



Union government making progress—Gadaffi



Libyan leader Muammar Gadaffi
PIC YAZEED KAMALDIEN

Hallelujah Lulie

Libya's President Muammar Gadaffi expressed confidence with recent developments at the ongoing African Union head of states meeting regarding the issue of the union government.

His proposal on what has been termed the United States of Africa was challenged at the last AU Summit in Ghana. But yesterday Gadaffi said that there are new encouraging gestures towards a united government in Africa. Gadaffi briefly spoke to the press as he exited the meeting hall at the UNECA (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) yesterday afternoon.

"We are going to make it.... unite Africa," said Libya's long-serving leader on the union government.

It was a different spirit though that Gadaffi showed at the beginning of talks between African leaders when he warned earlier that he may turn his back on the African Union and turn to Europe or the Middle East for if the organisation rejected the union government proposal he supports.

At a press conference, Gadaffi surprised other leaders with his criticism of their sluggish approach to the union government.

Jean Ping succède à Alpha Konaré



Jean Ping. PIC YAZEED KAMALDIEN

Yves Niyiragira

Jean Ping est le nouveau président de la commission de l'Union Africaine (UA). Ce diplomate et homme politique gabonais a gagné la confiance des chefs d'état et de gouvernement au désavantage du sierra léonais Abdulai Osman Conteh et de la zambienne Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika. Il était le candidat proposé par la Communauté Economiques des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC) et il remplace le malien Alpha Oumar Konaré qui dirigeait l'institution panafricaine depuis 2003.

Réagissant quelques minutes après son élection, M. Ping a remercié les chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement et les pays qui l'ont soutenu. Il a ensuite mentionné qu'il va faire de son mieux pour que les dossiers déjà présentés devant l'Assemblée Générale soient mis en application.

(Suite P2)

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About the AU Monitor Daily

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Afroflag Youth Vision

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Le gouvernement de l'Union repoussé aux calendes grecques

Gerard Guedeqbe

C'est officiel, l'Afrique ne verra pas naître un gouvernement continental à l'issue du dixième sommet de l'Union africaine qui s'achève ce matin dans la capitale éthiopienne. C'est du moins ce qui ressort de la session qui a regroupé les chefs d'Etats dans la matinée d'hier.

Le rapport du comité ministériel des dix commis, à l'issue du sommet d'Accra, pour réfléchir sur la question n'a certainement pas comblé les attentes des leaders africains.

En effet, au cours de leur réunion tenue à Addis Abeba du 27 au 28 novembre 2007, les membres du comité ministériel ont examiné les questions relatives aux domaines de compétence du gouvernement de l'Union et leur impact sur la souveraineté. Ils ont également mis un accent particulier sur la nécessité de renforcer et dynamiser les bases de l'Union. Mieux ils ont insisté sur la mise en place des mécanismes et structures appropriées pour activer le processus. Mais toutes ces propositions sont insuffisantes aux yeux des chefs d'Etat africains qui pensent qu'un

nouveau comité doit siéger pour leur faire des propositions concrètes qui seront débattues au cours d'un autre sommet

Cette décision des chefs d'Etats à ce sommet vient une fois encore confirmer le doute de ces observateurs qui prédisaient l'échec du présent sommet en ce qui concerne la naissance d'un gouvernement africain.

Qu'est ce qui bloque alors, si tous les chefs d'Etat se disent d'accord sur le principe d'un gouvernement continental. On parle de larges désaccords au sujet de celui qui devra être élu à la tête de ce gouvernement. Les prétendants clés à ce poste ont formés des camps antagonistes et tirent les ficelles dans l'ombre trouble des jeux politiques. Outre le leadership, les chefs d'Etats n'ont pu jusqu'à présent réussir à s'entendre sur le format du gouvernement et même le siège de cette institution. Et dans ce méli-mélo de tractions qui se prolongent d'un sommet, seule la population africaine demeure le seul perdant et finit par perdre espoir en la naissance d'une Afrique unie.

