

**AFRICA : 1 MARS 2017 : (Burundi :
Identification des fosses communes du 1er
GENOCIDE DES GRANDS LACS
AFRICAINS)**



BURUNDI :

Burundi : Identification des fosses communes du 1er GENOCIDE DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS

La Commission Vérité-Réconciliation CVR débute l'identification des fosses communes du 1er GENOCIDE DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS : Le GENOCIDE DES BARUNDI COMMIS PAR LE REGIME HIMA DU BURUNDI.

A Mwaro, commune Rusaka, colline Gasenyi, zone Makamba, ce lundi 27 février 2017, Mme Clotilde Niragira, Secrétaire Générale de la Commission Vérité-Réconciliation CVR, a lancé officiellement les travaux de fouille et de déterrement des restes des personnes sauvagement assassinées et enterrées dans les fosses communes durant la Dictature militaire des HIMA burundais (MICOMBERO, BAGAZA, et BUYOYA), qui, en près de 40 ans (de 1965 à 2005) , a fait plus de 4,5 Millions de victimes Barundi : Le fameux GENOCIDE REGICIDE du Burundi : <http://burundi-agnews.org/genocide.htm> ou <http://burundi-agnews.org/ccburundi.htm> ou http://burundi-agnews.org/agnews_refugees.htm .

Mme NIRAGIRA a rappelé qu'il s'agit dans un premier temps d'identifier tous les endroits abritant les fosses communes dans lesquelles des BARUNDI ont été enterrés après avoir été sauvagement assassinés, afin que ces victimes soient dignement inhumées.

Ces travaux sont conduites par – les experts du groupe sectoriel de gestion des morts en cas d'urgence ; et – la plateforme

nationale de la protection civile, appuyée par le Comité International de la Croix rouge et du Croissant rouge (CICR) supervisé par le Dr Tania Donabalde, expert venu de Genève.

Depuis le 15ème siècle (entre 1410 et 1420) au BURUNDI, les HIMA venus du KARAGWE (Nord Ouest de la TANZANIE, frontière avec l'OUGANDA) ont commencé à lorgner sur le BURUNDI. Le MWAMI (Roi) des BARUNDI, NTARE RUTSHASI, affrontera pendant près de 10 ans le MWAMI des HIMA, RUHINDA, au centre du BURUNDI. Ce sera un combat epique entre INGOMA Y'UBURUNDI (LE TAMBOUR DU BURUNDI ou DES BARUNDI) et INGOMA YA RUHINDA (LE TAMBOUR DE RUHINDA ou DES HIMA). Après la victoire des BARUNDI sur les (BA) HIMA, la paix régnera au BURUNDI jusqu'en 1935 lorsque la BELGIQUE réintègrera des HIMA dans les institutions des BARUNDI. A l'arrivée de l'Indépendance du Burundi, la BELGIQUE, la FRANCE, et les USA vont propulser les HIMA à prendre le pouvoir au BURUNDI, le TAMBOUR DES BARUNDI. En 1965-1966, le HIMA MICHEL MICOMBERO prend le pouvoir par COUP D'ETAT MILITAIRE et abolit le ROYAUME (DES BARUNDI), qui devient la REPUBLIQUE (DES HIMA) ... C'est la Révolution HIMA au BURUNDI qui causera le GENOCIDE REGICIDE.

**DAM, NY, AGNEWS – <http://burundi-agnews.org> , le mardi
28 février 2017**

RWANDA :

RWANDA: Des serviettes hygiéniques pour maintenir les filles à l'école

[<http://buzz.lanouvelletribune.info/2017/03/rwanda-solution-serviettes-hygiéniques-filles-lecole/>]

La recette devrait faire école partout. En attendant, elle fait son petit bout de chemin depuis 2010 dans certaines écoles au Rwanda.

La recette ? Une “Pièce pour filles” construite dans certaines écoles publiques primaires et secondaires. Le but ? Permettre aux élèves filles en menstrues d’avoir gratuitement accès aux serviettes hygiéniques et autres nécessaires pour faire leur hygiène corporelle. Selon les responsables des établissements dotés d’un tel dispositif, l’initiative semble améliorer les résultats scolaires des jeunes filles et apparaît clairement comme une piste de solution pour maintenir les jeunes filles à l’école...

Tout est parti d’un constat. Le constat selon lequel les élèves filles (en nombre considérable), quand elles sont en menstrues, choisissent de manquer l’école et, dans plusieurs autres cas, de décrocher du système scolaire. Pour essayer d’endiguer ces phénomènes d’absentéisme et d’abandon, le pouvoir rwandais a demandé aux écoles de se doter de “pièces pour filles”.

Ces bâtiments, construits sur fonds propres, avec souvent l’aide des autorités locales, ont ainsi essaimé dans de nombreux établissements. Dans une “pièce pour filles”, on trouve : un lit, une douche, du savon, de l’eau, et surtout, plusieurs sacs de serviettes hygiéniques, des rouleaux de papier-toilette, des jupes de rechange, etc.

A Kigali, il n’est pas difficile de retrouver des jeunes filles qui témoignent en ces termes : « Avant, quand j’avais mes règles à l’école, je retournais immédiatement à la maison. Aujourd’hui, quand cela m’arrive, il y a sur place à l’école tout ce dont j’ai besoin ; ce qui fait que je ne manque plus les cours... »

Dans certaines écoles équipées de cette “pièce pour filles”, les responsables indiquent que les résultats des jeunes filles ont connu une nette amélioration et d’autres soulignent par ailleurs que le taux de décrochage scolaire de ces jeunes filles a connu une certaine régression du fait de l’existence de cette solution. Mais tout n’est pas rose partout.

Dans les zones rurales par exemple, il reste encore difficile pour les établissements de disposer d’une “pièce pour filles”. Même quand elle existe, la distribution gratuite de serviettes n’est pas toujours suffisante. Mais nonobstant ces couacs, la recette fait son chemin, avec des résultats plutôt satisfaisants.

En somme, cette expérience dans les écoles au Rwanda, est un véritable cas d’école qui mérite de faire école...dans nos écoles ! Et ceci, partout sur le continent.

RDC CONGO :

Incursion de l'ex-M23: Joseph Kabila appelé à dénoncer l'Ouganda et le Rwanda

Publié le lun, 27/02/2017 - 19:46 | Modifié le lun, 27/02/2017

Le Centre d'étude pour la promotion de la paix, la démocratie et les droits de l'homme (CEPADHO) a invité, lundi 27 février, Joseph Kabila à dénoncer ouvertement l'Ouganda et le Rwanda suite à l'incursion de l'ex-M23 en RDC.

Les rebelles de l'ex-M23 sont signalés, depuis une semaine, dans la région de Tongo, en territoire de Rutshuru (Nord-Kivu).

