

# APLC Communiqué

AFRICAN PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP CENTER NEWSLETTER

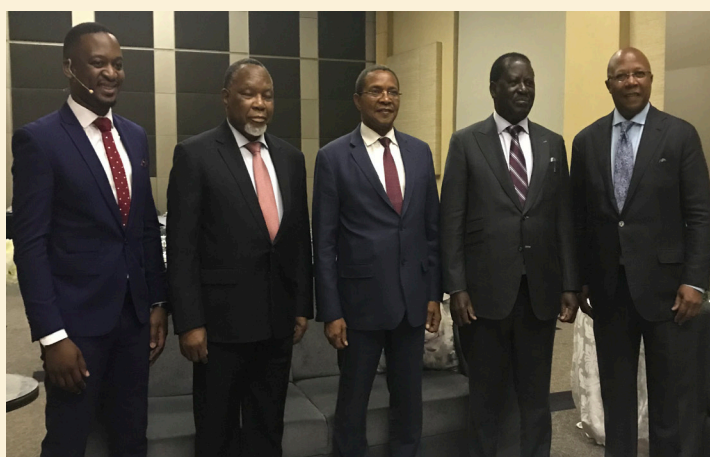
## African Presidential Roundtable 2018: “Towards A Continental Strategy for Education Excellence”

### OVERVIEW

The African Presidential Roundtable was held on the October 29th and 30th, 2018. The two main events were The Fundi Education, Forum and the African Presidents and CEO Breakfast. The Forum took place on October 29th, at the Sandton Convention Centre and the Breakfast at the Four Seasons Hotel, Westcliff, Johannesburg, South Africa, on October 30th. The principal sponsor for the Roundtable was FUNDI. Other partners supporting the Roundtable were SekelaXabiso (SKX), The Pula Group, LLC and Musa Capital Namibia.

The focus of the Forum was “**Disrupting African Education**” the theme for the breakfast was “**Towards a Continental Strategy for Education Excellence**”. Participants included former African heads of state and government from Tanzania, Kenya, and South Africa as well as Ministers, diplomats, sector leaders, business leaders, policy makers and opinion leaders, international dignitaries, and faculty from across Africa.

Within the context of a 21st century high-tech global economy nothing is more critical to Africa’s growth and development than education. If Africa is going to meet its educational challenges it will mean addressing a myriad of issues - from developing the best pedagogical models, to the role of education in business development and job creation, to financing the education of young African aspirants.



The aim of the Forum and the African Presidents and CEO Breakfast was to bring together a broad cross section of political, educational, and private sector leaders to frame the critical questions for Africa to get education right and to provide some answers to, at least, some of the pressing questions that implies.

### APLC Staff and Interns

Ambassador Charles Stith – Board Chair (Non-Exec)

