



Gaborone, Botswana



**AFRICA'S
AGENDA
2063:
MAKING THE
DREAM COME TRUE**

2023

STORIES . INSIGHTS . TRENDS





Table of Contents

Kusi Ideas Festival V	4
Insights from Kusi Ideas Festival Host President	7
Africa Must Take its Rightful Place	10
This is How Rwanda Achieved Economic Prosperity	11
Together We Can Fight Climate Change	12
A Future Where Our Continent Stands Tall and Proud is Within Reach	13
The Journey to 2063: Presidential Perspectives	15
Faces of an Integrated African Market	18
Progress on Freedom of Movement	21
State of Technology, Science, Research and Innovation	24
When African Youth Get Behind the Wheel	27
The Big Culture Debate	31
Healthcare in Africa in the Post-Covid Era	34

A Roundtable on Africa’s Agricultural and Climate Futures	37
Reflecting on Africa’s Last 20 Years and Looking Ahead to the Next 20	40
Closing the Curtain	43
Kusi Ideas Festival Gala Dinner	44
A Vision for the Future	45
Moonshots from Kusi Ideas Festival V	47
Kusi Throwback	48
The EastAfrican Readouts	49
Kusi Ideas Festival Speakers	51
Kusi Ideas Festival Organising Committee	53
Kusi Ideas Festival Moderators	55
About Nation Media Group PLC	56
Our Partners	57

Kusi Ideas Festival V

The fifth edition of the Kusi Ideas Festival, held in Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana, on December 7th-8th, 2023, continued its legacy as a beacon of intellectual discourse in Africa.

Since its inception in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2019, the festival has expanded to include subsequent editions in Kisumu, Kenya (2020), Accra, Ghana (2021), and Nairobi, Kenya (2022). Each year, it brings together a diverse array of Africa's most brilliant minds. Visionary leaders and entrepreneurs, influential thinkers, activists, artists, and government dignitaries, including Heads of State.

The festival serves as a dynamic platform for exploring and influencing the emerging trends on the continent, as well as brainstorming possibilities for Africa's journey through the next 50 years.

Despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual convening of the festival has remained steadfast, serving as a testament to the resilience of the African continent. It also reflects the unwavering commitment of the Nation Media Group and its partners to spearhead pivotal conversations that will accelerate Africa's transformative journey.

Drawing its name from the southerly "kusi" winds instrumental in shaping the historical connections of East Africa and the Indian Ocean, the festival embodies that essence of vision and progress. These winds, known for facilitating trade and cultural exchanges, metaphorically represent the festival's mission. It aims to create a vibrant nexus for the exchange of ideas, the convergence of investments, and the networking of people. In doing so, the festival seeks to chart an innovative and progressive course for Africa's

future, echoing the spirit of exploration and connection that these ancient winds have driven for centuries.

The theme of this year's festival was "Africa's Agenda 2063: Making the Dream Come True", based on the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, which has been defined as the continent's master plan for transforming it into the global powerhouse of the future.

Back in January 2014, the then AU Commission Chair Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma presented a visionary "Email from the future". In it, she painted a picture of an interconnected, prosperous, peaceful, technologically driven Africa that had undergone a remarkable agricultural revolution by the year 2063.

The festival, commemorating the 10th anniversary of Agenda 2063, acknowledged both the achievements and challenges encountered on this ambitious journey. While there are many advances and hopeful stories to celebrate, Africa also confronts significant hurdles such as the impacts of climate change, debt crises, the threat of violent extremism, youth disillusionment, and instances of democratic regression. Yet, amidst these challenges, some nations are making noteworthy progress, defying adverse trends.

The Festival sought to explore the complexities facing Africa today, learning from both the successes and setbacks. It was an opportunity to reflect on the experiences of African nations in their pursuit of the goals outlined in Agenda 2063. By learning from those who are successfully navigating these challenging times, participants gained valuable insights and inspiration.



