

African Politics and Policy

Newsletter
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Agenda 2063

S'il est possible de dire que l'illusion vient combler le vide que créent en nous nos rêves lorsque nous ne posons pas d'actions concrètes, il deviendrait difficile à croire que même avec des actions bien planifiées il reste encore possible, d'aller du rêve vers l'illusion. C'est ce que risque de nous démontrer après cinquante années l'agenda 2063. Dans l'Afrique d'aujourd'hui, bien de consciences s'éveillent sur le fait que longtemps, considérant une moyenne de cinquante années, les peuples africains ont cru en une sorte d'indépendance, créée et fortement revendiquée mais jamais vraiment vécue. Un merveilleux exemple de cet échec est le difficile ancrage d'un modèle politique ou disons d'un mode de gouvernance que nous appelons « démocratie », dans nos réalités africaines. En essayant de faire un bref état des lieux, nous pouvons dire que d'après plusieurs écrits, à l'instar de ceux du chercheur Morten Jerven, l'Afrique a connu des périodes « Vache à lait » ; toutes les démocraties africaines n'ont pas été des échecs à l'instar de l'île Maurice et en réalité le problème de l'Afrique était axé sur la gestion de la Capacité de chacune de ses nations. Selon d'autres écrits, les nations africaines demeurent jusqu'à présent victimes du tripatouillage occidental et pire les différents gouvernements africains qui se sont succédés à prix de sang n'auront été que des arrangements Afrique-Occident.

Dans son contexte, l'agenda 2063, vient se présenter comme étant l'annonce du Nouvel Eldorado Africain. On pourrait même en changer le titre, l'Agenda 2063 où enfin le guide éclairé de la société Africaine. Cependant, il est clair que la plus noble aspiration de tout africain, si nous empruntons l'expression à Bernard Dadié, est le développement, oui, le progrès et la liberté. Mais les lignes de cet nouvel agenda, ne mettent en exergue que des annonces de réformes sans précisions de stratégies ni de mécanismes de réalisation osés. Tout porte à croire à un piège ou à un silence sur l'annonce des risques que nos états et gouvernements sont prêts à prendre. En clair, les états africains annoncent en plein hiver que dès demain, il fera beau, si beau que nous irons tous à la mer...

Pourquoi ne pas donner d'indicateurs quand on annonce que « l'Afrique aura une culture universelle de bonne gouvernance, de pratiques démocratiques, d'égalité entre les sexes, de respect des droits de l'homme, de justice et de l'Etat de droit » ? A moins que ce ne soit que des spéculations, car, à côté on précise que « D'ici 2020, tous les vestiges du colonialisme auront disparu » alors que nous parlons d'histoire et d'identité africaine. Nous ne voulons pas éluder le fait que l'agenda est porteur d'espoir en les termes où il annonce que « L'Afrique sera un continent souverain, indépendant, responsable et autonome » ; Mais nous voulons juste que cet agenda démontre la véritable capacité de l'Afrique Nouvelle. Les peuples africains sont aujourd'hui prêts à se battre main dans la main dans ce processus d'indépendance et de libération économique et non dans une « quête de la libération et de l'indépendance économique ». Nous considérons dans la nouvelle Afrique d'aujourd'hui que la liberté est acquise car en plus d'être un état d'esprit elle est notre plus grand héritage. Le moment est propice à tous les fils d'Afrique d'enlever le masque de la gabegie, de l'hypocrisie et de la peur. Nous sommes de fiers guerriers et de dignes filles de guerrières dans cette si grande savane ancestrale. Alors, combattons le bon combat !

Ornella Ohoukoh

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South Sudan

Riek Machar, leader of the opposition, has temporarily been replaced to allow the peace process to make some progress. Analysts fear that this move will lead to more tension and turmoil in the country.

Tanzania

President Magufuli reiterated his intention to move the government from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma. While the whole government is expected to relocate by the end of President Magufuli's term, the Prime Minister promised to move by September 2016.

The Coalition Imperative

By Steven N. Machaya

The possibility to effect regime change in Zimbabwe through any means other than the ballot is quite remote given the fact that the security apparatus is highly partisan and is always ready to render support to the ruling party in case of civil unrest. Also, ZANU (PF) will not reform itself out of power; it won't implement electoral reforms that will increase its chances of losing the election. For historical and ideological reasons, an outright opposition takeover will not be tolerated by the security sector—that was the mistake of 2008. Therefore, one option the people of Zimbabwe have is to effect change through the ballot under a coalition of the opposition that includes Morgan Tsvangirai of the MDC-T and Joice Mujuru of ZimPF. This coalition has the potential not only to aggregate votes for the opposition but also, (as proven in other hegemonic authoritarian system types), to diminish the security sector, the war veterans, as well as the electoral bodies' predilection to side with the ruling party. When the ruling party enjoys unquestionable and undivided loyalty from the security sector, the War Veterans association, as well as complicity from election management bodies, it presents before the opposition, a more than intimidating image of indomitability and invincibility. Thus even before the ruling party insinuates

direct and indirect violence, the electorate and the opposition will approach the election from a defeatist standpoint because as long as the relationship between the ruling party and these bodies appears strong, the ruling party is assured of victory even under electoral conditions most likely to favor regime change. A coalition of the opposition that includes defectors from the ruling party and affiliates from the security sector as well as the War Veterans tends to diminish the ruling party's imagery of indomitability and invincibility. It is under such circumstances that Mujuru's (a former ZANU (PF) bigwig), inclusion in a coalition of the opposition could overturn the current political equilibrium in favor of the opposition. Furthermore, a pre-electoral coalition will result in a transitional government, whose task will be to dismantle the current regime's repressive system and the establishment of a system under which all political parties will participate in free and fair elections. A complete takeover by a single opposition party has the more likely chance of turning Zimbabwe once more into a hegemonic political regime as proven in other former hegemonic electoral regimes that underwent first time power alternation, thus the pre-electoral coalition imperative.



