

Motto: Actuated towards Africa's advancement

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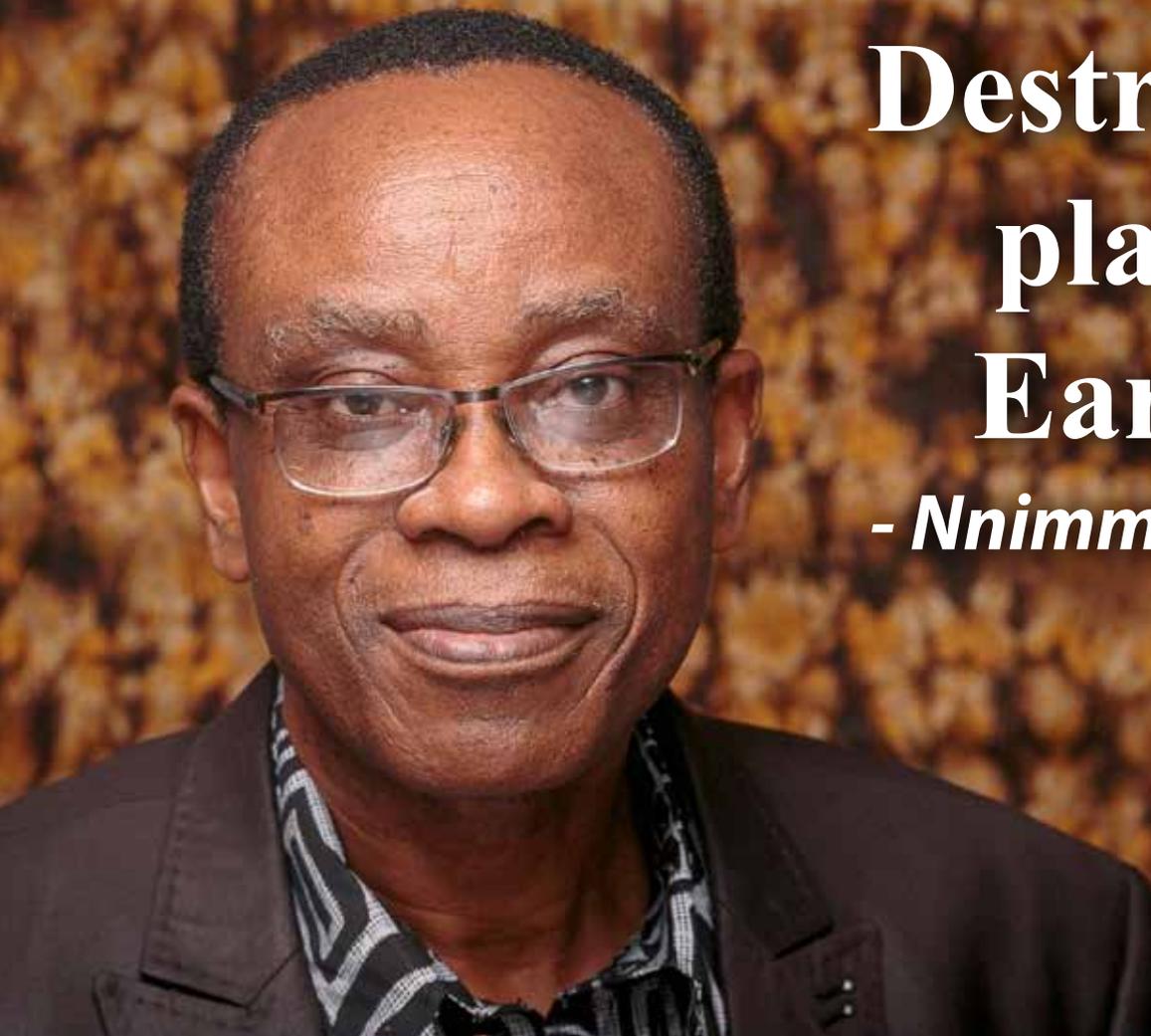
The Voice

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planet
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- Nnimmo Bassey



***Tribute to
Dr. Harold Robles***



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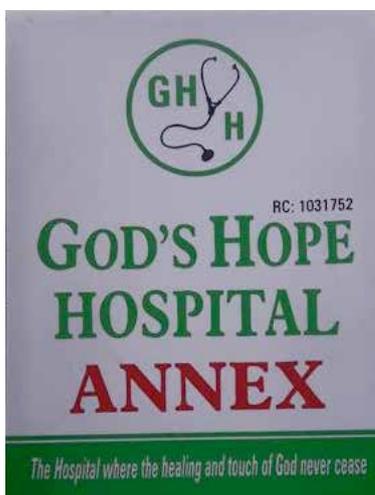
We salute you sir and your team.

We pray many more wonderful years in the service of God
and humanity.

Hip Hip. Hurray to God's Hope Hospital,
Abeokuta, Nigeria

Signed

Pastor Amb. Elvis Iruh
CEO, The Voice News Magazine
Almere, The Netherlands
On behalf of TV Management.



The Voice magazine

The Voice magazine is editorially independent although we enjoy the support of our readers, subscribers, advertisers, non-governmental organizations and individuals of like minds; however the magazine publishers are in no way affiliated to any of these bodies or to any other publishing institution or political interest or group. The Voice magazine strives to foster awareness among the African audience and bridge the widening gap between Africans and the rest of the world in news gathering and dissemination. The Voice is published digitally online except on demand, we print hard copy.. If you want to receive a copy, send us your email address.

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THE VOICE MAGAZINE TEAM

Publisher: Stichting Paddi Europa

Editor-in-Chief

Pastor Amb. Elvis Ndubuisi Iruh
elvisiruh@thevoicenewsmagazine.com

Founding/Contributing Editor

Edward Idahosa Ogbee
apexbest2000@yahoo.co.uk

Managing Editor

Henry D. Oduenyi (Nigeria Office)
henry@thevoicenewsmagazine.com

Project Coordinator

Ifeyinwa Ezeagabu
i.ezeagabu@thevoicenewsmagazine.com

BUREAU CHIEFS

Gbenga T. Okunlola (London)
teejayok@gmail.com

Femi Ikutiyyinu (London)
afpaprnt2000@yahoo.com

Middle East Vice- President

Amb. Laila EL Aftani Rahhall

CORRESPONDENTS ABROAD

Barrister Eze Eluchie (Nigeria)
paddinrg@yahoo.com

Kehinde Aig-Imoru (Nigeria)
aigimoru@yahoo.com

Project Editor (Nigeria)

Rev. Tammy Abusi (Port-Harcourt)
t.abusi@thevoicenewsmagazine.com

Eubaldus Enahoro
enabadus2000@yahoo.com

Principal Photo Editors:

Handy Tims
Azeez Badris
fatim_26@hotmail.com

PA to Publisher

Lilian Akintokun (Mrs)
raven_lilian@yahoo.com

Magazine Designer

David Banjoko

MEDIA CONSULTANT

Jonathan Mgbjume
Abeka Salmin Abdallah
Mildred Kleinbussink
Pastor Duncan Spier
Engr. Barry Igbeare

You can as well contact our Office

Address:

Stichting Paddi Europa Inz The Voice
Jeroen Boschplantsoen 82
1318 HH Almere, The Netherlands

Land Line: +3136-8801341

Tel.: +31 (0)6-48519292

Mobile: +31 (0)6-84999548

E-mail:

info@thevoicenewsmagazine.com

Websites:

www.thevoicenewsmagazine.com

www.thevoiceachieversaward.com

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.

DETAILS IN THIS EDITION PLEASE. TV MANAGEMENT

Volume 21

NO 197

September 2020

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Where can you find multi-ethnic State in Europe so why in Nigeria?

My angry reaction was on APC UK platform statement. Most of the Diasporans living in Europe should think differently. Can you show me one multi-ethnic state in Europe where one group is positioned to dominate the rest that hasn't broken up?

For those who may not know, what you call ethnic groups in Nigeria is called nations in Europe. There's nowhere in the world where the white man accepts domination from another white man in perpetuity.

It used to be so under the Roman Empire and the like. Not anymore. The Communists tried it, dividing society into capitalists and proletariats, deluding themselves that ethnicity are effectively swept under the carpet, but what followed? The Communist edifices in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and the big brother, USSR, all collapsed, while the two Germans that are ethnically the same but split by communism vs capitalism were reunited. Such is the power of ethnic nationalism.

Czechoslovakia was made up of two ethnic groups, the Czech and the Slovaks. Both separated peacefully on 1st January 1993. The former is today 10.6 million people and the latter 5.4 million. Added together, they're not up to Lagos. Yet, they split for peace. Two masters can't be in the same house.

Yugoslavia in 1991 was 23.2 million, barely more than Lagos population. It broke into six countries same year - all along ethnic lines, namely: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia.

Then the big brother, USSR. It had, at least, the following ethnic groups identified by their languages: Regional languages: Ukrainian, Belarusian, Uzbek, Kazakh, Georgian, Azerbaijani, Lithuanian, Moldavian, Latvian, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Armenian, Turkmen, Estonian etc
Minority languages: Abkhaz, Bashkir, Buryat, Chechen, Finnish, Volga German, Korean, Ossetian, Tatar & various others.

Today, your fingers will not be enough to count the number of countries that have emerged from the USSR.

While sit down there and be preaching unity in Nigeria as if you're the kindest people on earth while you have no solution to the genocide in Southern Kaduna, the illegal but officially condoned arms in the hands of killer herdsmen roaming the country, and be condemning those better informed about the fact that the country is undergoing the strains of a forced union and should be peacefully restructured or let people go their separate ways.

In Europe, the two best examples of fairly stable multi-ethnic states are the UK and Switzerland. The former is led by reasonable men who permitted regional autonomy to the Irish, the Scots and the Welsh, while the English dominate Westminster. That's something some of us are asking for, but they are fighting against it in your own country wracked by ethnic crisis. Your own people are better off under oppression of fellow black men because your people have bad leaders who can't do better than their new internal colonisers.

The latter country, Switzerland, has four ethnic groups. Each of them rotates the presidency annually through seven cantons that constitute the federation units. All the four languages of the four ethnic groups are recognized as official languages and school languages to boot, namely, German, French, Italian, and Romansch that has just a few thousand speakers!

There's nowhere in the world where the Caucasians allow the

domination of their group by another.

In Canada, Quebec is the only full French-speaking province, aside a little section of New Brunswick. The other seven provinces are English-speaking. Yet, Canada is bilingual for the sake of Quebec! And each of the provinces is largely self-governing.

Here we are in Nigeria; we have people arguing vehemently that a decrepit, structurally-flawed, and crisis-prone artificial contraption badly configured by the British only needs good people to survive. Why not centralise the powers of the British regions to London and see what happens? God bless our Leaders

By Dr Femi Olufunmi

He contributed this piece to our editorial desk and we found it interesting for publication. We share his views on the subject matter as we need to refocus on the challenges confronting many African counties if not all African countries.

Enjoy your September edition and we see you in October 2020.



**Pastor Elvis Iruh
Editor-in-Chief**

ONE EURO A MONTH SUPPORT TO THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Since you're here... Support the Voice magazine so we stay publishing for your reading pleasure.....

Happy New month to you our readers and our followers. We have a small favour to ask. More people, like you, are reading and supporting the Voice magazine since we stopped the hard print copy in 2016. We have continued to serve you the magazine in the same format with all production cost covered like editing, page designs, photography and digital distribution via online channels where we have to pay. The Voice magazine has been an independent organisation, we do not receive any form of subsidy except the support of our readers and friends. We made the choice to keep our reporting open for all, regardless of where you live or what you can afford to pay. Our advertising drive continue to grow. You can support us through that medium as well, promote your businesses and services with us as your way of support.

Our editorial independence means we set our own agenda and voice our own opinions. You are free and welcome to contribute both commercial and political independent articles for our reading audience without bias. We want to continue to give a voice to those less heard, explore where others turn away, and rigorously challenge those in power.

We hope you will consider supporting us today. We need your support to keep delivering quality journalism that's open and independent. Every reader contribution, however big or small, is so valuable. Support The Voice magazine as little as one EURO and it only takes a minute through your bank account.

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Thank you.

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The Voice



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.

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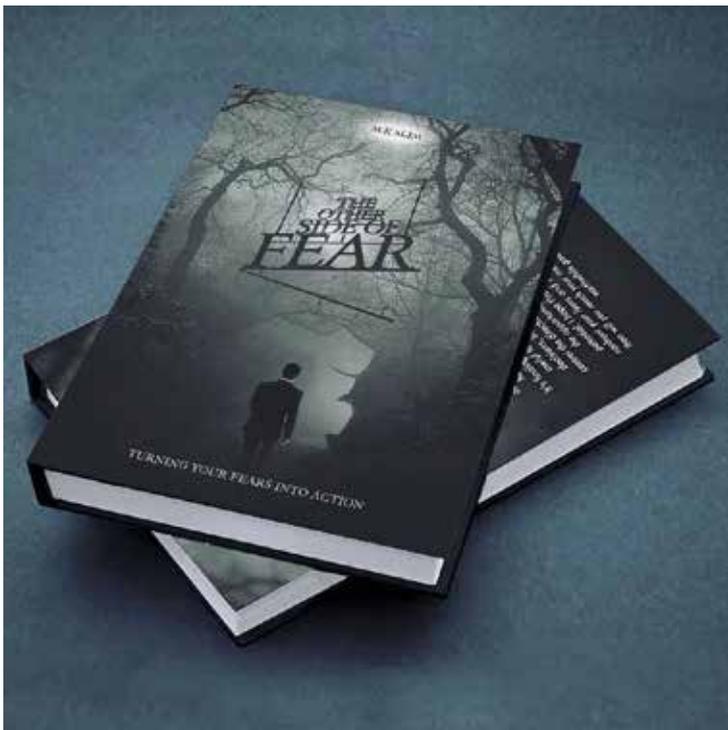
Thank you

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

Victory Outreach Church Almere is a Pentecostal Church, a Bible based believing people in the trinity of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

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.*

When will old African leaders quit?

Dear Editor,

Uganda's long-serving President Yoweri Museveni has collected papers to seek nomination as the ruling party's candidate in the next presidential election, securing a new term would potentially extend the 75-year-old former rebel fighter's rule to four decades.



"Yes, we can confirm he has picked nomination forms for our flag bearer position," Rogers Mulindwa, spokesman for the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM), told Reuters, adding that no-one else had yet shown up to contest him within the party. In fact after this report, it is official that the old President will be contesting again. Some people never understand when it's time to leave but he might follow Mugabe or Al Bashir's way, either death or forceful and disgraceful removal from office.

The choice is his!

By Friedemann Ezel
Kisumu, Kenya

Bad treatment of Africans in India!

Dear Editor,

I read the article titled: Outrage as Indian college hires guards to beat up African students. This occurrence is most unfortunate and I just wonder what African leaders are doing on attacks on their citizens studying or living abroad. While similar treatment is not meted out to their own citizens in Africa. It is very unfortunate.

Mimi David

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

THANK YOU, THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much my brother Elvis and your publication for the wonderful work you are doing within our African Diaspora communities. I could never get this far without your love, help and support over more than 20 years now.

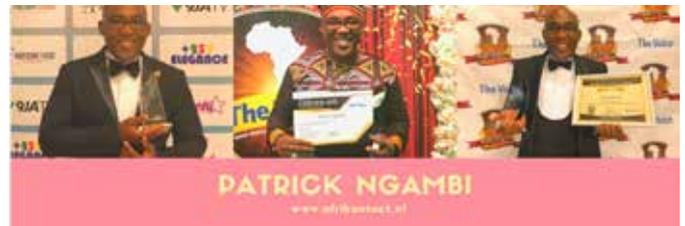
You have been my inspiration and motivator. I would personally like to thank you for everything you did for me.

I am blessed to have people like you in my life.

Thanks for everything

By Patrick Ngambi

Alkmaar, The Netherlands



Dear Editor,

IN SEARCH OF A FEMALE PRESIDENT IN NIGERIA

Why are there so few female leaders in the world? Your mother was such a great leader, yet you don't believe in female leaders. Why is that so? Only 28 percent of American CEOs are women. Despite the fact that different studies revealed that women are better leaders, yet only 3 percent of African CEOs are women. Is there a conspiracy to keep women outside the boardroom or are women not working hard/smart enough? How about in politics? Why are there so



few women vying for political positions in Africa in general and in Nigeria in particular?

The truth is this, women are inclined to become political leaders, but your culture, your religion and your criticism won't allow

them pass the first stage. I urge you to repent from criticizing female leaders. What is your experience or opinion of female leaders? Let's talk.....

Politics is too important to be left in the hands of men alone.

By Rachel Akem-Harumi

Lagos, Nigeria

Note: We would like to know what you think of Women President in Africa or any other country for that matter; we have had a few in Africa, let us know how you rated their tenure in office. TV Management.

FEEDBACK

Lucinda Malbons is a public speaker and spoken word artist and she has featured in The Voice Achievers Award some years back. She spoke exclusively to The Voice News magazine.

Exclusive for month of October 2020.
Watch out for it

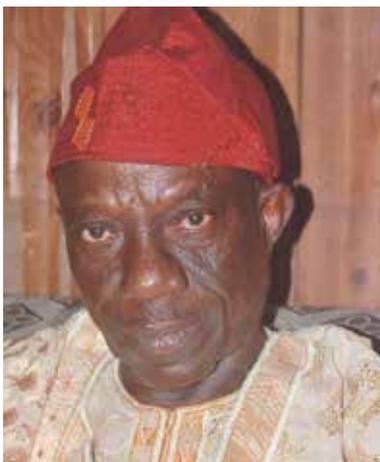


My appreciation to The Voice magazine in Holland

Barely two years, 55 days after my arrival in Europe on June 13 1998 (departed Nigeria on June 12) landed in Paris to cover France '98 FIFA World Cup Finals, was privileged to be entrenched into the Schengen- Europe system when my stay was legalised and documented in Malaga, Southwest, Spain on this date 09/08/2000 while still staying in Amsterdam, Netherlands

I did not return to Nigeria after the Super Eagles was eliminated because the Sketch Newspaper on which platform I travelled to cover the most glamorous soccer fiesta, had been demolished while the game was still on.

