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YOUNG AFRICA LEADERS JOURNAL OF DEVELOPMENT

A PUBLICATION OF:
Young African
Leaders Forum
01
EDITION



THE STATE OF AFRICA
ECONOMY
AND A WAY FORWARD

DEVELOPMENTAL NATIONALISM:
**THE ROLE OF THE
AFRICAN YOUTH**

PAN-AFRICANISM, LEADERSHIP
PROSPECT AND THE
AGENDA 2063

AFRICA INTER-CITY
RAILWAY CONNECTION
SYSTEM

EDUCATION: A
PATHWAY TO AFRICA'S
DEVELOPMENT
(THE SCRUTINY)



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Mission Statement

To move Africa to the First World by creating workable solutions to its developmental problems and strategically executing them.

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EXCERPT 1

The year, 2017, will focus on “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”. There is thus a need for Africa to rely on the potential of its youth through the implementation of basic Human Rights such as quality education and the creation of jobs. The African youth must remain a source of hope, and AU Member States must continue engaging young people to help overcome poverty in Africa. Youth Engagement Strategies should be invested in to encourage youth participation in a Pan African environment. The inclusion of African Youth in discussions on how to encourage Africa’s growth will not only create a setting of acceptance but will also allow Africa’s sustainable development to be youth-driven.

African Youth should also explore dates that celebrate them such as African Youth Day established in 2006 in Banjul to acknowledge that African youth have an important voice in Africa since they are significant stakeholders in the continent. The African Youth Day celebrated on 01 November in recognition of the African Youth Charter during the Summit in Banjul is, thus, an opportunity for young Africans to engage and contribute to the development of the continent in each region by addressing key issues regarding economic growth, social problems, and sustainable development in African societies. Article 26 of the African Youth Charter urges youth to partake fully in citizenship duties including, but not limited to voting, decision-making and governance. It also encourages youth to engage in peer-to-peer education in order to enhance the promotion of youth development in areas like literacy, use of information and communication technology, disease and violence prevention, and peace building.

Investment in African Youth is an opportunity to inspire future generations to emulate innovative and exciting approaches to making a difference in the promotion and protection of human and people’s rights in Africa. Youths (and YALF) should therefore make maximum use of the opportunities given to them in order for Africa to achieve its goals as a collective entity.

Dr. Salah Hammad

*Senior Human Rights Expert,
Department of Political Affairs,
African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

EXCERPT 2

Two years ago, the Young African Leaders Forum embarked on the journey of mobilizing young people to support the African Union Agenda 2063. Agenda 2063 as a consensual document was borne out of a consultative process involving all segments of African society ranging from the Regional Economic Communities, Member States, Women and Youths to civil society organisations, including youths of YALF.

The Young African Leaders Forum is a very strategic youth-led organisation working systemically to foster the timely realisation of the African Union Agenda 2063 vision. The initiative and ambition of this organisation is to move African nations to the First World status. In order to achieve their vision, they have counted it necessary to gather, share information and develop ideas from African youth leaders through their journal of development. The Young African Leaders Journal of Development (YALJOD) will host ideas and viewpoints about the development of Africa. The journal is not merely a theoretical one. It will rather form the foundation for numerous implementable projects which will be executed by YALF, other development focused organisations in Africa, and even the governments.

There is no gainsaying that the attainment of Africa's long-term socio-economic development agenda is contingent on building strong institutions and strong current generation. The youth should be equipped to tackle the root causes of conflict such as poverty, strong oversight over governments to establish accountable state institutions that would provide the adequate and desired responses to the peace and security challenges that the continent is faced with, which have diverse impact on all generations but more especially youth, children and women. The youth leader, like any one of us, have the responsibility to ensure that the AU and member states deliver on their mandate of silencing the guns by 2020. Doing so would pave the way for a prosperous Africa, which will occupy its rightful place in the international arena. YALJOD provides the platform to exchange ideas on how all these can be achieved.

Alice Buhinja Mutesi

Post Conflict Reconstruction Officer,
Peace and Security Department,
African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

EXCERPT 3

The future belongs to those who will inherit it. The responsibility for ensuring the future we want rests on all who have a stake in the future. Theoretically, we are all historical stakeholders in the future, whether as those who will inherit, or as those who create it as legacy. However, more meaningfully, the first frontier stakeholders are the youth, whose decisions and actions on the most part are currently subject to decisions and actions of the older generation. For the youth to play their role as the first frontier, they must begin to take up strategic positions as participants in the current decision making, action planning and implementation. If they wait for formal installation as leaders, it will be too late.

