

The New Africa

I am a PAN-AFRICANIST!

I love African values, African diverse cultures, and the sense that I relate to Africa as the cradle of mankind. More to that, I love the sound of an African beat, especially those drum sounds in Kwaito songs, and yes, Fuse O.D.G is my favorite African act, and through his unending campaign of promoting Africa to the rest of the world, I respect him and his work. I share the same sentiments, and every day I wake up, zealous to make a difference where I can, since I believe change begins with me. I however have a problem, the political systems in Africa are failing. I have a problem with the leadership and kind of governance we have in the continent.

Africa has at one point been described as a continent which is richly endowed with human and mineral resources and yet is the poorest continent in the world; a continent which has tracts of arable land large enough to feed continents, yet which cannot feed itself; a continent which is blessed with lakes and large rivers and yet suffers from droughts and where her people die of thirst; and, the strangest paradox of all—the poorest continent on earth which has some of the world's wealthiest leader.

A World Bank research notes that African nations range from sophisticated, middle-income countries such as South Africa, to failed states such as Somalia; from large, oil-rich countries such as Nigeria, to small resource-poor countries such as Niger; from countries that have come out of conflict and have experienced tremendous recent success, such as Mozambique and Rwanda, to countries trapped in conflict, poverty, and poor government such as Somalia

The post-colonial era has seen Africa become the center of criticism due to the poor governance, failed institutions, and rampant conflicts in the continent. This is unlike the colonial period where the colonial powers were seen to have more order and proper working systems of government.

We have seen the erosion of democracy as tyrannical regimes have seized power, with self-interested leaders undermining the will of the people. However, African countries have displayed an absence of even the most basic essentials of democratic government in post-

independence. Personalization of power, repression of human rights, and rent-seeking leaders being the order of the day.

If Kwame Nkrumah would wake up today, what would he think? If Julius Nyerere woke up today, would he be proud of what he fought for? If Sankara woke up today would he applaud us, Patrice Lumumba, the democracy he died for is just in writing. We are putting to shame the legacy these great people left behind.

As AFRICANS, let us stop being our own enemy. We need to rise up to the occasion, and work together, and change the perception about Africa. Let us be responsible for the change we want!!!

Africa needs leaders who are true servants, not self-interested individuals who are power seeking. Leaders who can handle the responsibility of ruling a nation, without discrimination or favor, men and women who are committed to deliver to a continent which is slowly becoming a laughing stock in the international community due to continued failure of governments and institutions. And finally, leaders who have principles and values, who can draw the line between right and wrong, guided by ethics and a strong character.

Yes we can, THIS IS NEW AFRICA!

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