Abel Dlamini – Chairman: Finance Committee

Ra’eesah Moosa – Operations & Programme Manager

Ayesha Shange – Assistant Programme Coordinator

#### Interns:

Thandekile Mabe

Sne Msimango

Nombulelo Ngwentle

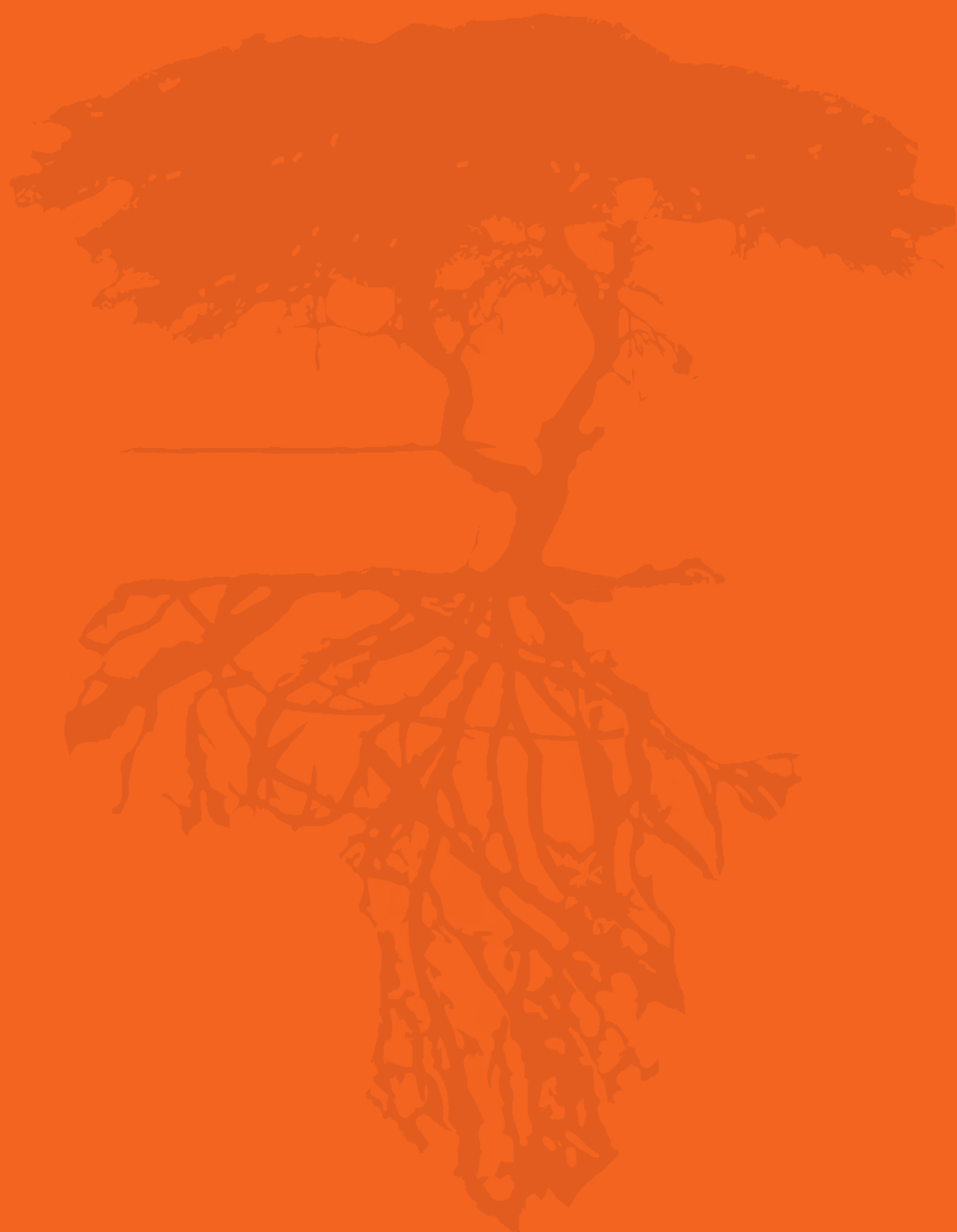
Kedibone Kapa

Zandile Lusenga

Nomsa Kubheka

Matebello Mphaka

Natacia Motlokwa



## Overview Continued...

The African Presidential Roundtable is one of the signature programs of the African Presidential Leadership Centre.

Since the African Presidential Roundtable was inaugurated in April 2003, each year has seen a significant growth in the size and stature of this forum. The involvement of former African heads of state, diplomats, and international dignitaries has resulted in cutting-edge conversations and policy discussions on topics of relevance to Africa's growth and development.

Over the years, Roundtables have been held in such varied locations as Boston, Berlin, London, Mauritius, Dar es Salaam, and Johannesburg.



2009 - Germany

The former African heads of state who have affiliated with the African Presidential Center through the Roundtable feel it represents an opportunity to reach a significant number of key individuals and institutions that have the ability to directly impact the development of Africa.



2011 - Mauritius

The African Presidential Roundtable has facilitated a better understanding by both Africans and others of their respective views regarding civic participation, leadership development, and policy formation relative to Africa. This effort has also led to more informed policies and has the potential to influence future practices by providing a sustainable and credible forum for former democratically elected African heads of state to convene around issues that affect Africa's relations world-wide.



2010 - Tanzania



2013 - Johannesburg

## FUNDI EDUCATION FORUM - Monday, October 29th, 2018

On October 29th at 16H30 at The Sandton Convention Centre former African heads of state His Excellency Jakaya Kikwete (Tanzania), His Excellency Raila Odinga (Kenya), and His Excellency Kgalema Motlanthe (South Africa) convened under the auspices of the African Presidential Leadership Center (APLC) to discuss “Disrupting African Education” Attendees at the summit included political and business leaders from across the continent.

