

VOLUME 1, SEPTEMBER 2020



JAMBO AFRICA ONLINE

- Africa: Services. Products. Channels.

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Publisher's Comment



Jambo

Hello

Bonjour

Olá

To all our dearest readers and stakeholders.

Welcome to Jambo Africa Online, your first truly authentic pan-African news portal. This platform is aimed at celebrating economic success stories from African countries. We will be promoting packaged investment opportunities. We will also promote Africa's service and product brands as we continue to reap the benefits of the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) which will transform the entire continent into a free trade area.

We are a news portal created by Brandhill Africa (Pty) Ltd - a nation brand and public diplomacy agency. As an agency, this is about us:

* We BRAND products / companies / individuals (by conducting market research; developing & implementing brand strategies)

* We OPEN GLOBAL MARKET ACCESS for these brands (e.g. exporting)

* We RE/ENGINEER THE REPUTATION of

brands (products / companies/ countries/ individuals) that have gone through turbulent times

* We BRAND POSITION city regions / countries as viable destinations for tourism and investments.

Yes, we provide service offerings and not tangible products like "atjaar" and "magwinya"! as our detractors want us to believe that's all Africa's small and medium enterprises have to do. Yes, perhaps we should add, we do provide services to appropriately and effectively brand position "magwinya" and "atjaar" produced by our clients by differentiating them from the run-of-the-mill.

Unlike Bidvest, South Africa's international services, trading and distribution company now with a presence in four countries, that like many of us government procure services from, they are saved from derogatory label of "tenderpreneurship" with which we are painted black (no pun intended!). These naysayers forget that the name, Bidvest, is a portmanteau probably formulated from the words: Bid/Bidding and Investments/Investor. I may be wrong, but how does one explain the conceptualisation of this name without making sense of this?

Yes, we don't have the unqualified financial capital injection from the commercial banks that continued pouring billions of dollars into the loss making Google for nine years, without closing the tap. This financial support was consistently sustained until the company broke even and, furthermore, the capital injection continued to build it into one of today's most profitable behemoth it was made to become.

Here's the paradox about the celebration of Google's success. They glorify it while vilifying us for using Google's second known service: a gmail.com email. When our less

brand conscious clients employ this service, it creates doubt in their brand's reliability and the quality of their services and products. In short, it knocks their brand equity!

Yes these naysayers have selective memory. They conveniently forget Apple, the company which today is world's most valuable, and many prominent Silicon Valley resident companies started operating in garages.

So what is the capital resource at our disposal as Brandhill Africa (Pty) Ltd? THE HUMAN CAPITAL! The company is blessed with exceptionally talented professionals who are geared to make a difference. To this exceptional talent, one plus one don't equal two, BUT three.

Thomas Sankara referred to this kind of crop as endowed with the kind of "madness" that's driven by "non-conformity... the courage to invent the future!". The militant Egyptian goddess of the written word, Nawaal el Sadaawi, declared their "creativity starts with disobedience".

Steve Jobs, Apple's co-founder, concurred by calling this special crop of people as "the crazy ones" who "have no respect for the status quo" as "they push the human race forward". Harvard Business Review called such "a rebel talent!"

Jambo Africa Online will challenge ancient colonialist nuances about Africa and in a "new normal" put this continent where it belongs: the top! This was even acknowledged by the Time magazine as it declared in its cover headline: "Africa is rising!"

This team, dear readers, is inspired by, and embodies, these revolutionary texts! The impulse driving this team is that Brand Africa must go to New places physically and imaginatively.

The passion is fired by an insatiable desire to rewrite the long held colonial script on Africa. Brand Africa has always been under



siege from the 1885 Berlin conference on the "scramble for Africa". This was even compounded by Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" that dubbed Africa a dark continent and most recently in 2018, President Donald Trump labelled African countries and Haiti as "s**thole countries". This, sadly, means the onslaught persists.

According to Simon Anholt, who conceptualised the "Nation Brand Index" and now the "Good Country Index", brand Africa is under siege. He argues that people have known for centuries that a "Made in..." is just as powerful as a "Made by...". In line with this, Germany is known for its engineering, France for chic, Japan for miniturisation; Italy for flair; Sweden for design; Britain for class; Switzerland for precision; and Africa for famine, disease and terror.

This has to change, argues the Jambo Africa

Online team, and they are the crusaders for such a strategic intervention. The team therefore invited you to join this progressive movement.

This piece doesn't only launch this news portal, but it's the first in a series of articles which will propagate the brand re-engineering of Africa, her products and services, by increasing their affinity among her people and the global community of nations. Fellow Africans, Jambo Africa Online has a duty to provide narratives that are informative, explorative and unavoidable. Exploring Africa with us is, therefore (without being instructive), your duty.

We are inspired by Pliny the Elder's prophetic quote: "Ex-Africa semper aliquid novi." Indeed, out of Africa, something refreshing always comes out. We hope, dear reader, you will find this news portal intellectually refreshing and engaging.

We don't pretend to compete with anyone already in the media industry since our brand is differentiated from all as we're the first news portal dedicated solely to promoting Africa as a free trade area. So we envisage ourselves complementing and advancing what they're already doing.

It's for this reason that we are forging strategic partnerships with a number of companies - such as Len Kalane's PIE Digital Media (Pty) Ltd.

Words aren't adequate to express how grateful we are to you, our reader - the life blood of this news portal - to have set aside some time from your busy schedule, to join us on this journey.

Enjoy the ride.

Saul Molobi
Publisher

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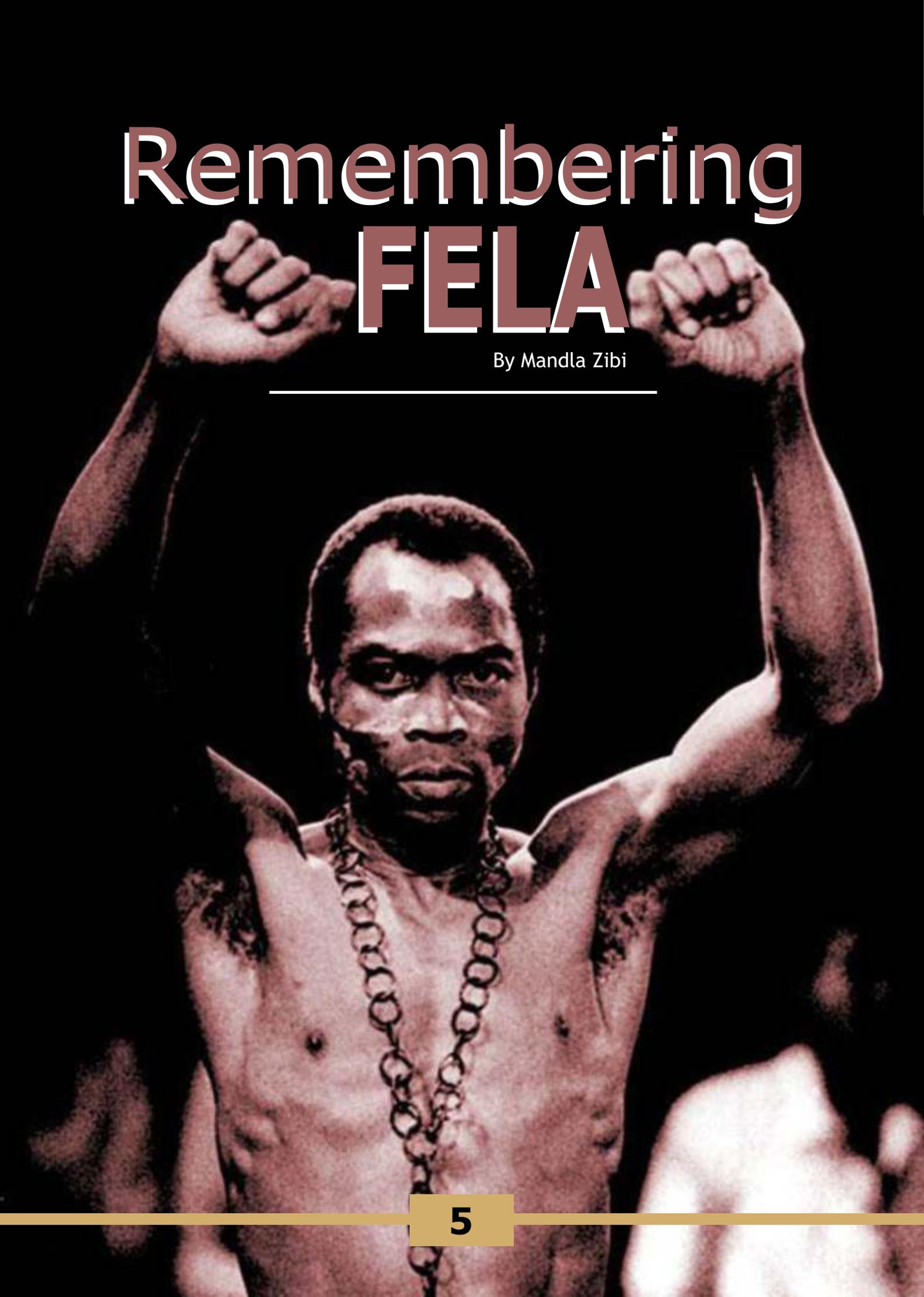
Brandhill Africa (Pty) Ltd

