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Agend
2063
The Africa we Want



“L’Afrique que nous voulons”

– David Nyabenda

Quoique indubitablement le continent le plus pauvre du monde, l’Afrique reste paradoxalement le continent le plus riche en ressources naturelles et humaines.

Mais oui, **“il n’y a pas de fumée sans feu” et l’extinction de ce dernier demande la souplesse et la rapidité, sinon il embrase même le reste des biens**. La pauvreté de mon cher continent est la conséquence directe de plusieurs sérieux problèmes **dont la prise de conscience et la résolution immédiate pourraient transformer immédiatement le continent en Eldorado**. En effet, **la mauvaise gouvernance politique, économique et sociale de presque tous les dirigeants africains, l’absence d’une vision d’une Afrique- Etat, les lourdes dettes chroniques extérieures et la corruption sont notamment à l’origine de** la pauvreté du continent africain.

Ainsi, connaissant les problèmes qui empêchent notre Afrique de se développer, **que faire pour que d’ici en 2063 nous ayons une Afrique que nous voulons, c’est - à - dire une Afrique “riche”, “développée”?**

Premièrement, il faut que tous les dirigeants de l’Afrique **“riche”** que nous voulons fassent preuve, dès maintenant, **d’une bonne gouvernance politique** en réussissant bien entendu les alternances politiques. Ceci leur permettra d’acquérir une stabilité démocratique qui permettra à son tour leur concentration sur les problèmes qui hantent leurs économies. Les alternances politiques échouées ont toujours été l’une des raisons qui font que le continent reste pauvre économiquement.

En effet, elles engendrent des guerres qui font perdre le temps de développer le continent en devenant une préoccupation. Aussi, à cause d’elles, beaucoup de fonds publics sont mobilisés pour restaurer la paix et beaucoup d’investisseurs étrangers et nationaux sont obligés de fuir et de délocaliser leurs capitaux; causant ainsi la carrence de devises et d’emplois. Or, tous ces fonds et capitaux perdus devraient être investis dans d’autres activités économiques.

Ainsi donc, pour résoudre ce problème d’instabilité politique, il faut d’abord la volonté de chaque chef d’Etat africain car **“vouloir c’est pouvoir”**.

Ensuite, il faut que chaque gouvernant africain organise des états généraux lors desquels seraient exposées et débattues démocratiquement toutes les revendications du peuple. Ceci ne permettrait-il pas en effet d’engager la reconnaissance des torts et les réparations juridiques qui réconcilient en pansant les blessures, en éliminant les rancunes et en restaurant la confiance? Aussi, cela ne ferait-il pas ressortir la nécessité de l’interdépendance et de la diversité politique et idéologique?

En outre, après ces états généraux, chaque gouvernant africain pourrait adopter un pouvoir inclusif qui consisterait à s’assurer que tous les politiciens et citoyens marginalisés ou exclus soient parties prenantes dans le processus de développement socio-économique du pays ou du continent. Après cela, il faudrait qu’il y ait un sérieux système de suivi et de contrôle tant national que continental de la gestion d’Etats africains par leurs dirigeants.

En effet, je proposerais que tous les chefs d’Etats africains (L’Union Africaine) s’asseyent ensemble et qu’ils mettent en place un Organe Continental indépendant chargé d’Observation des Actions Gouvernementales et d’Appui à la Bonne Gouvernance Continentale (OCOAG-ABGC). Comme ça, s’il arrivait que un des chefs d’Etats africains fasse preuve de mauvaise gouvernance politique, économique et sociale, cet Organe pourrait étudier sa question et enfin décider, sous l’égide d’autres chefs d’Etats africains, son sort.

Parallèlement, il faut aussi que dans chaque pays africain le peuple réclame la mise en place d’un Organe National indépendant qui peut l’aider à accomplir la mission d’observer et de contrôler toutes les actions gouvernementales et qui peut travailler en synergie avec l’Organe Continental. Ainsi, le peuple peut demander le compte-rendu des actions gouvernementales à ces deux organes à tout moment. Et selon leur rapport, il peut, soutenu par l’Union Africaine et les deux organes, décider de changer ou de maintenir au pouvoir le chef de l’Etat. Mais il faut que ces deux organes aient un pouvoir sur les gouvernements, que ceux-ci les reconnaissent et qu’ils soient soutenus par l’Union Africaine.

Il faut désormais aussi que le peuple africain change de mentalité et qu'il comprenne qu'il doit apprendre à sanctionner ses leaders politiques par « un vote sanction » derrière lequel il n'y a pas de fraude ou de corruption de tous genres. Et s'il est trahi après son vote, il doit sortir manifester contre la mauvaise gestion de ses Etats par les gouvernements. Il faudrait que ceux-ci sentent une menace pour changer les choses. Peuples africains, sachez que le pouvoir d'élire vos Présidents que vous avez, vous permet aussi de démettre de leurs fonctions ces derniers sans passer par les parlementaires ou sénateurs. Ceux-ci sont souvent les membres des partis politiques des chefs d'Etats et ainsi ils ne peuvent leur rien faire.

Enfin, pour réussir la bonne gouvernance politique et favoriser ainsi la paix, premier facteur du développement, il faut que l'Union africaine mette en place une Cour Pénale Africaine (CPA) qui pourrait juger les dirigeants africains auteurs des crimes contre l'humanité ou des crimes de guerre, souvent provoqués par des alternances politiques échouées. La mise en place de cette juridiction pénale africaine permettrait par ailleurs de divorcer avec la CPI qui, à cause de son impartialité, ne cesse de poursuivre en grande majorité que les dirigeants africains accusés de crimes contre l'humanité alors que sous d'autres cieux des cas plus atroces se produisent sous ses yeux.

