



[Le nouveau président de transition centrafricain est une femme. Catherine Samba-Panza, maire de Bangui, a été élue par le CNT lundi avec 75 voix, contre Désiré Kolingba, fils d'un ancien président centrafricain. Le scrutin s'est déroulé à toute vitesse dans la grande salle de l'Assemblée. Chacun des huit candidats retenus a disposé de 10 minutes pour présenter sa candidature. Aussitôt sa victoire annoncée, Catherine Samba-Panza a salué l'élection d'une «fille, d'une mère et d'une sœur de Centrafrique ; c'est un événement de portée historique, qui s'inscrit dans les annales de ce pays».]

BURUNDI :

**Le Burundi a réussi en 2013 à briser les barrières linguistiques au sein de la CEA**

Mardi 21 janvier 2014/Xinhua

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - Le Burundi se félicite d'avoir réussi en 2013 à briser les barrières linguistiques au sein de la Communauté Est-Africaine (CEA), a déclaré lundi à Bujumbura Mme Léontine Nzeyimana, ministre burundaise à la Présidence chargé des Affaires de la CEA.

Nzeyimana, qui présentait les grandes réalisations de son ministère en 2013, a précisé qu'au cours de l'année dernière, le gouvernement burundais était parvenu à renforcer les capacités de formation en langue anglaise pour 908 hauts cadres des différents ministères techniques, du secteur privé, de la société civile et des médias.

Ce programme, a-t-il ajouté, a consisté à accélérer l'apprentissage de la langue anglaise et consolider la maîtrise de cette langue pour que le Burundi puisse devenir pratiquement bilingue et se positionner en ordre utile sur le marché du travail dans le cadre du protocole portant création du marché commun de la CEA.

Mme Nzeyimana a fait remarquer par ailleurs que ce programme de renforcement des capacités en langue anglaise est exécuté suivant les normes internationales selon lesquelles il faut à tout le moins connaître deux langues internationales.

La recommandation relative à ce que la future fédération politique de la CEA prenne en compte les spécificités des Etats dont la langue véhiculaire de la culture et de l'identité, a-t-elle affirmé par ailleurs, est une émanation du Burundi dans l'ultime objectif de porter plus loin sa voix au sein de la CEA et dans les instances internationales.

C'est sur base de cette recommandation, a-t-elle rappelé, que le sommet des chefs d'Etat de la CEA tenu en novembre dernier à Kampala, a décidé que le Secrétariat Général devait étudier les voies et moyens pour que le mécanisme d'utiliser le français aux côtés de l'anglais et du swahili, soit opérationnel le plus rapidement possible.

Elle a également signalé que ce programme a bénéficié de l'appui d'une ONG internationale dénommée "Trade Mark East Africa" (TMEA).

**Burundi : Quatre syndicats des enseignants annoncent une grève de trois jours à partir du 27 janvier**  
Mardi 21 janvier 2014/Xinhua

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - Quatre syndicats des enseignants ont annoncé lundi que les enseignants du primaire et du secondaire de secteur public vont entamer une grève de trois jours à partir du lundi 27 Janvier 2014.

Dans une lettre de notification de cette grève adressée à la ministre de la Fonction Publique, du Travail et de la Sécurité Sociale, Mme Annciatta Sendazirasa, et à celle de l'Enseignement de Base et Secondaire, de l'Enseignement des Métiers, de la Formation Professionnelle et de l'Alphabétisation, Mme Rose Gahiru, les responsables de ces syndicats indiquent que la grève fait suite aux décisions qu'ils avaient prises et annoncées lors de la conférence de presse animée le 14 janvier.

Les quatre syndicats, à savoir le syndicat Conseil National du Personnel de l'Enseignement Secondaire (CONAPES), le Syndicat Libre des Enseignants du Burundi (SLEB), le Syndicat des Travailleurs de l'Enseignement du Burundi (STEB) et le Syndicat National du Personnel de l'Enseignement Primaire (SYNAPEP), réclament la mise en application d'une réduction des disparités salariales qu'ils ont négocié avec le gouvernement et qui a été objet de consensus entre les deux parties.

Ils disent que c'est pour mettre en exécution la menace d'arrêt de travail qu'ils avaient annoncée lors de cette conférence du 14 janvier dans laquelle ils avaient dit qu'ils organiseront trois jours de grève par mois en tenues noires.