Botswana KTM Choir performs at the opening ceremony



Botswana's Kwena Madiba traditional dance group performs at the Festival



The Royal Aria Convention Centre

Location: Gaborone, Botswana

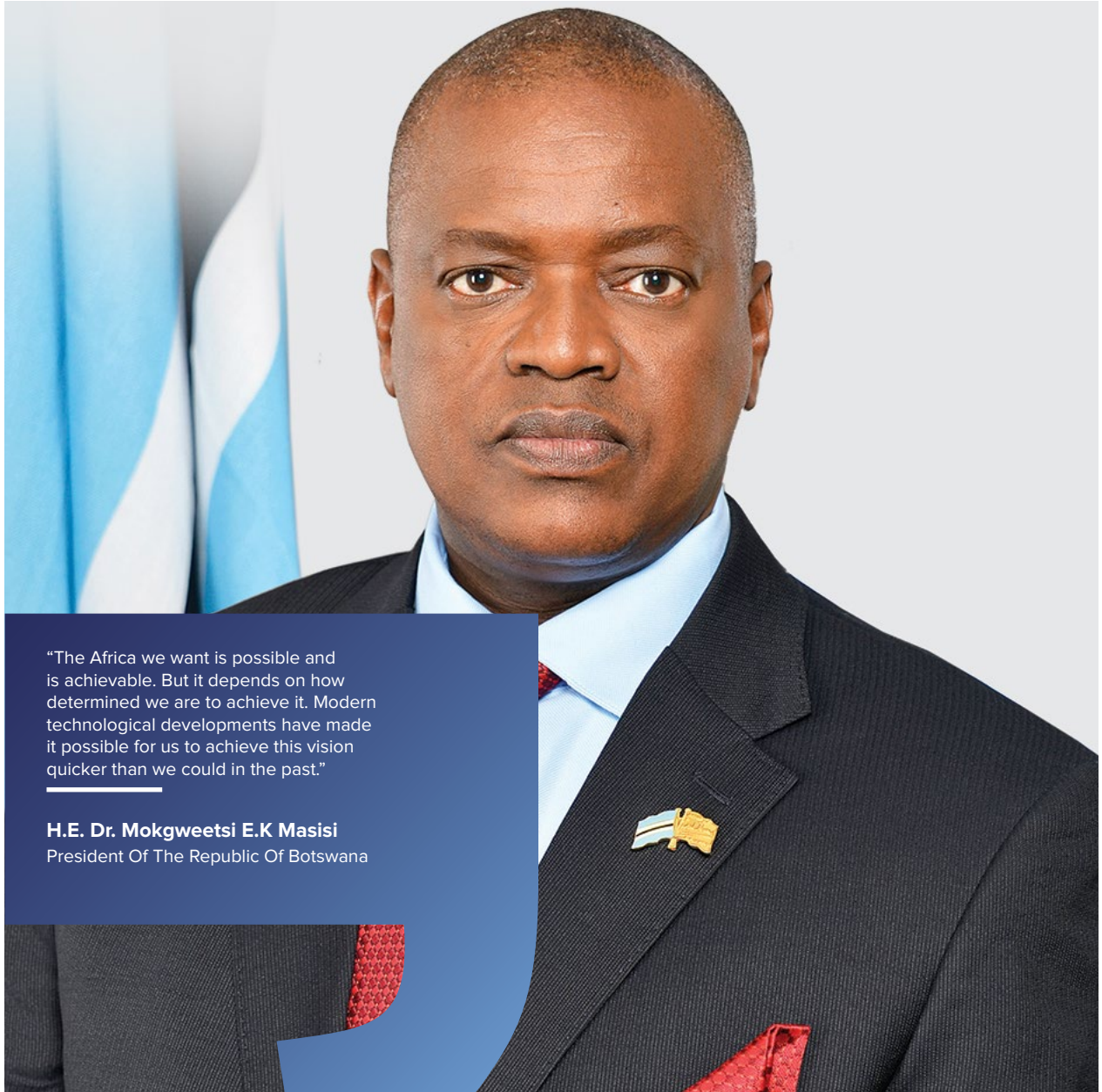
Botswana's success story is a remarkable tale of transformation and resilience, making it an ideal setting for the fifth Kusi Ideas Festival in its capital, Gaborone. At the time of its independence in 1966, Botswana was one of the world's poorest countries. However, it quickly became a model of stability and prosperity in Africa, thanks to its sound economic policies, good governance, and effective management of natural resources.

