

# The Panafrikan Journal



SPECIAL ISSUE - NUMBER 18 - MAY 2013

**MERRY**



**JUBILEE**

Amadou AHIDJO



Kwame NKRUMAH



Haile SELASSIE



Gamal Abdel NASSER



Julius NYERERE



Leopold Sedar SENGHOR



## Founding Fathers Legacy at the Golden Age of OAU/AU



**EDEM KODJO**

**"The Union of Peoples means Federalism"**

**SALIM AHMED SALIM**

**"Lack of good governance is crucial in the issue of brain drain"**



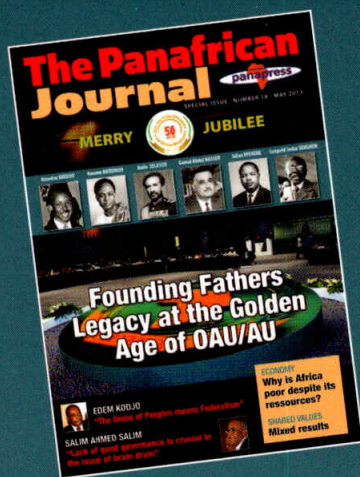
### ECONOMY

**Why is Africa poor despite its resources?**

### SHARED VALUES

**Mixed results**





#### DIRECTOR GENERAL :

Babacar FALL

#### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Biava Seyena SESHIE

#### MARKETING

Mariétou MENSAH

#### PHOTO SERVICE

Héric LIBONG

#### REPORTERS

Seidik ABBA

Rwegayura ANACLET

Midred MULENGA

Noé MASSOUSSI

Elizabeth BENKAM

Semiu BABALOLA

Alfredo CARVALHO

Vincent OBI

Ayawo Franck ASSAH

Thérèse ISSEKI

#### EDITORS

Socé NDIAYE

Momodou JAITEH

#### EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

Ousseynou NIANG

Claude AKOUSSAN

Ousseynou GUEYE

#### PANAPRESS HEADQUARTERS

10, Ave Bourguiba X Sodida - BP 4056

Tél. 00221 33 869 1234

Fax. 00221 33 824 4909

Dakar SENEGAL

For further information, Please contact:

#### MARKETING DEPARTMENT

BP 4056

Tél. 00221 33 869 1234

Fax 00221 33 824 4909

#### DESIGN

Sidy Mohamed DIAGNE

#### PRINTING

La Rochette

# Contents

## >>>> African Renaissance

- 3 **The Founding Fathers Legacy at the Golden Age of OAU/AU)**

- 8 **ERASTUS MWENCHI, AUC  
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON  
"By 2063, the African  
common market will be  
fully functional"**



- 10 **Africa's Challenges in the next 50 years**

## >>>> Testimonials

- 12 **MACKY SALL, PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL  
"Africa is on the move... and we can  
rely on the genius of peoples"**



- 14 **SALIM AHMED SALIM  
"Lack of good governance is one  
element though crucial in this issue  
of brain drain"**



- 17 **EDEM KODJO, FORMER OAU SECRETARY GENERAL  
"The Union of Peoples means Federalism..."**

## >>>> Economic Development

- 20 **Why is Africa poor despite  
its resources?**



- 23 **Nigeria's hydrocarbon  
resources: Blessing or Curse?**



- 25 **CAPE VERDE'S PERFORMANCES  
Is the absence of mineral  
resources a blessing rather  
than a curse?**



- 27 **AFRICAN MONETARY UNION  
CFA Franc to hinder continental  
monetary Integration**



## >>>> Shared Values

- 29 **GENDER PARITY  
African Women Yet to be Satisfied**

- 32 **Democracy, human rights and governance  
to the test of growing awareness**



