AfriHeritage Newsletter

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2018 Annual Governance Conference on
The Political Economy of Migration in Africa

African Heritage Institution Canvasses for Transformative Leadership in Nigeria

AfriHeritage holds Training Workshop for University Lecturers

June 2018 Big Ideas Podium

TtT Workshop, May 2018
 Researchers, scholars, and experts have posited that migrants and migrant activities can boost social and economic activities of a community or country, provided such migrants engage in meaningfully productive activities that can prompt a rise in demand and supply and other commercial engagements within a given period of time. This was the consensus submission of participants at the 2018 Annual Governance Conference organized by the African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage), Enugu which held last week. In his keynote presentation at the Conference titled: “An Overview of Political Migration in Nigeria”, Professor Aja Akpuru-Aja, a former directing staff of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), now of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Abia State University, Uturu, traced the origin of migration to the pre-colonial era. He referred to the movement of the European colonialist to Africa as a form of migration. According to him, this important topic of migration has received very little academic attention especially in the universities in the form of academic subject/course of study over the years but commended AfriHeritage for bringing it up for scholarly research. According to him, a myriad of issues has propelled a rise in global migration, they include: climate change which has displaced many people thereby leading to forced migration; brain decay – those who obviously have capacity but have been disconnected by society, perhaps, due to nepotism, etc. increasing value of remittances; higher skill value of those in diaspora. As a policy option, he posited that Africa should hold a regional conference on migration, he also said in order to discourage illegal migration which is presently on the rise, various factors that have induced illegal and desperate migration should be addressed. “Immigration has come to stay, we can only learn to manage it”, he said. Earlier in his welcome remarks, the Executive Director of AfriHeritage, Professor Okeke-Uzodike decried a situation whereby migrants are being maligned by many governments and population groups in Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas. According to him, “to be a migrant in some countries appears to have become a virtual curse! “Yet, we are all either migrants or descendants of migrants – all of us! It is either that your forebears migrated from somewhere thousands of years ago, hundreds of years ago, or merely decades ago” “I wish to underscore that those persons who live or work in cities or countries that they are not native to are migrants. So, migration is not about moving outside your native country. If you live or work in Abuja, Enugu, or Lagos but you are actually native to some other place, you are a migrant”. Professor Okeke-Uzodike also observed that there is overwhelming evidence that, “on balance, societies that accept or tolerate migrants are far more progressive and prosperous than those that shun or are hostile to migrants. This is because immigrants often bring needed skills or labour and boost local economic growth. In countries such as the United States, migrants are among the most important sources of economic and social dynamism and progress. For instance, America’s Silicon Valley is dominated today by the start-ups of migrants – Google, Yahoo, Amazon, etc” he says. He further says that unfortunately, although migration boosts social and economic vibrancy and development, migrants are often used as political pawns by populist politicians who take advantage of the fact that their contributions to the wellbeing of their new communities are not readily visible. According to him, “various claims -- taking jobs or wives/girlfriends from locals; burdening taxpayers;
threatening indigenous cultures; engagement in criminal acts – are used to engender racism/ethnicity, xenophobic hatred, and conflict against migrants”. He said papers from the conference will be collated and translated into policy briefs and recommendations for state action.

The conference was attended by scholars and from South Africa, Republic of Cameroon, Ghana, and Nigeria etc. Papers on different aspects of migration – security; returnee/refugee management, welfare, and rehabilitation; immigration; etc. were presented at the conference.

Cross-section of Participants at the Annual Governance Conference

AFRIHERITAGE CANVASSES FOR TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP IN NIGERIA

Participants at the quarterly public policy engagement and debate program of the African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage), the Big Ideas Podium have made a strong case for transformative leadership in every sphere of national life as the only option to pull the Country out of the woods. The event which held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, in Enugu
attracted a large pool of professionals from all walks of life – the academia, the Bar, Labour, organized private sector, public sector, the media, etc.

In his keynote speech titled: Building Transformative Leadership for Nigeria, the guest speaker, Dr Otive Igbuzor, a foremost leadership development expert, who was the Country Director for the British aid agency- DFID; but now Executive Director of the African Centre for Leadership, Strategy & Development (Centre LSD), Abuja, stressed that it has been documented that the progress, development and fortunes of many nations are tied to the type and quality of the political leadership that they have had and continue to have. He agreed with the legendary writer of blessed memory – Chinua Achebe that the trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership; that there is nothing basically wrong with the Nigerian Character; that there is nothing wrong with the Nigerian land or climate or water or air or anything else.