A key factor in Botswana's economic ascent was the discovery and astute management of diamond resources, which fuelled rapid economic growth. The country invested these revenues in vital sectors such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, significantly improving the quality of life for its citizens.

Botswana's strong democratic institutions and respect for the rule of law have also played crucial roles in its development story, setting it apart as a beacon of good governance in Africa.

Even the city of Gaborone has a story to tell: It was named after Chief Kgosi Gaborone of the Tlokwa, who settled in the area around the late 1880s. The name Gaborone literally translates to "it does not fit badly" or "it is not unbecoming", which could be interpreted as a testament to the suitability and welcoming nature of the land.

Gaborone's rapid development from a small administrative town to a bustling modern city mirrors Botswana's overall economic and social growth, and arguably encapsulates the ideals that Kusi seeks to promote: innovation, sustainability, and progressive transformation in Africa.



“The Africa we want is possible and is achievable. But it depends on how determined we are to achieve it. Modern technological developments have made it possible for us to achieve this vision quicker than we could in the past.”

H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi E.K Masisi
President Of The Republic Of Botswana

Insights from Kusi Ideas Festival Host President

When we first gave a thoughtful consideration to hosting the fifth Edition of the Kusi Ideas Festival, the constant picture that kept emerging was, - What a platform! What a possibility of setting up right here, in a village located in the banks of our City precincts, the likelihood of a “stock exchange” where ideas are not only tradable, but also stand every chance of enriching our policy space, to be commoditised and monetised.

So, we truly are humbled, to provide hosting capacity and contribute to the necessary conversations towards realising the lofty dream of placing Africa at the forefront of global development.



President Masisi makes his remarks at the Festival

I would like to commend the efforts by the Nation Media Group (NMG) of Kenya to place within the public agenda continuous discussion of the Africa's Agenda 2063 - the continent's march towards true and sustainable self-determination. The last four of the Kusi Ideas Festival were held in East and West Africa; we are the first host in Southern Africa.

Why is this event so important to us? We are fully persuaded that this event has a unique offering of a transformative and intentional conversation by thought leaders, from across the continent and the diaspora, to interrogate the various aspects and facets of our collective vision. Thus, in the programme, you will find business executives, academics, policy makers, community leaders, higher education students, youthful entrepreneurs, and other social influencers in various new media platforms.

It is our anticipation that out of the effervescence of the interchange of various ideas, perspectives, and proposals on issues of concern, there would emerge some pointers of strategic directions to be seriously considered by our Governments, the private sector, civil society organisations, social groups and partner institutions, towards fulfilling the Vision of the Africa in which we aspire to live.

Accordingly, this Kusi Ideas Festival, like its previous editions, serves as a checkpoint, to gauge the level of our commitment on our very own continental vision. It is a great opportunity to course correct, in order to enhance our capacity and efficiency towards achieving our goals. It is an opportunity to reflect on the successes, challenges and setbacks along this journey of Africa's blueprint for development.

Without equivocation, we are all energised by one notable and pivotal achievement heralded by the establishment in 2018 of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), its resounding ratification by African Union Member States, and its coming into force since February 2021. We need, therefore, to forge ahead with fortitude and progressively synergised regional efforts of integration that are guided by and advance all of the AfCFTA Protocols. Let us have a crystallisation of ideas and perspectives on strategies for spearheading Implementation Excellence.

The year 2063 is less than 40 years away. They say 40 years is the span of a generation. It is certain that by that time many of the young people who are here and those that have joined us online, will be occupying leadership positions. It is for this reason that this event particularly provides a centre stage for young people to chart the future that they want.

The event's theme, namely, “Africa's Agenda 2063: Making The Dream Come True”, presents us with the opportunity of comprehensively exploring the seven key aspirations through which we envision the future of Africa. As you are aware, we desire to build and live in:

- A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, looking at the health of the continent's people and how well equipped they are to compete in the 21st century.
- An integrated continent, politically united, and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa Renaissance, and the progress of both regional integration and African Continental Free Trade Area.
- An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for

human rights, justice and the rule of law, and the shining example of its democracy and nation-building projects.