Deuxièmement, parlant des résolutions économiques que tous les dirigeants africains doivent adopter pour **très vite développer l'Afrique que nous voulons en 2063**, je crois que les mesures suivantes sont à prendre sans tergiverser:

1. Refuser désormais tout marché d'exploitation et de transformation des matières premières agricoles et minières aux sociétés étrangères pour les exploiter et les transformer nous - mêmes sur place car ces multinationales n'apportent pas grand-chose à l'économie africaine. Elles profitent d'une main d'œuvre africaine abondante et moins chère et une faible pression fiscale pour réaliser de gros chiffres d'affaires au détriment de nos Etats. Et le plus souvent elles ne transforment pas leur produit sur place, produit qui sera revendu aux africains beaucoup plus chère après transformation à l'extérieur. Cette résolution sous-entend aussi la création de beaucoup d'industries manufacturières (minières et agroalimentaires) pouvant générer beaucoup d'emplois pour des milliers de jeunes africains au chômage et des revenus pour les Etats. Ces derniers, parfaitement gérés, permettraient de payer les dettes extérieures et d'investir dans d'autres domaines générateurs de revenus.

2. Moderniser l'agriculture et l'élevage à des fins de consommation, de commercialisation et de transformation. Les gouvernants africains doivent comprendre que ce n'est pas avec la houe et la daba que l'Afrique peut se rendre autosuffisante alimentaires et qu'un homme qui a faim ne pense pas et ne se développe pas.

3. Créer un libre marché commun pour y écouler les produits manufacturés sur place. Ceci permettrait la diversité et l'augmentation des produits qui permettraient à leur tour l'augmentation du pouvoir d'achat du peuple africain.

4. Créer, à part la Banque Africaine de Développement, un autre Fonds Monétaire Africain (FMA) pour appuyer le développement socioéconomique du continent. Ce fonds permettrait d'abord des prêts à faible taux d'intérêt au détriment de ceux de la Banque mondiale et du Fonds Monétaire International accordés avec un taux d'intérêt élevé et spéculations diverses. Ensuite, il financerait la construction d'infrastructures (voies ferrées et routes reliant les capitales africaines) qui rendrait possible le marché commun.

5. Créer la monnaie africaine (L'AFRICA) pour faire face à la puissance de la monnaie étrangère.

6. Lever les entraves à la libre circulation intra-africaine en supprimant les exigences de visa voire de passeports contribuerait à une augmentation d'activités économiques. En effet, cela encouragerait le commerce, le tourisme, et les investissements entre pays africains. Mais pour que cette libre circulation ne puisse pas occasionner l'immigration accrue pouvant entraîner la phobie envers les étrangers et la fuite de cerveaux dans les pays les plus pauvres, les dirigeants africains doivent définir les critères régissant cette ouverture des frontières, notamment fixation d'une période de séjour pour un touriste, demande de preuves de capacités d'investissement et de création d'entreprise à l'endroit du demandeur de droit de résidence et extradition immédiate en cas de non conformité aux critères préétablis.

7. Mettre en place un Fonds National et/ou Continental d'Appui à la Création d'Emplois pour la Jeunesse africaine (FONACEJA ou FOCOCEJA) au chômage. Ainsi, cela pourrait réduire le nombre de jeunes qui émigrent incessamment en Europe ou ailleurs. Ils auraient les prêts à rembourser avec un faible taux d'intérêt.

Troisièmement, pour avoir l'Afrique développée que nous voulons, il faut que les dirigeants africains rectifient le tir sur la façon dont ils peuvent efficacement développer socialement leurs pays. Je proposerais en premier lieu que tous les chefs d'Etats garantissent l'éducation primaire et élémentaire gratuite et obligatoire. Ceci réduirait le nombre d'analphabètes et favoriserait les connaissances de base utiles pour lancer de petites activités génératrices de revenus. Parallèlement, il faut qu'ils changent les systèmes éducatifs actuels pour les adapter aux réalités du monde actuel et à l'évolution des sociétés africaines. Il faut en effet qu'ils favorisent beaucoup plus l'enseignement technique et professionnel nécessaire pour lancer son propre entreprise.

En deuxième lieu, pour se doter de beaucoup de mains d'oeuvres hautement et techniquement qualifiées, il faut que ces chefs d'Etats africains se mettent ensemble et construisent 4 grandes universités d'excellence panafricaines dans les 4 coins du continent (chacune dans chaque coin), avec comme facultés d'Entrepreneuriat, de Technologie et de Médecine. La création de ces 4 institutions diminuerait les longues distances que pourraient faire les chercheurs ou étudiants africains. Par ailleurs, pour que ce projet soit possible, je proposerais que les gouvernants africains créent un Fonds d'Appui à l'Education Universitaire Panafricaine (FAEUP) qui financerait la création et le fonctionnement desdits 4 établissements universitaires d'excellence et qui servirait aux prêts de bourses d'études remboursables après les études et l'obtention d'emplois par les demandeurs. L'obtention du travail serait facilitée par le FONACEJA ou le FOCOCEJA ci-haut suggéré.

En troisième lieu, les chefs d'Etats africains doivent développer les infrastructures en construisant beaucoup de routes et voies ferrées reliant les capitales africaines. Ceci faciliterait la libre circulation des biens, des capitaux et des personnes.

Quatrièmement, les dirigeants africains devraient avoir une vision de l'Afrique-Etat. Ils devraient penser ainsi à la création des Etats- Unis d'Afrique(EUA) avec un seul président et un seul gouvernement. Ceci ne ferait-il pas de l'Afrique une puissance économique, politique et sociale qui concurrencerait les USA et l'Union Européenne?

