacks by armed rebels in Nangade, Meluco, Macomia and the Quirimbas archipelago. There are 49,100 more internally displaced people now than in November's survey. The figure also includes people displaced by attacks in Niassa province in December last year.

However, the government always tries to de-dramatise the situation. The Mozambican defence minister, Cristóvão Chume, has said that the security situation in Cabo Delgado is "much more stable" and the

government's "biggest concern" now is to return displaced people to their homes. Chume went on to say that the insurgency has shifted from Mocimboa da Praia and Palma to Nangade and Macomia and that security forces are engaged in "clean-up" operations in these districts. These comments were made at a bilateral summit between Chume and Malawi's deputy defence minister Harry Mkandawir on defence cooperation.

Chume's position is supported by the US State Department's annual report on human rights that shows that the number of people killed by rebels in northern Mozambique halved between 2020 and 2021, from 60 people to 30 people per month on average. According to Washington, the reduction in the death toll results from the support of Rwanda and the SADC, who have been operating since

mid-2021. The annual report warns however of further “small-scale” attacks to come, particularly in other districts used as passage or temporary refuge.

The motivations of the terrorists remain unknown. Previously it was thought to have to do with drug trafficking, but it seems that this is not entirely true because with the ongoing attacks the drugs no longer pass from Cabo Delgado but from Nampula. A new report by Global Initiative has found that Nampula is growing as a major hub of contraband smuggling. The report finds that smuggling in Mozambique’s third-largest city is facilitated by expatriate trafficking groups, such as those from West Africa, Malawi, South Asia and China. These groups benefit from state patronage networks that have thrived in Mozambique’s impoverished, unregulated, neoliberal economy since the 1990s. Since 2017, the insurgency in Cabo Delgado has forced smuggling routes to shift southward into Nampula province.

Recently, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has extended the deployment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) for another year, to counter piracy and illegal activities in the Indian Ocean, including along the coast of Mozambique. The extension will cost \$10.2m and is meant to fulfil South



The entry of local militias into the war

Africa’s «international obligation» to the maritime security of the Southern African Development Community.

South Africa, on the other hand, already has a hunch about the motivations for the war in Cabo Delgado. Many of the rebels have been forced out of their bases, according to SANDF’ chief of staff Lieutenant-General Lindile Yam. “A lot has been done to dislodge them,” said Yam, adding that the insurgents are trying to get local residents to join the extremists’ effort to establish sharia law in northern Mozambique. “They are even recruiting children as

young as five years old,” he said.

The role of South Africa’s military, as part of the SADC Mission, has shifted from aggressively fighting Islamist extremist rebels to a peacekeeping effort. About 600 members of the South African National Defence Force have been in Cabo Delgado since October last year and have captured and destroyed several of the extremists’ bases, the chief of the South African mission to Mozambique, General Rudzani Maphwanya said. He added that the regional force inflicted “massive losses” on the insurgents, destroying

several bases and recovering weapons including grenade launchers, machine guns, AK-47 rifles, vehicles and technological devices.

The entry of local militias into the war

Faced with the inability of troops to stop the terrorists, the government of Mozambique is working with local militias. Meanwhile, the Mozambican military is unhappy with interference from the militias. For the majority of the militia members, however, their main priority is almost certainly simply protecting their community, rather than preserving Frelimo’s power over all of Mozambique. As economic development and poverty reduction continue to be elusive in Mozambique, Frelimo can no longer take such people’s support for granted.

President Filipe Nyusi has accused critics of local militia of misleading public opinion and manipulating the international community. Nyusi denied that local forces, which are composed largely of veteran fighters and young volunteers, are guilty of any abuses and praised their sacrifice in combatting terrorism. He has claimed that a local militia force killed a considerable number of terrorists and captured some of their weapons.

Actually, it was therefore important



International partners also ready to help Mozambique

for Nyusi to come down firmly on the side of the veterans who form the militias, at this week's conference of the veterans' association — whose support he needs as he positions himself either for a third term as president, or to get a favoured candidate selected to replace him.

Given the activation of local militia, the government is beginning to force some displaced people to return to their areas of origin. The government of Quissanga, for example, is forcing civil servants to return to the district and is threatening to take administrative action against those who refuse to follow orders. This is despite claims made by the Minister of State Administration, Ana Comoana, who recently said that the return of public sector workers to districts affected by terrorism would not be compulsory. Most officials are still unwilling to return to their posts due to the prevalence of terrorist attacks in some parts of the province. There is no available infrastructure for people to live and work, and, in some cases, public servants are working out of tents.

International partners also ready to help Mozambique

In addition to local militia, the Mozambican troops are counting on the support of the international community. The Council of the European Union has authorised the provision of \$49m to help fund Mozambican armed forces under the European Peace Facility. The Council's decision adds to an assistance measure adopted in November 2021, bringing the total amount of funding to €89m.

The funds will be used to bolster the operational effectiveness of EU-trained troops in Mozambique, to make them more self-sufficient during deployments. Even though Mozambique was told it risked losing funding over any decision to abstain on any UN vote on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, donors are continuing to provide funding to Mozambique.

On other hand, China is looking to promote military ties with Mozambique, Defence Minister Wei Fenghe told his Mozambican



End of attacks important for start of gas exploration

counterpart Cristóvão Chume. Wei said China is looking to promote military ties with Mozambique through high-level communications, joint anti-pandemic efforts and countering hegemony and power politics.

Chume said Mozambique firmly supports China in protecting its core interests in international issues, adding that Mozambique is looking to strengthen mutual trust and promote sustained military ties between both sides.

Mozambique appears to be growing in significance to great powers such as China, as it has a good chance of succeeding in getting a temporary seat on the UN Security Council. China has been a major commercial partner of Mozambique's over the past decade or so, but has been left behind by other countries when it comes to providing assistance fighting the insurgency in Cabo Delgado.