En outre, les syndicats annoncent au gouvernement qu'ils restent ouverts au dialogue pour une issue pacifique à leur revendication.

RWANDA :

**Rwanda in diplomatic trouble 20 years after genocide**  
Jan 21, 2014 /AFP

KIGALI (AFP) - As Rwanda marks 20 years since its 1994 genocide, the government is seeking to

stress the strides the country has made since those dark days, despite international concern over its hardline leader.

Fiercely proud of its legacy, Kigali is displaying a country at peace, enjoying some of the best security on the continent and hailed by global financial institutions for its pro-reform, business-friendly agenda.

But the seemingly hardening stance of strongman Paul Kagame, Rwanda's president, is casting a shadow over the country's relations with the outside world.

Accused of backing rebel warlords who recruit child soldiers in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo and suspected of eliminating exiled dissidents, Kagame now appears to be suffering a backlash.

RDC CONGO

UGANDA :

**Kejriwal's lie: Uganda HC never wrote letter thanking AAP**  
by FP Staff/firstpost.com/21012014

The Union Ministry of External Affairs has refuted Arvind Kejriwal's claim that his Law Minister Somnath Bharti had been thanked by the Ugandan high commission for drawing attention to the plight of innocent Ugandan women who are lured to India on the pretext of finding work and forced into sex rackets. Waving a letter at the media, Kejriwal had said, "A woman from the Uganda High Commission met us and told us how women are brought to India and forced into the sex trade. They thanked us," he said. However the External Affairs ministry has said that the Ugandan mission had denied reaching out to the Delhi government and warned the media against giving credence to "rumours". "Uganda's High Commission Staff currently not in New Delhi. Please do not give credence to rumours," tweeted Syed Akbaruddin, official spokesperson of the MEA, in response to an AAP follower repeating Kejriwal's statement. The Indian Express also quoted Akbaruddin as saying, "We have been told by the Ugandan mission that none of its officials have met Delhi government ministers." According to this report in the Times of India, the letter in Kejriwal's possession was actually part of an internal communication between the Defence Advisor of the Ugandan High Commission and the Chief of its Military Intelligence dated 19 June 2013. It reportedly talks about the case of a Ugandan woman who was brought to India on the pretext of a job but was trapped in a sex racket. The letter was in no way addressed to the Delhi government. External Affairs minister Salman Khurshid had also denied Kejriwal's claims and accused the AAP government of trying to "spoil India's relation with friendly countries". "It is completely wrong. I don't know who visited them (AAP). Uganda's High Commissioner is not here," Khurshid said in remarks to the media. "I think it is sad that you are playing with country's reputation and relationship with friendly countries. I cannot think of something greater in terms of betrayal of this country than what is being done," he added.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

**Tanzania: At Advised to Unearth Talent**

21 January 2014/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

PRESIDENT Jakaya Kikwete has urged Athletics Tanzania (AT) to conduct an intensive research on places where it can discover raw talent and groom them into stars that will enable the country to regain its lost glory in the international arena.

The president said after receiving the Queen's Baton Relay at the State House in Dar es Salaam on Sunday that through the research AT can identify suitable areas where it will invest heavily in unearthing talent and developing them into quality athletes.

He also requested the AT leadership under president Antony Mtaka and secretary general Suleiman Nyambui to draw up comprehensive development programmes that will produce good athletes and have a wider range for selection during international assignments.

"You need to be innovative and have well tailored, applicable development programmes and avoid being dependent on other organisations and individuals," Kikwete said.

"Our neighbours Kenya are doing well in sport because they have invested heavily in the right places and have succeeded in grooming many talented athletes who are performing wonders in the sport worldwide," he added.

He, therefore, called on AT leaders to perform their duties diligently, instead of just blaming other people for their failure. The president cited potential areas where AT can conduct its research as Singida, Mbulu, Karatu and Masaai land.

He said talent is abundant in these areas and all that AT needs is to be serious and invest heavily. "Most good athletes come from the Rift Valley. Kenya and Ethiopia, who excel in athletics in the world, have invested heavily in the area. That's why we see many Kipchonge Kieno, who break world records daily.

