



3rd Pan-African
Capacity
Development
Forum

'We are committed to seeing Africa succeed'



Zimbabwe's finance minister, Patrick Chinamasa, urges the continent to beware of development partners who mean well but give money for specific areas that are not Africa's priority.

Zimbabwe's finance minister, Patrick Chinamasa (*above*), yesterday criticised donors for trying to set Africa's agenda. Speaking at the opening session, he said because many African countries were recipients of aid, they were often put into a situation of having to set aside their own priorities in favour of those of development partners.

"Generally, development partners mean well but they give money for specific areas that are not your priority and before you know it you are driving someone else's agenda unwittingly. We need to engage in constructive debate with development partners," Minister Chinamasa said, adding: "We need to take ownership of decisions and not be influenced by outside parties."

He also suggested that dialogue needed to be strengthened between governments and non-state actors, particularly to address mutual suspicions arising from the external financing of these actors who were encouraged to drive agendas that were not in line with national agendas.

On the issue of capacity building, he said it was important for institutions to bring together empowered individuals as part of a collective effort to drive the transformation agenda with governments setting the frameworks and enabling environment.

"We are committed to seeing Africa succeed. We cannot do it as individual countries, we have to do it collectively. We need to act collectively to break down the

barriers that separate us."

He emphasised that discussions on capacity building needed to be located in the reality of local socio-economic conditions.

The ACBF executive secretary, Prof Emmanuel Nnadozie, urged African countries to pay their dues to the ACBF in order for it to continue its work. "We will step up to the plate but we cannot do everything. In spite of our good intentions and goals, we have to figure out how to be strategic and prioritise."

Member payments help ACBF to leverage other resources. It is not about who gets the most out of the organisation. Contributions need to be made in the spirit of pan-Africanism and contributing to the wellbeing of the continent as a whole, he added.

Dianna Games





No more time to waste

In the face of evolving challenges facing Africa, the project of capacity building across the continent is a long-term one that will continue long after the conversations held at the Third Pan-African Capacity Development Forum, which came to a close on Thursday 5 May.

For the closing ceremony, the ACBF Executive Board member, Jessie Rose Mabutas, appreciated all who had made the event possible, starting with the ACBF and the government of Zimbabwe. She acknowledged that while the ACBF had made substantial contributions towards the development priorities of the continent, there were yet challenges because capacity building was a long-term project that would bridge the remaining gaps.

Prof Emmanuel Nnadozie, too, expressed his appreciation to all who had contributed to a successful forum, and restated the ACBF's commitment to build capacity through various ways, including investing in STEM education, and mobilising the diaspora. Zimbabwe's Minister Simon Khaya Moyo then read comments on behalf of Vice President Phelekezela Mphoko who affirmed the necessity of exchanging knowledge and improving messages on capacity building, and exhorted the delegates to continue the work that had brought them to the Forum.

He highlighted a few key points that had arisen in the conversations in the last few days, and stressed the urgency of the project of capacity building: "the time to accelerate capacity building is now or never. The continent does not have the luxury to waste time anymore".

Finally, Dr. Shehu Abubakar Misau, representing the chair of the ACBF Executive Board, offered a vote of thanks to participants, speakers, moderators, organizers, partners, and the host country Zimbabwe, before officially closing the ACBF's 25th anniversary celebrations.

Wanjiku Mungai

VOICES: FROM ACBF

ROGER ATHINDEHOU

Manager Operations, East & Southern Africa



The Forum and celebration of the 25th anniversary of the ACBF give us the opportunity to take stock of what we have achieved since 1991. We have achieved much in terms of building the capacities of stakeholders in Africa: governments, civil society, private sector, regional organisations, African Union Commission, and others. Moving forward, as highlighted in the outcomes of the Forum, the ACBF will continue to build the capacities of all African stakeholders. We need an ACBF which is capable of responding to today's key challenges. How can we transform Africa in a way that does not solely imply the reliance on raw materials and industrialised economies?

THOMAS MUNTHALI

Director, Knowledge Monitoring and Evaluation



The ACBF has come a long way in terms of building capacities in policy analysis, economic policy and public sector management. But now, I think that the continental development challenges have seriously shifted since the ACBF's inception in 1991.

Technical skills and institutions need to be strengthened even more. It is critical. Other new challenges facing the continent include youth unemployment, climate change and declining commodity prices. What is key is the need to create the technical skills required for the implementation of Agenda 2063's first 10-year plan. This is where the ACBF is bringing its valid propositions, expertise and experience of managing key capacity building projects on the continent.

Smoking ourselves to death

AFRICA IS POISED TO BECOME THE FUTURE epicentre for tobacco epidemics if no concerted efforts on tobacco control measures are taken now to avert the disaster waiting to happen, according to experts at a side event on investing in strengthening tobacco control capacity for Africa.