Enfin, pour atteindre le développement effectif du continent africain, il faut que les chefs d'Etats africains fassent feu de tout bois pour lutter contre **la corruption** car beaucoup de fonds publics sont détournés au lieu d'être utilisés pour d'autres fins économiques. Pour y arriver, il faut d'abord mettre en place des organes indépendants de dénonciation de tous cas et tentative de corruption. Ensuite, il faut durcir les sanctions contre le corrompu et le corrupteur et donner les moyens matériels et financiers nécessaires aux agents des pouvoirs exécutif, législatif, et judiciaire de tel sorte qu'ils ne soient plus corruptibles pour de l'argent. Par ailleurs, la meilleure façon de lutter contre la corruption est le développement économique du continent sinon la pauvreté restera toujours la cause de ce fléau.

En guise de conclusion, je tiens à rappeler que pour que nous ayons une Afrique riche et développée d'ici en 2063, la paix favorisée par les alternances politiques réussies, la nationalisation des diverses multinationales, le développement de l'industrie manufacturière et des infrastructures, la modernisation de l'agriculture, la libéralisation du marché intra-africain, la création de la monnaie africaine, le paiement et l'évitement des dettes chroniques extérieures ,le développement de l' enseignement technique et professionnel et la lutte efficace contre la corruption restent les principales et indéniables résolutions que les dirigeants africains doivent adopter sans tarder.

Aussi, la création des États-Unis d'Afrique(EUA) ne délivrerait-elle pas ce continent de la misère et de la souffrance ?

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The Africa we Want



THE AFRICA WE WANT

– **Mwanja Charles**

Wood fuel as an energy source has disastrous consequences on African environment and climate. How best can we reverse the trend?

SITUATION

According to the World Future Council, about 80% of households in Africa rely on charcoal as a primary source of energy and the continent consumes more than 23 million tons of charcoal annually. The charcoal business has put deforestation into an overdrive worsening the already the already dangerous climate change effects in Africa.

According to Lee White a climate change expert, once Africa boasted seven million square kilometers of forests but a third of it has been lost and most of it to charcoal.

Charcoal is made from wood which is burnt in low oxygen environment and the process removes water, methane, hydrogen and tar from wood which results into small portions of char that are almost pure carbon which are used to generate heat mainly for cooking purpose. Charcoal is a more efficient source of power than using regular wood because it doesn't produce smoke and it is easy to transport however the process of charcoal burning wastes 60% of wood and only 40% is retained as char which makes it environmentally hazardous.

According to Food and Agricultural Organization, Africa generates only 5% of total electricity in the world and that is why majority of Africans especially in sub-Saharan Africa can't access electricity. On the other hand, charcoal is readily available in every corner of the continent and cheaper compared to Kerosene, cooking gas and electricity.

The charcoal business is also booming because ways of life have changed due to urbanization and high population growth rate in African countries turning for charcoal to supplement or as the main source of power and income.

In Tanzania alone, the charcoal industry while largely informal, it was valued at US\$ 150 million by 2009 and the market has grown exponentially over time. In Uganda where a half of the forest cover has been lost in the past 30 years, charcoal production yields over 20,000 jobs and generates approximately US\$ 30 million annually and in Kenya it is almost ten times that figure.

The booming business is literally fueling economies of many nations in Africa and in the last 20 years, charcoal production risen in African countries by some estimates doubling and people making money as producers and resellers in this very business.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Charcoal is a popular and lucrative power source that has serious devastating effects for Africa because it has accelerated deforestation. Deforestation is a massive problem with wide range of related impacts that will increase the dangers being brought by climate change.

According to World Health Organization, smoke from fires that burn solid fuel like wood are killing more than 10,000 people a day globally which surpasses deaths resulting from AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. The Christian aid agency estimates that 182 million people in Africa are at risk of dying as a consequence of climate change by the end of the twenty first century. Meanwhile, Oxfam believes that climate change is frustrating the efforts of millions of people on the African continent to escape poverty because majority of Africans rely on Agriculture which is highly affected by climate changes.

Unfortunately, the regulation of charcoal industry in most African nations has been spotty at best and nonexistent in most places.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Embracing the alternative charcoal briquettes that are made from all biodegradable waste materials.

PROCEDURE

- Biodegradable waste materials like peelings from cassava, banana, potatoes among others, banana stems and fibers, maize cobs, sawdust, slashed grass, leaves and other household wastes excluding metals, plastics and polythene are collected.
- They are then dried for 1 to 2 days to reduce the moisture content and placed in a metallic container where they are burnt in limited oxygen supply to get char.
- Char is mixed with a clay soil suspension and a boiled suspension of cassava flour (porridge-like) in a kilogram ratio of 5:4:1. The importance of clay soil is to increase weight and heat retention plus durability of the briquettes while cooking. The cassava flour is used because it contains starch that helps to bind the mixture of clay and char together for easy molding into different desired shapes.
- The molded mixture(briquettes) are dried for 1-3 days and then ready for use or marketing.

WHY BRIQUETTES

- First and foremost, they are easy to make, take little time to be ready compared to charcoal and all material requirements are readily available in all households.
- They are long lasting compared to charcoal during cooking and they preserve heat which makes them economical for households besides being environmental friendly.
- The process of making briquettes requires little capital plus physical energy and this implies that women can also get involved in such an income generating activity. This can reduce on the income inequalities between men and women by addressing the women's exclusion from economic opportunities. This can therefore be a platform for uplifting the status of women in Africa.
- The briquettes offer the most appropriate solution to charcoal burning compared to most existing solutions that have not been effective like sensitization of masses on importance of forests and regulation of the business because they don't offer a feasible alternative source of power leaving only charcoal as an option.

- The briquettes are also a solution to waste management in households and this therefore can help improve sanitation in households and communities. It can also reduce on bills spent by households on waste disposal as well as reducing government expenditure on waste management.

