

The Voice



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First complete African magazine published in The Netherlands since August 1999

***“Racism would
not disappear
over night”
- Lucinda Malbons***



***No water, no life
says
Marion van de Voort***





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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Voice magazine is published in the Netherlands by Stichting Paddi Europa and it is published online since 2016 around the world. It is registered at the Chamber of Commerce Amsterdam. The Voice aim to serve as a vital link among African readers in the Diaspora and we provide objective information and organizes opinion exchange among African people both in the continent and abroad. Thus it strives to foster and enhance complete understanding of developing countries problems and bring information to help address those issues. You can support this project now with as much as one euro a month to help keep publishing our digital copy for you.

TV MANAGEMENT

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NIGERIA AT 60! NIGERIA YET TO BE FIXED

Any one born at Nigeria's independence is 60 years old already and it is really a long time in human calculation as such a person if he or she is working in the civil service is close to retirement or beginning to prepare for a life in retirement in few years' time, probably 5 years more. Officially one is nearly completing his working life circle and life in retirement is gradually setting in where you spend more time with your grandchildren and spends time with your peer grounds in your rural home with fellow retirees, old age group mates if you are destiny to still be alive, taking things much easier.

This assertion cannot be said of Nigeria as a nation, the country seem to record more woes than success story, the country seem to be moving backward rather than moving forward, no signs of

the progress expected yet of a 60 year old nation! In many areas of the country's development, there is no good score for what has been accomplished either by the past administrations or the current administration, development is far-fetched and a far cry from what Nigerians expected from this government who

promised 'change' to the over 180,000 million people. Under President Muhammadu Buhari, the country seem to have lost direction, it is one excuse or another on why they can't get the country running again despite all their promises to fix Nigeria when they assume governance. Economically, Nigeria is performing very poorly and below expectations, the government can't cope with the growing population, unemployment, insecurity, food shortage, and dilapidated infrastructure across the country, poor healthy delivery service,



devaluation of the country's currency, poor and underfunded educational institutions, we can go on and on, the problems cut across the sectors of life of the nation; the people are losing patience with this current government. The fear now is what legacy will President Buhari leaves for Nigerians at the end of his eight years rule?

The security situation is unstable, Boko Haram and other terror groups- kidnappers, criminal

gangs are continually tormenting the ordinary citizens. Ask Nigerians what they think of Nigeria at 60! Not many have reason to celebrate except those at the corridor of power and benefiting from this government has positive things to say. Nigeria problems seem to be lack of will to correct the ills of the past.

President Buhari reputation for personal integrity has not translated into a descent administration as many of his cabinet are named in deep corruption allegations and misappropriation of public funds (we could write volumes on the wrongs of those associated with this government). Oil has ruined Nigeria because of poor management of the resources since discovery of oil to date. This is a blame on all past administrations including this one, most recently the government increased

the fuel price, despite the hardship on the people due to the Covid-19 crisis, event on that, it has not been properly managed as so much funds had gone into it and yet the virus continue to spread across the country. The legislative arm of the government has not helped matters while the judiciary has brought the nation on its knees. Education, health care, job, food, security, infrastructure, decent housing/accommodation

which are foundations of any nation to start building a decent future is lacking in Nigeria.

Well as they say, never too late to start again even at 60.

President Buhari should grab this opportunity in the remaining years of his administration to right a few wrongs if not all before he leaves office like his predecessors that their names are remembered for all the wrong reasons. Hopefully the people can reflect as well and keep hope alive that every citizen has a role to play in building a better society, to advance the destiny of Nigeria. No one man can fix Nigeria, it would take all Nigerians to take responsibility to play their role and play it well.

If you are not celebrating, then use the opportunity to reflect on how to make Nigeria improve and better for the generation yet unborn.

Enjoy your copy of the Voice news magazine for October 2020.

Leave us your comments, opinions, comments, letter to the Editor and feel free to contribute articles and feedbacks with us. We love to read from you.

Editor-in-Chief



Pastor Elvis Iruh
Editor-in-Chief

Stricter restrictions as Netherlands prepares for 5,000 daily coronavirus infections

The Netherlands can expect five thousand new infections of the SARS-CoV-2 novel coronavirus every day by next week, and because of that the government will implement stricter new restrictions on society which take effect on Tuesday at 6 p.m. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and Health Minister Hugo de Jonge introduced their updated plan on Monday to combat the second wave of coronavirus infections, and a five-fold increase in hospitalizations in less than a month.

The new restrictions include the possibility of employers being held responsible if a cluster of coronavirus infections affects employees. An impacted business can be shut down for up to two weeks, the Prime Minister said. Likewise, shopping should only be done if necessary, and should not be taken up as an outing.

“The most important news is that stricter national measures will be introduced from 6 pm tomorrow,” Rutte said on Monday night. “We have seen this situation arise in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. We are in danger of playing catch up with the virus. That is why we are continuing with national measures to again stop the virus.”

“We expect to see an increase to five thousand infections per day in more than a week, even with the measures we are taking now. What does not seem so bad today, could overburden the care in a month. There are now 142 people lying there, in intensive care, and we expect more than 400 occupied IC beds in October. “ Workers must be encouraged to work from home unless that is really an untenable situation, Rutte said. Aside from businesses being held responsible for infections among employees, the restrictions include the following:

- Restaurants and bars must close their doors to new customers at 9 p.m., and must be completely closed with no customers inside by 10 p.m.

- Up to 30 people will be allowed at indoor facilities, including children of all ages, but excluding staff.

No more than 40 people allowed for outdoors activities. This can be further limited regionally, Rutte said.

- Sporting events will not be allowed to be played in front of an audience, regardless if they are professional or amateur competitors’ are involved. Canteens at sports clubs must also remain closed.

- Visits inside the home, including in gardens and on balconies, will be limited to three guests. This limit excludes children aged 12 and under.

- Outside of the home, people will not be allowed in groups of more than four. The limit excludes children aged 12 and under. “This means that a reservation at a cinema or restaurant can be made for one household or a maximum of four people, excluding children,” the Cabinet said in a statement.

- Supermarkets are to have two specified shopping hours per day for the elderly and others in vulnerable health.

Retailers must maintain a 1.5-meter distance among everyone inside a store, and can tell people to leave for disobeying rules.

Those in professions where close contact takes place, such as



beauticians, therapists, and likely also sex workers, will be required to keep a registry of their customers’ contact information. This information must be passed on to the municipal health service if an infection occurs so that a source and contact investigation can be carried out.

Hospitality businesses will be required to register all guests.

Museums, monuments, libraries and other indoor spaces with a flow of visitors will be allowed to remain open but with limited access based on an amount of people per reservation time. This will be subject to change based on regions, the government said.

A standard number of visitors per square meter will be communicated to outdoor locations with a visitor flow, like zoos and markets.

“We ourselves have the responsibility to comply with the rules,” Rutte said. “Whether you are a customer or guest, you are responsible for complying with the rules on site. Mayors have the option to close places if that does not happen,” he said.

Schools are exempt from the rules, as are daycare facilities, funerals, and religious gatherings. Organizations will be allowed a maximum of 100 people per space for meetings which are crucial to the continuation of daily activities. Protests and demonstrations will also be exempt, as will some government meetings, and meetings of certain international organizations which are based in the Netherlands.

The number of coronavirus infections is increasing alarmingly in the Netherlands. Last week 17,857 people tested positive for Covid-19, including 2,999 on Sunday. The Netherlands set a new record for SARS-CoV-2 infections for six of the seven days last week. Over 2,900 more positive test results were disclosed by the RIVM on Monday. The country is currently one of the biggest coronavirus hotspots in Western Europe, according to a study by RTL Nieuws journalist Jasper Bunskoek.

On Sunday, hospitals in the Netherlands were treating 617 people for the coronavirus. That patient total was five times higher than on September 2, and has risen every day since that date. Last week’s rate of increase was 8.5 percent. If that continues, there will be 1,100 Covid-19 patients in Dutch hospitals by this coming Sunday, and 2 thousand within two weeks.

“We will decide for ourselves whether or not we get out from under the virus.

BOOK REVIEW

The Other Side of Fear

Uncertainty, anxiety and fear: only fictitious superheroes are exempted from this all-too human sequence. The trouble is that fear is paralyzing because it feeds our minds with negative thoughts. In a second, fear can turn the idea of courage into one of recklessness, and then it's all downhill to a point where determination is put aside in favour of 'playing it safe.' Sadly, fear can stop you from doing anything slightly risky. It'll keep you locked up in the prison of the comfortable and predictable where you're more likely to die of boredom than might from any of the dangers you fear. So, what's to be done? The simple answer is that risk-taking and adaptability are as much part of our human heritage as uncertainty-inspired fear. It's finding a balance that matters most. Fear is a useful tool for making better life-directing decisions, but fear must never be allowed to control the direction of your life. That way you lose the opportunity of reaching your true potential. I hope this book will inspire you to transcend your fears and achieve all of your dreams.

The greatest prison you can live in is the prison of your own fears. Nothing of value can be achieved when we allow fear to control our life. Grab a copy of "The other side of fear" be inspired to live above your fears. You can purchase E-book & paperback on amazon.

First and foremost, I want to thank God for guiding my every step towards completing this project and to every other

person who contributed to this. I've learned that if we can find the courage to begin something, God will empower & enable us to complete

the task. There's nothing we cannot accomplish if we are determined enough. I was inspired to write this book because fear has kept a lot of people locked up in the prison of comfort. Too many people are living in a self-made prison of their own fears, they are stuck, unable to move forward and achieve their meaningful dreams. Fear has the power to limit your greatness, and blind you from seeing the opportunities that lies ahead of you. Everything you desire is on the other side of your fear, don't stay trapped behind the walls of your fear for the rest of your life. It's time to move towards your fears instead for trying to avoid them. I can confidently tell you that this book will inspire and challenge you to transcend your fears. And also provide principles to help you on the journey.

Grab a copy of this book to bless yourself, a friend or a loved one. You can read online, download, & order hard copies of this book online click on the link.

www.amazon.com/Other-Side-Fear-M-K-Slim-ebook/dp/B088RKSDW7/ref=sr_1_8?

Thank you

By M.K. Slim

About M.K. Slim

For much of my life, I've been fully committed to my music career, but I'm also an entrepreneur and a budding writer. I'm very motivated and mentally resilient: a genuinely optimistic person who believes that anything can be achieved if I'm determined enough. I strive to create a positive impact in the lives of those around me and I believe the highest of human acts is to inspire others to reach their potential.

I strive to inspire as many people as I can. I'd like others to say of me, "Because you didn't give up, I can do the same." That's the legacy I hope to leave behind when I die.





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"AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR HE WHO COMES TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO SEEK HIM" HEBREWS 11:6

GOD IS IN CONTROL

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What would you like to know? Our vision?

Which activities we organize? Or would you like to hear testimonies about how we follow God? One thing is certain, we would like to get to know you and therefore you are more than welcome to visit one of our services in this new year 2020. You can visit us every day of the week as there is a Resident Pastor available to your demand.

You may have been a believer for many years already. Or you might still be searching for the meaning of life and asking yourself whether or not there is God. Within Victory Outreach Almere we would like to help you find the answer. We will gladly teach you through the help of the Holy Spirit the exact meaning of "a living faith". With us you will truly see

and experience the supernatural power of the living God. You can always count on love and comfort when you need it. You will discover that we have a wonderful diversity of people with lots of different backgrounds, characters and personalities. But there is one thing we have in common. We all follow the same God, Jesus Christ.

In that diversity and love for God, we are a family where you are more than welcome.

We personally hope to meet you during one of our services. God bless you as you come in Jesus Christ name. Amen

Signed:

Pastor Roel & Ida van Rooij

Senior Pastors

Victory Outreach Almere.

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Thank you for your usual cooperation.

TV Management.

Dele Momodu's Shameful Promotion Of Dino Melaye's Insanity

Dele Momodu, a hustler who is parading himself as a journalist has again demeaned his person and exposed himself as a pure charlatan whose belly is his god.

Last month, Momodu was at the Abuja mansion of the hedonist Dino Melaye where he showcased his prized earthly possessions which depict crass display of opulence in a most debased manner. If Dino is notorious for engaging in frivolities and other inanities, Momodu diminished his rating and esteem by descending into gutter level of Dino.

The question is - What are the journalistic, social benefits of Momodu's promotion of Dino's wealth to the society? If he had asked Dino how he managed to amass wealth without any alternative address aside politics, Momodu's trip would have been not entirely worthless.

But alas, in his characteristic style of promoting wealth without labour and hero-worshipping apparently corrupt individuals, Dele Momodu was seen in the video hailing and massaging Dino's ego. Shamefully, he defended his despicable trip as a celebrity journalism voyage. On the contrary, celebrity



journalism is not promotion of filthy lucre and packaging of rogues as heroes. That's Momodu's peat. He can package a



devil as an angel and taint a saint as a sinner once you can afford his bills. That is not journalism. Dele Momodu is a hireling! Nothing more! Recall how he sold the Diezani story as a victim that needed mercy and not justice. In time past, the pages of his vanity photo album called Ovation Magazine celebrated vicious leaders like Abacha, IBB and other mean leaders. All that matters is money. He is not interested in building a worthy name and a lasting legacy. He has no abiding faith in any cause. He changes like weather. He was once in bed with Muhammadu Buhari in 2015, when the milk was not flowing as expected he jumped ship and started hailing Atiku as the Messiah. It is Dino today, don't be surprised if you see Dele Momodu in the billionaire kidnapper Evans' mansion if he gets off the hook.

Is it not disgraceful that a 60-year old former presidential candidate could descend to a video boy filming Dino's unexplainable, curious possessions.

Bob Dee should bury his head in shame!

By Dabira Olorunfemi.

He is a public Affairs Analyst. He writes via Dabiraolorunfemi@gmail.com from Lagos, Nigeria.

Editor's Note: What do you the readers make of his reaction to Chief Dele Momodu coverage of Dino Melaye's mansion and the content of his house and shown to the public.

Let us read your reactions please. TV

APPRECIATION TO MR. TEEJAY GBENGA OKUNLOLA

For the past sixteen (16) years, Mr. Gbenga Teejay Okunlola worked as a Correspondent for the Voice magazine in Bulgaria and later he moved to United Kingdom where he studied law and he continued to work for The Voice magazine. He rose to become our First Bureau Chief of The Voice magazine with his base in London, United Kingdom. He contributed to editorial and business development of The Voice magazine. He was actively involved with our project, The Voice Achievers Award promoting it across the world. He has recommended high profile personalities to be recognized. He was a dedicated staff until his decision to set up and start his own publication with his team. A-Choices magazine as he choose to call it has the potential to succeed and impact the media world. On behalf of our management team, we congratulate Mr. Okunlola on this great step and we wish him all the success he would require on this journey. Thank you for your faithful and loyal service to The Voice magazine as you continue to support The Voice magazine.

Signed:

Pastor Elvis Iruh , Publisher of The Voice magazine on behalf of the management.



A-CHOICES MAGAZINE



www.a-choicesmagazine.com

Hello,

Welcome to the first edition of A-Choices Magazine. We are here to shine a spotlight on all that is great about Africa. This is a multi-platform magazine published in print, online and as a digital page turner. So, whether you love the feel of a high-quality print magazine, or prefer to do your reading on a mobile device or laptop, A-Choices has got all bases covered. A-Choices hopes to entertain, empower and inspire Africans around the world. We wanted to showcase our identity as a publication by highlighting the unique and interesting stories of young creatives in Africa and the Diaspora. By telling their unique stories, we are sharing our identity with you as a digital publication that highlights the best of young modern Africa and all its potential. We want to show our readers a different side of Africa than what is shown in the global media. There is so much growth and change happening across the continent as Africa re-emerges onto the world stage. I also hope this publication can open the

lines of communication between those in the Diaspora and Africans at home. By bridging the gap between the two communities, the opportunities for progress and success are endless. My hope is that with every issue we carve out a space online where the next generation can tell their stories, get inspired, raise awareness, and find opportunities to better themselves and their communities. I believe that there is something for everyone in this issue and hope you enjoy the read! We would love to get your feedback about this edition and to hear what we should be featuring in future editions. If you enjoy any of the stories and features please share them via social media, adding the hashtag#A-Choices

Thank you.

Gbenga TJ Okunlola
Editor-in-Chief



DISCLAIMER

FROM THE VOICE NEWS MAGAZINE

Dear readers, friends, colleagues and families, kindly be informed that last month, we got a call from our Executive Managing Editor of Nigerian Voice that one of our email accounts had been compromised. After full investigation, I discovered that someone or group of people have been using the personal email account of the Publisher, Pastor Elvis Iruh (elvisiruh@gmail.com) to send out emails to our clients' accounts requesting them to make financial donations towards the

corona virus crisis to help people. We completely and totally distance our publisher from such mails. We are told there is an attachment; kindly do not open it as we do not know the content of the attachment. No time have our organization or the publisher solicited or asked for a penny to support or fight corona virus crisis or any other project during this period. It is not in our character to ask for donations or support in such a manner. Those who know us know how to support our activities. Please ignore any of such mails and you can help repost it as well on your social media network because we have thousands of people on our contact email list that we cannot reach everyone. Similarly they are trying to contact persons/organizations via telephone calls, with all sort of excuses, please do not fall for it, they are fraudsters. SECOND FRAUD TACTICS BEING USED NOW.

Also we have severally received messages

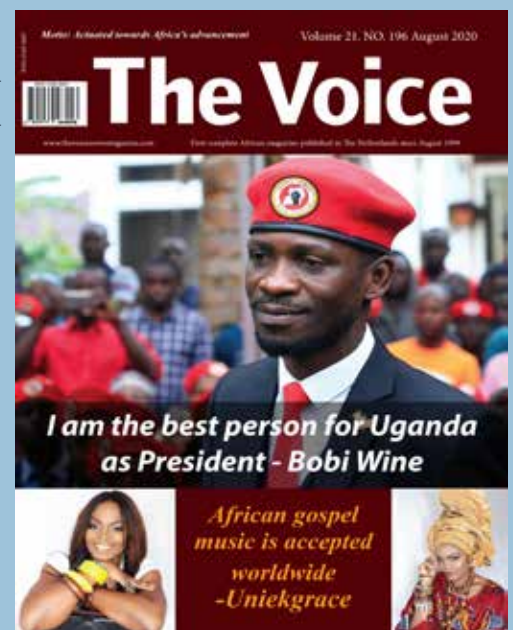
through social media that our Publisher's name has randomly been picked and he has won 5,000 dollars to support his charity works. He did not fall for it because they sent him a message that he should send them his credit card details including his secured code numbers. Then he knew they were fraudsters, he didn't apply for support and he didn't play lottery so how could he have won 5,000 dollars? Never give your secured CODE to any person if you are not doing a direct transaction with a company or buying a product or service that you trust and know the source of it.

BE CAREFUL THIS TIME AROUND, THERE ARE GREEDY WOLVES OUT THERE TO GET AT YOU.

BE WARNED AND STAY SAFE

TV MANAGEMENT

The Voice News magazine



AMSTERDAM STALLS STOP-AND-SEARCH PLANS

An Amsterdam proposal to experiment with stop-and-search actions in the fight against gun violence in the city has been postponed. The experiment will only be discussed again after a planned weapons hand-in campaign in November 2020, Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema said in a short letter to the city council.