(Suite de la P1) « M. Ping est un diplomate respecté en Afrique et nous espérons améliorer nos projets avec le continent durant son mandat », a signalé un observateur de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture (FAO). Jean Ping est considéré par plusieurs diplomates comme un grand leader qui pourra utiliser son expérience pour le

développement dont l'Afrique a tellement besoin.

Il est titulaire d'un doctorat d'Etat en sciences économiques de l'Université de Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne. Il fut précédemment ministre d'Etat chargé des Affaires étrangères, de la Coopération de l'état gabonais avant d'être élu à la présidence de la commission de l'UA.

Praise and support for new African Union commission leader Jean Ping

Hallelujah Lulie

The former chairperson of the African Union (AU), Amara Essy, said that the commission's newly-elected chairperson Jean Ping is an ideal leader as he has the "experience and efficiency".

Essy said that he personally knows Ping and that he is the right guy for the position as he is qualified to deal with the issues of the continent in an upright manner.

"I have known Ping for a long time and he has all the efficiency and experience that can lead the continent and the organisation to success. He is vice prime minister and minister of foreign affairs (in Gabon) and he has been involved in a lot of other activities," said Essy.

He also wished Ping success with his term and called on all leaders to support him with his future plans for the continent. Asked whether Ping would push the idea of the union government, which the outgoing commission chairperson Alpha Oumar Konare strived for, Essy said that the "head of states put up a committee to work on the idea which is a good move and I believe that Ping will successfully work with it".

Ahmed Ould-Abdallah, special representative of the secretary-general in the UN political office for Somalia, said that he had known Ping at the UN Security Council "very well".

"Ping was accepted and respected by many. I believe that he is very capable for the job," said Ould-Abdallah.

Ping, who is also Gabon's deputy prime minister, was selected out of a shortlist of candidates from Burundi, Sierra Leone and Zambia. He takes over the reigns from Alpha Oumar Konare, a former Malian president, who had led the African Union Commission since 2003.

'Treat each child as your own and save the unborn child'



The First Lady of Sudan, H.E. Mrs Widad Babikr Omer, met briefly with UNAIDS deputy director, Debbie Landey, to discuss the First Lady's HIV/AIDS campaign in Sudan entitled 'Take the Lead' (left). Traditional Ethiopian dancers presented Oromo dance and costumes at the event (right). PICS: REHEMA KAHURANANGA

Rehema Kahurananga

While Africa's Heads of States' and their representatives met for the second day of the African Union Assembly, a group of African first ladies convened for a different General Assembly of their own: the Organisation of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA).

Since its inception in 2004, OAFLA has grown to include a membership of 40 African First Ladies. "We are all aware in Africa, HIV/AIDS carries the face of a woman! Women all over our continent are dedicating their lives to caring for the sick," stated OAFLA's Acting Chair, Her Excellency Maureen Mwanawasa of Zambia during her address at the opening ceremony.

The ceremony was marked by colourful traditional performances from Ethiopia, including Oromo traditional dancers. Other opening speeches were given by OAFLA Vice President, Her Excellency Azeb Mesfin of Ethiopia; Deputy Director of UNAIDS, Debbie

Landey and UN Special Envoy on AIDS in Africa, Elizabeth Mataka. Each highlighted the progress and challenges of the AIDS pandemic in Africa thus far.

"We have come together today to complete the unfinished business from our last Annual General Meeting which was held in Accra, Ghana last year," said Her Excellency Mrs Mwanawasa. "I am sure that we will be able to exhaust the agenda and chart the path for the work that the secretariat will be carrying over the next six months."

OAFLA's accomplishments in the past year include: mobilising resources from PEPFAR/UNAIDS worth US\$300 000, purchasing electronic office equipment for each regional OAFLA office, training OAFLA technical advisors, launching the "Save the Unborn Child" Campaign and developing partnerships with UNFPA to launch the female condom.

Despite the progress made so far, statistics related to HIV infections continue to alarm, according to UN-AIDS Deputy Director Debbie Landey. The focus in the months ahead will be on the prevention of HIV from mothers to their children.

