



3<sup>rd</sup> Pan-African  
Capacity  
Development  
Forum



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Professor Emanuel Nnadozie speaking at the Plenary One at the conference

# AGENDA 2063 HINGES ON CAPACITY

*ACBF's Nnadozie urges the continent to do more to resolve the lack of capacity issues*

**A**frica continues to face a myriad of problems, among them youth unemployment, poverty, low industrialisation, declining commodity prices, and poor infrastructure development. This begs the question, why?

**WE ARE NOT EDUCATING OUR YOUTH TO SOLVE AFRICAN PROBLEMS. WE NEED TO MAKE THEM EMPLOYABLE.**

The answer, according to the executive secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), Prof Emmanuel Nnadozie, lies in "the central issue" of "the lack of capacity" on the continent. This has been proven by various studies, including those by the ACBF itself.





“Therefore capacity deficiencies remain a binding constraint to Africa’s economic and social transformation,” Prof Nnadozie argued in his welcoming remarks at the Third Pan-African Capacity Development Forum, which opened in Harare yesterday, under the theme: “Developing capacity for Africa’s economic and social transformation”. It is being organised by the ACBF in partnership with the Government of Zimbabwe.

“Capacity remains the missing link in achieving the development agendas in Africa,” Prof Nnadozie insisted, adding that: “Africa still needs to develop the capacity to successfully design, implement, and monitor its policy measures and reforms.”

To him, Africa needs more than just economic growth. The continent needs to transform its economies sufficiently enough to create wealth and jobs, reduce poverty, minimise inequalities, strengthen productive capacities, enhance social conditions, and achieve sustainable development.

Interestingly, that is the whole idea underpinning the AU’s Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. “It is important to note and remember that it is only through economic and social transformation that Africa will ensure optimal use of its natural resources, promote industrial development, and develop resilience to commodity price shocks,” Nnadozie maintained.

Speaking at the same event, Mr Willard Manungo, the permanent secretary in Zimbabwe’s Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, praised the ACBF for the work it has done across Africa in the past 25 years, testifying that Zimbabwe was a key beneficiary of the ACBF’s half-century work.

“This esteemed gathering of diverse minds, therefore, offers ample opportunity for us as a continent to introspect different ways and means of strengthening capacity development for the advancement of our continent,” Manungo added.

*Barnabas Thondhlan*



**IF ONLY POLITICIANS KNEW WHAT TO DO WITH TRACTORS...**



Mr Willard Manungo giving his welcome remarks yesterday

Photographer: David Tibebe

A participant at the Third Pan-African Capacity Development Forum, which is underway in Harare, Mrs Monique Kande, from Congo, insisted yesterday that Africa “needs to direct investments towards production in order to mobilise internal financing to improve production. It is common cause that in most of Africa, the productive capacity of women is very limited”.

She bemoaned the fact that women “work the fields using hoes, but when mechanisation comes in the form of tractors, it is not women who receive the tractors; the women continue to receive hoes. The tractors are given to politicians and they rot behind their houses.”

Contributing to the same debate, Mr Emmanuel Ndlangamandhla, the executive director of the Coordinating Assembly of NGOs in Swaziland, said civil society organisations (CSOs) had expanded in scope, size and capacity as Africa continued to experience economic and social transformation.

According to him, CSOs “are playing a key role in serving as the

**The African Capacity Deficiency Syndrome**

**Regarding the skills needed to implement the first 10 years of the African Union’s Agenda 2063, the following are needed, but currently lacking:**

- \* In terms of agriculture scientists and researchers, Africa has a current projected gap of 1.6m and a projected 1.8m to aim for by 2023.
- \* Africa has an estimated gap of 2.8m water and sanitation engineers.
- \* Currently, Africa has a projected gap of 4.3m engineers, while it should be aiming for 8.3m by 2023.
- \* While it imports over \$60 billion of food per year, Africa has 55% of its arable land lying fallow. And only 5% of the land is irrigated.
- \* Africa has 13 tractors for every 100 hectares of arable land; the global average is 200.