According to the leadership development expert, there is a twin paradox pervading the Nigerian situation – one, there is the recognition that Leadership is crucial for the development of organisations and nations and that leaders can be trained; two, there are abundant human resources to produce excellent leaders in Nigeria; however, it is regrettable that despite these unambiguous facts about our country, “there is no systematic way for developing leaders for governance, business and civil society in Nigeria. Therefore, one big idea that can push Nigeria forward is to build transformative leadership; besides that, there are very few organisations especially in Africa dedicated to building transformative leadership”
The Big Ideas Podium guest speaker believes that ‘leaders are ordinary people who accept or are placed under extraordinary circumstances that bring forth their latent potential, producing a character that inspires the confidence and trust of others’.

“There is therefore an imperative for government at all levels, the business community and civil society to develop a strategy for building transformative leaders and operationalize the strategy with emphasis on supporting training programmes; mentoring; inter-generational dialogue; youth development and a more nuanced leadership selection process”, he posits.

Speaking further, he said,

“the goal of transformational leadership is to ‘transform’ people and organisations in a literal sense – to change them in mind and heart; enlarge vision, insight, and understanding; clarify purposes; make behaviour congruent with beliefs, principles, or values; and bring about changes that are permanent, self-perpetuating, and momentum building”

Earlier in his welcome remarks, the Executive Director of AfriHeritage, Professor Ufo Okeke-Uzodike, said the subject of the day’s keynote speech – leadership – is the base issue for Nigeria as it is for all countries. Leadership is so important that nothing else compares, it serves as a catalyst for cathartic change, social integration, and transformative development.

He believes the country’s leadership has a responsibility to explain to the people why average citizens are getting poorer, less secure (physically and economically), living shorter lives, dying in our hospitals of manageable diseases or routine diseases/ailments, and generally less happy while those in leadership positions are gloriously spared of the same problems.

In their contribution, the two lead paper, the discussants – Stella Okunna, a professor of mass communication and Dean of the faculty of Social Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University (NAU), Awka; and Professor Aja Akpuru-Aja a former directing staff of the National Institute for policy and Strategic Studies, Kuuru, near Jos, all agreed with the keynote speaker that building a transformative leadership for the country was the viable way to go, but concluded that Nigeria must come up with a clear-cut youth development strategy in order as a way of laying a good foundation for transformative leadership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human Development Index rank (2014)</th>
<th>152</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Headcount Ratio $1.25 per day (2011)</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Expectancy at birth (2016)</td>
<td>55.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) (2016)</td>
<td>34.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000 live births) (2016)</td>
<td>814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births attended by skilled health staff</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Rate among adults (over 15yrs)</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2018, Nigeria is one of the poorest countries in the world. In fact, in some respects as shown by some key indicators, Nigeria remains one of the least developed countries in the world”:
The June 2018 edition of the Big Ideas Podium was anchored on the theme: ‘Building Transformative Leadership for Nigeria’. The presentations and much of the discussions focused on the complexities of leadership in Nigeria, and how to build a purposive, people-oriented and transformative leadership in the country.

Observations

* The African continent, and indeed Nigeria, is facing problems at almost all levels of leadership and in almost all strata of society.
* Leadership remains a recognized and most important variable that either improves or undermines the development of any nation, organization or institution.
* The leadership of any organization or country determines its success or failure. Thus, leadership failure in Nigeria has led to the failure of the country in many areas.
* The effect of bad leadership is evidenced in many areas of the nation’s key indicators, ranging from increased rate of maternal and infant mortality to reduced life expectancy.
* The scourge of bad leadership is felt everywhere in Nigeria and has become so commonplace that it is becoming normalized.
* The lack of positive influence by the nation’s leadership has rendered them increasingly irrelevant to citizens with respect to finding meaningful solutions to national problems.
* Most importantly, the tenets of transformative leadership have not been imbibed by the leadership in Nigeria.
* Leadership is a combination of skills and strategies; transformative results entail effective and innovative engagement of both variables. This is lacking in the leadership of Nigeria and most African countries.
* From theory to practice, there is a framework to develop leaders. Leaders are born and made. Born leaders possess inherent leadership qualities, while made leaders are prepared for leadership through training.
* There is a complete absence of effective framework or mechanism for the training and development of leaders in Nigeria.
* Most Nigerian leaders lack distinguishing skills necessary for good leadership usually acquired through training and skills development programs.
* There is no serious concerted effort towards either ensuring the attitudinal transformation of potential leaders or instilling positive transformative traits in pre-existing leadership system/culture of the country -- thereby, creating a huge void in the country with respect to people that are effectively equipped to lead.
* The above is evidenced by the strong disconnection between transformational leaders as agents of transformative change and implementation, and leadership without vision in the country’s leadership environment.
* Nigerian leaders are protected and shield-
ed from punishment for bad leadership while still in office; the institutions are weak and serve the interests of a few. Given this, therefore, there is no effective implementation of laws and regulation against bad leadership for defaulters.