Le coordonnateur du CEPADHO, Omar Kavota, a également demandé au chef de l'Etat congolais d'amener l'ONU, l'Union africaine, la CIRGL et la SADC, à prendre des mesures contraignantes contre l'Ouganda et le Rwanda, qui selon lui, déstabilisent la paix et la sécurité de la RDC à travers le M23.

Il a déploré le fait que Kampala et Kigali continuent de servir de bases arrières aux rebelles de l'ex-M23.

«Suite à la déroute infligée aux combattants du M23 à Matebe, à Songa et à Kitagoma, ils se sont tous repliés sur leurs bases arrières, c'est-à-dire, l'Ouganda et le Rwanda où ils bénéficient, comme toujours, d'un accueil bon enfant», s'est plaint Omar Kavota.

D'ailleurs, poursuit le coordonnateur du CEPADHO, certains rebelles de l'ex-M23 capturés n'hésitent pas à déclarer ouvertement recevoir des armes et munitions de la part de l'Ouganda et du Rwanda.

Pour le CEPADHO, «l'heure est venue, pour le chef de l'Etat congolais, d'activer le Conseil supérieur de la défense et de mobiliser toutes les forces vives du pays, contre cette nouvelle agression du pays ».

De leur côté, les responsables militaires au Nord-Kivu disent avoir pris toutes les dispositions pour contrer les manœuvres de l'ex-M23.

- See more at:

<http://www.radiokapi.net/2017/02/27/actualite/securite/incursion-de-lex-m23-joseph-kabila-appelle-denoncer-louganda-et-le#sthash.1qehH1qZ.dpuf>

UGANDA :

Facebook digs into mobile infrastructure in Uganda, TIP aims \$170M to startups

<https://techcrunch.com/2017/02/27/facebook-digs-into-mobile-infrastructure-in-uganda-as-tip-commits-170m-to-startups/>

While Google is using MWC to show off some of its advances in native apps on mobile devices — specifically in chat apps — the world’s biggest chat app company is doing something completely different. Today, Facebook announced that it is building a 770-kilometer (500-mile) fiber backhaul network in Uganda, in partnership with India’s Airtel and wholesale provider BCS, carriers that both have networking businesses in the country; and its Telecom Infrastructure Project is leading a call to invest \$170 million into telecoms infrastructure startups.

Alongside this, the company is also making headway on its other efforts to play a bigger role in the infrastructure behind how people connect to the internet (and specifically to Facebook) through its Telecom Infrastructure Project. Facebook’s own Voyager optical networking transponder is now being deployed and tested by the carriers Telia and Orange in Europe.

Facebook said it expects the Uganda project — which will see “tens of millions of investment” from Facebook — to cover access for more than 3 million people (that’s not how many will use it, but how many can potentially be covered). As a backhaul network, the purpose will be to provide more capacity to wireless carriers’ base stations so that they can offer 3G and 4G mobile data services (in many places in the developing world, carriers still can offer no more than 2G or 2.5G).

voyagerThe Voyager project, meanwhile, is one of a number of updates from the TIP, which was created by Facebook last year but

(like Facebook's other connectivity project, Internet.org) counts a number of other members — in this case, over 450, including large and small, regional carriers; equipment and software vendors like Intel and Microsoft; and more.

Other news from the TIP today included the announcement that TIP is expecting \$170 million in investment into startups that are building or working on telecom infrastructure solutions. This, in my opinion, is an interesting development, considering how so much of the recent period of development in startups and their funding has been focused on software solutions.

Facebook and the TIP are not revealing too many details yet on which companies would be the recipients of this funding — we have asked and will update as we learn more — but it notes that investors that are contributing to that \$170 million total include Atlantic Bridge, Capital Enterprise, Downing Ventures, Entrepreneur First, Episode 1 Ventures, IP Group plc, Oxford Sciences Innovation and Touchstone Innovations, along with other investors, incubators and institutions.

investors_teach

“We believe this focused investment direction from these innovative investors will bring new infrastructure solutions to the industry,” Facebook said in today's announcement.

To be clear, this is not a fund; it's more of a conceptual idea of how much these investors are willing to invest in startups in the area of communications infrastructure: they will have their own funds and commitments that will, in theory, get them to that total.

During a meeting at MWC, Facebook VP Jay Parikh offered a for more details on how Facebook is involved. “Facebook is not actually investing in that in terms of actual money. That's the VCs.

We are lending our expertise in mentoring, we help them understand how to do hackathons, how to build out their space, we will offer any expertise we can if they decide to use our open source hardware and software.”

He added that the company is essentially helping to bring the knowledge it gained from running its production environment at scale and its culture to these centers. “It’s more sustainable this way,” he noted.

The academic groups in the TIP will meanwhile put their emphasis on investing in university spinouts or those using university IP for comms infrastructure solutions. Some of the technologies will include stuff like smart antennas and wireless energy transfer.

To that end, there are also two new “acceleration centers” getting launched in the UK, spearheaded by BT, for carriers and Facebook to consider and deploy infrastructure solutions from startups in the field. This is on top of a first center that Facebook launched in South Korea last year with SK Telecom. You can read more about TIP’s other projects, which are largely in the very technical, piloting phase of networking technology, here.

parikh

Network connectivity, and Facebook’s “mission to connect the world,” have been longstanding side themes for the social networking company, whose bread and butter continues to be advertising on its social network, which includes Facebook, but also Messenger, WhatsApp and Instagram.

Whereas Facebook usage is nearly ubiquitous in regions like North America and Western Europe, in developing markets, especially in places where the infrastructure is lacking for good internet access, it’s less used, and so Facebook’s connectivity

efforts are in part a way of creating the right circumstances to attract more business.

But those efforts, while having an overtly charitable and good goal of bridging the digital divide, have had very mixed results up to now. Internet.org — the project where Facebook has partnered with several other companies to provide essentially “free” mobile internet in selected countries — backfired when it got blocked in India over net neutrality concerns (specifically that Facebook’s initiative was helping Facebook more than anyone else). It’s still managed to connect 40 million people with the initiative, which has continued to expand.

Parikh noted in today’s press conference that the company is currently focused on the Express Wifi project in India and that we should “stay tuned” for any further announcements.

And a test of its Aquila drone, a “plane” that beams down Internet access, had a crash as a result of a structural failure.

And while today’s news is about how Facebook appears to be focusing more on building the exact physical infrastructure that it has said in the past was too costly to deploy, it’s also continuing to explore further wireless options, such as this plan to offer access in Africa via satellite. That plan faced a setback when Facebook’s first satellite was destroyed when SpaceX’s rocket exploded last year. Parikh, however, believes that satellites are something the company remains to be interested in and that it is the best solution for remote areas (and potentially a complimentary technology to its Aquila drone efforts).