Corporate Social Investment:

Brandhill Africa Foundation NPC

Remembering **FELA**

By Mandla Zibi



He was the strange one, the weird one, he called himself 'Abami Edo'. His followers sometimes called him the Black President. He was once described as Bob Marley and Che Guevara rolled into one. But According to a prominent New York City museum director, for over thirty years, until 10 years ago, the "most important cultural figure in Africa in the past 100 years" was virtually unknown in America outside of the African-American community.

Which is not surprising, given the kind of artist Fela Anokulapo Kuti was, and the cultural/artistic ideas he espoused. Unlike Marley, his songs could last anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour, which rendered his music very radio unfriendly. Asked once by a Western journalist why he could not record a three-minute track, he replied that it was impossible for him. Anyway, he retorted, could anyone ask that of Beethoven?

The Guardian Newspapers's Peter Culshaw says in the 1980's Motown wanted to set up an African label and the company offered Fela a million-dollar deal. This despite his stubborn refusal to play old material, which would ensure that live audiences would never hear his hits. Writes Culshaw: "Rikki Stein, one of [Fela's] then managers, was hugely excited and flew to Lagos to discuss the deal. Stein says that Fela's response was to contact the spirits via his personal magician, Professor Hindu. The spirits refused to let him sign for another two years and Fela further insisted on only leasing his back catalogue." Stein goes on to say: "Even then, Motown went along with, but after two years, in April 1985, the very month that Fela was about to sign, the Motown guy got sacked and the deal was off."

Sir Paul McCartney, the Beatles megastar, was in Lagos in the late seventies and saw Fela on stage for the first time. It was the best thing he had ever seen. "When Fela and his band eventually began to play,

after a long, crazy build-up, I just couldn't stop weeping with joy. It was a very moving experience.'

McCartney then floated the idea of recording with some of Fela's musicians, but when Fela caught wind of this, he denounced McCartney from the stage for trying to steal black music.

Variouly called a musical visionary, rebel extraordinaire, pan-African revolutionary, polygamist, prodigious dope smoker and a slew of other epithets both good and bad, Fela in many ways was

hard to define. What is certain though is that Fela the inventor of Afrobeat (a potent brew of jazz, American funk and traditional Yoruba rhythm); when few were prepared to speak up for the downtrodden and dehumanized in late 20th century Nigeria, he threw all caution to the wind and called the monster by its true name, to its face. For that, he paid a heavy price: harassed, beaten and tortured by the authorities, he was jailed more than 200 times.

Fela was born Olufela Olusegun Oludotun Ransome-Kuti in 1938 in Abeokuta, a small town north of Lagos, the former capital. His family is described as upper middle class: his father was an Anglican priest, as was his grandfather. His mother was a celebrated feminist and aristocrat who had gone to the Soviet Union to receive the Lenin Peace Prize and also had met China's Chairman Mao. His two brothers were well known doctors in Nigeria. Fela was also first cousins with Wole Soyinka.

Sent to London in 1958 to study medicine, he decided to study music instead at Trinity College of Music, the trumpet being his favourite instrument. He formed the band Koola Lobitos and in 1963 patented Afrobeat, a fusion of highlife, funk, jazz, salsa, calypso and traditional Nigerian Yoruba music.

In 1969, Fela and his band spent 10 months in Los Angeles in the United States. While there, Fela discovered the Black Power movement through Sandra Smith (now Sandra Izsadore), a follower of the Black Panthers. The visit heavily influenced his political views, as well as his music, resulting in Fela renaming his band Nigeria '70.

Having attracted the attention of the US Immigration and Naturalization Service regarding the lack of work visas, Fela and his band had to beat a hasty retreat home, but not before recording the highly regarded "'69 Los Angeles Sessions".

Back home in Lagos, the band changed direction; love themes went out the window and hard social issues became the sole preoccupation. It was the beginning of an amazing transformation. Fela declared a Lagos suburban commune sovereign territory - in effect independent of the Nigerian state. He called it the Kalakuta Republic, essentially a recording studio, and a sprawling compound which became home to the band and its numerous hangers-on. He leased a well known hotel nightclub, named it Afro-Spot and later christened it the Afrika Shrine. It quickly became the ground zero of Fela's cult following in Nigeria and West Africa. Each newly leased nightclub (Fela kept moving around Lagos) became a place of pilgrimage for fans as well as a stage on which many international pop stars and other notables encountered Fela at his best.

It was at the Shrine that he also conducted his famous "Yabis"; consciousness-raising word-sound Yoruba traditional rituals, with himself as Chief Priest. Fela also gave himself a new name: "Anikulapo", meaning "He who carries death in his pouch". He was quoted as saying, "I will be the master of my own destiny and will decide when it is time for death to take me." He dropped the "Ransome" part of his surname asking, "Do I look like an English man?"

Scoring hit after hit, Fela quickly became not just another Nigerian music superstar but a political dissident and cultural phenomenon. His bitingly eloquent public diatribes against government corruption and incompetence, and his habit of naming names and mocking or insulting his victims in song proved too much for Nigeria's successive military strongmen. Starting in mid to late 1970's, raid after raid by the military rained on the Kalakuta Republic.

Following Fela's release of the hit album "Zombie" in 1977, which was a scathing attack on the military and its zombification of the soldiery and by extension, of society itself, the government struck. A thousand soldiers attacked the Kalakuta Republic, handing Fela a severe beating and throwing his elderly mother (whose house was located opposite the commune) out a high window. She later died from her injuries. The commune was burned, and Fela's studio, instruments, and master tapes were destroyed. The Shrine also suffered the same fate. Fela believed that had it not been for the intervention of a commanding officer, his death would have been a certainty.

The tragedy only made Fela stronger and more defiant. He led a march to a military barracks at which he symbolically condemned the then current dictator, General Olusegun Obasanjo by presenting his mother's coffin. Obasanjo is now one of Africa's elderly statesmen. (He was also Fela's former primary school classmate)

The following year saw Fela scandalising Nigeria by marrying 27 of his dancers, singers and composers at a single ceremony. Apparently it was to make them respectable, which was consistent with his progressive, if eccentric, agenda, as women entertainers generally had little

social status in Nigerian society.