In an exclusive interview with AU Monitor Daily she added that, "We're encouraged, but challenged. If you have the support of the first ladies they can reach people we cannot. We at UNAIDS saw great potential in the creation of OAFLA and we have supported them morally and also financially. They are doing a wonderful job." In her opening address at the Assembly, Her Excellency Mrs Mwanawasa proposed that OAFLA should firmly put the agenda of empowering mothers and girls to help combat the pandemic.

In attendance were First Ladies from 11 African countries representing the five regions of the continent.

የአፍሪካ ህብረት 10ኛው የመሪዎች ጉባኤ ዛሬ ይጠናቀቃል

ቤተዳን

የአፍሪካ ህብረት 10ኛው የመሪዎች ጉባኤ ዛሬ ይጠናቀቃል። ለሦስት ቀናት በተለያዩ ጉዳዮች ላይ ሲመክርና ውሳኔዎችን ሲያሳልፍ የቆየው የሶስቱ ቀናት ስብሰባ የአፍሪካን ችግሮች ለመቅረፍ የተፋጠነ የኢኮኖሚ ልማት እንደሚያስፈልግ አጽንኦት ሰጥቶበታል።

«የአፍሪካ ኢንዱስትሪ ልማት» በሚል መሪ ቃል የተካሄደው ስብሰባ በተለያዩ ዘርፎች ላይ ወይይት ያደረገ ሲሆን በኬኒያ ያለው ግጭት፣ በሶማሊያ ያለው ቀውስና በዳርፉር የተፈጠረው ችግር አስተያየት ተሰጥቶባቸዋል።

የአፍሪካ ህብረት የወቅቱ ሊቀመንበር የጋናው ፕሬዝዳንት ጆን ኩፎር በአፍሪካ ያሉ ማህበራዊና ኢኮኖሚያዊ ችግሮችን በማስወገድ በዘርፎቹ ፈጣንና ቀጣይነት ያለው ልማት ማረጋገጥ መሪ ግብ ነው ብለዋል። ግቡን እውን ለማድረግም በአፍሪካ የኢንዱስትሪ ልማት ፈጣን በሆነ መልኩና ቀጣይነት ባለው መንገድ መከናወኑ እጅግ አስፈላጊነት እንዳለው አስረድቷል።

የኢንዱስትሪ ልማትን ለማረጋገጥ በአፍሪካ ህብረት መተዳደሪያ ደንብ፣ በኔፓድ ፕሮግራሞችና ስትራቴጂካዊ እቅዶች እንዲሁም በህብረቱ ኮሚሽን የተያዙ እቅዶች ወደ ተግባር ወለወጥ እንዳለባቸው ጆን ኩፎር አሳስበዋል።

አፍሪካ አለም ላይ ያላት የምርት ውጤት ደረጃ ከአንድ በመቶ ያልዘለለ መሆኑን ሊቀመንበሩ አብራርተው

አህጉሪቱ ከፍተኛ የተፈጥሮ ሀብት ክምችት ባለቤት ሆና በድህነት የምትማቅቅበትን ሁኔታ በተፋጠነ የኢንዱስትሪ ልማት መግታት እንደሚገባ አስታውቀዋል።

ሊቀመንበሩ በአፍሪካ የኢንዱስትሪ ልማትን በማረጋገጥ ወደ ውህደት ሊያደርሱ የሚችሉ ቅድመ ሁኔታዎች ሁሉ እንዲያመቻቹም ለተሰባሳቢዎቹ ጥሪያቸውን አቅርበዋል።



በአፍሪካ በአሁኑ ወቅት ያሉ የሰላምና የጸጥታ ችግሮችን አስመልተው ሲገልፁ በሴራሊዮንና ላይቤሪያ የተሻለ ሰላም እየሠፈነ መሆኑን አመልክተዋል። ይሁን እንጂ በከምሮሷ የአንጅዋን ግዛት፣ በሱዳን ዳርፉር፣ በምስራቃዊ ዲሞክራቲክ ሪፑብሊክ ኮንጎ እንዲሁም በሶማሊያ ያለውን ሁኔታ ለመቀየር አፍሪካዊያንና አለም አቀፍ