The Internet.org situation in India shows how governments, businesses and the general public are indeed raising questions about what the full benefits or detriments are of companies like Facebook getting more involved in areas like connectivity. These

are questions that will continue to be raised as Facebook provides ever-loftier presentations of its vision. Meanwhile, on a more basic level, there are ongoing questions of just how beneficial more connectivity is without better understanding of what's being shared. The rise of fake news, for example, coupled with freshly minted surfers, is a scary prospect.

Updated to clarify that the \$170 million is a target amount, rather than a specific fund, and also to add in more detail about what kinds of areas might get startup investment.

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TANZANIA :

Tanzania backs out of plan to publish 'list of gays'

2017-02-27 22:20 <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/tanzania-backs-out-of-plan-to-publish-list-of-gays-20170227>

Dar es Salaam - Tanzania on Monday backed out of its plan to publish a list of names of gay people accused of selling sex online, saying this would "destroy evidence".

Deputy health minister Hamisi Kigwangalla had called a press conference on Monday to publicise the list, after announcing the plan earlier this month.

"We cancelled the press conference. We are not going to announce the names of (LGBTs) who publicly market themselves for technical reasons," he wrote on Twitter.

"For strategic reasons and to avoid destroying evidence we will deal with this issue differently and will keep you informed at every step."

He also said that releasing the names would be akin to "freeing a devil in a bottle."

Kigwangalla's threat to publish such a list came just days after the government announced it was stopping many privately run health centres from providing Aids-related services, which Health Minister Ummu Mwalimu said promoted homosexuality.

The United States criticised a move which "could impact US government funded programs and impede progress made over the past several years in addressing the HIV/Aids epidemic in Tanzania."

Gay male sex is punishable by anything from 30 years to life imprisonment under Tanzanian law, but there is no such ban on lesbian relations.

However, politicians have largely ignored the gay community - which was not subject to levels of discrimination seen in other countries such as neighbouring Uganda - until a recent spike in anti-gay rhetoric by the government.

In July last year, the regional commissioner for the port city of Dar es Salaam, Paul Makonda, announced a crackdown against gays, followed by arrests in clubs.

Dozens of men suspected of being gay have been detained and taken to hospital for anal exams to confirm their homosexuality.

Also in July last year the government banned the import and sales of sexual lubricants, which Health Minister Ummu Mwalimu said encouraged homosexuality which led to the spread of HIV/Aids.

Homosexuality is illegal in 38 of 54 countries in Africa, and is punishable by death in Mauritania, Sudan and Somalia, according to Amnesty International.

Uganda in 2014 tried to impose the death penalty on those found guilty of being homosexual, however the controversial law was later repealed.

KENYA :

East Africa's largest industrial solar system installed in Kenya

By Danielle Ola Mar 01, 2017 <http://www.pv-tech.org/news/east-africas-largest-industrial-solar-system-installed-in-kenya>

Commercial, industrial and residential solar provider SolarAfrica has commissioned one of Kenya's largest solar hybrid systems in Malindi, in East Africa.

The 991kWp system is a PV-diesel hybrid project developed for Kenyan salt producer Krystalline Salt. The system will generate 1.6GWh of clean electricity annually, saving Krystalline around 22% of its electricity costs.

The project was developed in collaboration with SMA subsidiary SMA Sunbelt, using its Fuel Save Controller which complements the diesel generator and works to offset solar's fluctuating energy source for a harmonised delivery of power. The project was installed by local Kenyan installers Harmonic Systems, who managed to commission the project two months ahead of schedule. In terms of funding, the project was made possible through the government of Japan's Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) financing programme that facilitates low-carbon technologies in developing countries.

“We are very pleased to see this project come together in such a short period of time, given the many challenges in doing a project in rural Africa,” said Noriko Ishibashi, researcher of Pacific Consultants from Japan. “We believe this project will greatly contribute to the joint efforts between the Kenyan and Japanese governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the bilaterally agreed JCM.”

The solar component of the system allows for a fossil fuel

reduction of around 24,000 litres of diesel each year and at the same time a low maintenance solution. It will displace 1,268 tonnes of carbon dioxide and benefit the surrounding Kenyan communities due to job creation during construction phase.

“Even while constructing the factory, we had planned space for a PV system to reduce our carbon footprint and the amount of electricity generated with diesel generators,” said Deepak Patel, managing director of Krystalline Salt. “As members of the UNGC, we are committed to the Global Sustainability Goals, in this case SDG7. Sustainable production and clean energy solutions are always in our minds. I am very happy that the PV hybrid system entered operation ahead of schedule and we can save 22% of our annual electricity costs in the future thanks to a 55% solar power share during daylight hours.”

This is SolarAfrica’s latest commercial project in Africa, as the company continues to strengthen its market position in the C&I space.

"As the project developer, it has been a privilege to play a part in Kaysalt achieving their sustainability goals, and by making use of the JCM grant, delivering the solar system at the required ROI," said Johan Pienaar, commercial director of SolarAfrica.

“We congratulate Kaysalt for making use of a cleaner energy alternative. Kaysalt has clearly set a new standard for industrial power users to follow. We at SolarAfrica are passionate about solar energy and will continue to offer innovative clean energy solutions to enable commercial and industrial power users to effortlessly convert to solar.”

SOUTH SUDAN :

South Sudan's best student in Uganda lacks fees

February 28, 2017 (KAMPALA) – It's a bright Monday morning and as students went shopping for school, John Atem Aguer, Uganda's best student in the 2016 ordinary level exams, is home.

Aguer, a South Sudanese refugee in Uganda, scored aggregate 8 in eight subjects, thus obtaining the maximum scores a candidate is expected to get.

The former student of St. Mary's Secondary School, Kitende, who can no longer proceed for advanced level education due to lack of fees, now buys simple electronics for a workshop he runs at home.

Aguer's mother, Elizabeth Achol Makuach, describes his son as a genius, who always took his education very seriously from childhood.

“We could not believe it. I did not know my son would even make it due to the stress he went through from lack or delay of school fees, and then that thing of his,” said Achol, pointing to Aguer's workshop.

The boy, his mother said, spent most of his home time working on his small gadgets, inventing things she could not even understand.

She said that the teenager grabs any gadget around and begins working on it and that she has to hide her mobile phones at times because her son ought to allocate some good times for his books.

Aguer's father, Jacob Aguer Atem, is an officer in the peace monitoring unit of the South Sudanese Army (SPLA), assigned to

assist the peace keeping force in Wau, a town in Bahr el-Ghazal region.

The ongoing civil war in the country has, however, seen a collapse in the economy, making it hard for Aguer's father to fend for his family.

Sadly, many South Sudanese families are facing the same situation.

For his advanced level education, Aguer intends to study Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics as well as Information Technology (IT).