Halsema announced the plan to experiment with stop-and-search late in August 2020, following a number of violent incidents that month. Left-wing parties in the city immediately raised concerns. GroenLinks, D66, DENK, Pvd and Bij1 requested an emergency debate on the matter.

That debate was set to happen last month. But Mayor Halsema said that she first wants to discuss the conditions of the experiment with the Amsterdam police and Prosecutor again before a debate.

“On closer inspection there is more reason to work

out the conditions of the experiment in the triangle [of mayor, police and prosecutor] first,” Halsema said in her letter. After that, she will discuss it with the city council.



Rwanda’s Kagame appoints first woman director of intelligence

Rwanda’s President Paul Kagame last month appointed Lynder Nkuranga as the Director of External Intelligence, becoming the first woman to be named to the post in the country.

The position, under the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), has previously been exclusively held by military men as with most top positions in the army and police. She replaces Col (Rtd) Anaclet Kalibata, who also served as the country’s long-serving director-general of the Emigration and Immigration till 2018.

Ms Nkuranga, 40, has served in the Rwanda National

Police (RNP) for over ten years, rising steadily through the ranks. Prior to her new appointment, she served as the Commissioner for Cooperation and Protocol, and she was the only woman in the Police Command Structure made up of 36 senior police officers.

She is also the second woman to rise through the ranks of the force after the retired former police chief, Mary Gahonzire, who was a long-serving Deputy Commissioner-General of Police, prior to her short stint as acting Commissioner-General in 2009, then as Commissioner of Prisons in 2010.

Ms Nkuranga holds a master’s degree in peace and conflict studies, and also completed a Senior Command and Staff Course at the Musanze Police College.

By IVAN R. MUGISHA



“I will not stand in 2021” says Dr. Kizza Besigye



Dr. Besigye: I will not stand in 2021 presidential elections in Uganda

The Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) founding President, Dr. Kizza Besigye has officially confirmed that he will not be on the ballot in 2021 ending speculations as to whether he will pick nomination forms to challenge President Museveni for the fifth time.

Speaking at the FDC headquarters in Najjanankumbi, Dr. Besigye said the time had come to rally behind other people in the struggle to remove Museveni from power. Dr. Besigye arrived at Najjanankumbi amid speculation and ululations from gallant party youth who first refused him to address them without picking nomination forms. Some of the youths had gone ahead to print posters of Besigye being on the ballot but he had a shocker for them all. The situation however normalised minutes later and Dr. Besigye closed the party's nomination process with a keynote address where he said that he will support the FDC candidate, but he won't contest.

Dr. Besigye said: “Today I came to be part of you as we flag off the process of ‘Channel A’ to continue. I can tell you that I have every confidence in our leaders.”

Dr. Besigye said that he is still in the struggle and will fight President Museveni on two fronts which he named Channel A and Channel B. “Some will be operating in Channel A, and others in Channel B but Channel B will support Channel A,” Dr. Besigye said.

According to Dr. Besigye, Channel A is the rightful and legitimate party process of fronting a presidential candidate

in the 2021 elections and Channel B will include all change-seeking Ugandans. Dr. Besigye added however that there are many unknowns that the public will know going forward.

So far party president, Patrick Amuriat and Wasswa Birigwa, the national chairman, have picked forms to contest for in the party's presidential flag bearer race.

Before he closed, Dr. Besigye also reiterated that he won the 2016 elections and should be the legitimate President of Uganda, not Museveni. Dr. Besigye, who is a consistent contender against President Museveni garnered 35.4 per cent of the vote while Museveni was declared winner with 60.8 per cent in 2016. President Museveni's victory was later upheld by the Supreme Court despite

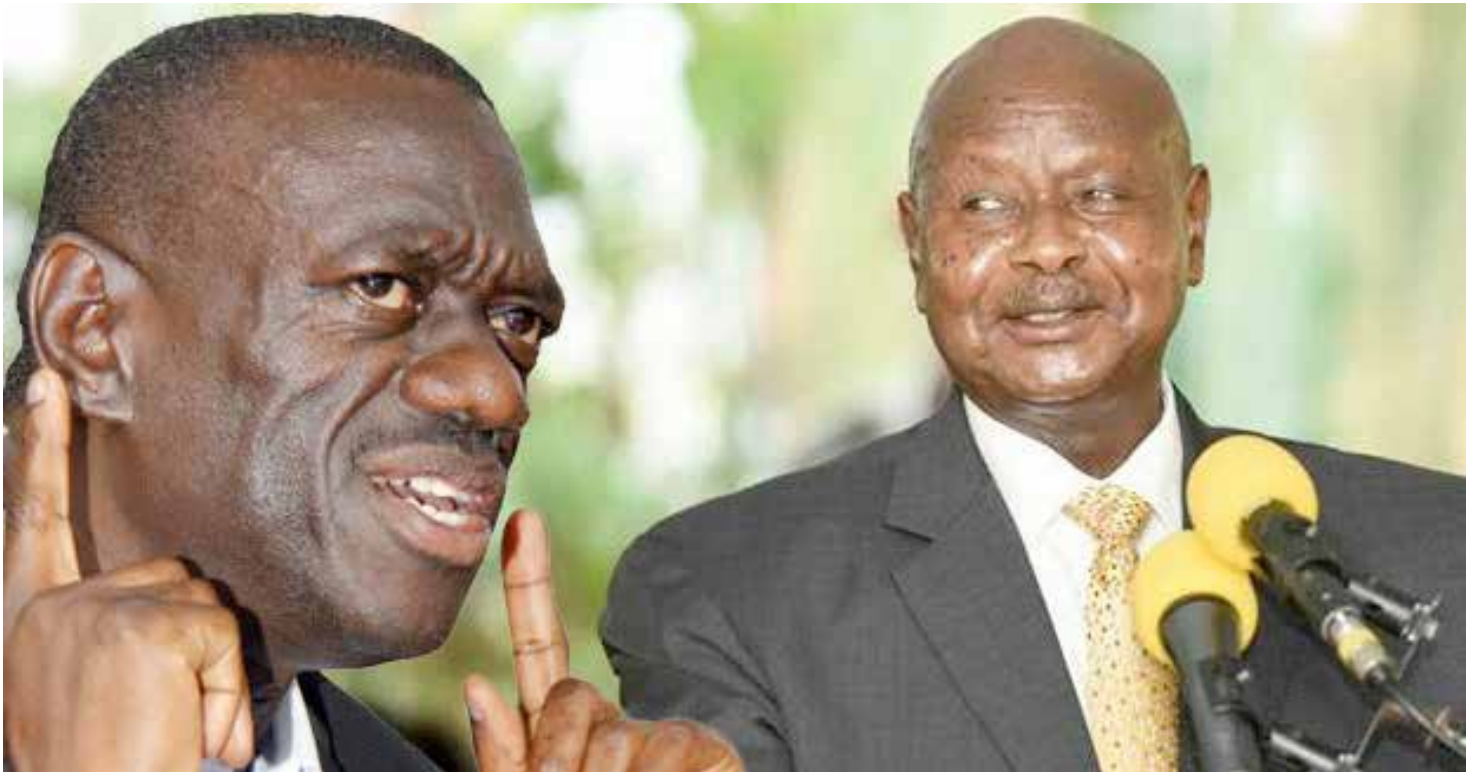
protests from the public. However, the FDC candidate would later declare himself president at a ceremony



where he was sworn in. He was consequently arrested and charged with treason, a charge that is still pending in court. He has continued to be put under house arrest and harassed whenever he makes effort to move around the country or address a public gathering.

Dr. Besigye last month claimed that he is the legitimate President of Uganda, having won the elections. “The regime took over our machines here and for three weeks they occupied our offices to capture the evidence we had that we had won the elections, but they did not succeed,” Dr. Besigye claimed.

“I can assure you that the greatest number of forms is in our



possessions, we can use them to demonstrate to any body that we won the elections,” he added. Dr. Besigye claimed that he put it to Museveni to allow an audit of the elections to determine who was the winner but the latter developed cold feet.

“We wanted an audit of the elections, our friends the swedes offered help. We even signed an Mou to audit. Museveni chickened out of the audit after realizing he did not win,” Dr. Besigye said.

In 2018, President Museveni and Besigye signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing on five key issues to determine talks between the two. The talks were supposed to be facilitated by Sweden’s State Secretary Annika Söde.

“Museveni is illegitimate as a leader of this nation. I was taken to jail for declaring to be a winner, I told court to charge me,” Dr. Besigye reported

“It is now five years and we are going into another election, I have never been tried. I am still a prisoner of treason. They don’t want the truth to come out,” he added.

Dr. Besigye also claimed the Electoral Commission headed by Simon Byabakama is illegitimate and only a puppet of President Museveni. “The EC itself is illegitimate because it has been set up by an illegitimate man. And he continues to tamper with it. Museveni shouldn’t be on the ballot today,” he added.

No one know yet what are his Channel A & B plans, he would be throwing more light as the election draws closer but his name would be missed on the ballot as has been witnessed in the past four elections where he continually came second to President Museveni.

By Jonah Kirabo
Courtesy of Nile Post



Dr. Kizza Besigye addressing party followers



Without water there is no life says Marion van de Voort

Marion van de Voort is a special woman in ramifications, very energetic, enthusiastic in all she does. She is the founder of Foundation Pamoja Kenia. An organization she established after a short holiday to Kenya. In her own words, “I fell in love with this country and I decided to

contribute to its development in a constructive way”.

Since then she has been involved in all sorts of projects to provide drinkable water, clean sanitary environment as she builds wells, toilets and creating business opportunities for local entrepreneurs by creating an online shop to assist them to sell their products mostly crafts made by hand. Since 2011, she has fully committed herself to raising funds for all kinds of projects and working with the local communities across Kenya. She has become the white Kenyan woman known. Sometime last year, she presented a documentary of her work so far in Kenya to her Dutch Board, partners and friends and it was impressive what we saw at the video presentation. “I am committed to the foundation on a daily basis”

Despite not wanting extra attention apart from his work, she has been and still being recognized with various awards for the wonderful work she is doing in Kenya. During The Voice Achievers Award in 2017 in Amsterdam, Marion van de Voort received an Award for her effort in Kenya. In 2018 Marion received yet another Award from VBM business club in The Hague. The same year (2018), Marion received an Award during the conference of All Ladies League & Woman Economic Forum in The Hague. And in 2019, in Kenya where she has made a great impact, for the second time, the Voice Achievers award recognized her. It has not been easy to pin her down for an interview and she often do not like to talk about herself except for her works. We promised her the interview will focus on her work and business activities therefore she agreed. The lock down meant we could not have a facial interview so we did the interview via online communication.

Enjoy our interview with Marion van de Voort.



TV: Introduce yourself to our readers please?

Marion: My name is Marion van de Voort. I am Dutch living in The Hague in The Netherlands. I run a foundation in Kenya, we provide communities with Water & Sanitation. Because I personally believe, that everybody in the world needs access to WATER, a hygienic toilet and a clean shower. Next to that I am an entrepreneur for over 20 years and I have a consultancy business firm where I give consultancy to Kenyans/Africans living in the Diaspora and support African artists in managing and promoting their work.

TV: You are Dutch but engaged with Africa particularly Kenya, tell our readers how this relationship started?

Marion: After traveling around the world to different continents for many years I was on holiday in Kenya and I fell in love with the country. I had seen so much poverty but what I saw in Kenya touched my heart deeply and with my (small) savings I decided to do something about this. My dream is to work in more African countries and provide communities with Water and Sanitation.

TV: What has changed over the years from your traveling to Kenya and back to the Netherlands?

Marion: As for myself and for Africa and Kenyan people, I feel and people see me as part of them - an African. I am always lumping on two legs. When I am in Kenya I want to go to The Netherlands and when I am in The Netherlands I want to be in Kenya. That is probably because of my roots because my father is from Egypt (he died when I was a baby) and my mother is a Dutch. There is not origin connection. I don't particularly feel myself a Kenyan I feel myself more 'African' because I am not focused on one country. I

TV: Have you faced racial indifference during your visits to Kenya?

Marion: Not really, of course they see me as a 'mzungu' but because I am me (genuine) what you see is what you get, I am not arrogant and I treat people with respect in every way possible and I speak kidogo (little) Swahili, this all helps a lot to not experience direct racial indifference. I am definite it has happened to me but I never recognized it over the 10 years I am working in Kenya.

TV: How will you describe the Dutch environment compared to your experience in Kenya?

Marion: If you mean related to racial situations, personally I have always felt like an outsider in The Netherlands. Me as a person have no experience with racial issues. I am a total mix, the ancestors of my mother came from France and Belgium



Marion in one of the open market helping to sell her Kenyan crafts to support the people.

and from my father from Egypt. Two years ago my DNA was established and I even have 2% of Nigerian in my DNA!! If you mean related to the way of living, then of course The Netherlands is well organized, safe for a woman (so far), many possibilities to develop yourself, no stress of surviving and The Netherlands is a nice and comfortable country to live. Kenya is awesome but of course a total different culture, way of living. Business wise you can develop yourself very good if you get the opportunity. It is a 'Pamoja' (together) society and here everybody is 'self focused'. Both sides has it advantages and challenges and disadvantages. Totally two different ways of living.

TV: Have you ever visited another African country apart from Kenya and what is the experience like for you?

Marion: Actually only Tanzania for 4 days and Tunisia. My dream is to travel to other African countries but I didn't had the opportunity yet. My plan is to travel to Rwanda next year.



Marion supporting a charity work in Kenya through Optiven

never put myself in one group. I like to mingle with different people from different nationalities all over Africa and all over the world. For me multi culturalism is a natural thing we are all one, no matter what colour, religion, gender or etc. Racism, judgement or discrimination doesn't appear in my dictionary.

Continued on Page 20

TV: So many discussions on racism here in the Netherlands. How does that make you feel with your relationship with Africans?

Marion: When Barack Obama won the elections 2 times, I was crying (especially at the first time). Justice was finally done and there!! That more or less answers your question. Never in my entire life have I ever understood racism and discrimination. To me everybody is equal. How can you judge somebody on the colour of his or her skin? In the western world we all pay a lot of money to get a sun bath in places that are naturally hot, so what are we talking about! A bit simple maybe but that is how I see it. To be honest, I am very proud that people see me as an 'African' and that I am accepted in the African community I feel privileged and I am blessed.

TV: You are doing several projects in Kenya particularly in the area of drinking water and sanitation, building toilets. Why this line of projects for the people?

Marion: NO WATER NO LIFE! Personally I find, that everybody needs access to WATER, a hygienic toilet and a clean shower. For us it is a normal thing to open the tap and have WATER. Millions of people in the world don't have this, which is unbelievable. With our projects we want to create awareness in the world. We can't change the whole world but one drop on a hot plate is better than no drop at all.

TV: How do the communities receive you?

Marion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvIQ6In2LmM&t=4s>

When you watch this video you have the full answer. In other words, the communities are very happy with the provision of Water and Hygiene especially in these difficult Corona times. They see a



reduction of diseases such as cholera and typhoid. So what they always say is, that they respect me and bless me. But if it wasn't for Mr. Philip Kahindi, our supervisor in Kenya, we would never have reached so far and be so successful. He is the driving engine behind

our foundation in Kenya.

TV: How do you fund these projects from the Netherlands?

Marion: That is a big challenge and a lot of stress but I learned to like and to deal with this Challenge. First you always have to arrange a basic capital and that is the most difficult part. That requires a lot of effort. Many people think I have a huge bank account and that money is just there. But believe and trust me, that is absolutely not the case. To find donors is just calling, approaching, searching, working, working and etc. Once you have a basic capital you can start asking for subsidize via organizations. The more 'basic' capital you have the more donors will sponsor

you.

It is a win-win situation. It is running a business. I am an entrepreneur for more than 20 years so I know the drill and I can tell you, it is not easy. But it is my work, my job and my passion.

TV: Few years back, you were recognized by The Voice Achievers Award. How was that experience for you?

Marion: THAT WAS GREAT!! I was overwhelmed, stunned and amazed and in my wildest dreams I never expected that. I am just doing my job! After this recognition my life went into a roller coaster and since that time I have received several more awards. It is truly amazing. I am therefore forever grateful to The Voice Achievers Award to believe in



my work and what I/we do! Normally we do 2 projects per year, this year we have done 5 projects!! We have provided like 6000-8000 people with WATER, a hygienic toilets and a clean showers!!

TV: Do you have contact with the Diaspora African audience in Holland?

Marion: Yes, I do. I know a lot Kenyan/African people living in The Netherlands and all over the world. I am very international orientated. It is very interesting. I am also proud of being a Dutch. Because we are, what I can say according to what I have seen in the world, the most democratic and liberal country in the entire world. Basically we all threat people good wherever they come from. We find humanity one of the most important topics in live.



Board members of the Pamoja Kenia

TV: Is there any form of collaboration with you and other Africa Diaspora organizations in Holland?

Marion: Not directly but indirectly. I sometimes work with Capacity Africa, I promote African Artists because I love arts, music and movies, that is my other side, my creative side. That is one of the things in life where I get inspiration from. And of course The Voice team.

TV: The corona virus crisis seems to have slowed down many projects. Has it in any way affected your projects in Holland or in Kenya?

Marion: Absolutely not, actually the opposite way. We are stunned. Like I mentioned before normally we do 2 projects per year and this year we have done 5 projects. That means we have done a total of 12 projects so far. Next year www.pamoja-kenya.com exists for 10 years and that calls for a celebration. We would see how that goes with the Corona situation and it will be celebrated somewhere in November 2021.

TV: What are your plans for the future?

Marion: That is a tricky question, ha, ha. So far, I will proceed the way I am doing now which suits me well. But there are some (new) developments in different ways so be prepared in the media and on Social Media to hear about it.

TV: What do you expect from the African people both on the continent and in the Diaspora?

Marion: That they keep on supporting us on Social Media and wherever way they could. That they create awareness in the world. That they never neglect to help their families back home for a better life. Because with a little help they can create miracles back home. That they never forget their roots. That they realize life outside Africa is very, very tough for Africans and when they arrive here, no matter their background, they have to start all over again.

TV: Lastly what would be your advice to those reading your interview?

Marion: Follow your heart, follow your intuition, believe in yourself, be proud of yourself and most importantly of all : NEVER GIVE UP!! Make your dreams come true and be patient.

Continued on Page 22

Continued from Page 21

TV: Thank you for your time

Marion: Thank you very much for always supporting our foundation and myself.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FOUNDATION
PAMOJA KENIA**

Pamoja Kenia depends on financial support of others therefore they raise funds through donations, events and crowd funding. They also have a web shop with products

handmade in Kenya. 35-50% of the revenue from the web shop goes to their current projects. At Pamoja Kenia you are always assured that your gift will actually be spent on projects that benefit the local population.

Visit their website at www.pamoja-kenya.com

Tel: +316 54658978|

E-mail: info@pamoja-kenya.com



**I've Never Seen People React So Passionately,
Obaseki Speaks Of Victory**

Mr Godwin Obaseki is still basking in the euphoria of victory in the recently concluded governorship election in Edo State.

Obaseki, who contested under the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) polled 307,955 votes to defeat his closest rival, Osagie Ize-Iyamu of the All Progressives Congress (APC), who garnered 223,619 to win a second term as governor of Edo State.