አጋሮቻቸው ከመቼውም ጊዜ በተሻለ መልኩ በጋራ መንቀሳቀስ አለባቸው ብለዋል።

በቅርቡ ካደረገችው ፕሬዝዳንታዊ የምርጫ ሂደት በኋላ ሁከትና ብጥብጥ የነገሰባት ኬኒያን ለመታደግ የአገሪቱ ፕሬዝዳንት ምዖይ ኪባኪና የተቋቋመው የአሬንጅ ዲሞክራቲክ ፓርቲ መሪ ራይላ አዲጋን በተቻለ ፍጥነት በሰላማዊ ወይይት ችግሩን እንዲፈቱ ጥሪ አቅርበዋል። የቀድሞውን የተበሩት መንግስታት ድርጅት ዋና ፀሃፊ ኮሬ አናንን ጨምሮ በሌሎች ታዋቂ ግለሰቦች አማካኝነት የሚደረገው ድርድር ስኬታማ እንዲሆን ድጋፍ መደረግ እንዳለበትም ሊቀመንበሩ አስገንዝበዋል።

የአፍሪካ ህብረት ኮሚሽን ሊቀመንበር ፕሮፌሰር አልፋ አማር ኮናሬ በበኩላቸው አፍሪካ አሁን ካሉባት ችግሮች ለመላቀቅ ጥሪ እቃን ለአለም ገበያ ከማቅረብ ወደ ኢንዱስትሪ ምርት አቅራቢነት ደረጃ መሸጋገር እንዳለባት አሳስበዋል።

ኬኒያ የአፍሪካ ልማት ተስፋ እንዳልነበረች አሁን ከገባችበት የፖለቲካ ቀውስ ለመውጣት ሁሉም አፍሪካዊያን የቻሉትን እንዲያበረክቱ ጥሪያቸውን አስተላልፈዋል።

በሶማሊያ ያለውን ቀውስ ለመፍታትም መፍትሄ የሚሆነው የፖለቲካ ድርድር ብቻ በመሆኑ ይህንን እውን ለማድረግ ሶማሊያን

(ወደ ገፅ ፮ ዞሯል)

በአፍሪካና በአረብ አገሮች መካከል ያለው ሁለንተናዊ ትብብር ተጠናክሮ ይቀጥላል ተባለ

የአፍሪካ ህብረት 10ኛው ...
(ከገፅ ፬ የዞረ)

ነቢዩ ዮናስ

አዳስ አበባ፡- በአፍሪካና በአረብ አገሮች መካከል ያለው ሳይንሳዊ፣ ኢኮኖሚያዊና ፖለቲካዊ ትብብር ተጠናክሮ እንደሚቀጥል የአረብ ሊግ ዋና ፀሐፊ ገለፁ።

በአፍሪካ ሕብረት የመሪዎች ጉባኤ የተገኙት የአረብ ሊግ ዋና ፀሐፊ አሚር ሙሳ እንደገለጹት የአፍሪካ ሕብረት በዳርፉር ያለውን ቀውስ ለመፍታት የሚያደርገውን ጥረት እንዲሁም በሱማሊያ ሕገመንግስታዊ ስርዓት ለመዘርጋት የተጀመረውን እንቅስቃሴ የአረብ ሊግ ይደግፋል። በአፍሪካ የሚወጡት ፖሊሲዎች ለፍልስጤ ምና ለሕዝቦቿ ሰላምና መረጋጋትን ለማምጣት ጉልህ አስተዋፅኦ እንዳላቸውም ጠቁመዋል።

አፍሪካ በሳይንስና ቴክኖሎጂ ዘርፍ የምታደርጋቸውን ጥረቶች እንዲሁም በአረብ የልማት ባንክ በኩል ሊከናወኑ የሚችሉ ኢኮኖሚያዊ ትስስሮችን ለማጠናከር የአረብ ሊግ ዝግጁ መሆኑን አሚር ሙሳ አስታውቀዋል።

