

The Significance of OAU/AU @50 for ASAP

HSRC Seminar on the Book: ***The African Union Ten Years After:
Solving African Problems with Pan-Africanism and The African
Renaissance:***

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Outline

- Inspiration
- The Jubilee as the Year of Africa
- The Jubilee to promote ASAP
- The African Unity and Renaissance Manifesto
- Concluding Remark with a Poem

Inspiration

- *“No independent African state today by itself has a chance to follow an independent course of economic development and many of us who have tried to do this have been almost ruined or have had to return to the fold of the former colonial rulers. This position will not change unless we have a unified policy working at the continental level.....we need a unified economic planning for Africa. Until the economic power of Africa is in our land, the masses can have no real concern and no real interest for safeguarding our security, for ensuring the stability of our regimes, and for bending their strength to the fulfillment of our ends. With our united resources energies and talents, we have the means, as soon as states from poverty to that of wealth, from inequality to the satisfaction of popular needs. Only on a continental basis shall we be able to plan the popular utilization of all our resources for the full development of our continent.”*

Kwame Nkrumah

Inspiration

- *“We know that there are differences among us. Africans enjoy different cultures, distinctive values, special attributes. But we also know that unity can be and has been attained among men of the most disparate origins, that difference of race, of religion, of culture, of tradition, are no insuperable obstacles to the coming together of peoples. History teaches us that unity is strength and cautions us to submerge and overcome our difference in the quest for common goals, to strive, with all our combined strength, for the path to true African brotherhood and unity.....unless the political liberty for which Africans have for long struggled is complemented and bolstered by a corresponding economic and social growth, the breath of life which sustains our freedom may flicker out” Haile Selassie*

Inspiration

“Africa unit, Africa unit,
free yourself from mental slavery,
Stand Africa, stand Africa and accomplish
your destiny of land of full sunshine.” Bob
Marley

Inspiration

“We need to change our schools

And rearrange our tools

Teach our children how to share

And teach each other how to care”

Quoted from Andrew Jamison’s book

Educating Green Engineers, p 53

Inspiration

- **Fifty years ago Kwame Nkrumah put forward the vision 'Africa Must Unite'. This vision is still waiting to be realised. Today Africa must cultivate and promote the renaissance and unity vision. We call for the African Renaissance and Unity Manifesto (ARUM) to provide and stimulus to spread and diffuse education to reach all Africans so that this 'OAU/AU' jubilee is distinguished and highlighted by re-defining Kwame Nkrumah's 'Africa must Unite' for our time; to move all onwards and forwards and never backwards (p.525)**

The Jubilee Year?

- Need for a paradigm shift in the way Africans view themselves 50 years after de-colonisation is not much to ask
- Learning to put first solving problems by building collaborative agency and not distance
- Learning to put first building an Integrated African agenda
- Learn to compete for promoting united/collaborative action
- Collaborate to mobilise diversity positively for the unity of Africa
- Appreciate differences whilst celebrating similarity

Jubilee Year?

- Build as the primary identity '**Africanness**' that is not defined by race, colour, language, ethnicity but by a shared belief and project identity rooted in the Ethiopianism philosophy that inspired Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance to this day and beyond
- Learn to deal with and respond to global challenges with cooperative agency
- Manage competition with values of care and share by drawing from the deep values and philosophies inherited from African tradition, but are often ignored

Jubilee Year?

- To bring African success build on Africa's rich values
- Bring Back Ma'at
- Ubuntu
- Ethiopianism philosophy
- Pan-Africanism
- African Renaissance
- The African Unity and Renaissance Manifesto to mark the Jubilee
- And fill in the possible vision void for the next (2013-2063) fifty years
- Recognise the philosophy that will save humanity is born in Africa
- Acknowledge with confidence that to putting Africa first is also to put humanity first

The African Unity and Renaissance Manifesto

- Africa must end donorism and move to self-reliance
- From resource rich to Knowledge rich Africa
- From resource curse to knowledge anchored resource blessed Africa
- From fragmented to Integrated Africa
- From dependent to Independent Africa
- Not only economic growth for GDP but for development that removes poverty, inequality and unemployment
- Measure success with values of sharing and caring
- Practise and not just talk values of ma'aat, ubuntu, Ethiopianism to remove poverty, inequality and unemployment
- Promote Social Entrepreneurship
- Create the African Innovation and Development system
- And re-design the African Development process