The Mozambican ambassador to Ethiopia, Alfredo Nuvunga, has confirmed that Mozambique will receive non-lethal military equipment from the African Union to combat terrorism. Speaking to VOA, Nuvunga stated that the delivery of aid will be soon and spoke of the African Union's role in providing multilateral aid to Mozambique. The diplomat has clarified, however, that the AU will not send troops to Mozambique, whose government is fighting terrorism in Cabo Delgado with the help of Rwandan troops and the Southern African Development

Community.

End of attacks important for start of gas exploration

The end of terrorist attacks is important for the start of gas exploration in Cabo Delgado province. Many companies have suspended operations due to the insecure environment. The vice-president of ExxonMobil for Africa Walter Kansteiner, has said that the progress of the joint force of Mozambican, SADC and Rwandan troops gives them confidence for the development of natural gas projects in Cabo Delgado.

At a meeting in Washington with Mozambique's finance minister Max Tonela, Kansteiner said Exxon would resume the process of taking a final investment decision on its LNG project in Mozambique as soon as TotalEnergies lifts the force-majeure clause it activated to suspend its gas project in Cabo Delgado.

However, TotalEnergies won't return to work on its LNG project in Cabo Delgado until the conditions for relaunching the project are right, said the company's Mozambique representative Maxime Rabilloud. She also acknowledged that there have been improvements in safety and security. Rabilloud stressed the «strategic» importance of the Mozambique project to Total, and said that what happened in Palma was «tragic» and that Total must ensure workers' safety. Rabilloud's statement differs from the official

government position, which says that security has been restored.

Portuguese energy company Galp, which has a 10% stake in the gas consortium led by Exxon Mobil, said it hoped to start construction of onshore plants in 2024 but that security needs to be ensured. The Exxon Mobil-led consortium is an investment of \$30bn in Cabo Delgado, with Italian ENI being the other major partner.

The Exxon-led Area 4 consortium appears still to be happy to let TotalEnergies lead the way in Afungi. TotalEnergies is keen to get underway but the latest sounds coming from the company seem contradictory: indicating on the one hand that it does not yet consider the situation in Cabo Delgado to be stable enough to restart work, but with some preparations to start work taking place discreetly in Mocimboa da Praia and Afungi.

The World Bank's vice-president for East and Southern Africa, Hafez Ghanem, has announced that the development bank is prepared to help finance gas exploration projects in Mozambique. Ghanem added that the World Bank is particularly interested in the potential of natural gas as a transitional energy source.

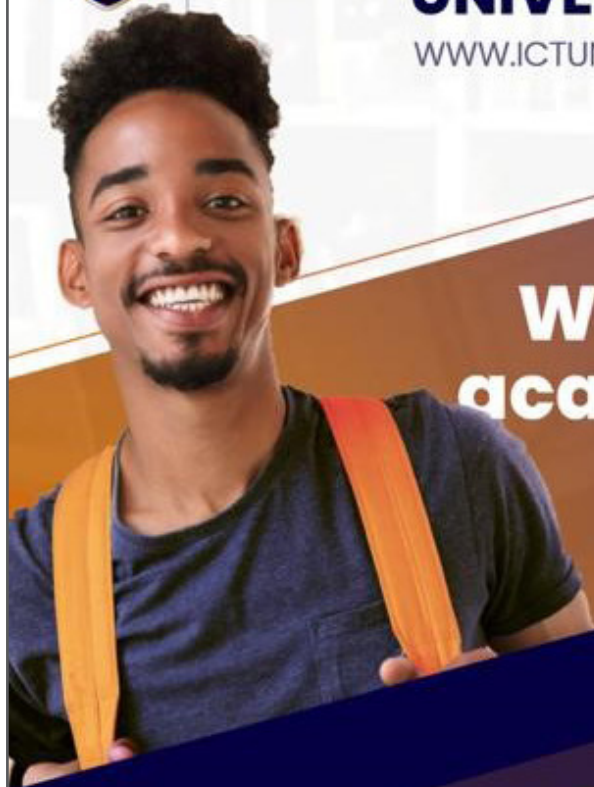
Up to now, the large and impressive Rwandan force had been confined to liberating and securing the districts of Palma and Mocimboa da Praia, of direct importance to Mozambique's LNG projects.



THE
ICT
UNIVERSITY

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

WWW.ICTUNIVERSITY.EDU.CM




We impart ICTs in all academic disciplines.

Why choose us

- We are the lone university that **offers effective online and onsite learning** in Cameroon.
- We are the lone institution that **provides all research materials** for her students through the e-library platform beside the physical library
- We are one of the very few institutions that **continued with effective classes** during the **Coronavirus pandemic** with little or no hitches.
- **New tuition rates And scholarships Available**



 SCAN ME

ACCREDITATION/APPROVAL N° 02/0405/N/MINESUP/DDES/ESUP/SAC/EBM 21ST SEPTEMBER 2012
AUTORISATION N° 14/406/MINESUP/SG/DDES OF 4TH JULY 2014

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

General requirements :

Be in possession of

- GCE/A-Level or Baccalauréat (all series) for Bachelor degree studies
- HND, BTS/DUT and equivalent qualifications for one year Top-up Bachelor degree studies
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution for Masters Studies
- Master's degree for Ph.D. Studies
- Original copy of the applicant's transcripts in sealed envelopes.