የጃፓን ጠቅላይ ሚኒስቴር ተወካይ ዮሲር ሞሪ በበኩላቸው አህጉሪቷ ባሏት በርካታ የተፈጥሮ ሀብት በመጠቀም ከፍተኛ የምጣኔ ሀብት እድገት ለማስመዘገብ መቻሏን

ጠቁመዋል። ተወካዩ በኬንያ ያለውን ቀውስ አስመልክተው ኬንያ አሁን ያለባትን ችግር ለመቅረፍ ከአፍሪካ ሕብረት እንዲሁም ከሌሎች አለም አቀፋዊ ግብረ ሰናይ ድርጅቶች ጋር አብሮ በመስራት ችግሩን በማስወገድ መፍትሄ የምታገኝበትን ሁኔታ እንድታመቻች ጠይቀዋል። ጃፓን የቡድን ስምንት አባል አገሮችን ለስምንት ዓመታት በመሪነት ስታስተናግድ መቆየቷን ጠቁመው በዚህም ስብሰባ ላይ ለአፍሪካውያን የሚጠቅሙ ፖሊሲዎችንና እርዳታዎችን በማድረግ ዙሪያ ላይ በመወያየት ኤች አይ ቪ ኤድስን እና ሌሎች በሽታዎችን በመከላከልና ድህነትን በመቀነስ ዙሪያ ትኩረት በመስጠት መንቀሳቀሳቸውን አስታውቀዋል።

በቅርቡ በሰኔ ወር መጨረሻ ላይ የጃፓን መንግስት ለአፍሪካ እድገትና ብልፅግና የሚጠቅሙ ሁለት አለም አቀፋዊ ኮንፈረንሶችን ለማካሄድ በዝግጅት ላይ መሆኑንም ገልፀዋል።

የጃፓን መንግስት ከአፍሪካ አገሮች መንግስታት ጋር የረጅም ጊዜ አብሮ የመስራትና በመልካም ግንኙነት ላይ የተመሰረተ የረጅም ጊዜ ወዳጅነት እንዳለውም ገልፀዋል።

በመረዳት ላይ ያሉትን ኢትዮጵያዊያንና ሌሎች አፍሪካዊያንን መደገፍ እንደሚያስፈልግ አስገንዝበዋል። የዳርፉርን ቀውስ ለመግታት በጠረጴዛ ውይይት የታዩት ውጤቶች ዘላቂ እንዲሆኑ ውይይቱ መቀጠል እንዳለበት አሳስበዋል።

በስብሰባው የተገኙት የተባበሩት መንግስታት ድርጅት ዋና ጸሃፊ ባንኪሙን ድርጅቱ ከአፍሪካ ህብረት ጋር ያለውን ትስስር ከመቼውም ጊዜ በተሻለ መልኩ አጠናክሮ እየሰራ መሆኑን አስረድተዋል። ግንኙነቱ ከጊዜ ወደ ጊዜ እያደገ በመሄዱ በአህጉሪቱ ያሉ የሰላምና ፀጥታ ችግሮችን ለማስወገድ ከፍተኛ ተስፋ የተጣለበት መሆኑንም ዋና ፀሃፊው አመልክተዋል።

የህብረቱ ስብሰባ የታንዛኒያውን ፕሬዝዳንት ጃካያ ሲክዌቱን የወቅቱ የአፍሪካ ህብረት ሊቀመንበር አድርጎ መርጧል። ፕሬዝዳንት ጃካያ ኪክዌቱ ለአንድ አመት የሚቆየውን የህብረቱን ተዘዋዋሪ ሊቀመንበርነት የተረከቡት ከጋናው ፕሬዝዳንት ጆን ኩፎር ነው።

ከላይ በተጠቀሱት ሀሳቦች ዙሪያ ባለስልጣናቱ ስብሰባው በተከፈተበት ወቅት ንግግር ያደረጉ ሲሆን ባለፉት ሁለት ቀናት ባደረጉት ውይይታቸው በአጀንዳዎቹ ላይ ሃሳብና አስተያየታቸውን ሰጥተዋል። ስብሰባው በተነሱት ሃሳቦች ዙሪያ ውሳኔዎችን በማሳለፍ ዛሬ ይጠናቀቃል።

Cross continent African activist speaks about the Diaspora

Hatina Shambamuto

Dr. Desta Megho is an African activist who was born in Jamaica, educated in the United States and now living in Ethiopia. She is a former Managing Director for the Bob Marley Foundation. She came to Ethiopia in 2005 to produce the *Africa Unite* Concert which was an event organized towards the unification of Africa using art, culture and music as a galvanizing forces. Shortly afterwards, she decided to repatriate to Ethiopia in order to continue this work.