"African countries need to build technical and institutional capacity at regional level in order to reverse the current trend of tobacco-related deaths on the continent," said Prof. William Bazeyo, the director of the Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa

Prof Bazeyo said that tobacco control efforts in Africa were facing a major resistance from individuals, governments, and institutions. "There is therefore the need to push tobacco control legislation more forcefully through parliament in order to have laws passed and implemented," he added.

Deowan Mohee, the executive secretary of the Africa Tobacco Control Alliance, based in Togo, noted that for Africa to effectively fight the war on tobacco use, the continent needed to stop relying on donors for funding and support for its tobacco control programmes.

"Civil societies," Mohee said, "need to start advocating for resources from within their countries through national budgets and also mobilise for more resources for tobacco control measures." Governments, he added, should tax all tobacco products and promote tobacco control measures in their countries.

Emma Wanyonyi, the CEO of the International Institute For Legislative Affairs, said that most African countries were in the transition stage of adopting policies regarding tobacco control. "There is the need to have capacity building programmes that can help countries in the enactment and implementation of tobacco control legislation and policies," said Ms Wanyonyi.

Oumar Ba, an official of Senegal's Ministry of Health, cited his country as an example of slow decision-making on tobacco control. It took 15 years, he said, to have a Tobacco Control Act enacted with the help of civil society.

Christabel Ligami

'The Africa we want...

others have wanted it before us'

For roughly 50 years, Africans have been articulating the desire for "The Africa that we want", but to achieve success, it is imperative that the conversations go along with urgent and sustained action at the grassroots level. This was the resounding message of Dr. Hespina Rukato in her keynote address on the closing day of the combined Third Pan-African Capacity Development Forum/25th anniversary celebrations of the ACBF.

The former deputy CEO of NEPAD shared a memory of the excitement that met the adoption of NEPAD in 2001. Yet less than 20 years later, it seemed that the excitement has dissipated, leading her to question "why are we now jumping onto the next bandwagon before we have implemented any of the things that we have talked about before?"

This, she said, proved the necessity of working towards the agreed frameworks with a sense of immediacy. "What is missing for me is Agenda *now now*. Where is the Agenda for today?" asked Dr. Rukato, adding that Africa's optimism would have to be tempered by a critical honesty about our own shortcomings.

"People say that there is this concept of the glass that is half full or half empty... I think it is only half full when you are the one drinking the water. If you're thirsty it's empty," Dr Rukato declared.

She observed that three things in particular impeded Africans from the needed self-analysis. The first was what she called "gatekeeping", whereby we protect leaders from the actual realities of the situation on the ground. The second was our failure to empower the citizenry, training them to be "computers rather than decision makers". The last was not creating a space where civil servants could tell the truth without fear for their safety.

Closing her speech, Dr. Rukato reiterated a statement with which she started the address: "This Africa we want, others have wanted it before us. Since I was born I have wanted it..." However, wanting alone was not enough: "We need to move faster and we need to sacrifice more and to be more serious."

Wanjiku Mungai

Moving forward into the next 25 years ... From building to retention



Speaking exclusively to

IC Publications on the final day of the ACBF's 25th anniversary celebrations, Executive Secretary Prof Emmanuel Nnadozie (*above*) reiterated the key message that proved a leitmotif for the whole 3-day forum - that while the past 25 years had been successful in terms of the achievements made by the ACBF and its member countries, especially in terms of human capital and institutions, much more remains to be done.

"A lot has been achieved in the past 25 years of building capacity and critical skills on the continent, and strengthening institutions and focusing attention on the soft capacities such as leadership, mindset change, African values and pan-Africanism," said the executive secretary.

"But there are still significant capacity challenges to be

surmounted," he continued, "especially the ones that are needed to implement the continental Agenda 2063, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN, to address other critical issues such as climate change, youth unemployment, migration, terrorism and conflicts, as well as the persistent problem of inequality and poverty, especially from a gender perspective; and finally dealing with Africa's high population growth rate and agricultural issues."

Prof Nnadozie drew attention to the ACBF's Strategic Plan 2017-2021 and its four pillars - enabling effective delivery of continental development priorities; supporting countries to achieve tangible development results; enhancing private sector and civil society contribution to sustainable development; and leveraging learning and knowledge to attain greater development effectiveness.

The executive secretary highlighted the importance of high-level tripartite education dialogue among the private sector, training institutions, and African governments on how to develop capacity for implementing Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

"Capacity utilisation, capacity retention and capacity harmonisation, including the sustainability of capacity projects are key issues," Nnadozie said, and asked rhetorically: "Why aren't African universities educating African young people to solve Africa's problems? If people get the education that is Africa-specific, the chances are that they will utilise it here rather than going somewhere else to practise."