PLAUSIBLE CHALLENGES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

- Procuring a metallic container implies financial capital however once obtained it lasts longer which makes it economical. For cassava flour it is cheap about less than a dollar for one kilogram as starting capital.
- Some waste materials used in making briquettes like banana and sweet potato peelings are also used as animal feeds which might pose competition. However other biodegradable waste materials are readily available and in most cases the urban and rural poor population don't rear domestic animals.
- Clay soil is only accessible to people near wetlands and other waterbodies. This may therefore require transport costs to acquire clay by the people who are distant from waterbodies. However, after accumulating enough capital and increasing production, this becomes a trivial challenge

Instantaneously the economic benefit of charcoal must be substituted with new development options, sustainable energy choices must be brought to rural and poor populations to curb the disastrous impact of charcoal. By considering this proposal, approximately four million hectares of forests felled every year for charcoal will be saved, climate change threats will be substantially reduced and **The Africa We Want** that harmonizes economic development plus environmental conservation will be achieved.

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UGANDA

3rd Place winner

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THE AFRICA WE WANT

BY FANTO FODAY

Agriculture has never been an interest of mine. As a child, we always had small gardens at our backyard and I distasted watering the plants every morning before school. However, in 2014, I had an encounter that change my mindset. I was opportune to visit the Lindt chocolate Factory in Cologne, Germany on a school excursion.

When I asked the tour guide where the factory got their supply of cocoa from, He showed us a big map of all the countries that supplied the chocolate factory with cocoa. Majority of the countries were from Africa. As the tour guide listed the countries on the map and mentioned my country, Sierra Leone, I was a bit startled. I had never imagined that cocoa was an exported commodity from my country- Sierra Leone to Europe. I could not connect this information with the reality on ground.

Like most African Nations, my country is challenged with an alarming high rate of poverty. I had questions in my mind, what was been done with all the money the farmers earn? Why don't we have our own chocolate factories? Why can't we invent our own cocoa products? If the farmers could export large tons of chocolate, why were they still poor? As a woman who lives and dreams in the continent of Africa, and as an individual who has tied her future to same, this experience was deeply troubling for me.

In a bid to find answers, I went for a vacation to Sierra Leone in 2017. While I was on vacation in my country, I visited my home town where I noticed that only few things had changed. I decided to meet with some farmers to get answers as to what had been done with the money they made from exporting. 40% of them farmers were cocoa farmers. Their challenges were numerous, ranging from lack of agricultural information, uncertain policy environment and poor infrastructural development that limit market access, increase post-harvest losses, climate events to mention but a few. I followed up in with reading articles about the challenges other African Countries faced in regards to Agriculture. The challenges were similar and mostly the same. However, I observed a major challenge -The agricultural potential of Africa remains largely untapped. I also conducted a research to know more about chocolate production in Europe and the results were quiet alarming.

Germany is one of the top four countries responsible for the production of chocolate in Europe. According to Statista, Western Europe accounts for approximately 35% of total world chocolate production. Interestingly, none of the major producers of chocolate are major sources of cocoa, and none of the major cocoa-producing countries are major chocolate manufacturing centers. Talk about an irony.

To some parts of the world, Africa must appear like a retrogressing continent infested with diseases and war; and a people who cannot champion their own causes. I would not be surprised, if we have been reduced to a continent that depends on charity aid to get by day to day. But this, is far from the truth. Africa is receiving a tremendous amount of the world's attention right now. Africa is rising. This year's African Economic Outlook from the African Development Bank projected Africa's GDP growth to accelerate to 4.0 percent in 2019 and 4.1 percent in 2020. African countries are looking for new opportunities for growth to move beyond the norm. With a young and striving population, progressively growing economies, and pro-innovation investments and improvement, Africans from all works of life are contributing into their communities to affect change and inspire others. There are young entrepreneurs who are producing new lines of business and employment opportunities in Africa's fast-growing digital marketplace and forefront health care workers who are organizing sophisticated quality services and outreach to the most vulnerable populations.

The African Union has developed 'Agenda 2063' its 50-year Vision and Action Plan for the Africa that Africans want. Agenda 2063 calls for action by all segments of society to work together and build a prosperous and united Africa based on shared values and a common destiny. Through this vision, sound policies and greater infrastructure will push Africa's transformation by enhancing the conditions for private sector development and by heightening investment, entrepreneurship, and micro, small and medium enterprises. Nevertheless, the risks are high for the realization of this vision. Several economies on the continent remain fragile, and infrastructure remains underdeveloped. Many African economies still rely on raw materials, with a limited diversification of their productive structures.

The continent holds a lot of young people who are creating solutions for farmers in their local communities. A good example is that of Oneyeka Akumah from Nigeria, who founded Farm Crowd, an aggrotech company that connects investors to farmers. Another great example is Jamila Abass from Kenya, who founded a company, M-Farm that gives small subsistence farmers vital market information via SMS on their mobile phones and helps them reach buyers. These are young Africans creating value and solving Agricultural problems across Africa. Africa needs more of these people to drive change.

I propose to create an innovative show, 'AGRIC CONNECT' that focuses on solving Agricultural problems in communities, town, and cities across the African continent. Using the Aspirations of the Agenda 2063 as the focal point, the show will seek not just to address these challenges, but provide sustainable solutions and implement these solutions where they are needed across the African continent. Recent global food crises and continuing struggles with hunger in some parts of Africa, particularly in the Horn, stress the need for greater food security. The potential contribution of the agricultural sector to poverty reduction, improved livelihoods of rural households and greater food security.

The show will take a format of identifying common Agricultural issues affecting our communities in Africa, providing solutions and acting together as a team with the support of the African Union to implement these solutions. After a solution is implemented in one community successfully, it

will be transferred to other parts of Africa. When you think about this generation of Africans, the first things that come to mind are purpose, passion, and drive.