I relocated to Holland after the competition. Though I knew nobody in Holland but eventually met an old Colleague from Nigeria Ndubuisi Elvis Iruh who had left for Germany two years earlier to cover boxing bout with whom we floated The Voice Magazine in 1999 which I became its pioneer executive



editor until I relocated to Spain when I became Spanish Bureau Chief of the magazine. I was lucky that through the help of my friend, Oludare Alli, I was able to procure all- important Pemiso de residencial y trabajo Residence and Working Permit. In 2001, I relocated from Malaga to Barcelona where I settled till this day. I have since brought my then wife, (now mother of my children) in 2003 and my last three children who were U-18 to Europe from Nigeria on Regrupacion de Familiar. Family Regrouping. All the four are now bonafide European Citizens after 10 years stay. But myself remain Permanent resident in Europe and bonafide proud Nigerian Citizen without dual nationality.

By Tunde Oyekunle Oyeleke
Barcelona, Spain.

Editor's Note

Thank you for your contribution to the Voice magazine in its formative stage. God bless and reward you kindly.
TV Management.

LOVE YOUR INTERVIEW WITH UNIEKGRACE

Dear Editor,

Quite refreshing to read this interview on this lady with her music in The Voice magazine. I personally don't know but reading her interview made me feel like I already met and enjoying her music. I have been encouraged not to give up on my dreams no matter how hard the start may be, I have tried too in the past to sing but I just abandoned it because there was no encouragement, not from my family or friends. I went into another profession which I am happy with what I do now in the health sector but never thought I could combine my talent and time. Give my regards to her and I will begin to follow her on her social media platform because she is doing great works.



Thank you for the publication.

John Owobode

Den Haag, The Netherlands.

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ELLEN Johnson Sirleaf: Am ashamed to have voted for her

Dear Editor,

Just received in my WhatsApp an article, on the richest West Africa's woman! And who else? Ellen Johnson Sirleaf?



To think I campaigned and voted for this thief! I am disappointed and hurt. Please I don't want to read anything on this woman again, how she shamefully enriched herself and her family and friends while the nation of Liberia bled to death is nothing to write home about. Corona is

starting to take its toll on me and I don't want to get vex!

By Miatta Fahnbulleh

A well-known musician from Liberia

Africa Re to disburse US\$ 3.3 million for the Fight Against Covid-19 in Africa

The African Reinsurance Corporation (Africa Re), the premier reinsurance group in Africa has announced the disbursement of the sum of US\$ 3.3 million to assist stakeholders in the ongoing fight against the Covid-19 pandemic in the continent. The announcement was made after the 42nd Annual Ordinary Meeting of the General Assembly held in June 2020.

This assistance will be managed by the Africa Re Foundation, an independent institution, set up to handle the corporate social responsibility projects of the Africa Re Group.

This support will be channeled to various government and private institutions at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic for awareness campaigns, preventive measures, acquisition of medical equipment and personal protective equipment. The disbursement is broken down as follows:



- Cities Hosting Africa Re Offices: US\$ 2,000,000 will be allocated to the 8 African cities hosting Africa Re Offices namely, Lagos, Johannesburg, Nairobi, Cairo, Abidjan, Casablanca, Mauritius and Addis Ababa;
- African Insurance Associations: US\$ 820,000 will be allocated to the 41 associations of insurers in the 41 member States of Africa Re;
- Africa CDC: US\$ 500,000 will be granted to the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, a public health agency of the African Union.

“Staying together with our communities in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic is in line with Africa Re’s mission. This is a duty, as well as a matter of pride, to contribute to the risk mitigation of the health crisis and its socio-economic fallout”, said Dr. Corneille KAREKEZI, the



Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the pan-African institution, while commenting on the initiative.

Despite the obvious negative outlook for the African insurance and reinsurance industry for 2020, Africa Re wishes to strengthen the capacity and capability of Africa’s public health institutions to ensure a quick recovery from the ongoing health crisis.

About Africa Re Group

African Reinsurance Corporation (Africa Re) Group is the leading pan-African reinsurance company in Africa and the Middle East, which was established in 1976 by African member states of the African Union (AU, formerly OAU) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

At the end of 2019, the share capital of Africa Re was comprised of the following shareholders: A) 41 African States (34%), B) the African Development Bank (8%), C) 117 African insurance and reinsurance companies (35%) and D) 3 Non-Regional Global Leading (Re) Insurance Groups (23%).

Headquartered in Lagos, Nigeria, it has the largest reinsurance commercial network in Africa with 8 offices across Africa: Casablanca,

Cairo, Abidjan, Nairobi, Johannesburg, Lagos, Ebène (Mauritius) and Addis Ababa. In addition of its 6 Regional Offices across Africa, its two main subsidiaries are the Africa Re (South Africa Ltd.) based in Johannesburg and the Africa Retakaful Company based in Cairo, Egypt.

With US\$ 845 million of Premium Income written and US\$ 975 million of Shareholders’ Funds at the end of 2019, Africa Re remains the leading provider of underwriting reinsurance capacity in Africa, allowing the financial protection of up to US\$ 40 billion of insurance risk exposure on the continent.

Africa Re is ranked 37th in the Top 40 Global Reinsurance Groups by Standard & Poor’s in 2019. It enjoys the highest international financial rating at Full A / Stable Outlook by A.M. Best and an A – / Stable Outlook by Standard & Poor’s.

For more information, please visit www.africa-re.com

About Africa Re Foundation

Africa Re Foundation is registered in Mauritius and funded by the Africa Re Group with up to 2% of its annual net profit. It is a body responsible for the implementation of its corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Africa Re Foundation has contributed immensely towards the development and growth of the African Insurance industry. Among others, key funded initiatives are:

- Young Insurance Professional Program which currently trains more than 1,000 young African to enhance their knowledge and capacity in insurance through online training program;



- Support to Regulation Authorities and Markets for the development of the insurance industry through the various initiatives and studies in the fields of Mortality Tables, Minimum Premium Rates, Digitalization, Blockchain Technology, Micro Insurance, etc.

- Support to Community-Based Risk Management Initiatives to improve risk prevention and management through donations of Mobile Clinics, Household Products to Internally Displaced Persons, Fight Against Ebola, Natural Disaster Relief, etc.

- African Insurance Awards which celebrate excellence and reward good performance, corporate leadership and innovation in the African insurance industry each year;

For questions, please contact:

Mr. Alfred ADOGBO

Corporate Communications

Mobile Phone: +234 706 957 5806

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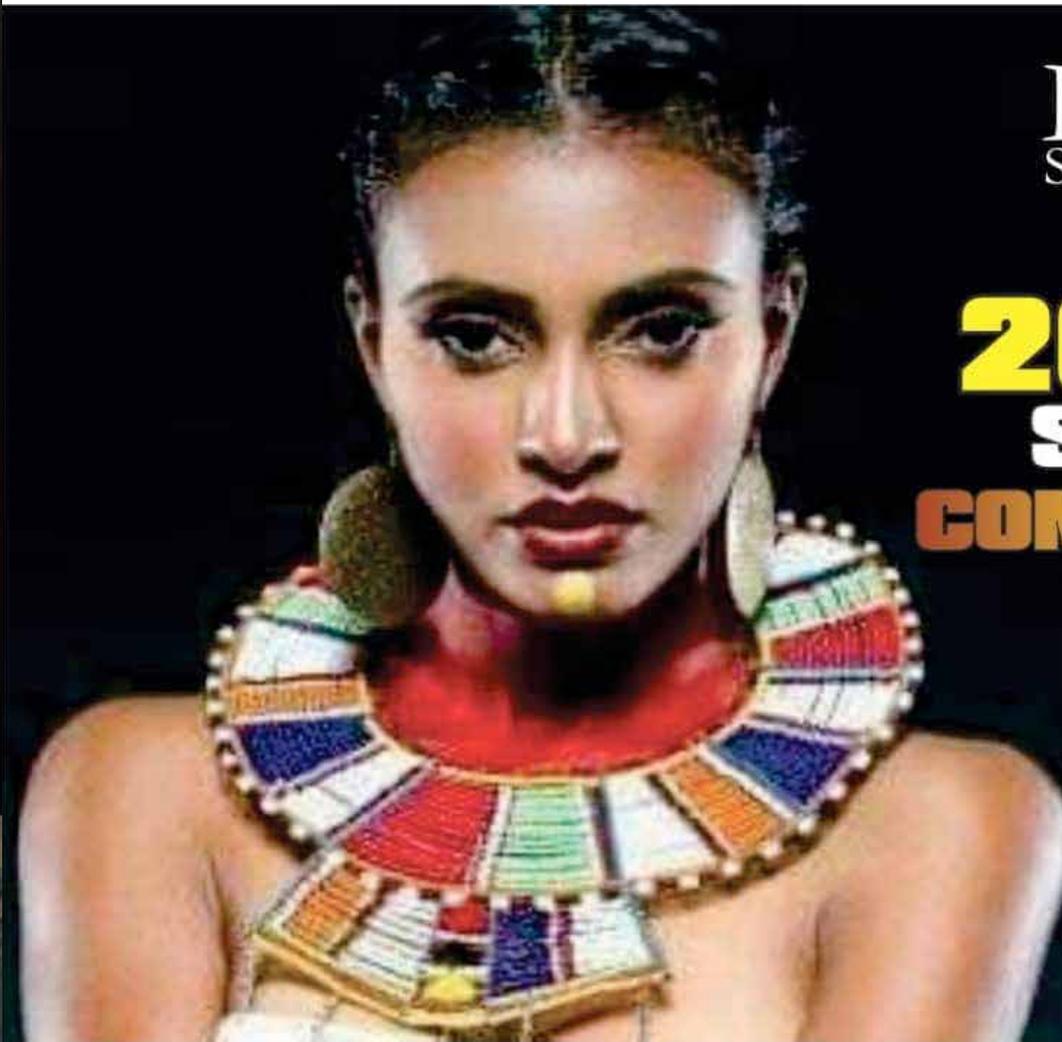
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Ambrose Nwadike (1969 - 2020)

“Our heart is broken. We have lost our brother, our leader and a real gentleman. “On July 24, this funeral advertisement was in the Volkskrant, a Dutch national newspaper. In it, his family commemorated Ambrose Nwadike, a Nigerian telecom guru who died in London on June 9 of essential hypertension, a rare blood pressure disease.

Ambrose Nwadike also felt Dutch. He could skate. He loved cauliflower, Mora bitterballen and Calvé peanut butter. He was a fan of Ajax football club and the Dutch national team, the Orange boys in addition to the Nigerian national team, Super Eagles and Tottenham Hotspurs. Together with his youngest brother Frank Nwadike, he founded Colored Pictures Magazine in the Netherlands, a magazine about African culture and traditions.

He arrived in the Netherlands in 1990 with only a backpack and a suitcase, two years after graduating as a Chemist in Nigeria. Through the mopping of school floors, a job as a factory manager at a plastics company and an MBA training in Haarlem, he became active in the explosively growing mobile telecom sector in the 1990s.

In the Netherlands he worked as a consultant for Nokia, KPN and PwC. He eventually joined Celtel, a cross-border mobile network in East Africa. In 2006 he decided to return to his home country where he founded his own advisory company, Telecom Advisory Services (TAS) after three years as ‘Revenue Assurance Director’ for Celtel in Nigeria.

He soon had clients all over Africa. In 2018, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame as the first black telecom professional at a conference in Nairobi. “His death came completely unexpected, but his legacy will live on,” says his Market and Media Consultant brother, Frank, who lives

in Amsterdam. “He was a healthy guy who never did anything wrong.”

Ambrose Nwadike was born in Lagos, which was then the capital of Nigeria, and where his 85-year-old father who is a retired economist and banker still lives. Ambrose was the second oldest in a family with four brothers and a sister who all live in Britain except Frank. In 1988, he graduated from Lagos State University.

After that he worked for some time at a plastic manufacturing company but he didn’t like the political climate and the many coups in Nigeria. He decided to divert to the West. Many highly educated peers chose the US and Great Britain, he chose the Netherlands. He had language skills, was a go-getter and extremely amiable.

But after the turn of the century, he was less comfortable here in the Netherlands because of the rise of the anti-immigration movement. “Being arrested by the police because of my skin color, I wasn’t used to that, without approving it. But something was added, something scary too, that normal people are dragged into. Because of my appearance, I was increasingly addressed as an immigrant, despite the fact that I had completely adapted, “he told Trouw (another national daily newspaper in the Netherlands).

He was approaching his mid-thirties and now father of two Dutch-born children whom he had with his wife, Ronke - a lawyer active in Great Britain. He also smelled opportunities for mobile telecom in Africa. He had charisma and diplomatic gifts. His advice always made sense, because they were based on a revenue model. Besides football, music - reggae and Afrobeats - was a passion of his.

His wife Ronke and two children, Demi (18) and Alex (14) will continue to live in Great Britain, where Ambrose was also buried.



WALK FOR AMBROSE NWADIKE IN AMSTERDAM

In honour of our brother, friend, father, husband, colleague and dear companion, Ambrose Nwadike who passed away on the 9th of June 2020 and buried on 10th July 2020 in United Kingdom. His friends in The Netherlands where he lived for close to 17 years and kept strong ties with the Netherlands organized a 4 kilometer walk in Amsterdamse Bos in memory of Ambrose Nwadike.

Appreciation to all those who organized and participated in the walk. Some photos were sent to the Voice magazine to capture the memorial walk for Ambrose Nwadike.

May the soul of Ambrose Nwadike continue to live in the hearts of his children, families, friends and well-wishers.

Bless you all.

Committee of Friends of Ambrose Nwadike



MORE TRIBUTES FOR AMBROSE NWADIKE



My condolences to the Nwadike family my God grant u all the strength u need to bear this lost and may he watch over you all in times like this .. stay strong... continue to Rest on Ambrose

By Alebeleye Mary Adewumi

Death is the most common thing and birth , But Ambrose have another thing that is not Generally common except chosen once “ FEAR OD GOD “ and always tried to give his best .May the Lord Almighty that Ambrose Feared have mercy upon him , forgive his sin , hive him everlasting comfort home in heaven , let his gentle soul rest in perfect peace, May that same God of Heaven and Earth continue to be the father , son , brother , husband for the family he left behind , because God is better and MIGHTY than all of us we pray that God will do better than Ambrose to his family especially the children , GOD will fill up that hole

God will raise the children and anything God raise comes to perfection and may the Lord guide and protect all of us especially at this time IN JESUS MIGHTY NAME I Pray.

By David Olanihun

Our sincere condolences to the Nwadike family for the sudden loss of a son, a brother, a father and a friend. All the same, we give thanks to God for the joyful memories and blessings Ambrose Myles’ life impacted our lives within the short period of time we got to know him Amsterdam. Even though Ambrose no longer is with us physically on earth here, he lives on in eternity as written in John 5:24 because he believed in our Lord Jesus Christ. May his soul rest in perfect peace and farewell friend and God-father till we meet in eternity.

Mavis, Kristjan, Christabel and Christopher Bonfoh.

Dear family of Ambrose, We are so sorry to hear from the loss of Ambrose and give you our condolences. We remember Ambrose as a loving friend. Years ago, when we came to Holland, he was the one to listen to us, help us and gave us the extra courage we needed to become who we became today. We will forever be thankful.

Ambrose, may you rest in peace.

Love, Jonas, Filmon and Abeba Mulugheta

Ambrose, why, why, why, I am just about getting over the shock you are no longer here with us. It is a shock to know you gone so sudden and we weren’t able to say good bye. We talked the day before about football, the racial situation and even the music we shared together. You were so enthusiastic and so supportive, we had a brotherly love for each other we talked almost every day and I was not aware of what you were going through.

Why such a good person gone so suddenly, and leave your young son and daughter behind.

We cannot talk about your beloved Spurs anymore, AFC parents cannot hear you shout “come on boys, let’s go” from the touchline anymore.

Ambrose why this has to happen to such a fantastic person, especially at such a young age.

We came to your 50th birthday last year and we talked a lot about life going forward and you were so happy. Next day I got a devastating phone call saying you are no longer with us

Ambrose, I am absolutely devastated you were so supportive and fun to have around as a great friend
BRO WHY YOU

May you continue to listen to music and continue to smile and be as supportive as you were, wherever you are.

You are surely blessed and surely missed
RIP

By Dalton Thompson and Family

Condolences from the bottom of my heart. Ambrose was a dear friend that I could always reach and confer with when we were living in the same city Lelystad. You will be missed terribly.

By Victor Azuogu

Unbelievable. Amby great guy full of humor and laughter. May The Almighty God comfort the family at this time and always.

By Chuka Asiegbunam

MORE TRIBUTES FOR AMBROSE NWADIKE



My dear brother,

Always smiling and giving hugs. That is how I will remember you. I am so at a loss for words. You have been part of our lives and you will always be part of our lives. We miss you, my dear brother! Your smile and laughter is what I will always see when I think of you. Ronke, Demi and Alex and the entire Nwadike family may God give you strength in this difficult time. Au revoir, till we meet again, Ambrose, by God's grace at a better place. Rest in perfect peace. We love you. (Mona, Ali, Queenie, Alisa, Aliyah and Liyana)

By Mona Seidu

Unbelievable that Ambrose passed away my loyal and incredible adopted nephew . I only heard about this yesterday as I am lockdown in Ibadan.

I met Ambrose in Amsterdam at function at the Nigerian Embassy where he was the MC. Articulate, confident, gentleman par excellence caring over the years he became my adopted nephew and I became his Oom Joop. Whenever I am in UK he comes to visit have long conversations go out for lunch dinner as a connoisseur he knows the best restaurants anywhere. He was very fond and caring of his children .We last met in January as usual we talked about everything under the horizon including religion when he mentioned that he goes to Church ,when I asked why he said one never knows .his intellect charm was unique .i shall forever remember my unforgettable nephew. Gone to soon

By Joop Berkhout

Ambrose will always be remembered as a very friendly and ready-to-help person. He really lived an impactful life evident to all. He played very pivotal roles in my career that just a few weeks ago I still thanked him for, over a chat. He was an amazing person with a large heart and a large smile.

