

Long-Term Serving Political Leadership: An Impediment to a Dream of an African Renaissance

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Abstract: There are many questions that arise about Africa as a continent. The continent is well-endowed with natural resources and yet it remains the world's poorest continent. Its resources have been misused by long serving political leaders which subsequently resulted in the promotion of conflicts and corruption and left the continent in a state of paralysis. Most African states have been ravaged by ongoing conflicts and civil wars characterised by political violence and unspeakable human rights violations, thus making peace and stability a mirage. The sad reality is that Africa is home to long term serving political leaders. The kernel of the paper rests on the fact that there is a nexus between long serving political leadership, conflict and corruption and it is against this background that this paper investigates among others, the problems associated with long term serving political leadership, their contribution towards the promotion of corruption and conflict among their states and citizens as well as some leadership theories. Africa as a continent is facing a financial and economic growth turmoil. Again, this is associated with rampant corruption where freedom of expression by media is restricted and in some instances, the independence of the judiciary is paralyzed or non-existent. Moreover, it still has presidents who are jailing opposition leaders, manipulating the army and police force to clamp down on dissent, and promising their citizens change which remains but a dream. It is for these instances that, leaders refuse to vacate their offices because they have engaged themselves in corruption accompanied by gross human right violations and as such they would rather prefer to die in presidential offices than to face the life-long humiliations and prosecutions once they leave their positions. This paper is conceptual in nature and the review is conducted based on books, peer reviewed articles, conference papers and chapters in books. This paper concludes by recommending that for African countries to achieve socio-economic growth and political stability which could serve as a moment of great reawakening, a moment of a new dawn, they require honest, selfless and legally responsible leaders who would transplant the moral and gallant supremacy. Again, the creation of a conducive environment which will be thriving and advantageous for the people to claim back their powers and use their resources as opulently as they deserve to equip both their social, economic and political wellbeing. Furthermore, the issue of term of office by presidents and the creation of communal doctrine guiding leaders have to be revisited.

Keywords: Conflict, Corruption, Leadership, New dawn, Politics

1. Introduction

One of South Africa's foremost social activists and musicians, Mzwakhe Mbuli (A South African poet and musician) once remarked that Africa is a continent shaped like a question mark, a continent full of paradoxes and contradictions. Indeed, there are so many questions one may be forced to ask about it as a continent and yet one may be forced to resign and accept that those questions stay on without answers. Statistics and reports suggest that Africa is a cradle of humankind. Human life started in Africa, human civilization equally started in Africa. The simple conclusion therefore, is that Africa is the parent continent and should in all fairness be the leading continent and be afforded the respect it deserves but, unfortunately, that is not the case. Africa remains the least civilized continent and the

poorest when it comes to infrastructure and economy. Africans live in abject poverty when in reality they should be the ones to feed the world. The issue of abject poverty is linked with poor leadership style practiced by the long term serving political leaders. Furthermore, the issue of leadership has remained the centre of attraction for several authors more specifically in writings relating to Africa's developmental challenges. The majority of researchers believe that the underdevelopment of this continent rest in the arms of its poor leadership. This is related to the studies conducted by the following: (Poncian & Mgaya, 2015; Mbah, 2013; Afegbua & Adejuwon, 2012; Mills, 2011; Mills, 2010; Heleta, 2007). Many of these researchers blame these African leaders with regard to the continent's wretchedness which happens both economically, politically and socially. According to Mills (2011), Africa's poverty does not

derive from its scarcity of capital, inability to access to markets worldwide, technical connoisseurs, or the imbalanced universal economic system, but due to African leaders opting for underprivileged choices and as such deciding to put this continent in abject poverty. This notion is supported by Mbha (2013:142) who emphasized that 'fundamental cause of African underdevelopment and conflicts lies in the vicious leadership in the continent ever since from 1960s to date'.