He later divorced all of them, reportedly claiming that marriage causes jealousy and selfishness, and that no man had the right of ownership over a woman's body's natural

That same year Fela was deported from Ghana after rioting broke out during a concert in Accra, caused by the playing of the "Zombie" song by the band.

Despite the setbacks, Fela upped the ante by forming a political party, the Movement of the People (MOP), "to clean up society like a mop", under the banner of "Nkrumahism" and "Africanism".

The following year, 1979, as part of Nigeria's first elections for more than a decade, Fela put himself forward for President but his candidature was refused. By this time he was a full blown radical Africanist, having again created a new band called Egypt '80, embodying the idea that Egyptian civilization, knowledge, philosophy, mathematics, and religious systems were inherently black African and must be claimed as such. " I have to make Africans aware of the fact that Egyptian civilization belongs to the African. So that was the reason why I changed the name of my band to Egypt 80."

Throughout the 80's Fela continued making superb music while suffering the blows of brutal successive regimes brooking no opposition and indifferent to the misery of the poor and marginalised. He was seen as the only one who could defy power and speak truth to it. He was fearless.

Eventually, the beatings and jailings took their toll. By the early 90's Fela had noticeably slowed down his musical output. One of his last projects was the anti-apartheid "Beasts of No Nation" album. The cover showed U.S. President

Ronald Reagan, UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the then South African State President PW Botha as vampires, blood dripping from their fangs. The title reportedly derived from Botha's statement that "this uprising [against the apartheid system] will bring out the beast in us."

Whispers about Fela began surfacing, about a disease that he had contracted and for which he was refusing treatment. Some said it was AIDS, but others, including women he had been associated with, scotched the rumours. Ironically, Fela had been reported to have publicly declared HIV/AIDS as a white man's disease.

It was on 2 August 1997 that Nigeria and the world heard that Fela Kuti had died. To the end, Fela had refused to be tested to determine the cause of his weight loss and skin lesions. Following a family decision after Fela's passing, his brother, Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti, publicly disclosed the cause of death. It was an act which one commentator said "allowed Aids awareness in Nigeria to leave the dark ages'. In that sense, Fela's death paradoxically helped save a lot of lives.

More than a million mourners filled the streets of Lagos for the funeral. According to his son Femi Kuti: "For two days, people didn't do any work in Lagos! This is the first time in the history of Lagos they have not had a complaint of robbery, rape or anything. Because all the robbers, the bad boys, they loved him, you know? Everybody was busy at the funeral."

His other son Seun, who now helms his father's old Egypt 80 band, says Fela "was a gift, an inspiration to Africa. There will never be another like him. But things in Nigeria are even worse now, and however hard it is to live up to

his legacy, we have to carry on the fight for liberation and consciousness.

"There are a lot of things about Fela's life and work that are fascinating on a purely aesthetic level," said Michael Veal, a professor of ethnomusicology at Yale University and author of "Fela: The Life and Times of an African Musical Icon." '

"His music is great. He was a very charismatic performer. Visually he was very striking. But at the same time, while all this interesting aesthetic stuff is happening, you've got someone who has really put their life on the line to speak as a voice for the dispossessed and to dramatize the struggle of his society."

To read about the resuscitation of Fela Kuti's memory on the world stage, check out "FELA! On Broadway". This hit musical took the US by storm, winning three Tony Awards in 2010.



Towards a free trade area



By Francois Fouche, Trade Research Advisory

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement represents a major opportunity for countries to boost growth, reduce poverty, and broaden economic inclusion. Implementing AfCFTA would:*

- Lift 30 million Africans out of extreme poverty and boost the incomes of nearly 68 million others who live on less than \$5.50 a day;
- Boost Africa's income by \$450 billion by 2035 (a gain of 7 percent) while adding \$76 billion to the income of the rest of the world.
- Increase Africa's exports by \$560 billion, mostly in manufacturing.
- Spur larger wage gains for women (10.5 percent) than for men (9.9 percent).
- Boost wages for both skilled and unskilled workers—10.3 percent for

unskilled workers, and 9.8 percent for skilled workers.

Under AfCFTA, extreme poverty would decline across the continent—with the biggest improvements in countries with currently high poverty rates

- West Africa would see the biggest decline in the number of people living in extreme poverty—a decline of 12 million (more than a third of the total for all of Africa).
- Central Africa would see a decline of 9.3 million.
- Eastern Africa would see a decline of 4.8 million.
- Southern Africa would see a decline of 3.9 million.
- Countries with the highest initial poverty rates, would see the biggest declines in poverty rates.
- In Guinea-Bissau, the rate would decline

from 37.9 percent to 27.7 percent

- In Mali, the rate would decline from 14.4 percent to 6.8 percent.
- In Togo, it would decline from 24.1 percent to 16.9 percent.

Of the \$450 billion in income gains from AfCFTA, \$292 billion would come from stronger trade facilitation—measures to reduce red tape and simplify customs procedures.

- Tariff liberalization is important, but by itself it would boost the continent's income by just 0.2 percent.
- Adding trade facilitation to the mix—including measures to reduce red tape, simplify customs procedures, and make it easier for African businesses to integrate into global supply chains—would boost the income gains by \$292 billion.
- These gains will require major efforts by countries to reduce the burden on businesses and traders to cross borders, quickly, safely, and with minimal interference by officials.

The new report is designed to guide policymakers in implementing policies that can maximize the agreement's potential gains while minimizing risks.

- Creating a continent-wide market will require a determined effort to reduce all trade costs. In general, this will require

legislation and regulations to enable the free flow of goods, capital and information across borders; create competitive business environments that can boost productivity and investment; and promote increased foreign competition and foreign direct investment that can raise productivity and innovation by domestic firms.

- In a few sectors facing job losses, governments will need to be ready to support workers with adequate safety nets and policies to retrain workers.
- Governments will need to design policies to increase the readiness of their workforces to take advantage of new opportunities.

Achieving the gains from AfCFTA is especially important due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is expected to cause up to \$79 billion in output losses in Africa in 2020 alone.

- COVID-19 has caused major disruptions to trade across the continent, including in critical goods such as medical supplies and food.
- By increasing regional trade, lowering trade costs and streamlining border procedures, full implementation of AfCFTA would help African countries increase their resiliency in the face of future economic shocks and help usher in the kinds of deep reforms that are necessary to enhance long-term growth.



What does international data show into country competitiveness?

By Francois Fouche

When low-income economies achieve higher levels of economic efficiency, they tend to reduce the income gap with more developed ones.

A 2019 WB study quantified the relationship between the regulation of entry and the income gap between developing countries and the United States.

It shows that substantial barriers to entry in developing economies account for almost half of the income gap with the United States.

These barriers prevent growth and result in persistent poverty.

Encouragingly, the World Bank's 2019 study continues to show a steady convergence between developing and developed economies, especially in the area of business incorporation.

Since 2003, 178 economies have implemented 722 reforms captured by the starting a business indicator set, either reducing or eliminating barriers to entry.

In all, 106 economies eliminated or reduced minimum capital requirements, about 80 introduced or improved one-stop shops, and more than 160 simplified preregistration and registration formalities.

More remains to be done, however.