This participation begins with the young people acquiring the necessary knowledge, identifying the challenges and opportunities, determining the future they want, recognizing what needs to be done and making deliberate decisions to carve niches for their interventions at every level, in every sector, as far as is possible.

Fortunately, the future we all want as Africans has been well articulated in the AU Vision framework: Agenda 2063, the AU having made tremendous effort to capture the voices and perspectives of all constituencies of the African peoples, including youth and women. Furthermore, the AU also makes conscious effort to include young people in decision making processes whether the young people are already in formal leadership positions or not.

It therefore behooves every African youth as far as is possible, to 'make a committee of one' and decide to be a leader in this matter. Leadership involves recognition of the challenge and opportunity, whether in part or in whole, and setting out to do something about it, and seeking to influence others positively towards the common desired end.

It is with this in mind that the initiative undertaken by young people under YALF is particularly encouraging. There is hope for Africa when young people embrace their responsibility for Africa's future by seeking to appreciate the causative and incidental factors of why and where we are today, and recognize the implications of our collective vision, in order to understand and identify their roles for today and tomorrow.

The YALJOD initiative shifts the erstwhile pervasive charge of the ages against youth who may prefer to while away their creative talent and energy on rabble rousing in identifying faults in the system for the sole purpose of making demands on government and other structures. Rather, youth under YALF are taking the responsibility for shaping the future from wherever they are. They are calling on themselves to be part of the Africa-led solution, through scholarly discourse, nurturing creative intellectual tensions through which the most fertile ideas will emerge to influence action at various levels in society.

I therefore highly commend and recommend YALJOD for every possible encouragement, support and resourcing, that the effort may reach the widest participation and audience and have the greatest possible impact.

Beatrice Khamati Njenga

*Head, Education Division, Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology,
African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.*

FOREWORD

Greetings and welcome as we celebrate the launch of the first youth-led pan-African journal of development, Young African Leaders Journal of Development (YALJOD). YALF's vision is that this new African journal dedicated to youth "will serve as a platform for suggesting and implementing community development ideas that will promote the living standards of Africans." As the title indicates, the journal will publish original research, scholarly analysis and viewpoints about the continent's development. Submissions for this first issue focused on challenges confronting various countries, with an emphasis on the impact on youth.

This inaugural publication comprises 22 original research and diverse review articles from authors based in Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. It reflects the voices of African youths who are confronting concerns from several vantage points as students, workers and activists.

Original research comprises a small but broad spectrum of topics: natural resources (oil sector) governance; the role of entrepreneurship; the impact of conflict on the availability of selected timber forest products; and understanding and addressing the "democracy-development" nexus. The other articles examine a myriad of significant issues namely: curbing terrorism among youth; democracy and development; illicit financial flows; integrating mental health interventions; developmental nationalism; education as a pathway to development; a Black theology response to sexual violence; the impact of culture, patriarchy and the law; workplace violence; ethnicity as a deterrent to development; multilingual radio as a communication tool in agriculture; an inter-railway system: a development and unification mechanism for Africa; promoting and solidifying African unity through Pan-Africanism, and "Black" colonialism.

My wish, consistent with YALF's goals, is that this journal becomes an important resource for all youths as well as policy makers. The intent is that future issues, in addition to the publication of articles and original research, will also publish expert opinions, book reviews and letters to the editor.

I would like to personally congratulate the members of YALF and the youth editors of YALJOD for taking such a bold step in preparing this critical and timely publication. Much success at the launching of this first edition at the African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa scheduled for October 21, 2016.

Dr. Patricia Rodney

(Widow of Pan-African Historian, Walter Rodney)
CEO, The Walter Rodney Foundation, Inc.
Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

PREFACE

“One Day, Africa will write its own story ... and it will be a story of glory and dignity ”,
- Patrice Lumumba

The Young African Leaders Journal of Development (YALJOD) has been conceptualised with the aim of highlighting ideas and issues that would help realise the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs), as well as other continental, regional and national development initiatives in Africa.

This Journal brings together some of Africa's top young minds and thought leaders, from different parts of the Continent, who have come together to highlight and share their views, perspectives and proposed solutions on some of the pressing developmental issues facing Africa today, from the threats of terrorism and conflict; to democracy and good governance; gender equality; education and healthcare provision; entrepreneurship; science and technology; and all other spheres of life.