We all will miss him greatly.

By Iheanyi John

It is unbelievable but we have to accept it. To the family of Mr. Ambrose may the good Lord comfort and console you knowing at the last day we will see each other. Rest in peace Oga Ambrose.

By Ifeyinwa Ezeagabu

Incredibly moved by how the telco community from Nigeria and beyond showed up for you yesterday. Friends and adversaries lol!! Ambrose , you would have loved it...Old friends and colleagues from Celtel/ Zain, Vodafone, MTN, M-Tel, Mobitel, McKinsey, Delta Partners, TAS ...from Amsterdam to Maputo... all with a story, a connection to you. The most random memories keep popping into my mind you sitting poolside at Macdonald Court, picking onions out of your burger, pulling your little wheely case behind you through the office every day, driving me around London in your crazy left hand drive Suburban, playing with our kids at Cactus, stopping for steak in Joburg enroute to some job in Maputo or Mauritius, property hustles in Accra, driving Mercedes F1 simulators in Surrey, comparing video gamer room set ups for our boys and I'm grateful I was a small part of your incredible journey ...As you're finally laid to rest today It's now time to say goodbye and go well...I will miss you sotill we meet again my friend

By Tayo Emden

It is often said that the measure of a man is not - "how he died"; but - "how he lived"; not - "what he gained" but - "what he gave". Ambrose, going by the tributes, it is obvious how you measure as a man. Rest in Peace, your legacy lives on in those you have touched. My condolences to the family and friends, God Almighty give you the grace and strength to carry on and His peace remain and abide with you always.

By Daniel Udochi

Ambrose, a genuine, larger than life character, you always made me smile at the football and took some great footage in Lithuania when we were all hungover!! You kept an eye on George in Gothenburg when I couldn't make it and kept us up to date on how the boys were getting on, a lovely man who would help anyone, RIP brother

By Philip Bond

More than 9,000 arrests in Ethiopia since June 2020 killing of singer

Rights panel says arrests raise fears that Abiy Ahmed's government is returning to iron-fisted tactics of past regimes to maintain law and order in the country.

The latest news is that Ethiopia has arrested more than 9,000 people after deadly clashes two months ago, the state-run human rights commission has told the press, raising fears that a government hailed for reforms is returning to the iron-fisted tactics of past administrations.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who came to power in 2018 promising democratic changes in one of Africa's most repressive nations, is struggling to rein in resurgent ethnic nationalism that sporadically explodes in bouts of violence across the country. His patience seem to be running low and Prime Minister Abiy's changes have unleashed old disputes over land, resources and local power, and he now faces the challenge of protecting citizens while preserving fledgling freedoms that helped win him the Nobel Peace Prize last year.

He has promised to hold Ethiopia's first free and fair elections in 2021, which would be a milestone for Africa's second-most-populous nation if that succeeds.

But the state-run Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) said more than 9,000 people had been arrested since the June 29 shooting of musician Haacaaluu



Hundeessaa sparked days of protests that killed more than 178 people in the capital and surrounding Oromiya region - the deadliest spasm of violence since Abiy took office.

Asked to comment on the arrests, the government signaled that order was its immediate priority. Therefore it would take all necessary actions to maintain peace and order in the country.

"One of the government's primary roles and responsibilities is ensuring security and stability and that the rule of law prevails ... actions taken over the past months are a reflection of the commitment to law and constitutional order," Billene Seyoum, a spokeswoman for



the prime minister, told the press.

Abiy's critics detect disturbing echoes of the past. Among those arrested was opposition activist Dejene Tafa, who police dragged from his bed in the middle of the night on July 8 as he slept next to his pregnant wife. Dejene is a university professor and secretary of the Oromo Federalist Congress party.

Aselefech Mulatu, his 42-year-old wife, said her husband is being held without charge and has contracted COVID-19 in prison. "We thought we had transitioned to a democratic system," she said.

Tegene Regassa, spokesman for Ethiopia's health ministry, confirmed Dejene had been hospitalized for COVID-19 but said he had recovered.

Dejene had already spent two years in prison without charge for taking part in the street protests that toppled the previous prime minister, his wife said.

Getachew Balcha, a regional government spokesman, confirmed 7,126 people had been arrested in Oromiya alone. He said he did not know how many had been charged but said, "files were being prepared" on 500 of them. The state office of the attorney general did not respond to requests for comment.



Mass arrests were common under the previous administration which used security forces to crush dissent. When anti-government protests propelled Abiy to power, he sped up the release of tens of thousands of political prisoners.

But now activists like Fisseha Tekle, Amnesty International's Ethiopia analyst, fear Abiy's government is resorting to the arbitrary mass arrests of his predecessor.

"The government arrests people and then looks for evidence," said Fisseha. "This is in line with previous experience."

Ethiopians, Friends of Ethiopia Urged To Voice Support For GERD

The Office of National Council for Coordination of Public Participation on the Construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), in collaboration with a non-governmental organization named Lift Ethiopia has organized an event through which it sent a message about the dam to the international community.

Briefing journalists, Office Communication Director Hailu Abrha said the event was held globally last month by Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia to be a voice for the dam



under the theme "One Voice for Our Dam."

The event was used as a forum to send messages to the international community about the reality of the dam which is based on the principle of fair utilization of resources to fight poverty.

The director called on all Ethiopians at home and abroad and friends of Ethiopia to show support and commitment for the dam in whatever way they like, including wearing traditional dress, decorating houses and cars with the Ethiopian flag and other means for three minutes in August of 2020. The Voice news magazine learnt that the action was supported worldwide.

According to ENA, the director thanked all stakeholders that have been supporting the dam with finance, ideas and diplomacy from the very beginning.

Lift Ethiopia founder and board member, Abraham Seyoum on his part called on Ethiopians and the Ethiopian Diaspora and friends of Ethiopia to be voice for GERD across the globe.

Leaving political differences aside, all Ethiopians need to stand together on GERD as the dam is "our national symbol and pride," he noted.

Ethiopians have contributed a total of 13.6 billion birr so far and have expressed desire to contribute more following the first-year filling of the dam last month.

Happy 21st Birthday to DEBORAH NWAKAEGO IRUH

Deborah, there are not enough words to tell you how much we love you.
Happy 21st Birthday to Deborah Nwakaego Iruh
A daughter who is special wonder of God to us
A treasure from above
She is our morning joy, laughter, warmth and special charm
She is thoughtful and loving
A daughter who brings special joy that comes from deep inside
She fills our hearts with pride
No words can describe the warm memories your coming brought us
We are full of gratitude to God
We love you & cherish you just as you are!

Enjoy the new season of your life in Jesus Christ name. Amen
Papa, Mama, Esther, Risper, the Iruh & Monsels family rejoice with you.



18th Birthday to ESTHER IJEOMA IRUH

You're kind, brilliant, and beautiful — and we know great things are in store for you.

From the beginning, we knew you were destined for greatness, and you've far exceeded our expectations. Well, the world just got a really incredible adult! Maybe I'm biased, but you're as close to perfect as a daughter can be. You radiate happiness and everybody loves being around you. With your passion and determination, you're capable of doing anything you want to do. You're charismatic, inspiring and loved. We don't tell you this enough, but you're a fantastic daughter.

Happy birthday, we wish you all the good things in this world today and always at 18. Happy birthday to our little beautiful Princess, Ijeoma Esther Iruh

Papa, Mama, Esther, Risper, the Iruh & Monsels family celebrate your life today and always.

MAKING IT BY 30



By Eva Nakato

Isn't turning 30 such a beautiful thing? Could this be a moment to embrace that new chapter of life? Well, where I come from, turning thirty years is a nightmare for most youths.

In my part of the world, the African cultural norms do contribute highly to the pressure many youths face

today. For example, parents expect their children, be it male or female to be married and having children by their late 20s. It is even worse for the girl child.

For an African girl, some will have already settled in their marriages and bore children. Those ones have apparently 'made it' in life. What about those that have got married and don't have babies yet? To make matters worse, what about those that haven't even identified their potential suitors to get married to and have children with?

This has propelled many of them to end up in toxic relationships and abusive marriages or even ending up with wrong partners. This is partly because many parents already have ideas of whom their daughters should marry once they turn a certain age or once she is done with school. Consequently, many of them are dealing with such relationships in the name of pleasing their parents.

At times its not even about the pressure from parents but by one's self. I have met girls who are willing to get pregnant within a set period of time by whichever man they come across. That is how desperate some of them can get.

Okay I'm thinking, instead of feeling sorry for yourself for not making it by 30, how about we make our inspiration come from the many renown wealthy and successful people in the world that made it long after they clocked 30 years of age?

Consider this, as a young girl born in poverty and raised

by a single teen mother, there was this young woman who grew up in a low-income family in Mississippi. She struggled with life as a young person. Her first talk show aired worldwide at the age of 32. Little did she know that this was the beginning of her journey to becoming the owner of a multi billion dollar media empire. You already know who we are talking about. Yeah, you guessed right, it's Oprah Winfrey!

On the contrary or on whatever angle you might want to put it, Aliko Mohammed Dangote, the richest man in Africa did not come from a poor background per se. In fact, his father was the richest man in his home region. Dangote used an opportunity that was before him. He borrowed \$3000 from his uncle to import and sell agricultural commodities in Nigeria, his native country. His business venture quickly became a success and he was able to clear off the loan in three months' time. You all know where he is right now, right?

Anyways, I will be 30 in a few years' time. As a typical African girl (or any other young woman in whichever part of the world), I have many things I want to achieve before then and yes, I must admit that this freaks me out but it's only a matter of time.

All in all, if you have an opportunity of working for and achieving your goals before 30, go for it. You never know when your mega breakthrough in life will be. It is never an easy journey but believe me you're going to make it you put in the effort.

Most importantly, I have learnt that patience, hard work, resilience, staying positive, mental stability and oh, a good attitude towards life is all you need. If you have been trying so hard but have failed miserably, keep the enthusiasm. The sky has never been the limit.

You have way so much more to achieve and hey, there is surely a bright light at the end of the tunnel!



Eva Nakato is from Kampala, Uganda. She is an actress, Singer, HIV Advocate, Voice over and Commercial Model, Artist, Mentor and a Writer. This is her third write up for The Voice magazine through Vice Versa magazine, a Dutch international magazine published both in Dutch and English. She would also like to read from you if you enjoy her column....

Send her an email through info@thevoicenewsmagazine.com

How 8 years old caught the attention of Kenya Deputy President, Dr. Ruto

This is the story of a passionate daughter and determined mother. Abilasha, a keen eight year old pupil at Bombolulu asked her mother that she wanted to recite a poem to the Deputy President of Kenya, Dr. William Ruto. Her single mother, Mary Wambui, an Uber driver in Mombasa, was to figure out how that was to happen.

Meanwhile, her taxi hustle business ran into trouble, but determined, she made an attempt with her daughter to present the poem to the Deputy President at St James Cathedral Church, Kiambu, which did not succeed.

Determined and undeterred they made another shot, travelling eight hours from Mombasa to Murunga County. Mother and daughter arrived in Kandara, Murunga County, they waited for six hours while negotiating the program to allow little Muthoni to recite her poem to the Deputy President. Finally she got her way and immediately after the recital, she put her case to the Deputy President about her aspirations and goals and the impediment on her way.

Abilasha and her mother, Mary, did not allow circumstances to determine their future. They believed in themselves. Determined and resilient, for their effort, they got the attention of Dr. Williams Ruto invited them to his office



and after discussion; her mother got a new car to be used as a taxi. Her own this time; not as a driver and Abilasha assured of education. According to the Deputy President, their effort and the resultant support is the Kenyan spirit. According to the Deputy President, “Eight-year-old Abilasha Muthoni warmed my heart today, like she did months ago to Kandara people through a poem. Asante sana Muthoni for the lovely poem. God Bless you. I will closely follow your performance in school to ensure we remain focused on the achievement of your dreams. To Mama Muthoni, your hustle is valid”.



Dr. William Ruto gift to her mother



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Mob: +31614471508

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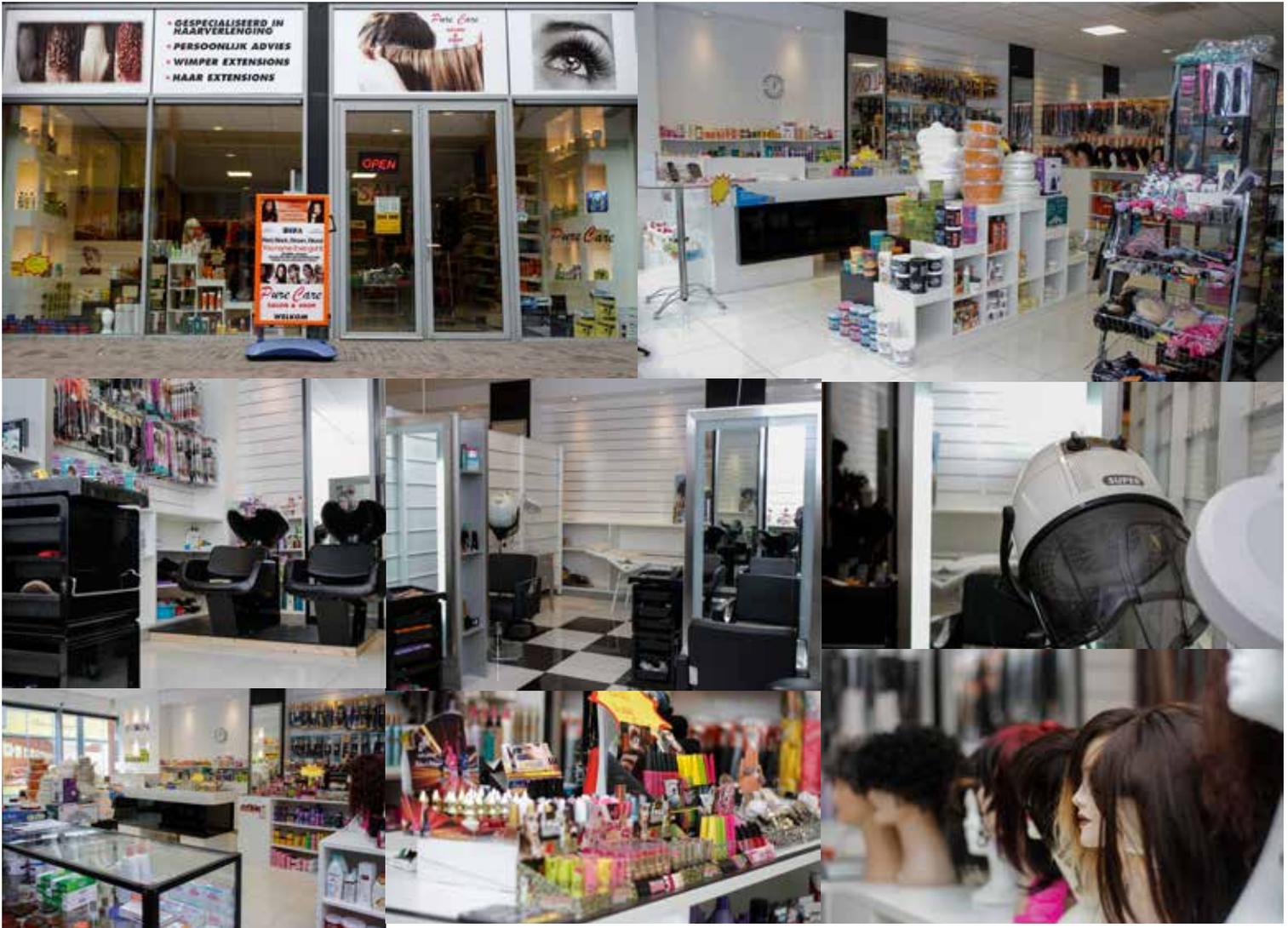


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Mankind is destroying planet earth says Nnimmo Bassey

At a time when climate justice is under the spotlight, hearing from Black voices within the environmental sphere has never been more important – for there can be no climate justice without racial justice. Nnimmo Bassey, Director of the Health Of Mother Earth Foundation in Nigeria, is a crucial figure in our movement. We caught up with Nnimmo to find out more about his work resisting exploitative international corporations, confronting big polluters, and challenging racist and colonialist structures still at play.

Q: Tell us, in 20 words or fewer, about your organisation – what's your mission?

Nnimmo Bassey: The Home Of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) is an ecological think-tank tackling the roots of environmental injustices particularly in the areas of fossil/hunger politics.

Q: What drives you?

and allow profit to trump the health of the planet and other beings we share spaces with. The colonisation of nature and the deep-seated problems of colonialism leave no room for inaction in the struggles against irresponsible exploitation.

Added to this is the reality that dramatic ecological changes and environmental racism are widespread around the world. This reality requires that we build solidarity across borders. Building bridges through shared stories and experiences keep the fires for the work burning. This is so because we can only be stronger when we are together. The forces of oppression are basically glued to each other by their greed and creeds. The grassroots must connect struggles, sharing tears, hopes and strength.

Q: What is your greatest achievement to date?

Nnimmo Bassey: I cannot say I have achieved anything as an individual. I am immersed in collective thoughts and collective actions. The struggles we have been engaged

in, for over three decades now, always involve standing with victims. However, I can say that becoming increasingly invisible is a great mark of progress. We have to become catalysts, rather than standing as the poster images of struggles. I get particularly excited when I get to see community gatherings organise, speak and lead. That is the nearest claim to achievement that we can see. Seeing exploited, marginalised, ignored and weak social groups standing strong and



Nnimmo Bassey: The main propelling inner drive is the quest for justice and connecting with grassroots struggles, and especially standing with marginalised, oppressed and exploited groups. A consciousness of the fact that things that have gone wrong did not have to go wrong, but for the human and corporate agencies that benefit from the misery of others

confronting huge corporations and public institutions can be remarkable.