OUR CONTAINING COVID-19 SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

In helping to contain the spread of the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic, Brandhill Africa Foundation NPC, which is administered by Brandhill Africa (Pty) Ltd, partnered with the Mandla Mofokeng Foundation NPC in launching a popular social media poster campaign, “Spikiri: Nails It!”, that used veteran kwaito music star, Mandla “Spikiri” Mofokeng in narratives whose context was music lyrics and quotes by international musicians on their distressed state of mind during the lockdowns and he prescribing music as an antidote while practicing social distancing. He also used all-time catchphrases such as MC Hammer’s “Don’t touch this” to discourage hugging; and, touching/scratching of the mouth, nose and eyes.

By playing on his popular stage name, “Spikiri” (which means a “nail”), the campaign called on all his music fans - many young music revellers, who are enticed by the homegrown youthful kwaito, and those long term loyal fans who grew up with him from when he first stormed onto the National music stage over 30 years ago - to follow all the COVID-19 prevention protocols.

“We were privileged that while many musicians participated in sponsored initiatives,” said Tshepo Molobi, CEO of Brandhill Africa Foundation NPC, “Mandla generously allowed us to use his ‘Spikiri’ brand for free. This is



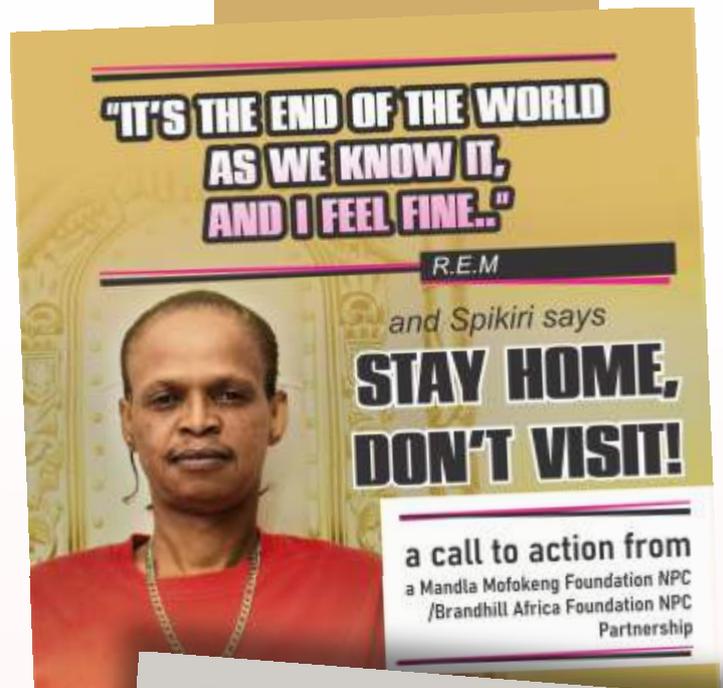
unheard of in the cutthroat showbiz industry particularly now when all the crowd-pulling public events have been banned by the lockdown regulations. He was a God-sent for us.”

The CEO of the Mandla Mofokeng Foundation NPC, Rushka Mofokeng, chipped in: “Although we knew the live performance music was to experience the financial cliff during the lockdown and as such the singer’s Annual Christmas in July concert series was to be canned this year, it wasn’t difficult to convince him to be the public face of this conscientious campaign as his love for the ordinary folks in townships and villages is unparalleled.”

Tshepo further explained the radio and television campaigns - recorded speeches, press releases and media briefings - often featuring political principals inadvertently suffer legitimacy among the intended stakeholders. This becomes worse when there are allegations of corruption leveled against politicians and senior government officials. "That's why we opted for a popular public face," she said matter-of-factly, "and someone that resonates with the ordinary publics. Better still, someone who's seen as not benefitting from this crisis. Yes, someone genuine!"

Brandhill Africa Foundation NPC's Director and Head: International Relations, Ofentse Nthite, outlined the creative context: "We decided to use the most universal language that people that transcends borders, cultures, languages, age and any other kind of stereotypes such as class, gender and racial make-up," she asserted after a thoughtful pause, "this is the language of MUSIC. This artform is celebrated throughout the world and it carries everyone's aspirations. Who's a better brand ambassador for such a campaign than Spikiri, 'a man of the people' to use Chinua Achebe's coinage. We knew the campaign will appeal to all - ordinary and celebrated."

The two NPCs knew the involvement of Dr Nomalanga Sibeko, the Project Custodian of a medical research fund established by Brandhill, would give credibility to the campaign in terms of messaging. "The phrases were short, punchy and straight to the point. As my patients include ordinary people, I'm always mindful of not imposing our messaging on them by even patronising them. We should them even celebrities are vulnerable and this pandemic was frustrating them. So it will take our collective effort to tackle this pandemic."



Brandhill Africa Foundation NPC's Deputy Chairperson (non-executive), Lebogang Nkadimeng, said glowingly: "As our traditional wisdom says, 'a woman holds a knife by its blade', it's no wonder that this campaign was undertaken by two institutions that are women-led. We intend doubling our effort as we intensify our struggle against this invincible enemy. Much as we have triumphed over many challenges before, this will also be defeated as we encourage our people to observe all the safety protocols as our scientists continue to develop a vaccine. We appeal to all conscientious corporates to partner with us!"

Indeed we appeal to companies to email tshepo.molobi@brandhillafrica.com to explore CSI partnerships.

The previous page shows a number of posters that donned the social media platforms.



And who is Mandla Mofokeng?

He started his career as a dancer in 1985, under the tutelage of South African musician Sello "Chicco" Twala. He later formed a disco group called MM De Luxe with friend M'du Masilela in 1988. This duo recorded two successful albums in 1989 and 1990 and introduced what came to be known as township kwaito today. His passion for music led him to enroll at Fuba Music School in 1991 to study engineering and piano.

In the 1990s he was producing music for the likes of Chimora, Kamazu, Senyaka and Fatty Boom Boom better known as Tsekeleke. Known for his unassuming demeanour, Mandla is a founder member of the seminal kwaito group Trompies, which has released a number of albums, some of which are regarded as classics of the genre.

He is also a founder member and co-director of the influential record label Kalawa Jazzmee, which has released many well-known kwaito artists, including Boom Shaka, Bongo Muffin, Alaska, B.O.P (Brothers of Peace), and Thebe. Currently he sits on the board of directors at Kalawa Jazzmee Recording company and is also one of the masterminds in the DCC (Dangerous Combination Crew) the production team of the company.

His recent contributions include successful records by Brothers of Peace, Thebe, Bongo Maffin, Alaska, Mafikizolo, Jakarumba, MaWillies and Tokollo and Kabelo' solo projects. Most recently, he was one of the award-winning Mafikizolo and Kabelo' producers. Mandla 'Spikiri's diverse music talents can be witnessed in projects in which he has worked with artists from other music genres, these include Don Laka, Moses Molelekwa, Bra Hugh Masikela, Vicky Vilakazi and Hashi Elimhlopheh.

World economy in decline

Francois Fouche reviews the “WTO global trade barometer” which was released on 19 Aug 2020

The current barometer reading of 84.5 is below the baseline value of 100 for the index.

This is also down from the same period last

year.

have begun to stabilise. Indices for electronic components (92.8) and agricultural raw materials (92.5) have held up relatively well, showing only modest declines.

World trade in 2020 is evolving in line with the less pessimistic of the two scenarios outlined in the WTO's April forecast.

The Goods Trade Barometer is designed to gauge momentum and identify turning points in world trade growth. Readings of 100 indicate growth in line with medium-term trends; readings greater than 100 suggest above-trend growth, while those below 100 indicate below-trend growth.

In normal times, the Goods Trade Barometer anticipates changes in the trajectory of world trade by a few months.

However, the sudden, unexpected nature of the COVID-19 crisis may have profoundly altered economic behaviour and patterns, reducing the predictive value of the standard set of indicators.

In this fast-changing environment, high-frequency (i.e. daily or weekly) statistics, made possible by advances in data processing and collection, may provide analysts with early signals of recovery in economic activity and trade.

