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# The Echo of Positive Voices in Africa: The Africa We All Want can be Achieved

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### Abstract

Progressive collaboration lie at the foundation of humanity in the precepts of inter-dependency. As such, there is a need to illuminate the prospects of working together as well as the challenges associated with divisiveness. It needs no contestation that the world can aptly survive into the future with unadulterated collaboration and unhindered engagements. As the world traverses the rigors of difficult social, political and economic terrains, it becomes crucial that people within all ranks and files understand that survival into the future is anchored on the resultant peace and stability. Without these fundamentals tenets, development will undoubtedly remain a pipe dream empty and exposed to all sorts of vulnerabilities. For the African continent, it becomes crucial to bring in already existing ubuntu and ethical principles as they have the potential to bolster such collaborative thrusts. 'Ubuntu (comes) with an emphasis on social cohesion, giving rise to an empowering reconceptualisation of what it means to be African' (Thakathi & Netshitangani, 2020:407). People in Africa therefore need to be grounded on the ethical principles and values to guarantee sustainability of their systems and the envisaged progressiveness. It is our submission herein that Africans already know the usefulness of collaboration as this is evident in their various regional, country and zonal spheres. However, the call here is for all to elevate the same towards building robust continental networks that transcend tribal, regional and country level divides to position all for exponential growth into the future. It is thus critical for all Africans across the continent to realize that there is power in collaboration, silencing of guns and commitment to shape a dignified future.

**Keywords:** Ethical principles, silencing of guns, Inter-dependency, African problems, African Solutions, Dignified future.

### Introduction

The diversity that characterizes communities come with positives and negatives towards a community's stability depending on how such diversity is aligned. If not properly managed, such diversity can work against everything that a community can dream of yet with the right spirit, attitude and commitment diversity reinforces a community's strength. For all progressive communities diversity should never be used as a weapon to divide the people. From the outset, we hasten to indicate that there is a need for all and sundry to appreciate that no individual is inferior or superior to others. That way, we lay a ground for all to step with the view that we need each other and there are more gains in united-ness than divisiveness. What people of the world need to understand and appreciate is that no part of creation is more important than the other. Theologically, for example, Christians will appreciate the "Imago dei" Latin concept which translate to mean Image of God (*Imago Dei in Latin*). This thinking equally speaks to the biblical teachings as found in the book of Genesis (1: verses 26-27). Therein, the story of creation shows that all that was created took after the image of the

creator which means all are the same. As a result, as will more fully appear in this write-up, there should be nothing to stop people from collaborating and needing each other. Progressive minds should thus endeavor to collaborate, co-exist and be there for each other

Wisdom in literature shows that unity is crucial for humanity to survive together. In the book, 'Zimbabwe Diverse but One', Mathema (2013) paints the picture of how various tribes and communities that make up Zimbabwe merely bring out the beauty of nature's creations but not standing in the way of unity. Of greater interest in the book's ideas is how the author clearly shows that if people place varying significance to their differences, this will undeniably, further divide them. Accordingly, language, color of skin, place of origin evident in Africa serves merely to prove the diversity of creation. If the differences are apportioned significance, more often than not the people will be on each other's throat.

'A history of colonialism, armed conflicts, mismanagement, lack of the rule of law and corruption has meant that despite its abundant natural resources, Africa remains underdeveloped with poverty, hunger, natural disasters and

endemic diseases prevalent' (António, 2001: 63). This means Africa has all the potential it needs to turn around its fortunes. However, resources on their own cannot do the continent any good. Any development that Africa will experience or witness will have to be championed by Africans themselves. Africa should be viewed by all African as birthplace, home and future. According to Mnangagwa, the President of Zimbabwe (2026) Africa is where we are born. Africa is who we are, Africa is about all of us. With this understanding, we need to work for it, we need to defend and preserve. This is our only continent, which is native home to all Africans. This thinking equally borrows from Kwame Nkrumah (1968) who during that time firmly believed on African solutions to African problems.

Each of us has a role in Africa, just like the various parts of a tree. To take the allegory of the tree, the roots, the leaves, the bark, each has a critical role to ensure survival of the tree. Each of us needs to commit to ensuring that Africa will equally serve future generations in the same manner it has served or is serving us today. That we need to silence guns needs no debate. Fighting is destructive. Even with some holding the belief that violence is a precondition for peace, violence is still bad (Dijkema, Anctil Avoine, & Koopman, 2024). A lot of time otherwise dedicated to development is lost; many people are killed or maimed while a lot of property is destroyed. Without peace and stability, Africa will not develop, for that reason we should not be fighting each other at the expense of development. Africa should also not allow foreign forces create division among them so as to create opportunities for exploiting her resources.