A case in point will be the resistance to the superhighway project of the Cross River State Government. It proposed to cut through critical areas of the remaining tropical rainforest in south eastern Nigeria, destroying biodiversity and displacing

community people. The result of mobilisation and strong resistance mounted against this project led to its realignment and the reduction of its expanse from 10km on either side of the road to about 75m as stipulated by law.

A second project is building what is known as the FishNet Alliance. This alliance of fishers is protecting our waters (creaks, rivers, ocean, wetlands) against extractive activities. It is inspiring to see them taking the front seat in the struggle against harmful activities, to preserve biodiversity and healthy ecosystems for the benefit of all. So far we have units in Cameroon, Congo DR, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Togo. Credit goes to the communities and the teams we work with, not to any individual. These struggles continue due to the global geopolitical power structures that assign particularly exploitative international division of labour.

Q: What are the challenges you face?

Nnimmo Bassey: The biggest challenge is an ingrained sense of entitlement built on the substructures of slavery, colonialism and neocolonialism. All these have emerged from military might and continue apace even as we hold this dialogue. So, our challenges are both local and global. The mindset substructure ensures wilful blindness of the wielders of power to the simple truth that all beings and elements on earth interconnect. They can work in harmony or they can have violent clashes. Some of those violent manifestations include the climate and general socio-ecological crises that have engulfed the world today. Is it not shameful that corporations and entities massively responsible for the vast proportion of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are at the same time funding climate denial?

The race to secure nature's resources and externalising social and environmental costs can only be enforced by instigating conflicts, including needless warfare and thereby further weakening the already vulnerable. How can nations continue to engage in warfare, destroying lives, wreaking havoc on socio-economic structures and physical infrastructure at a time when the cry should be for the construction of resilience? The big challenge is political, and this is driven by the lust for nature's resources and the quest for capital and power. Everything else tracks back to these.

Q: What are you working on that's getting you fired up and excited?

Nnimmo Bassey: Everything I work on is quite exciting, although they can be depressing at the same time. The unending struggle to halt the expansion of fossil fuels extraction and burning is one. What is exciting about this is that impacted communities

are becoming increasingly resolute in the opposition to ecocide in the territories. Two is the work against dependence on extreme techno fixes as means of tackling global warming and the hunger problem in the world. These technofixes in the form of geo-engineering or extreme genetic engineering threaten to lock-in current power structures and doubly damage the victims. Our proposals of simple but effective alternatives, working with fishers against fossil extraction in our waters and with farmers in promotion of agro-ecology, are all quite exciting.

Creating spaces for learning is also exciting! This entails generation and sharing of knowledge from the grassroots for

food sovereignty and opposing agricultural and food systems that impoverish our soils and farmers. Furthermore, our use of stories and poetry as tools in this quest is, metaphorically speaking, like icing on the cake.

Q: Where do you want to take organisation next?

Nnimmo Bassey: The vision is to be further immersed in movements and help replace failed global structures. We have to crack up and disrupt socio-ecological and

economic systems that lock in deprivations, inequality and also domination. As the repression heightens judging by the high fatalities among environmental defenders, the resistance therefore must get stronger. We must own our narratives and work for a just transition that means more than a shift in forms of power, but manifests in the shifting of power to the working poor, farmers and communities. This is not a short term project. Predatory extractivism, inordinate consumption and fixation on unrestrained growth on a finite planet is not going to end easily — although the COVID-19 pandemic also shows that the current system is not iron-clad.

Q: What can we, as individuals, do to make a difference?

Nnimmo Bassey: We can do a lot to make a difference in many areas. Some matters, like climate change, require binding actions determined by science; they cannot simply be voluntary actions. Individuals actively seeking knowledge about socio-ecological problems in their communities are contributing significantly to solving problems. This knowledge helps us recognise the interconnectedness of problems and break the silos so we see things holistically. We see our political economies impact on environmental decisions and also on our health and wellbeing. Shared knowledge brings us diverse perspectives of wellbeing and even of notions of development and progress. We should as individuals be politically active and vote for leaders that have a sound environmental agenda. Individuals can make a difference by checking their consumption patterns – in terms of energy and



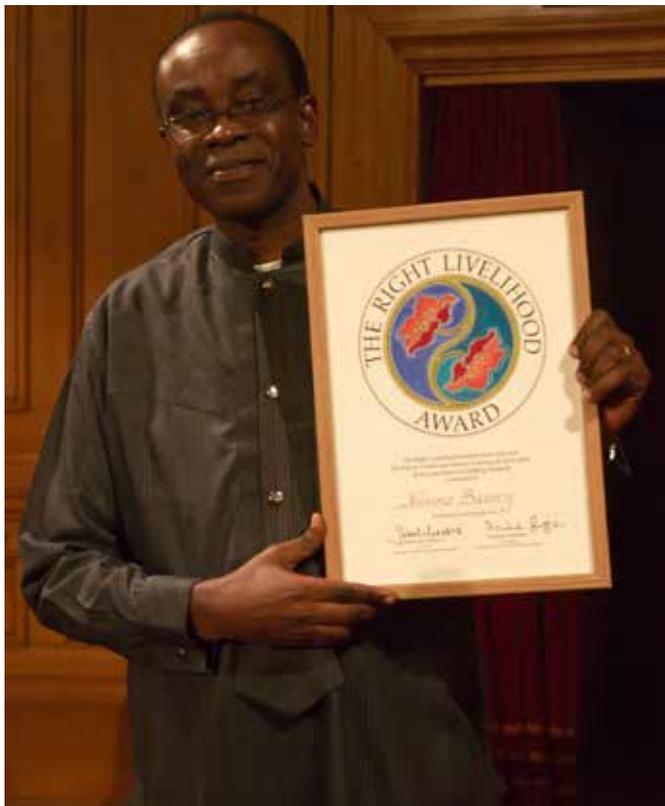
Continued on Page 34

foods, their forms and origins. We should support local food production, and go green in terms of energy. Speaking up and being part of mass movements are also great contributions. We should support youth groups. The future is theirs! We should help them halt ongoing intergenerational crimes.

Q: How is what you are doing inspiring change in others?

Nnimmo Bassey: The truth is that everyone wants to own their story. We see this as the fundamental base for transformation. If someone is responsible for diagnosing your ailment, the prescription and treatment may be against your best interest. This informs knowledge work, especially through our grassroots diagnostic dialogues. This approach is inspiring and also empowering. It gets people to realise the commonalities among the struggle irrespective of the disparate geographies. Lasting change is built on the basis of knowledge. This approach is broadly inspiring.

Q: Can you recommend a life- or game-changing book for our readers?



Nnimmo Bassey: There are many books I have read that have been highly inspiring and instructive. They include *The Wretched of the Earth* by Frantz Fanon and the autobiographical works on Nelson Mandela (*A Long Walk to Freedom*), Fidel Castro (*My Life*) and Malcom X (*A Life of Reinvention*). By far the game-changing book for me and which I must recommend is *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent* written by Eduardo Galeano. As the subtitle suggests, the book took



on the precolonial and colonial pillage of Latin America as well as the erection of the structures that perpetuated the system whether remotely or by comprador elements. It is a provocative book with controversies, but capable of firing the imagination.

Q: What do you listen to when you're cooking dinner?

Nnimmo Bassey: You would probably catch me humming a Bob Marley song. *War*; *Redemption Song*; *Get Up, Stand Up*; *Talking Blues*; *Stop that Train*; *Them Belly Full (But We Hungry)*.

Q: What's the best advice you've ever received?

Nnimmo Bassey: Be clear about what you don't like and what you don't want. Refuse them. Never be crippled by the lack of clear alternatives as that could force you to accept what you know is wrong. No is a powerful alternative.

Q: Can you leave us with who'd be your Eco Hero?

Nnimmo Bassey: Ken Saro-Wiwa. Among other issues, he fought against the environmental devastation of Ogoniland in Nigeria's Niger Delta. He encapsulated everything about non-violent grassroots mobilisation, leadership and sacrifice. He and other Ogoni leaders were executed by the Nigerian State on 10 November 1995.

If you're interested in following Nnimmo Bassey's work, you can follow him on Twitter here, Greenhouse PR works with organisations and leaders who are pioneering climate action. Whether it's food, fashion, finance or farming, if you've got a great story and need our help to tell it, get in touch with the Greenhouse team on 0117 214 1250 or email info@greenhousepr.co.uk.

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TV Management



Gabon appoints first woman Prime Minister, Ossouka Raponda

The president of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba, has appointed the country's first female Prime Minister, Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda despite calls for him to step down and allow a new election because of his ill-health after suffering a massive stroke which kept him out of the country for nearly a year taking treatment in North African country of Morocco.

His choice as PM is Rose Christine Ossouka Raponda, 56, she was promoted from the defence ministry and takes over from Julien Nkoghe Bekale, who was appointed prime minister in January 2019. Even though the office of the Prime Minister is not much talked about but her choice as an Economist makes her appointment interesting. The country is faced with the challenges of relaunching Gabon's economy and secondly faced with the COVID-19 economic realities.

She is an economist by training who graduated from the Gabonese Institute of Economy and Finance, specializing in public finance.

In 2012, she first became budget minister and then the first female mayor of the capital Libreville in 2014, as a candidate for Bongo's Gabonese Democratic Party (PDG).



In a statement, the president's office said her mission will include "ensuring Gabon's economic relaunch and necessary social support in the light of the world crisis linked to COVID-19".

Heavily dependent on income from oil, the central African state has been badly hit by the slump in the price of crude oil as well as the impact of the new coronavirus on trade.

Ossouka Raponda's appointment comes at a time when opposition and civil society leaders are once more openly questioning Bongo's fitness to govern after he suffered a stroke in October 2018.

He spent months abroad for treatment, and during this time the country was rocked by an attempted coup in January 2019. The putsch bid lasted only a matter of hours, but was followed by a reshuffle that installed Nkoghe Bekale as prime minister and Ossouka Raponda as defence minister. Several months later, the authorities launched a vast anti-corruption drive that led to the incarceration of Bongo's right-hand man Brice Laccruche Alihanga and 20 associates, including four former ministers.

Bongo was elected in 2009 after the death of his father Omar who led the country for 42 years. The president reappeared in the media last month after several weeks of absence, pictured at a meeting of heads of the various branches of the armed forces and police.

Congratulations Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda,
Gabon First Female Prime Minister



Burundi Joins Congo in demanding reparations from Belgium & Germany

Burundi wants Belgium and Germany to pay \$43 billion in reparations for harm done during decades of colonial rule over the nickel-producing East African nation.

The move follows similar calls for compensation by the Democratic Republic of Congo after Belgian King Philippe in June offered his “deepest regrets” over his nation’s colonial past in the Congo. While the killing of George Floyd in the U.S. sparked some introspection about racism in the West, in sub-Saharan Africa much of the analysis has focused on the legacy of colonialism.

Burundi also wants Belgium and Germany to return archival material and objects stolen between 1899

along three ethnic groups, according to Aloys Batungwanayo, a historian and doctoral researcher at the Lausanne University.



“It is this decree that has led to conflicts in Burundi and the region because some of the population was excluded from the ruling class because of the decree,” Batungwanayo said in the commercial hub Bujumbura. Other than the ills of colonization, Burundi accuses Belgium of fomenting dissent in the country in the

recent past and sheltering the plotters of an attempted coup in 2015.

On its part, the European nation may seem to be confronting its brutal past as lawmakers have agreed to set up a panel to look at Belgium’s colonial history in Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.

But while King Philippe seems contrite about King Leopold II’s atrocities in Congo and for the suffering and humiliation in the subsequent Belgian colonial period, his expression of regret to Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi in June was short of an official apology. The former king claimed the Congo region as his personal property in 1885 and ruled it until 1908, when it was handed over to the Belgian government.

Burundi’s economy, estimated at \$3.1 billion by the African Development Bank, has been struggling since Belgium and the European Union placed it under sanctions when the late President Pierre Nkurunziza

decided to extend his rule, which some critics said contravened the constitution. Economic output could contract 5.5% this year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Report by Helen Nyambura



and 1962, Senate President Reverien Ndikuriyo told senators in the capital, Gitega last month. In 2018, the Senate appointed a panel including historians and anthropologists to investigate the impact of colonialism in the nation.

Much of Burundi’s present-day political challenges can be traced back to a decree by Belgian King Albert I to classify the population

Kenya's tourist sites are safe, open for visitors: President Kenyatta

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta has expressed satisfaction with the measures being taken by stakeholders in the hospitality sector to protect tourists from the coronavirus pandemic.

He said Kenya is ready to receive tourists and encouraged local and foreign travellers to take advantage of the prevailing low rates to visit the country's famous tourist sites.

"I want to take this opportunity to encourage every single Kenyan to take advantage and to travel... You can travel, you can move," the President said.

"And now as you know, we have also opened up our skies and flights are coming. We welcome all those who choose to come," he added.



"Safety is not really just a Government issue. It is an individual choice. To remain safe and by so doing, keep everybody else safe," he said

He applauded Mr. Kipchoge for choosing to represent his country as a 'Magical Kenya' brand ambassador saying the marathoner's decision was an act of patriotism.

Mr. Kipchoge said he will do his best to promote the country as a top travel destination.

He encouraged Kenyans to visit the country's tourist destinations saying the pandemic should not limit people from enjoying the country's tourist attractions.

The virtual meeting was convened by Tourism and Wildlife minister Najib Balala. Mr. Balala said hotels in the Maasai Mara were fully booked for the current high season, mostly by local tourists, and encouraged Kenyans and foreign travellers to visit destinations across the country.



He spoke from the State House, Nairobi during a virtual meeting with elite Kenyan marathoner Eliud Kipchoge. Mr. Kipchoge is Kenya's new goodwill ambassador for tourism and is in the Masai Mara Game Reserve with his family to witness this year's annual wildebeest migration.

The President urged Kenyans as well as visitors to continue observing the COVID-19 containment protocols saying safety is not a government responsibility but an individual choice.



SOUP GERECHTEN

K) Egal Soep met Geit/Rund/Vle

- 1. Met gestampte yam €3.99
- 2. Met griesmeel €3.99
- 3. Met garn €3.99
- 4. Met banks €3.99
- 5. Met oetmeal €3.99



L) Oera soep met Geit/Rund/Vle

- 1. Met gestampte yam €3.99
- 2. Met griesmeel €3.99
- 3. Met garn €3.99
- 4. Met banks €3.99
- 5. Met oetmeal €3.99



M) Banga soep met Geit/Rund/Vle

- 1. Met gestampte yam €3.99
- 2. Met griesmeel €3.99
- 3. Met garn €3.99
- 4. Met banks €3.99
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Ebra's:

- 1. Gegrilde kip €4.00
- 2. Gestoofde rund €5.00
- 3. Gestoofde geit €5.00
- 4. Gegrilde Tjajja €5.00



N) Suya/Spare ribs

- 1. Rund Suya €6.99
- 2. Gebakken suya €6.99
- 3. Kip Suya €6.99
- 4. Spare ribs €6.99
- 5. Koppemmagen €6.99
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 + Met jus €9.99



O) Pepper Soup

- 1. Pepper Soup (met Geit/Rund/Vle en verschillende versieringen) €5.99



Extra's voor pepper soup:

- Geroosterde yam + €3.00
- Geroosterde bakbanan + €3.00
- Geroosterde banks + €3.00
- Witte rijst + €3.00



P) DRINKS

- Red Bull, AA Drink, Cassi, Cola, Fanta, Sja, Fernandes, Martinis

EXTRA'S voor alle gerechten:

- 1. Gemengde Salade €2.00
- 2. Bakbanan €3.00
- 3. Yam €3.00
- 4. Gegrilde Kip €4.00
- 5. Gestoofde Rund €5.00
- 6. Gestoofde Geit €5.00
- 7. Gegrilde Tjajja €5.00



Q) KIDZ MENU

- 1. Knofel hee met gegrilde kip & bakbanan €4.99
- 2. Gebakken rijst met gegrilde kip & bakbanan €6.99
- 3. Witte rijst met Tomatensoep met gegrilde kip en bakbanan €6.99
- 4. Patat met kip drumsticks €4.99



Speciale aanbieding:

- Jumbo pack (bors, stow, rijst, bonen) – U kunt grote porties eten bestellen en ongeveer 2,5kg aan eten (5 maaltijden voor de prijs van 3), genoeg voor het hele gezin of voor een hele week. U kunt het thuis laten bezorgen of afhalen. Voor porties, opties en verdere details kunt u ons bellen.
- Lunch Deals zijn ook beschikbaar in het restaurant en via bezorging in Almere en Amsterdam.
- Deals – regelmatig kondigen wij nieuwe deals aan op onze website: www.thejollyplace.nl
- Ons restaurant is ook beschikbaar voor arrangementen voor verjaardagen, vergaderingen, familiebijeenkomsten en andere speciale bijeenkomsten. Bel ons voor meer details.
- Live stand op zaterdag, in uzien, dans en laterdiele weekends.

Bel ons gerust voor meer details over deze speciale aanbiedingen

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- Pizza pepperoni (Tomatensoep, kaas, pepperoni en kalamataoli)
- Pizza kip/shawarma (Tomatensoep, gegrilde kip en Parmezaanse kaas)
- Pizza singly chicken (Tomatensoep, kaas, kip en kaas)
- Pizza hot chicken (Tomatensoep, kaas, kip en Spaanse saus)
- Pizza veggie (Tomatensoep, kaas, bonen en kaas)
- Vegetarische Pizza (Tomatensoep, kaas, champignons, paprika, ui, kaas en kaas)



Pastries en Kapsalon

- Calzone (Shawarma, Tomatensoep, kaas en mozzarella)
- Calzone kip (Tomatensoep, kaas en gegrilde kip)
- Calzone kip/shawarma (Tomatensoep, kaas en kalamataoli)
- Fish Pie
- Egg Roll
- Chicken Pie
- Kapsalon Kip (Gegrilde kip, patat, kaas, griesmeel)



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Victims of violence at Unilever tea plantation take complaint to the UN

A group of 218 current and former Kenyan tea workers have filed a formal complaint against Unilever last month for its failure to respect international human rights standards following widespread violence at the multinational's largest tea plantation.