* There is neither any youth development and empowerment programme or framework existing in the country, nor is there any recognized strategy or plan for the development of the youths.

* Gender is not properly recognized within the current leadership arrangement; leadership strengths of women are not comprehensively exploited for public positions.

Recommendations

⇒ Enthronement of transformative leadership in Nigeria starts with: changing the attitude of leaders and potential leaders by broadening their mindset through training and skills development; and ensuring not only that they understand the requisites for leadership but also that adopt them to solve national problems.

⇒ Thus, there is a need for the country to establish leadership training schools and institutions where potential leaders are trained, groomed, developed, and equipped for effective leadership if Nigeria anticipates benefiting from the dividends of transformative leadership.

⇒ Nigeria should develop and implement leadership training framework stipulating processes of impacting or inculcating the traits of transformative leadership in both subsisting and potential leaders of the country.

⇒ This framework should be adopted and used in establishing training schools and institutions as leadership training guide targeted at creating/nurturing positive leadership. This will promote attitudinal conditioning or reorientation/change, which will eliminate negative tendencies towards bad leadership in the country.

⇒ In addition to training as a tool for producing transformative leadership, stringent punishment for defaulters is important. Promulgating laws to regulate and guard against lack-luster leadership is recommended. The essence will be to get leaders to account for bad leadership even while they are still in office.

⇒ The ‘immunity clause’ should be expunged from the Constitution of Nigeria.

⇒ Institutions and regulatory agencies guiding the conduct of the leadership of various public and private organizations and institutions in the country should be strengthened to ensure that they are not just statutory; or, worse, tools of intimidation and harassment of political opponents by those in government. Therefore, they should be granted term-based absolute autonomy to discourage biased adjudication.

⇒ The entire process of political appointments into key public positions should be reviewed to ensure that credible leaders are elected or appointed as prescribed by the extant laws, across the country.

⇒ The country should develop a National Youth Development Plan to prepare and empower the youths for future transformative leadership of the country. This should be done through a long and short-term strategy targeted at attitudinal reorientation of the youths to guarantee future transformative leadership.
Concerted and conscious efforts should be made to integrate the female gender fully into the leadership of the country.

A constitutionally-guaranteed quota system should be put in place to ensure that women are involved in the leadership of the country.

Frontline not-for-profit organization and think-tank, African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage) is organizing a one-week training program for University Lecturers called “Train the Trainers” (TTT) Workshop; it will be in the area of Econometrics for Policy Analysis, beginning from Monday 21st through Friday, 25th May, 2018.

The training workshop which will take place at the office complex of the research Institution in Independence Layout, Enugu, is aimed at intellectually equipping lecturers in the various institutions of higher learning - the universities, with skills that will assist them to do their work. It is an up-to-date capacity building meant to improve the
knowledge of these lecturers in the area of Econometrics and Policy Analysis, to enable them to make a more meaningful impact in their students.

In a press release signed by the Executive Director of AfriHeritage, Professor Okeke-Uzodike, the course is funded and the participants are not paying for it. “It is AfriHeritage's Corporate Social Responsibility and a way of giving back to the society. This is because as a think-tank and an intellectually based institution, improving the quality of products of our universities is of utmost concern to us, hence the decision to train their trainers”.