## SALIM AHMED SALIM

### **"Lack of good governance is one element though crucial in this issue of brain drain"**

By Rwegayura ANACLET, PANA correspondent

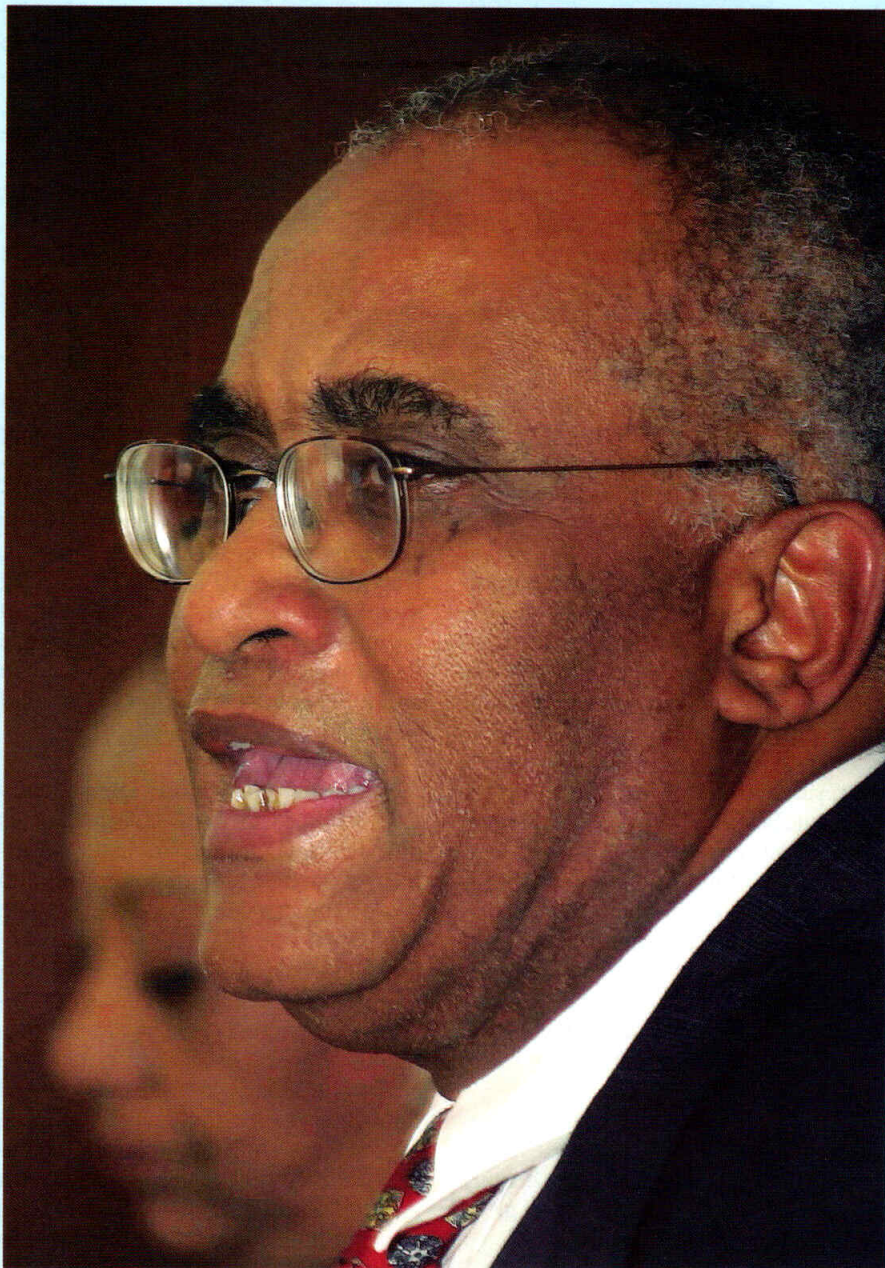
**PANAPRESS :** Could you summarize the Achievements of OAU/AU over the last 50 years.

**Salim Ahmed Salim :** When the Organisation of African Unity was created in 1963, it had among its primary objectives the issues of the liberation of the continent from colonialism, racism and apartheid; promotion of Africa Unity and Solidarity; as well as promoting socio-economic transformation of the continent.

Looking back, there is no doubt that Africa through its continental organisation had clearly achieved the first objective and this by itself is no mean achievement especially taking in the context how well entrenched the racist minority regimes in Southern Africa were and the external support they were receiving. The OAU was able to accomplish this objective of liberation, thanks to the unity and cohesion of its member states on this particular issue.

It is true that in some cases there were divergence of opinion among the constituent members of the OAU on how best to pursue the objectives. However, on the fundamentals of the objective itself Africa was united. It is also worth noting that the OAU was born during the coldest days of the Cold War and continued to function for more than two decades during the period of the "East-West" rivalry with its implications to the continent.

Moving forward to 1999 with adoption of the Sirte Declaration on the Establishment of the African Union, which came to fruition in Durban, South Africa in 2001, the African Union has continued to function taking to account some of the fundamental objectives of the OAU but operating in a different environment and different circumstances. Thus for example, while in 1963 the objective of promoting economic and social cooperation and integration was more of an ideal the changed realities of the world and of Africa today itself has meant this to be a matter of necessity. Thus, the



emergence and significance of the regional economic communities and the championing of more cooperation within the continent.