The complaint is brought to the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights by the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO), REDRESS, Kituo Cha Sharia, the CORE Coalition (CORE) the African Coalition for Corporate Accountability (ACCA) and Leigh Day, who represents the 218 victims and has filed the complaint on their behalf. The victims were (and in some cases continue to be) employees and residents of Unilever's vast Kericho tea plantation in Western Kenya, which houses over ten per cent of the multinational's global workforce. In December

2007, during post-election turmoil, large groups of attackers invaded the Unilever plantation, assaulting hundreds of workers and their families solely based on their ethnicity. Seven people died in the attacks, many others were raped and seriously hurt. The survivors

still suffer from physical and psychiatric injuries.

The complaint makes three allegations against Unilever:

1. Unilever placed the victims in a position of significant risk of attack on their plantation and yet has refused to provide adequate redress or assistance to the victims. This was the most serious known case of human rights abuse suffered by the largest concentration of Unilever workers anywhere in the world and yet Unilever has failed to take adequate steps to address and remediate the impacts.

2. After the violent events, Unilever failed to provide appropriate assistance to the victims and instead unilaterally stopped their wages for a six-month period,

further exacerbating their situation.

3. Facing a specific request for remedy from the 218 victims of ethnic violence in 2016 in the form of a civil claim for damages against Unilever in England, the company refused any remediation and sought to block any prospect of access to remedy by hiding behind its corporate structure. In order to prevent the claims from proceeding in England, Unilever insisted that it could not be held legally responsible for any failings of their Kenyan subsidiary, while knowing that these claims could not be brought in Kenya.

The complaint submits that each allegation constitutes a serious breach of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which Unilever enthusiastically endorses and claims to adhere to.

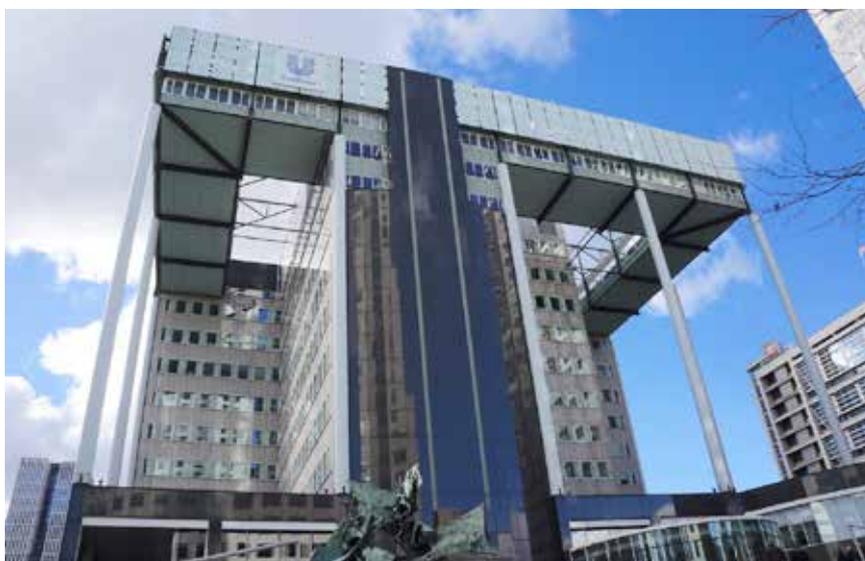
The victims invite the United Nations Special Procedures to call on Unilever to provide them with an effective

remedy and to issue a declaration that Unilever has failed to comply with the Guiding Principles. Besides finally having the needs of the victims addressed, the complainants hope that the UN Special Procedures will also provide clarity as to the application of the UN Guiding Principles to the litigation strategies used by parent companies to distance

themselves from subsidiaries and shield themselves from liability for human rights abuses occurring in their corporate group, thereby effectively blocking victims' access to remedy.

Chris Esdaile, Legal Advisor, REDRESS, said: "The victims of sexual violence and other abuses in this case should receive some kind of reparation, which responds to the actual harm suffered by the victims, and promotes their healing as a central objective. Unilever needs to undertake a journey with the victims to address the trauma and violence which they have suffered."

Lydia de Leeuw, Researcher, SOMO, said: "It is striking to see that a company like Unilever, which prides itself for



being a responsible and sustainable company, has used its corporate structure to shield the parent company from liability in the civil claim brought by the victims in this case. This strategy starkly contrasts with its public commitment to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which include the responsibility to prevent human rights risks and address human rights impacts at subsidiaries.”

Dan Leader, of Leigh Day’s International Department, said: “Unilever’s Kenyan tea workers were put in a position of serious risk by Unilever and in response to these appalling attacks the victims claim that the company point blank refused to provide adequate remediation.

This is a serious breach of international human rights standards and it is hoped that this complaint will force Unilever to confront this reality and result in meaningful remedy for the victims.”



Background

In 2015, Leigh Day filed a legal case on behalf of the victims in the London High Court, alleging that Unilever failed to take adequate measure to protect them from the risk of harm which it had placed them in, although significant steps were taken to protect managers and expatriates.

Unilever vigorously fought the case to persuade the English Courts to decline jurisdiction in favour of the Kenyan

Courts. However, the claimants are clear that there is no prospect that the case can proceed in Kenya without placing them at significant risk of further violence or intimidation. The High Court agreed with that assessment.

The victims argued that their claims necessarily concerned

Unilever Plc in London because it was responsible for ensuring that its Kenyan subsidiary had adequate crisis management systems were in place.

In response, Unilever sought to hide behind its corporate structure to block the claims from proceeding. The Court of Appeal ultimately declined jurisdiction in England on the basis of Unilever’s corporate structure and that there was insufficient evidence that Unilever Plc was responsible for the alleged failings of its Kenyan subsidiary.

In 2019, the Supreme Court refused leave to appeal on the grounds that the case did not raise a point of law of general public importance because the

relevant principles had recently been clarified in *Lungowe v Vedanta Resources plc* [2019] UKSC 20.

Unilever has therefore succeeded so far in blocking any prospect of justice for their Kenyan workers, in the knowledge that the case cannot proceed in the Kenya, in breach of international human rights standards.

For further information contact Leigh Day press office at pressoffice@leighday.co.uk or SOMO at info@somo.nl.

INVITATION TO BOOK LAUNCH

It is with distinct pleasure that we write to invite you to the official book launch of Pastor Quayson Kay.

Pastor Kay currently heads Resurrection Power and Living Bread Ministries International, The Hague branch in the Netherlands and also the CEO of the Quayson Kay Media Ministries.

His debut book- "There is a curse in this house: who brought it" which was birthed last year, uses a social science concept of path dependency to trace how history matters and continues to influence current and future choices if not dealt with.

Renowned men of the faith including Rev. Eastwood Anaba, Rt. Rev. Nana Anyani Boadum, Apostle Jones Owusu Adjei are among the earlier reviewers who find the (Christian) book intriguing and timely.

Rev Owusu-Agyeman of Holy Ghost Revival Chapel, Amsterdam would be launching the book on Saturday 26th of September, 2020, from 18:00- 20:30 hrs. at Charity House, Bijlmerdreef- Amsterdam.

Your presence will grace the occasion and also go a long way to support a worthy course of this book reaching the many body of Christ who have been in ancestral bondage but believe to have been once saved forever saved.

Hoping to hear favourably from you and looking forward to seeing you.

Yours truly,

Mrs. A. Quayson

Author **Kwabena Quason** invites you to:

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VICTORY OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL

HOW TO IDENTIFY FRAUD AND PHISHING

DURING COVID-19

As our lives move online during the COVID-19 pandemic, it's more important than ever to learn how to recognise fraud and phishing attempts.

We are giving you a broad overview of the various fraud attempts you might encounter, how to avoid them, and what you should do to ensure you stay safe during this period and after.

Phishing e-mails

Often, fraudsters will send out emails containing phishing links to a broad database of people. These links can install key loggers, scan vital information on your computer, or allow the phisher to access your computer from their device.

Spear phishing

Spear phishing is when someone specifically targets you using your name, e-mail and, potentially, your job title. They will have done their research. Properly on you and take advantage of that to use your information as theirs.

Texts

You may receive texts asking you to confirm details or click links. Most reputable organisations will never ask you to communicate sensitive information via text.

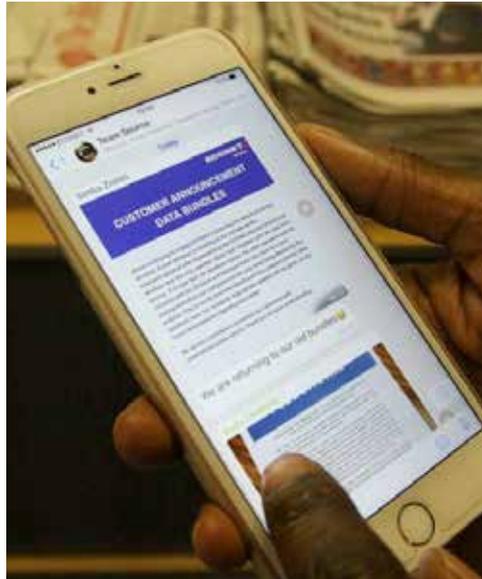
Calls

Sometimes, you may receive calls from fraudsters on the phone asking you to confirm account information details. Please be careful, never provide your log-in details as that should never be requested in the first place.

How to recognise a phishing attempt

Follow these tips, and you'll be better equipped to keep yourself protected against phishing attempts:

1. Were you expecting a call, email or text message? If not, it may be a scam so act with caution.
2. Do you know who it's from? If you can't get confirmation, it's a phishing attempt.
3. Can you verify who sent it right away? Use caller ID, check the email address or search the number that sent it to you.
4. Does it contain a link to a website you recognise? You can hover over links to check what website it will take you to.



5. Does it contain an attachment? Never download an attachment unless it's from someone you recognise.

6. Is it asking you for money, credentials or sensitive information? Reputable organisations will never ask for these without you contacting them first.

7. Are there any spelling or grammar errors? Spelling and grammar mistakes are a tell tale sign of phishing attempts.

8. Is it trying to get you to act right now? Often, phishers will try and get you to act with a sense of urgency.

Watch out for fake ads

Many phishers and scammers use fake adverts for reputable organizations to encourage their targets to click. These include:

1. Phishing websites that mirror organizations and brands. We've detected sites that impersonate other well known organizations like Paysafe, Skrill, NETELLER and Paysafecard.

2. Lookalike websites that include uncommon domains to encourage visitors to click, e.g: www.skrill.co.com for example.

3. Phishing e-mails or paid adverts that show up as banner ads or on search engines. These are some of the most common approaches to phishing, so beware.

How to avoid phishing attacks:

1. Only use the official Paysafe apps to access your account.
2. Always check the website address you are visiting. Check the e-mail address that has sent you mail, check any links that are sent to you or that you visit, only download attachments from trusted sources.
3. Stay alert. If you are requested to supply sensitive information, make sure it's only through official channels.

And remember, Paysafe will never ask you for confidential details (like card details or your password) via e-mail, telephone or text message.

They would send a security code to your mobile phone or email only if you request such when you log in to your account or to authorise a transaction.

Above all, we hope that you stay safe online, and if in doubt, refer back to our guide to make sure that you're doing everything you can to protect yourself.

Stay safe and be careful with your transactions

All the best, The Voice Team

Corruption allegations in NDDC must be investigated and culprits diligently prosecuted

We are deeply concerned about recent revelations on the scale of corruption and mismanagement in the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). We recall that the NDDC was established in 2000 as one of the first tasks of the new democratic government in Nigeria, and was conceived as a response to the agitations of the people of the region for greater benefits from the hydrocarbon resource exploitation, as well as responding to the dearth of development and basic social services in the region. It was established with the mission of facilitating the rapid, even and sustainable development of the Niger Delta into a region that is economically prosperous, socially stable, ecologically regenerative and politically peaceful.

Other responsibilities of the Commission include

- Implementation of projects and programmes for sustainable development of the Niger Delta area in the field of transportation including roads, jetties and waterways, health, employment, industrialization, agriculture and fisheries, housing and urban development, water supply, electricity and telecommunications.
- Implementation of all the measures approved for the development of the Niger Delta region by the Federal Government and the states of the Commission.

The commission was also expected to identify factors inhibiting the development of the Niger Delta region and to assist member states in the formulation and implementation of policies to ensure sound and efficient management of the resources of the region.

Moreover, the NDDC was set up to tackle environmental problems that arise from the exploitation of oil mineral in the Niger Delta region and to advise the Federal Government and member states on the prevention and control of oil spillages, gas flaring and environmental pollution. To do this, the NDDC is expected to Liaise with the various oil mineral and gas prospecting and producing companies on all matters of pollution prevention and control.

20 years after its establishment, the Commission has consistently failed to live up to this clear mandate and has instead exposed the Niger Delta peoples to neglect and misery while bringing much scorn to the region.

While as civil society organizations we are perplexed and outraged by the gory tales of corruption in the Commission especially as it has been revealed by the National Assembly Probe Committee, we have long been aware of these happenings and have often called the attention of the federal government and the people of the region to the failures of the Commission. Civil Society organizations in the Niger Delta

have embarked on project monitoring activities and written



countless reports detailing the malfeasance in the Commission. The government has consistently refused to take action. All efforts to instill accountability and transparency in the NDDC has thus far lacked the support of successive governments.

We are saddened by the fact that rather than develop the region, the huge allocations to the NDDC has rather bequeathed a legacy of abandonment, neglect and underdevelopment. Despite the huge yearly allocations to the Commission in the last 20 years, poor management and corruption has made it impossible for the agency to exert any reasonable measure of positive impact on the region.

To ensure we do not drift off in the sea of allegations, it is important not to lose sight of what the real issues are. We need to determine what factors led to the level of reckless looting that has been associated with the Commission since its inception. We also need to develop strategies that will disincentivize stealing and mismanagement at the NDDC and ensure that the Commission lives up to its mandate

It is important to note that the corruption in the NDDC thrives essentially because of political influence and patronage. Successive governments in Nigeria have treated the Commission as a conduit for settlement and compensation.

The decision as to who leads the NDDC at different points in time appears to have never been done on the basis of track record, competence or any form of merit, but rather out of consideration for settlement. In this regard, the Presidency shares equally in the blame over what the Commission has become.

It is pertinent to note that the current Presidency has appointed at least 5 heads of the NDDC in a short period of 5 years,

essentially contributing to the instability in the Commission.

While we welcome the probe of the National Assembly, we recall that this is not the first time the NDDC has been in the spotlight in this regard. There have been investigative processes previously that revealed alarming levels of corruption in the Commission. Unfortunately, those processes did not amount to any significant changes in the Commission, or even the prosecution of culprits. We are disturbed and genuinely concerned that the current hearing of the National Assembly Committee could end in the same manner, especially given the abrupt end of the public hearings.

As civil society organizations and people of the region, we have documented all the allegations of corruption and abuse of due process in the Commission revealed at the public hearing. We will be closely monitoring the corresponding actions of all duty bearers in line with ensuring investigations and prosecution are carried out. This must not end in the manner other efforts ended.

To address the decay in NDDC and reposition the Commission to live to its expectation, we demand the following immediate actions:

1. All emerging revelations of malfeasance in the NDDC must be thoroughly investigated and culprits duly prosecuted.
2. The commencement and expeditious execution of the Forensic Audit of the Commission. The Audit process must be conducted by globally recognized audit firms with experience in similar audit exercises, who must be selected through an open, free and competitive bidding process.

3. That credible civil society organizations be allowed to closely monitor the audit process to ensure fairness, accuracy and compliance with the highest standards.

- A halt to reckless activities at the NDDC starting with the immediate freezing of withdrawals from the accounts of the Commission. It is important to note that while the probe of the NDDC was ongoing at the National Assembly, a bulk withdrawal was said to have been made from the Commission's account. This is unacceptable in the face of the commission's history of fiscal recklessness.

- Publication of the details of all contractors to the NDDC against the contracts they executed on-behalf of the Commission.

- We also demand a publication of the list of NGOs that benefited from the cash grants from the NDDC.

- The NDDC must henceforth embark on projects determined by the communities to avoid the persistent frittering of resources through insatiable private pockets.