Modest increases have already been recorded for several of these indicators related to trade, such as those tracking commercial flights and port calls by container ships. The same is true for indicators such as copper futures as well as a measure of sentiment in news reports about economic expectations.

How the COVID-19 lockdown impacted on the freight logistics

year.

The reading - the lowest on record in data going back to 2007, and on par with the nadir of the 2008 financial crisis - is broadly consistent with WTO statistics issued in June, which estimated an 18.5% decline in merchandise trade in Q2 2020 as compared to the same period last year.

All the barometer's component indices remain well below trend, with many registering historic lows, although some



Statistics South Africa has released statistics showing how the lockdown impacted the freight logistics during the second quarter of this year...

Freight transportation

The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown regulations since 27 March 2020 have had an extensive impact on economic activity. The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 20,0% in June 2020 compared with June 2019. The corresponding income decreased by 16,8% over the same period.

Income from freight transportation decreased by 26,8% in the second quarter of 2020 compared with the second quarter of 2019. The main contributors to this decrease were:

primary mining and quarrying products (-22,5% and contributing -8,3 percentage points);

'other' freight (-31,0% and contributing -5,6 percentage points).

basic metals and fabricated metal products (-71,4% and contributing -2,6 percentage points);

manufactured food, beverages and tobacco products (-20,6% and contributing -2,1 percentage points); and containers (-32,3% and contributing -1,7% percentage points).

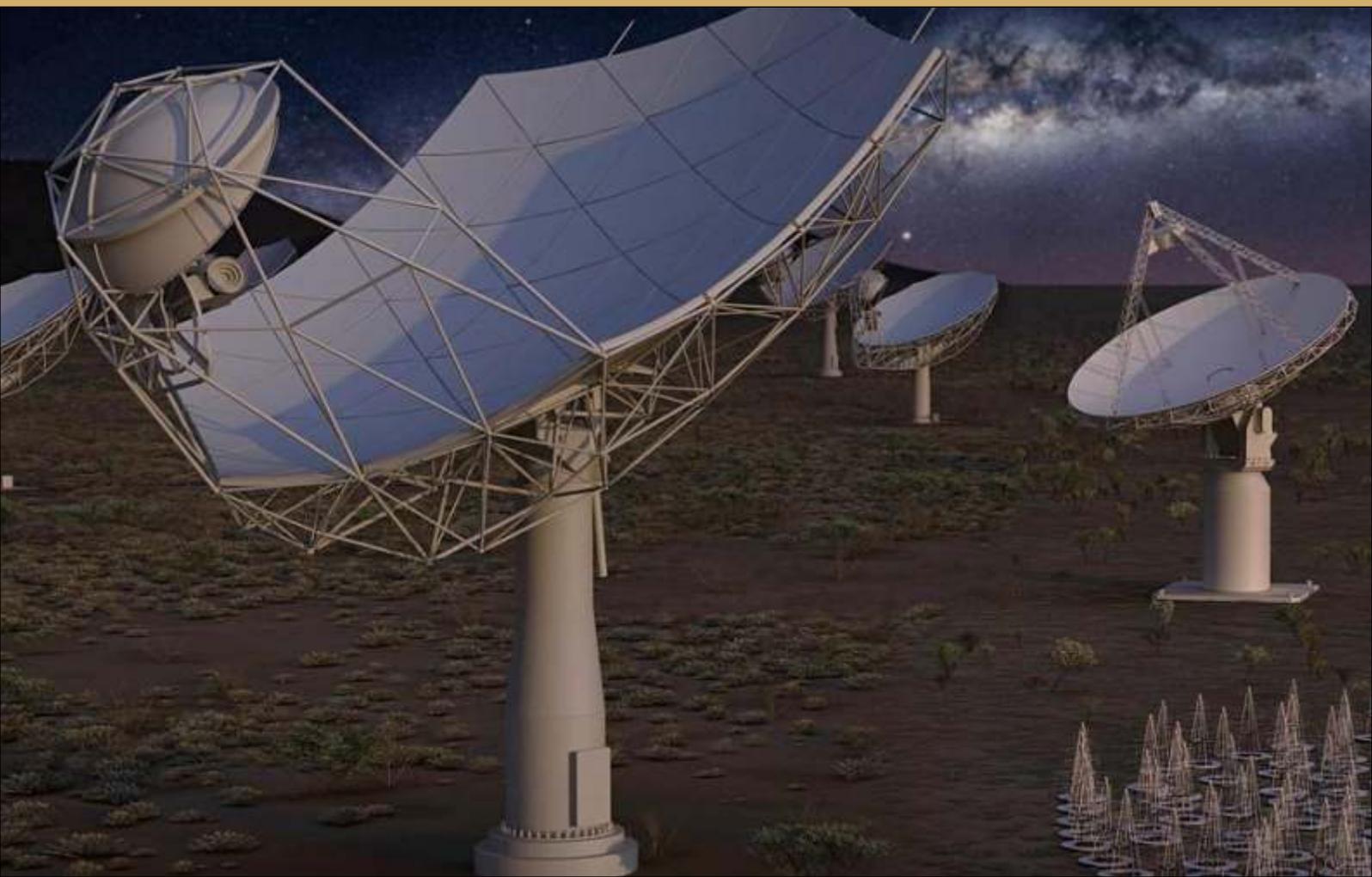
Seasonally adjusted payload decreased by 21,7% in the second quarter of 2020 compared with the first quarter of 2020.

Road freight decreased by 21,0% (contributing -15,9 percentage points) and rail freight decreased by 23,8% (contributing -5,8 percentage points).

Passenger transportation

The number of passenger journeys decreased by 63,1% in June 2020 compared with June 2019. The corresponding income decreased by 58,7% over the same period.

Seasonally adjusted passenger journeys decreased by 65,6% in the second quarter of 2020 compared with the first quarter of 2020. Road passenger journeys decreased by 53,5% (contributing -39,4 percentage points) and rail passenger journeys decreased by 99,2% (contributing -26,2 percentage points).





Join the experts as we discuss tracking the boom in green metals that are driving cleaner energy.

This webinar will examine platinum group metals used in hydrogen fuel cell technology and offer updates on cobalt supply for battery manufacturing.



When? Wednesday
9th September

Time? At 3pm (GMT+1)

Ghana unveils the head office of the AfCFTA Secretariat

The Statement by Secretary-General H.E. Wamkele Keabetswe Mene at the official commissioning and handing over of the AfCFTA Secretariat on 17 Aug 2020

On this occasion of the official commissioning and handing over of the AfCFTA Secretariat, let me express deep humility for having been elected by the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States & Government of the AU, to the position of the first Secretary-General of the AfCFTA Secretariat. A mission to be at the services of Africa, which I shall undertake with resolute determination.

Since the end of colonialism, the Republic of Ghana has been at the forefront of advancing efforts for the integration of Africa. Ghana's contribution to Pan-Africanism ensured that Pan-Africanism has a sound intellectual and philosophical foundation. It is therefore natural that as we take this significant step towards the integration of the market in Africa through the AfCFTA, Ghana continues to be at the vanguard of our efforts. On behalf of all Africans, I thank the government and the people of Ghana, for hosting the AfCFTA Secretariat and for providing world class facilities that will enable Africa to progress on the historic vision of achieving an integrated Africa.