Surprisingly, Africa as a continent is well-endowed with abundant natural resources, rich mineral deposits, unparalleled flora and fauna, unmatched ocean creatures, pleasant weather to die for and some wonderful coastlines. But then the question remains, why is it that a continent so blessed with those life's fortunes and treasures still remain a begging continent? The answer lies in the fact that these natural resources are its own downfall and destruction. African politicians are the worst culprits. Mbula goes on to lament that Africa is a continent of beauty and beast, martyrs and monsters, of dancers and gangsters. Indeed, human civilization started in Africa, the pyramids of Egypt and the Timbaktu Manuscripts of Mali are cited as perfect examples that man's enlightenment started in the African continent. African politicians have used the natural resources to fan and sustain long conflicts that have left many dead, many homeless and many amputated. The late Jonas Savimbi of Angola, the late Alfonso Dhlakama of Mozambique and Charles Taylor of Liberia are the nearest examples. Many of these politicians claimed to be genuine leaders of their people but refused to accept the general will of their nationals after elections. They opted to go to the bush to wage war against what they termed regimes in their countries. Africa is home to butchers and dictators. Who can forget Idi Amin of Uganda, Samuel Doe of Liberia, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe to mention but a few. The phenomenon of warlords started in Africa. Those warlords with their worst and unspeakable human rights violations and the most atrocities in modern history have escaped sanctions and many like in the Lord's resistance army (Joseph Kony) continue to maim and amputate their fellow brothers and sisters. The sad reality is that Africa is the home of long term serving leaders whose popularity with their citizens is highly suspect. Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasongo of Equatorial Guinea and Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola were in power for over 35 years, Paul

Biya of Cameroon, Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Omar al Bashir of Sudan are some of the longest serving leaders on earth today.

Yahyah Jammeh of Gambia who was removed from power in 2017 once proclaimed that he would rule Gambia for a billion years. Most of these leaders ascended to power through the barrel of the gun. These leaders claim to be democrats and profess that real and genuine democracy exists in their own countries and yet the opposite seems to be the truth. The manner in which free political activities are conducted, leaves much to be desired on their part. There are reports of widespread, political repression where these political opponents are not given the freedom to campaign before elections, in most cases these opponents are either tortured through state apparatus or imprisoned for trumped up charges to prevent them from engaging in free political activities. These self-proclaimed "democrats" rig elections in their favour in order to cling to power by all means. The question is why do these leaders refuse to relinquish power when their time is up? Why didn't Robert Gabriel Mugabe relinquish power voluntarily in 2017? Why did it take the military to force him to step down? These long term serving political leaders have to bear in mind that power does not belong to them but to people who voted for them and as such they must understand their role as leaders because it is not in line with ruling but leading in order to lead these people to prosperity and liberty, and to treat them in the humane, and lastly improve their well-being.

Furthermore, the malfeasances and violence committed by some of the above mentioned leaders are hard to be tolerated; leaders have to learn to understand and respect their subjects and also have that ability to respond quickly to their subjects' needs and wellbeing rather than just being the custodians of the government interest. Again, they ought not to try to impose their unilateral decisions on them due to the fact that they claim to have better knowledge than their citizens (Smith, 2010; Poncian & Mgya, 2015:119). Only by listening to their subjects they lead, will turn their leadership styles into something more legitimate, and at the same time the issues of conflict and developmental challenges will be addressed and become the matters of the past. The majority of African leaders seriously resist to vacate their offices out of their own volition. Fombad and Inegbedion (2010) indicated that out of 204 African presidents who were in power amid 1960 and 2004,

a mere 25 leaders retired voluntarily and out of their own free will, whereas more than half were removed from power including Nkwame Nkrumah, Idi Amin and Mobutu Sese Seko. To support this notion, recently, former Zimbabwean president (Robert Mugabe) and former South African president (Jacob Zuma) were thrown out of their offices by their followers. Despite the resistance by these presidents, there are other countries which apply the issue of term of office well, this include the countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia and it also happens regularly in Botswana. The issue of terms of office raise the spirits of political culture as well as political competition among opponents and successors, this could also serve as a new dawn for Africa. Unfortunately, these protracted presidential incumbencies fail to accommodate public participation, transparency as well as accountability and as such have to be resolved by promoting cooperation among all stakeholders such as civil society, opposition parties and the military.

2. What is Leadership?

McCleskey (2014) and Alberto (2016) outline that there is no uniform definition of leadership across the world and they further indicate that definition of leadership rests on the researcher's interest as well as the context in which the concept is being used in the current area of research or the kind of problem that is being addressed. For example, Carlyle (2011) looked at the definition of leadership based on the "great man theory". According to Carlyle (2011), leaders were outstanding people or protagonists who could be able to utilise their personality traits to instill manipulation powers over others. Those personality features include "charisma, intelligence, wisdom, as well as political skill to have power". Despite the fact that Carlyle's ideas keep on leading, Spencer (2013) pinpoints that such great men were the output of their societies and that encouraged leaders to do things in advance. Not every researcher comes to an agreement with regard to this dissimilarity; for instance, Volckmann (2012) contended that the usage of power by leaders is called leadership. Alberto (2016) defines leadership as "an interaction between two or more members of a group that often involves a structuring or restructuring of the situation and the perceptions and expectations of members... Leadership occurs when one group member modifies the motivation or competencies of others in the group. Any member of the group can exhibit some

amount of leadership...". Volckmann concurs with Kellerman by indicating that they see leadership as an equilateral triangle wherein its three corners represent the following: the leader, the followers, and the context (Volckmann, 2012).