Application submission deadlines

- Fall semester : begins October; application deadline – October
- Spring semester : begins February ; application deadline – February
- Summer semester : begins July ; application deadline – July

YOU CAN APPLY HERE :

www.ictuniversity.org/application-form

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT US – ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

THE ICT-UNIVERSITY CAMPUS – ZOATUPSI YAOUNDE

P.O. BOX526 YAOUNDE CAMEROON

PHONE (WhatsApp & IMO) +237 651 060 049 – +237 678 764 037

Email : admin@ictuniversity.org

Website : www.ictuniversity.edu.cm

Skype : ICTUniversityCameroon

Facebook : ICT University

USA : Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Phone : +1 225 612 4643



SCAN ME



PRESS
PROF. VICTOR MBARIKA
PRÉSIDENT OF ICT
UNIVERSITY WITH PM
DION NGUTE



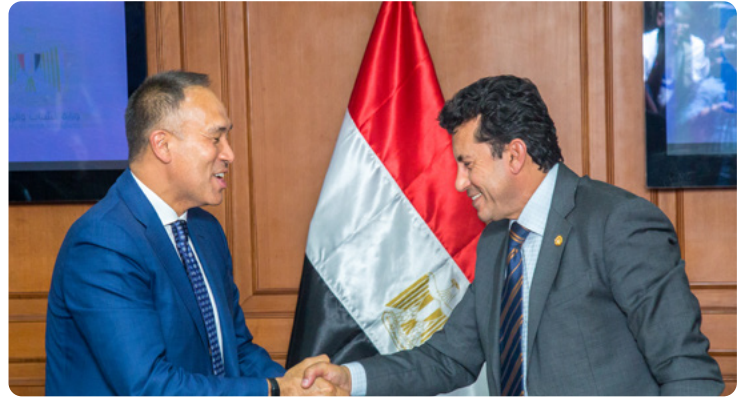
THE
ICT
UNIVERSITY

**INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY**

A Meteoric Rise For Basketball Africa League

In its second season, the Basketball Africa League-BAL has taken Africa by storm. Beyond the exposure and confirmation of talent, the quality of the games, and the continental wide endorsement of BAL by fans, its leadership has been relentless in the desire to use it to showcase multiple other facets of Africa that are often overlooked. PAV shares with you some photos to highlight the journey and success of BAL as its second season rumbles on.







African Churches and the Rise of Spiritual Opportunism (With pathways to liberation)

By Rev. Wilfred Emeh

The exponential growth of religious worship in Africa has become a topic of global interest; but the intriguing question is whether religion is of any value to Africans' moral, social, and overall well-being when the continent has the same evils, or even worse, compared to less religious countries. The proliferation of churches has exceeded physical locations and has a compelling online presence that recruits new members daily. Indeed, the human spirit is inclined toward connection with the transcendent, but whether this spiritual sense is developed depends on the unquenchable search for the truth and knowledge in things of God. Unfortunately, religious adherents are not interested in facts and figures, especially where the illiteracy level is high. All that is needed to accept a thing as truth is the word of a noted and respected religious leader. Thus, the meteoric rise of churches in Africa alongside unscrupulous religious leaders who seize the opportunity to exploit the credulous population.

Opportunism is taking advantage of opportunities or circumstances without regard for principles. In spiritual opportunism, religious leaders take advantage of the naivety of the masses by exploiting spiritual ideas for personal gain, partisan interests, or selfish motives. The traders of the Word have always used Scripture and the name of Jesus for fame and personal aggrandizement. In Acts 8:9-25, we read about Simon the magician, who wanted to buy miraculous powers from Peter and John. He was condemned for thinking that the gift of God could be bought with money. Paul clearly states, "We are not like so many others who peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity as men sent from God." (2Cor 2:17).

The moment a religious authority



Rev Wilfred Emeh is a Roman Catholic Priest

acquires influence of the "hearts and minds" of people belonging to a particular religion, it can "tap into" their most intimate and deepest-felt concerns. It can also gain immense power over the people. This power can be used in a self-interested manner, exploiting opportunities to benefit the position of the religious authority. People's "good faith" can then be taken advantage of in ways involving a deceitful, dubious, selfish motive. Many religious people are uninterested in profound search and knowledge. This ignorance of the truth has made religious adherents vulnerable to perverse teachings and false prophecies.

Spiritual opportunism takes several forms today, including the sowing of monetary seeds and trading of religious objects in exchange for promises of breakthroughs or a better

life in paradise. The sermons or messages are fraught with submissive theology of "give and get more." Given the insatiable longing for quick fixes and solutions to complex human and social challenges, there have arisen prayer and prophetic ministries, and special prayer sessions, where the profiteering businessmen of God offer their services in exchange for money. Some modern-day preachers claim that owning or running a church is more lucrative than a factory or hotel. It is said Africans can afford to close a factory, turn it into a church and then go there to pray for jobs.

Survey results of an extensive study show that Africans trust religious leaders more than politicians (Sarr,2022). Unfortunately, most prominent religious leaders in both megachurches and mainstream churches have a strong alliance with

their political counterparts; in fact, many religious authorities have been rightly dubbed politicians in clerical robes. Conscious of the opportunist force of religion, some politicians have tactically aligned themselves with prominent religious leaders, and they attend church for strategic reasons and on strategic occasions. The power of religion can never be underestimated. Not only do political leaders use religion for their advantage, but also the antichrist uses religious or spiritual beliefs for his motives.

The adverse effects of spiritual exploitation have become a crippling force in Africa and Africans' socio-economic and spiritual life. People have lost fortunes to "men of God," families have been shattered due to fake prophecies, young people have left the faith, and lives have been lost

due to devilish rituals and horrifically fake warnings.

This extended article is made up of two sections: the first section explores the concept of spiritual opportunism and its implication for Africans' moral, social, and economic well-being. The second maps out pathways to liberation from spiritual opportunism with relevant biblical references. The main focus is on Christian churches, and the word church is broadly used in this article to refer to any assembly of persons that claim devotion to Jesus Christ as Lord, including both mainstream churches and neo-Pentecostals.