Briefly talk about your work, your background and how you got involved.

I have been an activist since the age of sixteen. I started as a youth activist and thirty years later, I am doing the same thing. I am now focusing on the area of Diaspora integration as the 6th region of Africa, working closely with the SIDO and the African Union Diaspora division, Diaspora Afro Forum based in Ghana, with Dr. Benny and, more importantly, on a grass-roots level with the African Union.

What have been your achievements?

In particular, what we have done here in Ethiopia, unlike most other conscious movements is that when we talk about the Diaspora, it is understood to be two categories. Africans who have been born on the continent and have travelled abroad, whether it is to study or jobs or what have you and then return home. The other Diaspora is Africans who were taken abroad during the Trans-Atlantic slave trade but still have a line back to Africa.



Dr. Desta Megho (left)
PIC HATINA SHAMBAMUTO

The third category that we have added however is Africans born on the continent who have never travelled and are not necessarily interested in travel but are interested in the development of their continent. They are the major benefactors and stakeholders on the continent.

Is the African Union in step with the objectives of what you are doing?

The African Union is one of our biggest allies, partners and advocates in this process of integration. You know, a lot of this was spear-headed a hundred years ago by the Garvey movement with Africans trying to return home. In terms of the continental approach, it has been revived through the African Union and various member states, which have been very active in realizing the importance of integration.

The African Union, based on its commitment, has actually gone a step further by establishing through the SIDO office, a Diaspora Division. So the Diaspora Division is actually the interface through dealing with how we integrate ourselves into the region. Our group is also working with the AU through the development of a newsletter and trying to create a cultural extravaganza much like the African Union, that can galvanize and popularize it.

Another very important thing will be an eminent trip to the Shashamani community. Many people do not realize that the Shashamani community was a land granted to black people of the west, in the 1940s by Ethiopians through Haile Selassie.

When Italians invaded Ethiopia, it was the only country that had not been colonized on the Continent, African people all over the world rallied, particularly in the United States. They lined up to fight. They got money and resources because Ethiopia, Abyssinia, was the shining star, having evaded colonization. After the defeat, the emperor granted black people of the west, as a token gesture to say, "you have a place here" as well recognizing how we identified with Ethiopia and Africa in general.

So building on this historical precedence, we are trying to make sure that the financial component is not the only basis for engagement. We don't want to be "commodified" again. It is about moral obligation, it is about our role, our right, as Africans. We did not ask to be taken away. We have survived and we have come home to build our country arm in arm with our African born brothers and sisters.

We are doing everything in step with the African Union to support their efforts, as well as with individual member states such as the Diaspora African Forum which is working closely with the Ghanaian government. We are galvanizing ourselves as a Pan Africanist group.

Konare acknowledges youth empowerment

Bethlehem Kiros

H.E. Alpha Oumar Konare, the outgoing chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission recognised the role of the youth in Africa's development during his address to the assembly at the opening ceremony of the Summit.

He spoke of Pan African fathers and leaders like Patrice Lumumba and Franz Fanon who died young but left a lasting tribute to the youth of Africa who now, as a result, extol their contribution. He added that the youth are aware of the price paid for the freedom of the continent since they are the descendants of those who fought against colonialism and apartheid. Just like their fathers, the youth are now showing unflinching determination and readiness to follow in their footsteps and create a new history for Africa. However, he pointed out that while showing readiness to engage in the struggle for Africa they need to be backed by a system that responds to their needs.

The AU launched the Year of African Youth (YAY) last November under the theme 'Africa Youth for Peace and Development'. At the time, the chairman said that youth must be utilized

in the process of modernizing and improving governance and sustainable development for the continent. As a step toward youth empowerment, African governments have begun the process of ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter.