The Republic of Ghana and the people of Ghana - at great sacrifice - made an unprecedented contribution to the fight to end colonialism in Africa and the defeat of Apartheid in South Africa. I was born and raised during a period when the depraved Apartheid regime was at its brutality. Through the Organisation of African Unity, which was inspired by the leadership of



H.E. Mr Wamkele Keabetswe Mene
Secretary-Général: AfCFTA

Ghana, the continent declared that Africa shall not be free until the people of South Africa are free from the shackles and bondage of Apartheid. The fact that a South African who was born and raised under Apartheid, is able to stand before you today, mandated by the Assembly of Heads of States of the AU to advance the imperatives of Pan-Africanism, truly is a remarkable testament to Ghana's long held principle that Africa shall not be free until the people of South Africa are free from the shackles and bondage of Apartheid.

Since the negotiations were launched in Johannesburg in 2015, remarkable progress has been achieved largely because of the political will and commitment of the Assembly of Heads of States & Government of the AU, to ensure that Africa takes concrete steps towards the creation of an integrated market. In this regard, I wish to pay tribute to the President of the Republic of Niger, H.E. President Mahamadou Issoufou, the Champion and Leader of the AfCFTA, for his unwavering



and dedicated leadership of the AfCFTA. Under his guidance and leadership as the Champion of the AfCFTA, Africa confounded critiques: 54 countries have signed the agreement and 28 countries have ratified it, making this fastest ratification in the history of the African Union.

Since my election in February 2020, H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat and his team, provided me with all the resources and support that I needed during the period that I was in Addis Ababa, waiting to transition to Accra. I thank him for his leadership and political support during this difficult time when it appeared that Covid-19 would obstruct our efforts. Through the leadership of the Chairperson of the Assembly - H.E. President Ramaphosa of South Africa - Africa was able to coordinate an effective public health, trade and debt

relief response to the Covid-19 crisis, thereby enabling the mitigation of the impact of the crisis.

I was here in Accra in 2012 as a senior trade official, when we adopted the Boosting Intra-Africa Trade Action Plan and the action plan for the AfCFTA negotiations, which were later adopted by the Assembly of Heads of States. In various capacities, Honourable Minister Kyerematen has been an integral part of our efforts to make the AfCFTA a reality. From when we commenced negotiations of the BIAT, to the time the AfCFTA entered into force, Honourable Minister Kyerematen has been a tireless contributor to regional integration and trade multilateralism in Africa. We should all appreciate the efforts that he made on behalf of Ghana, for the whole of Africa.

The AfCFTA offers Africa an opportunity to confront the significant trade and economic development challenges of our time:

market fragmentation;

smallness of national economies;

over reliance on the export of primary commodities;

narrow export base, caused by shallow manufacturing capacity;

lack of export specialisation;

under-developed industrial regional value chains; and

high regulatory and tariff barriers to intra-Africa trade amongst others.

The result of all of this, is a very low percentage of intra-Africa trade of 18%, and as noted, an over reliance on the export of primary commodities to traditional markets of the North. In other words, Africa continues to be trapped in a colonial economic model, which requires that we aggressively implement the AfCFTA as one of the tools for effecting a fundamental structural transformation of Africa's economy. We have to take action now, to dismantle this colonial economic model.

The AfCFTA is therefore a critical response to Africa's developmental challenges. It has the potential to enable Africa to significantly boost intra- Africa trade and to improve economies of scale through an integrated market. It has the potential to be a catalyst for industrial development, placing Africa on a path to exporting value-added products and improving Africa's competitiveness both in its own markets and globally. It also sends a strong signal to the international investor community that Africa is open for business, based on a single rule-book for trade and investment.

The AfCFTA signals that Africa is open for business and mutually beneficial investment thereby creating decent jobs and improving livelihoods:

we have a market of 1.2 billion people;

we have a combined GDP of US\$3.4 trillion;

Africa boasts over 400 African companies that earn annual revenues of US\$1 billion or more;

according Prof Landry Signé and Acha Leke, writing in 2019 in Foresight Africa, a Brookings Institute publication, African industries have the opportunity to double production to nearly \$1 trillion within a decade, with three-quarters of that growth coming from manufacturing to substitute third country imports and meet increasing local demand; and

through at least the first half of the decade, seven of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies were in Africa. According to the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database, October 2019.

This is a period of unprecedented challenge to the global economy and the multilateral trading system, on which the global economy is anchored. The multilateral trading system is under severe strain, largely due to what appears to be an abandonment of the rules that underpin it. This strain on the multilateral trading system has the risk of reversing the modest gains that we have made in placing development at the centre of the multilateral trading system, since we launched the Doha Development Agenda in 2001. Africa's response against this strain on the multilateral trading system must be to consolidate and advance our continental market integration objectives, through the AfCFTA. Under the leadership of President Issoufou as the AU Champion of the

AfCFTA, our collective priority should be to rapidly conclude Phase I and II of the negotiations of the AfCFTA, in order to unlock Africa's full productive capacity.

The ongoing Covid-19 crisis has ravaged global economic activity, has severely disrupted trade and global supply chains, and of course, has had a negative effect on global public health. Africa should not despair and fall into despondency - from a trade perspective, we should see this crisis as an opportunity - through the AfCFTA we have an opportunity to reconfigure our supply chains, to reduce reliance on others and to expedite the establishment of regional value chains that will boost intra-Africa trade and secure Africa's productive capacity for generations to come. In this connection, in the four months that I have been in office, I have already initiated and had very promising engagements with three of the world's largest automobile-manufacturers, with a view to the establishment of automobiles value chains across Africa. I intend to extend this type of an engagement to include other labour intensive sectors such as Agro-processing. In this endeavor, the AfCFTA Secretariat shall work with our sister department of Trade & Industry of the AUC, as well as with our partners such as UNECA and Afreximbank, to advance Africa's industrial development objectives.

We should be in no doubt, as much progress as we have made, there will be implementation related challenges ahead. Substantial domestic policy reforms and alignment of national legislation with the AfCFTA shall be required in order to reduce barriers to intra-Africa trade. Transshipment of goods from third countries that are outside of the AfCFTA zone will be a significant risk. The AfCFTA Secretariat will work closely with customs authorities to ensure that through robust implementation of the AfCFTA rules of origin regime, the prevention of transshipment is an absolute priority. The AfCFTA must create jobs, it must not

create job losses through transshipment of third country goods into the AfCFTA market.

As the Secretary-General, I am committed to ensuring that the AfCFTA is effectively implemented such that there is shared and inclusive economic growth.

The backlash against free trade and trade liberalisation that we have witnessed in recent years is not because trade liberalisation is intrinsically beneficial exclusively to a certain elite or to certain countries. Rather, the backlash is, in part, attributable to the unequal distribution of the benefits of international trade and a lack of shared and inclusive growth. The lesson for the AfCFTA from this backlash against trade liberalisation and the pursuit for freer international trade through the multilateral trading system (i.e. the World Trade Organisation) and through FTAs is that, beyond boosting trade flows, the question of equitable distribution of the gains of the AfCFTA must be at the centre of its implementation. If the AfCFTA is perceived to be benefiting only a handful of relatively industrialised countries in Africa such as my country South Africa, and a handful of African Multinational Corporations, it shall be rejected by Africans, and deservedly so.

In this regard, we should recall that the empowerment of women, young Africans and other disadvantaged segments of our society, is a central objective of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. We know from empirical evidence that women, young Africans and SMEs, confront significant challenges when attempting to benefit from trade agreements. I therefore intend to take concrete steps to ensure that women and young Africans are at the heart of implementation of the AfCFTA.

The AfCFTA must create opportunities for women in trade; amongst others, by lowering the gender wage gap. Young Africans are at the cutting edge of

technological innovation for digital trade and e-commerce. The AfCFTA has an obligation to establish a conducive environment to include young Africans in the implementation of the AfCFTA. In due course, I will announce specific measures that can be put in place to enable women, young Africans and SMEs, to benefit from the AfCFTA to achieve the objective of inclusive benefits of the AfCFTA and shared growth across the continent.