As we proceed in the 21st Century, we need to recognise that Africa is at a new transition in its development, needing a new type of leadership in the political, economic, social and all other sectors of the global agenda. Indeed, Africa is rising, and at the centre of this growing Continent are Africa's youth, who are ready to make a difference. With Africa's youth population pegged at approximately 70%, and the Continent's population poised to double to two billion in the next generation, it is clear that the Continent's future lies in the hands of its youth.

What then are Africa's hopes for the next 50 years, and the next one hundred years and beyond? What are our hopes of realising the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development? And indeed, what are Africa's hopes of realising our very ambitious Agenda 2063, if we cannot adequately embrace the vision, knowledge and creativity of our youth? And if we cannot inspire them to confidently and assertively face a globalised and competitive world?

I believe that taking into account the perspective of young people is critical to social change, political and economic progress. It is also important to include the perspective of our youth in the political and economic decision-making process in Africa. This is because young people hold the key to change, innovation, and action in all areas of development. It therefore, falls upon us that for Africa's political, economic and social decisions and declarations to result in effective action for sustainable development, the youths need to be effectively engaged, because the concerns of young people top today's global agenda - from education, to employment, access to healthcare facilities, as well as information and communication technologies, and all other areas of life. If Africa does not integrate the knowledge, vision, creativity and experience of its youth, Africa's young people will remain an untapped powerful resource and Africa would be losing out on its major resource.

The Indian philosopher, Mahatma Gandhi once said *“First they ignore, then they laugh at you, then they ight you, then you win”*. As expressed by Mahatma Gandhi, Africa was first ignored and considered a dark continent. When the explorers from the western world came they laughed at us as being primitive and laughed at everything we did from our cultural beliefs and our food, right through to our religious beliefs. Then they fought with us during colonization and during our struggle for political independence. Eventually, we won and Africa is still winning as the rest

of the world keeps coming back to Africa and are dependent on Africa's wealth.

I believe that the future can be found in the past. Africa is the birthplace of mankind and is also the birthplace of civilization with great early empires, a great tradition of trade; a great history; a wealth of diversity of peoples, tongues, and traditions; and a full spectrum of skin tones, hair textures, rich religions, rich cultures and a rich heritage.

However, because we allow other people to write our history, Africa's good and inspiring stories of our rich heritage are never told. Positive stories about Africa, such as those of strong wise men and women, rulers of great empires such as Shaka Zulu of South Africa, and strong assertive women like Yaa Asaantwe of Ghana are never told. Even the founding fathers of modern Africa who have not been gone too long like Haile Selasie; Jomo Kenyatta; Julius Nyerere; Kwame Nkrumah have already been pushed out of the history books of our children. Those who are still alive like Dr Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia are not given as much credit as is due to them. This is because we let other people write our stories. And because we let other people write our stories, all the great history of Africa is largely ignored and unknown, as most of it is not written at all.

I always get the impression that we underrate ourselves as Africans and underestimate Africa's real potential. From the history that I know, much of the modern world was built on Africa's resources. From the history that I know, the modern western world was built on Africa's labour, on Africa's sweat and toil, using Africa's manpower, Africa's wealth and Africa's intellect- initially as slaves, followed by colonization, right through to the pilferage of our wealth and resources via privatisation, foreign investment and tax evasion, from raw materials right through to brain drain.

It is no secret that Africa is a continent that is rich in natural resources from oil and gas, to gold, diamonds, copper, precious stones and virgin arable land. Africa is also rich in rare earths with bio-diversity and the enormous carbon-sink that are the rain forests, who play a major role in tackling global warming and climate change. Just like Africa gave birth to humanity and built the world in the past, Africa is still building the world in the present and the world is dependent on Africa to build and save its future and that of the entire planet. The rich natural resources of Africa have once again prompted a 21st century scramble for the Continent, with the East and the West fighting for a piece of Africa. Africa still has untapped resources such as mineral deposits and virgin arable land. All these blessings make Africa a continent of opportunity and an emerging investment frontier. This positions Africa as a continent that is signalling impending economic migration from the East and the West in the name of foreign investment and international development.