- A peaceful and secure Africa; how peace can be brought to all the people, and a re-imagination of the AU's "silence the guns" plan.
- Africa with a strong cultural identity common heritage, values and ethics, and the growing global influence of its cultural production.
- An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential offered by the African people, especially its women and youth, and the care and protection we must all give to our children; as well as the contribution of the Continent to the global innovation pool, and best practice in areas like conservation.
- An Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner.

Botswana stands ready to share with the rest of the continent, our success story, modest as it maybe. We have had the fortune of maintaining political and economic stability for several decades which resulted from our multi-stakeholder consultative approach to governance.

We have continued to put at the forefront of our collective development, institutional integrity anchored on tenacious adherence to the rule of law. This has served us greatly but not without challenges. We continue to emphasise that "*Ntwakgolo ke ya molomo*", or as the Akan people of Ghana would literally translate in their proverb "conflicts are resolved best with a tongue and not with an axe."

As we gather in Gaborone for this exchange of ideas, let us remind ourselves of the hope that Africa represents. This hope has been demonstrated in many success stories which we must constantly communicate, in the most-true perspective, to the rest of the world; and dispel the distortions of Afro-pessimistic narratives.

You would recall that at the height of the devastating Covid-19 pandemic, we in Botswana were able to contribute to medical Science when our scientists successfully identified the Omicron variant of the Covid-19 Pandemic. I believe you are well acquainted with similar exploits from your respective countries which is truly an indication that this continent is endowed with excellence.

This continent continues to produce some of the best performing athletes and world record holders in the field of sports. The world is waking up to our cultural genius with African beats becoming a feature of the global pop-culture.



Delegates at the Festival

Our continent is also endowed with vast natural resources that provide a foundation for unrivalled economic renaissance. We continue to represent the best hope for conservation, providing a rich biodiversity as well as incomparable species and varieties of both flora and fauna. This continent is, indeed, both the cradle and the future of humankind.

Our steps towards facilitation of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) have been given impetus by policy actions taken by some sister Nations like Kenya who have announced their intention to abolish VISA requirements from African's travelling to Kenya.

We on our part have since April this year initiated an even easier movement between ourselves and neighbouring Namibia by which citizens of both nations are able to travel between the two countries using only the national identity card as a travel document. This has clearly reduced the burden of acquisition of Passports for travel to either country. It is our hope that with time this will become a feature of the Sub-Continent and eventually the continent as a whole.

It fills me with great pleasure when I look at the diversity and high standard of the quality of presenters at this ideas festival. The collective wisdom and expertise assembled here is a microcosm of the brain-power that this continent possesses. It is a clear demonstration that Africa has the capacity to shape its own destiny.

More than ever before, Africa is at an inviable intersection to shift from outside dependence and instead leverage on the continental endowment of human capital and material resources and turn the collective African dream into a reality. Engagements such as the Kusi Ideas Festival can only hasten this transformation.

I, therefore, urge the participants to vigorously and passionately explore the topics on the agenda. We must leave no stone unturned in our quest to achieve the Africa we want. With the power of imagination, let us unshackle the aspirations of the succeeding generations.

The Africa we want is possible and is achievable. But it depends on how determined we are to achieve it. Modern technological developments have made it possible for us to achieve this



Presidents Masi and Mnangagwa follow the Festival's proceedings

vision quicker than we could in the past. In Botswana, we have embarked on the road towards the knowledge-based economy. This should be able to give us the capacity to benefit from intangible resources in the form of Intellectual Property in the key spaces we are in, such as mining, especially diamonds, agriculture and tourism.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to raise the bar higher in your deliberations and commit yourselves fully to investments that will make our continent a net exporter of knowledge goods rather than just an importer. We need to capacitate our youth and institutions of higher learning to vigorously explore innovative solutions in the fields of Agriculture, Health, Energy, Education Communication, Food preservation, Artificial Intelligence, Mining etc.