More than 750 people attended the Forum and other presentations during the day.

The Forum was moderated by CNBC Africa Anchor, Nosipho Mbanjwa. In addition to the African political leaders, other panellists included: African Business Magazine editor Anver Versi, African Leadership University Chair Wendy Luhabe, and North West University Vice Chancellor Prof Ntate Dan Kgwadi



*“Fundu is a South African brand that exists to relentlessly play its role in meeting the challenges of Africa’s economic and social challenges. Fundu believes that education and life-long learning is a key success factor for Africa’s critical issues and opportunities.” – Amasi Mwela, Fundu CEO*



*African Education Facts and Figures: excerpts from remarks by the APLC Board Chair Ambassador Charles Stith;*

- *Of the top 500 universities in the world only two are in sub-Saharan Africa and those are in South Africa*
- *Only 1% of global investment in R & D is spent in Africa, which explains why the continent holds only 0.1% of the world’s patents.*
- *Unless that trend is reversed the continent will suffer not simply because of a lack of capacity in the present, but because the continent’s best and brightest are going to go to other places to perfect their skills and practice their professions. To reverse this trend is going to require more money to fund research and development as well as more funding for education for an ever-broadening cross section of students. This is going to require more cooperation between the public and private sectors.*





The African Presidents and CEO breakfast took place at the iconic Four Seasons Westcliff Hotel in Johannesburg on the 30th October 2018. The theme was **“Towards a Continental Strategy for Education Excellence”**.

Participants included former African heads of state and government, Ministers, diplomats, sector leaders, business leaders, policy makers and opinion leaders and international dignitaries from across Africa and the United States.

More than 150 private and public sector leaders gathered for this invitation only open discussion about the successes and challenges of increasing the continent’s educational capacity. Their Excellencies Motlanthe, Odinga, and Kikwete offered insights to prompt the discussion and questions.

As the host president, His Excellency Motlanthe was the first to engage the gathering. His Excellency set the stage for discussion, by summarizing his views on *“Education in Africa and the Role of the Private Sector.”*

Motlanthe noted: *“The Unesco Institute of Statistics tracks the extent to which schools lack basic amenities, such as access to electricity and portable water, while monitoring classroom conditions – from the availability of textbooks to average class sizes and the prevalence of multi-grade classrooms. With seven out of ten countries facing an acute shortage of teachers, the Institute also produces a range of data on their training, recruitment and working conditions.*

*I think these statistics give a compelling argument that education is in a state of crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is concerning because as the rest of the developed world is moving along into a future populated by artificial intelligence, machine learning and driverless cars, Africa is positioned to fall even further behind because of our literacy standards and our challenges in Maths and Science education.*

*As CEOs of corporations who are meant to be future employers of South African youth, you ought to be concerned as well because Africa has a young population, so a weak education system not only widens the skills deficit in the economy, but it also undermines the size of the market that you can target with your goods and services in the future, with regards to what the private sector can do.*

*One of the greatest challenges we face is attracting young talent to the teaching profession within the public-school sector. So, one area that is open is teacher knowledge enhancement.*

*So, the key aspect to note here is that the private sector needs to step up and fund programs such as the Travelling Mathematician program, so that we can begin to unlock the sort of funding that enabled William Smith to run the Liberty Life Learning Channel so successfully in the 1990s.*



Next to address the gathering was His Excellency Odinga, among the points he made were:

*“Education has always been viewed in Africa as a tool for liberation and a requirement for national development. It has also been viewed as a possible tool for subjugation by the authorities if not carefully watched. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.*

*So, the centrality of education to human progress has long been acknowledged at the highest levels of Africa’s political leadership.*

*I believe we can and must use our experience and influence to push our Continent to invest in and support more basic research that can be used to innovatively enhance our lives.*

*As a continent, we need to agree that each year; we will devote more money to research and a clear list of the projects to be financed and why they matter.*

*My response would be that we need to go back to President Harry Truman over 70 years ago and what he thought about education.”*

*In 1960, Truman said:*

*“Our children are our greatest resource, and our greatest asset, the hope of our future, and the future of the world. We must not permit the existence of conditions, which cause our children to believe that crime is inevitable and normal.*

*“We must teach idealism, honour, ethics, decency, the moral law. We must teach that we should do right because it is right, and not in the hope of any material reward.”*

*“Africa must start teaching idealism if education is to be the force for good that it is meant to be.”*





Immediately preceding the discussion of those gathered, former Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete addressed the conferees.