Tanzania should do the same," he said. The President commended the job done by Filbert Bayi, Juma Ikangaa, Gidamis Shahanga and Suleiman Nyambui during their hey day in making the country proud in various international events including the Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

He requested them to share with AT the secret behind their success so as to assist the federation in rejuvenating the sport as it was back in the day were Tanzania was among the countries which were shining in athletics.

Kikwete warned AT not to allow athletes who have not attained qualifying marks to represent the country in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games set for July 23 to August, this year in Glasgow, Scotland.

He directed AT to provide its athletes with adequate and scientific training so that they can fare well

in international competitions and win medals. AT is among seven sports bodies whose athletes are expected to represent the country in the Glasgow Games.

But so far only three associations have confirmed their participation and submitted particulars of their athletes to the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC).

The deadline for doing so is January 31, this year. The associations are Tanzania Judo Association (JATA), Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) and Cycling Association of Tanzania (CAT).

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

### Une femme pour réconcilier ses frères de Centrafrique

Par Adrien Jaulmes/lefigaro.fr/le 21/01/2014

Le nouveau président de transition centrafricain est une femme. Catherine Samba-Panza, maire de Bangui, a été élue par le CNT lundi avec 75 voix, contre Désiré Kolingba, fils d'un ancien président centrafricain. Le scrutin s'est déroulé à toute vitesse dans la grande salle de l'Assemblée. Chacun des huit candidats retenus a disposé de 10 minutes pour présenter sa candidature.

Aussitôt sa victoire annoncée, Catherine Samba-Panza a salué l'élection d'une «fille, d'une mère et d'une sœur de Centrafrique ; c'est un événement de portée historique, qui s'inscrit dans les annales de ce pays». Elle a aussi appelé les diverses milices à déposer les armes. «Je lance un appel vibrant à mes enfants Anti-Balaka, en leur demandant de donner un signal fort de déposer les armes. À mes enfants ex-Séléka, je leur demande de déposer les armes.»

La salle s'est levée pour entonner La Renaissance, l'hymne national. Des représentantes d'associations féminines ont chanté sur son passage. «Les hommes ont tous échoué: il est temps que l'on essaie une femme», dit une de ces dames en robe traditionnelle. «Les femmes sont plus pragmatiques, elles sont plus énergiques. Nous avons de l'espoir.»

Catherine Samba-Panza devient le 7e président de la RCA depuis l'indépendance du pays en 1960. C'est le second chef d'État centrafricain à être issu d'un processus relativement démocratique après Ange-Félix Patassé en 1993, les autres ayant tous accédé au pouvoir par un coup d'État. Les titulaires du poste se succèdent depuis un an. François Bozizé avait été déposé par les rebelles de la Séléka en mars 2013. Son successeur, Michel Djotodia, placé au pouvoir par la Séléka avant de devenir président de transition, a été évincé le 11 janvier par le sommet des chefs d'État de N'Djamena.

Catherine Samba-Panza n'a été élue que pour un poste de transition qu'elle est censée abandonner

dès que des élections générales seront organisées, et auxquelles elle n'aura pas le droit de participer. Elle a été choisie par une Assemblée sans grande légitimité, dont les sessions se déroulent depuis la semaine dernière sous l'étroite surveillance de la communauté internationale, des pays d'Afrique centrale et de la France, très active dans les coulisses. Des soldats rwandais de la Misca assuraient la sécurité de l'Assemblée, allant jusqu'à monter sur la tribune avant d'être priés de sortir de la salle.

Les conseillers chargés d'élire le président se sont vu suggérer de façon assez ferme ces derniers jours par le comité de suivi un certain nombre de critères, qui ont invalidé les trois quarts des candidatures. Selon plusieurs sources, Catherine Samba-Panza n'était pas le candidat initialement préféré par les parrains de cette élection. Mais sa forte personnalité, son expérience du monde des affaires, puisqu'elle a été longtemps à la tête des filiales centrafricaines de plusieurs compagnies d'assurance française, font finalement d'elle une candidate relativement acceptable à la tête d'un pays déchiré.

Née le 26 juin 1954 à Fort-Lamy, (aujourd'hui N'Djamena), d'un père camerounais et d'une mère centrafricaine, elle a grandi au Tchad, et parle l'arabe, ce qui la rend plus à même de comprendre la minorité musulmane. Elle a en outre été nommée à la mairie de Bangui par Djotodia, et n'est donc pas considérée comme une ennemie par l'ex-Séléka.