Poverty and corruption in the context of spiritual opportunism in Africa

It is well known that the African continent is endowed with rich human and natural resources. However, the continent is beset by unprecedented levels of poverty, hunger, disease and civil wars; and widespread institutional corruption at both the public and private sectors has been identified as the main cause for poverty and the many problems plaguing the continent. (Justesen & Bjørnskov, 2014) Corruption is the abuse of public or corporate office for private gain. Corrupt behaviors include, among others, bribery, extortion, nepotism, fraud and influence peddling. (Marquette, 2001)

In a recent study by Zachary (2020), roughly 40 percent of people in Africa live below a daily wage of \$1.90. Among others, Nigeria's poverty rate is also extremely high, yet it has the world's richest religious leaders. The Nigerian situation is a microcosm of the bigger picture in Africa, wherever money-minded religious leaders have pitched their tent. Ideally, religious tenets are antithetical to corruption; however, evidence shows that corruption is aided and abetted by religious leaders in alliance with their political counterparts. There are any number



Rev. Wilfred Emeh has written two books, including a memoir dubbed *The Mysterious Ways of God*.

of churches that run on economic extortion; as members run to pastors to escape from poverty, they are rather enmeshed in a deeper state of poverty while the preachers get richer by the day. (Orogun & Pillay, 2021) It was against such practices that Jesus bashed the business dealers around the temple by saying, "My Temple will be called a house of prayer, but you have turned it into a den of thieves!" (Matt 21:13)

The late Nigerian musician and Pan African activist, Fela Anikulapòs, described in one of his songs African religious leaders as profiteering businessmen of God. In another popular song with a chorus "suffer, suffer for this world," Fela decried the masses for contributing to their sufferings in this world by becoming dependent on religion and its exploitative consequences. The artist accused religious leaders of corruption and money laundering while their followers remain in abject poverty. In the same vein, the African

Moral Philosopher, Kwame Nkrumah called religion an instrument of bourgeois, used by politicians and religious leaders for unethical gains. (Orogun & Pillay, 2021) In order to further their exploitative agenda, preachers capitalize on the promise of paradise in heaven as solace for bad times on earth, while they themselves wine and dine with the cohort of businessmen and political big guns.

Furthermore, churches and their leaders are involved in land grabbing, taking or giving bribes, and conning unsuspecting followers by asking them to plant monetary seeds and performing fake or staged miracles. (Thiongo'o, 2019) Implicitly, corrupt church leaders lose moral ground to speak against corruption; for, how can you say to your brother, let me take the speck out of your eye when all the time there is a plank in your own eye. (Matt 7:4)

The legitimization of corruption even among Christians and their representatives in government

indicate that Africans are not innately more religious than other people. As an African clergy, I could not agree more with Ben Jones, former American missionary who worked in Uganda, when he said, "Africans look like spiritual people. Religion seems to matter more there than in other parts of the world, but this doesn't translate to personal spirituality." Therefore, religion is socially situated as proven by Jones' field experience in Uganda where "poorer people in the area failed to see much difference between parish priests and local government officials; they were all 'big men', questioned for their corruption, who were more interesting for their connections to NGOs' development money." (Jones, 2018)

* Rev. Wilfred Emeh is a Roman Catholic Priest and this is the first of a four part series

It's time to make the switch

Controlled Substances Inventory Management for Pharmacies



C2keep.com



Enter PIN to Unlock
Please enter your 4-digit PIN to continue.

● ● ● ●

[I forgot my PIN](#)

Record Details
Today, 14:12 by Jeff M.

76045-010-10
Hydromphone Hydrochloride 2 mg/mL INJ SOL
Amended: 50 Dispensed: 500

Starting Count 5,000	After Dispensing (Amended) 4,550
Original Count 500	Amended Count 50
Rx Number 1568537-09710	Patient Caleb Montrose
Reason Recorded incorrect quantity Yesterday, 11:53 by Anastasia S.	Alibi Jeff M. Yesterday, 11:53

Recent Activity
for Hydromphone Hydrochloride 2 mg/mL INJ SOL

RECORDED	ACTIVITY	STARTING	COUNT
Today, 15:53 Anastasia S.	Dispensed	630	100
Today, 14:12 Jeff M.	Dispensed	20	20
Tues, 14:09 Anastasia S.	Received	30	30
Jun 2, 13:45 Jeff M.	Lost/Stolen	15	15
May 27, 11:01 Jeff M.	Amended	15	15

[View All](#)

It's time to make the switch

The new standard for controlled substances inventory management

Web-based solution

Good afternoon, Anastasia

What would you like to do today?

Dispense More

Overview This Month

All Transactions 1.1k +12.2%

My Transactions 248 -1.8%

Amendments 65 +24.9%

You're almost set up!

- Order integration
- Add your inventory
- Add teammates

Send me in a message

Transactions Today

Search by drug name or NDC

	ACTIVITY	STARTING	COUNT	ON-HAND	
fate 60 mg TAB 25	Dispensed	630	-100	530	...
ug/h PATCH ...	Dispensed	20	-20	40	...
Today, 14:09 Anastasia G. Fentanyl 87.5 ug/h PATCH 0378-9127-98	Received	30	30	60	...
Today, 13:45 Jeff M. Oxycodone HCL and APAP 2.5/300 mg TAB 72245-193-03	Left/Given	15	-15	0	...

Designed with you in mind

Tools to improve accuracy

Stress-free compliance

C2keep.com

Floods Kill Hundreds in South Africa

By Prince Kurupati

Over 400 people have lost their lives to the floods that ravaged the eastern side of South Africa in the past week. Hundreds of others are reported missing while infrastructure worth millions of dollars has been destroyed.

Describing the floods, Sihle Zikalala who is the premier for KwaZulu-Natal said “The level of devastation of human life, infrastructure and service delivery network in the province is unprecedented... A total number of 40,723 people have been affected. Sadly 341 (at the time) fatalities have been recorded.”

Durban which is the most affected city experiences floods every year. However, the floods aren't as severe as the floods that the country experienced in the past few weeks. Owing to the devastating nature of the recent floods, many questions have arisen as to why the floods were severe this time around. Leading the line has been the issue of climate change as many people believe that climate change may have played a significant role in the floods. However, South African meteorologists have dismissed climate change as the main reason behind the floods.

Puseletso Mofokeng who works for the South African Weather Service said that the rains which



were received on the east coast city of Durban were part of a normal South African weather system called the “cut-off low”. “Cut off low-pressure systems are common. Their frequency becomes high during autumn and spring seasons, and they are differing in strength.” When the cut off low-pressure systems get intense, they cause heavy rain, hail or in some instances heavy and damaging winds as well as snow.

