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Sombo Muzata
YALF

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YOUNG
AFRICAN LEADERS
FORUM



GROWTH



START UP



IDEA

YALJOD

YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS
JOURNAL OF DEVELOPMENT

04 EDITION





YOUNG
AFRICAN LEADERS
FORUM

Young African Leaders Journal of Development

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VISION STATEMENT

To become a world-class youth organization and an implementer of lasting solutions to Africa's underdevelopment challenges.

MISSION STATEMENT

To effectuate sustainable development in African nations by empowering its young people and preparing the next generation of responsible leaders for the continent.



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FORUM

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The Young African Leaders Forum wishes to acknowledge and appreciate great individuals, companies and organisations that have worked with us throughout 2022.

On behalf of the President and the Executive Council of YALF, I wish to thank various people for their contribution to this project; Dr. Sombo Muzata - the chief editor of this year's journal - her valuable professional and technical support on this project; John Bassey from Nigeria for his deep concentration and useful critiques of this research work. Special thanks should be given to Dr. Sara Haddou Amar for her professional guidance and valuable support and to Professor Matthew Ogwu for his useful and constructive recommendations on this project.

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As necessary, I would like to appreciate all our consultants; Professor Patricia Rodney, Dr. Salah Hammad, Professor Vusi Gumede, Dr. Vasu Gounden of ACCORD, Dr. Beatrice Njenga and Faith Akovi Cooper. To the youth authors, upon whose tireless researches, development ideas and intellect the 2022 edition of YALJOD is made possible, we say thank you.

We are indebted to the African Governance Architecture under the leadership of Amb. Dr. Salah Hammad. His actions and positive reactions to youth agenda have always motivated us to continue to work harder to achieve the Africa we all want. We want to specially thank the African Governance Architecture of the African Union (AU) for supporting us in hosting the launch of YALJOD (Edition IV). Indeed, because we are Africans, we are a part of the African Union. We hope that this partnership enjoys a long-term presence, and continue to serve benefits to the entire African people.

We would also like to thank the International leader University in Kenya for a helping hand in our work to make the journal a success.

To The Walter Rodney Foundation in the United States, we say thank you! Your support has always been of immense support to us - we cannot thank you enough.

I will also like to appreciate John Oparaji and Philglad Nigeria Limited for partnering with us in printing this fourth edition and making the soft and hard copies available. I also appreciate the management of Kennesaw States University - Georgia for concurrently helping us spread the electronic versions of our journal to the African Diaspora - and the entire globe at large. We appreciate our local partners within the African environment as well.

YALF appreciates its partners and the organisations that exude particular interest in working with us to foster Africa's sustainable development. We are very much open to partner with you as we play integral role in the eventual realisation of the African Union Agenda 2063 vision plan amongst others.

Thank you everyone for your contributions and support.
Pafungeyi Gore,

Vice President II, Young African Leaders Forum (YALF).



FOREWORD I: THE AFRICAN UNION

It is my pleasure to be a part of this important initiative since its establishment in 2016. Our African continent is full of promise, and in every pro-development conversation, we cannot downplay the fact that Africa's young people are its most valuable asset. With its ever-increasing youth population projected to double by 2050, the need for innovative and sustainable ways to support youth-led visions and projects only continues to grow in importance.

Many creative and diligent young Africans are taking charge of their own futures, coming up with innovative solutions to keep themselves employed and actively engaged. They are also doing their best to advocate for the progress of others around them. The Young African Leaders Forum plays a formidable role in training young people in leadership, entrepreneurship and technology—teaching them how to lead, solve problems as well as how to create and manage businesses—so that their creativity and efforts will bolster economic gains. Our success stories as a continent should be told—with pride—by our people before the rest of the world.

This journal arouses the social consciousness of our youths. It gives them a platform to try to contribute to the development of our continent through their practical, critical thinking, problem-solving and creative suggestions. From this year's edition, we can relate with the different needs, perspectives and expectations of African youths. Therefore, it is time for all African leaders and stakeholders to take a closer look at the biennial youth-led publication with the specs of sustainable development because noble ideas should be implemented.

I believe that the papers in YALJOD 2022 were proficiently written by youth leaders in their own rights. Their contributions remain vital to the realization of the Agenda 2063 vision plan. Through this journal, YALF creates intellectual engagement with young brilliant minds about continental issues that are vital to building the Africa we want.

This organization has been unique as it continues to offer a great platform for youth participation in our sociopolitical issues. The aspirations and actions set in motion from this year's journal will influence generations to come. We know this well and strive to achieve the maximum impact with this tangible resource entrusted to us by the African youths.

Amb. Salah S. Hammad, PhD.
Head, African Governance Architecture,
African Union Commission, Addis Ababa.



FOREWORD II: THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES (ACCORD)

According to the World Bank (2022), fifty percent of Africa's population will be under the age of 25 by 2050. The future role of youth has therefore never been more relevant for the development and prosperity of the continent. The position of the African youth at the forefront is a familiar role. Historically, the youth demographic in Africa had played an important role in the political transformation throughout the independence period, through its student movements and activism. Today, youth are called to engage with both a related and different set of issues that will affect how they are able to shape their communities, livelihoods and legacies.

The Young African Leaders Journal of Development (YALOD) once again provides an important platform to critically unpack these risks and opportunities by featuring articles which reflect on existing literature and present new evidence. This issue of the journal includes twelve articles which discuss different aspects of the current challenges which affect young Africans. It features a paper which presents research on how to build resilience in lower and middle schools in Nigeria in the context of the recent spate of schoolchildren kidnappings. The author specifically looks at the attitudes of teachers to including 'abduction threat surviving skills' into the curriculum as a means to promote the safety of schoolchildren in Nigeria.