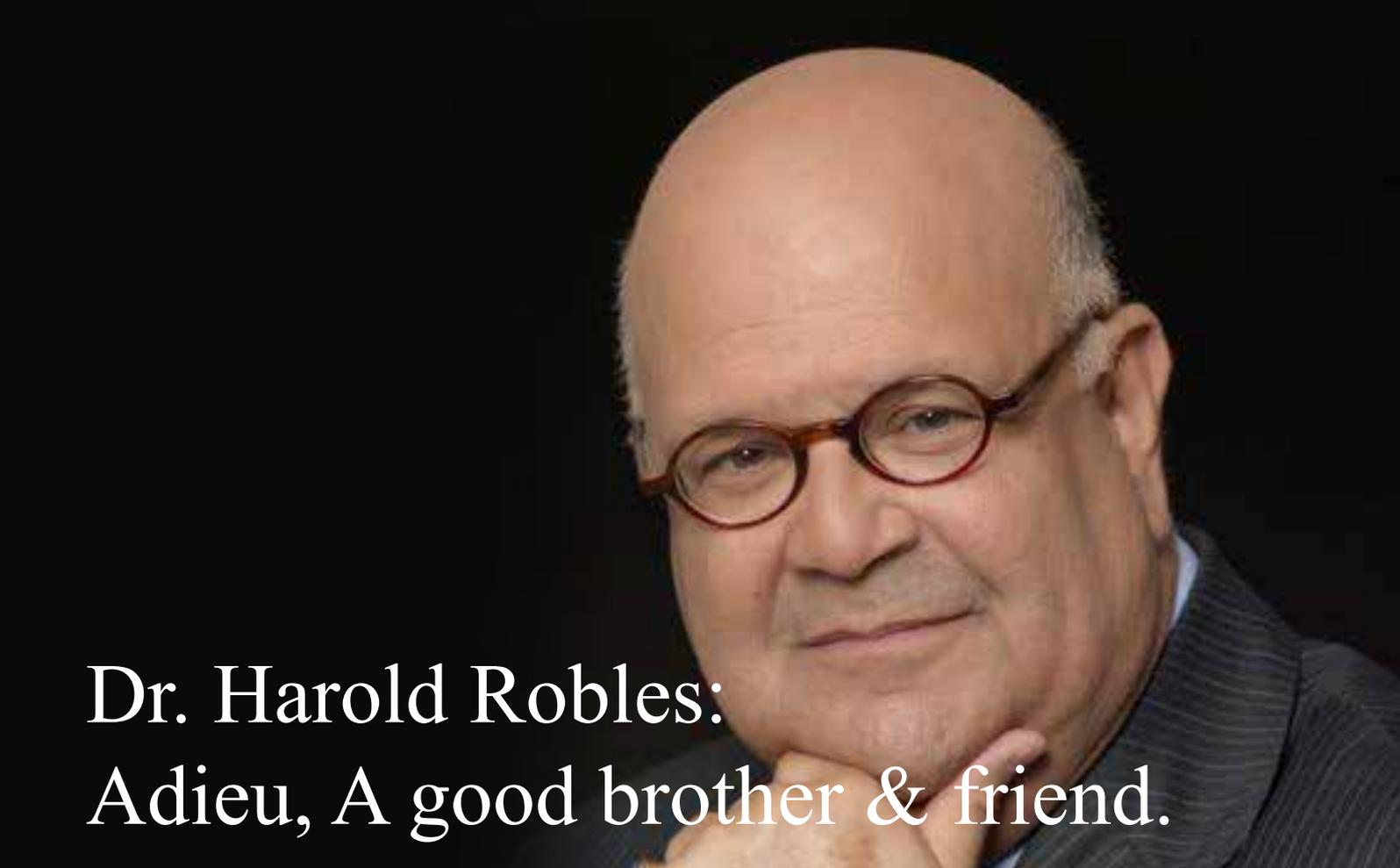
- The immediate publication of the report the Auditor-General and NEITI on the NDDC



The Niger Delta has become the prime example of a territory that has suffered irreparable social and ecological damage. Many Niger Deltans have lost their lives in the struggle for the rescue of the region from utter destruction. It is unconscionable that a commission set up to ameliorate the situation has further added to the harm of the region.

Signed: By Various organizations like Mother Earth Foundation, Africa Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (ANE EJ), Women Development Resource Centre, Community Empowerment and Development Initiative, Foundation for Environmental Rights Advocacy & Development (FENRAD), IMMALAH Foundation, NGOs Forum (BANGOF), Support Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP), Conference of NGOs Edo State (CONGOs), Christian Fellowship and Care Foundation, Child Rights Network, Green Concern for Development (GREENCODE), Peace Point Development Foundation, Life and Peace Development Organisation (LAPDO), Action Initiatives (KAI), Citizens Trust, Pius Dukor Foundation, Kallop Humanitarian & Environmental Centre, League of Queens international Empowerment, Gbogbia Feefeelo, Ladies of Tai, Human Rights and Environmental Justice Initiative, Women Initiative on Climate Change, Rural Health Women Development, Alauchi Women Development Initiative, Prof Zabbey Nenibarini, Oghara Centre for Women and Girl-Child Development, Network on Good Governance, Hope for Coastal Women Empowerment Initiative, Justice Development & Peace Commission/ Caritas, Gender & Development Action (GADA) etc.

By HOMEF
Niger Delta

A close-up portrait of Dr. Harold Robles, an older man with a balding head and glasses, resting his chin on his hand. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

Dr. Harold Robles: Adieu, A good brother & friend.

7/31/2020

The world has lost one more humanitarian and hero, a man who put other people's lives and needs before his own. Dr. Harold Robles and I met a year before we recognized him at The Voice Achievers Award in 2012 and again in 2014 for his personal works and his foundation works in South Africa. We became personal friends and he fully became a supporter of The Voice News Magazine. We met at Rotterdam Central Station as we sat and chatted over a drink three years ago; you broke the horrible news to me that you have been diagnosed with cancer. I thought it was the early stage of the battle so I promised to join you in the fight with my spiritual help. You respected my position of being a Pastor and the battle started with all the treatments you underwent and the eventual result that there was no such remedy to get a cure but to live with it.

On 4th July 2020, you wrote me these words, "My dear Pastor Elvis Iruh, as always a great magazine again. I want you to know that cancer has changed my life completely. I will be spending the rest of my life on a wheelchair. I just came back home after 7 weeks in a rehabilitation center. May I ask you to pray for me? Give my kindness regards to your community and

family". And just last week, we communicated again and he said he would love to have me visit him. "Yes I would love you to visit me. I am in Oostvoorne, just let me know when you are available. I need my African Pastor to come before I go home. Have a blessed weekend". I never knew this would be our last communication as the sad news reached me on 31-7-2020 that you have passed on that same day.

I went back to our conversation and I felt sad that I didn't make it to see you but you knew your time was short here, you were prepared to go back to your maker. One thing I know for sure is that you had no regrets of the life you lived. You will do it again and again.

You have finished your race here on earth and all I can say is thank you for being a friend and a brother. Dr. Harold was a father, best friend, confidant, and supporter, promoting me and my magazine to high heavens, introducing me to great personalities including the Nelson Mandela dynasty in South Africa. Founder of Health Promotion Trust South Africa where he has left his legacies of educating all in areas of health advocacy as human rights.

I thank God for sending you into my life.

Rest in Peace, Dr. Harold Robles. You will be missed.



Tribute to Dr. Harold E. Robles: A man with the heart of gold for humanity

Harold Robles, known for his international humanitarian work, became a devotee of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Albert Schweitzer at the age of eight.

In 1973, Robles founded the Albert Schweitzer Center in the Netherlands. Two years later, he was appointed Secretary General of the International Schweitzer Organization (ASIL), an organization founded by Dr. Schweitzer in the 1930's in Strasbourg, France.

In 1981, Robles immigrated to the United States where he founded together with Rhena Schweitzer Miller, the daughter of Dr. Schweitzer, the Albert Schweitzer Institute for the Humanities (ASIH); an organization dedicated to the philosophy of Albert Schweitzer. In 1998, at the age of fifty, he retired from the Institute and was given the title President Emeritus.

In 1999, Dr. Robles founded the Medical Knowledge Institute Trust, an International non-profit organization that focuses on education and providing information from the conviction that healthcare is a human right. In 2013 he and the trustees changed the name into Health Promotion South Africa Trust (HPSA). Robles and his co-founder Dr. Jelle Braaksma were appointed special advisors to the Trust.

In November 2016 just before leaving the White House President Obama honored HPSA with his endorsement.

For his work, Robles received numerous awards. In 1996 Albert Magnus College in New Haven Connecticut, USA honored him with an honorary degree in Human Letters for his humanitarian work. In 1998 the Polish Academy of Health honored him with their International Gold Star "Merit for Humanism".

In September 2008 Robles was inducted, for the period of two years into the third chamber, otherwise known as the shadow parliament for international cooperation. 150 members work on political and public support for international cooperation.

On World AIDS day 2009 Dr. Robles received from

Michael Sidibe, Executive Director of UNAIDS an award for his humanitarian efforts in the field of HIV / AIDS. This award is granted annually by the 'Africa Center for HIV / AIDS Management', at Stellenbosch University.

On the 29th of April 2009 Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands granted Dr. Robles a Knighthood, "Knight of the Order of Orange Nassau".

Legacy International honored Dr. Robles with its International Humanitarian Award which he received at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Virginia on January 11th 2010.

In 2011, Robles was appointed by the court in the Netherlands Extraordinary Officer, (Justice of the Peace)

In 2012 the George Washington University, School of Public Health appointed him Professorial Lecturer in Prevention and Community Health.

In March of that same year the George Washington University presented him the George Washington School of Public Health & Health Services Silver Medallion for his tireless dedication and leadership in Public Health.

Nominated by the South African Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Robles was named "Outstanding African Personality for Health Advocacy 2012 by the Voice Achievers Award in Amsterdam".

It was a great honor for Harold Robles to be one of the 500 invited Dutch citizens to attend the coronation of King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, on the 30th of April 2013 in Amsterdam.

Robles has written several books about Albert Schweitzer, published in the Netherlands, former East Germany, Italy, China, Korea, Yugoslavia and the United States.

Harold Robles is Goodwill Ambassador of the Ethnic Business Women Society of the Netherlands (EZVN), and Goodwill Representative of the Southern Africa - Netherlands Chamber of Commerce (SANEC)

Photo: Patricia Steur

The London Political Summit, Pre-Summit 2020 held in London

The London Political Summit, Pre-Summit Zoom Conference July 2020, began with the welcoming address by the Co-director of the summit, Mr. Godson Azu, who welcomed everyone, and took time to introduce members of the London Political Summit Team, which includes, Bar. Sir. Chibuzo Ubochi, Co-director, Mr. Allan Mandindi, Director Malawi Heritage Centre UK, Mr. Julius Mbaluto Editor/Founder Informer East-Africa Newspaper's

Dr Pauline Long London Political Summit Chairperson, Amb. Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, London Political Summit Global Ambassador, and finally Baroness Amb. Dr. Neena Richie, London Political Summit Arab Ambassador, and that note he handover the meeting to Dr Pauline Long the Summit moderator, who then went on to introduce the Pre-Summit Chair for her opening speech.

Amb. Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, the former Deputy Sec. Gen. of the Commonwealth of Nations, former Kenya Ambassador to the UN, and the Global Ambassador of London Political Summit Chaired the London Political Summit , Pre-Summit Zoom Conference July 2020, this afternoon. She made the opening speech by welcoming all the special guest speakers, from the UK, Hon. Paul



Bristow MP for Peterborough City, from Malawi, the Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Eisenhower Mkaka, Hon. Deputy Minister for Health Hon. Chrissie KK Kanyasho, and from Nigeria, the Hon. Minister for Women Affairs and Social Development, Dame Pauline Tallen, Hon. Prof. Steve Christian Azakii Hon. Member Federal House of Representative Nigeria, from Kenya are,

Hon. Millie Odhiambo Mabona MP, Member of Kenya Parliament, and Ms. Nana Wanjau, the Commonwealth Business Women Network Africa contact person. She also used the opportunity to congratulate the new government and leadership of the new President of Malawi, and the new cabinet ministers. Amb Ojiambo went further to lay the ground rule for the guest speakers presentations and



discussions, focusing on the Pre-Summit theme, "Covid-19, Post-Covid and the SDG Positives. And as the summit chair she ended up the summit with a good summary of the various issues pointed out by the speakers and Discussed.

The Pre-Summit program was moderated by Dr. Pauline Long an outstanding media personality and philanthropist in the UK, who took time to coordinate the speakers and participants contributions.

Hon Paul Bristow MP, Member of Parliament for Peterborough and member House Committee on Health, speaking this afternoon at the London Political Summit Pre-Summit Zoom Conference July 2020. In his submission spoke very much about the UK government honest approach on handling the Covid-19 Pandemic , with its

challenging factors, the role of the NHS medical team and the facilitating of required equipment, care giving, the palliative schemes for social interventions and then he also talked about the UK cooperation and opportunities with African Countries , of which he made a strong request for many African leaders to be responsible, honest and accountable to the people, in other to gain much from the

Post-Covid and Post-Brexit agenda, Paul sees Africa as the new front of popular capitalism, the next point of economic growth in world.

The Hon. Deputy Minister for Health of Malawi, Hon. Chrissie Kanyasho, spoke on the impact of COVID-19 in Malawi, taking recognition that, the new government in power in Malawi is just few weeks in office, in her strong view, she is full of confidence that the government is ready and willing to move the country forward, with its strong mortality rate and social development. There are great efforts in place by the government to consciously manage the Covid-19 fall outs, with cross-border movement. She also spoke on the SDG's 3 & 6, in relation to Malawi, with the new Health system and facilities been put in place to tackle the Covid-19 crisis and other related health issues.

Hon. Millie Odhiambo Mabona MP, Member of Kenya Parliament, speaking at the London Political Summit Pre-Summit Zoom Conference 2020, where she gave a good presentation on the Covid and socioeconomic issues in Kenya, with the word, looking at the big four agenda in Nairobi, which are on, Housing, Food Security, Manufacturing and Health, which are key elements of the Uhuru/Raila government, Which are in pursuance of the SDG elements as the case may be in Kenya. She went on to make the quote, "If we fail to treat Covid normally, then Covid will treat us abnormally".

Hon. Prof. Steve Azaiki the Hon. Member of the Nigeria H of Representative and member House Committee on Foreign Affairs, speaking at the London Political Summit, Pre-Summit Zoom Conference 2020. Made a critical submission on the Situation of leadership, and institutional challenges, he said that the Nigeria constitution is not a true reflection of a true federalism, as it has informed a tribalist politics, domestic exploitation and corruption, he went on to state that the political and policy institutions are very weak and unstable for current challenges, which has the president so powerful and a very strong person. He has advocated for a people oriented constitutional reforms to reflect true



federalism and inclusive politics, the total reform /restructuring of the organs of government, political and socioeconomic institutions. He missioned his role on the Covid crisis in Nigeria, were he stated that he has moved a motion for a 15B Naira for University institutions research laboratory across Nigeria.

The Pre-Summit Zoom conference July 2020, ended on a very good note, with over 50 participants, from across the globe, we had people joining from across Africa, in Europe and the US, which has opened up the wider opportunity for London Political Summit, in terms of outreach and participation.

FACE MASKS MANDATORY IN PARTS OF AMSTERDAM & ROTTERDAM SINCE AUG. 5

Visitors to several public areas of Amsterdam and Rotterdam are required to wear non-medical face masks since August 5, according to the Amsterdam-Amstelland and Rotterdam-Rijnmond Security Regions. The decision had become increasingly necessary after the Cabinet agreed to allow the 25 Security Regions in the country to use local face mask obligations in coordination with city mayors as a way of reducing the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 novel coronavirus.

In Amsterdam, everyone aged 13 and older will be required to wear a mask in De Wallen, the part of the city that includes the Red Light District, as well as the Kalverstraat and Nieuwendijk shopping streets in the center. Those on Plein '40 - '45 and Albert Cuypstraat will also be obligated to wear the masks.

"These are areas where it is tight and busy, and where other measures have had insufficient effect or have led to undesired economic effects," the



Security Region said in a statement. It said it had permission from the Cabinet to implement local rules to limit crowding caused by tourism, day-trippers, and young people. "These are situations where the current rules and measures are under pressure."

The same was said for the central shopping districts in Rotterdam, including Coolingsel, Lijnbaan, Meent and Nieuwe Binnenwegplein. Also included were the covered shopping centers Alexandrium and Zuidplein, and the markets at Afrikaanderplein, De Binnenrotte, and Visserijplein. The officials were undecided about the covered shopping centers De Binnenhof and Keizerswaard. The rule in both cities will be compulsory for everyone on the streets and in the shops in those areas, but not businesses where there are already national guidelines for handling social distancing issues, like gyms, restaurants, bars, and museums. People will still be required to maintain a physical distance of 1.5 meters from one another in addition to wearing the masks. "Entrepreneurs also have a responsibility to comply with these rules," the Amsterdam-

Amstelland Security Region said.

Those violating the rule in Rotterdam could be subject to a fine, but the amount was unspecified. In that city's streets and shopping centers, the rule is valid from 6 a.m. through 10 p.m. every day. It only applies to the specified open-air market locations on days those markets are open.

Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema, who also chairs the Amsterdam-Amstelland Security Region, said back in May that she favored the possibility of imposing new restrictions if she deemed it necessary. In the past few weeks that conversation increasingly turned to face masks with Rotterdam Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb speaking out emphatically in support of a mask directive. While the national government said there would not be a countrywide mandate to wear the masks, it did agree that local experiments could be utilized to influence behavior after three straight weeks where the amount of coronavirus infections increased.



Aboutaleb is also the chair of the Rotterdam-Rijnmond Security Region. In a statement issued Thursday, he said he believed face masks can increase the sense of importance with regard to the public health crisis, while

encouraging people to cooperate with enforcement, practice good hygiene, and maintain "the golden rule of 1.5 meters." Both cities said they would quickly begin informing residents, business owners, and visitors of the upcoming rule changes. Rotterdam will distribute free masks to the public in those areas on the day the policy enters into force. Amsterdam said it would also hand out free masks, but did not specify when.

The Amsterdam-Amstelland Security Region also noted that public health agency RIVM "recently concluded that wearing a mouth mask can lead to people becoming more careful and keeping more distance from each other. The Security Region will closely monitor whether these desired effects actually occur." Their counterparts in Zuid-Holland made a similar assertion in a statement.

"We are ready to start the pilot and hope it will help people to stay safe in the city and keep enough distance from each other," Aboutaleb said.

By Zack Newmark

URK ALDERMAN RESIGNS AFTER SON'S DRUG TRAFFICKING ARREST

Geert Post, a SGP alderman in the municipality of Urk, is under fire for concealing that he works at his son's transport company - a company that was recently discredited when Post's 32-year-old son was arrested in the United Kingdom for trafficking over 400 kilograms of hard drugs.

Aldermen are obliged to report all their activities, in order to avoid conflicts of interest. The Urk city council wants to know what exactly Post does at his son's company, and why he concealed these activities.

Post's son was arrested in the UK last month after over 250 kilograms of cocaine and 170 kilograms of speed were found in his truck in Calais. He was on British territory at the time.

The drugs were hidden under 35 carts of flowers. The British authorities estimate their value at about 15.7 million euros.

The 32-year-old man from Urk claims he had nothing to do with the drugs, but he is still in custody and would face trial in a court of law on British soil.

Geert Post has been an alderman in Urk since 2010. His portfolio includes Economic Affairs and Fisheries.

In a new development to the arrest of his son, the alderman on the staunchly Protestant former fishing island of Urk resigned after his son was charged for drugs smuggling



and it emerged he too worked for his offspring's transport company.

Geert Post was an alderman on behalf of the fundamentalist Protestant party SGP and was the longest-serving official on the town council. He resigned after talks with other members of the town's executive board and the mayor has instigated an integrity investigation.

Post had failed to declare that he too worked for his son's transport company JP Trans Beheer, which is against the island's rules. He has denied any involvement in drugs and says his son, too, is innocent.