Du côté des Anti-Balaka, qui récusent la légitimité du CNT, nommé à la suite d'un accord avec la Séléka, Catherine Samba-Panza ne constitue pas non plus une personnalité inacceptable. Pour être bien certain que ces miliciens n'allaient pas une fois encore faire dérailler les plans par une attaque surprise sur Bangui, la France et la Fomac avaient séquestré pendant la nuit les principaux responsables du mouvement, convoqué à M'Poko sous le prétexte d'une réunion. Libérés aujourd'hui, ils n'ont jusqu'à présent pas manifesté d'hostilité trop marquée envers la première femme élue à la présidence de la Centrafrique.

### Woman Chosen to Lead Central African Republic Out of Mayhem

By ADAM NOSSITER/nytimes.com/JAN. 20, 2014

BANGUI, Central African Republic — Cheers broke out in the National Assembly building here on Monday as representatives chose the mayor of this beleaguered capital to serve as the interim president of the Central African Republic, a country in the grip of a sectarian civil war.

Catherine Samba-Panza, 58, will be the first woman to lead the nation, and she will probably serve for a little over a year, with the goal of leading it to national elections. Her appointment came from an unusual assortment of unelected rebel sympathizers, politicians, artists and others who have filled in as a substitute parliament for a nation so fractured that it has suffered a total breakdown of the state in recent months.

Now, hopes are high here that she can halt this impoverished nation's precipitous "free fall," as the United Nations secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, put it in a statement on Monday.

There was singing and dancing in the streets of the dilapidated capital on Monday afternoon, and inside the cavernous chamber of the assembly, female spectators broke into joyful shouts, cheers and trilling. The consensus, in the chamber and on the street, was that men had inexorably led the country into a spiral of vicious violence, and that the only hope was for a woman to lead it out.

"Everything we have been through has been the fault of men," said Marie-Louise Yakemba, who heads a civil-society organization that brings together people of different faiths, and who cheered loudly when the speaker announced Ms. Samba-Panza's victory. "We think that with a woman,

there is at least a ray of hope,” she said.

Ms. Samba-Panza defeated seven other candidates, including the sons of two former presidents and a man whose claim to hold degrees that no other Central Africans possess drew hoots of derision in the assembly chamber on Monday. She was elected in a five-hour process involving two separate hand counts and the double reading-out of all 120-odd members of the assembly.

Beyond the task of reassembling the state and leading it to popular elections next year, she must first try to tamp down the animosity between Muslims and Christians that has resulted in well over 1,000 deaths in the last six weeks alone.

Ms. Samba-Panza, an insurance broker who led state-sponsored reconciliation efforts after a previous civil war, was said by supporters to be untainted by the nine-month reign of terror unleashed under the man she replaced, Michel Djotodia.

Mr. Djotodia, who installed himself as president after leading Muslim rebels in a coup in March, was forced to resign more than a week ago by regional and Western powers for allowing the sectarian bloodshed, which some in the United Nations warn could be the early stages of genocide. There are daily revenge attacks between Christian militias, known as anti-balaka, and the remnants of the Muslim rebels, called Seleka, with most of the violence now coming from the Christians.

The election came the same day that the European Union in Brussels agreed to send hundreds of troops to the troubled country for peacekeeping, a rare flexing of military muscle by a fractious 28-nation bloc that has no permanent army of its own and often prefers exhortation to robust action.

European foreign ministers meeting in Brussels endorsed the military deployment amid growing fears that the collapse of government authority and the spiraling violence could escalate into a repeat of the genocide that convulsed Rwanda in 1994. But before sending any troops, the European Union needs approval from the United Nations.

The European troops would eventually join the 1,600 French troops and 4,400 African Union soldiers trying to keep a jury-rigged peace. On Monday, troops from Rwanda and Burundi guarded the assembly chamber.

“Our country is at the brink of implosion,” Ms. Samba-Panza acknowledged to the assembly on Monday. “The situation is catastrophic. More than ever, the country needs someone who can bring it together.” She pointed to her “sensibility as a woman” as the crucial ingredient that could lead to peace.

Inside the chamber and out, women and men in the capital agreed with her.

One Western diplomat close to the selection process said that numerous members of the transitional council that selected Ms. Samba-Panza had approached her for bribes, offering to sell their vote, but that she had refused. On the other side of the spectrum, the diplomat said, another candidate who got no votes bribed 30.