Political stability in some parts of our continent remains elusive. We all know that without the guarantee of such stability, the dream that we are chasing will be so much harder to achieve. I, therefore, urge you to include in your conversations practical solutions to internal and external conflicts that are clearly an obstacle to sustainable development. As I said earlier, the collective brainpower in this gathering is all that Africa needs to resolve all her problems including conflicts.

Climate change continues to present a major challenge for now and for the foreseeable future. It threatens to scuttle our plans to achieve sustainability in areas such as food self-sufficiency and health. Let us summon our collective efforts to find the African solution to this.

The demographics in Africa show that the majority of people in this continent are young. It is therefore important to ensure that they are fully engaged in the discussions about, as well as for their future. I am aware that the organizers of this event have invited students from several institutions of higher learning such as the University of Botswana, Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Botswana University of Science and Technology. I urge them to take full advantage of this opportunity to engage and network with experts in the different fields of their study.

I wish to extend a further invitation to our visitors to ensure you do not leave Botswana without enjoying our wonderful hospitality. For beef lovers I can assure you we have a world class beef that never fails to conquer and arrest the taste-buds of our fellow visitors. Whether you choose to indulge in our succulent veld grazed stake or for the more adventurous, our traditional pounded meat "seswaa" you won't be the first, nor the last, to take that only one of its kind culinary experience home.



Delegates at the Festival

Africa Must Take its Rightful Place



“Yes, we may not invent the wheel but we must stand from the point of view that we have the resources to develop, modernise, and industrialise Africa.”

H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa
President, Republic of Zimbabwe

There are factors in my view which the African continent needs to embrace. We need to speak with one voice. The global North takes advantage of us because they have the capacity to divide us. It is critically important that our current crop of leaders do not take glory for being marked (out by the West) as good leaders. We must be identified as good leaders by our own people because we champion the African cause in our continent.

Africa has the resources internally to develop, grow and modernise Africa. Yes, we may not invent the wheel but we must stand from the point of view that we have the resources to develop, modernise, and industrialise Africa. Using our domestic resources, we should be able to acquire the technology, the skills, and sciences elsewhere.

This is How Rwanda Achieved Economic Prosperity



“Our leadership believes that there is a lot to learn from other African countries. We believe in cooperation, and that in a conference like this we can learn from countries like Zimbabwe, Botswana, as they also learn from us.”

Hon. Dr. Edouard Ngirente
Prime Minister, Republic of Rwanda

To start with, we need to talk about opportunities in Africa and how we can get the youth to benefit from those opportunities. This is where Rwanda started. To achieve economic success, we made sure that every citizen participated in our national planning programme—from the local to the national level ensuring total inclusion.

Our planning was based on three pillars, the social, economic and the governance aspect. The government of Rwanda under the leadership of President Paul Kagame, made sure that we have an accountable government. The accountability mechanism is very serious in Rwanda; everyone is accountable, be it in public finance management, or in governance. Each year, we have three different forums where the president and the entire government sit together and discuss what we have achieved, and where we failed.

We also have National Dialogue (*Omushikirano*) sessions where the President and the team from government sits with the citizens, some in a room and others participating remotely. They ask questions and tell us what is working and what is not. Involving the citizens in planning has really helped us to achieve the consistent growth you see in Rwanda.

Education is also a priority pillar because in Rwanda, 60% of the population is youth, so out of 13 million of the population, 3.4 million are in schools. This is why we invested heavily in education systems. We changed programmes to make sure that they are customised to our needs, and then made sure that we have well trained teachers. This also means we are keen on teachers' welfare. One of the actions we took last year was to increase teachers' salaries starting from primary and secondary schools. Primary school teachers' salaries were increased by 88% and secondary school teachers' received a 40% increment. This boosted their morale.

The other thing is agriculture. You cannot lead a population with no food. You have to make sure that there is food that is accessible and affordable. We have been investing very heavily in agriculture through irrigation schemes and in producing seedlings. We used to import seeds from outside and spent lot of money on that but now we are producing all the seeds we need. We are also launching the first fertiliser plant in Rwanda this December (2023), to make sure that we don't import fertilizer. Our goal is that by the time we have the seeds, fertiliser and technology, we are sure that agricultural production is going to increase.