The manner the drugs were concealed was deliberate to hide it from the security operatives; the drugs were hidden in 43 flower buckets taking roses and sunflowers from the Netherlands to the United Kingdom. According to report reaching us, the government's regional crime information unit RIEC said Urk is a hotbed of crime, often involving entire families. In particular, the report said islanders are involved in cocaine smuggling, money laundering and in exploiting workers in the local fish processing industry. In 2018 the five strong crew of an Urk-based fishing boat were jailed for up to six years for their role in a drugs smuggling operation.

By Janene Pieters



Ethiopia, Rwanda, DRC leaders on eminent Africans list

Ethiopia's Prime Minister and the Presidents of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have been named among the 100 Most Reputable Africans.

Abiy Ahmed, Paul Kagame, and Felix Tshisekedi

were joined by Kenyan minister Amina Mohamed on the list released by Reputation Poll International, a reputation management consultancy firm.

The list features 47 women and 53 men from diverse sectors, including leadership, entertainment, advocacy, education, and business. They were selected on the criteria of integrity, visibility, and impact, according to a statement.

Matshidiso Moeti, World Health Organization's director for Africa, and Vera Songwe, executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, were among the notable



names on the list.

Also featured are Nigeria's Dr. Paul Enenche, Guinean economist Cellou Dalein Diallo, and South Africa's Prof. Wiseman Nkuhlu, chancellor of the University of Pretoria. South Africa's Dr. Precious Moloi-Motsepe, Ethiopia's Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu, and Nigeria's Folorunso Alakija were named in the business category for their global achievements.



Burundi President rejects overture from Rwandan counterpart

Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye has rejected an olive branch from his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame, describing his neighbour's offer to settle their differences and reset diplomatic ties as "hypocritical".

President Ndayishimiye, who was elected in May 2020, did not mention President Kagame by name in a speech delivered near the Rwandan border last month, and published on the President's Twitter account.

But it followed President Kagame's call last month for a "turnaround" in the long-strained relationship between Burundi and Rwanda, and for the two leaders to chart a less hostile course under Ndayishimiye.

"We do not want to have such relations with a country that uses malice, a hypocritical country, which claims to want to restore good relations with Burundi, while placing a thorn under our feet," Ndayishimiye said in Busoni, near Burundi's northern border with Rwanda.

He said Burundian refugees in Rwanda were "being held hostage", and accused the government there of harbouring those behind a failed 2015 coup that plunged Burundi into violent chaos.



"If they really want to revive Burundi, let them hand these criminals over to us, so that we can judge them. Burundians will never be satisfied until those responsible for the 2015 crisis are punished," said President Ndayishimiye.

Burundi has long accused Rwanda of interfering in its affairs, and using refugee camps to train its enemies. Last month, in an open letter to President Ndayishimiye, a group of Burundian refugees in Rwanda alleged they were being held against their will.

Rwanda, too, has accused Burundi of sheltering armed rebel groups using its territory as cover to stage attacks over the border against the country's security forces.

Kagame, who has been in power since 1994, last month acknowledged long-running tensions between the east African nations.

"There have been problems... but the most important thing now is to look for solutions to end them," Kagame said.

"This is the objective we want to achieve with the new leaders of Burundi, and if President Ndayishimiye and his collaborators also choose this path, we are ready to reach an agreement with them."

Observers have described Ndayishimiye, a former general and ruling party figurehead, as more tolerant and open than Pierre Nkurunziza, his predecessor who ruled for 15 tumultuous years that saw Burundi isolated on the world stage.

But Ndayishimiye's response to Kagame "shows once again that the regime's hardliners hold the upper hand", said one diplomat to the press on condition of anonymity.

Ethiopian migrants forced to return after being abandoned by Lebanese employers

Ethiopian migrants forced to return after being abandoned by Lebanese employers. Hundreds arrive back in Addis Ababa after paying hefty sums to leave a country beset by economic and political turmoil.



Mahlet Tadesse, a 20-year-old domestic worker is one of hundreds of Ethiopian migrants forced to return home from Lebanon after being dumped by her employer. She, along with 654 others, paid a hefty sum of \$680 (Dh2497) to fly back to Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, from Beirut after camping out at the Ethiopian embassy. The

cost is more than four times her monthly salary. Many Ethiopian migrant workers, mostly young women, cannot cover the expense to fly home and now face the prospect of unemployment in a country beset by economic and political turmoil. But she was one of the lucky ones.

“I was in Lebanon for two years. I worked day in and day out and, on what was supposed to have been my off days, my employers would transport me to their friends and have me work with little break,” she told The National.

“There was no extra pay and in the last months, I was promised a payment and nothing was forthcoming until I was driven to the embassy and left there to fend for myself.”

According to the International Organisation of Migration Ethiopia, since May of this year, 658 people from Lebanon have arrived back in Ethiopia. However, more are believed to have returned either on their own or without communication with the UN agency.

“We have temporarily suspended all operations to bring these destitute people to Ethiopia because of Covid-19. We plan to start the operation soon and we plan to prioritise those with children,” the Ethiopian director general for consular affairs Yohannes Shode told the press.

Ethiopian migrant workers in Lebanon are subject to a system called Kafala, which governs their entry, residence and work in Lebanon. The system requires that every migrant worker has a sponsor, who is also supposed to be one’s employer. The system also gives employers a right to control the movement of the domestic worker, who cannot be hired by another employer without getting the consent of their current one, or risk losing their migrant status and facing detention and deportation.

Many who lived in Lebanon under the system have returned to Ethiopia complaining of abuse and ill treatment.

In 2012, the story of Alem Dechasa, a 33-year-old domestic worker gained the attention of the United Nations special rapporteur after she was videotaped being beaten and dragged into a car by her employer. She was later found dead.



Such incidents propelled the Ethiopian government to put a ban on domestic workers travelling to the Middle East in 2013. It lifted the ban in 2018 after putting in place a system to safeguard the workers, and also partly because of the profound importance of remittances to the Ethiopian economy.

Almaz Beyene, 23, from the northern Ethiopian city of Gonder, was the first to sign up after the ban was lifted. She remains stranded in Beirut after she was also brought to the embassy last month with only a bag full of clothes.

“I have no money and I sleep with strangers on the street not knowing whenever I will ever go home. I feel vulnerable and I cry myself to sleep and it’s humiliating for me that I cannot even afford to pay for my flight ticket and that I live on the charity of others,” Ms Beyene said, describing herself as “zombie-like”.

“On top of that, I still have a debt to pay, a loan my parents borrowed from others for an employment agency that brought me here.”

Ethiopian State Minister of Business and Diaspora Affairs, Tsion Teklu, said the government has been proactive in



helping citizens, but is also mindful of the need to limit international movement during the coronavirus pandemic.

“We are now obtaining detailed information on each [stranded] individual to be shared with ministries for proper security check, citizenship confirmation, health check, quarantine, transportation and reintegration,” she said.

“The Ethiopian government repatriated 956 irregular migrants from Lebanon for whom the process was started before Covid. The Ethiopian government fully covered the full cost of two chartered Ethiopian Airlines flights, the 15 days quarantine and transportation to our citizen’s last destination and is now working with [the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs] in reintegrating them.”

She added there was a three-month plan in place for Ethiopians in Lebanon and said the consulate was assisting those in need.

Yet there have been several efforts by Ethiopian citizens to help, including one started and led by Banchi Yemer, an Ethiopian-Canadian philanthropist based in Montreal who has managed to raise 70,000 Canadian dollars to help afford food and medicine to the migrants.



In Zimbabwe, no one can breathe

Most worryingly for the corrupt and clueless government, even the security forces deployed to crush dissent are suffering. Zimbabweans are taking on their government and its agents in a running battle with protests as the President vow to flush all opposition to his regime out. Untold hardship on the people with the Covid-19 crisis and an economy on its knees, it is tough to survive in the country and the people are comparing it to “I can’t breathe chant recorded from the killing of George Floyd in USA few months ago”

On 20 July, police in Zimbabwe arrested and detained the journalist Hopewell Chin’ono. The prominent investigative reporter had blown the whistle on \$60 million corruption scandal in June. They also detained Jacob Ngarivhume, leader of Transform Zimbabwe, a political group spearheading plans for a national anti-corruption protest scheduled for 31 July which was banned by the government. Both men are accused of inciting public violence.

On the eve of Chin’ono and Ngarivhume’s 22 July court appearance, President Emmerson Mnangagwa ordered his security forces to enforce a nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew and ban of large gatherings. This was purportedly in response to a recent spike in COVID-19 cases. Officially, Zimbabwe has recorded more cases of infected people during this period making it more dangerous to allow any form of protest or large crowd gathering in the country.

In some countries, the tightening of restrictions in response to a rise in cases might be welcomed or at least tolerated. In Zimbabwe, they are deeply worrying. Since emergency regulations were imposed in March, the ruling ZANU-PF has used COVID-19 as convenient cover to loot funds, clamp down on press freedoms, violate human rights, and arrest activists. Perhaps most worryingly, it has used the lockdown period to quietly amend the constitution to consolidate executive powers without input from citizens.

This is a long way from Mnangagwa’s promises on assuming power in November 2017, following Robert Mugabe’s overthrow. At that time, the new president declared a “new dispensation”, promising economic revival and democratic reforms. He had already reneged on these vows long before the coronavirus reached Zimbabwe, but the pandemic has made matters worse.

Chin’ono is the latest of six journalists arrested in Zimbabwe since March. In June, he had published a series of Facebook posts outlining alleged connections between the president’s son Collins Mnangagwa and Drax International, a UAE-

based company that was awarded a \$60 million contract to supply COVID-19 test kits and medical equipment. Soon after posting the information, Chin’ono said that he feared for his life, after being singled out for criticism by the ruling party. Chin’ono’s exposé led to the contract’s cancellation as well as the arrest and dismissal of Health Minister Obadiah Moyo. The minister – the second in Mnangagwa’s cabinet to be arrested over high-level corruption claims had appeared in court on 31 July. Protests over corruption and the deepening economic crisis have been organised for the same day by the opposition, trade unions and civil society organisations but the government crackdown on any form of protests. It may be a turning point for Zimbabwe.

This episode comes during a period of high tensions for a variety of reasons. Economically, the country is in crisis. The inflation rate, for instance, is

currently over 750%, reviving memories of the late-2000s when hyperinflation wiped out savings and eventually forced Zimbabwe to abandon its currency in favour of the US dollar. Frustrations are also rising over the government’s management of the health sector. Days after the first COVID-19 death in March, doctors and nurses downed tools over the shortage of personal protective equipment. On 6 July, nurses again staged protests to demand the payment of their salaries in US dollars. 13 of them were arrested on allegations that they had contravened lockdown regulations.

Many people have also been arrested protesting the government’s COVID-19 response as well as ZANU-PF’s ominous decision to use the lockdown period to push



through constitutional amendments that effectively give the president the authority to do as he pleases. When activists Namatai Kwekweza and Vongai Zimudzi tried to hand over a petition to Justice Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi, pointing out the lack of public consultation regarding the changes, they were charged with inciting public violence. Kwekweza was then arrested for a second time on 15 July after voicing her disapproval of the government's actions. Overall, more than 105,000 people have been arrested in Zimbabwe since March for allegedly violating lockdown regulations. Several of them have been targeted after joining protests or speaking out. The most egregious instance of this pattern occurred in June when three women – opposition MP Joana Mamombe along with activists Cecilia Chimbiri and Netsai Marova – were abducted after attending a demonstration. Almost 48 hours later, they were found dumped in a marketplace and had to receive hospital treatment for multiple injuries. Shocking videos circulated of the traumatised women describing being taken out of town by unidentified men who beat and sexually assaulted them. Instead of investigating their claims, the state re-arrested them for an “alleged fake abduction report”.

The latest arrests of Chin'ono and Ngarivhume have drawn worldwide condemnation. But the government remains defiant, with ZANU-PF

spokesperson Patrick Chinamasa warning: “We remain vigilant against the machinations of the enemy and they have been very intensified in recent weeks. ZANU-PF sleeps with one eye open.”

Yet again, the Zimbabwean government has failed to acknowledge that the greatest threat they face is of their own making – through their continued looting, economic mismanagement and repressiveness. What they should be keeping their eyes on is how hyperinflation has made basic staples unaffordable for most Zimbabweans, who are now having to sell off precious belongings and go deeper into debt just to eat. At worst, many Zimbabweans are simply going without. Even before COVID-19 hit, Zimbabwe faced both economic and hunger crises affecting people in both urban and rural areas.

ZANU-PF's self-made crisis is heightened by the fact that the rank and file it relies on the repress popular dissent – in the military, police and Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) – are suffering from the very same economic burden as their fellow citizens. Recognising this, protesters are calling on ordinary members of the military, police, air

force and prison service to disobey orders ahead of the 31 July demonstration.

This has led security chiefs to warn against insubordination and plead for loyalty. In a statement last week, Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) assistant commissioner Paul Nyathi said: “We have noted with concern recent social media postings urging members to disregard lawful orders, commands and instructions given by their commanders while performing duty”. He urged officers to ignore what he called attempts to “cause alarm, despondency and divide the security services”.

As it becomes more desperate, the post-Mugabe government has used the pandemic to further undermine the democratic freedoms and reforms it promised



on assuming power. However, just like – or perhaps even worse than the government of his predecessor – Mnangagwa's “new dispensation” is corrupt and clueless when it comes to the economy and social welfare yet extremely imaginative when it comes to repressing dissent and looting coffers. Instead of thinking of ways to ensure the wellbeing of their citizens during this pandemic, ZANU-PF sleeps with one eye open, dreaming up better ways to crush them.

Under the weight of ZANU-PF's ever repressive boot, journalists can't breathe, activists can't breathe, lawyers can't breathe, nurses can't breathe, teachers can't breathe, trade unionists can't breathe, the opposition can't breathe and ordinary citizens can't breathe. Perhaps most worryingly for the government, even their own security forces can't breathe as they are deployed to crush their fellow citizens' gasps for air.

Unless the Zimbabwean state stops its looting, intimidation and suppression of dissent and finally response to the needs of its people, it will soon face its greatest threat yet.



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DEACON OSAYANDE DECENCY AMADASUN PASSES ON

For many people they knew him as Deacon Amadasun, officially called Mr. John Robert. He was a very active member of the Nigerian Community in The Netherlands. Most recently elected as the Vice-Chairman of United Nigeria Platform (UNP). Until his sudden death, he was very active with helping undocumented Nigerians through his association to give them necessary support during this Covid-19 crisis. A proud son of Edo State and associated with his people. Details of his passing on 26th August 2020 is still emerging. RIP Sir. Condolence to his family & children.



Kenya arrests man wanted for illegal ivory trading



Kenyan authorities have arrested a man wanted in the United States for allegedly conspiring to sell 10 tonnes of elephant ivory and more than 181kg (approximately 400 pounds) of rhinoceros horn across a seven-year period.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigation said on its Twitter account last month that officers arrested Abubakar Mansur Mohammed Surur, a Kenyan national who had been flagged as a “wanted person” in the US for the offences.

He was on a chartered flight from Yemen which landed in Kenya’s second-largest city, Mombasa last month authorities said.

Detectives based at Moi International Airport Mombasa have confirmed the arrest of Mr. Abubakar Mansur Mohammed Surur who had been flagged as a WANTED PERSON in the United States for Ivory related offenses after he landed from Yemen on board a chartered aircraft.

The US Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York has said Surur was part of a transnational criminal enterprise known as the “Enterprise” based in Uganda and surrounding countries.

Authorities believed Surur and several others conspired to distribute, sell and smuggle the ivory and horn between 2012 and 2019.

The haul was believed to have involved the illegal poaching of more than 35 rhinoceros and more than 100 elephants.

US authorities have said one co-defendant, a Liberian man,

has already been extradited to the United States after being arrested in Uganda last year.

A Guinean man remained in custody in Senegal where authorities are considering an extradition request. A fourth defendant, who is also Kenyan, remains a fugitive.

Africa had 1.3 million elephants in the 1970s, but only 500,000 remain due to poaching and trophy hunting. Less than 30,000 rhinos are estimated to remain in the wild.

The price of rhino horn skyrocketed as demand grew in Asian countries, mainly China and Vietnam, where the horns are ground up and used in traditional Chinese medicine as a supposed cure for a variety of ailments.

Syndicates from Vietnam, China, South Korea and Thailand have been identified as being involved in the trafficking.

Surur was wanted for allegedly conspiring to sell 10 tonnes of elephant ivory and over 181kg of rhino horn from 2012-19.

Ethiopia unveils locally assembled electric car



Ethiopia's athletics legend Haile Gebrselassie (left) explains features of the locally-assembled electric car to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed after he presented it to him in Addis Ababa on July 27, 2020. PHOTO | ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY



Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (driving) and athletics legend Haile Gebrselassie test drive the first locally-assembled electric car in Addis Ababa on July 27, 2020. PHOTO | ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY

Ethiopia has unveiled a locally-assembled electric car from Marathon Motor, a joint venture between Korean auto giant Hyundai and Olympic champion Haile Gebrselassie. Mr Haile last month delivered the vehicle to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. “As we transform Ethiopia’s greening and climate-resilient aspirations into concrete actions through the Green Legacy initiative and Sheger and Entoto Parks, this morning I received the first electric car fully assembled in Ethiopia. No emission cars can help reduce pollution,” the PM said in a tweet.

The plant, which opened in March, has a capacity to produce 10,000 cars a year.

Once fully charged, the electric car can go for 300 kilometres.

Last year, Ethiopians planted three billion trees as part of the greening and climate resilience initiative championed by the Prime Minister, with an additional four billion trees planted this year.

By TESFA-ALEM TEKLE

AKISAN'S RESOLUTION PAVES WAY FOR ONLINE VOTING AND ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT & OTHERS

In a rare show of unity, the Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria USA, Inc. (AKISAN) in July 2020, voted unanimously to resolve its long-standing disagreement over voting preferences. The resolution made it possible to suspend sections of AKISAN Constitution, according to a memo obtained from the National Secretariat of AKISAN. The purpose, as explained in the memo, was “in order to conduct Presidential, Board of Trustees, and any other election using electronic platforms,” including “audio visuals and video recording.”