According to Professor Okeke-Uzodike, participants are expected from the Economics and Agricultural Economics departments of Universities across the country, these include federal, state and private. As at the last count, a total of thirty universities have sent in their nominees and more are still being expected.

The Executive Director also said recently, AfriHeritage held its intermittent program, the **Big Ideas Podium** which theme centred on the need to adequately develop higher education in Nigeria to enable graduates of Nigerian tertiary institutions to be employable not just in Nigeria, but globally. “The outcome of that public policy analysis and interactive program (the BIP) was great and one of the observations was that lecturers and those who teach the students must be up-to-date on their own knowledge.

Throwing more light on the workshop, the coordinator of the program, Dr. Nathaniel Urama said the resource persons include Dr. Afeez, who is a senior research fellow at the Center for Econometrics and Allied Research, University of Ibadan; and Dr. Urama, himself who is the Director of Applied Economics Research, AfriHeritage. According to him, Economics is a dynamic subject that has gradually moved away from theoretical and graphical method to qualitative models and approach, and most of our professors are only grounded in the former method, there is therefore need to update the knowledge of the lecturers on the current issues.
The African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage), in the Month of May, 2018 played host to an international assessor, Dr Sy Mohamadou from Senegal who was on Institutional Assessment assignment by the International Development and Research Center (IDRC), Canada. His task was in line with the TTI Leadership, Management and Governance Support for Think-Tanks in the Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Mohamadou who arrived AfriHeritage on Tuesday 26th May, 2018, had a good interaction with the Board, Management and Staff of the Institution as expected. The Think Tank Initiative (TTI) is a multi-donor program dedicated to strengthening independent policy research institutions – or “think tanks” – in developing countries. Launched in 2008, the Initiative supports a group of 48 social and economic policy research organizations in undertaking independent, objective and high-quality research that informs and influences policy directions in governance, economy, politics, etc. in their respective countries. Addressing Management and Staff respectively at the course of the assessment, Dr Mohamadou said the essence of the Institutional Assessment exercise by an external consultant was to enable the TTI proposals review team determine the Institution’s strengths, potential and areas of improvement, specifically with regard to organizational performance. He commended AfriHeritage for developing innovative policy influence and public engagement programs like the Big Ideas program.

Earlier, the Executive Director of the African Heritage Institution, Professor Ufo Okeke-Uzodike welcomed Dr Sy Mohamadou to the Institution and pledged the cooperation of Management and Staff of the Institution to make his work easier.
The entire academic ambient of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, was agog on Thursday 26th April, 2018; the occasion was the 133rd Inaugural Lecture of the University, delivered by the erudite scholar and international development economist, Professor Osita Ogbu, who is the current director, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), of the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus (UNEC). Perhaps, the excitement and interest generated by this intellectual masterpiece began with a high voltage of curiosity and expectation by his audience as everyone was eager to hear the speaker tell them who are so poor and why are they so poor.

The profundity of Osita Ogbu’s scholarly presentation kicked off with an impressive citation which aptly captured his academic, professional and managerial journey so far on mother earth.

Reminiscent of an experienced mastery in African literature, Professor Ogbu first wetted the academic and socio-economic appetite of his audience by taking them through the origination and inspiration of title of his lecture – *Why are They So Poor*.

From the opening paragraphs of the lecture, one would immediately understand the school of thought the lecturer belongs to – the “welfarist-economists’ school.” *Why are They so Poor* examines the typical Nigerian cum African society and tries to unravel the root causes of extreme poverty and socio-economic deprivation that have and are still ravaging it for some decades now. It critically analysis the various economic, social and political policies of successive governments, tracing from it from the days of the famous Structural Adjustment Program (SAP), its failures and subsequent impact on the economy to the various economic/development rolling plans of the various administrations in the current democratic era.

According to Professor Ogbu, poverty has continued to raze the country because “the growing dependent population would affect domestic capital accumulation; without a counter-balancing rise in real foreign direct investment in the right sectors, poverty would worsen”.

In his submission, the economist posited that in order to ensure eradication of poverty, new answers must be sought out of economics theories. He cited transformative leadership as one of such answers. Drawing richly from Lee Kuan Yew’s experience, Professor Ogbu makes a strong case for transformational leadership in the development of a country. He says leadership is not about position or rank, but having the attributes, the competence, the courage and the audacity to dream, vision, create shared vision, plan and execute diligently to create positive change for the benefit of the majority. there are new dimensions to the measurement of poverty and these include insecurity, terrorism, national integration, etc.

