

MWENDA, THAT IS A FALSE DEBATE (PART II)!!

Two weeks ago, we responded with “Mwenda That Is A False Debate” - to my brother Andrew Mwenda’s article, “Museveni Brand Atrophy”. We did not conclude that conversation because of a work related and important distraction - the unfolding process of Rationalization of Public Agencies and Expenditure.

Let us re-affirm for the record: so-called “emotional connectivity” with “young people” - cannot by any stretch of imagination take priority over, or blur, the absolute need for dealing with fundamental structural reality, and related central and strategic national tasks. Needless to add, Yoweri Museveni and the Movement have done very well in this regard, over the last 60 years. Most important, there is no ambiguity about the path into the future - the digital, nuclear and space ages, etc., predicated on a strong, prosperous and united Mother Africa.

Of course, service delivery issues are very important ... short comings must be dealt with. But these can only be managed in fundamentals and in a sustainable manner - by firmly locating the efforts in a comprehensive and decisive overall national strategic framework. There are no short cuts.

To conclude this conversation, and looking beyond aesthetics, let us take some short lessons from history regarding the growth and all -round development of Capital cities. As we usually do under circumstances such as these, we have fallen back to Wikipedia for popular and comfortable reference points.

London. “The **City of London**, widely referred to simply as **the City**, is a city, ceremonial county and local government district that contains the ancient centre, and constitutes, alongside Canary Wharf, the primary central business district (CBD) of London and one of the leading financial centres of the world. It constituted most of London from its settlement by the Romans in the 1st century AD to the Middle Ages, but the modern area referred to as London has since grown far beyond the City of London boundary. The City is now only a small part of the metropolis of Greater London, though it remains a notable part of central London ...

The City of London is known colloquially as the **Square Mile**, as it is 1.12 sq mi (716.80 acres; 2.90 km²) in area ...

The City is a major business and financial centre, with both the Bank of England and the London Stock Exchange based in the City ...

During the 19th Century, London was transformed into the world's largest city and capital of the British Empire ...”

Paris. “Between 250 and 225 BC, the Parisii, a sub-tribe of the Celtic Senones, settled on the banks of the Seine, built bridges and a fort, minted coins, and began to trade with other river settlements in Europe ...

In 52 BC, a Roman army led by Titus Labienus defeated the Parisii and established a Gallo-Roman garrison town called Lutetia. The town was Christianised in the 3rd century AD, and after the collapse of the Roman Empire, it was occupied by Clovis I, the King of the Franks, who made it his capital in 508 ...

This is the capital and most populous city of France. It has an official estimated population of 2,102,650 residents as of 1 January 2023 in an area of some 105 km² (41 sq mi) ...

Since the 17th century, Paris has been one of the world's major centres of finance, diplomacy, commerce, culture, fashion, and gastronomy ...

Paris is a major railway, highway, and air-transport hub served by two international airports: Charles de Gaulle Airport (the third-busiest airport in Europe) and Orly Airport. Opened in 1900, the city's subway system, the Paris Métro, serves 5.23 million passengers daily; it is the second-busiest metro system in Europe after the Moscow Metro ...

Paris hosts several United Nations organizations including UNESCO, and other international organizations such as the OECD, the OECD Development Centre, the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, the International Energy Agency, the International Federation for Human Rights, along with European bodies such as the European Space Agency, the European Banking Authority and the European Securities and Markets Authority ...”

Washington. “... formally the **District of Columbia** and commonly called **Washington** or **D.C.**, is the capital city and the federal

district of the United States ... Washington, D.C. was named for George Washington, a Founding Father, victorious commanding general of the Continental Army in the American Revolutionary War and the first president of the United States, who is widely considered the 'Father of his country'. The district is named for Columbia, the female personification of the nation ...

The U.S. Constitution provides for a federal district under the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Congress. As such, Washington, D.C. is not part of any state, nor is it one itself ... The city was founded in 1791 ...

The city hosts all three branches of the U.S. federal government, Congress (legislative), the president (executive), and the Supreme Court (judicial), and the governmental buildings that house most of the federal government, including the White House, the Capitol, the Supreme Court Building, and multiple federal departments and agencies. The city is home to many national monuments and museums ... The city hosts 177 foreign embassies and serves as the headquarters for the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization of American States, and other international organizations ...”

Some tentative points to note:

- The older cities of the world, have evolved and grown - as an integral part of the processes of national and statal formation ...
- They reached their pinnacle with the advent of global capitalism, imperialism and colonialism ...
- These old cities are actually small in geographical area - but are at the heart of huge metropolises ...
- They invariably host the Central Business Districts and the seats of the State ... The other institutions and facilities are decongested into the Metropolises ...
- Nearer home, there are also lessons to be drawn from the entire process of development of Dodoma as the Federal Capital of Tanzania - in alternative to Dar es Salaam ... And process of the development of the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja - as an alternative capital to Lagos, in Nigeria.

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