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Welkom • Sannu da zuwa • Akwaaba • Beinvenue



The African Presidential Leadership Center

Chairman's Remarks



Ambassador Charles Stith
Board Chairman (Non-Executive)

On March 22, 2016 the African Presidential Leadership Center was launched at the Nelson Mandela Center in Johannesburg, South Africa. At the launch, I made reference to a familiar Africa proverb that I believed was particularly fitting for the occasion – “Until the lion tells the story of the hunt, the hunter will always be the hero.” The point was that the APLC not only represents a vehicle for Africa to tell its story, it is a vehicle that will help the continent write its story. One of the keys to understanding the continent's story is its past leaders. One of the keys to writing the next chapter in Africa's story is its future leaders. Leadership matters. What past leaders have done and current leaders are doing represents the foundation upon which future leaders will build.

The African Presidential Leadership Center aims to provide a context to understand the challenges and successes of former African leaders and engage them as a resource for the next generation of leadership. There are currently more than 100 democratically retired African heads of state and government; by the end of the decade there will be more than 150.

This is a potentially tremendous resource in furthering Africa's need for more accountable government. These former leaders also represent a tremendous resource to be tapped by emerging leaders. More than a decade ago, before retiring in my capacity as director of a similar center in Boston, I noted the trend in the growing number of democratically retired African heads of state and government. The conclusion to which I came was there would be a need to create Centers on the continent to harness this tremendous potential. That was the seed that yielded what we now call the African Presidential Leadership Center in South Africa.

When we launched the Center, I received a note from former Tanzanian Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye, who could not be with us for the occasion. He wrote: “Congratulations for your untiring efforts to help develop leadership in Africa, and particularly thank you for starting this African Presidential Leadership Centre in South Africa.

"While I thank you also for the invitation extended to me personally, I am very sorry to say I will not be able to attend due to health reasons....Though physically I will not be there but count on me, that spiritually we are together and praying for the success of this inaugural meeting.

May God Bless you."

This is the power of this idea and initiative. We have friends all across the continent, ill and well, who are praying for our success. We will not let them down.

“Forward ever, backward never.”

How we fund our projects

The APLC's projects and programs are funded through a variety of sources that believe and align with our vision for the the development of the African continent and building the Africa we all imagine.

We have been funded by the following sponsors and partners over the years:

- National Lotteries Commission
- Universal Music : Task Force for Meaningful Change
- Private Property
- The Pula Group
- FUNDI

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Contribute to the Development of the African
Continent

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Who we are

About Us

The African Presidential Leadership Center (APLC) is a South Africa-based NGO that has a continental focus and acts on a global scale. Our programs offer unique insights into contemporary trends and developments in Africa by engaging current African leaders as well as former African heads of state and government and connecting them with the continent's next generation of leaders.

The African Presidential Leadership Center (APLC) was officially launched at the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory, on March 22nd, 2016. APLC held its inaugural event, the African Presidential Roundtable, October 30 - November 1, 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The African Presidential Roundtable was attended by former presidents H.E. John Mahama (Ghana), HE Rupiah Banda (Zambia) HE Jakaya Kikwete (Tanzania), HE Karl Offmann (Mauritius), HE Amani Karume (Zanzibar), HE Goodluck Jonathan (Nigeria) and former Prime Minister Fredrick Sumaye (Tanzania). More than five hundred luminaries from across the continent attended this historic summit. The African Presidential Round Table is one of the signature programs of the APLC.

Since the African Presidential Round Table was inaugurated in April 2003, in Boston. 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, Round Tables have been held in such varied locations as Boston, Berlin, London, Mauritius, Dar es Salaam, and Johannesburg.

The Mission

The idea behind the African Presidential Leadership Center is simple. Democracy is trending in the right direction on the continent. A cadre of anchor states are leading the way. These anchor states have been led by a generation of leaders that are the personification of the trend toward democratization and free market reform that is driving the continent's progress, growth, and development.

These states, and stateswomen and men, form both the focus and a principal resource for our research and dialogues on the continent's most pressing challenges as well as understanding fully the continent's potential.

There are currently sixteen nation-states that are anchoring Africa's forward movement. Although these sixteen countries represent approximately one third of the nation-states in sub-Saharan Africa, these countries are the most heavily populated, with approximately 650 million people! For a profile of this "sweet 16" of Africa's most promising countries, go to our website - www.aplcsa.co.za/ - click on the flags on the home page

Africa's Democratically Elected and Retired Leaders

Beginning in the late-1950's, Africa's revolutionary generation of the leaders banded together to free a colonized continent. The common question that united them was - "How do we get our countries back?" The following generation of leaders understood they had a different challenge and that was - "now that we have our countries back, how do we make them work?" Making their countries work meant furthering democratization and growing opportunity economies. A gallery of some of those leaders is catalogued below, the full list can be found on our website.



WHAT WE DO

What is the African Presidential Center's relevance to contemporary trends and development

Africa is undergoing a profound period of change. In the 1950's and 60's that change was from colonization to independence. In the 1990's and into this century, the change is equally profound. The change is the trend toward democratic and freemarket reform.



APLC's role is to:

- Chronicle Political and Economic trends that have been critical to Africa's growth and development,
- Encourage a multidisciplinary approach to teaching about Africa, and
- Establish a forum for African leaders to engage other political, business, academic and public sector leaders regarding Africa's challenges and opportunities.

Our Programs

APLC's four major programs offer particularly unique insights into contemporary trends and developments in Africa.



The APLC African President-In-Residence Program

This is a legacy program based on the Boston University model. The purpose of the program is to provide a university-based residency for a democratically retired African head of state and government at an African University. During their tenures, the President-In-Residence will speak at various venues throughout the continent (and the world), focusing on issues of political and economic development as they relate to Africa.

The Public Papers/Private Conversations Project

This is an oral and documentary history project focusing on current trends and developments in Africa. It provides APLC with an opportunity to chronicle the present period of dynamic change in Africa through the "eyes of the architects" of those change – past and present heads of state

The African Leaders State of Africa Report

Is an annual report presenting the perspectives of selected African heads of state relative to their respective countries and regions. The Report not only catalogues the "vision" and strategies of contemporary African heads of state for future generations of scholars, but it enables us to disseminate the "African point of view" to those presently involved in setting policy and shaping opinions about Africa

The African Presidential Roundtable

Is an annual gathering of former heads of state, policy makers and public sector leaders. Discussants come together on a yearly basis to deliberate on issues of growth and development as they pertain to the continent.

Our Partners:



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