His key message to the 15 African nations not yet members of the ACBF: "The gap between designing good strategies and getting results on the ground is implementation, and the challenge of implementation is the lack of capacity, and the ACBF is the unique organisation which squarely focuses on capacity development, that understands the African continent very well. We have a dedicated staff, many partnerships and networks, so they have a lot to gain if they want to address implementation gaps in their countries by becoming a member state of the ACBF."

Sinem Bilen-Onabanjo



Les gouvernements et les bénéficiaires doivent appuyer l'ACBF dans la mobilisation des ressources

Au regard des réalisations de l'ACBF, on note qu'il y a eu d'une manière globale, des progrès en termes de renforcement des capacités. La Namibie en est un très bon exemple, avec la création de sa première institution Universitaire en 1992. Par ailleurs, il y a encore des défis qui doivent être relevés. Il s'agit notamment de lutter contre la rétention des capacités, de veiller à l'utilisation et l'harmonisation des capacités ainsi que de favoriser les échanges grâce à l'immigration. Les champions ou les bénéficiaires et les partenaires d'appui de l'ACBF doivent remplir leur rôle de porte-voix des actions de la fondation pour qu'elles soient de plus en plus visibles et puissent en retour être appuyé par l'institution. C'est le principe de « l'échange entre la main gauche et la main droite. » a déclaré le secrétaire exécutif de l'ACBF, le professeur Emmanuel Nnadozie. Ce dernier a encouragé les pays africains à payer leurs contributions afin de donner des moyens à l'ACBF de mobiliser des ressources plus importantes. Les participants au forum ont lancé un appel à la solidarité panafricaine. Dans son programme à court terme, l'organisation va réunir les gouverneurs des banques centrales pour réfléchir sur le financement durable de l'organisation. Pour sa part, Hespina Rukato a soutenu que la transformation doit partir de la base, donc au niveau individuel, pour atteindre le niveau régional et partant, l'ensemble du continent. Selon Rukato, la transition du

leadership devra aussi *dépendre d'un système de valeurs*. Sur ce point, le ministre des finances et développement du Zimbabwe, Patrick Chinamasa, a souligné : « *Les africains doivent interagir de manière collective pour détruire les barrières qui nous séparent.* »

Christiane Munoki

VOIX DE ACBF

BAKARY KONE

Directeur de cabinet du secrétaire exécutif de l'ACBF, également en charge des partenariats et de la mobilisation des ressources.



Je tiens avant tout à rendre un hommage à mes collègues qui ont travaillé dur à l'organisation de cet événement, au sein du département de la Communication mais aussi de l'ensemble de la Fondation. Je pense que notre secrétaire exécutif a su répondre aux questions posées et surtout recevoir des idées afin de faire grandir l'ACBF davantage et continuer le travail au profit du renforcement des capacités. Notre priorité désormais est de travailler sur notre plan stratégique 2017-2021 et préparer la prochaine rencontre qui se tiendra le mois prochain en Côte d'Ivoire.

Aller de l'avant dans les 25 prochaines années ... De la construction à la rétention

Prof. Nnadozie demande: «Pourquoi les universités africaines n'éduquent pas les jeunes africains à résoudre les problèmes de l'Afrique?»

Dans une interview exclusive à IC Publications, lors du dernier jour des célébrations du 25e anniversaire de l'ACBF, le secrétaire exécutif Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie a réitéré le message clé, dont ont fait l'objet ces 3 jours de forum: si les 25 dernières années ont été couronnées de succès en termes des réalisations de l'ACBF et ses pays membres, il reste encore beaucoup à faire.

Nnadozie a attiré l'attention sur le plan stratégique de l'ACBF 2017-2021 et ses quatre piliers: permettre l'atteinte des objectifs prioritaires de développement du continent; aider les pays à obtenir des résultats tangibles; renforcer le secteur privé et la société civile; et tirer parti des connaissances et de l'apprentissage pour atteindre une plus grande efficacité en matière de développement.

Son message clé pour les 15 pays africains non encore membres de l'ACBF est très clair: «L'écart entre la conception de bonnes stratégies et l'obtention de résultats tangibles sur le terrain est un problème de mise en œuvre, et le défi de la mise en œuvre est le manque de capacité. L'ACBF est l'unique organisation qui se concentre sur le développement des capacités et qui a une connaissance profonde du continent africain. Nous avons un personnel dévoué, de nombreux partenariats et un réseau. Les états non membres auront donc beaucoup à gagner s'ils veulent combler les lacunes de mise en œuvre dans leurs pays, en devenant un état membre de l'ACBF.»

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