In conclusion, the erudite scholar posits that though he may not have substantially answered the mind-bugling question of “why are they so poor”, because he believes some of the conditions that prompted his research still exist as they were, but according to him, he has knowledge of poverty and poor nations can be summarized into the following:

i. Although imported goods are important for growth and growth is important for poverty reduction, poor nations hardly address their import over-dependence, relying on imported intermediate and raw materials that consume their scarce foreign earnings.

ii. Public expenditure on education and health are critical in building the assets of the poor – raising their productivity level hence their wages and increase their voice.
in participation in the economy.

iii. African nations must, as a matter of necessity, develop internal capacity and use them to challenge ideas they know would not resolve their issues, particularly conditional aids.

iv. No real transformation of any country can take place without a formidable science and technological infrastructure.

v. Outside economics, visionary and competent leadership is critical to development and poverty eradication.

vi. There are new dimensions to the measurement of poverty and these include insecurity, terrorism, national integration, etc. “One Dollar per day” may not be adequate to measure growth; so, indices and foreign postulations that over simplify the African reality as a way of overcoming poverty ought to be re-considered.
Henry Chukwuemeka Edeh (MSc, BSc) graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) in 2014. He proceeded to University of Nigeria (UNN), where he also bagged his Master of Science degree in Economics in 2018. His areas of research interest include microeconomics, development economics, macroeconomics and public finance in Africa.

Henry has co-authored and published several articles in development economics, including *Inequality in Under-Five Child Malnutrition using the Nigeria multiple indicator cluster survey and Equity in Financing Health Care Services in Nigeria*. He has presented several macroeconomics papers in academic conferences, including *Remittance inflows and industrialization*, presented at the 58 Annual Conference of the Nigerian economic society (NES), *Remittance inflows and Dutch disease*, presented at the 2018 conference of African Heritage Institution, and *Tourism and economic diversification in Nigeria*, presented in the First International Conference of Department of Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He is a graduate member of Nigeria Institute of Management. He possesses varying capacities, ranging from ability to generate good ideas, excellent teaching skills, to excellent communication and interpersonal skills among others. He has also attended several seminars, and workshops in Nigeria. He is efficient in the provision of technical services such as gathering of time series/cross sectional data and cleaning/analysis of data using Excel spread sheet, and econometric software (comprising of Eviews, SPSS, and STATA).

Henry joined AfriHeritage in April, 2018. On this note we say, welcome on board, Henry!
Onyebukwa, Chijioke Francis (Ph.D) graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in International Studies from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria in 2000. He proceeded to South Africa, where he bagged his Master of Arts degree in 2013 and Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations in 2017 from the Department of Politics and International Relations, North West University (Mafikeng Campus), South Africa. His areas of research interest include peace, security, conflict and conflict management, diplomacy as well as politics and electoral violence in Africa.


Before joining the African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage), Enugu, as a research fellow in May 2018, he worked as an academic writing consultant at the Academic Development Center, North West University, Mafikeng, South Africa, from 2014 - 2016. We welcome Dr. Onyebukwa to the AfriHeritage family.
Press Coverage!
The Institution’s events where publicized by different media organizations within the period. Some of them are;

**LEADERSHIP** Friday 18th, May 2018 pg. 8
**LEADERSHIP** Thursday 14th June 2018 pg. 15
**NATIONAL LIGHT** Thursday 21st June 2018 — pg. 10
**BLUEPRINT** Tue 22nd May 2018, — pg. 19
**BUSINESS DAY** Friday 22nd June 2018 — pg. 30
**LEADERSHIP WEEKEND** Saturday 7th October, 2017 — pg. 18.
**NIGERIAN PILOT** - Tue 22nd May 2018 — pg. 8
**NIGERIAN PILOT** - Friday 29th June 2018 — pg. 12

_Different Blog Sites e.g. ELANZA news.com, Buzznews.com, enugunow.com, etc._ publicized AfriHeritage Events.

Many radio stations, e.g. Dreams FM, Solid FM, Urban FM, Caritas FM, etc.

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News Links!

http://report.ng/complete-landmark-projects-nationwide-varsity-don-tells-buhari/