The show will consist of young vibrant youths from different countries across Africa with talent, creative abilities and passion for Africa's development with the aim of promoting the AU Agenda 2063. The panelist will be made up of these youths. Together they will form a network of innovative, change makers and positive role models, who will be well prepared to create Sustainable solutions to the biggest challenges in the Agricultural sector in the African continent.

It will be an informative platform for Africans to know about Agenda 2063 but most importantly, to see its impact in the African continent. With one of the major aspiration of Agenda 2063 aiming at 'An Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by people, especially its women and youth and caring for children', the show will promote youth leadership and development in Africa.

This initiative will require resources such as a talk show studio, where I will host the show with other young bright Africans. It will require an online community where we engage Africans from across the globe. When Solutions are created, the viewers will have to vote for the best solutions. It will also require Volunteers from all over the continent, who will majorly responsible for sourcing out problems and looking for innovators with solutions to these problem. The show will illustrate that even though we face a big problems in Africa, we can start fixing them through a lot of small actions. It will showcase that we can champion African solutions to African problems if we use our creative energy in the right way. If we leverage on our status as the last frontier. The solutions that will derived from the show will help Africa with tech transfer, capacity building, partnership, access to the market, and involving the communities we want to serve in these solutions. This show will create opportunities for Africans to work together in Address changes in their communities.

I strongly believe my generation of African youth can drive the changes to get the Africa we want. However, none of one of us can be efficient as all of us. It is important that we make a joint decision to play various roles in effecting a social and economic revolution in the African Continent. Definitely, not everyone will be at the forefront but every single piece is required to complete the puzzle. As Edward Everett Hale puts it "Coming together is the Beginning, Staying Together is progress, and Working together is Success".

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The Africa we Want.

Honestly, I cannot in good conscience begin to speak about 'The Africa we want' without firstly acknowledging the cruel and unjust past from which Africa has emerged. Having begun with slavery in 1619, followed by the Berlin Conference in 1884 and the subsequent partitioning of 'This Magnificent African Cake'¹, and Africa successfully gaining independence with the exception of six island nations, African states over the last fifty years have developed a number of responses to the pressures of the times with two major transitions that stand out in this regard. The first transition came in the 1960's to 70's (a decade after a large fraction of the African countries attained independence) when, to continue advancing the agenda for economic freedom and drawing lessons from the global energy crisis of the 1970s, Africa took the bold step to pursue continental integration as a strategy for economic development.² Secondly, this period was marked by the Bretton Woods Agenda on Structural Adjustments, which saw the diminution of African economies with far reaching repercussions on critical environmental and social sectors which are still visible in the present day Africa.³

Based on the conviction that Africa has the potential and capability to unite and outshine other regions of the global village and take her rightful place in the world community, the Agenda 2063 Framework Document and its Popular Version were adopted in January 2015, in Addis Ababa.² To me, the phrase 'The Africa we Want' raises questions of 'an Africa wanted by who?' – especially in a world full of greed and deceit – and therefore I am more inclined towards the slogan 'The Aspirations of the African People' as it is less ambiguous and frank. Nonetheless, the Africa we want is "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena".² In essence, it is an Agenda that we as Africans all have a stake in its implementation and have contributed, either directly or indirectly, to its formulation.

The Africa we want is one that has its economies being sufficiently transformed, moving away from being commodity based with weak value addition, poor manufacturing and industrialization, towards having the benefits of growth being shared widely coupled with job creation for the betterment of our youth and women.^{2,4} Owing to Africa's encouraging recent economic performance and with positive developments in other regions as examples, African people now have raised expectations for a better life for themselves, their communities, nations, Africa at large and rightfully so. Bearing this in mind, we cannot continue to be synonymous with corruption and inefficiency and need to position ourselves in such a manner that we are able to finance our own development and curb the illicit flow of resources, be they monetary or otherwise. With a greater sense of urgency, we need to change the status quo as it will neither satiate the expectations and aspirations of Africans, both on the continent and those in the Diaspora, nor will it enable Africa to catch up with the rest of the world, reclaiming her rightful place in the global economic, political and social order.²

In our present context of an African renaissance, transformation and integration, and based on changing our mind-sets and attitudes in order to strengthen Pan African values of self-reliance, solidarity, hard work and collective prosperity, we want an Africa that can mobilize African resources to finance and expedite transformation and integration, putting in place in all fields and at all levels transformational leadership, ensuring capable developmental nations with the relevant institutions, policies, human resources, systems and processes. For a very long time, Africa has not had the privilege of writing her own story due to a lack of agency, and the Africa we want is one where we actively take charge of Africa's narrative and brand so that we ensure that it reflects realities on the ground, the aspirations of African people, their priorities and the continent's position in the world.² We want integration of this beautiful vision and plan that is Agenda 2063 into all our national and regional development plans. We want the strengthening and transformation of national, regional and

1. Ikein A. (2009). "The Potential Power of West African Oil to the Economics and Energy Security Interest of Euro-America in the 21st Century". *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*. Vol. 10, No. 4. Clarion, Pennsylvania. ISSN: 1520-5509.
2. African Union Commission. (2015). "Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want. Framework Document". ISBN: 978-92-95104-23-5.
3. Reed D. (2013). "Structural Adjustment, the environment and Sustainable Development". URL: taylorfrancis.com (14 Feb 2019)
4. AUC-UNIDO. (2012). "Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) Business Plan". Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

continental institutions and the status quo with regards to doing business, so as to lead effectively and to drive the Agenda for transformation and integration.

