

AFRICA

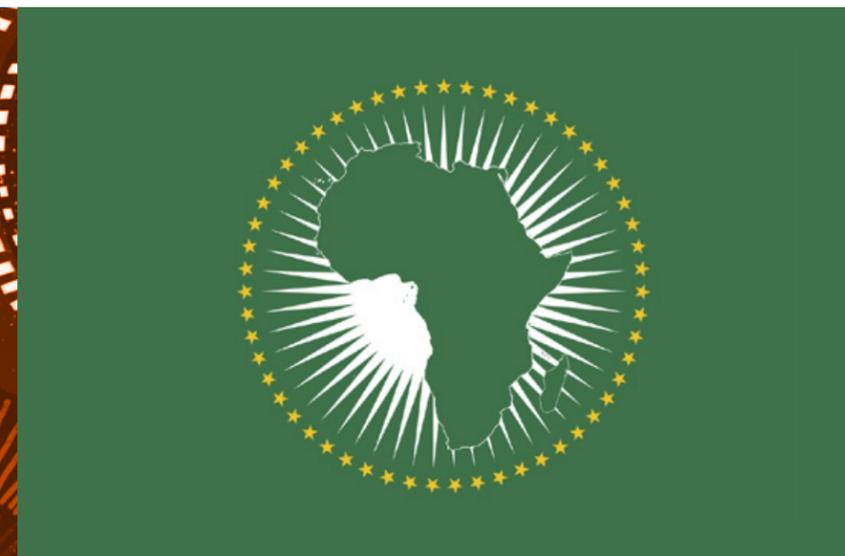
OF MY DREAM

cooperation and integration of African states, it becomes crystal clear to an observer who is looking for the nexus between objectives and performance, that performance here does not in any way match the objectives. If the purpose behind the formation of the African Union has anything to do with progress, one should expect by now that the fragile and unstable index of the world would not be topped by almost all of the best of the African countries, which include Yemen, Somalia, Syria, South Sudan, DR Congo, Central African Republic, Chad, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, and Nigeria, which is the most populous Black nation referred to as the giant of Africa. Nigeria is believed also to be the country with the largest economy as well as the strongest democracy.

It is human to be sensitive and always adjust to one's environment. This makes one of the characteristics of the human race in that they operate by thinking and the use of cognition as opposed to the animals who lead by instinct. The African Union (AU), there is no doubt about it, is made up of human beings who can aspire, attain, and think to get things done. The color of their skin as a means of identity notwithstanding, they are born as co-creators who are to create and add value to the world.

Placing the African leaders side-by-side with the objectives of the African Union, which can be summarized as promoting Africa's growth and the economic development by championing citizen inclusion and increased

It does not matter how big or strong any African country is considered. What matters is how able and available one country is to the others in achieving the overall objectives of the African Union. So far, the African states have not shown the required cohesion, discipline and the political will among leaders to take the continent to another level. It is becoming clearer to the perceptive mind that the African continent, rather than using its vantage position as a channel, though for good and evil as well as war and peace to negotiate at the international level for relevant and necessary inclusions, and a good example is the membership of the security council of the United Nations. At every state of global development, Africa is an irresistible channel being used to achieve the overall interest of the world regard-





less of its negative consequences as what the continent gets.

Are Africans truly united? Why are all the coups, insurgencies, banditries, corruption in government, political tensions, agitations for self-determination and all manner of crises going on? Waiting for the international community without taking advantage of this vantage position as global partners with the superpowers is like making a choice to chase the shadow and leaving behind the substance.

The Industrial Revolution in the 19th century led to the scramble for and partition of Africa. The objective among others was to look for markets for the finished goods of the Europeans and possible places to dump them. One of the consequences of the Industrial Revolution is what we have today in climate change, leaving the African continents helpless and as beggars for funding from the Western countries to mitigate and adapt to the problems of climate change.

The COVID-19 pandemic also revealed the pitiable situation of the African

continent. Had the COVID-19 impacted more heavily and negatively on the African continent as envisaged by the Western world, the effects would have been unbearable with millions of lives lost. Even when, by divine providence, the effects of COVID-19 were contained in Africa with a small number of lives lost when compared to the more advanced and Western, developed countries, the injustice in the inequitable distribution of the vaccine is a source of concern. Whatever it is that is holding the African continent back needs to be confronted head on, for until that is done, the world cannot be peaceful. One important lesson that COVID-19 has taught the world is that until all are safe, no one is safe.

Even though it's a wise thing to say to a people not to put all their eggs in one basket, reality is now teaching us that the earth is that one basket, and until all are peaceful, no one is at peace.

The climate change also has taught us a new lesson—that no one is safe, regardless of geographical locations, as far as the climate challenges are concerned. The world is just like a global village where no one is out of reach. We are far away from ourselves but share common problems that require cooperation at all levels. This also is a call for action to put all our eggs in one basket just as we need also to put all hands on the deck to combat our challenges.

On a final note, African leaders should understand that they are also a product of the dark room of the world. All negatives pass through the dark room of the world to re-evolve. This was the artificial evolution made possible by agreeing to the terms and conditions of the United Nations. As long as nations go through the dark room for processing, they come out automatically in black and white. The dark room has never succeeded in producing any other color apart from the black and white. The observable disparity in the products from the dark room is in the identity categorization as “developed” or “developing.”