One particular area, which the African Union has pursued more vigorously and with greater possibilities, has been the issue of prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in our continent.

Fundamentally the objectives remain the same but operationally the AU has been able to expand the scope and limits in this area. Example, where as until the early 1990s, the OAU was constrained from taking action in a number of serious conflict situations, with the countries concerned invoking the principle of non interference in the internal affairs,





the situation has significantly changed in the wake of the African Union whose Constitutive Act clearly provides for intervention by the continental organisation in specific situations.

It should be recalled that the principle of non-interference was at times pursued to extreme absurdity. Thus massive violations of human rights were committed including killings of thousands of people and the organisation could do very little. It was, in my opinion a sad and rather bizarre situation and clearly a deliberate misinterpretation of the objectives of the founding fathers on the issue of non-interference. For there is no doubt in my mind that our leaders when they met in Addis in 1963 and adopted the Charter of the OAU, they did not intend to give a "Carte Blanche" to the perpetrators of evil deeds in our continent.

It should also be noted that when the OAU was formed, the primary concern as far as the issue of conflicts was concerned, was the possibility of dealing with inter-state conflicts. The creation within the charter of the Commission on Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration should be viewed in this light. From the 1990's and especially with the end of Cold War, Africa's concerns regarding conflict situations related essentially to dealing with internal conflicts and in this respect the Organisation had provided an important mechanism to pursue that objective.

Thus we have today for example the African Peace and Security Council with its various related components taking a major role in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. This is not to say that the situation is all that rosy. One of the major constraints facing the AU now in dealing with conflict situations and especially in matters of peace support operations is that most of the financing for such operations come from outside the continent. This in my opinion is neither desirable nor sustainable notwithstanding our profound appreciation for the support given by our external friends and partners.

Other achievements of our continental Organisation include being a leading platform for shaping, mobilising and advocacy of Africa's common issues and agenda in the continent and in the global arena. At the same time it is an undeniable fact that the AU is now putting great emphasis on issues of economic and social development as well as on governance issues.

**PANAPRESS : What do you see as major challenges facing the AU/OAU in its ambition to move the Union of States to the Union of Peoples in Africa?**

**Salim Ahmed Salim :** First and foremost, it is important to recognise and stress that the African Union like its predecessor the OAU is an organisation of independent African states. This means, it is the governments of these states that are represented in the Organisation and they have the final say on where the Organisation is, where it is going, and how far it can go. At the same time however, for the Union to be sustainable it must reflect the will and aspirations of the African people.

Happily, unlike the past, there is now greater recognition on the part of our governments or at least most of our governments, and our continental Organisation on the need to involve the ordinary Africans in the pursuit of our common objectives. In this context the role of Civil Society is of particular importance. It seems to me there is an emerging and increasing cooperation between Civil Society and premier Pan African institutions i.e. the African Union, African Development Bank and Economic Commission for Africa. It is worthwhile noting that the Civil Society is represented in the Economic and Social Council of the African Union.

In our individual countries, the role of Civil Societies has become much more pronounced notwithstanding the fact there are still some impediments put by some of the governments on them. The other side of the coin is that civil societies have to get their act together and wherever possible work as partners in the continental and in national institutions for the development of our countries on a sustainable basis observing and supporting the principles of good governance. In this respect there is need for reassessment by the Civil Societies themselves of their role in terms of agenda setting and ownership.

It is a fact that many of these societies are very much dependent on external assistance. That in itself should not be an insurmountable impediment, but vigilance is necessary. At this stage, with development of ICT which is rapidly gaining ascendancy in our continent and the awareness of a broad spectrum of our people of national, continental and international affairs, the conditions are ripe for the realisation of a much closer in-

volvement of the African people in the affairs of our continental Organisation.

**PANAPRESS : Mentality change is one of the main factors for realisation of the Africa Renaissance. Do you believe that one day AU member states would relinquish part of their responsibility in favor of African Unity?**

**Salim Ahmed Salim :** Experience has already demonstrated that it is possible for member states to surrender some aspects of sovereignty in the larger interest of the continent. This is clearly adumbrated for in the provisions of the Constitutive Act of African Union that provide for the intervention of the AU in specific situations. Yet I must point out that this is the path, which is still in confronted with many obstacles.