Reacting to his victory during an interview on Channels Television's News At 10 on Sunday, the governor said his victory didn't come as a surprise to him.

Describing his feeling, Obaseki said he is so excited by the show of love and support from different people across the state.

According to him, he has never seen citizens of Edo State react so spontaneously with such excitement.

"I feel very happy just watching the responses, reactions from citizens of Edo State across board. For me, I have never seen a group of people react so spontaneously with such excitement," he said.



When asked on his plans to reconcile friends and associates who are aggrieved with the outcome of the election, Governor Obaseki said his doors are always open.

The governor also said his major rival in the contest, Ize-Iyamu had yet to congratulate him on the election victory.

With the elections over, Obaseki admitted that there is so much work to be done in the next four years, adding that his administration is ever ready to partner with his opponents on how to move the state forward.

"There is so much work ahead of us. I believe there is room for

everybody to contribute. My doors are wide open for talks and consultations," he added

Kenya woman's ordeal highlights newly identified sex trafficking route

This is a sad story and ordeal of young Kenyan woman tricked into traveling abroad with the promise of a better paying job as domestic worker. This is her story – (J is initial of her real name to protect her from any form of harm by this organized trafficking gangs in Kenya and elsewhere in East Africa).

J's cousin promised her a well-paid job in India as a

and lodging expenses, she said in an interview on her return from her ordeal in Nairobi, Kenya.

In the past year, the International Organization of Migration (IOM) repatriated at least 12 Kenyan women

who had been trafficked to India, the first time it said it had been asked to help Kenyans there.

Most Kenyans who have been trafficked end up in the Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia, according to Kenya's National Crime Research Center, which did not have a more specific country-by-country breakdown available. Very often in the past few years, reports of Kenyan women being abused and enslaved in those Arab countries make the headlines.

Now IOM worries that the economic fallout of the corona virus lock down in East Africa will make people more vulnerable to exploitation, at home or abroad. Nearly a third of low-income Nairobi residents lost their jobs in the past months, and another 15% who had been self-employed are without work, a July 2020 survey from Nairobi-based market research firm Tifa Research showed.

IOM flew J home weeks before Kenya's closure of its borders against the spread of the corona virus. The borders have since reopened from August 1st 2020. "With the economic losses that we are experiencing as a result of the pandemic we are potentially going to see more cases (of people) being trafficked or re-trafficked," said Sharon Dimanche, head of the IOM in Kenya.

J, who had been diagnosed with cancer and had leapt at the chance to save money for treatment, said her experience shows that Kenyans should be wary of job offers abroad. "I never thought I would get back to see my kids," she said. "When they took me to the embassy, I could not believe I am going to see my family again and not return in a coffin."

Reporting by Ayenat Mersie.

Editing by Katharine Houreld and Philippa Fletcher



housekeeper. Instead, she found herself in a brothel in India until the United Nations brought her home to Kenya when it was alerted that she was a victim of the human trafficking trade.

When she got there, her passport was confiscated and she was forced into sex work to pay off \$9,000 her traffickers demanded she owe them for bringing her over to India. This criminal gang is composed mainly of fellow East Africans. They told her she owed them this amount for her traveling



Happy Birthday to MARVIN KUZU IRUH

For my Brother, Marvin Kuzi Iruh
(SlimHussle Daking) on your birthday.
Every birthday gets a little more special. Maybe that's because family gets more important as we get older. Today it's especially important that you know how much I love you as a brother.
May you always be as bright and happy as you are today! The most heartfelt birthday wishes to my little brother! May every day of your life be blessed with hope, prosperity, and love! You are destiny for the top, so keep trusting the Lord and he would bring it all to past in Jesus Christ name.
Love on behalf of my family and your brothers and sisters of Samuel Iruh clan.

SIGNED

Pastor Ndubuisi Elvis Iruh
For: The family



Happy Birthday to UGONNE MERCY IRUH

Our beautiful model and the youngest of my siblings, my Dad's special jewel at his senior age, Mercy Ugonne Iruh is a year older on 15th September 2020 and on behalf of my family, all my friends and well-wishers, we congratulate her on this special occasion of your birthday.

You are a shining star in the family and still growing and rising.

Our prayer is for God Almighty to keep you growing in knowledge and wisdom, helping you to make the right choices in life and bringing you to the top.

God will grant you good life and you would live to fulfill destiny in Jesus Christ name. Amen.

Ugonne, me and my family love you very much and happy birthday celebration to you and countless years to come in Jesus Christ name.

AMEN.

Doing the Unexpected

BREAKING BARRIERS! —————



By Eva Nakato

By 2022, the GDP per capita income of the East African country of Uganda is projected to be at USD938.

This might look exciting but it is nonetheless an evidential proof of the prevailing poverty at household level in the developing country.

Consequently, access to quality education is a challenge to most households in the rural areas and for the urban poor due to liberalization

of the economy. Guess what, she's now a graduate of Journalism and Mass Communication and she has also been able to build a house for herself and her family!

Having acknowledged that making it to university is an uphill task for the girl child, making it out of university is even more challenging. There are lots of temptations awaiting them. It is even worse for young women from poor backgrounds as their counterparts from well to do families live luxurious lives while making them feel ashamed of their backgrounds. Rich men are also present around the university waiting to take advantage of these poor girls' vulnerability.

Christine Turamuh are got admitted to Makerere University Business School to pursue a degree in International Business Studies as a privately sponsored student. This was a dream come true for her.

Unfortunately, her family could only afford to cater for her tuition fees. Giving up was one of the options available to Christine. She however chose to do the unthinkable; she resorted to moping rich people's houses as well as doing laundry for them at a fee. She used the money raised to pay for her accommodation, feeding and other necessities. Through social media and friends she has been able to scout for more clients and has even started up her own company. As of now, she's yet to get done with her undergraduate degree but she's steadily on her way to financial freedom and stability! Right from university hopes are always high for the fresh graduates. The reality is that things are very tricky in the job market. As per the World Bank report, there are 13million Ugandans that are within the working age population. Another recent World Bank report titled 'Uganda Jobs Strategy Inclusive Growth' also shows that an average 661,129 new Ugandans enter the job market every year. This high number coupled with the limited job slots available

is responsible for the alarming unemployment rates among fresh graduates. After university, Sandra Muhindo was unemployed for a couple of years. She had to figure out a way of bringing food to the table. She began cleaning people's compounds then later diversified to cleaning roof tiles to earn a living. She faced criticism and mockery from both men and women due to the nature of her job. She didn't give up and she's now proud of being able to contribute greatly to the sustenance of her family alongside her husband. Look no further fellow women, the secret lies in thinking outside the box

is responsible for the alarming unemployment rates among fresh graduates.

After university, Sandra Muhindo was unemployed for a couple of years. She had to figure out a way of bringing food to the table. She began cleaning people's compounds then later diversified to cleaning roof tiles to earn a living. She faced criticism and mockery from both men and women due to the nature of her job. She didn't give up and she's now proud of being able to contribute greatly to the sustenance of her family alongside her husband. Look no further fellow women, the secret lies in thinking outside the box

Eva Nakato is a Ugandan based writer and she wants to read from you so write her through info@thevoicenewsmagazine.com



Sharon Mbabazi alias 'Sharon the Brick girl'

of the economy.

For the girl child, there are even more challenges. From being expected to carry out domestic work such as house chores before heading to school, there are hundreds of other obstacles that stand in their way. In fact, out of every 10 young girls of school going age, only 6 of them are able to make it beyond high school as compared to their male counterparts.

Bill Gates, one of the richest people in the world once opined that it is never one's fault to be born poor. He went on to state that if one should die poor, and then the blame should be attributed to that person. What he meant was that life has a lot to offer in between birth and death of an individual and that it is incumbent upon every individual to make his or her life better.

Some young women in Uganda have by coincidence followed Bill Gate's approach and made news headlines for their outstanding attitude towards life. They have refused to give in to self-pity or even allow themselves to drown in poverty. Sharon Mbabazi alias 'Sharon the Brick girl' is one of such young women. Tears form in her eyes as she remembers an incident where she had to lay bricks just to raise 1000 Ugandan shillings (less than half a Euro) to buy a knicker because she didn't have any. Little did she know that she would end up laying bricks to push her through elementary school.

Time came when Sharon had made it to High School. Still, there was nothing much her family could offer financially to support her. She continued laying bricks and selling them amidst ridicule and backlash from her peers as it was considered weird for a girl child to lay bricks. Surprisingly, she even sponsored her university education through the same activity.

Africa Energy Forum relocates to Amsterdam from 20-22 October 2020

This year's Africa Energy Forum (AEF) has been rescheduled to take place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 20-22 October 2020. Previously due to take place in July, the move comes in the interests of all attendees' safety after monitoring the COVID-19 situation and its impact on global economies.

The Forum, organized by EnergyNet, brings together decision-makers in Africa's energy sector to form partnerships, identify opportunities and collectively move the industry forward.

EnergyNet's Managing Director Simon Gosling commented on the move; "This decision has not been taken lightly and we hope clients will recognize this opportunity to fast-track their business development after a significant period of disruption.

We've chosen Amsterdam for a number of reasons – most importantly its exceptionally resilient economy and \$42bn investment fund being deployed across the continent to support energy transition goals. The Netherlands played host to the very first AEF back in 1999, and continues to play an exceptional role in the development finance space with FMO being a significant and highly regarded player. Despite challenging times we've continued to receive



registrations and high level speakers, so are confident this postponement will be timely and continue to focus heavily on project development objectives."

In line with the SDG7 goal "access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all," AEF will host a stream dedicated to unpacking Africa's role in achieving SDG7, debating how the continent can meet energy demands in light of global sustainability goals.

Between now and October, EnergyNet will host a series of webinars and other online content focusing on strategic energy programmes such as the REIPPPP resurgence in South Africa. The purpose will be to define the direction energy programmes are taking so clients can prepare strategies to be among the preferred bidders by the Africa Energy Forum dates in October.

Gosling added; "One thing that hasn't changed and never will is our commitment to the sector. We're every bit as passionate about delivering the outstanding networking experience our delegates have come to expect, and driving the sector forward – even at such a challenging time."

For questions about this event please contact:

Head of Marketing: Amy Offord

Event dates: 20-22 October 2020

Event location: Rai, Hall 8 – Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Organizers: EnergyNet

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Tribute to Dr. Harold E. Robles: HOW HE WANTS TO BE REMEMBERED!

In Memoriam dr hc Harold E. Robles October 8, 1948 - July 31, 2020

Harold Robles passed away on July 31, 2020. He was 71 years old. He leaves a big void, but his life's work - the Health Promoters - will be continued by the board of the Friends of HPSA (Health Promotion South Africa) foundation, including chairman Jisk Nijdam, treasurer Leo Winkelhorst and organizer / coordinator Regina Eggink.

In South African townships, thousands of people die unnecessarily every year from ailments caused by poor hygiene and poor health knowledge. The Health Promoters provide local information about basic matters such as brushing your teeth, washing hands, sanitary hygiene and good nutrition. In this way, the local population gains a lot of practical knowledge. This knowledge leads to a drastic reduction in mortality among children, adolescents and adults.

Harold Robles was a co-founder and driving force of the Health Promoters. Harold was a passionate man, a connector par excellence, convincing and charismatic. He was passionate about the good work being done in South African townships. A man of perseverance, someone you went through fire for.

Numerous well-known Dutch people therefore selflessly joined Harold's Health Promoters. In 2019 there was a successful golf event, Golf4Health, in Brielle and a fantastic gala evening in Wassenaar. More than twenty celebrities contributed selflessly to these events, such as Koert-Jan de Bruijn, Nelli Cooman, Olga Commandeur, Willem van Hanegem, Nurlaila Karim, Mariska van Kolck, couturier Ronald Kolk, Tom Okker, Lou Prince, Patricia Steur and Klaas Wilting.

For his good humanitarian work, Harold was awarded two honorary degrees from American universities: Doctor

of Humane Letters from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut and one in 2010, Doctor of Public Health from American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 2009 he also received a royal decoration, Knight of the Order of Oranje-Nassau.

Several years ago, Harold was diagnosed with prostate cancer. In his characteristic way he went into battle: positive and energetic. He was in good hands at Erasmus MC. All records were pulled to heal Harold.

Although there were occasional positive developments, Harold had to give in a few weeks ago. "The cancer has won," he said in an emotional phone conversation recently.

He passed away on Friday, July 31, 2020.

Characteristic was his desire to suggest an alternative to flowers at his funeral. "Rather let people spend the money on the work of the Health Promoters," he said. You can donate via the website: www.healthpromoters.co.za

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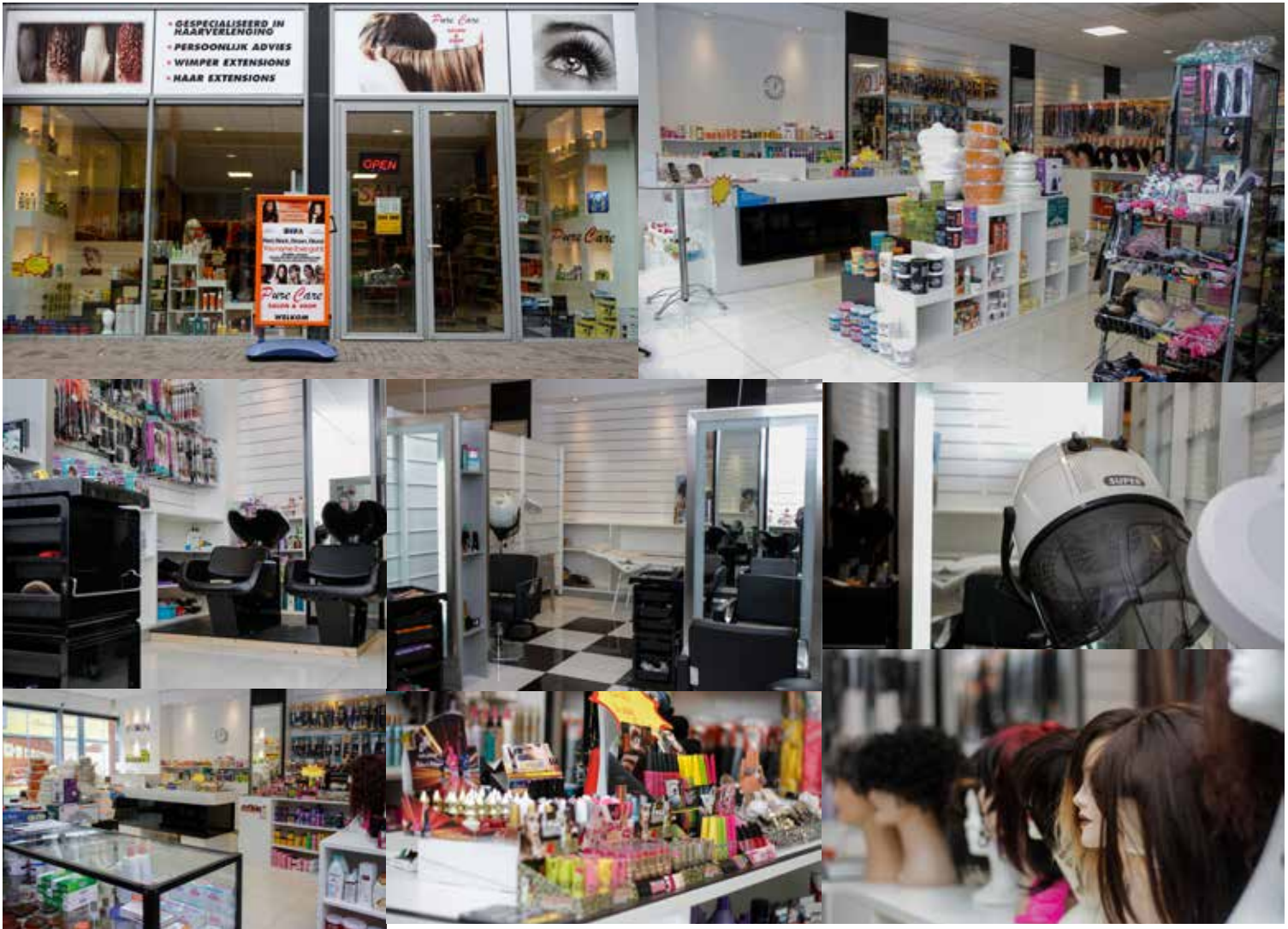


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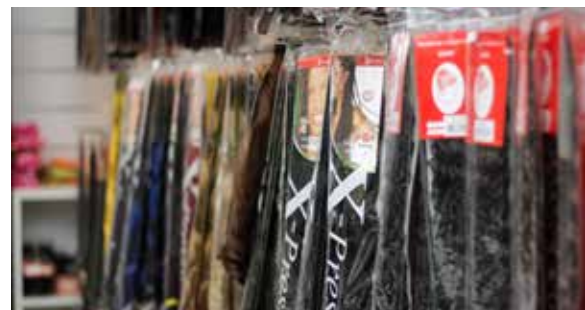
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*Racism would
not disappear
over night
- Lucinda Malbons*



Lucinda Malbons, mostly called Luus Malbons is a public speaker and a spoken word artist but she has done much more in her very fruitful and challenging life. Over the years, she has worked as a book sales executive, started her own business, Malbons Enterprise BV which she still runs till date. As a result of her works, women are empowered to seek their greatness and act upon it; she helps women in particular to develop self confidence and improve their communication skills so that people dare to change their mind set. According to her, she is born to speak, trained to write and to leave a footprint behind.

She is doing exactly that with her voice, during the commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery in Rotterdam (Keti-Koti), Lucinda Malbons spoke a word. Although born in Suriname but she has lived most of her adult life in Rotterdam and she admits she ancestors were enslaved so she is a descendant of enslaved people.

“For me it is true that my father’s grandmother was still an enslaved one. The stories are still close by says Lucinda. She spoke in Sranang and in Dutch. In that first language there is a bit more ‘ancestor feeling’ in it. Lucinda speaks mainly Dutch in daily life. Her message is “We need to remember slavery and that period and in that way we always carry our ancestors with us, in our hearts.

After a long time of trying to get her for an interview, we succeeded two months ago and we present you with our chat one Face to Face with Lucinda Malbons, a woman of words in this exclusive interview.

Enjoy it.

TV: Introduce yourself to our worldwide readers please and what you do professionally?

Lucinda: My name is Lucinda Malbons. I am 46 years young and a blessed mother of three beautiful children. In 2017, I started my own company, Malbons Enterprise BV. I am a professional public speaker on social issues and personal development trainer and also a trainer in personal development and presentation skills. Aside from these things, I am also a Spoken Word Artist.

TV: You are originally from Suriname? So how long have you lived in the Netherlands?

Lucinda: I was born in Suriname and raised in the Netherlands. I have lived for the most part of my life in The Netherlands, a city called Rotterdam. My mother came with me to Rotterdam when I was only one year old.

TV: What has changed over the years from your youth to now in terms of racial relationship?

Lucinda: Growing up I never experienced racial issues. The neighbourhood where I grew up and the school environment was rather mixed. But as I got older and started exploring the working field I noticed that there was a difference in what people expected that I could or couldn't do just because of my background and me being black. It was then that I realized that I had a different start. Colleagues who did exactly the same work as I did were paid more than me while we had the same work experience. I also noticed that the people in charge were mostly white people. It had me wondering so things changed over the years as I grew older.