3. The Bottlenecks that Force the Political Leaders to Resist to Vacate their Offices

One of the reasons why the leaders refuse to vacate office when their mandate has elapsed lies in the saying that "he who rides a tiger can never dismount" during their tenure, these leaders get involved in massive and grand scale corruption accompanied by gross human rights violations. They are conscious that life is like a wheel of fortune and that it turns. They tend to subscribe to the adage which states that they should make hay while the sun shines. They know that they would be forced to pay for their sins when they vacate office and that is why many would rather die in office than to face humiliations and prosecutions that might land them in prison cells.

These leaders would execute the following in order to sustain their stay in office:

- Proclaim to all and sundry that they are democrats and there allow democracy to thrive in their countries.
- Harass and intimidate their political opponents through the use of state machinery and apparatus such as public broad caster, the police, the military and state sponsored media.
- Make sure that there is no freedom of expression by the media or ensure that state propaganda is alive and well.
- Rig elections in their favour.
- Midwife a bill whose sole intention would be to change the term of office from an agreed one to another one longer in order to stay in office. (Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi are the culprits here.
- Unleash a reign of terror during the election campaigns in order to shut down the movement of political opponents, harass and assault their supporters as well as their sympathisers.

- Disable and paralyse all institutions supporting democracy like the human rights commission, auditor-general and public protector which are called chapter nine institutions according to the constitution of South Africa, (or appoint loyal and self-serving officials to preside over these institutions).
- Become a member of a brother's league whose mandate is to defend each other and stifle dissent.
- Dispense patronage to some state officials including leaders of the military in order to win over their loyalty and sympathy.
- Anoint a successor who will be pliable to all the schemes and manipulations when all else had failed in order to escape prosecution when the term of office had expired.
- Many of the leaders mentioned that they have succeeded in channeling state resources and revenues into their own; lining up their pockets and those of friends, and relatives. They have built empires at the expense of their own subjects who remain trapped in abject and unspeakable poverty. They live in opulence and own more than one mansion. Their off-shore accounts are overflowing and their children and grandchildren attend colleges and universities abroad. The sad reality is that, when these leaders are bed-ridden, they decide to receive medical treatment abroad because their very own hospitals and medical centres are either in the state of decay or a state of paralysis because the institutions have been left very neglected. (Burimaso, 2013:19) elaborated that "Under the stewardship of these leaders, infrastructure in many African countries has fallen into disrepair, currencies have depreciated, and real prices have inflated dramatically, while job availability, health care, education standards, and life expectancy have declined.

One of the most devastating consequences of long term leadership is the emergence of arrogance on the leader. There is English saying which state "that power corrupts, but that absolute power corrupts absolutely" and this holds true in the context of the African politics. There seem to be a similar trait among these long term serving leaders, the desire to turn a blind eye and to ignore the wishes of their

followers, a self-inflicted pride and false assertiveness of popularity. These leaders cannot draw a line between loyalty and fear. They falsely believe that their followers love them when, in actual fact, these followers fear them, because they use the state resources to spread propaganda and to instill fear among these subjects. The proximity of these leaders to resources makes them untouchable, they are quick to dispense patronage. This dispensement creates an insidious network which develops tentacles which in turn make the leader to believe that he/she is invincible. This level of proximity to resources becomes the root cause of the problem and the reasons why they strongly resist to be removed from office. Most of them derive pleasure and a sense of self-importance when their followers hero-worship them. This near Deity status clouds their reasoning, because they get into their cocoons and tend to think that what-ever they do is right and correct. They then take a hardline stance to anyone who disagrees with them, and those who hold different viewpoints are perceived as enemies. Africa is replete with harrowing stories of atrocities meted against those who differed with their leaders, so many politicians on the left or the right (on the opposite side), have either been made to disappear without trace or been imprisoned, killed (execution style) for holding different viewpoints with some of these leaders. State coffers are channeled into the personal accounts of these leaders. It is therefore not surprising that many of these leaders have managed to secure mansions abroad.