Equipping youth with the necessary skills and knowledge is crucial. This is also argued in the article which examines the importance of the National Youth Service Corps and promoting a culture of service within tertiary student communities. In addition to this, it is also important to foster the spaces in which they are able to define their own responses. Electoral processes or electoral politics provides a potential platform for this but there is a degree of political apathy among the youth which hinders their political participation. To a large extent, this is related to a breakdown in national cohesion and integration – an issue which is well explained in the article on nation-building as necessary condition for stability and development.

In order to address national integration however, the issue of disillusionment between the citizenry and the government is crucial. The article on the causes and impact of corruption on development in Nigeria is an important case study which illustrates how corruption affects the socio-economic fabric of society which in turns fuels the grievances of the citizenry – an issue which is also expounded upon in the article which discusses the mass youth protests in Africa and makes recommendations on how African countries can instead harness the political participation of the youth for transformative leadership.

Strong leadership for the continent is key and is particularly important in the face of the current continental cross-border and global challenges, specifically in the cases where international developments have exposed the divisive inequalities which exist between the Global South and the Global North, as discussed in the article which discusses the impact of the Ukraine war on African students and families. In terms of transnational challenges, other articles in this edition do well to discuss the vulnerability of successful and sustainable development to natural disasters – an issue which is gaining increasing traction in the context of climate change.

This important edition has shown that while youth are forced to deal with a myriad of challenges related to security, governance, social cohesion and economic restoration – all is not lost! There are instead opportunities to innovate, unite and importantly, draw inspiration from those who were once youths and played a key role in the intellectual and political emancipation of the continent.

Dr. Vasu Gounden,
Executive Director, ACCORD South Africa.



FOREWORD III: THE WALTER RODNEY FOUNDATION

It is an honor to be able to write this foreword for the Young African Leaders Journal of Development (YALJOD) on behalf of The Walter Rodney Foundation (WRF). Readers are aware that this is a biennial journal which hosts scholarly analysis and competing viewpoints about the development of Africa.

This collection of writings expresses the views of the authors on a range of topics, including developing curriculum based strategies for abduction threats, nation-building, youth-participation in the election-process, culturally relevant humanitarian aid to reduce impact of the Russo-Ukrainian War on African Students, support for african-centered and - led international NGOs, changing narratives around “youth bulge” and harnessing the power of youth for transformative change, corruption-based challenges to sustainable development, and revisiting the imperative of the culture of service before graduation.

Though some of the articles are country-specific case studies, the outcomes, findings and recommendations may have broader application. All of the contributions offer an opportunity to increase understanding, broaden context, change perspectives and influence decision-making.

What is important and indeed inspirational is the range of expertise, academic and research competence of the authors. This edition has effectively integrated the work of senior lecturers, graduates, undergraduates, researchers, advocates, writers and managers within diverse disciplines, including science, international and public affairs, public health, education, sociology, sustainable development, human rights, peace and governance.

The Journal continues to excel since its official launch in 2016. It is reflective of the dedication of the Editors of YALJOD and of the Young African Leaders Forum (YALF) more generally. Congratulations on this issue and on exemplary pursuit of the goal of the Journal in garnering the development ideas of African youth from presentation to possible implementation by policy makers and other stakeholders.

Asha T. Rodney, Esq.
Board Vice Chair, WRF
Atlanta, GA, USA



PREFACE

The strength of a nation lies in the hand of youths of that nation. The youths also form a sensitive age group that harbours the objectives and goals for important social changes. The youths are needed to serve as the lubricant for wheels of change and development of the nation. It is in this sense that the development of nations is fully dependent on the abilities and will of the young people.

The Young African Leaders Journal of Development is a youth-led journal established in 2015 to host scholarly analysis and competing views about the development of Africa. Its multidisciplinary approach makes it more formidable as it accepts papers from varied disciplinary areas – including Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Humanities – that show direct relevance to the development of Africa. In this sense, it publishes researches understood as highlighting the social, political, cultural and technological processes of positive change in the continent. The specially targeted audience of the journal is the continent's leading operators and stakeholders, national governments, civil societies and NGOs, development academics, researchers and youth leaders.

YALF values young people because we strongly believe that the success of any global effort is not possible without the meaningful participation of young people. Our journal provides a platform through which African youths can contribute to policy-development processes in the continent.

Youths are Africa's great assets. In fact, they are the future of the continent and represent it on all levels. Since the intelligence and work of the youth leads a country on the road to success, we designed YALJOD to be a hub for collating and hosting the outstanding development ideas and visions of our young people.

This is what we imagined when we established YALJOD in 2015; we nursed an objective to garner the development ideas of Africa's intelligent young people and present them to national governments, policy makers and development organizations within the continent for implementation. In order to achieve this and continuously keep the journal invoke, we strategically launched every edition of this historic journal in partnership with the African Union Commission. We did that in October 2016. We did that with the second edition in November 2018 – and we were going to achieve that with the third edition until COVID struck the globe and disrupted our plans. Howbeit, our virtual launch was also a milestone achievement for us as it was cohosted with the African Union in December 2020. This is what we set out to achieve in November 2022.

It is of crystal clarity that the development of Africa requires the active and meaningful participation of young people. This is why I write to the youths: it is up to us, as young people, to play this role properly. We need to educate our peers and other young people about their power and role in nation-building. In the same vein, we must keep ourselves motivated, inspired, and connected with opportunities. Our zeal and enthusiasm must be properly channeled so that we can participate meaningfully to develop our continent physically, socially, and culturally and hence move Africa to the next level.

It is with great pleasure that I present to Africa and the globe at large the fourth edition of YALJOD, which will promote peace and security, advance technology, improve standards of living and ultimately secure sustainable development in any part of the globe when implemented.

Prince Ifoh,
Founder & President,
Young African Leaders Forum (YALF)



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