**Agricultural productivity is still too low across the continent**

voice of the citizens of Africa, while also acting as service delivery agents to complement governments' efforts, especially in hard to reach areas.

In the plenary session that preceded the debate, many questions were raised: For example, how does Africa build citizens' capacities? And which capacities are necessary? If Africans don't have the skills in negotiation, how can they benefit meaningfully from global trade? How do we situate the fact that a high percentage of food consumed in Africa is produced in Asia?

Responding to some of the questions, the Swedish Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Lars Ronnas, said governments had a duty to protect citizens and to provide services. "The state should set the standards and provide the financing to make sure that there is equal distribution of services. Those CSOs that provide services, maybe they are better at delivering, should be contracted to do it on behalf of the state."

**Barnabas Thondhlana**

## VOICES:

### KEY CAPACITY PRIORITIES

#### ROGER MUGISHA

Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Analysis and Research, Rwanda



I am looking forward to fruitful discussions, and I hope that at the end of the three days the discussions would

lead to further research, especially for those who are in research and in civil society organisations and political institutions who can use the information we put out here to plan and improve their capacities. Africa needs capacities mainly in technology. Having people who understand we need technology skills in Africa is important because Africa is lagging behind in many areas. This will help institutions to focus or re-plan the school curriculum to interest the African youth to pursue education in those areas Africa is lacking in.

#### PAMELA MBABAZI

Professor of Development Studies, National Council of Science and Technology, Uganda



What I am expecting is an engaged debate about what Africa's key critical capacity needs are, and to have a

common understanding amongst us - as different stakeholders - of what we need to work together towards - these are the key areas that we need to rally our efforts, our minds, and our thoughts in trying to reach a critical mass of Africans to transform our countries to the next level.

I would like to see an engaged discussion in the next three days, a common understanding and a realisation that this is what we need to do as stakeholders to build the next team of African key people that will transform our continent. The time is now here for us, as a continent, to focus on the key priorities of agriculture, infrastructure, and technology.

## 'WE GET PACIFIED AT OUR OWN PERIL'

*AU official urges Africa to beware of the sweet talk of high economic growth rates*

**A**n accelerated, inclusive, and transformative real growth with equity is no longer an option but an imperative for Africa so that the continent can, in a significant way, create jobs, tackle poverty and gain rapid, resilient and sustainable socio-economic development. All relevant stakeholders are agreed that this should be the way forward.

Addressing the opening day of the Third Pan-African Capacity Development Forum in Harare yesterday, Dr Anthony Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs at AUC, said Africa should not allow itself to be "pacified" by the sweet talk of the continent having achieved high economic growth rates in recent years because Africa's population has been growing in equal volume, if not higher. In effect, there is a cancelling out going on, or in other words Africa needs high growth rates to satisfy the demands of its ever-growing population.

Moreover, the said growth rate figures, according to Dr Maruping, are just a "mathematical fluke" as they are often associated with post-conflict countries that are starting again from zero. "Let's regard this growth rate talk with caution and not be pacified by it and relax," Dr Maruping urged the continent.

He, however, conceded that the capacity building challenges to be surmounted by Africa in order to achieve the goals of the AU Agenda 2063 are enormous. He praised the "sterling work" done by the ACBF in the past 25 years, saying it is Africa's premier institution to address these challenges. "Therefore, the ACBF should be enabled and supported by all stakeholders to adequately carry out its mandate," Dr Maruping pleaded.

**Baffour Ankomah**



# LE RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITÉS AU SERVICE DE L'EMPLOI

Pour renouveler sa classe sociale, toute économie puise son dynamisme au sein de la jeunesse active. Cependant, il existe un paradoxe non négligeable lié au nombre d'années d'expérience professionnelle exigée, qui varie de 5 à 10 ans.

