

# Patriots And The AU

THE establishment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) which was recently transformed to African Union (AU) and various regional economic and political blocs around the continent revealed to the continent how some visionary and genuine patriots would like to see their continent out of its negative political, social and economic position.

I am talking of these African patriots who have seen their continent mercilessly reduced to ruins by the western imperialists and have acted by working out some strategies on how to liberate Africa fully in the economic, social and political sphere.

Their plan of action kicked off. Unfortunately, some fellow Africans started hampering the good progress and things started to go awry. Here I am talking of those African leaders who in their respective countries hacked the feet and hands of their people with machetes, enriched themselves, are racists and plunged their countries into vicious cycles of civil wars and economic disasters. Hence due to these prevalent situations, Africa's capacity-building was crippled and less was achieved as a result.

To redress that fate, the African patriots thought of another strat-

egy to put Africa back on a path of prosperity, peace, and tranquility, social and political advancement. They came up with a more holistic and viable initiative, the new partnership for African development (Nepad).

This initiative is holistic as it comprises many vital elements that are absent in the existing entities and they should be capable to curb the scary situations I have mentioned. These elements include: conflict prevention, peace, democracy, good governance, human resource development and others.

Their absences in the existing entities is believed to be the reason for their failure. These elements are going to be ensured under the framework of the peer review mechanism - a Nepad structure that makes it more viable. Thus, if you weigh these principles you can really see that Nepad can save African from its multiple upheavals.

Its viability can also be foreseen in essence because it came at the right time when the world is experiencing a wave of globalisation and realising a need for genuine cooperation between the developed and developing nations. Envisioned to operate alongside with the African Union, it could imply that Africa can

achieve great leaps forward in the economic, political and social sphere and be on par with Europe and its European Union (EU) or even more.

However it is up to us Africans to make this brilliant idea fruitful. This means that we should sign up for it (Nepad) and commit to it. We should stop nonsensical wars and declare war on poverty instead. The idea needs the input of the developed nations, creating a need for us to cultivate a culture of diplomacy and stop pointing fingers and or making nasty statements against other countries and their leaders for our failures.

In a nutshell, Nepad will not excel if we continue being corrupt, non-transparent, undiplomatic, selfish, arrogant and uncooperative. We should start allocating more money to our education, health sector and infrastructure rather than playing deadly military games as in the DRC, Ivory Coast just to mention a few.

In conclusion, let me say we should collectively allow Nepad to be fruitful and also as a lasting solution to Africa's development problems.

**Jones Mupandela  
Oshikango**