It is also important to invest in infrastructure—roads, electricity, water and sanitation, as well ICT infrastructure. Currently wherever you are in Rwanda, you have internet connection. 15 years ago the connectivity level of electricity was 17%, as I speak, we have reached 74% connectivity. Our target is to achieve 100% connectivity by end of 2024.

Our leadership believes that there is a lot to learn from other African countries. We believe in cooperation, and that in a conference like this we can learn from countries like Zimbabwe, Botswana, as they also learn from us.

Together We Can Fight Climate Change

“To combat climate change, Africa must get a home-based solution for sustainable development.”

Hon. Dr. Doto Biteko

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy, Republic of Tanzania



Tanzania relies on 65% of natural gas for electricity. Only 25% of the electricity is hydro electric power and 3% comes from other sources.

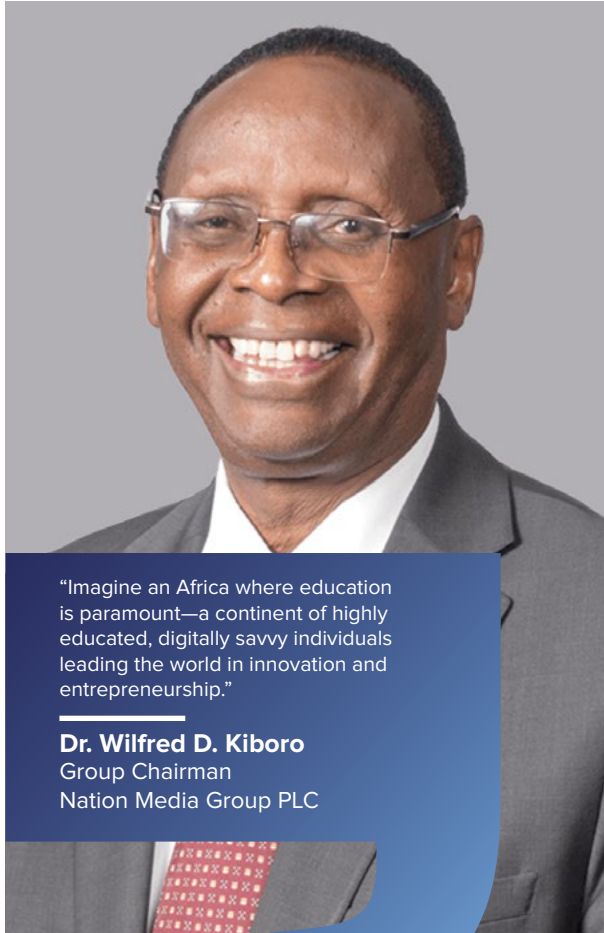
Currently we are exploiting only 20% of our reserve. As a country, we are constructing a hydro electric power plant to be commissioned in the beginning of 2024. The plant is going to generate 2,115 megawatts providing a solution to many of our problems. It will mean that we have sufficient power, thereby enabling us to sell the surplus to our neighbouring countries.

At the same time, we are working on connectivity with our neighbouring countries. We are currently constructing a line that is going to connect us to Kenya. To combat climate change, Africa must get a home-based solution for sustainable development.

Agenda 2063

Having a plan is one thing, implementing it is vital. African member states must work hard to realise the 7 aspirations of Africa's Agenda 2063. Back home, Agenda 2063 is at the centre of what we do—from strategy formulation to the national budget—this has contributed to growth and development.

A Future Where Our Continent Stands Tall and Proud is Within Reach



“Imagine an Africa where education is paramount—a continent of highly educated, digitally savvy individuals leading the world in innovation and entrepreneurship.”

Dr. Wilfred D. Kiboro
Group Chairman
Nation Media Group PLC

journey through Kenya the following year, Ghana in 2021 and back to Kenya 2022, has been a revelation that Africa has the wherewithal to come very close to transforming into the global powerhouse of the 21st Century that the African Union’s Agenda 2063 aimed for 10 years ago when it was born.

