



Editorial

Professor Sam Moyo, a Great Intellectual, and a Great Leader

Just as we were preparing this bulletin for publication, the extremely sad news of the passing on of CODESRIA's former President, Professor Sam Moyo, reached us. Professor Moyo was in New Delhi, India, to participate in a conference on "Labour Questions in the Global South". The vehicle in which he was travelling got involved in a crash on Friday, 20 November, and Sam died in the early hours of Sunday 22 November 2015.

Professor Moyo has been an active member of CODESRIA since the 1970s. He was elected Vice-President of CODESRIA in 1998, and during the 12th General Assembly held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in December 2008, was elected President of CODESRIA, a position he held until December 2011. Sam was a great intellectual, a great leader, and an institution builder. He was renowned for his diligence, commitment to research and scholarship, as well as his immense sense of humour. He was also well known as a relentless crusader and untiring advocate of social equality and justice. He will be sorely missed by the entire social science community in Africa and in the Global South. This edition of CODESRIA Bulletin features some tributes in his honour. Issa Shivji's poetic tribute captures the sense in which his colleagues and compatriots understood the timelessness of his contribution to African development:

"I come not to mourn you, Comrade
I'll shed no tear, my friend
I refuse to say 'pole'; to say 'sorry'
Why should I?
I refuse to bury you
How can I?
For you live
You live in me
You live in many across the globe
Who loved you
Whose lives you touched
Whose hearts you cuddled
Whose minds you tickled
I come to celebrate your living, Comrade
I'll toast to your ideas, my friend
Over a glass of sahara, and a plate of 'nyama choma'
In Rose Garden, in Sao Paulo, in New Delhi

I'll sing praises of Sahara, that unites the continent
As you did
I'll pontificate on Sahara, that embraces civilizations
As you preached and practiced
I know this is not a poem, nor a flowery prose
Porojo it may be
Who cares?
It's for my friend and comrade
For my compassionate companion
Straight from my heart and soul
Yes, it's for my friend and comrade
For, he lives"
Indeed, Sam lives on!

In this issue, we also report on CODESRIA's 14th General Assembly held in Dakar, 8-12 June 2015. The General Assembly was, as expected, a gathering of a cross section of the CODESRIA membership, who include some of the best scholars, researchers and respected academics from all over Africa and the Diaspora. The theme of the scientific conference of the General Assembly was "*Creating African Futures in an era of Global Transformations.*" The themes of the scientific conference of the triennial CODESRIA General Assembly usually reflected the dominant concerns of the moment. The need for the structural transformation of the African and world economies that have been built upon and are exacerbating social inequalities and environmental problems is now very widely recognized. These days, the concept of "transformation" is, in fact, so widely used that it ought to be critically examined. The CODESRIA and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) *Journal of African Transformation* launched during the CODESRIA General Assembly has the ambition of becoming *the* platform for such debates, many of which are now closely linked to debates about the trajectories of our economies and societies, and about possible and desirable futures. At a time when the African Union (AU) is deploying efforts aimed at building "the Africa We Want", which is what the AU's *Agenda 2063* is about, and as the United Nations System was actively working towards the adoption of a new, post-2015 global development agenda whose aim, it is argued, is to build a "World We Want", the African research community could not have chosen a better theme for the scientific conference of its 14th General Assembly. Social science has been, and will continue looking at

transformations in their complexity, "historicizing the present", but also examining representations of the future. The critical analysis of societal projects (of all scales) and of the narratives and counter-narratives framed around them is indeed part of the normal business of social science. This issue of the bulletin carries a summary of the presentations, debates and resolutions emanating from the General Assembly, as well as the profiles of the new Executive Committee members elected at the General Assembly, led by the erudite Dzodzi Tsikata as President, who took over from Professor Fatima Harrak. The election of Professor Tsikata as the fourth woman (out of the last five Presidents) to be elected to the position in the last 13 years does say something about gender in the life and work of CODESRIA.

Also in this issue of the bulletin is a report on a commemorative conference of the Asia-Africa Conference first held in Bandung in April 1955. The Bandung Conference marked the birth of the Non-Aligned Movement, and what has come to be known as the 'Bandung Spirit'. The commemorative conferences were held in Jakarta and Bandung in April 2015 and October 2015. Participants in the October conference included many scholars and activists from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. CODESRIA was represented by the Executive Secretary, Ebrima Sall who attended the conference with Fatima Harrak, immediate past President of CODESRIA.

We return to the theme of transformation. The World Social Science Forum (WSSF) was this year held in Durban, South Africa, in September 2015 and was as usual organized by the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and co-hosted by CODESRIA and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) of South Africa under the patronage of UNESCO. The Forum focussed on: "*The transformation of global relations for a just world*". It was a significant gathering of scholars and policy-oriented intellectuals drawn from all the regions of the world and across different disciplinary interests in the social sciences and humanities. The Forum provided "a platform for presenting new knowledge and insights, re-thinking received wisdom, charting new directions, promoting innovation in the research-policy-action nexus, and nurturing new international partnerships". This bulletin brings you closing remarks by CODESRIA's President made at the closing ceremony of the conference as well as the Conference Declaration.

The "Debates" section of this edition of the bulletin carries interesting debates on some contemporary issues in Africa. In his insightful piece on "Trends and Issues in the Social Sciences and Humanities in Africa" Ebrima Sall looks at key issues to consider in any serious review of the state of the social sciences and humanities. He looks at the institutional base for knowledge production in Africa and how it has been evolving. He relates the complexity of the institutional landscape in Africa to the "six Cs" identified by Paul Zeleza which include; corporatisation of management, collectivisation of access, commercialisation of learning, commodification of knowledge, computerisation of education, and connectivity of institutions. As part of his conclusion, he makes a strong case for multi-disciplinarity, inter-disciplinarity, and trans-disciplinarity in confronting the various challenges on the African continent.

Francis Nyamnjoh's article "Black Pain Matters: Down with Rhodes" looks at issues of race, racism and marginalisation in South Africa against the backdrop of organised student protests which rocked South Africa universities, unleashing a renewed clamour for transformation in higher education in that country. In "Scars of Memory and Scales of Justice" Babere Kerata Chacha, draws attention to the menace of political assassinations in post-colonial Africa and underlines the urgent need for justice and tolerance as well as an end to impunity by the political class. Lansana Keita's piece on "The Human Project and the Temptations of Religion" reflects on the relationship between science and religion and raises several interesting issues on the reliance on faith in explaining religious phenomena among adherents of the Abrahamic religions of Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

We end the tributes to Sam Moyo with some of his papers.

As Nana Busia says in his tribute, "scholars of the stature of Sam never die". Indeed, Sam lives on!

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