Museo Africano di Verona

Little known even among Veronese citizens, there is an African Museum (<http://www.museoafricano.org/>) in the picturesque corner of Vicolo Pozzo.

Verona has a long tradition of relationship with African continent, traced to the end of 19th - with the 1857 missionary expedition of the priest Daniele Comboni to Sudan.

The charming and neat space of the museum, modernized in 2015, offers to a visitor a great opportunity to immerse into African culture by admiring its different aspects presented by the museum's rich ethno-anthropological collection: mixture of statues, among them a variety of statues represented women's fertility, jewelry and traditional gear, ceremonial knives and home utensils.

Of course, one of the central emphasis which is of special Western curiosity is to show the diversity of African original ritual and ceremonial masks, the remarkable collection of which includes more than 30 masks from Gabon, Congo, Mali, Ivory Coast, etc; to introduce the Vodou culture and its cult attributes, such as pots, platters, swords, wooden and ceramic sculptures and fetishes; and to display the beauty of crosses of Ethiopian Christian.

The Museo Africano di Verona is must-visit place that could easily satisfy visitors curiosity in African tribal art, could give an aesthetic experience and spiritual sense of the objects displayed.



Lagos International Poetry Festival

The last two decades are characterized by "the poetry resurgence across the African continent": the growth of spaces and platforms that allow art form to flourish, and the emergence of the names whose poems depict the essence of African culture such as P. Clark, Wole Soyinka, Niyi Osundare, Okot p' Bitek, Kofi Awoonor and many others. This form of art has already become a "card" for South Africa with its annual Spier "dancing-in-other-words" International Poetry Festival, for Uganda and its "sold-out" poetry performances, and for Nigeria, whose Lagos International Poetry Festival is a vital and intricate part of West African cultural life.

The Lagos International Poetry Festival is set up by Efe Paul Azino as an initiative to create a pan-African and global space in West Africa to celebrate the importance of this art form by organizing panel discussions, evenings of readings and performances. As it happens for the start-ups, the main challenge was the funding. Thanks to Nigerian Breweries, a forward thinking company that has been at the forefront of promoting the arts in Nigeria, to Freedom Park, the old colonial prison, reconfigured into a thriving space of art and culture, and to Lagos artistic community, the Lagos Poetry Festival has become a staple in Nigerian cultural life. The festival will soon hold its second edition under the theme "Paging the Future" from October 27 to October 30.

This year edition, curated by the Nobel Laureate Prof. Wole Soyinka, in addition to workshops, masterclasses, poetry evenings and performances has prepared an intriguing program and

many 'surprises' for the audience.

The key ambition of the Festival is not only to encourage younger poets, but also to bring poetry into engagement and conversation with society and to generate a lingering conversation on a variety of issues: trans-border movement and identity, dislocations occasioned by political and economic upheavals, cultural assimilation and othering.

In other words, the Lagos International Poetry Festival is a unique opportunity to explore the human condition in all its complexity.

Kristina Bekenova

Bad leaders, big problems

In an interesting article Muthoni Wanyeki argued that bad political behavior should be tackled forcefully, because otherwise it may generate even bigger problems as South Sudan and Burundi have recently discovered. Wanyeki is right and what she said is a clear lesson for the region. But there is another lesson to be learned from the examples she discusses, namely that bad leadership and big problems go hand in hand. And one should sometimes wonder, after so many policy blunders, mistakes, the use of violent means and the not so occasional human right abuses, whether this leadership is actually fit to lead in the first place. Africa deserves better.

Angola and its challenges

Angola is the second largest oil-exporting country in Africa, yet, as the President recently indicated, the government is broke. The problems stems from the fact that the national oil company failed to remit cash to the government.

In order to avoid economic disaster, analysts believe that Angola needs to diversify its economy and that the government needs to find alternative sources of revenue. Analysts also fear that the economic crisis may be conducive to a serious food crisis in the country.

In addition to these challenges, Angola is currently facing the worst outbreak of yellow fever in three decades.



Call for papers

The editorial board of African Politics and Policy decided to launch a call for papers. Papers up to 3000 words can be submitted as research notes, while manuscripts from 3000 to 7500 words will have to be submitted as articles. African Politics and Policy is interested in publishing on a wide range of policy and political issues. Scholars, practitioners and researchers who may wish to submit their notes and articles for publication, should register themselves as authors (<http://www.africanpoliticsandpolicy.com/ojs/index.php/APAP/user/register>) and can then proceed to submit their papers.

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Announcements

To celebrate the 70th birthday of Nigerian poet and professor of comparative literature, Niyi Osundare, the call for proposals for the special issue "At the Crossroads of Art and Society: Niyi Osundare and Poetry in Nigeria" is announced. The proposal with no more of the 350 words on Osundare's poetry and its influence on social issues should be sent to osundarecrossroads@gmail.com due to August 3, 2016. For more information please visit <https://africanwords.com/2016/07/24/call-for-proposals-special-issue-on-niyi-osundare-and-poetry-in-nigeria-deadline-31-august-2016/#more-12084>

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