The global economy is on the brink of a new industrial revolution, driven by new-generation information technologies such as the Internet of Things, cloud computing, big data and data analytics, robotics and additive manufacturing. All of this presents challenges and opportunities for the AfCFTA.

The 4th Industrial Revolution is likely to impact on the AfCFTA in a manner that we have not fully contemplated. How is Africa preparing herself for the 4th Industrial Revolution, in the context of the AfCFTA? With the advent of additive manufacturing, what is the impact on industrialisation and job creation in Africa? How will the e-commerce and digital trade chapter of the AfCFTA position Africa to be a global player in cloud computing services, data processing and data storage?

All of these are questions that require forward looking intellectual rigour, including analysing how the future of trade and investment flows might change as a result of technological factors and the 4th

Industrial Revolution. Such forward looking intellectual rigour is critical in shedding light on the complex policy issues and strategic choices that will shape Africa's trade and investment prospects over the next 10-30 years.

The implementation phase of the AfCFTA coincides with the year of Silencing the Guns, providing an opportunity to focus on fast-tracking Africa's economic development objectives. Successful implementation of the AfCFTA shall further consolidate the gains that are foreseen in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and indeed shall take us a step closer to the Africa we want. A recent study by the World Bank estimates that where implemented properly, by 2035 the AfCFTA is set to lift 30 million Africans out of extreme poverty and 68 million from moderate poverty. The same study observes that the AfCFTA has the potential to increase intra- Africa trade by 81%, by the year 2035. As promising and hopeful as these projections are, as Africans and the AfCFTA Secretariat we shall have to take concrete steps to ensure that these promising projections do become a reality: amongst other actions, we shall have to expedite the implementation of trade facilitation measures that are foreseen in the AfCFTA Agreement in areas such as soft infrastructure at our borders. We shall have to support state parties who may experience short-term revenue losses due to implementation of the AfCFTA. In this regard, I am pleased to report to you that Afreximbank has committed to providing liquidity for an adjustment facility, which



will be aimed at supporting countries that experience short-term revenue losses. I am grateful to Prof Oramah, the President of Afreximbank, for mobilising resources of the bank for this adjustment facility and for being a strong supporter of the AfCFTA Secretariat.

During this time of Covid-19, whilst many developed countries are able to provide billions of dollars' worth of stimulus packages to re-inject growth and economic activity, very few countries in Africa have the fiscal policy and monetary policy space to provide similar stimulus packages. Therefore, aggressively implementing the AfCFTA has the potential to be Africa's economic recovery tool, boosting intra-Africa trade has the potential to contribute to Africa's economic recovery year on year, from 2021.

Africa has confounded critiques, standing on the shoulders of the great liberation struggle heroes of our continent, we dare not fail in this historic mission to integrate Africa.

I thank you.



TRANS KALAHARI CORRIDOR AUTHORITIES MULL COVID-19 TRADE DEVASTATION

By Mandla Zibi

In response to the havoc wreaked by the Covid-19 pandemic in the Trans Kalahari Corridor (TKC) - where delays at borders have devastated the haulage industry - the Trans Kalahari Corridor Secretariat (TKCS) last week held a stakeholder meeting to assess the situation.

"Some transport companies are winding up and others are barely staying afloat. The gains that Corridor Management Institutes (CMIs) like the Trans Kalahari Corridor Management Committee (TKCMC) had achieved in promoting efficiency on corridors have been eroded by Covid-19," said Leslie Mpfu: Executive Director of TKCS in a statement.

"The advent of the Covid-19 pandemic has had devastating consequences on national and regional economies. The comparative advantage of the region has severely been compromised with exports and imports seriously affected," Mpfu lamented.

The engagement brought together key stakeholders from the three TKC member states of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.

Mpfu said the main aim of the meeting was to bring together authorities and industry players to deliberate on the challenges Covid-19 has had on trade, transport and transit facilitation.

The gathering also discussed the effects of Covid-19 on the economy, and mitigating strategies were proposed. Participants also sought to understand how Covid-19 had affected new entrants into the industry, such as women, and how they could be assisted.



Leslie Mpfu: Executive Director of TKCS

According to the World Bank Biannual Africa's Pulse Report: "as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa will decline from 2.4% in 2019 to between -2.1% and -5.1% in 2020."

The TKC is a tripartite trans-boundary Corridor Management Institution that was established with a political and economic vision to pursue or contribute towards the deeper regional integration programs of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and NEPAD.

It is a road network spanning approximately 1900 kilometers across Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. It begins in the Gauteng Province, South Africa and continues to Lobatse and Kanye in Botswana, through Mamuno and Trans



Kalahari Border Posts, and through Gobabis, Windhoek and Okahandja in Namibia until the Port of Walvis Bay.

Walvis Bay on the Namibian coast strategically links to other Corridors in the sub-region, namely: Trans Kunene Corridor, Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi (Trans Caprivi) Corridor, Windhoek-Luanda Corridor and the Trans Oranje Corridor.

Road network linkages cut across these Corridors creating a strategic network.

The TKC also connects the ports of Walvis Bay with the Maputo Corridor, resulting in the Coast-to-Coast Corridor.

The Corridor is known for providing a short transport link across the entire breadth of the South African Sub-continent. Compared to the traditional routes via southern Namibia to South Africa's Gauteng, TKC cuts the distance by 400 kilometers, making it a more preferred route and providing cost effective logistical advantages to users



Afreximbank Does It Again

By Mandla Zibi

Africa's foremost multilateral trade finance institution, African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), is this year's winner of the Debt Deal of the Year Award. The bank was honoured at the 14th Annual African Banker Awards held in Cairo last week. The awards recognize institutions and individuals driving growth and development in Africa by creating new economic opportunities for citizens and communities across the continent.

Receiving the award on behalf of the bank, Amr Kamel, Afreximbank's Executive Vice President for Business Development and Corporate Banking, said the Bank of Industry deal was a major step on the path to a strong and resilient African economy.

"Afreximbank is honoured to receive this award. We remain committed to being a significant player in the African syndicated loan market and continuing to attract capital to the African continent. These funds can help close the continent's trade and infrastructure gaps and unlock the potential of an African economy driven by diverse industries, regional integration and shared prosperity," he added.

Last year, at the same African Banker Awards, Afreximbank walked away with the prestigious African Bank of the Year gong.

This year Afreximbank got the nod for a EUR 1 billion syndicated senior loan facility arranged with Credit Suisse for Nigeria's Bank of Industry. The funds have supported the Bank of Industry's work in expanding, diversifying and modernizing Nigeria's industrial sector.



Amr Kamel
Afreximbank's Executive Vice President
for Business Development and Corporate Banking

Having originally been sized at EUR 750 million, the debt raising was successfully upsized to EUR 1 billion through a general syndication that secured liquidity from over 20 investors.

Afreximbank played an integral role in attracting the wide diversity of investors ranging from African and non-African banks and financial institutions as well as development finance institutions.

The bank was established in October 1993 and is variously owned by African governments, the African Development Bank and other African multilateral financial institutions as well as African and non-African public and private investors.

Afreximbank deploys innovative structures

to deliver financing solutions that support the structural transformation of African trade. These accelerate industrialization and intra-regional trade, thereby sustaining economic expansion in Africa.

At the end of 2019, the Bank's total assets and guarantees stood at USD\$15.5 billion and its shareholders' funds amounted to

US\$2.8 billion.

Afreximbank disbursed more than US\$31 billion between 2016 and 2019. The bank has ratings assigned by GCR (international scale) (A-), Moody's (Baa1) and Fitch (BBB-). It is headquartered in Cairo, Egypt.