So, here we are, an incredibly rich gathering of minds, visionaries, and leaders who are committed to overcoming the hurdles that stand in the way of our continent’s progress, and to shape its glorious future.

Today, we stand united under the theme of “Africa’s Agenda 2063: Making The Dream Come True” as a statement of faith in that possibility. This event, hosted in collaboration with the Government of Botswana, bears witness to our collective determination to reach across borders and rise together to great heights.

Sometimes, when we wake up to news of the return of coups in West Africa and the Sahel, some can be tempted to wallow in despair. I dare say they shouldn’t. The journey to 2063 is a winding road with many forks. For every coup, you have a Liberia where a one-term President graciously concedes defeat, or a Kenya where a Supreme Court became only the second in the world to overturn a presidential election result, and everyone dutifully respected it. In Botswana, the country is soon celebrating the 60th anniversary of one the longest running continuous multi-party democracies in the global south.

As we explore the aspirations of Africa’s Agenda 2063, these trends persuade us to believe that a future where our continent stands tall and proud is within reach. Picture a food-secure Africa, a land that no longer relies solely on rain-fed agriculture but embraces the latest food technologies. It is possible. A continent that not only feeds its people but trades surplus produce with the rest of the world, contributing to global food security.

Imagine an Africa where education is paramount—a continent of highly educated, digitally savvy individuals leading the world in innovation and entrepreneurship. It is possible to realise an Africa which is a leading contributor to solving global problems. A united Africa, presenting a formidable economic bloc with highly developed infrastructure, where people move freely, utilising a common currency, and where peace and harmony flourish, is a reality we can bequeath to our grandchildren.

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Kusi Ideas Festival, which the Nation Media Group launched in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2019 with H.E. President Paul Kagame as our gracious host. Since then, our Kusi



Dr. Kiboro (center) with President Masisi and Dr. Biteko at the Festival

In our Africa of 2063, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of eradicating poverty. A continent where economic prosperity is enjoyed by all. It is within our means to realise a united Africa where democracy, political stability, rule of law, respect for human rights, good governance, and patriotism are the cornerstones of our society.

We envision governments free from corruption, accountable to the people they serve. This is the Africa we strive for—where every citizen can live with dignity and pride.

Our vision includes an environmentally sustainable and healthy continent. Africa will lead the world in clean and renewable energy, restoring our lands to their pre-independence grandeur. We will be custodians of our environment, ensuring a better future for generations to come.

In our Africa, world-class healthcare services will be accessible to all and the well-being of our people will be our utmost priority.

Natural resources will be a source of empowerment for our people — a lesson that Botswana is already teaching us. We envision an Africa where the benefits of our resources flow to the hands of our citizens, not to exploitative cartels on the continent and in the rich world.

We see a future where Africa holds a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, ensuring that our voice is heard and our interests are represented. However, we must acknowledge the one thousand challenges we face on the path to realising the African dream of 2063.

But let us not be deterred. Together, we possess the power to overcome these challenges. Through unity, determination, and a relentless pursuit of our shared vision, we can and will make Africa's dream come true.

As we embark on this remarkable journey, let us remember that our greatest strength lies in our collective will to forge ahead. Together, we will build an Africa that surpasses all expectations—one that embodies our hopes, dreams, and aspirations. Let the Kusi winds blow us ever closer to that north star of our dream.

Holding this fifth Kusi festival in Botswana helps make the statement, as the young people say, that our African dreams are valid. And on behalf of the Nation Media Group, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the government of Botswana and, in particular, to his H.E. President Mokgweetsi Masisi, for their collaboration and exceptional support in hosting this event. I also express my sincere appreciation to all the participants, sponsors, and partners who made this possible.