Like most countries in the Global South, we want to elevate large numbers of our population out of poverty, to improve incomes and fast-track economic and social transformation, and with the United Nations to find multilateral approaches to humanity's most urgent issues which include, but are not limited to, human security and peace, poverty eradication, hunger and disease, and reduction in vulnerability to climate change risks.¹ Reigniting Africa's determination to end conflict and war and to build shared prosperity, we do not only want but need responsive and pluralist democratic governance with African people at the centre of all continental efforts to ensure participation that is broad-based and the building of caring and inclusive societies and communities in which women are empowered and the barriers that impede women's full participation in all areas and levels of human endeavour are thwarted. This is crucial for our society to reach its full potential and for there to be sustained innovation, we need a conducive environment for us African youth and children to flourish and reach our full potential. In order to effect equitable and African-centred growth and development, we want an Africa that harnesses Africa's continental endowments embodied in her people, their history, culture and natural resources as well as their geo-political position; the aim of this being poverty eradication, Africa's human capital development, building social assets, infrastructure and public goods, and to consolidate enduring peace and security, putting in place strong developmental states that are effective, participatory and accountable institutions, and empowering women and youth to bring about the African renaissance.¹

Being a continent that is more united, an international power to reckon with, Africa is capable of rallying support around a shared Agenda and speaking with one voice and the capacity to negotiate and withstand the forces, both internal and external, that would like to see us divided. Fortunately for Africa, and the world, we are in the age of globalization and the information technology revolution which have provided unprecedented opportunities for countries and regions with the right policies to make sizeable advances and elevate large numbers of people out of poverty, improve incomes and expedite socioeconomic transformations.¹ We want a Connected Africa and commend Liquid Telecom who recently completed the first terrestrial fibre network to span the entire length of the continent – running all the way from Cape Town in South Africa to Cairo in Egypt. Stretching over 10,000km, it is the shortest direct fibre route between South Africa and Egypt. This means there is an offering of significantly reduced latency between African countries.² In addition, we want more Member States of the AU to ratify the Continental Free Trade Area which I believe would be a game changer for Africa as a single market for goods and services across the continent will bring benefits for businesses and consumers and strengthen Africa's position in trade.³ We want the free movement of Africans within Africa through an electronic, biometric African passport as the free movement of persons, capital, goods and services will promote integration, Pan Africanism, enhance science, technology, education, research and foster tourism, facilitate intra-Africa trade and investment, increase remittances within Africa, promote mobility of labour, create employment, improve the standards of living of the people of Africa and facilitate the mobilization and utilization of the human and material resources of Africa in order to achieve self-reliance and development. Our vision and aspirations as Africans are not just economic integration, but the integration of Africa's people by breaking down the invisible and physical barriers which have limited the movement of people and resulted in the weakening of the Pan-African spirit.⁴ On another level, we need harmonization of policies on international relations and cooperation to be strengthened so that AU Member States speak with one voice with the goal of ensuring better gains in the international arena. Regional integration must be conducted with haste to allow Africans to take their destiny in their own hands. Furthermore, Africa needs to continue, at both a regional and continental level, to make significant strides in building the institutions required

1. African Union Commission. (2015). "Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want. Framework Document". ISBN: 978-92-95104-23-5.
2. RwandAir. (2019). "Our journey from Cape to Cairo." Inzoz, December – February 2019 Edition. Page 35.
3. RwandAir. (2019). "The Continental Free Trade Area: A game changer for Africa". Inzoz, Dec – Feb 2019 Edition. Page 41.
4. RwandAir. (2019). "African Passport. Free movement of Persons in Africa. Inzoz, Dec – Feb 2019 Edition. Page 40.

for political and economic integration. A vast array of protocols, frameworks and plans are leading to increased harmonization of policies and actions, and advances in key areas are laying a solid foundation for future progress.¹

The Africa we want has a key driver of her prosperity being its world class capital developed through education that is high quality and focused on attaining 100 percent literacy and numeracy, with a clear emphasis on science, technology and engineering, which has thus far been elusive. There should be an end to Neglected Tropical Diseases and all communicable and infectious diseases, such as Ebola which devastated West Africa and is currently plaguing the Democratic Republic of the Congo², fully brought under control. There is a need for integrated and robust health systems in place to significantly reduce non communicable diseases and lifestyle changes related diseases, and deaths from HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis being brought to naught. Africa deserves healthy, well-nourished people with life expectancies above 75 years old in well planned cities that have modern mass transit systems, while rural communities are not isolated but instead are connected to the rest of the economy through road, energy, mobile communication networks, water, sanitation and hygiene systems. We deserve macroeconomic stability, diversified, accelerated and inclusive economic growth.¹ In the last couple of years catalysed by an increase in the number of African friends I have, I have become quite passionate about African culture and I for one would like a situation where we celebrate our culture in Africa and all African cultural treasures that are currently not in Africa, be returned to their rightful owner for the preservation of Africa's unborn citizens and generations to come. Anyone interested in seeing them can come and see them on home soil, flying our African national carriers in African Open Skies, thus increasing travel to Africa and boosting the tourism sector, among other possibilities.

The Africa we want is an Africa with a seat at the table, assuming her rightful place in the assurance of global peace and security through permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council with all the privileges of permanent membership category and, based on a Common African Foreign Policy, a deepened south-south cooperation. In addition, we the African people want an African presence that is strengthened in other multilateral fora such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, including those that relate to global/regional security. We want the continued advocacy for reform of other global institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and World Trade Organization to enhance international standards in a manner that caters to the aspirations of developing nations and enables these nations to face their challenges head on.¹