“As a woman, she can understand the sufferings of the people, and as a mother, she will not tolerate all of this bloodletting,” said Annette Ouango, a member of a Central African women’s group.

A day before the vote, two Muslims were killed in a lynching in front of hundreds of people barely a mile from the assembly chamber.

“The men have done nothing but fight,” said Judicaelle Mabongo, an 18-year-old student in downtown Bangui. “The men, they are fighting. But they are only destroying the country. This woman, she might be able to change things.”

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

**EU signs up for military mission in Central Africa**

By AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/January 21, 2014

BRUSSELS, Jan 21 – The European Union agreed Monday to send hundreds of troops to the Central African Republic in a rare joint military mission aimed at ending months of sectarian violence.

Saying Europe was “deeply concerned by the extreme insecurity and instability” in the impoverished nation, EU foreign ministers gave “political approval” to the rapid deployment of a force expected to number between 400 and 600.

An EU-UN donors’ conference in Brussels meanwhile gathered \$496 million (365 million euros) in pledges this year for the country, where almost one million people, or 20 percent of the population, have been displaced by fighting.

As the European foreign ministers discussed what will be the EU’s first major ground operation in six years, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon warned the country was in “a crisis of epic proportions” and urged the world “to pull CAR back from the brink of further atrocities”.

“We face a political and humanitarian emergency in the Central African Republic,” said Sweden’s Foreign Minister Carl Bildt. “We clearly need to do something.”

The UN’s World Food Programme (WFP) said Monday it was running out of food for a growing



number of homeless people, with the spreading unrest hobbling distribution efforts.

The WFP said 38 trucks carrying rice were stuck at the Cameroon border with the drivers refusing to cross due to the threat of attacks.

“Suspending food distributions could lead to further tension, particularly among the 100,000 displaced people in the overcrowded Bangui airport camp,” the WFP warned.

The military mission is to help establish a safe and secure environment around the capital Bangui, where 1,000 people were reportedly killed last month alone in clashes between Christian and Muslim militias.

It will back up French and African forces and eventually hand over to African or UN peacekeepers after a four- to six-month period.

Britain, like Germany, has offered logistical support for the French operation but has repeatedly made clear it would not send troops.

New German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier praised France for dispatching 1,600 troops, saying: “We Europeans and neighbours should be grateful that France worked for avoiding worse incidents so far.”

Ireland’s top diplomat Eamon Gilmore said his country favoured “an intervention with UN support”.

The EU “bridging force” is likely to be asked to protect Bangui’s airport, where about 120,000 people have fled in fear of the inter-communal violence.

Once a UN mandate has been obtained for the mission, which may be approved as early as Thursday in New York, EU planners hope to get troops on the ground by late February, diplomats said.

Command would be handed to France with headquarters in Greece.

“We cannot be more pleased,” said French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. “Europe is going to come to the military support of the Central African Republic.”

For President Francois Hollande, under pressure at home, the decision will be welcome after he committed troops to France’s former colony and then sought EU support.

“An EU deployment now (will) offer Paris both some immediate operational benefits – freeing up French troops – and political relief,” said Richard Gowan of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

“It would at least show that the EU has not deserted France completely in Africa,” Gowan said.

At a late December EU leaders’ summit, Hollande had pressed his peers for a gesture of solidarity even if they did not want to commit troops on the ground.

So far, only the small Baltic nation of Estonia has offered troops, saying 55 could arrive in CAR in February to back up French efforts which had helped prevent a “humanitarian catastrophe”.

Poland, the Czech Republic, Belgium and Spain are the most likely to step up next, diplomatic sources said.

Along with the French, some 4,000 African troops are in CAR under a UN mandate, trying to end violence between Christian militias and ex-rebels who installed the country's first Muslim leader in a coup in March.

Last week the UN's humanitarian operations director warned the country risked descending into genocide.

The violence "has all the elements that we have seen elsewhere in places like Rwanda, Bosnia. The elements are there for a genocide, there is no question about that", director John Ging said.

Bangui mayor Catherine Samba-Panza was on Monday elected interim president by the transitional parliament, tasked with restoring peace and organising general elections by mid-2015.

### How Komla Dumor became the face of Africa

21 January 2014/bbc.co.uk

Following the untimely death of BBC presenter Komla Dumor, 41, BBC Africa editor Solomon Mugeru looks back at his short but brilliant career.