4. African Renaissance

The African Renaissance as a concept is premised on the notion that Africans and those from the Diaspora must take the initiative to overcome some of the current challenges faced by the continent in order to achieve revitalization. The African Renaissance is more of a philosophical and political phenomenon which aims to end the violence, elitism, corruption and poverty and all the ills that continue to ravage Africa as a continent, and substitute them with a more just and equitable order. The concept of the African Renaissance was first conceptualized and articulated by a Senegalese academic Cheikh Anta Diop and recently made popular by former South African president Mr. Thabo Mbeki. Mbeki makes a proposal geared towards encouraging Africans to invest in education and help reverse the "brain drain" of African intellectuals from the West and Australasia.

5. Leadership Theories

The philosophy of leadership is indefinable. Several explanations and theories of leadership have been allotted by various researchers. On the other hand, all the theories, agree on the five basic conditions for leadership: "Leadership is relational, asymmetric, salient, domain specific and instrumental" (Ahlquist & Levi, 2011:5). It is relational, because there is no leader devoid of followers. The leader-follower association is becoming uneven due to the fact that the leader relishes attention together with loyalty and compliance, from their members, but this relationship does not work other way round (Ahlquist & Levi, 2011:5). These leaders are often regarded as the hub of information flow. There are various kinds of leadership theories and for this article the researcher focuses mainly on two which are contingency and situational leadership theories.

5.1 Contingency Theory

Contingency theory of leadership deals with certain variables that are linked to the environment and these variables could determine which particular style of leadership might best be suitable for the current status quo (Cherry, 2012). According to this theory, "no leadership style is best in all situations. Success depends upon a number of variables, including the leadership style, qualities of the followers and aspects of the situation" (Cherry, 2012). Contingency theory is more or less the same as situational theory because they all suggest that there is no simple one way to address the problems. The key variance is that "situational theory tends to focus more on the behaviours that the leader should adopt, given situational factors (often about follower behaviour), while contingency theory takes a broader view that includes contingent factors about leader capability and other variables within the situation" (Cherry, 2012).

5.2 Situational Theory

Situational theories allow the leaders to select the Grade A course of action in relation to a particular given situation. There might be diverse styles of leadership that could be more apposite for specific types of decision-making. Furthermore, Cherry (2012) highlighted that "the leadership style depends on the elements a particular situation presents". Even if a situation could provide exceptional opportunities, but it takes a great man to exercise

leadership, be able to pinpoint them and also take proper action that could suit the circumstances. Like in Africa, the continent is blessed with huge potential of becoming global influence with regard to the utilization of natural resources but, it still requires a great man to act on those opportunities the environment offers. Based on that note, the new leaders are expected to be able to seize the opportunity and build back on the confidence of the citizens, restore the capacity in states and economic institutions with the intention of creating an environment which is conducive for development. This will enable them to claim back their powers and utilize their resources as effectively as they deserve with the intention to equipping their wellbeing both socially, economically and politically. In this case, Africa can afford to see its reawakening.

6. The Long Term Serving Leader and Corruption in Africa

The problem of corruption was acknowledged as being a serious threat to systems of government. Notwithstanding the fact that corruption in most African countries prevents mechanism in which people can utilize their potential to meet their daily needs and wants. Even though corruption is regarded as a general problem world-wide, some of the previously disadvantaged countries in the continent have a tendency to display this phenomenon in all governments. Surprisingly, most governments of developing countries have a tendency to exhibit the problem in par, particularly in a remarkable manner. As such it starts to cloud the citizen to be unable to differentiate between good and bad acts. So, the citizen turns to live with it and accept it as if it is a good thing to do. Indeed, it is the duties of the legislative bodies to minimize corruption in their respective countries by promoting the issue of responsibilities and accountability among government officials. Failure to do that distorts representation in policy making it should be noted that corruption within the judiciary compromises the quality of the rule of law; whereas corruption within public administration which yields negative results in respect of service delivery. For example, in South Africa, majority of political parties' manifestos when embarking on general election campaign, emphasise and clearly outline the issue of corruption as playing a dominant role in the country's ills and as such they suggest some few mechanisms which they think can help root out this problem such as whistle blowing mechanism;

the Hawks as an investigating unit deals with corruption but all these mechanisms are not that effective and still running at sluggish pace (Bruce, 2014). Furthermore, other countries according to Atoubi (2007) like "Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Zaire, and the Central African Republic", still practice corruption activities extensively as if is a source of life. Atuobi (2007), continues that and alludes that at some point, uncontrolled corruption could become a life-threatening experience to these leaders, because they know that it could lead to state of brittleness as well as a vicious conflict, and also plummet a country into "unremitting cycle of institutional anarchy and violence".

