

Leadership: Critical African Politics

Welcome to another edition of *The Journal of Pan African Studies (JPAS)*. This issue, like many of our past issues, engages the African world in a trans-disciplinary fashion. We begin with sincere thanks for the life and afterlife of our recent ancestors, my fellow librarian-scholar Donna Marcia Wells (1953-2009); scholar, activist and educator Imari Abubakar Obadele (1930-2010); community organizer Tommy Jacquette-Halifu (1943-2009) and distinguished scholar Ralston Milton "Rex" Nettleford (1933-2010). I had the pleasure of meeting all but one of these fine people, and I am sure they will be welcomed in the afterlife.

Next we journey into the four cornerstones of African centered leadership-followership devised in 2000 at the Kwame Ture Leadership Institute. This model seeks to restore Black sovereignty in political, economic and cultural terms, and is presented by *JPAS* editorial member Uhuru Hotep. Our next article attempts to deconstruct a myriad of negative images that denigrate Africa and works to invalidate stereotypes that have been pervasively consecrated as historical truths in literature, philosophy, religion, and politics.

Continuing, a host of authors re-examine current paradigms and concepts about rural development, environmental sustainability and poverty alleviation in Africa. In addition, the dynamics of political affairs are articulated by President Barack Obama, His Excellency Professor John Evans Atta Mills, and His Excellency Mr. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma.

Returning to another side of politics and world affairs, Gilbert L. Taguem Fah emerges us in a discussion of Africom which derives from the assumption that US African Command is a continuation of American militarization in Africa and it is negatively changing the local culture of violence. In addition, Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni and Victor Ojaborotu examine the security terrain within which Africom was established and reasons why there was a push for it to be established in Africa. In juxtaposition, Okori Uneke writes that corruption, particularly in countries where it has become an integral part of the social fabric, is a major handicap to sustainable development in Africa. *JPAS* editorial member Nana Adu-Pipim Boaduo FRC contends that from 1990 to 1993 South Africa ushered in a new philosophical and political ideology of reconciliation which climaxed in 1994, and thus, this political change requires a new education to humanize all South Africans. Lastly in the political genre, *JPAS* editorial member Asafa Jalata and Harwood Schaffer critically explore how Ethiopia's policies and practices of political authoritarianism and state terrorism have undermined the processes of peace and development.

In addition, we have a paper on the need for professionalism in the teaching of Religious Studies which suggests that the discipline be guided by code of ethics. This issue concludes with two critical reviews of the movie *Avatar*, two book reviews (*Africa: the Politics of Suffering and Smiling* by Patrick Chabal reviewed by Miracle Obeta and *The Assassination of Fred Hampton: How the FBI and the Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther* by Jeffrey Haas reviewed by Hans Bennett).

Next, readers will find a list of books received and a second host of articles wherein: Oseni Taiwo Afisi identifies the indispensable role the woman plays in the society in an attempt to address the sense of inequality which revolves around the concept of gender in contemporary African society; Maxwell Kadenge presents a qualitative analysis of some phonological processes involving vowels in Nambya, and describes Nambya phonological processes involving vowels such as vowel harmony, glide formation, vowel elision, and vowel coalescence; Moussa Sissoko and Rosemary Traoré look at the African perspective on U.S. race relations in the 1960s through the lens of *Jeune Afrique*, a major source of news for the African continent, particularly francophone Africa, and Munyaradzi Mawere question the purpose of human life as it is traditionally viewed by the *Shona* of Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

And finally, we have a host of announcements, which include the new Ph.D. program in Africology at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and a report on the United Nations announcement by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon regarding the announcement of songwriter and musician Stevie Wonder as United Nations' Messenger of Peace with a special focus on people with disabilities which includes photos of Mr. Wonder and a December 2009 interview of Mr. Wonder by Gerry Adams of UN Radio.

Enjoy your reading, and work to leave a legacy of dignity.

Itibari M. Zulu, Sr.
Senior Editor