Hope Magidimisha-Chipungu an urban planner from the University of KwaZulu-Natal agreed with Puseletso Mofokeng that climate change may not have played any significant part in the floods. However, Hope Magidimisha-Chipungu believes that Durban's topography may be the chief reason why it floods constantly. Durban is built on a hilly area with many gorges and ravines. Owing to the topography, if the soil is not properly stabilised which may be the case for Durban, then “it's obvious you are going to have landslides.”

The sprawling shack dwellings and the massive influx of thousands of people may play a part in the recent hazardous weather patterns that Durban is experiencing according to Hope Magidimisha-Chipungu. She said this stating that the massive influx of migrants in the area has seen the majority of them reside along riverbanks thereby negatively affecting the ecosystem of the area. “The

ways in which South African cities were designed were very exclusionary in nature... The spatial planning and the apartheid legacy placed the urban poor in the periphery and in the low-lying areas along riverbanks.”

Mary Galvin of the University of Johannesburg differed from the sentiments echoed by Puseletso Mofokeng. Galvin said climate change must be attributed as the chief cause of the floods. She said that owing to climate change, warmer seas charge the atmosphere with more moisture, which then gets dumped as rainfall. “We've seen in Durban three (severe) floods in less than 10 years. Does it have to do with climate change? Definitely... We are feeling the impact of what will certainly be unpredictable, more frequent, severe and extreme weather events.”

The South African president Cyril Ramaphosa agrees with the notion that climate change is the chief reason behind the Durban floods. In a statement, Cyril Ramaphosa described the floods as a “catastrophe of enormous proportions”. He also went on to state that “It is telling us that climate change is serious, it is



A view of flood-damaged homes in KwaNdengezi, Durban .Photo credit Rogan Ward,Reuters.



A heavy toll on human life and property from the floods. Photo credit Rajesh Jantila,AFP,Getty Images.

here... We no longer can postpone what we need to do, and the measures we need to take to deal with climate change.” In response to the damage caused by the floods, President Ramaphosa said that “KwaZulu-Natal is going to be declared a provincial area of disaster so that we are able to do things quickly. The bridges have collapsed, the roads have collapsed,

people have died and people are injured.”

Christopher Trisos who is the lead author of an intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said that the unfortunate floods experienced in Durban are “a teachable moment”. He said that the IPCC report (on climate change adaptation and risks) “found that 90 per cent of African

cities do not yet have substantial climate adaptation plans, which is extremely concerning. But there are still opportunities to adapt... There is an opportunity as lots of informal settlements are not yet covered in tarmac, so we can still create green infrastructure.”

Survivors who spoke to the media expressed anger and frustration at

the local authorities for not taking proactive actions to prevent flooding. 53-year-old Mlungeli Mkokelwa said that “What makes me angry is that this situation is always happening... Our possessions keep getting destroyed by continuous floods that should be addressed by authorities. No one ever comes back with a plan to solve it.”

NKEMNJI



Tel: (608) 239-3994

ngt_press@yahoo.com

www.nkemnjuglobaltech.com

GLOBAL TECH

Graphic Design & Publishing



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



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

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

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

Skilled Nursing Services, Personal Care Services, Home Care Companion

Call Us — 443 982 3052

8611 Lugano Road, Randallstown, MD 21133
www.infinityhcs.com

Cameroon: Many In War-torn West Cameroon Left Without Healthcare As Gov't's Hostility Drives Out DWB

By Andrew Nsoeka

On March 29, 2022 Doctors Without Borders, DWB announced that it was suspending activities in Cameroon's Southwest Region, because of failure by government officials to comprehend the organisation's principle of neutrality. Southwest, one of the two English-speaking regions was the only remaining region where DWB was allowed to operate.

Some workers of the organisation are still held in detention in Buea, Southwest regional capital on charges that they administered medical services to suspected separatists.

Although the Doctors Without Borders operates strictly based on its principle of neutrality in conflict, the concept and principle has remained a bone of contention between the government of Cameroon and the organisation. The government on its part rather wants Doctors Without Borders to operate like an ally to them, a thing which the organisation says will comprise its core values and principles and make them targets of the non-state armed groups that consider the central government and its allies as enemies.

The crisis in Cameroon's Anglophone regions that morphed into a war has dragged on for five years and counting. The separatists who want to break the two Anglophone regions from the rest of Cameroon have been battling government forces, and the fighting has collapsed government services in most of the two regions. The health sector in the two regions has been one of the hardest hit.

In the early days of the crisis when the separatists enjoyed unprecedented support from locals, government cracked down heavily on them and communities. Healthcare providers and infrastructure were hard hit. Several doctors were hunted by soldiers on allegations that they were treating wounded separatists. This crippled medical infrastructure



MSF Officials Providing support to an injured person, there is fear on the impact their absence could create in the conflict zones of the NW and SW Regions.

in most parts of the two regions, leaving local stranded without access to health services. This made many to start relying on ancient means of treatment, mostly traditional. Several medical practitioners ended up in jail and some are still locked up in pre-trial detention.

Doctors Without Borders then came in as great replacement, offering free health services to those in dire need of it. Even when fighting intensified, the organisation was the only one that could venture into several areas and offer medical care or ambulance services to cases that needed to be evacuated to well-equipped hospitals for adequate treatment. In the long run, the organisation became a backbone to communities gripped by the war, as it became the only hope for most communities through community leaders and volunteers who worked with the outfit to provide needed health services to those in need. Pregnant women in hard-to-reach areas, sick children, thousands of malaria cases, torture victims, the

wounded and many others became very reliant on Doctors Without Borders.

The services would however not last long as some government officials started throwing accusations around that the organisation was aiding separatists fighters. Cameroon's Minister of Territorial Administration, Atanga Nji was one of those who hurled a careless accusation without any evidence that an ambulance was seen carrying weapons. Though unsubstantiated, such accusations and similar others were thrown around making things very difficult for the organisation and its staff. Soldiers stationed in control posts started stopping ambulances, searching and sometimes seizing patients in critical conditions from doctors. Anyone with gunshot wounds was considered as a separatist by the soldiers and whisked off ambulances or sick beds. This created a lot of difficulties for the organisation thousands depended on.