As the birthplace of civilization, there is every opportunity that Africa can now become the birthplace of a new form of politics that goes beyond the Western model of liberal democracy. As Africa finally emerges from the twin shadows of the Colonial Era and the Cold War, there is a new vibrancy to African politics and the true spread of democracy in the wake of globalisation. Most African countries now have multi-party democracy, where competition among the political parties is more spread out and fierce, giving the electorate a wider choice to select from, and putting the government of the day to be accountable and to uphold good governance. Africa's new assertive politics rejects the belief of the 'one policy or one solution its all' as imposed in the past.

As is evident now, the Continent has now risen above the initial setbacks of HIV/AIDS with

some of our African countries being among the fastest growing economies in the world. Africa has survived slavery, colonisation, brain drain, resource and wealth pilferage. Surely, Africa can survive disease, poverty, corruption and conflict!

Africa is a hub of professional and intellectual resource with its own intellectual, cultural, financial, human, political and social capital to rise to excellence. With the continued increase in the number of African universities, Africa is educating its young people to be future leaders with a higher percentage of Africa's youth being educated in most African countries. In its pursuit for excellence, Africa requires a new development strategy that invests in the potential of Africa by Africans to improve governance and to achieve sustainable, equitable economic growth in order to put Africa on a path to meet its developmental goals, to eradicate poverty and achieve prosperity.

Africa needs to believe in itself, in its power and its influence through its vibrant youth populations. Africa needs to reassert itself as the provider of the world's resources and the custodian of the well-being of the planet. Africa is once again being seen as a continent of opportunity, and the last emerging investment frontier. Africa needs to claim ownership of Africa's destiny, take ownership of our continent and our resources; ownership of our policies, politics, economic and social development. We also need to take ownership of our problems and ownership of our solutions. While International Relations scholars talk about the "Asian Century", I feel confident to claim the 21st Century as the African Century because of our vibrant youth population.

Africa has the potential to be a major player in world affairs. But Africa cannot do this without its youth making a full contribution. The development strategy for Africa must be premised on the youth as key and indispensable actors and leaders in accelerating economic growth and in achieving politically, socially and environmentally sustainable development. The talents of Africa's youth is exhibited in the way the various authors have articulated the issues that they have chosen to highlight in this inaugural issue of the Young African Leaders Journal of Development.

Her Excellency Ambassador Dr. Justina Mutale,

Founder & CEO, Justina Mutale Foundation for Leadership

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From an idea, this first youth-led pan-African journal of development was developed into a workable concept and now a finished project which will be launched at Africa's strategic centre; the African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Because we are consistent with God's Grace, the Young African Leaders Forum (YALF) wishes to express their gratitude for His mercies which paves the way for the successful implementation of all our developmental projects in the continent; especially the smooth realisation of this historical journal of development and our vital projects in the future.

We wish to thank Otunba Yinka Lawal-Solarin, Tunde Bjorn Lawal-Solarin and the entire management board of Literamed Publications (Nig.) Limited for tapping into this African development vision and deeming it necessary to become a part of it by providing the technical support needed to make it successful and impactful for many African youths.

Our gratitude also goes to the Youth Division and the entire Department of HRST, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, for their support and partnership for the 2016 YALF Annual Summit and the official launch of this journal. We are especially thankful to Dr. Salah Hammad and the Department of Political Affairs for their commitment to ensuring that our Human Rights works keep spreading.

We appreciate all our partner organisations; Justina Mutale Foundation for Leadership under the able leadership of the 2012 African Woman of the Year, Dr. Justina Mutale and The Walter Rodney Foundation chaired by Dr. Patricia Rodney. We seize this opportunity to officially thank the Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia, for their partnership and adequate contributions to our Campaign against Tuberculosis in Africa and the subsequent city-wide walk in Addis Ababa. The future will resonate the depth of our gratitude to them.

To Professor J. Obi Oguejiofor, Professor Ike Odimegwu, Dr. Chidi Achebe and Dir. Edgard Guidibi, we say thank you for your significant motivations to the Executive Council of the Young African Leaders Forum. High esteem to all our editorial consultants who have added impetus to the prestige of this project.

Special thanks goes to Pastor Obinna Michael, who is the President of the Gifted World Commission for his mentorship and immense metaphysical support which holds the basic foundation for many of our successes at YALF.

And Finally, we say thank you to Mrs. Oluremi Olatunji and Mrs. Suzanne Oyebola who worked betimes to effectuate quality and ensure that we keep to our promise of presenting this journal on schedule. Are there not many more that we silently acknowledge for their great contributions? They know even as we ourselves do.

Pafungeyi Gore,
Vice President II, Young African Leaders Forum (YALF)
PE, South Africa.

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