Having the biggest landmass and the second largest in terms of population, Africa is strikingly diverse in terms of geography, language, culture, history, political developments, resource endowments and this comes as no surprise when speaking of the continent which is the cradle of human civilization. Shaped by a sense of a common destiny, with similar languages, cultural values of Ubuntu and heritage, as well as a common history of struggle against colonialism and liberation from external dominance and unity as expressed by the Founders, this led to the establishment of the OAU in 1963 and its subsequent transformation into the African Union in 1999.^{1,3} I commend those who work daily to build upon the current positive trends and address old and new challenges that Africa faces, those who came up with a clear long-term vision of where Africa wants to be in 2063 and a plan as to how to arrive at that destination. Lastly, as an African youth resident in Africa, I am deeply moved by the love and courage mustered by generations of Africans before me who sacrificed so much for us youth to be here right now and I take ownership, and hope many more of my peers do too, of Agenda 2063 which is our generations context of the "long walk" of Africa's struggles against colonialism and foreign domination, and our pursuit of self-determination, freedom, justice, peace and prosperity. As Sauti Sol said, there's "no place I'd rather be; I want to live and die in Africa".⁴

1. African Union Commission. (2015). "Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want. Framework Document". ISBN: 978-92-95104-23-5.
2. World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa. "Ebola Virus Disease". URL: <https://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/ebola-virus-disease> [Accessed on 12/2/2019]
3. Murray R. (2004). "Human Rights in Africa. From the OAU to the African Union". Cambridge University Press, United Kingdom. ISBN-13 978-0-511-26172-5.
4. Sauti Sol. (2015). "Live and Die in Africa". URL: <http://www.metrolyrics.com/live-and-die-in-afrika-lyrics-sauti-sol.html> [Accessed on 13/02/2019]

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THE AFRICA WE WANT (AFRIKA TUNAYOITAKA)

Afrika tunayoitaka ni Afrika ya amani, utawala bora, haki, usawa wa jinsia, na maendeleo katika uchumi na viwanda. Tufike mahali Afrika iwe tena sio bara la giza kama ilivyozoeleka karne zilizopita, bali pawe mahali ambapo mataifa na mabara yote yatakimbia kutafuta ajira, mitaji, teknolojia, ushauri hata ujuzi kutoka kwetu. Tufike mahali ambapo mataifa yote watapendelea kununua bidhaa na kutumia huduma kutoka Afrika. Tufikirie juu ya uvumbuzi na ubunifu mbalimbali utakaoweza kuufanya uchumi wetu kukua zaidi ya ule wa mataifa yaliyoendelea. Tufikirie kuvumbua ndege zenye kutumia nishati ya jua pekee inayoweza kujichaji maradufu na kutumika nyakati za usiku ikiwa na ufanisi mkubwa kama ule wa wakati wa jua (mchana). Hii yote ni kufikiria njia mbadala ya kuwa wabunifu huku tukiwapiku wazalishaji wapinzani ambao ndege zao zitakua na gharama kubwa ya kuziendesha tofauti na zetu kwa kuwa zao zinatumia mafuta. Wakuanzisha na kufanya haya yote ni mimi na wewe. Insha yangu inawalenga zaidi vijana ambao ndio nguvu kazi ya taifa na chachu ya maendeleo, pia maendeleo haya yote ni kwa ajili ya manufaa yao na vizazi vyao vijavyo.

Ajenda 2063 iliyotungwa na Umoja wa Afrika (AU), ina malengo ya kuhakikisha utekelezaji wa jitihada za kuhakikisha kuwa maendeleo endelevu Afrika yanatimizwa ipasavyo. Ajenda hii inajadili gurudumu la maendeleo kuendeshwa na watu (mimi na wewe) badala ya kutegemea jitihada za serikali pekee. Afrika tunayoitaka ya kuwa na gurudumu la maendeleo kuendeshwa na watu itapatikana endapo mambo haya ya msingi yatatekelezwa na kila mmoja wetu na sio serikali pekee;

Kuanza kuzalisha kwa kile ulichonacho. Uzalishaji ndio muhimili wa uchumi wowote hapa Afrika, na ndio chanzo cha viwanda. Hata mataifa yaliyoendelea, yamefika hapo kwa kuwa watu wake wanazalisha ipasavyo. Kama kila kijana atazalisha, uchumi wa nchi za Afrika lazima upande. Uzalishaji kwa mtu mmojamoja sio lazima uanze na mtaji mkubwa. Chochote ulichonacho, hata kama ni Tsh 2000, zinatoshwa kabisa kuanzisha biashara, kulima au hata kufuga. Vijana wasio na ajira wala mitaji wanaweza kuanzisha biashara ndogondogo hata ile ya kuuza pipi na karanga barabarani ilimradi ize faida. Biashara hizi lazima zikue kadri siku zinavyoenda na mtaji wake nao pia utapanda. Hata wale wenye ajira, lazima wasiegemea upande mmoja wa ajira pekee. Lazima wajihusishe na ujasiriamali wa aina yoyote kulinga na vipaji, ujuzi au uwezo waliokua nao juu ya kumudu biashara fulani. Kama kila mmoja kwenye jamii atazalisha, basi tatizo la ukosefu wa ajira lilokithiri kwenye nchi nyingi za Afrika ikiwemo Tanzania lazima liishe. Pia vitendo vya ujambazi na uny'ang'anyi kwenye jamii

lazima navyo vipungue. Jamii za Afrika zitaishi kwa amani na maendeleo yataonekana kwa kuwa pato la taifa litaongezeka. Ili kutimiza haya ni wajibu wa kila mwananchi kujifunza elimu ya ujasiriamali ili kujikimu na maisha. Katika jamii ijulikane kuwa kijana asiyezalisha (kufanya kazi) hana manufaa yoyote ya kuleta maendeleo ya jamii, taifa na Afrika kwa ujumla. Ushauri kwa serikali ni kuliangalia jambo hili kwa jicho la pili nikimaanisha, kutunga sera ambazo zitawajibisha vijana wote wasiopenda kujishughulisha. Sera hizi zaweza kuwa ulipaji wa kodi kubwa, faini au penati kama adhabu.