TV: How will you describe the Dutch environment compared to where you were born in Suriname?

Lucinda: Comparing the Dutch environment to the Suriname environment is rather difficult for me because I came here at a rather young age. But I travel there on vacations and business trips a couple of times but it's just not the same as living there. But what I can say from my experience is that Suriname people are much more relaxed when it comes to things as the lifestyle demands. Dutch people always seem to be in a hurry and everything has to be done on schedule. While Suriname people are living more of a less rushed life. Also I feel like we have a higher rating of hospitality. When it comes down to business I experienced that Suriname people judge you on your experience and personality while Dutch people judge you on who you know in the business. To Dutch people it comes down to your network and how you fit in to theirs then you can talk or do business with them.

TV: So many discussions on racism here in the Netherlands. Are we making headway in your thoughts?

Lucinda: I feel like we are making progress, slowly but there is progress. To me it grows in levels. The fact that we can have a dialogue about racism is a step forward. What I believe to be true is that it is not on the level yet where things will actually change. We still have a government who don't believe in the impact that racism has on a broader level. Or maybe I should say that it comes rather handy to them to leave things the way they are because institutional racism brings up money. We still don't have enough black people or people of colour to represent us and who have sufficient authority to apply laws and regulations that would be beneficiary to us. Our economic strength is also not at the same level with them so we still have a long way to go but we are on the journey now.

TV: I first got to meet you during an activity of The Voice Achievers Award where you presented your Spoken word. Is



that something you do professionally or just a talent God has given to you?

LUCINDA: First and foremost I wish to acknowledge that it is a talent that God has given me. I am a vessel which I put in professionally. It is a beautiful form of expression and a way to bring awareness and empowerment to the world. And to be honest I also gain a lot of energy and happiness from it.

TV: How do you get inspiration for the things you write down and speak out in your presentations?

Lucinda: My life hasn't always been easy. I lost my father at a young age and I have not always had the protection of adults in my life. Because I had a lot of personal development to do myself I take my lessons that became my blessings as inspiration. That also wasn't an easy thing to do. I come from a culture where we don't discuss certain things so you keep it to yourself and try to figure it out yourself. But how can we grow as humans when we don't share our journey? There is always someone going through what you've been through and needs to hear that there is light at the end of the tunnel. In my presentations I also share my vision and speak my mind about social issues. Not because my way or my thoughts are the only way to view things, but to open up the dialogue and create a space within people to see things from another point of view. Conversation brings transformation therefore I try to use my spoken word to bring about a conversation with people.

TV: How often do you perform spoken word and what is the public reception of your performance?

Lucinda: Normally I had performances on a regular basis, like almost every weekend. My assignments alternated between spoken word and public speaking. Since Corona it has fallen apart or slow down to put it politely. But I had a few online performances during this time. The most common thing people say about my performances is that they are impressed by the originality of the performance and that it feels as if the spoken word is dedicated to them personally and stirred something within them. To honest this is one of my main objective, to connect the people to the spoken word.

Continued on Page 34



“ I believe that racism will never be totally put out of our society...”

TV: Have you accomplished your purpose with your spoken word?

Lucinda: I would say yes and no. Yes because the feedback that I get from my audience is exactly the experience I want to bring them and the transformation in mindset that I want to leave behind. No, because I am still growing in my journey and my goal is to speak internationally and be a vessel to a bigger audience around the world.

TV: Do you have contact with the Diaspora African audience in Holland?

Lucinda: Yes I do. There are so many entrepreneurs from the

diaspora that I am in contact with on business level. We try to uplift each others businesses by supporting and buying black products and come together to bond so we can grow and establish financial and healthy mindsets. In the past I owned a black bookstore where I sold books written by Africans, Afro-Surinameses and Afro-American writers. That also enlarged my network big time. And the memories live on with me till this day.

TV: Is there any form of collaboration with you and other Africa Diaspora organizations in Holland?

Lucinda: I recently started participating in a talk show ‘Adem’ that is produced by Afro-Dutch Powerhouse where we have a dialogue with a panel on diversity of topics concerning the African Diaspora and the way we view ourselves. It has been very interesting and it is growing.

TV: In recent times, there is a lot of shifting of blacks in America and other parts of the Caribbean seeking their traditional roots back to Africa. Is that part of your goal?

Lucinda: I have never visited any of the African countries yet, but I do wish to go. A few weeks back I ordered the DNA kit on ‘My Heritage’. The plan is to wait until I receive the results of the test and my ethnic origins and then I can plan to visit the countries where my DNA leads me to. I don’t see myself living in the Netherlands at my old age. My wish is to live where the sun greets me every morning and where I am surrounded by people who looks like me.

TV: What do you expect to see after all the talk about “Black lives matters”?

Lucinda: To be honest I really wish for us as black people to unite and come and be and live like one. That we ourselves do not take part in the dividing role that brings us no good. That we will stand up for ourselves and our people but also stop enabling toxic behaviour within our communities. What I expect to see is that black people’s behavior will be put under a magnifying glass in order to justify police brutality. I believe that racism will never be totally put out of our society, it would remain a part because many things are built on this part in our societies so change will come, but it will come slowly.

TV: How do you expect from all these discussions?

Lucinda: As for the discussions, I see black people getting



tired. They do not want to discuss the obvious anymore. I expect that more white people will stand up and speak out against their own. But black people are kind of done with the talking and will slowly start building their own communities excluding white people. It might even lead to migration back to their motherland or other places where they can live amongst people who look like them.

TV: What are your plans for the future?

Lucinda: I do not see myself growing old here in the Netherlands as I have mentioned before. Firstly, I am not created for this weather. (She laughs- hahaha). I believe that my purpose is to help people get a clearer mindset on how to live their full potential by doing the inner work. That's why my focus is on personal development. I believe that when we learn to work on ourselves as individuals we can create a stronger community. A better world starts within ourselves, meaning a healthy mindset on finances, love, health, relationships, education and so on and so forth.

TV: What do you expect from the African people both on the continent and in the Diaspora?

Lucinda: I expect both parties to see that we are one. The ones who willingly left, the ones who unwillingly left and the ones who are still on the continent need to join forces and invest their financial capital in to Africa development. If there is no capital base then use the skills God has gifted you by birth or through the knowledge you have gained abroad or on the continent to make Africa better. It is not a one man thing or show, we have to do it collectively and it is possible if the will is there to make it happen. I see some actions towards this



direction already, we have to continue no matter how small it may look now.

TV: Lastly what would be your advice to those reading your interview?

Lucinda: I would like to encourage everyone reading this interview to look inside yourself and ask yourself what can I do? You are born with gifts and talent and they are not yours to keep. We are all vessels. The world already has a lots of opinions when it comes to racism but what can we actually do? Dear reader, seek within yourself an answer to this question 'What can I do to make a difference?' My advice would be: Be the difference! Use your God given talents and live your purpose.

TV: Thank you Luus for your time and this great interview.

Lucinda: You are welcome, also a pleasure to do this interview with your magazine.



Lucinda Malbons performing her Spoken Word

Emmerson ‘Crocodile’ Mnangagwa is worse for Zimbabwe than Mugabe

Mnangagwa’s administration has been accused of using Covid-19 as an excuse to restrict freedoms, and is not prosecuting those responsible for human-rights violations

A year ago this week, Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa strained credulity when he declared in a Bloomberg TV interview, “We have rejoined the family of nations.” The international community was already losing patience with his inability to deliver economic reforms and Zimbabweans were complaining of a steady erosion of the political freedoms that had come with the 2017 military-led ouster of the dictator Robert Mugabe.

Indeed, in some respects the new president, who revelled in the nom de guerre “the Crocodile,” was proving worse than his former boss. The flickering hopes for a new Zimbabwe have now been extinguished. Mnangagwa, cracking down on dissent at home and waving off criticism from abroad, is practically indistinguishable from Mugabe. And the “family of nations” is letting its dissatisfaction be known.

In an unusually blunt joint statement last week, the governments of the US, UK and five other European nations, said Mnangagwa’s administration was using the coronavirus pandemic as an excuse to restrict citizens’ freedoms. It was neglecting corruption and failing to prosecute those responsible for human-rights violations.

“The Zimbabwean people have the right to engage in dialogue to build a better future for their country,” the statement said. “But the necessary discussions have so far been hindered by unhelpful rhetoric and blame assigned to several groups.”

The statement came days after the arrests of the investigative journalist Hopewell Chin’ono and opposition politician Jacob Ngarivhume, ahead of planned anticorruption protests. They were accused of “incitement to participate in public violence.” The US embassy in Harare tweeted that the government was prosecuting Chin’ono and other activists “instead of the culprits” responsible for the corruption.

The Mnangagwa administration has accused US ambassador Brian Nichols of “casting aspersions on the Zimbabwe government and dabbling in local politics”. It’s a far cry from a year ago when the president asserted on Bloomberg TV that relations were the best they had been in decades.

It isn’t just Western nations that are raising red flags about the deterioration in Zimbabwe. Neighbouring SA has expressed alarm at reports of human-rights violations. President Cyril Ramaphosa sent special envoys to Harare in August, offering to help Mnangagwa address his challenges. They were told there was nothing to discuss, and that they had no business

interfering in Zimbabwean politics.

But even as Mnangagwa tries to keep the world at bay, Zimbabwe’s economy desperately needs an international intervention. Food and fuel scarcities are chronic, and power and water shortages have worsened. The drought of 2019, the worst in a generation, left deep scars. The Zimbabwean dollar, reintroduced in 2019 after a 10-year hiatus, is in serious trouble. In another echo of the Mugabe era, annual inflation in Zimbabwe accelerated to 837.53% in July.

The Crocodile, meanwhile, has talked up \$27bn in planned investments, in everything from platinum mines, steel mills and hydropower dams to abattoirs. The government has proposed to issue a 30-year bond in international markets to raise \$3.5bn to compensate white farmers evicted from their land by Mugabe two decades ago.

But these are pipe dreams. Foreign investors and lenders are not buying Mnangagwa’s claim that “Zimbabwe is open for business.” The country has defaulted on its loans since 1991, and currently owes nearly \$8bn to financial institutions, including the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

Finance minister Mthuli Ncube’s pleas for debt relief have been rebuffed by multilateral lenders. The Paris Club, which includes several creditor nations and is owed \$3.26bn, said Zimbabwe must first improve its human-rights record and pay outstanding arrears.

Without international support, Zimbabwe’s top treasury official has warned, there is little hope of reviving the economy and containing inflation. But Harare is in such a bad spot that Zimbabwe has even been denied a share of the \$50bn pot that the International Monetary Fund made available to help low-income and emerging economies soften the economic blow of the coronavirus pandemic. Ncube has been able to raise just \$200m from donors and governments.

But Mnangagwa is unwilling to undertake the political reform necessary to secure assistance from the international community. He has shown little appetite for taking on those who benefit most from the institutionalized corruption of the Mugabe years — including his political allies and the military leadership that helped him secure the presidency. He remains in fear of being toppled, as his predecessor was, in a military coup. His deputy, Constantino Chiwenga, is the former chief of the armed forces.

The Crocodile had been hoping the “family of nations” would fatten the proverbial calf for the returning prodigal. But the family has made its terms clear: Mnangagwa cannot sit at the table before first cleaning his hands.



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4. Jollof rice met gestoofde geterivees & bakbanaan	€10,99
5. Jollof rice met gegrilde tiapia & bakbanaan	€11,99
6. Jollof rice met spare ribs & bakbanaan	€12,99



B) Fried Rijst (Gebakken rijst met gemengde groenten)

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3. Gebakken rijst met gestoofde rund & bakbanaan	€11,99
4. Gebakken rijst met gestoofd geterivees & bakbanaan	€10,99
5. Gebakken rijst gegrilde tiapia & bakbanaan	€11,99
6. Gebakken rijst met spare ribs & bakbanaan	€12,99



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1. Met gegrilde kip (jolly box)	€6,50
2. Met gegrilde kip en bakbanaan	€9,99
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4. Met geterivees (gekookt in tomatensaus) & bakbanaan	€10,99
5. Met gegrilde Tiapia & bakbanaan	€11,99
6. Met spare ribs & bakbanaan	€12,99



D) Cocos Rijst (Cocos rijst met gemengde groenten)

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3. Cocos rijst met gestoofde rund & bakbanaan	€11,99
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6. Cocos rijst met spare ribs & bakbanaan	€12,99



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F) Gekookte Yam en tomaten/vis saus/egg saus

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2. Met rund (gekookt in tomatensaus) & bakbanaan	€11,99
3. Met geterivees (gekookt in tomatensaus) & bakbanaan	€10,99
4. Met gegrilde Tiapia	€11,99
5. Met spare ribs	€12,99

G) Gebakken Yam met tomaat/vis saus/egg saus

1. Met gegrilde kip	€9,99
2. Met rund (gekookt in tomatensaus)	€11,99
3. Met geterivees (gekookt in tomatensaus)	€10,99
4. Met gegrilde Tiapia	€11,99
5. Met spare ribs	€12,99



H) BAKBANAAN (Gekookte/Gebakken/Geroosterd) MET TOMAAT / VIS SAUS/EGG SAUS

1. Met gegrilde kip	€9,99
2. Met rund (gekookt in tomatensaus)	€11,99
3. Met geterivees (gekookt in tomatensaus)	€10,99
4. Met gegrilde Tiapia	€11,99
5. Met gegrilde kipsnagel	€9,99
6. Met spare ribs	€12,99



PASTA GERECHTEN:

I) Jollof Pasta (Pasta gestoomd in tomatensaus)

1. Jollof pasta met gegrilde kip (jolly box)	€6,50
2. Jollof pasta met gegrilde kip & bakbanaan	€9,99
3. Jollof pasta met gestoofde rund & bakbanaan	€11,99
4. Jollof pasta met gestoofde geterivees & bakbanaan	€10,99
5. Jollof pasta met gegrilde tiapia & bakbanaan	€11,99
6. Jollof pasta met spare ribs & bakbanaan	€12,99



SPAGHETTI GERECHTEN:

J) Jollof Spaghetti (Spaghetti gestoomd in tomatensaus)

1. Jollof spaghetti met gegrilde kip (jolly box)	€6,50
2. Jollof spaghetti met gegrilde kip & bakbanaan	€9,99
3. Jollof spaghetti met gestoofde rund & bakbanaan	€11,99
4. Jollof spaghetti met gestoofde geterivees & bakbanaan	€10,99
5. Jollof spaghetti met gegrilde tiapia & bakbanaan	€11,99
6. Jollof spaghetti met spare ribs & bakbanaan	€12,99



Congratulations! Congratulations!!



**Happy Birthday to my darling wife,
Sandra Iruh-Monsels on 1st Oct. 2020**



**You deserve the very best out of life because you are the very best thing that has ever happened to me.
Happy birthday to the angel that lights up my life. I am so grateful that I was able to find my way to
you, and I can love and hold you for the rest of my life.**

God would continue to add to you beautiful years and to live with us to see your grand children.

God bless you.

Signed by

Pastor Elvis Iruh (Husband)

Deborah & Esther Iruh (Children) and your many spiritual and adopted children.

THE COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION URGES GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE GREATER COMMITMENTS TO HEALTH WORKER SAFETY.

In the month of May 2019, the 72nd World Health Assembly endorsed by Resolution WHA 72.6, the establishment of World Patient Safety Day (WPSD), to be marked Annually on the 17 th of September.

The Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA) commends the World Health Organization (WHO) for this initiative and supports the establishment of the World Patient Safety Day. The CMA is elated at the theme chosen to mark this year's World Patient Safety Day (WPSD 2020): " Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety."

As the world marks the World Patient Safety Day on Thursday, 17 th September, 2020, the Commonwealth Medical Association once again deeply appreciates the tremendous sacrifices and commitment of physicians and other healthcare professionals / healthcare workers across the globe, in protecting and safeguarding humanity. Importantly, the CMA recognizes their exemplary commitment to duty and provision of quality care in the current global war against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The CMA regrets the loss of healthcare workers and other citizens to the Covid-19 pandemic, and deeply condoles their families and loved ones. We pray for the eternal repose of their great souls.

While the Commonwealth Medical Association appreciates past and present efforts of governments to provide for health worker safety and protection, reports from various countries indicate that there are still very huge gaps to be filled, particularly in terms of protecting physicians and other healthcare workers from assaults and acts of violence perpetrated against them even in the course of undertaking their sacred duties of saving lives in the current Covid-19 pandemic, as well as evidence of inadequate provision of working tools, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and unsatisfactory working conditions, amongst others.

On account of the above realities, the CMA restates her fervent call on governments and other stakeholders to make greater investments and sustained commitments to the working conditions, occupational health and safety of healthcare workers.

The CMA remains irrevocably convinced that health worker safety is a sine qua non for patient safety, and that these investments and sustained commitments to health worker safety are critical to the delivery of quality healthcare and patient safety. A physician or health professional who is not physically, mentally, and psycho-socially fit, or who works in unsafe conditions, is very unlikely to deliver quality patient care.

For anyone that was ever in doubt of the important nexus between health worker safety and patient safety, the experiences from the current Covid-19 pandemic provide enough learning points and convictions on the critical need to adopt a more comprehensive strategic framework that gives

emphasis to both health worker safety and patient safety.

On our part, the Commonwealth Medical Association shall continue to advocate for health worker safety and patient safety, including the sustained provision of safe working conditions, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and incentives to motivate healthcare workers.

In furtherance of this commitment, the CMA organized webinars and capacity development programs on patient safety and health worker safety. On Wednesday, 1 st July, 2020, the CMA organized an international webinar focused on patient care, with the theme: "Regional Perspectives on Clinical Case Management of Covid-19: Current Realities, Best Practices, and Challenges." Similarly, on Thursday, 3 rd September, 2020, the CMA organized an international webinar focused on health worker safety, with the theme: "The Commonwealth Health workforce and Covid-19 pandemic: Regional Perspectives on Current Realities, Challenges, and Future Projections".

Furthermore, the CMA shall continue to give concrete expression to her Safe Hospital Initiative, as well as sustain her advocacy for institutionalization of Clinical Governance at all levels of healthcare, and the development of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to guarantee good working conditions, indemnity and insurance cover, occupational health and safety of healthcare workers at all levels of care.

We call on National Medical Associations to specifically demand for the development and full implementation of these frameworks in their respective countries, as well as the sustained provision and availability of working tools and Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).

In memory of our departed colleagues, healthcare workers and citizens who have passed on, especially during this Covid-19 pandemic, we urge all physicians and healthcare workers in the Commonwealth to jointly observe a minute silence and pray for the eternal repose of their great souls on Sunday, 20 th September, 2020, at 2pm London time.

As we mark the World Patient Safety Day 2020, let's join hands to speak up for health worker safety and patient safety. Happy World Patient Safety Day.

Dr. Osahon Enabulele, MBBS, MHPM, FWACP
President, Commonwealth Medical Association.



Kingho Company under investigation in Sierra Leone

As the Parliamentary Committee on Transparency and Accountability continues to probe Sierra Leone's National Minerals Agency (NMA), more questions than answers have emerged regarding the circumstances under which four large-scale mining licenses were granted to China Kingho Company Limited.

It was revealed during last month's parliamentary committee hearing, that no proper due diligence was done before awarding the mining licenses to the company to undertake large-scale mining operations in Sierra Leone.