This was one of the reason why

the government moved on to ban activities of Doctors Without Borders in Cameroon's Northwest region. On August 2, 2021 Doctors Without Borders announced that "it had been forced to withdraw teams from the Northwest Region, after the authorities suspended its activities in December 2020, accusing it of supporting local armed groups." This left thousands of those who depended on DWB services stranded.

This forced the Humanitarian Healthcare provider to limit its activities in Anglophone regions to only the Southwest region. The final blow came on March 29, when in a statement made public, DWB said it could no longer offer services too in the Southwest region because its ability to do so has been severely hampered by a difficult relationship with the government authorities. The Communique noted that the government has been falsely accusing it if of "complicity to secessionists.

"Despite our continued efforts and our unwavering commitment



Doctors Without Borders says it responds to both sides of the warring parties without taking sides in response to accusations from the government.

to improve access to health services to vulnerable communities, the current situation makes it impossible for Doctors Without Borders to continue providing this support, while maintaining standards the organisation is committed to ensure for its patients,” a statement to community leaders from DWB partly read.

In its letter to community leaders, DWB further stated that “starting from the 29th of March 2022, Doctors Without Borders will suspend all its activities in all facilities and communities within the South West region of Cameroon. We will keep on supporting the patients currently admitted under our care for as long as possible as defined in the Letter of Agreement (LoA) signed by MSF and the facilities, but we will no longer be providing ambulance services, support to medical care in the

communities and/or support to any of the private or Ministry of Health medical structures as of today.”

Like the case of the Northwest region of the country, thousands who depend on DWB’s services will again be stranded and the death toll from preventable causes will again increase. The armed conflict in the region has cut off most of the population from health services, as many facilities have shut down due to insecurity and harassment from belligerents in the conflict. DWB waded in such communities and as a neutral and trusted service provider, helped to prevent thousands of those in need from dying due to lack of access to health.

By working with community leaders, and staying neutral in the conflict, DWB increasingly gained the confidence of most persons. Though coming in on the bases of the

armed conflict and the humanitarian need, the outfit had sometime ago in statistics published noted that just about five percent of their patients come with gun related issues. This however has not stopped government officials from wanting to clamp down on the organisation accusing it of aiding separatist fighters.

The biggest losers in the whole thing will be a community whom government had some 22 years ago, promised “health for all” to, but who today the people lack in an acute manner, basic health services. Though the everyday Cameroonian and especially those in Anglophone regions lack basic health, the officials who champion such unpopular moves to frustrate basic health services to the vulnerable are the first to fly Western countries and other countries where their counterpart prioritise the bettering of the health sector.

Hundreds of millions are spent yearly by Cameroonian officials who often when sick, are flown abroad where hospitals there are not like they ones they have condemned the everyday Cameroonian to. While some get treated abroad, some have returned in coffins to be interred in the communities they have condemned through their choices and selfish actions.

In 2020, DWB reported that it provided over 120,000 free medical consultations in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon – the two regions gripped by an over four war of secession. Unfortunately, with the government’s harsh attitude towards Doctors Without Borders, hundreds of thousands of patients in the Northwest and Southwest Regions who relied on DWB for free health services can’t access it anymore, even though the armed conflict is rather deteriorating and leaving more people in need.

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

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

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

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Ethiopian



THE TEAM



SDG+3

GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVES
(AN AFFILIATION WITH UNESCO CENTER FOR PEACE)

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

THANK YOU TO THE BEST TEAM FOR CONSTRUCTING A STRONG
INITIATIVE DEDICATED TO SERVING HUMANITY THROUGH HEALTH AND EDUCATION



sdg3_globalhealth



sdg3globalhealth@gmail.com

South Africa: Is Freedom Still Coming 'Tomorrow'?

By Boikanyo Moloto

Freedom Day holds a special place in South Africa's history as it formally marked the end of apartheid in 1994.

While that was a major feat in the struggle to legally end racial discrimination, the term 'freedom' held a much broader and deeper meaning than just political freedom. It symbolises the realisation of a renewed hope for social change for the black majority, and a better future for all – or so we thought.

Is freedom still coming tomorrow?

We are now 28 years into what was deemed South Africa's tomorrow, the black majority still lives in abject poverty, faced with inequality, poor service

delivery, corruption and violence. The legacies of apartheid continue to haunt South Africans. Race remains a central factor in shaping our lives.

The recent Inequality in Southern Africa report by the World Bank indicates that South Africa is still the most unequal country, ranking first among 164 countries in their global poverty database. While some progress has been made towards the reduction of inequality, urban areas reportedly continue to be more unequal than rural areas.

The growing unemployment in South Africa is also of concern. The Quarterly Labour Force Survey reports an unemployment increase from 34.9% in quarter three to 35.3% in quarter four of 2021. Additionally, youth unemployment remains at an alarming 65.5%.

There are efforts to address unemployment in South Africa. Public employment programmes such as the Community Work Program (CWP) and Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) are government initiatives intended to address unemployment through temporary work. While these programmes have faced some issues of implementation and resource allocation, CSVR's



From left, Cyril Ramaphosa, Nelson Mandela and Jacob Zuma, representatives of the ANC party, attend the two-day Convention for a Democratic South Africa, in Dec 1991 in Johannesburg.

long standing research on these programs has shown their potential contribution to violence prevention, social cohesion and active citizenship.

However, corruption has emerged as a major threat to social order in South Africa. Corruption Watch's annual report for the year 2021 reports that South Africa's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of 44/100 reveals serious public concern about corruption in government and parastatals.

The report also emphasises the government's failure to achieve concrete advances to curtail the root causes of corruption in the past decade and further notes that the public sector is highly corrupt.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, investigations into blatant misuse of public sector funds such as the Digital Vibes exposé shocked South Africans who discovered the misuse of funds meant to help fight COVID-19.

Corruption not only infringes on the fundamental human rights of citizens but also corrodes the state's legitimacy and undermines social cohesion.