This combination, he says, will open him gates to enter any university.

I intend to study Theoretical Physics, Mathematics or Computer Science at the university, he says, stressing his dream of becoming a researcher, computer engineer or a software developer.

But Aguer's dream could be fading away as he cannot even afford to pay for his admission letter for advanced level education at either Light Academy or St. Mary's Secondary School, where he sat exams.

Hope, to the 17-year old, should always be kept alive and success, to the 17-year old, comes as no surprise. In 2012, Aguer scored aggregate six, having sat for primary leaving examinations at Kingsway primary school while in primary five.

He is now appealing to any good Samaritan to assist him and ensure he successfully completes his advanced level education in Uganda.

Born in Nimule, a South Sudan-Uganda border town at the heart of the Sudan civil war in 1999, Aguer presently lives in Uganda as a refugee. He is, however, optimistic the war in his country will come to an end.

Meanwhile, Aguer can be reached on +256 783 715 222 for any form of assistance. (ST)

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa anti-immigrant protests erupt in capital

Nqobile Ntshangase, Associated Press Published 4:52 a.m. ET Feb. 24, 2017 | Updated 9:32 a.m. ET Feb. 24, 2017

PRETORIA, South Africa - Police fired stun grenades, rubber bullets and water cannon Friday as the latest wave of anti-immigrant protests broke out in South Africa's capital, while President Jacob Zuma condemned anti-foreigner violence and appealed for calm.

“We don't have hate! We don't have hate!” one foreign man shouted in video posted by local broadcaster eNCA. Police tried to keep protesters apart from foreigners who gathered to express alarm about recent attacks. Police Commissioner Khomotso Phalane said 136 people had been arrested in the past 24 hours.

Resentment against foreigners has sometimes turned deadly in South Africa amid accusations that they take jobs from locals in a country where unemployment is above 25 percent. Others are blamed for drug-dealing and other crimes. In 2015, anti-immigrant riots in and around the city of Durban killed at least six people. In 2008, similar violence killed about 60 people.

Protesters marched toward the foreign ministry, some carrying sticks or pipes. A petition they handed to the ministry, seen by The Associated Press, suggested that the government teach foreigners to speak properly.

“They are arrogant and they don't know how to talk to people especially Nigerians,” the petition said.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation in a statement criticized authorities for “giving permission for a march of hatred.”

South Africans should not blame all crime on non-South Africans, the statement from Zuma's office said. It cited recent reports of violence in Pretoria and hate speech on social media.

“Many citizens of other countries living in South Africa are law abiding and contribute to the economy of the country positively,” Zuma said. “It is wrong to brandish all non-nationals as drug dealers or human traffickers.”

The periodic backlash against foreigners has hurt the tolerant image South Africa has tried to present to the world after the long struggle to stop the harsh discrimination of white minority rule, which ended in 1994.

An Amnesty International statement blamed authorities' “failure to address toxic populist rhetoric that blames and scapegoats refugees and migrants.”

The president said South Africans are not xenophobic, and he called on everyone, citizens and non-citizens, to work together to combat the country's high crime rate.

Despite South Africa's high unemployment, the country is one of Africa's largest economies and remains a draw for people from far more impoverished nations across the continent. Businesses run by Somalis, Ethiopians and others are often targeted in anti-foreigner protests.

Amid the anti-immigrant sentiment, government data show the number of foreign-born people in South Africa has declined. A report last year said the 1.6 million foreign born people was down from 2.2 million in 2011 — in a country of more than 55 million people.

Zuma's statement acknowledged complaints about companies that hire illegal immigrants and said the foreign affairs office "will be cracking down on all employers who continue with this practice, which is dangerous as it pits locals against non-nationals."

The empty promises of South Africa's "radical economic transformation"

source : <https://qz.com/912297/what-the-ancs-policy-of-south-african-radical-economic-transformation-really-means/>

The only thing radical about South Africa's ruling party's understanding of "radical economic transformation", a commentator once suggested, is its use of the word 'radical'. The comment was made a few years ago, when the African National Congress was in the habit of using the slogan to describe very modest change. Now it's back.

In his 2017 state of the nation address South Africa's president Jacob Zuma brought back the phrase "radical economic transformation" causing nationwide debate. Other senior ANC politicians have done the same.

Have the ANC's intentions changed?

To answer that, we need to understand why "radical economic transformation" is back on the ANC's agenda. As with much of what happens in the ANC today, factional politics is a crucial part of the story.

One slogan, two agendas

The ANC has believed for decades that change is needed to speed up black people's access to the economy. It has emphasized this over the past few years as it became clearer that economic

exclusion remains a stubborn reality despite two decades of political change.

Translating this into reality is difficult. The country's racial divisions ensure that government and business do not share the common goals which, for example, produced change and growth in Asia.

But are there any signs of attempts to ensure radical change? At the time of negotiating and assuming power, the ANC recognized that it could not impose change since this would scare away capital. And it did not develop an effective strategy for negotiating with power holders in the private economy. The result was a gap between rhetoric and detail.

More than five years ago the ANC began talking about a "second phase of the transition" to address social and economic change. Since then its documents and statements have tended to combine radical phrases with plans which simply tweaked what already exists.

And over the past few months, "radical" economic change has become a growing ANC preoccupation. This is not because its policymakers decided this. Rather it's because its patronage politicians seized on the slow pace of change to justify their continued quest—in partnership with their private allies—to control public resources.

Triggered by the need of the Gupta family, which has been accused of "capturing" the state to protect their interests, they ratcheted up a campaign to paint patronage as a contribution to freedom.

A familiar tale

The story they tell has become familiar. “State capture” is actually the reverse: an attempt to take back a state already under the control of private interests. “White monopoly capital”, this lobby insisted, controls the state and is determined to prevent a challenge by using claims of “state capture” to defame the forces of economic freedom.

As many commentators have pointed out, this is not about building an economy which includes more people but about justifying why some connected people should get their hands on the public purse.

But ANC politicians who reject this ploy cannot simply dismiss it. The patronage group is trying to exploit the idea of economic change because just about everyone in the ANC—and many people outside it—agree that it is not credible to claim that the economy is now nonracial and inclusive. Their opponents must, therefore, acknowledge that change is needed. But they must try to ensure that it is about including people, not enriching a few.

The stress on “radical economic transformation”—and more militant statements on the economy by ANC politicians such as secretary-general Gwede Mantashe and parliamentary finance committee chair Yunus Carrim – are part of this attempt to develop a program for change which is not about giving a free pass to the connected.