It was further established that the parent company, China Kingho Energy Group, is bankrupt with a net worth of a paltry 667,000 dollars.

The complex and seemingly opaque structure of the parent company, prompted lawmakers to inquire into the application details of its subsidiaries in Sierra Leone. The investigations found that the four subsidiaries in Sierra Leone have defaulted on the terms and conditions of their license agreements and violated certain provisions prescribed in the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009.



China Kingho Mining Company Limited, Mass Energy Mining Company Limited, Northern Mining Company Limited and Southern Mining Company Limited are all subsidiaries of China Kingho in Sierra Leone.

These subsidiaries are in arrears of 4.9 million dollars due to the Government of Sierra Leone.

The evidence adduced shows that since the companies were granted four large-scale mining licenses in 2014 they have not yet started mining operations because they are either bankrupt to undertake large-scale mining operations or simply cannot attract a financier to partner with.

In a letter addressed to the National Minerals Agency, the managing director of China Kingho stated that the projects required huge capital investment for the construction of railways and port facilities.

The letter reads: "We have approached several partners in this regard but it has been extremely difficult to get the much-needed capital... We are constrained to get dependable partners to commence work with."

The company then decided to relinquish one of its licenses (the Southern Company Limited) and pleaded with the NMA to waive off the penalties attached to the outstanding payment of 4.9 million dollars.

It was further revealed that the company did not fulfill certain criteria for the award of large-scale mining license under the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009.

The Committee on Transparency and Accountability inquired into whether China Kingho has the adequate financial resources, technical competence and experience to carry on effective mining operations in Sierra Leone, a precondition for the award of large-scale mining license stipulated in section 108 subsection 3 of the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009.

The Committee exposed one of the shareholders/directors of China Kingho who happens to have two different identities. It was revealed that this individual bears the name Gilbert Zao but has a completely different name on the mining license application document.



中国庆华
CHINA KINGHO



The Committee perceived there was some form of corruption in the awarding of licenses to China Kingho Company Limited.

The Members of Parliament suspected the Minerals Advisory Board was either influenced or remained complicit in its decision-making process to approve large-scale mining licenses to China Kingho.

The committee quizzed the NMA boss to get the facts but he denies any wrongdoing.

Members of the Committee frown at the Environmental Protection Agency, National Minerals Agency and Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources for not performing due diligence on China Kingho before awarding those large-scale mining licenses.

The lawmakers are suspicious of the decision-making process and are anxious to probe deeper to unearth whosoever benefited from such mining approval decision.

Sierra Leone is endowed with vast mineral resources. But these resources have not been harnessed to promote national prosperity and an efficient, dynamic and self-reliant economy.

Since the discovery of diamonds in the 1930s, Sierra Leone's mineral wealth has been largely plundered. The plunderage of these natural resources was identified as one of the major factors that ignited the civil war.

Many of those who took up arms attributed their struggle to the high incidence of poverty and unemployment exacerbated by massive corruption and abuse of power by the ruling elites. They blamed the governing elites for being selfish and insensitive to the plight of the masses.

During the Consultative Conference on Peace and Security in April 1999, the then British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Mr. Peter Penfold observed: "The tragedy of Sierra Leone is that her people are among the poorest in the world while the country is among the richest. The reasons for this are entirely man-made. Other countries in the world are poor because of natural disasters, few resources, unfertile territory or bulging populations. Not so in Sierra Leone. Just a relatively few people are responsible for the misery and hardship suffered by so many."

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Over government-sanctioned brutality against anti-rape



in an authentic way the good done to her by many women and young girls as well as men in Liberia.

She added that Gbowee is still pushing on her falsities (which the Minister did not state what these were) for the lack of having anything else to say to the public as she continues with her advocacy.

She alleged that apart from piles of negatives, Gbowee's nine long years of enjoying her Nobel laurels are yet to be translated into something meaningful to help the generality of the country, mainly through women's groupings.

Madam Gbowee on her Facebook account also expressed her dissatisfaction over police manhandling of protesters, mainly women who were

exercising their constitutional right of assembly. She said the action of the Police was appalling, sickening and a big shame on the Weah led government.

“To tear gas and use violence on a peaceful gathering led by women against a pandemic is beyond unimaginable,” she said.

According to Gbowee, Tarr played politics regarding a young man tearing off a three-year-old's private part for forceful penetration (rape) and that hurt her (Gbowee) deeply.

Minister Tarr, on the other hand, conceded that, though rape is a scourge she is seriously against; however, she is not complacent about people being unjustly accused of committing or facilitating the commission of rape against anyone, or about anyone using the high rate of rape cases in the country to score political points.

“I will not go back to your woes with the previous administration (former President Sirleaf's era) as that is not

After coming under direct criticism by Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee, during the anti-rape protests that took place last week in Monrovia, Gender and Social Protection Minister, Williametta Piso Saydee Tarr, has sharply reacted to Madam Gbowee, referring to her (Gbowee) as a generational underminer instead of a good or seasoned advocate well positioned to help bring about change or progress to the many ideas aimed at improving women's lives and letting them have a safe country void of sexual harassment or violence.

In Madam Gbowee's post during the protests last month, she stated: “I call out Minister Piso Tarr. Shame on you! Your job demands that you protect the most vulnerable population of Liberia, but you have chosen to align with your political god-father.”

She added further: “I am angry, infuriated, boiling inside...if you had done your job void of politics, we won't be where we find ourselves.”

In a stern reaction bringing Madam Gbowee to check, Minister Tarr said: “As a woman who won her laurels on the backs of others based on advocating for women, you have failed to see in your actions, the same thing you have accused others of doing—trying their best to beat other women down just for hell of it — knowing fully well that there is no truth to what you are saying.”

“Now sister, remember when you became a Nobel Laureate, the people you called your friends stood alongside you, were there for you, placed their arms around you, and supported you. No lessons learned there for you?”

Tarr said the least Gbowee can do is to reciprocate



protesters: Gender Minister, Nobel Laureate in War of Words

my business, but you know and I know that the Weah led administration opened up to you a hand of friendship, welcoming you as a leader from within our generation, blessed with a huge platform to come in with your ideas too to help move the country forward and yet you chose to snub that hand extended to you in true cooperation,” she added.



Tarr recounted that when she was nominated by President Weah to serve as the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Madam Gbowee was the first among friends she called to break the good news and extended her an invitation to help to push the women’s agenda, but sadly, Gbowee again snubbed her call and chose to prefer being the “omniscient being” among women in the country.

“Since I am not doing my job, what has stopped you from reaching out to me or calling me to help with your savvy suggestions? Why haven’t you come to help me know what to do? What stopped you from using the same WhatsApp we usually chat on and let me know what is right to do? Please, my sister, you will not succeed in using me as a scapegoat in your bid to endear yourself where there is a

lack,” she noted.

Continuing in her acerbic reactions, Minister Tarr stressed further: “For once, use your international platform for national interest. It is truly sad. Everyday women accuse you of being selfish and self-centered and being a person who only wants for herself and over the years I have defended you, saying that you must have been misunderstood.”

She predicted that Gbowee is contemplating on becoming President of Liberia one day, and with that undisclosed intent, she should come straight and begin an open campaign now rather than using her platforms to get at individual members in government.

By David S. Menjor



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BY H.E. REV. DR. PRINCESS OCANSEY, FOUNDER, NEKOTECH CENTER FOR LABOUR MIGRATION DIPLOMACY
A Migration Expert on the African Union Labour Migration Advisory Committee (AULMAC)
representing the Diaspora African Forum (DAF).

Kidnapped' Hotel Rwanda dissident appears in court on terror charges

Prosecutors allege Paul Rusesabagina was leader of rebel group responsible for deadly attacks

Paul Rusesabagina, a businessman whose role in saving more than 1,000 lives inspired the film *Hotel Rwanda*, has appeared in court in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, facing charges of terrorism and murder.

Rwandan authorities have accused Rusesabagina of being "the founder, leader, sponsor and member of violent, armed, extremist terror outfits ... operating out of various places in the region and abroad". The dissident faces a lengthy prison sentence, potentially for life.

Accompanied by lawyers appointed by the authorities, Rusesabagina declined to respond to all 13 charges, saying



some did not qualify as criminal offences and saying that he denied the accusations when he was questioned by Rwandan investigators.

"I request that I am given bail and I assure the court that I will not flee from justice," Rusesabagina said.

Rwandan media reported that Rusesabagina admitted sending funds to individuals linked to an armed rebel group but said the money was sent for charitable purposes only to people in need who requested help from him, and was not intended to support violence.

The family of Rusesabagina, who is an outspoken critic of the Rwandan president, Paul Kagame, have accused the east African country's authorities of kidnapping the 66-year-old from Dubai earlier this month and denying him fair legal representation.

Supporters have raised concerns over a "show trial" in which Rusesabagina is pressured to confess to crimes he did not

commit.

It is unclear how Rusesabagina, who flew to Dubai from his home in the US, was brought to Rwanda. Officials in Kigali have said he was arrested on what they described as "an international warrant".

Flight logs have identified a private jet that took off from Dubai and landed at Kigali at 6am on 28 August. Lawyers acting for his family said they believed it was "highly likely" Rusesabagina was on the plane.

Kagame has denied Rusesabagina was kidnapped, but suggested he had been the victim of some kind of trick.

On Monday, prosecutors said Rusesabagina had recruited dozens of fighters of the Forces for National Liberation (FLN), a rebel group that has carried out a number of deadly attacks in Rwanda in recent years. The FLN was the military wing of the Rwanda Movement for Democratic Change (MRCD) political party, which Rusesabagina helped to found.

"As yet, Paul has only had contact with lawyers assigned to him by the Rwandan authorities. He had no access to independent advice from his own lawyers. Paul's family reiterates his right to consult with lawyers of his own choosing, particularly given the extraordinary circumstances surrounding his arrest," a spokesman for Rusesabagina's family said.

The hearing was held under heavy security. Rusesabagina, a cancer survivor, told judges his health was poor and that he had required hospitalization three times since reaching Rwanda. He asked judges to look favourably on his application for bail. The court was adjourned until Thursday.

Kagame, who won a third term in power with 98% of the vote at elections in 2017, is a divisive figure. He is credited with the development and stability Rwanda has experienced since the genocide, but he is also accused of intolerance of any criticism, whether domestic or international.

The government has previously been accused of hunting down dissidents overseas. South African investigators have said the government was directly involved in the killing of Patrick Karegeya, an outspoken critic, in Johannesburg in 2014.

Last year, Callixte Nsabimana, the FLN's leader, went missing in the Comoros Islands only to reappear two weeks later in Kigali in police detention charged with terrorism offences.

Amnesty International called on Rwandan authorities to reveal the circumstances of Rusesabagina's arrest, and exactly what transpired between Thursday 27 August, when he spoke to his family after arriving in Dubai, and Monday 31 August, when he was paraded in front of the media in Kigali.

"Assuming he was in detention during this time and



the Rwandan authorities concealed information on his whereabouts, this amounts to an enforced disappearance,” said Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International’s director for east and southern Africa.

Kagame Insists Rusesabagina Must Account For Rwandans He Killed

President Paul Kagame has categorically pronounced himself on the arrest and detention of Paul Rusesabagina, the leader of a terrorist group National Liberation Front (FLN).

“For choosing to change things in Rwanda by killing people in Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe and other communities around Nyungwe forest, Paul Rusesabagina has to be answerable for his actions,” President Paul Kagame said in an exclusive 3-hour interview via the national broadcaster last month.

In Kagame’s analysis Rusesabagina is not alone. He represents a wide range of people, organizations and other groups that have grand plans against his government.

“I can’t waste time in a debate of whether Rusesabagina is a hero. He accepted to be used and promoted through a movie that depicts him as a hero who allegedly saved many at Hotel de Mille Colline,” Kagame said, adding that he didn’t want to drag himself in this endless debate because it won’t lead anywhere and, “I have no problem with that.”

However, Kagame explained that the gist of the matter is that Rusesabagina built on a false image acquired through a ‘Hotel Rwanda’ movie and wanted to use this image to change things in Rwanda to be what those who use him want.

Rusesabagina was the general manager of a luxury hotel in Kigali during the 1994 genocide, in which an estimated 800,000 people were killed with knives, clubs and other weapons.

The 2004 film told the story of how Rusesabagina used his influence and bribery to save the lives of 1,200 people who sheltered at the Mille Collines hotel in the capital during the worst of the massacres. He later fled to Belgium and the US where he was honoured with a presidential medal of freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honour, by the then president, George W Bush, in 2005.

The Rwandan government disputes Rusesabagina’s story about saving people during the genocide, and Ibuka, a Rwandan genocide survivors’ group, has in the past said Rusesabagina, who runs a humanitarian foundation, exaggerated his role in helping people escape the genocide.

“Rwanda may not be doing well and they may really want to change things but the method they use by killing people is not acceptable,” Kagame explained.

Rusesabagina is on record for publicly heading the National Liberation Front (FLN) and Rwandan Movement for Democratic Change (MRCD) and priding their actions of killing, looting, kidnapping and destroying infrastructure in communities surrounding Nyungwe National Park forest in Southern Rwanda.

“He will have to answer for all these actions,” President Kagame said, Rusesabagina has blood on his hands,” his foreign backers can only help him to prop him as a movie hero but he will have to answer for killing Rwandans whether he likes or not.”



Rusesabagina is not alone here; many of his colleagues have also been captured from abroad and brought in Rwanda, “they will all explain their actions to the courts.” Kagame, however, did not give any details of an operation to capture Rusesabagina.

“Supposing he brought himself to Rwanda, where is the problem? You may willingly come on your own and well knowing what you are doing. You may bring yourself after being lured and you find yourself here,” Kagame explained.

Rwanda has institutions with a mandate to locate all state enemies and those who harm Rwandans wherever they are. The President said that in the process of capturing Rusesabagina and bringing him to Kigali, there was no breach of international law.

Turkey's growing focus on Africa causing concern in rival capitals

When the Cold War ended, and Ankara became increasingly engaged in efforts to diversify its foreign policy, Africa began to emerge as a potential area in which Turkish influence might be exerted.



As a result, in 1998 Turkey adopted an “Africa Action Plan.” However, a challenging agenda during the 1990s sapped the energy from the efforts of Turkish decision-makers looking for a strong “Africa opening.” Domestic political and economic instability during the decade including changes of government, economic crises, the rise of terrorism, threats from neighboring nations, and frustrations about diplomatic relations with the EU -limited Ankara’s power to forge closer ties with Africa.

Although Turkey’s pivot to the continent started before the current ruling party came to power in 2002, the 2000s paved the way for Turkey to create enduring relationships. Africa has become an attractive new target for Ankara in its pursuit of influence, and a test for its global and soft power goals.

The 1998 action plan really began to take shape in 2005, which was declared the “Year of Africa.” Although Turkey’s accession talks with the EU formally began that year, too, all eyes in Ankara were on Africa rather than Europe.

In 2008, Turkey signed a formal partnership with the African Union. The same year, Ankara acquired the status of strategic partner to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), but the move toward Africa was much more noteworthy.

The growing disagreements between Turkey and some EU and GCC member states in recent years have led Ankara to further shift its attention to Africa, which has become a new arena for rivalry between regional powers. The war in Libya in particular has forced these powers to make efforts to carve

out positions for themselves on the continent through deals with African states.

In the past year alone, Turkish officials have visited the continent at least three times. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s most recent African tour was in January, during which he visited Algeria, The Gambia and Senegal. His first stop was Algeria. It shares a border with Libya, where Turkey has increased its military activity in recent months. With Libya occupying a special place in Turkey’s new foreign policy paradigm, as well as being important to other forces in the region, it is likely that a number of powers will continue to attempt to carve out roles for themselves in the continent, stepping on each other’s toes as they do so.

The visit proved that Ankara places high importance on its relations with Algeria, a country that has a significant presence in the region and which is considered by France psychologically to be its backyard.

When Erdoğan visited Algeria in 2018, a reporter allegedly asked him, in French: “Did you come here with ... sympathy for Ottoman colonization?” Erdoğan wittily replied: “If we were colonizers, you would have asked this question in Turkish, not French.”

There have been significant changes in northern Africa in the past 10 years, including the increasing presence of external powers, including Turkey. Given the tense relationship between Ankara and Paris as a result of regional issues, the development in recent months of an increasingly close relationship between Turkey and Algeria requires closer scrutiny.

During a visit to Ankara this week, Algerian Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum reiterated that both countries are determined to enhance all aspects of their relationship. Both he and his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu, also said



that Turkey and Algeria will continue to work together in an effort to bring peace and stability to Libya and the wider region.

During his visit to Algeria in January, Erdogan reportedly asked Algerian authorities for access to their air and naval bases to assist Turkish operations in Libya. In another sign of improving relations, a fugitive Algerian soldier accused of leaking confidential military information was reportedly handed over by the Turkish government at the end of July, following a request by Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune during a telephone conversation with Erdogan.

France, meanwhile, is annoyed by Ankara's attempts to cultivate ties in Algeria and other African countries. Cavusoglu made it clear during a three-day tour of Togo, Niger and Equatorial Guinea in July that Turkey is determined to strengthen its cooperation with African countries and regional organizations. While he was in Niger, a southern neighbor of Libya, a deal was signed for cooperation on military training — a development that caught the attention of Africa Intelligence, a website based in France.

The military dimension has become a characteristic of Turkey's bilateral ties with African nations. During his visits to the continent, Erdogan has promoted Turkish military equipment and sought to forge military partnerships.

In parallel with its military activity in Libya, the significance of Ankara's increasingly close relationships with countries across the continent cannot be underestimated, from Tunisia to Sudan, Ethiopia to Somalia.

In the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia is emerging as a second potential partner for Ankara after Somalia, where Turkey built a military base that established a new balance in the Horn of Africa. Off the coast of the Horn, Turkish warships patrol the Gulf of Aden as part of the UN's antipiracy task forces. Sudan in 2017 agreed to lease Suakin Island to Turkey for 99 years, which sparked concerns among regional powers about Turkish intentions in the Red Sea. Meanwhile, at a time when Algeria's top diplomat was in Ankara, French President Emmanuel Macron was touring the Middle East. With Libya occupying a special place in Turkey's new foreign policy paradigm, as well as being important to other forces in the region, it is likely that a number of powers will continue to attempt to carve out roles for themselves on the continent, stepping on each other's toes as they do so.

Sinem Cengiz is a Turkish political analyst who specializes in Turkey's relations with the Middle East. Twitter: @SinemCngz



WHEN A SITTING VICE PRESIDENT IS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT YOUR VIRTUAL BOOK LAUNCH

Journalist Extraordinaire, Simbo Olorunfemi who launched his three books last month on the Zoom platform, attended by nearly 80 participants. The quality of participants at his book launch speaks volume about the person of Simbo.

The sitting Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo endorsed the books and was the Keynote Speaker.

Nobel Laureate, Prof. Wole Soyinka and the President of Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, Rev. Dr. Felix Omobude were some of the intellectuals that graced the event with their presence.

Nigeria's renowned comic and actor Ali Baba was the Master of Ceremony.

In the words of Prof. Wole Soyinka, my friend, thank you for tickling our intellectual appetite with your **MUST READ BOOKS**.

REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, PROF. YEMI OSINBAJO, SAN, GCON, VICE PRESIDENT, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, AT THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF BOOKS ON POLICY, POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE WRITTEN BY MR SIMBO OLORUNFEMI ON TUESDAY SEPT. 1, 2020



Let me first say how honoured I am to join you at this presentation of books by Mr Simbo Olorunfemi. Simbo Olorunfemi has emerged as one of the most important thought leaders on politics and governance in Nigeria. He has through the years and in very many articles and sundry commentaries ranging from the economy, to



development, international relations and partisan politics, consistently applied rigour, deep thought and scientific discipline to his analysis of the people, the events and the policies that have shaped these issues, and the societies and publics that they impact.

I think his strength is in his capacity to take on the big issues, the complex ideas such as ethnicity and cultural politics and also the more retail questions around the daily disputes on rightness or wrongness of government policy or their efficient or sloppy implementation, all with the same clarity of thought and presentation.

His projections on political outcomes are eerily accurate, and his prescriptions are practical and clearly thought through even if controversial. His three latest works 'The Devil is not in the Politics', 'Politics is not a Game for Gentlemen', and 'Every day for the Goliaths' (what manner of democracy is this), is a successful attempt to put in print his thoughts in various interventions under broadly descriptive titles. And I think an incredibly insightful review of the books has been done.

We are by the way he has put this together, been able to follow and argue with his thoughts on the dynamic interaction of politics, policy and governance. Central to his analysis is leadership.

As the events of the last few months around the world have proven to us, leadership is indeed consequential. If there was any doubt about the fact that the quality of leadership is central to the fortunes of society, this pandemic has established that to us in plain terms.

It may literarily mean the difference between life and death. If leadership is that consequential, it must then suggest that politics may be, belong in the same existential category, being the production line for leadership.

Simbo Olorunfemi strengthens the point by the metaphor of politics and policy being Siamese twins, intertwined and

interlocked; one being a propeller, the other the engine. Success for a political leader, he submits, involves a smart fusion of both, such that policy drives politics and policies are strategically framed, pursued and executed without losing sight of one for the other.

Perhaps one may add that this is where the purpose of politics is the attainment of power for the prosecution of the public good not as an end in itself or for personal or other parochial interests. And this may be no small matter as one sees time and time again the tragedy of self-absorbed, self-seeking leadership.

Some have argued that one of the challenges that we have faced as a nation is that of reluctance of our best minds to get involved in politics, leaving it to the second eleven, as they say.

A chapter from which the book 'Politics is not a Game for Gentlemen' derives its title, speaks to the point. Simbo argues that puritanical idealism can only take one so far in politics, and that to be successful and be in a position to attain power or influence policy direction, a bit of pragmatism is needed, founded around strategic thinking, and in acknowledgment of the fact that all politics is local.

To be successful, it is necessary, he says, to approach it at the retail level and not with a wholesale mentality. Indeed, this is true. But clearly, where the rubber hits the road is the crucial collision of theory and praxis. How much compromise is too much or what is too little. I will leave the argument for another day.

But the other point is in my respectful view, the error of assuming that the failures in governance is on account of professionals and other decently engaged people leaving the space to career politicians.

I fear that this sort of analysis is factually incorrect



because as a matter of fact very many of those who hold political office are actually qualified in some discipline or the other. And as Simbo points out in 'Every day for the Goliaths' (one of the pieces there) that the decay extends to the judiciary, the banking sector etc. must tell us that the problem is deeper.



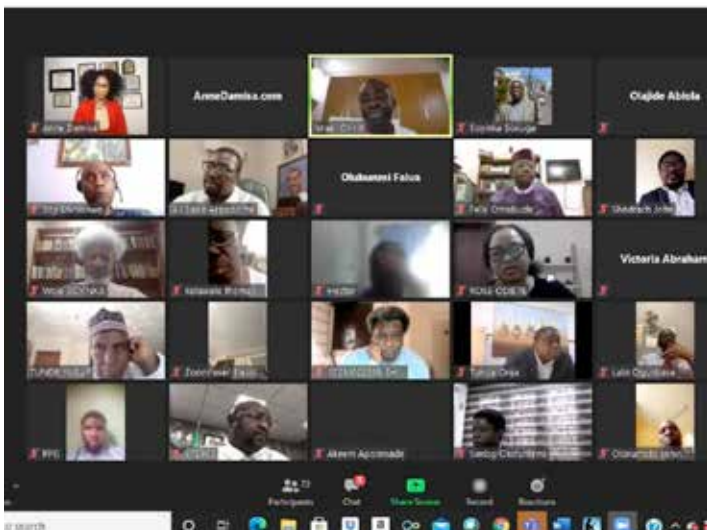
The question, in my view, is what the elite consensus is? The elite in most societies determine that direction even if the primary purpose is self-preservation. I think that the problem we have is that there is so much concern with narrow parochial interest. The Nigerian elite is unable, even out of self-preservation, to find a consensus, not only to move the nation forward but also to prevent itself from

destruction.

I had the privilege of working with Simbo and several others a few years ago on political strategy and tactics for our party, the APC. His commitment and passion for nation-building was always so evident. His taking the trouble to detail his thoughts in writing and put them out for debate and analysis is a commendable but, I must say, sadly disappearing activity.

In the era of the mindless tweets, and other digital enablers of lightning-speed communication and the puerile attention span they nurture, the space for critical thinking on public affairs is narrowing and the public intellectual is fast becoming an endangered category which is why Simbo's latest efforts deserve all our commendation.

I am therefore honored to invite you to join me in presenting these books to all who seek better societies and know that they are indeed possible by the honest implementation of the thoughts and ideas of men and women who, like Simbo, apply their talents to finding answers to the myriad issues of development. Congratulations Simbo, thank you very much.



The Netherlands must be ready for serious economic setbacks, says King

The Netherlands must prepare itself for serious economic setbacks, King Willem Alexander said last month during a national broadcast to his subjects in The Netherlands. This was a yearly address to commence the start of a new parliamentary year.

The Dutch economy and government finances are healthy and financial buffers have been built up over the past few years which we can now benefit from, the king said.

‘Now we have to ready ourselves for the consequences of a serious economic setback, which will impact the economy and government finances in the long term,’ he said. Trade would depend on how long corona virus keeps us in its grip, he said. ‘But the recent figures and prognoses are unheard of in peace time,’ he said. ‘The economic setbacks facing our biggest European and global trading partners are in many cases even greater. For an open country like the Netherlands, with its focus on trade and exports, this is an extra complication, especially in the wake of Brexit.’ Nevertheless, the government has opted not to cut spending but to invest in ‘keeping jobs, good services and a cleaner country,’ the king said, outlining the measures the government has already taken to offset the worst impact of corona virus on industries.

The king went on to list a string of measures which the government plans to implement in the coming year, most of which had already been leaked. Crime, the king referred to the murder of lawyer Derk Wiersum, while mentioning that a new team to combat organized crime, which will include members of the armed forces, is being established. ‘There is another fundamental threat to the quality of the rule of law,’ the king said. ‘Too often, still, a person’s name or the colour of their skin determines their

opportunities in life. That is unacceptable. The public debate on this issue sometimes causes friction, but it can also help us move forward in the fight against discrimination, racism and unequal treatment.

Overcoming differences begins with being prepared to listen to one another.’ The king also spoke of the need to make sure the government is on the side of the people, not against them, by referencing the damage caused to houses in Groningen by the gas drilling, and the tax office child benefit scandal.

‘Investing in the quality of public services remains important,’ he said. The corona virus crisis is testing us continually, in everything of value, in our health, work, family and friendships, he said. ‘Now, in particular, we are being asked to show responsibility and

unity... and everyone, young and old will have to play their part in getting through this difficult period.’ ‘Our most important source of reassurance is the economic, social and psychological resilience our country continues to show,’ the king said. ‘The task ahead in the parliamentary year that begins in mid-September is to stay focused on the future beyond this crisis, and to keep working to create new prospects for every generation.



King Willem-Alexander reads his speech, watched by queen Maxima and Prime Minister, Mark Rutte.
Photo: Koen van Weel ANP



Dr. Samuel Lee receives royal recognition

On 13th September 2020 in Amsterdam, the President of Foundation Academy and the Director at Center for Theology of Migration at VU University, Amsterdam was decorated with a royal medal as a Knight in the Order of Oranje Nassau.

The award ceremony was conducted by the Deputy Mayor of Amsterdam, Marjolein Moorman behalf of His Royal Highness, King Willem Alexander of The Netherlands. According to Dr. Samuel Less, it was a humble experience and he is grateful to His Majesty for the recognition.

He has continued to receive congratulatory messages from everywhere around the world on this accomplishment.

Dr. Samuel Lee is the founding Pastor of Jesus Christ Foundation Church in Amsterdam South-East, which he founded. He receives this award for his 25 years commitment as a Pentecostal theologian and his service for the migrant churches in the Netherlands. He is also praised for his efforts to offer affordable and, most of the time, tuition-fee free academic education for migrants and refugees. As an independent Pentecostal clergy, he also promotes human rights, social justice, interreligious dialogue, inclusion, and peace.

Dr. Samuel Lee has lived in the Bijlmer since the age of 14 as a migrant from the Middle East. He studied Sociology and obtained his doctorate in Theology, a subject that he has also been teaching at the VU University for several years. Since he has been in the Netherlands, he has been committed to improving the lot of migrants and undocumented as well by fighting their cases at all levels of society and governmental institutions.

He also founded the Foundation Academy of Amsterdam, where everyone can receive lessons in Theology and social sciences and human rights studies for a very low fee and often free of charge. Especially for migrants who have little money or do not have the correct papers, this is the only option to be taught at an academic level.



Dr. Lee is delighted with the award. He himself says about it: “There are also places in the world where people do beautiful things and stand up for freedom and do not receive a medal for it, but a bullet. In that sense, I think it is an honor, but also a responsibility that you stand for justice.

He intends to continue his work for a long time and sees the royal decoration as an incentive for other migrants. “On the day I received the award, I received a lot of messages from people with migration background,” says Dr. Lee. “They said: ‘hey, that ribbon also represents something

to us, we are also proud, we are happy with it.’ In that sense, the ribbon encourages the entire migrant community.”

Congratulations to you, Dr. Samuel Lee from The Voice magazine family.



Madagascar's President Promised a Miracle Corona virus Cure.

The drink, developed by the Malagasy Institute of Applied Research (IMRA), and derived from artemisia annua – an anti-malaria ingredient – and other medicinal herbs, sounded like a miracle solution: It purportedly could cure and prevent corona virus.

But President Rajoelina's claims about the efficacy of the drink remain unproved, and COVID-Organics has fallen short when it comes to preventing the corona virus from taking hold in Madagascar. The country has racked up 15,757 cases (at press time) and 211 deaths after a surge during July-September 2020 period.

Artemisia annua, a herb native to Asia, has been used in Chinese traditional medicine for centuries. Chinese scientists explored its antimalarial properties in the 1970s under Project 523, a top secret state mission, as one of the scientists, Zhou Yiqing, told the World Health Organization (WHO) in an interview. The plant was also imported to Madagascar during that time.

WHO now recommends antimalarial treatments using artemisia. With the emergence of corona virus, scientists around the globe, including in countries like Germany have started testing the herb as a potential COVID-19 treatment as well but no definite result to show that it cures Covid-19. But President Rajoelina has jumped the gun when he proudly declare to the world that he has found a cure to the virus and wanted it accepted and approved by the World Health Organization.

President Rajoelina said during the official launch that “tests have been carried out – two people have now been cured by this treatment,” and that “this herbal tea gives results in seven days,” this assertion was widely reported in the press in April 2020.

However, no data assessing its safety and effectiveness has been published in peer-reviewed studies. Experts have also warned of risks from using untested medicines like COVID-Organics, particularly because the drink contains other compounds that can have side effects.

On May 4, WHO said in a statement that while it “supports scientifically proven traditional medicine,” plants being considered for COVID-19 treatment, like artemisia annua, “should be tested for efficacy and adverse side effects.”

A few weeks later, President Rajoelina tweeted that after an

exchange with WHO's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the organization was going to “sign a confidentiality clause on the wording of the #CovidOrganics and support the clinical observation process that will span the African continent.”

The following day, Ghebreyesus confirmed the exchange. However, Michel Yao, manager for emergency operations at WHO Africa, told the press that the collaboration between the two wasn't a validation of the drug: “The Covid-Organics has yet to prove itself, and the WHO wants to help Madagascar to prove that they exist, if they exist.”

Brazil's Nexo newspaper reported that the drink's launch came shortly after TVM Malagasy, Madagascar's public television station, broadcast the story of an anonymous Brazilian woman, “presented as a visionary prophet,” who predicted in November 2019 that the cure for a disease that would cause a global health crisis would be found in the African Island.

Nexo reported that opponents of Madagascar's President accused him of being behind the video and

taking advantage of the population's naivety to sell fake cures for the disease. But President Rajoelina's chief of staff, Lova Hasinirina, defended her boss, saying “it is necessary to recognize that there are unexplained mysteries in the world,” Nexo reported.

The drink has already been widely distributed in Madagascar – including to school children. According to reports, in May alone, at least 250 liters of COVID-Organics were distributed daily, and that some people lined up every day to get it. According to multiple news sites, the drink also has been either ordered by or delivered to other countries, including Tanzania, Liberia, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia and, more recently, the United Arab Emirates while Nigeria and Ghana received sample drinks for test.

President Rajoelina tweeted in June that the UAE was “sending sanitation equipment and has asked to receive #CovidOrganics that #Madagascar donates.”

But the number of COVID-19 cases in Madagascar started rising after COVID-Organics' launch, hitting nearly 16,000 as of end of September, with 211 deaths. After peaking in mid-July at more than 600 in a day, reported cases have fallen, according to tracking by Worldometers. But the virus persists.



It Didn't Work

Hospitals in Madagascar are overwhelmed and those on the front line don't have enough protective gear to treat COVID-19 patients. "The state is doing better now regarding protective equipment, but it's not enough to stem the epidemic. Health workers keep using the same protective gear meant for single use only, especially gowns and suits, and there aren't enough drugs," Jerisoa Ralibera, president of the SISFM paramedics' union, told the press.

The government's lack of transparency in handling funds for the pandemic has been criticized, and the finance minister published a report on the matter in July. Still, "many details remain to be clarified," a member of the Rohy civil society platform told the media.

Meantime, the widespread use of artemisia for combating COVID-19 could make it less effective as a malaria treatment. That's because people who take it will start building resistance to the drug, and high use could create a shortage. Both outcomes would be worrisome, considering that malaria is still prevalent in the country. According to a United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report in June, in the first six



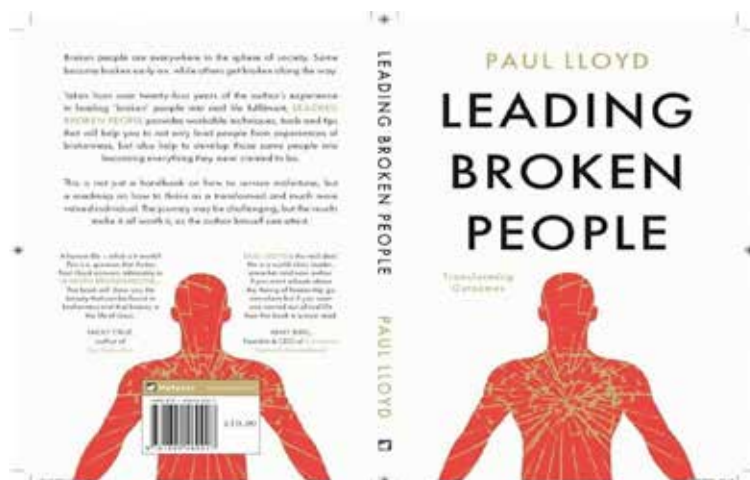
months of 2020, 663,558 cases of malaria were reported in Madagascar (including 398 deaths), an increase of almost 65% compared to the same period last year.

On the business interests behind COVID-Organics. It noted, among other things, that artemisia captured Rajoelina's attention after Lucile Cornet-Vernet, a French orthodontist and president of La Maison de l'Artemisia – a humanitarian association working against malaria – began promoting use of the herb for treating COVID-19.

Book Review: Leading Broken People Paperback – 28 Oct. 2020

By Paul Lloyd (Author)

Broken people are everywhere in the sphere of society. Some become broken early on, while others get broken along the way. Taken from over twenty-four years of the author's experience in leading 'broken' people into real life fulfillment, *Leading Broken People* provides workable techniques, tools and tips that will help you to not only lead people from experiences of brokenness, but also help to develop those same people into becoming everything they were created to be. This is not just a handbook on how to survive misfortune, but a road map on how to thrive as a transformed and much more valued individual. The journey may be challenging, but the results make it all worth it, as the author himself can attest.



PAUL LLOYD LEADING BROKEN PEOPLE



TIME FOR CHANGE: SYMBOLS AND MOTTO'S MATTER IN LIBERIA

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first earth and the first heaven had passed away. Also, there was no more sea,” Rev. 21:1

If the Republican-controlled Legislature of the State of Mississippi could vote in 2020 to change the state's Confederate Flag – a symbol of America's original sin (slavery) and Jim Crow, then the Liberian legislature can certainly begin a debate on the Liberian Coat of Arms, especially the motto: “The Love of Liberty Brought Us Here.”

A global social racial awakening and revival have taken on mythic proportions for social justice to eviscerate the symbols of slave legacy — the perpetuation of white race superiority.

This awakening and revival have come about as the result of the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police and the countless numbers of Black men being killed by United States police force.

The fight for the destruction of the symbols that do not fully represent the values, culture, and aspirations of all people in a truly just society is achieving victory across the world.

In this evolutionary struggle for the rights and dignity of black people and the protest against the opposition of equality and social justice, I never dreamed that the state of Mississippi, the bedrock and beacon of American racism, would see its Republican-controlled legislature vote for the taking down of the Confederate Flag – the symbol of slavery, racism, and the denigration and subjugation of blacks.

The flag's supporters have resisted efforts to change it for decades. Yet, Mississippi did change it, despite having a long history of systemic racism and seeing more lynching of African-Americans than any other state in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

“It takes more courage to examine the dark corners of your own soul than it does for a soldier to fight on a battlefield,” William Butler Yeats.

I think the people of Liberia (especially the descendants of the settlers), a country founded as a refuge for free slaves from the United States and captured slaves on the high seas, can reasonably agree that it is morally revolting and repugnant to display and honor symbols associated with America's



shameful institution – slavery.

The 1847 Constitution, the Flag, and the Coat of Arms were exclusively about the settlers (and rightfully so) with the approval of the American Colonization Society (their sponsors), an organization whose leading members were slave owners.

After 138 years, the 1985 Constitutional Commission had the opportunity to debate these troubling and persistent social and political questions, but failed to do so.

We are now in a period of contemporary classical liberal enlightenment that is propitious for such debate so that we can disabuse the errors of our founding fathers and create a true Republican government of, by, and for the people. So that five centuries from today, the Liberian people will say our brothers and sisters of 20 decades created a new nation conceived in the verse of Revelation 21:1.

My detractors will be apoplectic at the suggestion of such debate when Liberia is mired in dire social and economic misery under a government that seems at this moment clueless about how to grow the economy, create jobs and improve the prosperity of all the people.