The African Union today is increasingly responsive to the demands of the population for a more vigorous and active Pan African organisation of member states. The Civil Society needs to be more involved but also more responsible and be seen to genuinely support the transformation of the continent, the African agenda and the strengthening of the Pan African organisation. It is obvious that the AU does recognise and value the role of the Civil Society in Africa. It is also obvious that one way of achieving the objective of greater unity, solidarity and cohesion of our continent is to work with our people and in this context the Civil Society can play an important role.

Obviously there is an imperative need for mentality change. What is needed is building and nurturing a positive Afro-centric thinking among majority of our people. Clearly, further empowerment can be achieved with more social, political awareness, cooperation and integration between and among our countries.

**PANAPRESS : Despite the abundance of its resources, Africa has hardly embarked upon sustainable development like such countries as South Korea and China. Is this situation due to bad choice of strategies or to a problem of leadership?**

**Salim Ahmed Salim :** The situation of such countries as South Korea and China are of different circumstances including geopolitical considerations. But it is a fact that our continent finds itself in a situation of dramatic contrasts. Africa has to decisively overcome the





...

anachronism of being one of the richest if not THE richest continent endowed with immense resources and tremendous potential yet the majority of our people continue to live in unacceptable conditions of poverty and deprivation.

Where have we gone wrong? These are questions to be raised and responded to by each country based in its own experiences. In doing so, we must mobilise the full potential of our women who are the majority and who through out history of this continent have borne the burden of all struggles from liberation to development and yet not adequately empowered at the ownership and leadership level.

At the same time our countries must be able to deal with the rising expectations and urgent need for meaningful changes demanded by our youth. There is no denying the fact that in some instances, failure of leadership and adoption of wrong strategies has contributed to the anomalous situation that we face. For example, there are some projects, which make no sense at all as far as socio-economic transformation yet they are there in their grandiose form.

**PANAPRESS :** The OAU accomplished its mission of political liberation of the continent from the grip of colonialism and apartheid. However, economic independence seems to be hampered by conflicts and governance problems. How could the AU assist its member states to act for convergence of their respective policies toward good governance and a better redistribution of their wealth?

”

*The Civil Society needs to be more involved but also more responsible and be seen to genuinely support the transformation of the continent, the African agenda and the strengthening of the Pan African organisation. It is obvious that the AU does recognise and value the role of the Civil Society in Africa.*

**Salim Ahmed Salim :** It is vital to emphasize the importance of Good Governance in our continent. Good Governance would ensure that the people's views are dominant and would create an atmosphere where the energy of our people will be properly harnessed towards political, economic and social transformation. It is equally important to emphasize that the scourge of conflict must be decisively dealt with. It is a sad commentary of our situation when we consider that we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of OAU/AU with millions of our people still continue to vote with their feet.

Among major attempts by the OAU to attain economic liberation are the Lagos Plan of Action for Africa Economic Growth (1980 – 2000) and the Abuja Declaration of 2001 where the Organisation decided on the establishment of regional economic groupings as steps towards strong economic achievements through integration of our economic policies, systems and institutions. Also the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) which is a planning and coordinating technical body of the African Union development strategy.

Such a strategy requires, inter alia, the pursuit of the policies of governance as well as people's ownership and leadership in our initiatives. This is a basic requirement for peace, security, stability and sustainable political and socio-economic development of the continent. The African Charter on Elections, Democracy and Governance is another serious effort by the AU in assisting its member states to act for convergence of their respective policies toward good governance.

**PANAPRESS :** Lack of good governance has been one of the causes of the African brain drain. As the AU works to enable the African Diaspora to take part in the development of the continent, what way would you suggest for achieving this goal while governance, which forced many Africans to leave the continent, has not improved?

**Salim Ahmed Salim :** It should be stated clearly that there is a significant improvement on governance in Africa. For more than 20 years now the issues of good governance in our continent has been seriously taken on board. Yet it is obvious also there are still some shortcomings. As the continent intensifies the effort of consolidating and strengthening of good governance, which is a condition prerequisite for meaningful and sustainable development, it is worthwhile observing that the lack of good governance is one element though crucial in this issue of brain drain. Of no less importance is the provision of facilities and incentives for the African diaspora to be attracted to come home. The trend in recent years has been more and more governments recognizing the importance of the role of the Diaspora and taking steps in creating institutions and conditions for their role in the ongoing political and economic renaissance. It is significant to note that this year the remittances to the African continent by the Diaspora have surpassed the amount given as foreign aid.