Afrika tunayoitaka ni ile yenye utawala bora. Afrika yenye utawala bora ndio chachu ya maendeleo endelevu. Utawala bora ni ule unaozingatia haki, usawa, demokrasia, utamaduni na maadili ya jamii. Afrika tunayoitaka ni ile isiyokuwa na chokochoko za kisiasa, vita, ubaguzi wa rangi, dini wala kabila. Viongozi wa Afrika wasichoke kuelimisha jamii juu ya utawala wa amani usio na vita, ubaguzi, au chokochoko za kisiasa. Ni jukumu letu sote kuhakikisha kuwa tunakuwa mabalozi wa amani, demokrasia, usawa, na tunasimamia maadili na utamaduni wa jamii zetu za kifarika. Uajibikaji na uaminifu wa viongozi ndio silaha ya utawala bora uliobeba maendeleo ya Afrika.

Afrika tunaayoitaka ni Afrika iliyo huru dhidi ya ujinga, maradhi na umaskini. Baba wa taifa la Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius K Nyerere aliainisha maadui wakubwa watatu wa maendeleo ambao ni ujinga, maradhi na umaskini. Mataifa mengi ya Afrika ikiwemo Tanzania, yanashindwa kuendelea kufikia uchumi wa kati kwa sababu ya ujinga, maradhi na umaskini uliokithiri. Umaskini ndio adui mkubwa anayeangamiza maendeleo ya jamii. Afrika tunayoitaka ni Afrika iliyohuru kabisa, iliyo mbali na ujinga, maradhi na umaskini kwa watu wake. Hivyo, ni wajibu wa kila mmoja wetu kuhakikisha kuwa maadui hawa tunawaangamiza katika jamii zetu ili tupate maendeleo endelevu ya taifa na Afrika kwa ujumla.

Mimi kama kijana wa Tanzania, nina wajibu wa kujenga Afrika tunayoitaka kwa kuwa mabadiliko yanaanza na mimi. Juhudi zangu zitashawishi na wengine kuwa na muamko wa kujenga Afrika kuwa bara la nuru na sio giza tena. Kwa kutambua hili nimefikiria kuanzisha taasisi inayoitwa VIJANA NA MAENDELEO AFRIKA (VIMA). Taasisi hii itafanya kazi kuu ya kuhamasisha vijana katika utekelezaji wa malengo ya maendeleo endelevu (SDGs) yaliyoanzishwa na Umoja wa mataifa (UN). Taasisi hii isiyo ya kifedha, itakuwa na blogi ambayo vijana watapata ushauri, elimu ya kujitambua pamoja na fursa mbalimbali. Kutakua na kurasa kwenye mitandao ya kijamii kama FACEBOOK, TWITTER na INSTAGRAM ili kuwafikia vijana wote Afrika. Katika kuhamasisha utekelezaji wa malengo ya maendeleo

endelevu, VIJANA NA MAENDELEO AFRIKA itafanya yafuatayo ili kujenga Afrika tunayoitaka 2063;

- 1) Kutoa elimu ya kujitambua kwa vijana. Hii itahusisha elimu ya uzazi na kuacha ngono zembe. Mimba za utotoni, magonjwa ya kuambukiza kama UKIMWI na Kaswende yanachangia kwa kiasi kikubwa kudhorota kwa maendeleo Afrika. Vijana wanahitiji elimu ya kujitambua ili kuepusha mimba zisizotarajiwa pamoja na magonjwa yanayoua vijana kwa wingi.
- 2) Kutoa elimu ya ujasiriamali na kufundisha ujuzi mbalimbali. Taasisi hii itafundisha vijana wa Afrika juu ya umuhimu wa kufanya ujasiriamali. Itawafundisha pia ujuzi mbalimbali wa biashara, kazi na ufundi, kupitia semina, mikutano au video zitakazokuwa zinatumiwa mtandaoni. Vijana watafundishwa jinsi gani wanaweza kuongeza vipato vyao kupitia simu zao za mikononi balada ya kutumia muda mwingi kwenye kurasa za udaku.
- 3) Kusaidia vijana kupata masoko ya bidhaa zao wanazozalisha. Tutawasaidia kutangaza bidhaa na huduma za vijana wanaozalisha kwa weledi na ubora.
- 4) Kuendesha mashindano ya ubunifu na uvumbuzi ili kuwasaidia vijana kuwa wabunifu kwenye nyanja mbalimbali. Kupitia hili tutaweza kufanikisha hata lile wazo la kutengeneza ndege yenye kutumia nishati ya jua pekee.
- 5) Kusaidia vijana wenye vipaji kukuza vipaji vyao. Kazi zao zitaonekana kila mahali kupitia blogi na kurasa zetu za mitandao ya kijamii.
- 6) Kukumbusha vijana juu ya umuhimu wa kutunza na kuthamini utamaduni wetu na kuacha kugeza tamaduni na ustarabu wa mataifa ya nje ya Afrika.

Afrika tunayoitaka itapatikana endapo mambo yaliyotajwa yatafanyiwa kazi. Ni jukumu langu na lako pia, kuhakikisha Afrika inakuwa ni mahali salama penye maendeleo. Natoa rai kwa taasisi, serikali, Umoja wa Afrika na watu wenye mapenzi mema na Afrika, kusaidia katika kufanikisha VIJANA NA MAENDELEO AFRIKA (VIMA) kuanzishwa ili tupate Afrika tunayoitaka yenye maendeleo endelevu ifikapo mwaka 2063. Kupitia VIMA, juhudi za kuleta maendeleo ya Afrika kupitia kijana mmojammoja wa kiasia, itakuwa ni zaidi ya nguvu atumiazo simba kuwinda nyikani ili ashibe. Wito (motto) wa VIMA ni, "Maendeleo ya Afrika, jukumu la kijana, vijana tuchukue hatua".

Imeandikwa na GRACE MARTIN NAKOMOLWA, kutoka Dar es Salaam Tanzania.