I will contend that Liberia is going through a process of catharsis after the 1990s' bloody civil wars and that Liberians today are enlightened and have the intellectual capacity to address these social, political, and economic issues in tandem. And I will remind them of Eleanor Roosevelt's words: “Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, and small minds discuss people.”

With this tidal wave blowing across the globe, clamoring for



a change of symbols and statues that denigrate and dehumanize one ethnic group in society, I found it incredulous and astounding that the people of Liberia and the Liberian Legislature seem oblivious to the dynamics at play.

The Liberian Coat of Arms has been a subject of contention among Liberian intellectuals for decades. The Liberian Legislature's stultified response in this momentous period in the course of human events is an absolute dereliction of duty to the Constitution of Liberia.

This subject has not set fire to the forest to draw the attention it needs (because of its esoteric nature) to revolutionize its struggle. This is due to the failure of Liberian intellectuals to change this esoteric nature so that a larger portion of the population can learn the importance of this debate.

The Liberian Coat of Arms symbolizes the cultural values of the Americo-Liberians (less than 5 percent of the population), rather than speaking for and representing the values and cultural heritage of all citizens of the Republic.

The Coming of the "Love of Liberty Brought Us Here." On 15 December 1821, a clash of two cultures took place on Cape Mesurado (present-day Liberia) and the life and culture of the Dei and Bassa tribes were transformed forever. Later, other tribal groups would undergo this transformation.

On this day (15 December 1821), Dr. Eli Ayres and Lieutenant Robert Stockton of the ship Alligator met the Dei and Bassa chiefs on behalf of the American Colonization Society (ACS) to negotiate for a tract of land on the mouth of Cape Mesurado for the "free people of color."

The protracted negotiation ended when Lieutenant Robert Stockton pointed a gun to one chief's head. So, at gunpoint, Cape Mesurado was purchased for trinkets: six muskets, one barrel of gunpowder, six iron bars, ten pots, one box of soap, one box of nail, one box of beads, one box of pipes, two casks of tobacco, one dozen knives, forks, and spoons, six pieces of blue Taft, four hats, three coats, three pairs of shoes, twenty mirrors, three handkerchiefs, three pieces of Calico, four umbrellas, one box of soap, and one box of rum.

All of these trinkets were worth about \$350.00 (\$7,122.06 today). With the purchased tract of land (Providence Island), the ship Nautilus sailed in 1821 from Richmond, Virginia in early winter with 33 "free people of color," bound for West Africa (present-day Liberia).

The famous person among these immigrants was Hilary Teage, the author of the Declaration of Independence and the 1847 Constitution of Liberia. He is viewed as Liberia's Thomas Jefferson.

The historical correlation between Teage and Jefferson is mind-boggling. Thomas Jefferson wrote the American Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights ...," African slaves and forebears were considered chattel and 3/5 human.

When Hilary Teage wrote the Liberian Declaration of Independence in 1847: "We the representatives of the people of the Commonwealth of Liberia, in Convention assembled, invested with authority for forming a new government,

relying upon the aid the protection of the Great Arbiter of human events, do hereby... declare the said Commonwealth a FREE, SOVEREIGN, AND INDEPENDENT STATE, by the name and title of the republic OF LIBERIA," and the 1847 Constitution, the natives or the inhabitants of land for centuries were completely excluded from this newfound republic. They were viewed as primitive or heathen.



How ironic that in the United States, you (Hilary Teage) were considered chattel and 3/5 human, denied the liberty to pursue life and happiness as endowed by your Creator. Yet here in your new Promised Land and a new birth of freedom, you viewed the natives (created by the Great Arbiter) as less equal.

In 1847, Liberia was conceived by Hilary Teage and the founding fathers as a Republic with a caste system of social order. The Americo-Liberians formed the elite and perpetuated a double-tiered social structure in which local African peoples could not achieve full participation in the nation's social, civic, and political life.

The Americo-Liberians replicated many of the exclusions and social differentiations that had so limited their own lives in the United States.

The social caste system was based on skin color and education. The Mulattos or light-skinned occupied the top of the caste because most of them were educated and all were favored by the ACS. They became the political elites until the election of E. J. Roye, a dark-skinned free slave from Ohio.

The dark-skinned people were in the middle, and the captured slaves from slave ships on the high seas (the Congos) were at the bottom.

The natives were left on the periphery looking in. They remained so for 117 years. In 1964, they were granted paltry political enfranchisement but continue to be excluded from the bounty of economic wealth.

The Liberian Coat of Arms tells the story of one ethnic group – the Americo-Liberians. But the mosaic and tapestry of Liberian history (from 1822 to the present) are far larger than the story of the Americo-Liberians. Theirs is but one thread woven into the quilt and fabric of Liberia's past and present.

The exodus from bondage in the search for liberty in the Promised Land of their ancestors by the "free people of color"

Continued on Page 56

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brought with it all the iniquities that had debased them for two centuries (1620 – 1820).

The “Love of Liberty Brought Us Here” has been an illusion of psychological self-importance and elitism for the Americo-Liberians and a psychosomatic trauma of identity for the indigenous — since the Love of Liberty did not bring me here, where I do fit this realm?

At worst, the Liberia Coat of Arms has been a political, social, and economic fault line between the haves and have-nots, i.e., the Americo-Liberians and the natives prior to 1980.

It did symbolize the right of passage for privilege and entitlement for Americo-Liberians.

In the 1970s, the liberal members of the Americo-Liberia class saw this as an existential threat to the National Security of the Republic and attempted to address the question; however, it died in its embryonic state due to the weight of the conservative class of the Americo-Liberians.

The perceived existential threat (in the 1970s) to the Republic became a reality on 12 April 1980.

With the demise of the True Whig Party after 133 years of rule (not governance), the hope that all the iniquities of the True Whig Party would be washed away and followed by a new birth of freedom and liberty and equality were shattered in the great tempest of the 1990s.

Power was seized from the minority (Americo-Liberians) by the majority (the natives) in a bloodbath in 1980. With the majority occupying the center of political gravity and a new constitution in the making, the advocates for change pinned their hopes on the 1985 Constitutional Commission to consider addressing the long-contentious Liberian SYMBOLS created

by the 1847 Constitution.

The advocates for change were disappointed. The 1986 Constitution left intact the National Symbols of Liberia.

For three decades (1950 – 1980), we (the natives) denounced and blamed the minority (the Americo-Liberians) for our dire condition and inferiority.

However, since 1980, the reign of power has been in our hands and we have not governed, but ruled. All governments since 1980 have been far more inept and, at worst, corrupt than pre-1980 governments.

A symbol is an emblem representing an idea, cultural heritage and values. It is an expression of faith, doctrine or creed of a people of a society or a republic. The Liberian Coat of Arms speaks for the Americo-Liberians and excludes the rest of the society. The time is propitious to address these symbolic issues that are potent to our republic.

In the 1960s, when the waves of the Civil Rights Movement were careening across the U.S., we in Liberia failed to adopt such actions to reform our government in a dynamic way.

Six decades later, a similar event is sweeping across the U.S. and the world—and once again, we Liberians at home and in the Diasporas seem oblivious to these social justice events. We must not make this mistake again. We must now begin a conversation on the question of the Liberian Coat of Arms.

By J. Patrick Flomo

J. Patrick Flomo lives in Columbus, Ohio, the USA and can be reached at zamawood@gmail.com

Next month Special

Interview with Albena Jones- Africa Entrepreneur and President International Women’s Club-Sofia, Bulgaria

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Stay tune with us.



Another farm invasion in Zimbabwe despite promises

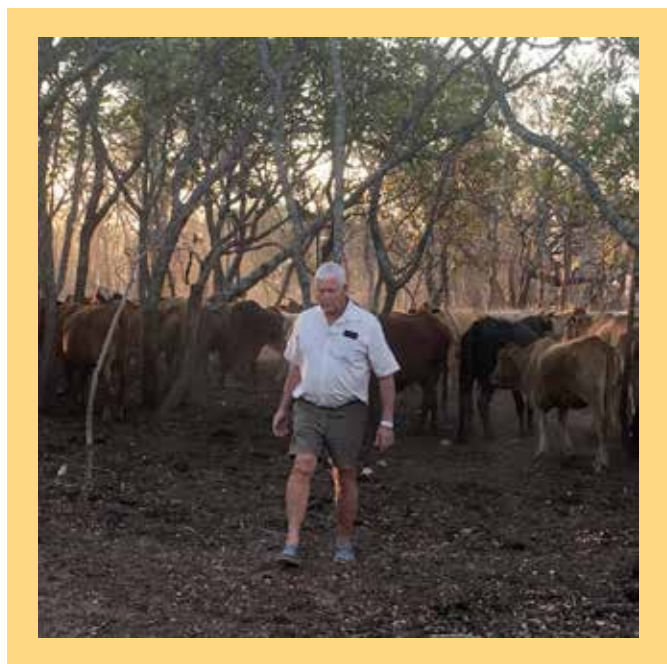
A government official last month invaded a farm owned by a white commercial landowner in Zimbabwe in yet another twist that highlights the policy inconsistencies in Zimbabwe's controversial land reform programme. This official occupies this property at a time when the government has undertaken to compensate white farmers.

The farm invasion comes just a few weeks after the government said it will allow some white farmers that lost their land to the violent land reform programme to return to their farms.

In August, Zimbabwe committed to pay \$3.5bn in compensation to local white farmers whose land was forcibly taken by the government to resettle black families, moving a step closer to resolving one of the most divisive policies of the Robert Mugabe era.

The government also said foreign white farmers settled in Zimbabwe whose land was seized under the controversial programme can apply to get it back and will be offered land elsewhere if compensation proves unworkable.

But on Friday Martin Grobler, who had a farm in Ruwa, 30km outside the capital, Harare, was evicted after he was given 24 hours' notice.



Grobler said Ivy Rupandi, a government official with the ministry of lands, told him to move out of the property with

immediate effect.

Grobler said Rupandi and an accomplice brought a truckload of police officers and a sheriff of the high court before they moved his property from the farmhouse.

"Rupandi told me that she was now the new owner of the farm before they brought a lorry load of people and a sheriff of the court," he said. "These people told us to move out right away."

On this development, the ministry of information said it would investigate the issue amid a public outcry over the invasion of the farm.

In a statement, the ministry said: "We have been made aware of a video depicting an eviction of a farmer and his family. Government is trying to establish the facts behind this matter. What is known so far is that there is a legacy legal issue between the parties and the matter is being dealt with by the courts."

Recently, the government indicated that it was willing to work with evicted white farmers in partnerships to make land productive as vast tracts of land remain underutilized after the land reform programme.

Once a breadbasket of Southern Africa, Zimbabwe's food production has plummeted, forcing the country to import basic foodstuffs.

A land audit carried out by the government exposed huge irregularities in the allocation of farms, with some children as young as 10 years old reportedly getting land, while prominent officials own multiple farms.

Zimbabwe's land reform still divides public opinion in the country as thousands of black families benefited but the number of white farmers has dropped to just over 200 from 4,500 when land reforms began in 2000.

RACISM, RACIAL JUSTICE AND THE GLOBAL REACH OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

The Black Lives Matter movement has sparked renewed protests and debates in the US about racial injustice and institutionalized discrimination. In this blog post, Felix Mukwiza Ndahinda, honorary Associate Professor at the University of Rwanda, reflects on the relevance of this movement for Europe and the need for European countries to confront their domestic racial issues.

On Saturday 6 June 2020, I was standing in a queue,

numerous other cities. They denounced George Floyd's and similar killings and called for the eradication of structures feeding racism. Black Lives Matter, a slogan used after the 2013 killing of Trayvon Martin, has become a core message and global movement for racial justice. That message singles out police brutality, racial profiling and inequities in the criminal justice system, what Michelle Alexander calls the New Jim Crow.

The killing of Floyd, and other African Americans in recent years are portrayed as symptomatic of structural violence that perpetuate white privilege and reinforce black peoples' marginalization. They fit in a continuum of violence that stretches back to slavery, lynching and reification of black people across US history and beyond. Spontaneous protests across the world involving large numbers of members of non-black communities are unprecedented: they have inspired new conversations about race and generated policy engagement to tackle deep-rooted sources of bigotry targeting afro-descendants and minority groups in comparable situations. Inspired by the demonstration and a call by prominent UN officials of African descent, the UN held a debate on "racism, systemic racism, police brutality against persons of African descent" on 17 June 2020. Despite pressure from the US not to be singled out, it recommended the creation of a commission of inquiry on the subject-matter.



waiting for my turn to buy fish at Tilburg's Saturday open market when the seller bluntly proclaimed that me and another black man standing nearby could get three pieces of fish for the price of two because, he said, we were "the discriminated against" (de gediscrimineerde). I paused, didn't know how to react or whether to accept or refuse the special offer. My dilemma was accentuated by complaints by two white ladies of a certain age for being left out of this black-friendly treatment. In a split second, my environment became a microcosm of the affirmative action debates. The incident made me think about the global reach of the Black Lives Matter movement and the boundaries of the struggle for racial justice. Building on this and other considerations detailed below, the present piece seeks to explore the significance of the Black Lives Movement in Europe.

The atrocious killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis policeman on 25 May 2020 generated global condemnation. Spontaneous demonstrations took place in hundreds of cities across the United States, denouncing this and similar killings of black men and women by the police or white vigilantes, often with impunity. Outside the US, thousands of individuals from all walks of life braved Covid-19 lock downs to hold demonstrations in London, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Rome, Budapest, Tokyo, Sydney, Auckland and



Events held around the world have often expressed solidarity with demonstrators in the United States. In many countries, protesters have also been linking the plights and struggle for equality by black people in the US to domestic dynamics in racial relations. In a November 2018 report entitled "Being Black in the EU", the European Union

Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) found that 30% of respondents had experienced what they perceived as racist harassment in the five years preceding the survey, while 5% of respondents experienced what they perceived as racist violence. The findings led FRA to conclude that being Black in the EU meant “facing entrenched prejudice and exclusion”.

In the United Kingdom, over 200 protests were held in cities across the country during the first weekend of June 2020. Protesters invoked the wrongful killings of several black men in recent years by law enforcement, drawing parallels between institutionalized racism in the US and the UK. In Bristol, they toppled and threw to the sea the statue of Edward Colston, a prominent slave trader. Even a quasi-sacred figure in European history such as Winston Churchill was not spared an inquisition into his questionable legacy on race. Recent articles, books, documentaries – often featuring intimate accounts by figures such as David Olusoga or Afua Hirsch – have been revisiting the British imperial ramifications of contemporary racism targeting black “subjects of her majesty” and dissected the many faces of resistance to change. In other countries like France, similar debates have been taking place. French actor of African descent Omar Sy wrote a powerful tribune elaborating on the domestic relevance of the current racial injustice debate by listing names of black and other minority figures killed in recent years under questionable circumstances. They evocatively include Adama Traoré who died in 2016 in police custody by asphyxiation, leading to mass protest and riots. In Belgium, statues of King Leopold II were defaced, daubed in the colour of blood or removed, reigniting debates about the monarch’s colonial atrocities in Congo. King Philippe took the historical step of acknowledging the reality of atrocities committed under the rule of his forefathers.

Closer to my fish market story, demonstrations took place in several cities across the Netherlands including Tilburg where global and domestic racial issues were raised. The visibility of Afro-descendants in the Netherlands remains rather limited. Recent years have seen protests associated with the Zwarte Piet (Black Piet) controversy. This Dutch version of the Saint Nicolas mythology celebrated annually on 5 December often features a white horse-riding Sinterklaas accompanied by Zwarte Piet “helpers”, essentially other white men/women wearing black face and red lips. Considered as a harmless traditional practice by a large section of Dutch society, the stereotypical Zwarte Piet figure is considered as highly offensive by Black people in the country and abroad.

The globally projected liberal, tolerant and accommodative image of Dutch society can hardly be reconciled with the Zwarte Piet figure. Yet, societal ambivalence towards this and deeper issues about race relations in the country are captured by Prime Minister Rutte’s positions on the issue: he defended Zwarte Piet in the past, then stated that he had evolved on the issue after the Black Lives Matter protests but still believed

that a passive approach of letting the issue fade away over the years was the better answer than any active governmental involvement in the matter. I have always felt uncomfortable



around the Sinterklaas-Zwarte Piet celebrations and faced deep dilemmas about involvement of my children in the celebrations. I believe the government should play a proactive role in freeing Zwarte Piet from the twisted chains of colliding tradition and memories of racial injustice.

But the Zwarte Piet controversy mirrors deeper issues of race and racial justice in the Netherlands. As far as I can remember watching international football, I have been captivated by the constant presence of players of African descent in the Dutch team. That image sharply contrasts with the current all-white Dutch Cabinet or the very limited representation of Afro-descendants in corporate boardrooms or any other seat of authority in the country. During more than a decade of working in a Dutch academic environment, I have encountered very few scholars of Surinamese, Antillean or, more generally, African descentance.

Examination of parallels and differences in race relations between the Netherlands, Europe and the US requires deeper studies that go beyond the scope of this analysis. Suffice here to note that personal experiences and encounters taught me that Dutch society is far from immune from racial biases. In January 2006, I had just started my fourth month as a PhD research at Tilburg University when I was rounded by the police and taken to the station, with little information, because I looked like a suspect they were looking for – which, as I learned later, was a stretch. In other incidents, I was denied entrance in clubs for “wearing wrong shoes” or asked to produce an ID where white cohort friends weren’t. More revolting for an academic, I once received a written evaluation of a proposal submitted to the Dutch Research Council (NWO) patronizingly stating that my purported ethnicity, something I am never vocal about, was a liability for the proposed research.

Continued on Page 60

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Liberal European societies are keen to profess their rejection of racism, their adherence to, and practices of, equality, humanitarianism and philanthropy. Yet, over the years, I, and others, have experienced the discomforts of engaging in a serious conversation about Europe's dark past of slavery, colonialism, imperialism, structural racism and white privilege that persist today. While my Belgian friends are keen to discuss any aspects of the Hutu, Tutsi and Twa identities, very few are genuinely open to engaging in a sustained conversation revisiting their country's colonization in Central Africa or any possible parallels between their domestic identity politics (Flemish-Walloon relations) and racialisation and antagonisation of ethnicity in their colonies. Those of us educated in former colonies were forced to learn a lot about European history. I was surprised to learn about the gaps in educational curricula of former colonial powers regarding their own imperial history.

Recent protests sent a message that in order to properly respond to entrenched racism, it is essential to dismantle the structures that feed it. While some symptomatic issues of racism, like addressing inequities in law enforcement and criminal justice system, may be fixed in the short term with enough good will, tearing down other structures erected over centuries involve a longer journey. A first step requires to revisit the history of racism, racial inequalities and theories of racial supremacy. An informed understanding of the origins of black face and other insulting or stereotypical representations of the black people across history can hardly accommodate any excuses for black face in 2020. Revisiting that past is also necessary for understanding the multiple layers of systemic racism, what needs to be done to uproot it and who bears the responsibility. Remedying structural racism entails confronting historical injustices, a task that requires an honest dialogue between all stakeholders. Ultimately, it requires a genuine levelling of the playing field whereby opportunities are distributed equally to all regardless of race, class and creed. Here again, all members of society, particularly those holding positions of power and privilege, can and should genuinely contribute to effecting the much needed change in the direction of substantive equality. Finally, it requires those disadvantaged by structural racism to unwaveringly commit to throwing off the chains of their subjugation. In the words of the great Bob Marley, that may require emancipation from mental slavery by freeing minds of received ideas about black inferiority.