Due to the lack of operative structures with sovereignty and power to check and serve as a corruption watch dogs in most African countries, the long term serving political leaders turn to affianced in high and at times egregious points of corruption. This promotes the misuse of government resources for private gain. This is supported by the notion of the National Research Council (1992) wherein they have alluded that these long term serving political leaders have been given a mandate to contribute towards countries economic development but surprisingly, they turn out to be an alternative source of self-enrichment. The council further indicated that "While many African leaders have become rent-seeking and corrupt, there is a corruptor and a corruptee". This means this activity of corruption cannot happen if one party is working in isolation. Therefore, these corruptors and corruptees collude in order to find a way on how to exploit the government resources and also be in a mission to endorse the syndrome of capital flight. Then in this regard, the creation of communal doctrine guiding all leaders across Africa has to be developed and thorough attention has to be made to it. Even though most of the African countries are in democracy as we speak, the debates on corruption orbited largely around the issue of returning the stolen money by the political leaders and as such, it will be difficult for African countries to achieve socio-economic growth and political stability which could serve as a new dawn for Africa. This needs trustworthy and accountable leaders who should emerge to implant the issue of good and selfless supremacy and also who are also not resistant to democratic changes to lead Africa out of its morass to its so that it can reach its social, economic and political ceiling. This is in line with great man theory of leadership.

7. The Long Term Serving Leaders with Conflict in Africa

Conflicts in Africa are dissimilar and multifaceted, and so any attempt at managing and solving it vary. The following researchers (Themner & Wallenstein, 2014; Burbuck & Fettweis, 2014) outlined that conflict started to give the impression that it is at its descending trail since the 1990s and early 2000s. Many African conflicts have been resolved and peace has been returned whereas there are many people who were previously affected by this well thought-out type of violence. There are various legends who played a crucial part with regards to peace making worldwide. They include the following "late Nelson Mandela, former South African President Thabo Mbeki, former Mozambique president Joachim Chissano, former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo and former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan", and they have played prominent roles in respect of the mediation relating African continent's conflict. Based on that note, various societal institutions have been established with the sole purpose of bringing peace and security and also dedicated to public policy to find solutions to the existing conflicts by involving the researcher to deliver novice information in respect of policy development pertaining conflict (Burbuck & Fettweis, 2014). With the immense assortment of contexts in Africa, it is challenging to make a sweeping statement about the remedies relating to conflict. Conversely, the key appraisal of African conflict management initiatives signposts that they habitually fall into groups that are well-known in other appeasing efforts (Aall, 2015). These line of attack view conflict as an end result of power struggles between or among several armed groups (such as political leaders and citizens they are serving); weak states as well as weak state institutions which are not sufficiently expert when coming to the provision of security and services; or totally different visualizations of the future, as a result of personality differences (Aall, 2015).

8. Other Bottlenecks that Hinder Africa as a Continent to Progress

There are several bottlenecks which hinder Africa as a continent to achieve socio-economic growth and political stability which could serve as a new dawn for Africa. If these bottlenecks could be addressed and a conducive environment created, this could enable Africans to use their inventive ideas together with natural resources available in the continent in

order to fight against the triple challenges (unemployment, poverty and inequality) they are facing. The following are seen as other types of bottlenecks: "The absence of peace and security; Destructive style of political leadership; A frustrated democratization process; Corruption; The harmful and seemingly toxic international market which injures Africa; Illiteracy and ignorance; Sustained hunger and poor health; Overusage of foreign languages". The following recommendations are proposed in order to solve the above mentioned bottlenecks:

- To consolidate democracy with comprehensive economic administration on the continent. this is supported by New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad, 2001) document which serves as a strategic document for Africa as a continent, and it outlines that prior to the inauguration of the African leader, there must an obligation and a pledge made by the leaders to the African citizens and the world at large that they will work together towards transforming this continent. Again, they must take initiatives to promote concord and solidarity, democracy, comprehensive economic administration together with people-centred advancement and to promote the motion of accountability amongst each other according to the agreements as stipulated in the programme (Nepad, 2001).
- To come up with coordinated techniques which could help to fight against corruption meritoriously, and they must also compel themselves to pay back the money they have utilized without the permission and mandate of their African subjects which will be too hard and very rare to happen.
- To offer a technical backing their fellow citizens in order to speed up the enactment of the programme of action, such as strengthening "Africa's capacity in planning and development management, financial and infrastructure regulation, accounting and development, construction and management of infrastructure" as outlined by (Nepad,2001). In this case, Africa will be heading towards its new dawn which is called radical transformation.

9. Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, the need for the presidential change in Africa is recommended. Given the history of the continent, most of the countries have been led and

are still being led by one and the same president over a long period of time who sometimes arrogantly even regard themselves as "presidents for life". The fact that the African political arena to date is still occupied by long term serving presidents who have consolidated unimaginable and frightening levels of power is both shocking and frightening. These leaders have already turned the political position into a career. For example, in countries where there is extremely slow growth in respect of political accountability, presidential terms should be limited. This limitation in terms of office will foster accountability among the leaders and it will also hold them liable to act according to constitution. There should be a general constitution which binds all the African political leaders in terms of period to be served during their presidency. This could help in the sense that the leaders will not be tempted to be over ambitious and also prevent the issue of arbitrary rule and avert civil strife ignited by these leaders. As seen in Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and regularly in Botswana rotation in office creates meaningful opportunity for political competition and enhances chances of success for opposition parties. The presidential change often open doors for best variety of leaders with novice ideologies together with fresh perspective for new development in Africa.

Leaders such as of Teodoro Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea, Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria, Paul Biya of Cameroon, Yoweri Museveni Uganda as well as King Mswati III of Swaziland, have been in power for over 29 years. Omar al-Bashir of Sudan and Idriss Deby of Chad have served for more than 25 years, Mamadou Tandja of Niger. Pierre Nguruziza of Burundi and Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo are intent on extending their presidential terms of office and as of the 19th of May 2018, Nguruziza is likely to be in office until 2034. Equally, leaders such as Olusegun Obasango, Frederick Chiluba, Abdoulaye Wade have all unsuccessfully attempted to extend their term of office as it also happened to Robert Gabriel Mugabe who was recently forced by the military to vacate his office in 2017. The same story also nearly happened to Jacob Zuma of South Africa but for him, civil society with the support of opposition parties and the robust media strongly rallied behind the notion of passing a motion of no confidence against him, and later on he had no alternative but to step down after long struggle.

- The autonomy of judiciaries should be consolidated so that they can execute their discretion and strict professionalism as one of the arms of government so that they could enforce this term of office limitations. Currently as speak, in most African countries the long term serving leaders have disabled and paralysed all institutions supporting democracy like the human rights commission, auditor-general and public protector as such, the appointment of honest, independent and credible officials to preside over these institutions is necessary so that these African judiciaries should emulate or mirror from their counterparts such as Colombia Constitutional Court which has managed to reduce government impunity and reject calls to extend the tenure of its president Alvaro Uribe, despite his sterling performance.
- Strong opposition parties are encouraged so that they could resist the attempt by presidents who could overstay their powers. Here a great lesson should be learned from the case of Jacob Zuma and Robert Mugabe of South Africa and Zimbabwe respectively in 2017.
- The African Commission (AU) has to encourage those African countries to adopt term limits in respect of presidency to do likewise. This will bring new leaders with noble ideas together with fresh perspective for new development in Africa and this could become new dawn for Africa.
- The creation of communal doctrine of guiding all political leaders in Africa has to be looked at.
- Africa should jump onto the bandwagon and join the trend in promoting young leaders like it is happening in France where Emmanuel Macron has emerged as one of the youngest presidents the world has ever had. These young leaders are techno-savvy and rely on the advent of technology to solve their countries' problems. There is however little hope in Africa especially when one considers that George Weah of Liberia is only fifty-one years after three attempts to become president. With regard to the elimination of corruption, men such as John Magufuli of Tanzania who has emerged recently as the arch-enemy of corruption offers a lot of inspiration to many Africans.
- The AU has crafted a document known as Agenda 2063 which aims at transforming the economies of many African states. In the words of Dr Nkosazana Zuma, former AU chairperson 'Africa is very rich and yet Africans are very poor'. This paradox is intimidating and should in all fairness come to an end.

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