This does not necessarily mean that there is always a neat divide between the two change agendas—some policy documents might mix proposals from the both sides. But the attempt to justify patronage has triggered enhanced ANC interest in change. Jacob Zuma, leader of South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC), sings for his supporters at the Pietermaritzburg high court outside Durban August 4, 2008. Zuma appeared in court on Monday to push for the dismissal of a corruption case

that could stop him becoming president next year. Over 1,000 supporters demonstrated outside the high court in Pietermaritzburg to denounce charges they say are politically motivated and to try to stop Zuma from being put on trial later in the year.

REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko (SOUTH AFRICA) - RTR20MBW

When sung, Zuma's slogans can very convincing.

(Reuters/Siphiwe Sibeko)

More serious than before

Given this background, the latest version of “radical economic transformation” should be taken more seriously than previous editions.

The patronage group's opponents need to show that it is possible to achieve economic change which fixes the problem rather than using it as an excuse. So they can't simply talk about change—they must make it happen.

But are there any signs of attempts to ensure radical change?

The details spelled out in recent ANC statements provide an answer. They include plans to boost business opportunities in townships and rural areas, and by using “the Constitution, legislation and regulations, licensing, transformation charters, the national budget and procurement, state-owned companies and development finance institutions, as well as government programs” which, of course, is fairly vague.

The State of the Nation Address, which can presumably be taken as a statement of the government's intent, ignored the township business proposals and concentrated on tougher competition legislation and a state-owned mining company (a possible gain for the patronage group).

It also emphasized land distribution and using a variety of measures to boost black business: public procurement, legislation to boost black property practitioners, and the black industrialists program.

How radical these ideas are depends on the beholder. To some lobbies any attempt to interfere with the market is a threat to its survival. But, for those with a greater grasp of reality, the theme seems to be change which goes beyond tinkering with current ways of doing things, but does not seek to tear up the fundamentals which have underpinned policy since 1994. It also seems likely that the proposals are designed for negotiation and are not final decisions.

The patronage lobby's ideas would, of course, change those fundamentals dramatically. It would tear up many of the controls which protect public money, from rules which award tenders to the cheapest bidder, through to controls on money laundering to the Treasury's spending safeguards.

Their opponents propose a program which leaves all of that in place but seeks to nudge the economy in a more inclusive direction.

The land proposals, for example, may use expropriation—which will allow courts to set the price of the land—but, according to land reform minister Gugile Nkwinti will mainly rely on the valuer-general, a recently created government office which sets the prices of land earmarked for reform. New competition laws may trample on some toes but are hardly radical in a market economy.

This year's version of "radical economic transformation," therefore, has more substance than the previous editions. But it is hardly a recipe for a dramatic economic shift.

And, while the content of government proposals has shifted, there are no signs yet that the lack of a strategy to achieve them has been addressed. All of these plans will remain on the drawing board unless ways are found of ensuring that investment not only continues but also grows. That will require a coherent plan to win the support—or at least the compliance—of economic power holders. Until that emerges, “radical economic transformation” will remain the stuff of policy documents rather than concrete action.[The Conversation](#)

Steven Friedman, Professor of Political Studies, University of Johannesburg

This article was originally published on [The Conversation](#). Read the original article.

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ANGOLA :

Angola Says Portugal Decision to Charge Vice President a 'Serious Attack'

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2017-02-24/angola-says-portugal-decision-to-charge-vice-president-a-serious-attack>

LUANDA (Reuters) - Angola said on Friday that Portugal's decision to charge its Vice President Manuel Vicente with corruption and money laundering was a "serious attack" that threatened relations between the two states.

A foreign affairs ministry statement said Angola "considers unfriendly and nonsensical the way the Portuguese authorities conveyed this news which constitutes a serious attack on the Republic of Angola and is likely to disrupt the good relations existing between the two states."

The prosecutor general's office in Lisbon last week said it was charging Vicente, who is accused of bribing a magistrate when he was chief executive of state oil company Sonangol.

Vicente is a powerful figure in Angola, Africa's second-biggest crude producer, but he is no longer seen as a successor to President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who said earlier this month he would not run in this year's presidential election, calling an end to 38 years as head of state.

The ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) approved Defense Minister Joao Lourenco, 62, as its presidential candidate instead of Vicente, at one time seen as the next in line.

Angola is a former Portuguese colony and has branded previous attempts by Portugal to investigate Vicente as "revenge by the former colonial master" and "neo-colonialism".

Rights groups and financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund have frequently raised concerns about graft and the squandering of oil revenues in Angola, where most of the population lives in abject poverty.

(Reporting by Herculano Coroado; Writing by Ed Stoddard;
Editing by Tom Heneghan)

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AFRICA UNION :

The African Union Needs a Total Overhaul, Not Mere Reform

http://www.blackagenda.com/african_union_needs_overhaul

Submitted by Henry Makori on Wed, 03/01/2017 - 09:40 by Henry Makori

The fundamental problem of the African Union is ideological. And no one typifies this crisis better than Paul Kagame, the terrifying tyrant and imperialist stooge of Uganda. His new report proposing remedies for reforming the Union belongs in the dustbin. The AU does not need reform. It needs a radical transformation taking it back to its Pan-Africanist roots.

The African Union Needs a Total Overhaul, Not Mere Reform
by Henry Makori

This article previously appeared in Pambazuka News.

“The problems faced by Africans are brought about primarily by imperialism, by a global political economy deliberately rigged against Africa and the South.”

“The future will have no pity for those men who, possessing the exceptional privilege of being able to speak words of truth to their oppressors, have taken refuge in an attitude of passivity, of mute indifference, and sometimes of cold complicity.” -- Frantz Fanon

Last July, African heads of state meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, decided to “conduct a study on the institutional reform of the African Union.” They mandated Rwandan ruler Paul Kagame to undertake the study “with a view to submitting a report on the proposed reforms and thus put in place a system of governance capable of addressing the challenges facing the Union.” Kagame embarked on this mission with gusto, picking a team of experts to help him with the task. His report, dated 27 January 2017, is titled

The Imperative To Strengthen Our Union: Report on the Proposed Recommendations for the Institutional Reform of the African Union.

One would have expected that a comprehensive introduction or background to a study of institutional reform of the African Union in the 21st century would, among other things, locate the need for reform within the spirit of Pan-Africanism, or the Union's Constitutive Act, or even its latest blueprint, Agenda 2063. None of that features in the Kagame Report. Instead, the first two paragraphs tellingly read as follows:

“As unprecedented challenges multiply and spread across the globe at a dizzying pace, new vulnerabilities are increasingly laid bare, in rich and poor nations alike.

“Every country must adapt, but the distinctive feature of recent developments is that even the wealthiest and most technologically advanced nations cannot hope to deal with the changes alone.”

This is deliberately misleading. What is being said here, exactly? That Africa is caught up in a whirlwind of problems, which, however, are not unique to the continent but are of a global nature. Both rich and poor (meaning African) countries face the same problems and no one is really to blame for this. Or everyone is equally to blame. Africans, like everyone else in the world, must be part of the solutions, etc.