Empowering the youth in Africa will create a shift from the current negative trend of manipulation and brainwashing them, into participating in resolving conflicts. Unemployment, lack of education and other socio-economic factors have deeply affected the lot of African youth and curtailed their potential participation in building Africa.

Notably, young people have little input in decision-making processes. As a result they are generally disempowered and prone to exploitation. The celebration of the YAY is expected to promote the inclusion of youth in decision-making through proactive involvement and to eventually create a new generation that will restore hope to the continent and build peace. If empowered, the youth- who form the majority of the population- can be a force for averting crises and bringing peace to Africa.

Tanzanian president takes over the African Union chairmanship



The Africa Union chairmanship has a new face. The Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete takes over the AU chairmanship from Ghana's John Kufuor. Kikwete won the annually rotating post of the organisation's chair on Thursday, January 31 2008. The 57-year old Kikwete was elected president of Tanzania in 2005 on a CCM (Chama Cha Mapinduzi) ticket.

If you're coming back to Addis Ababa try a bed at these spots

Axum Hotel

0116613916/0116187121

Atlas Hotel

0116612115/0116612115

Desalegn Hotel 0116624524

Hotel D'afrique 0115517385

Hotel de Leopold International
0115507777

Queen of Sheba Hotel

011618000

An art of emancipation at the African Union



Bethlehem Kiros



A selection of art inside the African Union conference building in Addis Ababa
 PICS YAZEED KAMALDIEN

Since time immemorial, artists have been expressing their imagination and philosophy through their pieces. African artists used their artworks as a social medium to highlight the history, struggles and beauty of their continent. Among the many themes that touch Africa, they have also tried to promote the spirit of Pan-Africanism and continental unity through their art.

At the entrance of the Africa hall at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the first thing a visitor could see is one such depiction of Pan-Africanism -the famous stained-glass windows- which was conceptualized and designed by the one of the most celebrated artist of the continent, and the first Laureate of the Haile Selassie 1 Prize for the Fine Arts, Afewerq Tekle. The

art, a rich kaleidoscope of bright colors, was commissioned by the then Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie who also made great contributions in the history of Pan-Africanism.

Dubbed as one of the greatest achievements of the artist, the elaborate piece was placed in the hall at the peak of the Pan-Africanist movement and the formation of the OAU. The artwork consists of three panels that tell a series of stories of Africa's past, present and future and covers a grand area of 150 square meters.

It is titled 'Total Liberation of Africa' and the first panel delineates Africa's gloomy and oppressed past; the second shows the

peoples' struggles to be released from problems that ensnared them and their quest for freedom. The third series shows their high aspirations for the future, a brighter and better Africa. This piece attempts to inspire people to uplift their nations and create an optimistic view of life.

Afewerq creates works that reflect his passion to fight for the dignity and honor of African people and has often given his artwork titles such as 'Backbones of the African Continent', 'Africa's Heritage', and 'African Unity'. The artist managed to master the art of stained glass work which is a medium that has inspired artists ever since the Middle Ages, during his extensive study tour around Europe in the 1950s.

Who produces the AU Monitor Daily?

Fahamu: Supports human rights and social justice in Africa by supporting social justice advocacy through the innovative use of information and communications technologies; stimulating debate, discussion and analysis, distributing news and information; developing training materials and running distance-learning courses. Info: www.fahamu.org

AU Monitor: Aims to strengthen civil society and citizen engagement with the African Union and its organs in the interest of promoting peace, justice, equity and accountability. The AU Monitor is an initiative of Fahamu and a section of Pambazuka News. Info: www.aumonitor.org

Afroflag Youth Vision: Works for youth empowerment and is committed for strong partnership and solidarity among African civil society organiza-

tions to contribute for the realisation of "a people-driven African Union". Info: www.afroflag.org

TrustAfrica: African foundation that promotes peace, economic prosperity, and social justice throughout the continent. Info: www.trustafrica.org

Send any feedback on this newsletter to hakima@fahamu.org