THE PREMIER CONTINENTAL FUND

boosts the regional anti-COVID 19 effort in East Africa.

By Mandla Zibi

African Development Fund has approved \$9.52 million for COVID-19 response in East and Horn of Africa and the Comoros.

The Board of Directors of the African Development Fund (ADF) have approved grants totaling \$9.52 million to strengthen responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in East Africa and the Horn, as well as the Comoros.

The grant, approved on 26 June, is part of the \$10 billion COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility (CRF) approved by the Board of Directors earlier this year. The funding complements the African Development Bank's direct support to regional member countries across the continent.

The beneficiaries are Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The money will also aid in the procurement of essential medical supplies, including testing kits and the training of health workers.

"The overall objective is to reduce the incidence and mortality in the Eastern African region due to COVID-19 pandemic and other disease outbreaks," said Martha Phiri: Director for Human and Social Development

The East African Community's (EAC) Secretariat will receive \$8.79 million in tranches of \$8.16 million and \$629,582 while \$729, 581 will go to IGAD(?). (The amounts/ info not clear)

The World Health Organization will be the implementing agency for the emergency response activities in the EAC and IGAD member states, including the Comoros, while the RECs will be directly responsible

for executing the cross-border interventions.

Countries in Eastern and the Horn of Africa are enforcing stringent border measures to mitigate the cross-border transmissions that have led to disruptions in the movement of people, trade flows and access to essential goods.

The project will therefore tackle these challenges by improving testing and the capacity for case detection at border crossings. It is expected to improve regional coordination as well.

The initiative will also support EAC and IGAD to roll out regional COVID-19 digital tracking systems to facilitate cross-border surveillance. This will make the regional bodies better prepared to counter cross-border transmissions during future pandemics.

The grants align with the Bank's High 5 priority commitments, specifically the improvement of African lives, and the advancement of regional integration. The financing also strongly aligns with the Eastern Africa Regional Strategy Paper, which calls for enhanced cooperation in managing regional public goods.

As of 28 June, the total confirmed cases in the 11 mainland countries of the region stood at 42,000, while the island nation of Comoros reported 265 cases out of a population of 800,000.





3 - 6 February 2021, Cape Town, South Africa

By Mandla Zibi

Following discussions with their South African partners and key mining stakeholders, organisers of the acclaimed Investing in African Mining Indaba have changed next year's conference dates from the second week of February to the first week of the month: 1-4 February 2021.

In a statement on the conference website, the Director of Sales, Fred Noce, said: "We were presented with an opportunity to move the event forward to the first week of February, thereby ensuring that the timing of the 2021 edition remains consistent with previous years.

"We believe that hosting the event on its usual dates will help our stakeholders with strategic business planning, enable us to deliver another strong edition by maximising attendance, and provide a platform for the industry to meet, reconnect and set the agenda for 2021."

He reassured would-be attendees that the show will be held in accordance with government's latest health and safety protocols. Noce also confirmed that the conference would be taking place alongside Africa Oil Week, which he called "our sister event."

Investing in African Mining Indaba is the world's largest mining investment conference and the largest mining event in Africa, and as usual next year's event boasts an impressive lineup of distinguished speakers.

They include the president of Sierra Leone, Julius Maada Bio; the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkam; the South African Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe; the Chief Executive of Anglo American, Mark Cutifani; and the Chief Executive Officer of Energy and Minerals at Rio Tinto, Bold Bataar.



Solely dedicated to the successful capitalisation and development of mining interests in Africa, the Mining Indaba has become a key annual event on the international mining calendar, and a huge drawcard for the City of Cape Town.

The Indaba unites investors, mining companies, governments and other stakeholders from around the world to learn from each other and to network towards the single goal of advancing mining on the continent.

The showcase is an opportunity to meet with top investors, mining companies and other firms involved in the deal-making process, such as banks and investment brokers, all under one roof.

It is also the only platform where mining company COOs and Project Directors discuss the latest disruptive tech and innovative investment strategies.

The Indaba's panels and workshops bring together key stakeholders amongst whom is forged a common vision for a sustainable African mining industry.

Back again at next year's Indaba is the "Investment Battlefield", a platform for Africa's hottest emerging mining companies to elevate their profiles by way of pitching their projects to a panel of judges and investors.

"Pitch your project with even more investors watching around the globe. This year the Investment Battlefield rounds will be hosted online with the final taking place live at Mining Indaba," says a statement on the Indaba website.

"Make it to the final and your pitch could be streamed live on CNBC Africa just like this year's finalists. It's the perfect opportunity to increase your chances of securing funding, you won't get this kind of exposure anywhere else."

The competition offers several positive spin-offs for winners, including:

- * new connections with high-profile investors.
- * direct instant feedback from the investor judges about how you can maximise your appeal to attract funding.
- * international media coverage
- * winners receive a free exhibition stand and tickets to the following year's Mining Indaba.

As part of the build up to its opening in February, the Mining Indaba has scheduled two webinars on relevant mining topics. The first one, titled "Driving the Future: How will supply & demand for fuel cell and battery materials develop?" will be held on 9 September 2020 at 3pm.

The speakers will include Andrew Wilson, the ESG Investments Director at the

Aberdeen Standard Investments.

Also in the panel will be:

- * Colin Hamilton, Managing Director; Commodities Research, BMO Capital Markets.
- * Jorgen Sandstrom, Head of Mining and Metals Industry, World Economic Forum.

Some of the issues up for discussion are; the source of the demand for fuel cell and battery materials, and whether has COVID-19 reshaped the demand and supply of green metals; the major supply chain challenges for mining companies; bulls vs bears – how investors forecast prices for green metals, and other questions.

Another webinar will be held Wednesday 14th October 2020 at 3pm (GMT+1). That one is titled "How can Africa benefit from an increasing demand while managing the mining sector in a sustainable manner?"



President of the African Development Bank Group re-elected for another term

By Mandla Zibi

Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina is a distinguished development economist and agricultural development expert with 25 years of international experience, Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina, 60, is the first Nigerian to serve as President of the African Development Bank Group.

He is the 8th President of the prestigious institution, having been elected to the position on May 28, 2015 by the Bank's Board of Governors at its Annual Meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Based at the Bank's headquarters in Abidjan, he began his five year tenure on September 1, 2015.

The former Nigerian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (2011 - 2015) is well known for his bold policy reforms in the fertilizer sector as well as his innovative agricultural investment programs aimed at expanding private sector opportunities.

Before that Adesina had been Vice-President (Policy and Partnerships) of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). He also did a ten year stint as



Associate Director (Food Security) at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, where he worked in senior leadership positions, including Regional Office Director and Representative for Southern Africa.

Adesina has also been Principal Economist and Social Science Research Coordinator for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA); Principal Economist and Coordinator of the West Africa Rice Economics Task Force at the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA); and an Assistant Principal Economist at the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid





Tropics (ICRISAT). From 2008 to 2010, he was the President of the African Association of Agricultural Economists.

Adesina has received a number of global awards for his leadership and work in agriculture. In 2010, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed him as one of 17 global leaders to spearhead the Millennium Development Goals, along with Bill Gates, the Spanish Prime Minister and the President of Rwanda. He was named Person of the Year by Forbes Africa magazine in 2013.

Adesina earned a first-class honours Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Ife, Nigeria in 1981. In 1988 he completed a PhD in Agricultural Economics at Purdue University in the United States, where he won the Outstanding PhD Thesis Award for his researchers work. He also won the prestigious Rockefeller Foundation Social Science Post-Doctoral Fellowship in 1988, which launched his international career in global agricultural development.

Adesina speaks fluent French and English.

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