“The case put forward by the Kagame Report on these and related issues constitutes a most disgusting and shameful denial of everything that the African Union should stand for.”

Is that really the case? Who controls the largest share of the world's resources and how did that come to be? What accounts for the mass poverty among African people here on the continent and

elsewhere? Who is largely responsible for the climate crisis, African nations? Who dominates and manipulates the much vaunted institutions of global governance to the detriment of Africa? Who actually wields global power and to what ends? Who is responsible for the wars in Africa?

The case put forward by the Kagame Report on these and related issues constitutes a most disgusting and shameful denial of everything that the African Union should stand for. It is denial of Pan-Africanism, the ideology that should undergird the Union. Of course Africa faces a lot of problems. But we know that these are not “global” problems as such. The problems faced by Africans are brought about primarily by imperialism, by a global political economy deliberately rigged against Africa and the South. Africa’s problems are a question of social justice, not merely of management. That is the Pan-Africanist position.

“As unprecedented challenges multiply and spread across the globe at a dizzying pace...” Multiply and spread across the globe on their own? The language of the Kagame Report is not the language of Pan-Africanism. It is the language of neoliberalism. It is the totalizing language of globalization. It is not the language Julius Nyerere would use. Or Kwame Nkrumah. Or Thomas Sankara. Or Tajudeen Abdul-Raheem.

This Report frames the African Union as an example of “multilateral cooperation,” facing similar challenges with other such organizations around the globe. Well, here is some news for Kagame and his team: Pan-Africanists have never ever envisaged African unity as a multilateral project. Africans wherever they may live on this Planet are one people with one destiny. There is nothing multilateral about their quest for total liberation, unity and prosperity. That is called Pan-Africanism.

The challenges of “multilateral cooperation” are worse in Africa where, the Kagame Report claims, “arbitrary internal divisions imposed on us by history, have left us relatively more isolated, both from each other and the world as a whole.”

Please read that again: Africa’s internal divisions were “imposed on us by history.” Oh, really? Which history? Whose history? Like the unprecedented challenges multiplying and spreading virally across the globe apparently on their own, some impersonal thing called history imposed divisions on Africa. Not the European colonialists. No, it is history that is guilty. Could there possibly be a more brazen attempt by a group of Africans to absolve European colonialists of one of the most egregious crimes against humanity, as that great son of Africa Samora Machel described it? If this is the thinking within the African Union, will this organization ever raise the issue of reparations for colonialism and the Slave Trade (which, by the way, was also imposed on us by history)?

“The language of the Kagame Report is not the language of Pan-Africanism. It is the language of neoliberalism.”

Having thus repudiated African claims against imperialism, Kagame and his team then proceed to throw in a few words in Pan-Africanist language purely for decoration: “To overcome that legacy, we had to come together in shared purpose and action, first to liberate ourselves from foreign domination, and then to set our people on a path to dignity and prosperity.” Decoration because the past tense implies that these goals -- at least liberation from foreign domination -- have been accomplished.

In the language of the market, the Kagame Report re-conceptualizes the role of the African Union in the lives of African peoples as service delivery. The African peoples emerge as the AU’s clients. “Without an African Union that delivers, the

continent cannot progress, and we face the likelihood of yet another decade of lost opportunity...”

Consequently, a review of the literature on the AU’s challenges produces nine findings upon which the Kagame group base their recommendations. The findings are:

- The chronic failure to see through African Union decisions has resulted in a crisis of implementation
- A perception of limited relevance to African citizens
- A fragmented organization with a multitude of focus areas
- Overdependence on partner funding
- Underperformance of some organs and institutions due to unclear mandates or chronic underfunding
- Limited managerial capacity
- Lack of accountability for performance, at all levels
- Unclear division of labor between the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities (RECs), other regional mechanisms (RMs), and member states
- Inefficient working methods in both the Commission and the Assembly

Outsiders not to blame?

But Kagame et al seem to realize that their findings are entirely of the technical/managerial/financial type. That cannot be very good, so they try to sound a little bit more sophisticated:

“Honesty requires us to acknowledge that the root problem is not primarily technical, but rather the result of a deeper deficiency.”
Oh, yes. So what is the “deeper deficiency”, sirs?

At this point one would have hoped that Kagame and his reform geeks would delve into the ideological question of the African Union in the world today. But that would be hoping for too much. For the Kagame people, the AU’s deeper deficiency comprises that cliché we have heard so often in hegemonic discourses about Africa, namely, leadership failure. Here they go:

“It is not for lack of ideas, visions, priorities, resources, or capabilities that the African Union has failed to keep pace with changing times. Nor can outsiders be blamed for the internal divisions that needlessly slow us down at times.

“Reform does not start with the Commission. It starts and ends with the leaders, who must set the right expectations and tempo. The effectiveness of the African Union, after all, is our business and responsibility.”

Let’s be fair. Surely, the AU may be mired in a multitude of failures, but has it really failed to “keep pace with changing times”? What does that even mean? The AU is headquartered, not in a rock cave, but in an ultra-modern complex, courtesy of the Chinese. Heads of State and their entourages of hangers-on fly first class to Addis or wherever for their meetings. They don't ride on a donkey. They drink bottled water -- not from a calabash -- at those meetings. Meals cooked by top chefs. During the summits, they don't sleep on mats and cow skins inside grass-thatched, mud-walled huts. That is really keeping pace with the changing times, or isn't it?

“The Kagame Report attempts to absolve imperialists by covering up the well-documented outsider meddling and looting that has kept “independent” Africa impoverished and under foreign domination for decades.”

Reform of the African Union, we are told, does not start with the AU Commission -- don't even mention the African people. Reform “starts and ends” with the “leaders.” It is their “business and responsibility.” Sure. But it is the second sentence of the first paragraph of what the Kagame Report considers to be the AU’s deeper deficiency that is particularly outrageous: “Nor can outsiders be blamed for the internal divisions that slow us down.”

At this point one must ask: Whom was this report really written for?

With that sentence -- and for the second time, after attributing Africa’s problems to “history” -- the Kagame Report attempts to absolve imperialists by covering up the well-documented outsider meddling and looting that has kept “independent” Africa impoverished and under foreign domination for decades.

In Rwanda, a terrifying dictatorship at the heart of Africa where Paul Kagame rules the roost, persons found guilty of revisionism regarding what the Kagame Tutsi oligarchy calls “genocide against the Tutsi” are sentenced to long jail terms. Yet Kagame has no qualms about shredding African history and attempting to distort the present reality.