The world has moved so far in technological advancements in such a way that at this time, the dark room ought not to be in use for the development of negatives, as pictures can be produced with no need of going through the dark room. The choice for continuity in the old-fashioned only paints a picture of selfishness and conservative ideologies, which indirectly is a negation of the United Nations charter of equity, fair play, transparency and justice. As long as some of the products of the United Nations, who in other words can be referred to as member countries, who evolved through the dark room, still carry the identity of “developing,” bear in mind that the practice of development or categorization through the dark room will continue, and as long as it continues, the producer will ever remain in the dark. All negatives that must be made to pass through the dark room, as long as they are not able to come out in any other colors apart from the black and white, they must therefore not suffer any identity categorization in the names of “developed” and “developing.”

Africa has produced leaders who fit in for description as heroes. They merit continent. These leaders displayed unmatched characteristics, which made their style of leadership impactful, transformative and revolutionary. Some of these leaders include: Nelson Mandela, Haile Selassie, Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Patrice Lumumba, Kofi Annan, Thomas Isidore Noel Sankara, Jomo Kenyatta, Kenneth Kaunda, and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Late Thomas Sankara stood out as a military head of state in Burkina Faso. This was over 30 years ago, and unfortunately, the country Burkina Faso is under the military's rule presently. The implication of this great leader's rule is that democracy as a system of government without dividend is worse than an autocratic regime with transformative and revolutionary ideas.

When will the developing nations become developed? African leaders must take responsibility to be channels only of good and peace. If nothing else could unite the African leaders, let the African problems, which include poverty, insecurity, the negative effects of climate change, and the practice of democracy without dividend unite the African leaders. There is no place else that you can call home. Therefore, let your charity begin from home. God bless Africa.

Samuel Tunji Adeyanju and Sharon S. Johnson

Credit to briefly.co.za for pictures and short bios of leaders



Nelson Mandela / South Africa

Nelson Mandela sacrificed a great deal of his life fighting against apartheid in the country before becoming the president of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. But who is the greatest African leader of all time and who is the greatest freedom fighter in Africa? Most would say Nelson Mandela, without a doubt. He was one of the most famous African activists referred to as Madiba (his traditional Xhosa name) and was arrested for his activism more than once. He was released from prison after 27 years, and he won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for his work to end apartheid in SA. He is regarded as a symbol of global peace and considered by many to be at the top of all the great South African leaders in the history of Africa.



Haile Selassie / Ethiopia

Haile Selassie, or Ras Tafari Makonnen, was a member of the Solomonic Dynasty. He was an Ethiopian ruler from 1916 to 1974 and the emperor from 1930 to 1974. During his time in power, he fought for social fairness, and he focused on the education of the people by constructing many schools. Ethiopia became a charter member of the UN as a result of his views and visions.



Kwame Nkrumah / Ghana

Dr Kwame Nkrumah is a praised politician from Ghana who led the country from 1951 to 1966 with the main mission to gain independence from their colonial masters, Britain. He held the position of the first president of Ghana, and many say that he was the founder of this country. Kwame was a Pan-Africanist who assisted in finding the Africa Union, formerly the Organization of African Union.



Julius Nyerere / Tanzania

The first president of Tanzania was Julius Nyerere, and he ruled from 1961 to 1985. Nyerere played a major role in finding the Tanganyika African National Union and as president of this party, he pressured Britain for independence. Tanzania gained self-governance in 1961. Nyerere successfully negotiated the union of Zanzibar and Tanganyika in 1964, resulting in what we know today, Tanzania.



Patrice Lumumba / Democratic Republic of the Congo

Patrice Lumumba was a Congolese politician who fought for the country's independence from Belgium. He was the first Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo in 1960. The Congolese National Movement was founded by Patrice, and he made use of Pan-African ideologies to gain independence. Congo gained its freedom from Belgium in 1961, largely due to Lumumba's struggles.



Kofi Annan / Ghana

Kofi was a highly revered Ghanaian diplomat. From 1997 to 2006 he successfully led the United Nations as the 7th secretary-general. Annan fought the AIDS pandemic in Africa, and he actively worked to erase social issues in the world. In 2006, Kofi and the UN were awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for their hard work.



Thomas Isidore Noel Sankara / Burkina Faso

Thomas Sankara is viewed as an icon of the revolution. Many refer to him as the 'Che Guevara of Africa'. He became the president of Burkina Faso from 1983 to 1987. Thomas was a headstrong Pan-Africanist who seized power in 1983 and worked to eliminate corruption and eradicate the former French colonial power's dominance.



Jomo Kenyatta / Kenya

Jomo Kenyatta was an activist who was opposed to the colonial rule of the country. He became the first president of Kenya. Jomo played a major role in ensuring that Kenya gained independence in 1963. He was on the front line in the Kenya National African Union, and he brought economic growth to the country. Jomo promoted peace, and he oversaw the registration of Kenya with the African Union.



Kenneth Kaunda / Zambia

Kenneth Kaunda is a retired politician who became the first president of Zambia and held office from 1964 to 1991. He gained political experiences in 1949 when he served as a foreign affairs interpreter. Kenneth used peaceful protests and negotiations as a leader of the United National Independence Party to successfully gain independence for Zambia in 1964.



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf / Liberia

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was the first great African female leaders and head of state. She was the 24th president of Liberia who held office from 2006 to 2018. She has been praised for bringing steadiness back to Liberia after many years of civil war. Ellen is also referred to as 'Africa's Iron Lady' who was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.