It is the very complex combination of the abovementioned factors, as

well as others that have contributed to social unrest in mostly low socio-economic communities. The daily reality of poverty and economic insecurity, poor access to quality education and health services, and basic service delivery, all factor into communities' frustrations towards decades of unfulfilled promises of freedom.

Despite this, many communities have shown resilience in the face of all these social ills, establishing civil society organisations where the government falls short in addressing context-specific problems as well as systemic inequalities.

These issues were exacerbated by the pandemic, while the state did implement initiatives for temporary relief, implementation and corruption still proved as barriers in some instances, leaving many community organisations stretched to serve higher numbers of people with already constrained resources. This growing discontent aimed at the state is amplified by the pandemic as more state failures are exposed.

In order to re-establish legitimacy, the government ought to go beyond consultative meetings that appear to be for the benefit of annual reports

and track context-specific results of transformation in communities.

Further to this, the active and meaningful consultation and participation of the youth should be at the focal point given the growing category of under-skilled and unemployability which affects young people the most. Additionally, there should be time periods and measures of accountability and impact on collective decisions and policies. Lastly, there needs to be a clearer, more concrete plan for tackling corruption, aggressively at all levels in all sectors.

The political freedom from 1994 has yet to translate to economic freedom as the tangible circumstances of the everyday citizen's material conditions appear to not have significantly changed under the ANC's rule.

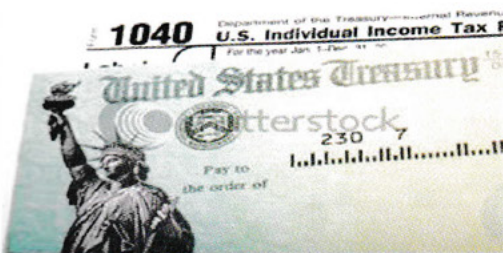
The quality of democracy is characterised by corruption, inequality and violence while race and class are still intertwined despite efforts to expand the black middle class.

*Boikanyo Moloto is a Researcher at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation



CONSULTING, LLC

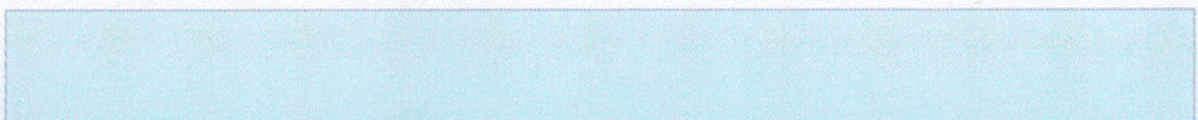
ACCOUNTING • TAXATION • CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS



OBENNY TIKU
Tax Consultant

INCOME TAX RETURN
Prepared For

**THE
PREFERRED
TAX
SERVICE**



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

The Revolt of Nationals In Soccer Management

By Boris Esono Nwenfor

Having entrusted the coaching role to foreigners for decades, the trend on the African continent is now changing and changing rapidly as many local or home-grown have been increasingly tasked to lead their national teams to continental and world events. This is ever-so true and the benefits are paying off gradually as four out of the five coaches that will be involved in the FIFA Qatar World Cup in November are all from their home countries.

Scroll through the pages of African greats and you will find two former footballers who have excelled both on and off the pitch in former Cameroon captain Rigobert Song (the coach of the Indomitable Lions since 2022) and former Senegal captain Aliou Cisse (the coach of the Teranga Lions of Senegal since 2015). These two greats transcend the effervescence of what it takes to lead their country to major events.

In this edition, Pan African Visions highlights the Africans who are excelling as coaches of their national teams and those forging ahead in the country's Football Association as presidents.



Leading AFCON goal scorer Samuel Eto'o now leads the Cameroon Football Federation, FECAFOOT.

Rigobert Song: Turning doubters into believers

The appointment of former defender Rigobert Song as coach of his national side raised a lot of eyebrows ranging from the fact that the former coach Conceicao had just led Cameroon to third position in

the 33rd edition of the Africa Cup of Nations on home soil, and was a step closer to qualifying for the World Cup.

He was chosen in February by the new FECAFOOT president Samuel Eto'o with the new management of football in the country focusing on homegrown coaches. He is one of

only three African players to have played in four FIFA World Cups (1994, 1998, 2002 and 2010), along with teammates Samuel Eto'o and Jacques Songo'o. The 45-year-old former defender won two Africa Cup of Nations in a row; in 2000 and 2002 as captain of the Cameroonian squad.

The former defender, who also forged a successful club career in Europe, will now try to make history with the Indomitable Lions in Qatar, where they have been drawn in Group G with Brazil, Switzerland and Serbia. Speaking after his side had edged Algeria on away goals to qualify; he hailed their never-say-die spirit.

«I'd like to congratulate both teams on the match they played, and my players, who showed how indomitable they are,» said Song. «In the first match, we struggled against a defensive side that prevented our players from expressing themselves in the attack. We managed to respond to that today by playing with two men upfront.»



Rigobert Song hopes to lead Cameroon to a first win in more than two editions of the FIFA World Cup this November in Qatar.

Aliou Cisse: A revolutionary figure in Senegal's football



Under Aliou Cissé's inspired leadership, Senegal has reappeared on the football map

Aliou Cissé does not need an introduction. The Senegalese coach won the last AFCON in Cameroon in February after several years of knocking at the door both as a player and as a coach - the first continental title for the West African nation. Cissé was the team's captain and missed the decisive penalty in a shootout when Senegal lost the 2002 AFCON final against Cameroon.

During his player years, the midfielder played in French clubs like PSG and Lille. He wore the jerseys of Portsmouth and Birmingham, two Premier League clubs. Cissé's Senegal will come up against tournament hosts Qatar, Netherlands and Ecuador in Group A in the FIFA Qatar World Cup.

There is much more to his success story as a Senegal coach than that maiden crown. Under his tenure, they have qualified for two consecutive World Cups for the first time. Having exited in the group phase at Russia 2018, Senegal will be hoping to do better at Qatar 2022, where they have been drawn into Group A with Netherlands, Ecuador and hosts Qatar.