Ces exigences constituent une entrave de taille à l'entrée des jeunes dans le monde du travail et par ricochet, beaucoup de pays souffrent d'un manque à gagner pour leur développement. La seule issue reste la valorisation du secteur privé, à travers l'encouragement de l'entrepreneuriat et l'innovation.

Lors du 3ème forum panafricain sur le renforcement des capacités, cette problématique capitale, a été soulevée lors d'une séance intitulée « Renforcer les capacités du secteur privé pour la création accélérée de l'emploi des jeunes. »

La Directrice de la fondation Sud-Africaine 2.0, Vivian Onano a déclaré : « Pour les jeunes, c'est une période très intéressante et en même temps très éprouvante car le chômage est à leurs portes, même après avoir parcouru de longues années, dans de grandes universités. »

Poursuivant la réflexion sur ce sujet, le Dr. Felix Fofana N'zue, Directeur Exécutif de Epau au Nigéria et Président de séance, a déclaré qu'au court de ces deux dernières années, on note une accélération de la croissance dans le continent africain mais que, paradoxalement, 60% des jeunes sont chômeurs, selon une étude de la banque mondiale. Dans son intervention, Deryck Brown, expert à la Banque Mondiale, démontre que la société civile, acteur principal du secteur privé, est en déphasage avec les décideurs et les gouvernements. En effet, la plupart

des gouvernements élaborent leurs politiques budgétaires et économiques sans tenir compte des besoins de la société civile et sans engager de réels dialogues. L'inefficacité des départements des statistiques et le manque criant d'un système de marketing pour booster les compétences des jeunes, restent un handicap pour la promotion du secteur privé.

Pour sortir de cette impasse et accélérer l'emploi des jeunes, Vivian Onano a suggéré la mise en œuvre de systèmes efficaces, pour l'octroi des capitaux ainsi que la gestion des réseaux. Système qui ne peut être mis en place qu'à travers le développement des capacités.

*Christiane Munoki*

## VOIX:

### ZEIN EL HASSENE

Le Directeur du Centre mauritanien d'analyse de politiques.



Cette conférence permet de partager et mesurer les différentes expériences africaines sur le

renforcement des capacités. Nos stratégies de croissance et de lutte contre la pauvreté ne peuvent marcher sans les capacités nécessaires à leur pilotage et mise en œuvre.

Il faut que nos stratégies individuelles nous servent à apprendre des uns et des autres. Nous devons également mobiliser nos ressources internes pour gagner en indépendance vis-à-vis des organisations internationales.

# LE MANQUE DE CAPACITÉ EN AFRIQUE, LE MAILLON FAIBLE !

Co-organisé par le gouvernement du Zimbabwe et la Fondation pour le Renforcement des Capacités en Afrique, le Forum Panafricain pour le renforcement des capacités, CDF3, a ouvert ses travaux le 3 Mai 2016, à Harare, sous le thème: « Renforcer les capacités pour la transformation économique et sociale de l'Afrique ».

Lors de son allocution de bienvenue, le professeur Emmanuel Nnadozie, Secrétaire exécutif de la Fondation, exhorte le continent à fournir davantage d'efforts afin de réduire et, in fine, résorber le manque de capacité. Effectivement, ceci est la cause incontestable des multiples difficultés auxquelles fait face l'Afrique. Constat confirmé par plusieurs études, incluant celles de la Fondation.

Le continent a effectivement besoin de transformer son paysage économique de manière substantielle afin de créer de la richesse et des emplois, réduire la pauvreté et les inégalités, renforcer les capacités de production et parvenir à un développement économique durable.

Dans un même élan, Nnadozie poursuit qu'il est "important de rappeler que ce n'est uniquement par une transformation économique et sociale, que l'Afrique optimisera l'utilisation de ses ressources naturelles, promouvra son développement industriel, et résistera à l'envolée des prix des produits de base." Déclarations qui sous-tendent également l'ordre du jour de l'agenda 2063 de l'Union Africaine ainsi que les objectifs des Nations Unies pour le développement.



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