In a related motion, which carried unanimously, it was also resolved that AKISAN's business be conducted “using electronic platforms (audio visuals and video)” until when it is deemed appropriate and safe to return to face to face business operations.

Both proposals, put forward by the incumbent executive, were announced in a July 21 official memo signed by AKISAN National Secretary, Dr. Ekere B. Williams. An emergency general meeting of AKISAN was held via Zoom on July 26 to consider and adopt the two proposals.

Elated with the success of the emergency meeting, Margaret Itauma, AKISAN National President, said during a telephone interview, that with the suspension of sections of the Constitution, a major huddle has been surmounted, because of Constitutional provisions which did not allow on-line voting for election of officers for elective office.

According to Itauma, the related proposals were offered to suspend relevant sections of the Constitution and to offer

members, consistent with COVID-19 safety guidelines, the option of “electing a national president, three board members, and a national auditor, before the end of the term of the current administration in August, 2020.”

“Elections have thus been scheduled for August 22,” says Itauma, whose tenure, while hotly debated, will be remembered for, among others, her bold initiatives, and the restoration of good understanding and close working relation with the home government.

“Members of my administration and I are prepared to hand

over to the president-elect as soon as he is sworn-in, along with board members-elect, and internal auditor-elect during a virtual formal ceremony scheduled for August 23, 2020,” Itauma added during the telephone interview.

Itauma's potential successors include, in alphabetical order, Itoro Akpan-Iquot, an IT professional in Atlanta, Georgia; Mfon Anamndu, an IT Professional in Chicago, Illinois; and Dr. Henshaw Mbosowo, a mental and behavioral health professional counselor and former IT professional.

While the candidates are running neck-and-neck in an informal poll shared with this writer,

their supporters have been making frantic phone calls to uncommitted AKISAN chapters in order to take the lead before voting slated for August 22, 2020.

Nomination notice for other offices of AKISAN is pending.

By Samuel Essien,
Queens, New York



Poacher who killed gorilla Rafiki in Uganda sentenced to 11 years in prison

A Ugandan court last month sentenced a poacher who confessed to killing gorilla Rafiki in Uganda few months ago to 11 years in prison.

The silverback Rafiki, which translates to “friend” in Swahili, led the Nkuringo troop, consisting of more than a dozen gorillas, that has been popular with visitors to a national park in Uganda for decades.

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park where Rafiki once roamed is a nearly 80,000-acre UNESCO World Heritage site in southwestern Uganda that is home to about half of the world’s mountain gorilla population.

Rafiki was believed to be 25 years old when he was reported missing on June 1, according to the report shown to the press. The next day his mutilated body was found inside the park and a post-mortem report showed a sharp device injured his abdomen and internal organs.

Byamukama Felix was arrested a few days after Rafiki’s body was found with bush pig meat and several hunting

devices on hand, authorities said. Felix pleaded guilty to charges of killing a gorilla, entering a protected area and possessing illegal meat. He told authorities he killed Rafiki in self-defense after the silverback charged at him. Three other men were arrested, but pleaded not guilty and remain in custody awaiting trial. Chief Magistrate Julius Borere sentenced Felix to 11 years in prison on three counts of illegal entering into a protected area, killing a gorilla and a duiker, a Uganda Wildlife statement said.

Uganda Wildlife’s Executive Director Sam Mwandha said in the statement that the court’s decision means that Rafiki has received justice.

“We are relieved that Rafiki has received justice and this should serve as an example to other people who kill wildlife,” Mwandha said. “If one person kills wildlife, we all lose, therefore we request every person to support our efforts of conserving wildlife for the present and for future generations.”



A gorilla silverback walks among members of a group of gorillas in the Republic of Congo. File Photo by Thomas Breuer/UPI/Wildlife Conservation Society | License Photo

SLFA appoints first female national football coach among others in Sierra Leone



The Sierra Leone Football Association has appointed National Team coaches and other technical staff of the various football categories. This came about after the executive committee adopted the recommendations of the Technical Committee who put forward their names.

The appointments saw John Keister recalled as a coach for the National Team, Leone stars. The former Leones Stars player who gained few international caps for Sierra Leone, (played in two World Cup qualifying games against Nigeria and Morocco) served as an Assistant Coach under Sellas Tetteh, before he was named the National Team Head Coach in 2017.

Keister guided Sierra Leone to their opening 2-1 win over Kenya in Freetown during the first leg qualifier. However, lost to Ethiopia 1-0 in the second match of the African Cup of Nations qualifying campaign.

Keister's coaching career came to prominence during his coaching spell at FC Johansen, where he became a household name in the game of football. He has now been re-appointed head coach of the National Team.

Keister is flanked by Amidu Karim and Dominic Konneh as Assistance Coach One and Two. Amidu Karima was a squad member of the 1994 and 1996 Leones Stars Team where he played alongside Mohamed Kallon, Junior 'Parade', 'Tumbu', and others.

To date, that squad is considered one of the best the country has produced. Other Leones star former players, also made the list as coaches for the Home Base Team, Under 23, Under 17, and other categories.

Female dominance into football recently has also reflected into the National Team selection, Head Coach of Premier League club East-End Tigers, Victoria Conteh is now the head coach of the Under 20 National Team.

It is believed that Victoria Conteh is the second woman to manage a top-flight men's club in Africa after Ethiopia's Meseret Manni in 2015.

Also making the coaching female list is Fatmata Bangura, Head Coach for the National under 17 Female Team.

These selections by the SLFA have received a lot of praise. Fans believe that giving opportunities to home-based coaches is part of the adherence to the government's local content policy.

Unarguably, this may be one of the few times where local coaches are heading all the different categories of the respective National Teams and they are expected to improve Sierra Leone Football at all levels among men and women.

We watch to see how far these local coaches would take Sierra Leone football and we wish them all the successes they need for the job



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang future at Arsenal not guaranteed

Gabon striker's double propelled Gunners to victory over Chelsea, which is also a testament to how his new manager Arteta has handled him since he took over as manager but his long term commitment to



the club is in doubt as he has not agreed to new terms of agreement to keep him in Arsenal shirts for next season or even longer. Many had expected and hoped that with the FA Cup win, it could be a launchpad for success at Arsenal, but keeping hold of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang as a key player in the new set up of the team for next season.

Of course the coach is in private discussion with him and he is assuring the fans that he would ensure he stays in Arsenal but no guarantees with money talk in the game of football these days.

Despite a tough and difficult season, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang finally gave the fans a trophy, the 14th time Arsenal will win the FA Cup; it caused a wild celebration across London despite the coronavirus cautions in place across the country. At last the players and the coach, Mikel Arteta could afford to smile about the forward's ungainly attempt to get to grips with the FA Cup.

"He needs more experience with trophies," smiled a manager who won one within eight months of his appointment.

In a world of uncertainty, it is hard to quantify the value of a Europa League spot. Perhaps it is worth £40 million though, and with Aubameyang's contract expiring in 2021, those added funds could be invaluable in extending his deal. "I want to build the team around him," said Arteta, and progress could be destroyed by the departure of the

one truly world-class player in his side.

Not since Ian Rush in 1986 had anyone scored a double in both the semi-final and final of the FA Cup and Aubameyang deserves to be bracketed with the greats. His

last five seasons have produced 170 goals and, at 31, a speedster shows no signs of slowing down. Arteta sounded confident of keeping Aubameyang more non-committal. Yet his tweet of the pair of them holding the trophy was captioned simply: "My manager!!!!"

Those sentiments may be echoed in the dressing room and the fan base, the four exclamation marks illustrating his impact. In five games, Arteta has beaten Liverpool, Manchester City and Chelsea, imbuing his side with resolve and displaying his own tactical nous, not least in the first-half drinks break. It has required fresh ideas to engineer alchemy. With notable exceptions like Aubameyang, Arsenal can appear as unlikely lads.

Arteta has not picked on reputation or price tag, but he has proved open-minded. "We had to change the energy and the mentality," Arteta said after the victory. He has done that. Arsenal feel more upbeat, more



optimistic.

Their lowest league finish in 25 years nonetheless looks a springboard for something. It is a reminder of the difference a manager can make and, already, it feels as though Arteta's first trophy will not be his last. He inherited a club at low ebb, one that had wasted 18 months under Unai Emery. The question now is how far he can take them and hopefully with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Didier Drogba applies to become president of Ivory Coast FA and is mobbed by thousands of supporters

Former Chelsea and Ivory Coast striker is given incredible reception by thousands of supporters who thronged the city of Abidjan to watch the football superstar Didier Drogba submit his candidacy for next month's Ivory Coast Football Federation elections.

The 42-year-old former Chelsea striker and two-time African Footballer of the Year is one of four candidates seeking the presidency of the West African country's football association, although he is still not certain to be on the ballot for the September 5 vote.

On top of needing nominations from three of the 14 Ligue 1 clubs and two from the lower divisions, Drogba must have the endorsement of any of five special interest groups: coaches, doctors, current and former players and referees.

They have not all made public who they are backing, and the candidates are first vetted by an electoral commission before qualifying to stand



in the elections.

That outcome is expected to take five days, a federation spokesman said.

Drogba was eagerly followed as he arrived at the Ivorian federation's offices in a presidential-style convoy of cars.

"Football is everyone's sport, football brings people together, football unites. We can see it with all these people gathered in front of the headquarters of the Ivorian football federation," Drogba said.

"It's no secret that our football is going badly, and that is why with my team we are committed to contributing to the rebirth of Ivorian football.

"If my goal was not driven by a deep desire to give back to Ivorian football all that it has given me, to contribute to the development of football in my country, and if God was not in this candidacy, it would be difficult to be in front of you today."

Drogba played in three World Cups and twice helped Ivory Coast to the final of the Africa Cup of Nations, also earning cult status at Chelsea after helping the Blues win four Premier Leagues, four FA Cups, three League Cups as well as scoring the winning penalty in the 2012 Champions League final win over Bayern Munich.



Youssoufa Moukoko, Dortmund's 15-year-old wonder kid, trains ahead of imminent debut

German Football League has changed the minimum age for players to represent clubs, which will allow Moukoko to debut in November 2020 for his club, Borussia Dortmund. The football club is preparing to unleash



15-year-old wonderkid Youssoufa Moukoko when the new Bundesliga season begins in September 2020.

Moukoko has taken German football by storm, scoring 128 goals in just 86 appearances for the Dortmund U17s and 19s teams.

The Cameroon-born Germany youth international has been so impressive, the German Football League changed the minimum age for players to represent their clubs.

Moukoko can now make his Dortmund debut when he turns 16 on November 20. Under previous rules,

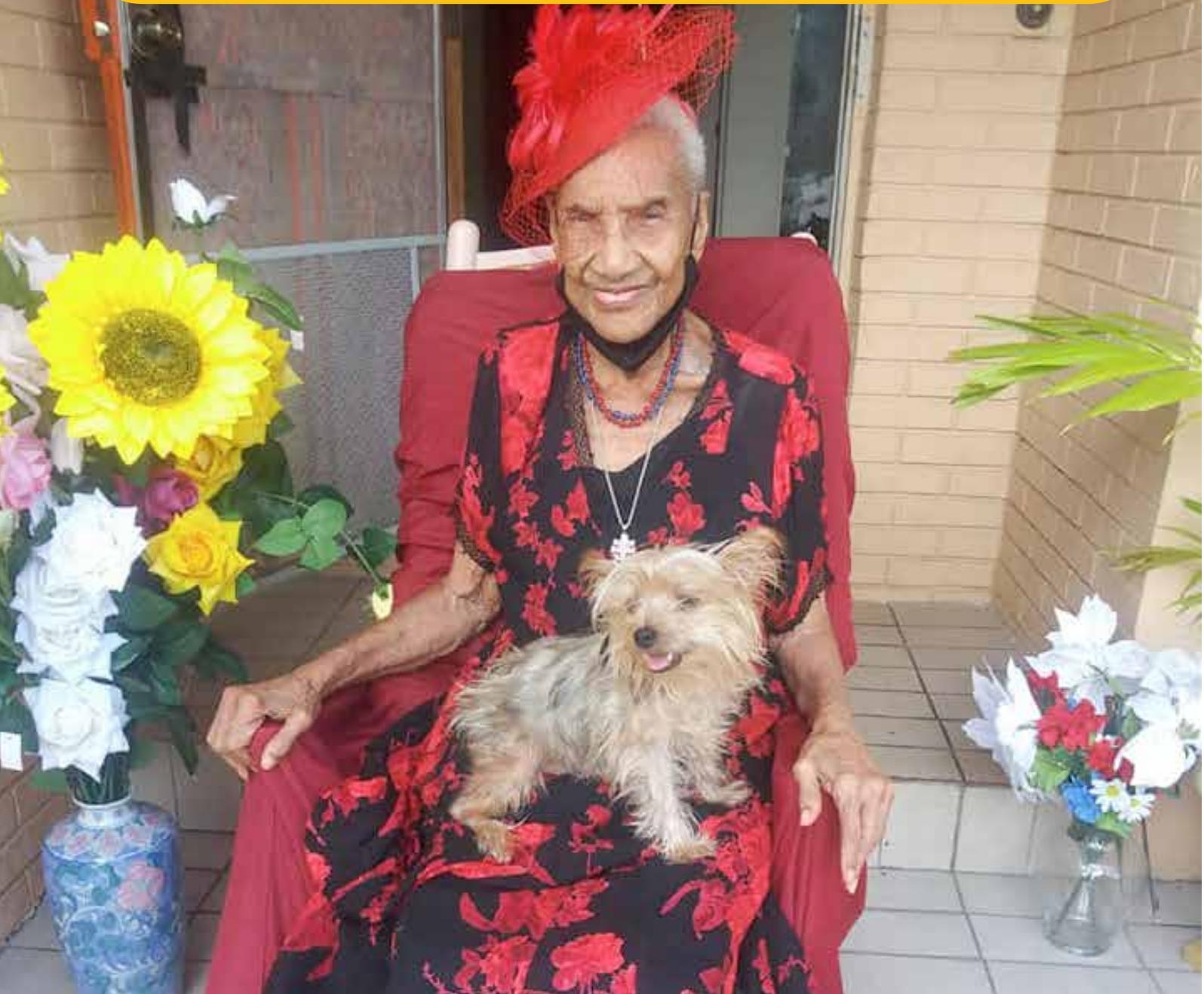
Moukoko would not have been able to play in the Bundesliga until August next year (2021).

“We are very pleased with this decision,” Dortmund academy director Lars Ricken told the press. “This could help the clubs but also the young players in their development. A majority of the clubs want to be able to give outstanding talents, on very rare occasions, the chance to take the next step in their development.”

The new Bundesliga season will begin on September 18, 2020.



**Evelyn Rosetta Haynes clocks 103 years old
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Grand ma's church and the city of Miami Gardens gave her a drive by parade deserving for the queen. She is complete with a proclamation from the mayor. The smile says it all.

Thanking God for the 103 years of fabulousness embodied by grandma. She's in a class all by herself.



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** On behalf of our 113,000 Residents, the City of Miami Gardens is honored to celebrate the 103rd birthday of Evelyn Rosetta Haynes; and
- WHEREAS:** Evelyn Rosetta Haynes was born on August 4th, 1917 in Barbados, West Indies where she worked as a businesswoman and seamstress until she migrated to the United States in 1952; and
- WHEREAS:** Evelyn Rosetta Haynes settled into Miami with her late husband, John Milton Haynes, where she worked as a tax preparer and nutary. In 1971, Evelyn and her husband built their home, becoming one of the first minority families in their neighborhood; and
- WHEREAS:** Evelyn Rosetta Haynes loves witnessing the growth and development of Miami Gardens today. She is an accomplished bowler, participating in a league for many years at Cloverleaf Lanes. She is an avid reader and still reads the Miami Herald cover to cover. Evelyn is known for her green thumb and has an extensive knowledge of plants and horticulture; and
- WHEREAS:** Evelyn Rosetta Haynes has been a lifelong member of St. Peter's African Orthodox Cathedral for over fifty years. Her involvement in the community is inspiring. She is a true example of a faithful woman of God; and
- WHEREAS:** After spending many years traveling to various parts of the world such as Europe, South America, Asia, and the Middle East, Evelyn now spends her days in the home she and her husband built, reminiscing and sharing her life as a testimony of love, passion and dedication to her community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Oliver Gilbert, Mayor of the City of Miami Gardens, Florida, along with my colleagues of the City Council: Rodney Harris, Lillie Q. Odum, Reginald Leon, Kairisa Wilson, David Williams Jr., and Dr. Erhabor Igbojoro and on behalf of the Residents, do hereby proclaim the 4th day of August:

"EVELYN ROSETTA HAYNES DAY"

in the City of Miami Gardens. We further urge all citizens to join with us as we celebrate the 103rd birthday of Evelyn Rosetta Haynes.

Signed and the Official Seal of the City of Miami Gardens, Florida, affixed hereon this 4th day of August 2020.

Oliver Gilbert, Mayor



Celebrating Agatha Samuel at 50



Happy 50th birthday our special sister! On your birthday, we wish that you will live your life to the fullest, that you will always find reasons to smile, that you will always have something to laugh about, and that you will love someone like there's no more tomorrow. You are so special in our lives, not only for being our lovely sister, but also for being one of our best companion, always there for all whenever you are needed. Dear sister, now you are like a mother to all your siblings. We wish you all the best on your Big Day and every day, may your life be full of joy, love and prosperity. It is a true blessing to have such a fun, smart and caring sister like you. Have a joyful and unforgettable day, full of everything that you love most!

Greetings from all your siblings:

Agatha Ijeoma Samuel at 50: SIMPLY AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

Children:
ESE, OSE & FAVOUR

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Leonard Bamidele Iruh
Victor Nwane Iruh
Lilian Onuwa Akintokun
Henry Joseph Agbajama
Kuzi Marvin Iruh
Ugonne Mercy Iruh

Patrick Ademola Adeleke
Henry Olusola Adeleke
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