Outsiders are not to blame for Africa’s internal divisions? It is clear Paul Kagame and his team have never heard of Francophonie. Never heard about 14 African countries whose currencies are controlled by France. Never heard of the Commonwealth. Or AFRICOM. Not a word about the NATO invasion of Libya, the assassination of Muammar Gaddafi and

destruction of Africa's most prosperous nation. They have never heard of foreign "aid" and the African debt crisis. Or EPAs. Or the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization. Nothing about Structural Adjustment Programs. Or the powerful UN Security Council with no African permanent member. Never heard of Western arms sales to Africa and the link to political instability. A fake global war on terror? No. There is no imperialism. No foreign meddling. We, Africans, are the problem.

Holy shit!

Given this level of hypocrisy and cover-up, is it surprising that Kagame and his experts prescribe the following for reform of the African Union?

- Focus on key priorities with continental scope
- Realign African Union institutions to deliver against those priorities
- Manage the African Union efficiently at both political and operational levels
- Finance the African Union ourselves and sustainably.

There is no point in going into the details of each of these prescriptions, for the simple reason that even if they were implemented a hundred percent, without the Pan-Africanist spirit, they cannot make the AU any better.

The AU's deeper deficiency

Africa is not yet free. This point has already been illustrated. If anyone is still in doubt, let them just peruse a recent report by the non-governmental organization War on Want titled The New

Colonialism. It shows how 101 companies listed on the London Stock Exchange — most of them British — have mining operations in 37 African countries. They collectively control over \$1 trillion worth of the continent's most valuable resources. Africa's total liberation from imperialism remains the first task of the African Union.

The eminent Tanzanian academic and Pan-Africanist Issa Shivji puts it this way: “The power of corporations and the dictates of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and WTO to the peoples and states of the world make nonsense of any democratic states, particularly in Africa. The first condition of democratic states, in the sense of being responsive and accountable to their peoples, is that they are independent and sovereign...under globalization this condition is severely undermined. Their economic policies, their legislative processes and their political stances are all determined by the international financial institutions (IFIs) who are under the hegemony of big states and giant corporations.”

Therefore the African Union's deeper deficiency, to borrow the Kagame Report's expression, is failure to make anti-imperialism the centerpiece of its work. It is a betrayal of the Union's Pan-Africanist origins. Africa's problem is not poverty, bad leadership, disease, ignorance, poor technology, bad governance, natural disasters, angry gods or anything of that kind - each looked at in isolation. Africa's problem is imperialism, period. Africa is not yet free.

A radical transformation

The African Union needs a radical institutional transformation rooted in the Union's Pan-Africanist origins, as follows:

1. Anti-imperialism

In his foreword to Kenyan leftist politician Jaramogi Oginga Odinga's autobiography *Not Yet Uhuru*, Kwame Nkrumah writes: "It was in order to eradicate totally and completely foreign rule and domination from Africa and to fortify the continent against the turbulent world of power politics that we bent our concerted efforts towards unity."

Anti-imperialism is the central pillar of Pan-Africanism. The Kagame Report is enough to show anyone that the African Union is no longer animated by the spirit of Pan-Africanism. The AU has been totally captured by imperialists who fund it and set its agenda, together with their African lackeys such as Paul Kagame. No amount of reforms can cure the Union. It needs to be liberated from the clutches of imperialism. How can this be done?

It cannot be hoped that the same political class, so-called African leaders who have mortgaged the African Union to imperialists can embark on the Union's radical transformation. It is not in their interest to do so. It remains for the African people themselves to liberate the Union. The people must organize to overhaul the AU.

2. Popular participation

In neoliberal democratic terms, a murderous tyrant like Paul Kagame, on account of having been "elected" head of state, is supposed to represent the voices of all Rwandans at the African Union. He doesn't. In what ways does the people's will enter the decisions of the African Union? At the present time, the peoples of Africa have entirely been cut off from the AU. The Union is too bureaucratic. Appointments to its organs are a matter for the heads of state of each country, without any input from the people. In the end, the appointments are no more than political rewards for allies of the president back home. This is not Pan-Africanism.

Kwame Nkrumah wrote in Odinga's book: "Ordinary men and women throughout Africa, even those living in the most remote villages, are now talking the language of the African revolution. They speak of 'unity' and are prepared for the next, more realistic, phase of the struggle. In fact, a situation has arisen in which the people of Africa are ahead of their governments in that they have accepted the idea of unity while their leaders, in many cases, continue to hold back or proceed too slowly."

"The peoples of Africa have entirely been cut off from the AU."

How did this burning spirit of Pan-Africanism die among the people, such that few people are nowadays interested in the African Union? The answer may be found in what Shivji calls "monopoly of politics" in post-colonial Africa. This is the reality in many countries, particularly Kagame's Rwanda: First, no politics or political activity is allowed outside the state-party. Mass organizations -- trade unions, students' movements, women's organizations, youth associations and even sports clubs and cultural groups -- are brought under the control of the ruling party. Second, if organized interests are not permitted, it follows that articulation and expression of those interests cannot be permitted either. So all the various media of expression (newspapers, magazines, radio and TV, blogs) and institutions that propagate ideas (schools and universities) are under the hegemony of the state. Third, arising from the above two points, is the development of a closed society. Public affairs are conducted mostly secretly and citizens become spectators rather than actors and commentators. The right to know is severely curtailed. Finally, monopoly politics produces "a culture of intolerance which expects and actively solicits unanimity of views."

How can people living in closed societies develop an active interest in the affairs of the African Union? As Prof Horace Campbell, Kwame Nkrumah Chair of African Studies at the

University of Ghana and a long-time contributor to Pambazuka News, points out, “Current leaders such as Yoweri Museveni and Paul Kagame may grandstand on reforms and the capabilities of the African Union but the seriousness with which they will be taken will be determined by the levels of transparency and democratic participation in their societies.”

3. Self-reliance

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Arusha Declaration, the socialist manifesto developed and adopted by Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), the party of President Julius Nyerere. It states that:

“Independence means self-reliance. Independence cannot be real if a nation depends upon loans and gifts from another for its own development. Even if there was a nation or nations prepared to give us all the money we need for our development, it would be improper for us to accept such assistance without asking ourselves how this would affect our independence and our very survival as a nation.” That statement applies to the African Union one hundred per cent. The Union’s funding is not merely a matter of operational efficiency. It is about independence. It is about being able to carry out the Pan-Africanist mandate. Whoever pays the piper calls the tune.

According to the Kagame Report, in 2014 the African Union’s budget was \$308 million, more than half of which was funded by imperialists, or donors, as the Kagame group prefers. In 2015, the budget rose by 30 per cent to \$393 million, 63 per cent of which was funded by imperialists. In 2016, imperialists contributed 60 per cent of the \$417 million budget. This year, AU member states are expected to contribute 26 per cent of the proposed \$439 million budget, while imperialists are expected to contribute the

remaining 74 per cent. The Union's programs are 97 per cent funded by imperialists.