We might not always agree as people, but this is not justification for war. Conflict is a reality wherever people exist. Progressive minds should always seek to locate each other even in the midst of storm. Conflict if resolved amicably may be functional. Engagement is the only way we can develop our communities as people in Africa. Each of us in Africa should seek to be at peace with each other and echo such positive voices for the better of Africa today and tomorrow. There is every need to support each other, since there is power in solidarity. If this is adopted as a principle, Africa would go far. Each of the countries in Africa and Africans in the Diaspora should place Africa at the core of their heart, their thinking, their planning and decisions. Africa will only be developed, sustained and preserved by positive thinking from all Africans who are principled, level headed and valued.

As countries in Africa face numerous challenges that characterize the Third World, it needs no contestation that the best for Africa is to collaborate. Through collaboration, what the right knows, the left also. This is the recipe that is critical in growth, stability and progress of nations.

If we as Africans work collectively then significant milestones will be achieved. The need for each of us to have respect for the other will get us to the point where we will have the 'Africa we all want'. This is not mere rhetoric; the dream of a unified, developed and peaceful Africa can be achieved. This Africa will be stable, productive, innovative and forward-looking.

Where the people appreciate the need for integrity, the urge for corrupt tendencies is eliminated. Everyone will endeavor to faithfully serve. This is culture that Africa needs in its nerves and bones (Apata, 2019; Mkhize *et al.*, 2024). In this spirit the Second Republic in Zimbabwe adopted the performance Contracting philosophy so as to hold all public officials to account. The culture of performance is thus one

sure way that will guarantee the survival of Africa into the future.

Adding his voice to this agenda on *the Africa we all want*, Head of State for Zimbabwe Cde ED Mnangagwa, while addressing delegates at the 39<sup>th</sup> Ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union said, 'Africa must reclaim ownership of its peace and security agenda and count on our enduring philosophy, African solutions for African problems' [The Sunday mail, February 15, 2026].

### Methodology

The researchers reviewed writings on Africa that were generated by many scholars addressing a diversity of themes. A few interviews were also undertaken to triangulate what literature contained. The respondents were identified through convenience sampling. This was motivated by the fact that anyone can answer questions about Africa since it is home to all of us. The sample size was small and constituted 8 male and 4 female respondents

### Finding and Discussions

The respondents converged towards the thinking that everyone has a duty to ensure that Africa which is home to all Africans is preserved for future generations in as much a way as it was preserved for the current generation by those who lived before us. The current generation should not deny the future generation of the resources that we are benefiting from today. This thinking dovetails into the view on sustainable development as espoused by the United Nations and developed into Sustainable Development goals which are aptly informing policy guidelines for many jurisdictions.

The majority of respondents also overwhelmingly agreed that all resources that Africa is endowed with need to be used sparingly, used to improve the lives and livelihoods of Africans. Respondent AL 02 went further to suggest the need to value add the many resources Africa has. According to her, Africa has failed to benefit wholesomely from the many resources it has because they are exported in raw form. In response to these realities the Minister of Mines in Zimbabwe in March 2026 announced a ban on the export of raw lithium and lithium concentrates which was a decision many progressive minds felt was overdue. This was to ensure that this resource is locally processed in an endeavor to retain higher economic value. Previous Zimbabwe was Africa's top lithium producer, exporting over one million tons of concentrate annually to China.

Thirty three percent [4/12] of the respondents agreed that any irresponsible behavior by people in Africa would seriously affect future generations. These resources need to be used responsibly lest the current generation is judged harshly by future generations who by right are expecting to have an undisturbed benefit from the same resources.

Seventy five percent [8/12] of respondents stated that stability, progress and innovative process will help the continent to develop and sustain interventions that will preserve the many resources Africa is endowed with.

Adding her voice respondent AL II stated that not many people are aware that Africa is home to many minerals that include tantalite, lithium, platinum, diamond, gold and many others. She went further to suggest that if these are processed in Africa, the lives and livelihoods of the people in Africa will be improved.

Respondent AL 04 said while Africa is endowed with so many resources, they have not been exploited to benefit

Africa. This view agrees with Dr Walter Rodney who wrote how Europe underdeveloped Africa. From this standpoint the Zimbabwe recently imposed an immediate ban on all lithium exports.

Africa as a continent has potential to do great exploits. Buttressing this view respondent AL 06 said 'Africa should have the political will to have the people relate and work as brothers and sisters. This will include a visa free Africa, were all Africans would be able to move across the continent without and hindrance. Adding his voice to this thinking AL 01 said, 'this development would make Africa better for all Africans'. Trade would also improve for all countries.

### Recommendations

In view of the findings in this inquiry, it is recommended that:

- Africans at home and in the Diaspora should endeavor to put the African agenda ahead of everything else.
- Africans should uphold integrity and shun all forms corruption.
- Africa should embrace the culture of measuring performance for all public officials within government department, ministries and agencies.
- African should embrace technology and value add its resources to get more value from them.
- Africa should be alive to the fact that no one will come to develop Africa for the Africans, no one will come to preach peace to Africans so that people focus on development
- The education in Africa should be motivated by local content.
- African s should have the culture of resilience.

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