Komla Dumor was the face and the voice of Africa - a new young, enterprising, internationally connected, ambitious Africa, with a can-do attitude.

When pioneering the launch of Africa Business Report on BBC World News, he set out to challenge the stereotypical view of Africa. He was passionate about telling the story of how the continent was changing, of rapid economic growth and technological advances.

But he was not a praise-singer. He was determined to present a balanced story, warts and all, and to show the human face behind the headlines.

Even as a number of African countries were being heralded for being among the world's fastest-growing economies, he wanted to dig deeper.

For he knew that while in those countries a select few were wining and dining in five-star hotels and driving the latest luxury cars, in the same neighbourhood there were families struggling to live on \$1 (£0.60) a day.

"There must be balance or please, don't patronise me," he used to say.

Visiting oil-rich Angola in 2012, he made two memorable pieces - one at the country's Porsche dealership, the other with a woman who was using a wheelbarrow to fetch water. She only agreed to talk to him if he used his immense frame to help push the barrow for a while, which of course he did.

Although he was blessed with the voice, the face, the on-screen presence and the authority to be a broadcasting legend, he was an accidental journalist.  
Beating traffic jams

Born in Ghana to a family of academics, Komla set out to become not a journalist or broadcaster

but a doctor.

He had enrolled at Nigeria's University of Jos in the early 1990s to study medicine.

Unlike his brother Korshie, who went on to become a doctor, Komla abandoned the course and returned to Ghana for a fresh beginning. He took a degree course in sociology and psychology.

During a strike at the University of Ghana in 1998, KD, as he was known to his peers, saw a job advert for a traffic news reporter at the local Joy FM station and thought he would give it a go to earn some extra money.

His career in broadcasting was born.

He would do traffic news rounds on his scooter - telling listeners how to beat traffic jams - and then race to lecture halls for his lessons.

By the time Joy FM offered him the much-coveted role of hosting its morning show in 2000, Komla had become a household name.

While Komla thought his journey into broadcasting was an accident, friends say communication ran in the family DNA.

Natural choice

His mother Cecelia Dumor graduated with a Master's degree in mass communication.

She is thought to have moulded Komla's career in journalism before she died in 2007.

By that time, Komla's feet were firmly under the table at the BBC World Service.

His father, Ernest Dumor, was a professor of sociology.

The prominence of his family did not begin with the parents. His grandfather Philip Gbeho was a renowned musician. He was asked by the country's founding father Kwame Nkrumah to compose Ghana's national anthem following independence from the UK in 1957.

"He had a deep baritone voice and Komla seems to have inherited not just the voice but even his grandfather's body physique," says cousin Dzifa Bampoh.

Three years after joining the BBC's African service in 2006, Komla went on to present TV programmes.

After his success at Africa Business Report, Komla was the natural choice to host the BBC's flagship Focus on Africa TV programme in 2012 - its first TV news programme for the continent.

Once Komla was asked what he loved about Africa: "Its resilience. After all, we have been through, we are still here."

His extra-large size was commensurate with the passion with which he spoke about Africa.

At a Ted talk in 2013, he gave four points about telling the story of Africa. He wrapped up his presentation saying: "Hire the best talent to tell the story, or the view is great from my hotel."

Despite his towering figure, he never came across as intimidating - unless you were a politician with something to hide, being interviewed by him.

He loved people, because he believed stories are about people: to tell a story well, you need to understand people.

But he didn't see people in terms of contacts like some journalists. He saw people as human beings and collaborators in a mission to tell the African story.

This is why the Mandela family chose him to share their experience of losing their father and grandfather last year - and why they have now paid their own tribute to Komla.

A graduate of Harvard University with an MA in Public Administration, Komla married lawyer Kwansema in 2001.

They have three children: daughter Elinam Makafui (God has always been there for me, Praise him), aged 11; son Elorm Efadzinam (God loves me, he comforts my heart), eight; and daughter Emefa Araba (I am at peace), two.

International broadcasters, including the BBC, have often been accused of being coy to promote black African talent but with Komla, the BBC got it right, as he smashed through internal and external barriers. BBC TV now boasts many African presenters and reporters.

In his short career, he changed so much.

He will be sorely missed.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 21 Janvier 2014... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 21/01/2014