He also captained Senegal on their World Cup debut at Korea/Japan in 2002, when they equalled an African record by reaching the quarter-finals, a stage of the competition that no

side from the continent has ever surpassed. Given his contribution at those world finals, and despite that fateful AFCON shootout miss, Cissé made a significant impact in his international career. During his time in the dugout, however, he has become an even more influential figure in Senegalese football.

"...things are progressing, so it's up to us to keep it going. We know that it isn't easy to be the head coach of your own country. Whatever people might say, it's a lot more difficult," Aliou

Cissé told FIFA.com.

"There are more and more expectations, and it's also a challenge for us to show that we're capable of taking charge of it and to show that we're not just meant to chase after a ball. We're capable of being great players, but we're also capable of thinking, planning and putting things in place, and as things move forward nowadays, we can see that other federations are putting their faith in their homegrown products with the help of FIFA, of course, who are there

to help those coaches to improve."

He added: "If there are competent coaches locally, I don't see why you should go looking elsewhere; you should put your faith in them. That's our fight because I think that to manage a national team, you need to know the reality of the country and be highly competent in a technical and tactical sense; but in reality, it's also important to know about the country's past. For me, if you don't know about the past, it's difficult to talk about the future."

Syli National maintains Kaba Diawara

Kaba Diawara was chosen from four candidates and judged «more likely to lead the national team towards the expected performances», said Sega Diallo, vice-president of the Normalisation Committee which manages the current affairs of the Guinean football federation.

He had been appointed coach of the «Syli National» of Guinea three months before the African Cup of Nations (CAN), succeeding the French Didier Six, who had been in office since 2019.

For the qualifiers of the 2023 African Cup of Nations in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea is in the same group as Malawi, Ethiopia and Egypt. The Confederation of African Football (CAF) has awarded it the organisation



Former Arsenal and Paris Saint Germain player Kaba Diawara is the new coach of the Syli National of Guinea

of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations.

Kaba Diawara played in his hometown, Toulon, and then in Bordeaux. He then played for several clubs, including Arsenal, Marseille, PSG, Nice and Gaziantepspor (Turkey).

Samuel Eto'o: The Indomitable Lion leading his country's FA

For centuries now, the tendency for most former football across the continent is for them to hang up their boots and get involved in the post-game as a coach/manager, TV Analyst/commentator or to even get involved in Politics (George Weah). The case of Samuel Eto'o is one of the few, if not, the only ex-footballer that has successfully challenged the country's football association and won – just ask Ivory Coast legend Didier Drogba how hard it is for a former player to win that position.

The success story is one to celebrate and when he took over office, he made several promises such as giving his salary for the development of the amateur football in the country, bringing in sponsors for the league and the construction of modern-day football pitches – all he has so far kept and the country is reaping the rewards of his election.

«We have to bring footballers to the centre of our policies,» Samuel Eto'o said after being confirmed as the new



FECAFOOT President Samuel Eto'o and Indomitable Lions Coach Rigobert Song all smiles after an upset victory against Algeria that qualified Cameroon for the world cup in Qatar.

FECAFOOT president. «It is our role to ensure that those who play this discipline make a decent living out of it.»

40-year-old Eto'o took over an organisation (FECAFOOT) long tainted by infighting, mismanagement and allegations of corruption. Football's global governing body FIFA has intervened several times to end bickering among FECAFOOT officials. Since his election, Eto'o has brought the warring factions in Cameroon football on the same wavelength, though some have decided to go against the moving

train.

For the first time in a long time, professional football in Cameroon from the Elite 1 and 2 levels have been registered at the National Social Insurance Fund, club presidents asked to put players on a monthly salary, the professionalization of the Elite Championship with the return of sponsors such as MTN and Guinness continuing its sponsorship of Women's football in the country. These are just the tip of the iceberg of the achievements that Samuel Eto'o has brought ever since he took the helm of the Cameroon Football

Federation, FECAFOOT.

The hope for Cameroonian football fans is that such good deeds continue so that the country's football will be revered and even compared to the most developed football leagues in the country such as the DSTV Premier League in South Africa or the Nigerian Premier League. All these are possible but Samuel Eto'o will need time to work his magic and for the football stakeholders to give him full collaboration for the envisaged projects to be materialized.



Your Best IT Security Solution

Find Us!
11737 Ellington Drive
Beltsville, MD, 20705.

Next Session Starts March 26TH, 2021
**FREE WORK SCENARIO-BASED
PROJECTS AFTER TRAINING**

ABIATECH SOLUTIONS
Dedicated, passionate and experienced trainers always working for you.
We Are Not Done With You Until You Get a Job!
Contact Us!
240-484-2787/202-706-2193
www.abiatechsolutions.org
abiatechsolutions@outlook.com
info@abiatechsolutions.org




ABIATECH SOLUTIONS

**CYBERSECURITY
TRAINING SESSION**
CALL: 240-484-2787
OR 202-706-2193




Abiatech Solutions offers the following trainings which students to take certification examinations. Our trainings also prepare our students to work within the private and public sector with an average annual income of \$85,000 to \$120,000.

CompTIA Security +



Certified Authorization Professional (CAP)



About Us.....



Our programs prepare you to become:

- ❖ IT Security Analyst
- ❖ IT Security Engineer
- ❖ Cyber Security Analyst
- ❖ Information Security Analyst
- ❖ Security Operations Center (SOC) Analyst

Abiatech Model:

- ❖ Get training and certify with us!
- ❖ IT Security Jobs, FREE AFTER TRAINING CLASSES FOR EMPLOYMENT, TRANSITION AND JOB PREPARATION
- ❖ Over 85K to 130K
- ❖ Get Referrals and after-training follow ups
- ❖ POLICY: Abiatech builds it RIGHT and SUPPORT students



PAN AFRICAN VISIONS



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



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

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

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



CENTURION

Lawyers and Business Advisors