So, who owns the African Union? Can this organization carry out the Pan-Africanist mandate?

Kagame and his group discuss the question of self-reliance at length. They recommend penalties on states that do not pay their membership dues, prudent management of funds, etc. There is no point going into all that. How do people like Kagame even begin to prescribe self-reliance to the African Union when his imperialist puppeteers fund up to 40 percent of Rwanda's budget?

“The Union's programs are 97 per cent funded by imperialists.”

Prof Campbell had expressed skepticism about the Kagame group's ability to effectively address the funding problems of the Union. He was prescient. “It will remain to be seen whether the Chairperson of the reform process (Dr Donald Kaberuka, the former president of the African Development Bank [AfDB] and finance minister of Rwanda) will raise the question of African resources in the global value chain as part of the agenda of how to increase revenues for African peoples, and ultimately for the African Union.” Of course that issue appears nowhere in the Kagame Report.

Africans are quite capable of fully funding the African Union. But not a Union owned by “leaders” and their imperialist partners. Rather, a Union whose Pan-Africanist mandate includes ending the massive theft of Africa's wealth by the so-called leaders and their imperialist partners, and pursuing reparations for enslavement and colonialism and the return Africa's stolen wealth.

Conclusion

The Kagame Report should be tossed into the dustbin. It appears to be addressed to imperialists -- the real owners of the African Union at the moment -- and not to the peoples of Africa. The Report has Kagame's own agenda written all over it. Kagame -- who orchestrated the rape of Rwanda's constitution to allow him to run for another seven-year term this year, without provoking any tantrums from the sanctimonious West -- is positioning himself as a Pan-Africanist. Authoring this Report gives him an opportunity to use the African Union to further ingratiate himself to the imperialist center and, particularly important, to keep the spotlight away from his horrendous crimes against the people in Rwanda and the Great Lakes region.

It is probable Kagame is using the script of his buddy, Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, on how to use the AU for private agendas. Using the Union, Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto (both indicted for crimes against humanity) embarked on an overheated campaign posing as African nationalists opposed to imperial machinations of the International Criminal Court. And the AU did not disappoint.

Africans on the continent and around the world must continue to fight for the radical transformation of the African Union from a project serving the selfish interests of African rulers and their imperialist backers to a radical organization of the African people championing their total liberation, unity and prosperity rooted in the spirit of Pan-Africanism.

Perhaps there is no better way to end this reflection than to echo the deep and urgent counsel of the South African freedom fighter, scholar and Pan-Africanist, Dr Motsoko Pheko:

“Pan-Africanism is more relevant to the African world today than when it was formalized over one hundred and twenty years ago. Yes, we may be Jamaicans, Tanzanians, Trinidadians, Kenyans,

Zimbabweans, Angolans, Nigerians, Ghanaians, Basotho, Zambians, Namibians, South Africans, Azanians, African Americans, Afro-Brazilians etc. But the train that will take all Africans to their destination and give them power to take their destiny into their hands is the Pan-African train.”

Henry Makori is an editor with Pambazuka News.

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Henry Makori's blog

USA – AFRICA :

CHINA – AFRICA :

China Launches Studies Exchange Program For African

Journalists

[<http://frontpageafricaonline.com/index.php/diaspora/3483-china-launches-studies-exchange-program-for-african-journalists>]

Beijing, China – Twenty nine African journalists have begun a 10-month development and media studies in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China.

Report by Alpha Daffae

Senkpeni, alpha.senkpeni@frontpageafricaonline.com

The training topics include China’s political, cultural, media and economic studies amongst others.

Other activities will include touring China, covering major political activities at the National People’s Congress and other major events like the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) economic summit slated for September this year.

The development studies and media exchange is being organized by Renmin University of China (RUC) based in the capital, Beijing. The program is also part of the Asian nation’s efforts in strengthening its relations with the African continent and other neighboring countries in Asia.

It is also part of the China Africa Press Center (CAPC) program organized and initiated under the watch of the PRC’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This year is the third CAPC program and participants are highly optimistic and are in high spirit for the 10 months activities.

Counselor Liu Yutong, Chief of the Public Diplomacy Division at the Information Department of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, welcomed the journalists before recalling the impact of the international political shocks of 2016 including Great Britain's exit from the European Union, the election of businessman Donald Trump as President of the United States and the continuous global economic turbulent.

Yutong said these factors are affecting new and emerging economic powers in the world. Despite the shocks, he said China maintains its economic growth while the political situation in the country remains stable unlike other world powers like the U.S and the United Kingdom.

The Chinese diplomat emphasized that his country's policy reform has helped maintain economic growth for over a decade.

He hailed Chinese President Xi Jinping for opening the economic bridge in the country which he described as fundamental to the development of China.

He later admonished the journalists to tour the country and understand the cultural and economic diversities in order to have a more balance view about China.

China, the most populous nation and second strongest economy in the world, is currently transforming its economic successes into improving international relations across the world with massive interest in collaborating with African countries to ensure the continent achieve economic progress as well.

Speaking earlier, Professor Yi Zhihong, Vice President for International Studies and Alumni Development at the Renmin University of China, welcomed the students into the program and said he believes the diversity of the class of 48 students

(journalists) brings a new experience to the professors and students alike.

RUC, is China's highest rated university that specializes in humanities and social studies, and in 2013, the university's school of journalism, humanities and social science was rated number one in China by the country's Ministry of Education. Currently, there are 64 African students studying at Renmin University.

One African journalist each was selected from Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Serra Leone, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Togo, Mauritania, Egypt, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Mauritius, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, Rwanda, Botswana, Burundi, South Africa, Senegal, Gabon, South Sudan, Sudan, Congo Brazzaville and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

These African journalists have joined 15 other journalists from South Asia and Southeast Asia as well as four other journalists from Pakistan.

INDIA – AFRICA :

Feed Africa Discourse Heads to India, Cradle of Green Revolution

Content from our Premium Partner

African Development Bank, 28 February 2017

African Development Bank (Abidjan)

India's Green Revolution is known to have been prompted by the 1943 Bengal famine. The country revolutionized traditional food production practices and now produces enough food to feed its 1.3 billion people with surplus for export. Hence, India offers the perfect backdrop for the 2017 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group, which is focused on the theme, "Transforming Agriculture for Wealth Creation in Africa" and the Bank's "Feed Africa: Strategy for Agricultural Transformation in Africa, 2016-2025." Read more. More about the AfDB in this BRIEFING.

EUROPE – AFRICA :

EU Trade with Africa – more Harm than good?

Deutsche Welle-Feb 27, 2017

In the last few years, the EU has hammered out trade agreements with many different countries in Africa. Supposedly the goal is to open markets and increase prosperity. But critics warn that in many areas, Africa is getting the short end of the sti