A lasting legacy of structural racial conditioning is, indeed, the internalization of inferiority whereby many black people hold views of themselves or other black people as inferior and undeserving of equal treatment. Hence, while many Africans experience racism and other indignities in the Global North,



they are often less favourably treated than a white individual in their own countries (of origin) where decolonisation did not affect white privilege. A few years back, a friend of mine and I were turned away from watching Premier League football games at a "Greek Club" in Arusha-Tanzania under the pretence that entrance was reserved for members, a code for whites as we later learned. The Congolese writer and researcher Trésor Kibangula related a similar incident in November 2019 at a Kinshasa Shoprite Supermarket where he was asked by a local security guy to leave his backpack in a locker before entry while his white colleague was not, because those were the instructions the security personnel had received.

Dismantling the structures of racism therefore requires a comprehensive approach in tackling the root causes and its visible and invisible, conscious and unconscious, active and passive manifestations. Ultimately, ending racism may require revisiting the epistemologies of race in dominant languages we use. Since the notions of black (umwirabura) and white (umuzungu) as "racial" categories are carried differently from the corresponding black (umukara) and white (umweru) colours in Kinyarwanda, I have always resisted describing myself as black or, even worse, as a person of

colour. My skin complexion is definitely not literally black! Fundamentally, my discomfort with the label is mostly motivated by associations of blackness with evil in European languages – e.g. English, French, German, Dutch -whereas whiteness translates innocence and purity. Ultimately, tearing down the structures of racialism require unlearning the epistemologies of race. In this regard, European languages have a lot to learn from African languages. Revisiting a contentious past of racial injustices to construct just historical memories might represent the new frontier for transition justice.

Dr. Felix Mukwiza Ndahinda is a researcher, consultant and honorary Associate Professor at the University of Rwanda. He worked as the Director of the Research, Policy and Higher Education Program (Aegis Trust); an Assistant Professor at Tilburg Law School and an Associate Legal Officer for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha-Tanzania. He holds a PhD from Tilburg University (2009) and an LLM from the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights (Sweden-2006). His academic interests cover indigenous rights/issues, transitional justice, peace building, identity politics and mass/collective victimization.

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(KU Leuven), Belgium.

The Chakwera Model in the Africa we want



The President of Malawi, Lazarus Chakwera, has in his weekly radio address to the nation in which he updates the citizens on progress made and sets down the tone and direction of his leadership. Last month's address was perhaps the most interesting yet and it is attracting comments around the continent.

This, in part, is what he said: "Fellow Malawians, "I have noted with delight that there is much interest in my plans to trim the powers of the President. Because of that interest, I am confident that when this project is well underway, it will have your full support.

"Reducing presidential powers is something that is often promised but never delivered, but I think you know by now that I do not say something unless I mean to do it. But to get this done, I need your support.

"But it is important that we all understand what these powers are.

"The first category of powers a President has is 'Positional'. In our jurisdiction, there are certain positions and offices that are reserved for the President alone, such as the positions of Head of State, Head of Government, and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. "It is time we reviewed the merits of having the President also occupy an office like the Chancellor of a public University. This is a relic from a bygone era. I know of no free country in which the State President is at helm of an institution that exists to produce free thinkers.

Second category has to do with certain decisions that are reserved for a President to make. It's my view that there are too many decisions made by a President, so I mean to reduce that. Having a President make too many decisions has created problems for our country for a long time.

"There must be decisions that when made by Parliament are final, and even where the President has the power to veto such decisions, he should no longer be allowed to sabotage

the governance framework by sitting on the decision.

The third category of powers a President has is that of appointments. From the Judiciary, to the Legislature, to the Executive, all the way to constitutionally mandated institutions designed to operate independently, the boards of statutory corporations, foreign embassies. We have the anomaly of having all of them look to the president as the appointing authority. This is unwise. No person is good or humble enough to be entrusted with that much appointing power.

The fourth category of Presidential powers which need trimming is cultural. We need to review our behaviors towards a president, because how we behave around a president is what creates a national perception of how much power he or she has. This includes how we address a President, *how many times a President is mentioned in salutations at a single event , how many cars and firepower a President's convoy has, and so forth...

"During the campaign for presidential elections, I noted that many political campaigns conducted by state officials were using state resources like state vehicles and state security. We need to think about the limits and parameters of this culture because it is now regularly abused.

"Even if it may not be possible to fully separate state resources from the activities of political parties, we need rules that clearly spell out when the overlap between party and state is acceptable and when it is abusive.

When I propose laws to address these inconsistencies, I ask you to support me by demanding that your MPs vote for these changes. Malawi needs a more empowered citizenry. The way to achieve that is to increase the powers of governance institutions and decrease powers of the President

With this mind set of an African President, there is a ray of light shining through Africa; may it become a beam. We wait to see if many other African nations will copy or adopt for their President.

Kojo Addo-Kufuor: Mortgages in Ghana; the myths and facts

If you are renting now, buying a home could be a better financial decision. Of course, that depends on several factors such as; where you live, how much you pay now as rent, an available fit-for-purpose house you can afford, current mortgage interest rates and your aspirations.

Taking your first steps towards homeownership – and getting a foot on the property ladder – can be an exciting journey. Apart from the financial aspect, it is also important that you're armed with information – and the right information at that – before you start your journey to homeownership.

“While it is important to do your research during the home-buying process, you must not believe everything you hear.”, he says. You could do with all the help to make an outright purchase, or get a loan to buy that land, build that house or buy out that cozy property in that estate you've been eyeing for some time.

Contrary to what you may have heard, getting a mortgage does not require perfect credit or a large down payment. It is, however, safe to say you should get your finances in order before you start house hunting or talking to lenders.

Kojo Addo-Kufuor, in this piece, helps you split the assumptions, untruths and the gaps in the public knowledge on acquiring a home loan.

Many people in their 20s and 30s think of homeownership as a distant prospect; this is not exactly the case. Shared concerns and experience have shown that young people see the deposit as the biggest obstacle to getting on the ladder.

It is not that terrible a prospect. You can now get a home loan offer of up to 100% property's value if you are resident in Ghana and up to 70% if you are non-resident. This means it is possible to buy a house without making any down payment at all.

First National Bank's innovative First Time Buyer home

loan product is best suited for young professionals or executives who have just graduated into their first jobs, and/or supplemented by other revenue lines.

Such young professionals or executives could easily get to translate their monthly rent into monthly mortgage repayments towards the purchase of their own property. In fact, over 60% of the home loan client base are below age 45.

It's also important to consider that with your mortgage repayments, you're adding to the equity you own in the property with each installment paid, whereas this is not



the case when you pay rent as a tenant.

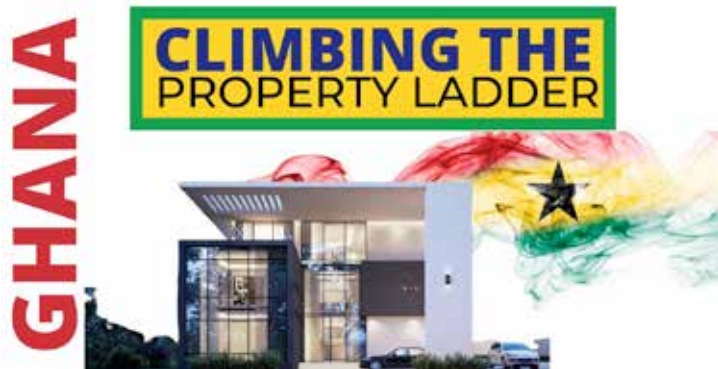
The truth is lots of people believe that their existing bank is the one and only place to go when it's time to think about a mortgage. That is probably because your bank will regularly send advertising material on what they can offer relatively along with preferential rates.

It, however, makes sense to look around some more. The banking industry in Ghana is quite diversified, and banks are adding on to their portfolio with the right partnerships. First National Bank after merging with the erstwhile GHL Bank, has enhanced its home loan portfolio to serve many more Ghanaians with products which hitherto wasn't accessible.

If you are a salaried worker, you can access the broad suite of regular home loans. If you are a business owner or have multiple revenue streams, the innovative Save-

To-Own home loan is best suited; just by demonstrating your ability to repay with a monthly deposit into an account for a year or two and then you have a home loan.

It's obvious that you'll struggle to get a mortgage with a bad credit history. The assessment of your application goes beyond that. Your credit history and your current ability to settle such gaps could be considered in the process. Speak to a mortgage advisor at First National Bank Ghana. These people help you make the right choices for a home loan based on



your responses to some background questions and then guide you appropriately through the process.

It's certainly right to think of the interest rate as to how much your mortgage actually 'costs', as this is what you pay to have your loan, on top of the equity you're accruing in your property. But that's not to say you should assume that the lowest interest rate means the cheapest mortgage.

This is a common misconception that lenders see anyone, not in a full-time formal job as a risk. With the rise in freelancing, entrepreneurs, small business owners, side hustle enthusiasts, flexible and contract work in Ghana, banks like First National Bank Ghana take a much more individualistic approach when it comes to assessing people's credit and underwriting situations. There's every chance you can qualify for your home loan application provided your income is stable and sufficient for a comfortable repayment plan.

While there are plenty of mortgage misconceptions floating around these days, from how hard it may be to qualify to how much you should put down, it's important to learn the facts and how they apply to you. The truth is, getting a mortgage is much easier than you may think. If you need financing to buy a home, talk to First National Bank Ghana's. Not doing so could delay homeownership, and the benefits you could gain by years.

OPINION

I WAS KIDNAPPED BY MY NATION.

I was indeed kidnapped by my nation.

My country kidnapped me.

I was kidnapped because my talent, my creativity, my innovation was hijacked by my country's.

My well-being has been kidnapped by my country.

My assurance to good health and protection of life was kidnapped by my country's.

The so-called leaders are having my country kidnapped with their actions and inactions.

Where is reasoning for my freedom?

My sleep was kidnapped by the policies, processes and



procedures implemented by their governance and leadership.

My freedom to move around in my community and my country was kidnapped by my leaders.

All the freedoms and opportunities that we see in Advanced Nations. Kidnapped!

We shall be free from these.

They put me on bad roads.

They put me in darkness.

They put me where there's no health provision.

They put me where humans shouldn't be when you have the resources to look after yourself.

They degraded my conscious and beliefs to freedom as a human-being. They took away my justice and rights.

I enjoy the thought that one day with or without ransom we shall all be free from the kidnappers of good governance and leadership.

By Alistair Soyode

Founder, BEN TV, United Kingdom

Celebration of His Royal Highness: Obi Efeizomor 11 on the Throne of Owa kingdom for 61 years



Victor Efeizomor chronicles the accomplishment of His Royal Highness, Dr. Emmanuel Oyinke Efeizomor 11, Obi of Owa Kingdom, who turned 82 years old in March and 61 years on the throne in September 2020.

When the people of Owa kingdom in Ika North-East Local Government Area of Delta State gathered on the 6th day of September 1959 to crown a young, dynamic and vibrant prince as the king of Owa kingdom, many never believed the crown would rest on the young king's head for sixty-one years, more so when his father and grandfather did not spend up to forty years of age on the throne. In fact we are still counting as he is breaking all traditional records in the Kingdom

The young king, soon after coronation, hit the ground running by deploying his managerial skills in bringing socio-economic and political development to his kingdom and beyond.

Born into the Odogwu dynasty, the founder and the first king of Owa Kingdom, Dr. Emmanuel Oyinke Efeizomor 11, (JP), OON, has shown that he is a servant-leader per

excellence. He was crowned the Obi of Owa Kingdom as the 17th Obi of Owa on the 6th day of September 1959. He turned 82 years on March 10th, 2020.

Background /Education

He studied in Sapele, Port-Harcourt, Ibadan, Britain and the United States of America (USA). His exposure and experience equipped him with a clear vision and mission to transform Owa into a kingdom of civilized people and modernized structure.

As a result of his wealth of knowledge acquired through aggressive reading and learning, Efeizomor II put in place a formidable administrative structure that attracted followership. He endeared himself to well-meaning people by working diligently on whatever assignment given to him. His commitment to the cause of his people, his determination and perseverance to succeed, his democratic leadership style, his advocacy for gender equality, and his intellectual prowess are all worthy of emulation.

Obi Efeizomor II is seen as a monarch of towering stature. He is one of the most accomplished traditional rulers in Nigeria. His achievements during the past sixty years in office are a

testimony to his ability to adapt to ever changing social, economic and political situation.

He is an icon of compassionate fatherhood whose values would continue to be a good reference point. His achievements can be seen in educational development of himself and his subjects, mobilization of Owa communities for self-help and community development, and active support for government to develop Owa Kingdom.

Philanthropy



Efeizomor II formed, revived, mobilized and supported several community organizations of Ndiowa. Notable among these are Owa Patriotic Union, Owa Development Committee, Owa Youths Association and Boji-Boji Owa Community Development Committee and many others within the rural communities. He is assessable by his people no matter what the problem is, his palace is full of activities as people come and go to seek his wise counsel.

He is a believer in the developmental philosophy of “heaven helps those who help themselves” By his self-help approach many roads, markets etc., were built and expanded. He ensured that educational facilities were made available in his domain. Thus in collaboration with the Christian missions and government; the following secondary schools were founded; Ika Grammar School, Boji-Boji Owa in 1960, Owa Grammar School, Owa-Oyibu in 1979, Owa-Alero Secondary / Commercial School, Owa-Alero in 1979, Owanta Grammar School, Owanta in 1980, Owa-Alizomor Grammar School, and Owa-Alizomor in 1980. He gave active support to the establishment of Calvary Polytechnic, Owa-Oyibu and he is currently a visitor to the polytechnic.

Right from the time of his coronation in 1959, successive governments and other well-meaning organisations have never failed to acknowledge

Efeizomor’s immense contributions towards the peace, unity and development of Owa kingdom and beyond.

Public Service

He was a member, Western Regional House of Chiefs 1960 to 1963, member, Mid-West Region leaders of thought during the civil war, member Delta State Government delegation to several Northern State of Nigeria 1971 to date, member Bendel State Traditional Rulers Council 1967 to 1991; Director, Nigeria Cocoa Board 1979, Managing Director, Toprest (Nigeria) Limited, Insurance Brokers and firm of Building Contractor 1976, member Governing Council, Institute of Journalism, Benin City 1988 to 1990, Representative on WAEC State committee 1996 to 2004 and member, Committee on misuse of title, Delta State 2000 to 2006 among others.

Efeizomor II was Chairman Ika and Asaba Divisional Income Tax Review tribunal 1961, Chairman panel on ways of improving/increasing government Tax collection in Ika Division; Chairman Ika Divisional

Education Board 1973 to 1975, Chairman National Freedom from Hunger Campaign Bendel State 1974 to 1976, Chairman State Advisory Committee on Education for Citizenship 1977, Chairman Land

Use Allocation Advisory Committee in Ika Local Government Area; Chairman Police Community Relations Committee 1985, Chairman Zonal Police Public Relations Committee, Ika, Ndokwa, Aniocha and Osimili Local Government Areas 1987 to 1992; Chairman EPI, ORT implementation committee Ika Local Government

Continued on Page 66



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area 1987, Chairman Ika MAMSER implementation committee 1987 to 1992, Chairman Committee on Land Dispute in Gbariagolor, Alidinma Scheme 1977 and Vice Chairman Presidential Panel on Warri Crisis 2003 among others.

Recognitions

Other awards and positions held by Obi Efeizomor II include Grand Patron of Owa Patriotic Union 1959 to date, Patron of Bendel East Cultural Association 1988, patron Izu Umunna Cultural Association of Nigeria, Jos, 1989, Grand Patron, English and Literary Students Association, Edo State University (now Ambrose Ali University Ekpoma) 1990 to 2003; Grand Patron, the Institute of Farmers of Nigeria 1994; Life Patron, Ika Media Practitioners Association of Nigeria (MPAN); Fellow, the Institute of Farmers of Nigeria Ibadan 1994; National Patron, National Traders and Market Leaders Council of Nigeria 2001 to date, Merit Award for Examination Ethics by Ministry of Education of Delta State 2004, Millennium Excellence Award by front line news media Lagos as the most worthy traditional ruler for the year 2003. In recognition of his contributions to the social-economic development of Nigeria 2004. Obi Efeizomor II was listed in Africa year Book "Who is Who" in 1977. Doctorate Degree in Education by the City University, Los Angeles, California, USA-7th April 1990. Fellow, Institute of Administration Management of Nigeria (FIAMN),Lagos -1992. Conferred with a National honour award of Officer of the Order of the Niger(OON)-2008. Fellow, Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators at the National Judicial Institute, Abuja on 28th November, 2017. In Delta State, His Majesty, Obi (Dr.) Efeizomor



II was the immediate past Chairman of Delta State Interim Advisory Committee of Traditional Rulers (2002-2006). Vice-Chairman, Presidential Panel on Warri Crisis, 2003. Member of the Project Steering Committee for the Establishment of Multi-Door Court House in Delta State, 2011.

First Vice-Chairman , Delta State Traditional Rulers Council, 2012-2015. Member, Governing Council of the Delta State Multi-Door Courthouse. He is the current Chairman, Delta State Council of Traditional Rulers.

Literary Works

His Majesty, Obi (Dr.) Efeizomor II, has authored the following publications; Community Development on Owa Kingdom : The Nigerian Factor -1994. Perspectives on Owa Kingship and Kingdom -2004. Patterns of Growth and Development in Owa Kingdom -2004.

No doubt, Obi Dr. Efeizomor II has contributed over 61 years to building humanity in no small measure and commitment to socio- economic, political and traditional institutions of Nigeria and beyond.



Owa Monarch Clocks

61
Years
on the **Throne**



The entire
members of
Owa Royal
Family and
the people of
Owa
Kingdom
felicitate our
father

HIS ROYAL MAJESTY,
OBI (DR.) E. O.
EFEIZOMOR II, JP, OON
Obi of Owa Kingdom

Chairman, Delta State Council of Traditional Rulers as he clocks 61 years
on the throne of his ancestors on *Sunday September 6th, 2020*

*Obi Agwu!! Egbogidi Iyare!!!
We celebrate with you Sir.
Long May You Reign*



Signed: The Royal Family

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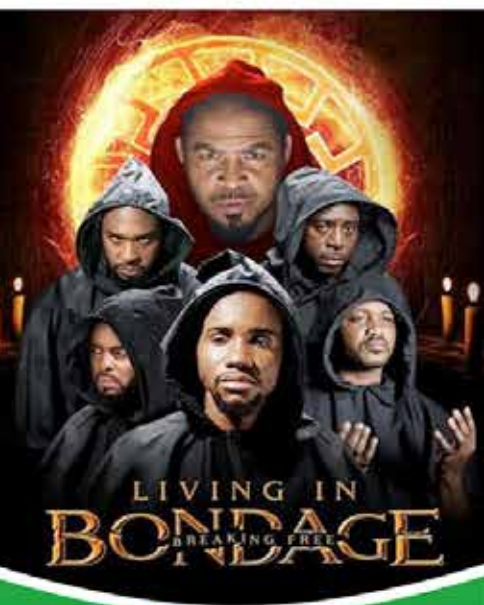
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