Re-Rooting the Jubilee Year to the African universal Values

- “Maat embodied foundational values of love, life, creativity, and awareness that worked to inhibit or isolate isfet (life’s entropic tendencies) by an inner matrix of virtues-order, balance, harmony, compassion, reciprocity, justice and truth. Maat cannot easily translate into European Languages (Hunter Alvin Adams III, 2013, p. 463)”

Re-Rooting Values in the Jubilee Year

- Ubuntu is built on the philosophy there is an 'I' in "you, and there is a "you' in I'." We cannot be fully human alone. We are made for inter-dependence, we are made for family (I am because we are). When you have Ubuntu, you embrace others. You are generous, compassionate. If the world had more ubuntu, we would not have war. We would not have this huge gap between the rich and the poor. You are rich so that you can make up what is lacking for others. You are powerful so that you can help the weak, just as a mother or father helps their children." (ibid.)

A flavour of the book with a POEM

The world is still divided by implicit or explicit classifications of inferiority and superiority

Africans have not yet fully removed coloniality

They still prefer to look and affirm each other by mimicking externality

There is still failure to appreciate their full humanity by asserting their rich Africanity

African identity continues to be subtracted by a degrading psychic dislocation

Africans using external colonial presence by defining themselves with division

- Like Lusophone
- Francophone
- Anglo phone
- Ethnic phone
- Language phone
- Religion phone
- And so on
- This must not go on!
- Africa-phia must replace all and should go on and on!

POEM

- It is 50 years now since Africa declared to unite or perish
- Another 50 years is on: is Africa now uniting?
- We ask: Does Africa know what it is and where it is going?
- Let this 50 years be a moment for Africa to stand up
- Never again to fall behind
- Africa uniting is humanity as a whole and everywhere benefitting
- To challenge others' continued demand to maintain their claims to superiority
- Africa can reject it by showing there is no justification to continue any form of inferiority
- By all Africans coming together showing the necessity to recognise full equality
- To build with the cherished philosophy of ubuntu 'one in all and all in one' humanity

Poem

- Teaching them once and for all to stop continuing to exploit Africa by using inferiority
- Putting Africa first is thus the road for Africa to unite on equal terms all humanity.
- Let us use this Jubilee to create the African Renaissance and Unity Manifesto
- Let all go for a grand vision to bring all Africans to realise liberation and the creative imagination and motto.

Poem

- The current powers need to change their ways
- Admitting they have undermined Africa always
- Taking so much by offering so little to Africa
- Retaining this evil for a long time
- Making Africa to continue being
- Vulnerable
- Penetrable
- We call African's younger generation
- To stand up against this gross degradation!
- And make African unity as the grand inspiration
- Never go for inferiorising or superiorising
- Go for African unity to spur global humanising
- Whenever you see inferiorising and superiorising
- I advise you to use the epistemic vice tool for rejecting
- By adding virtue ethics along with epistemic virtue testing

Poem

- Read the book to go forward
- There is always benefit by engaging to go onward
- Recommend you to read the book as your choice for the best
- Engage, criticise and create believing ignoring the book is the worst
- Recognising from the heart the work we all do to unite Africa is a must
- Let us all strive and go always for the best of the best
- Let your intellect continue to shine
- Remain bright, spiritually and humanely genuine
- Let your spirit glow
- Give inferiorising Africa and superiorising others a big blow!
- Remain blessed and keep strong
- Never fail to participate to remove all in the world that is wrong!!!





Finally Please Remember!

- The 4th Conference on African Unity for Renaissance May 22-24, 2014
- www.ajstid.com
- www.ww.nesglobal.org/eejrif
- The 8th Pan-African Congress
- [www.8thpac.com/notice board.htm](http://www.8thpac.com/notice_board.htm)
- Book Launch at the NRF on 29 November, 2013

Finally

- Amsegnalehu, Asanate Sana, Enkosi, Siyabonga, Thokoza, Rea Leboga, Shukran, Bate Dankie and Thank You!!!