Among President Kikwete's post-presidential involvements is his membership on the G20 Education Commission. Members of the Commission include former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, international recording artist Shakira, and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim. Reflecting on the Commission's findings on education in Africa, Kikwete said, *"With regards to access, the observation has been there are too many children and young people of school age who are out of school."*

*The commission looked at the issue of young people completing their education. The findings were shocking. There are too many dropouts. This is unacceptable, We cannot leave this work to governments alone. The innovation needed to reverse this trend requires us to bring in the private sector and other players in the education space. And that is where you come in (addressing the attendees). The corporate sector can invest in schools."*

President Kikwete went on to outline the steps required by governments and multi-lateral institutions to increase the educational capacity of countries like those in Africa:

*"First, Governments of low- and middle-income countries must expand their domestic tax base and increase education spending to 5.8 % of GDP.*

*Second, donor countries need to urgently commit a greater share of development aid to education reaching a minimum of 15% total aid. Moreover, these funds must be used more efficiently through multilateral institutions, and this begins with fully funding the Education Cannot Wait fund and the Global Partnership for Education.*

*And third, the G20 and World Bank must lend their support to an International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd) that could fill the education financing gap and unlock more than \$10 billion annually for education by 2020."*



## African Presidents and CEO Breakfast - Tuesday, October 30th, 2018

A robust discussion followed Kikwete's remarks.

Some of those that raised questions or made comments included former Ms South Africa Kerishnie Naicker, Tourvest COO Ms Judy Nokwedi and New Africa Magazine Editor Anver Versi.



One of the participants in the Roundtable was Anver Versi, editor of the New Africa Magazine. After the Roundtable Mr Versi wrote a piece that appeared in the New Africa Magazine (December 2018), that reflected his experience at the Roundtable and its implications for the continent. What follows are elements from his reflections.

*“Late in October, I was invited by my dear friend Ambassador Charles Stith to join him, former Presidents Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania, Kgalema Motlanthe of South Africa and Kenya’s veteran politician Raila Odinga to participate in a forum on education in Johannesburg.”*

*“Like other gatherings he has hosted before, the impressive group of leaders he convened, got together to discuss African and global issues affecting the continent.”*

*“For me as a journalist and editor, these meetings have been a goldmine. Instead of seeing events from the outside, the tip of iceberg so say, these gatherings gave me the priceless opportunity of seeing how decisions were made from the inside. Africans are great raconteurs generally and leaders tend to be masters of words. The recollections I heard were often full of fine detail including character studies of both African as well as global leaders that the former heads of state actually dealt with.”*

*“Like Stith, I believe this treasure trove of knowledge and experience that our former leaders possess must not be allowed to wither away. We should encourage them to write their memoirs, fully and frankly. There is a large and ready audience out there, both in and outside of Africa. The political culture in Africa is maturing but there is still a long way to go. Memoirs and recollections from the actual movers and shakers will broaden our own understanding of issues and give real meaning to the concept of democracy”*

The full text of Mr Versi’s commentary can be found online : <https://newafricanmagazine.com>



## Thank you to our Sponsors



Connect with us:

**The African Presidential Leadership Center (APLC)**

Address: SekelaXabiso Office Park, Building 1,

15 Forest road, Waverely, Sandton, 2199

Tel: +27 11 797 6800

Email: [info@aplcsa.co.za](mailto:info@aplcsa.co.za)

Website: [www.aplcsa.co.za](http://www.aplcsa.co.za)

Twitter: [@APLC\\_SA](https://twitter.com/APLC_SA)

Facebook: The African Presidential Leadership Center

*“Our children are our greatest resource, and our greatest asset, the hope of our future, and the future of the world. We must not permit the existence of conditions, which cause our children to believe that crime is inevitable and normal.*

*“We must teach idealism, honour, ethics, decency, the moral law. We must teach that we should do right because it is right, and not in the hope of any material reward.”*

*1960, President Harry S. Truman*