01

The Journey to 2063: Presidential Perspectives





L-R: Dr. Biteko, Dr. Ngirente, Presidents Mnangagwa and Masisi, and Mr. Tadesse during the Presidential Roundtable

SPEAKERS

H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi
President, Republic of Botswana

H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa
President, Republic of Zimbabwe

Hon. Dr. Edouard Ngirente
Prime Minister, Republic of Rwanda

Hon. Dr. Doto Biteko
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy, Tanzania

Admassu Tadesse
Group President Emeritus & MD, Trade and Development Bank Group (Moderator)

The realisation of the ambitious goals outlined in Agenda 2063 relies heavily on effective leadership. The presidential panel underscored the crucial role of visionary and effective leadership in steering the continent towards this aspirational future – and setting the tone for the Kusi Ideas Festival for the remainder of the year.

Despite witnessing numerous inspiring success stories in recent decades, Africa continues to face formidable challenges, including an unprecedented increase in coups, the rise of violent extremism, and a disenchanted youth population.

Moderator Admassu Tadesse set off the conversation by framing these issues within a broader context, questioning whether Africa is regressing or if these challenges are just a bump on the road.

Acknowledging this reality, President Masisi expressed his hope that these were temporary setbacks on a broadly hopeful trajectory, arguing that the “moral imperative, the economic essentiality and political hunger to attain the ideals of 2063” should never falter, even in the face of challenges. Responding to the question of a recent wave of coups in the continent, he argued that ordinary citizens do not necessarily support them unequivocally.

“If you engage with the ordinary citizens of those countries, where these unfortunate occurrences take place, they do not subscribe to this form of change of government. They do not subscribe to violence. It’s out of desperation. We need to help one another, to do the right things so that people are free.”

“

Overheard at Kusi

I think Zimbabwe is the only country that has endless sanctions. Most of the countries in the north, when they talk about Zimbabwe or dream about Zimbabwe, they only dream about sanctions. It [makes] us think outside the box to beat those sanctions. This is why our economy is growing, imperfect, [but] perhaps 5% or so on a yearly basis.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Zimbabwe

”

Supporting this idea, Dr. Edouard Ngirente, emphasised the importance of accountable governance and inclusive planning that involves the entire population in national development. “The accountability mechanism is very serious in Rwanda. Everyone, from public finance management to governance, is held responsible. This is crucial for achieving tangible results.”

Dr. Ngirente spoke of the different levels of consultative governance that President Paul Kagame has instituted in Rwanda. This approach has been crucial in Rwanda’s development, as reflected in the country’s robust public finance management and governance structures, as well as in an impressive 8% economic growth in Rwanda for over 10 years, and an increase in life expectancy from 49 to 69 years over the past 15 years.

On his part, President Mnangagwa discussed Zimbabwe’s resilience in the face of sanctions, which he viewed as an opportunity for innovative thinking and self-reliance, especially for a whole generation of Zimbabweans who have reached adulthood never knowing a country without sanctions.

He highlighted Zimbabwe’s unique agricultural model that emphasizes household-level food security, while the large commercial farms meet the country’s national food reserves, which has now resulted in the country exporting — rather than importing — food. “Sanctions . . . have made us think outside the box and survive.”

President Masisi emphasised the importance of strong institutions, careful contract negotiations, diversifying partners, and never surrendering in the pursuit of benefiting their people from natural resources.

“We talk a lot about prosperity in this continent, but we know that prosperity has everything to do with value addition. In our mining contracts for diamonds, we [previously] had a clause regarding non-competition.

“Essentially, this meant that if we chose to benefit our diamonds, we would be seen as competing with our partners. As a result, we were limited to mining and trading only raw, unprocessed materials. For those familiar with diamonds, it is well-

known that their value significantly increases after beneficiation. Being restricted to only mining and selling raw diamonds was like being imprisoned. Our second liberation came when we successfully renegotiated and removed this clause.”

Botswana’s approach to maximizing benefits from its natural resources, particularly in the mining sector, offers a model for other African countries.

On Tanzania, Deputy Prime Minister, Doto Biteko, spoke of his country’s experience in managing natural gas reserves and electricity connectivity projects with neighbouring countries to develop regional infrastructure under the East African Power Pool.

“We are already connected with Burundi and Rwanda and are building a line that is going to connect us with Kenya. Currently, we have a contractor who is doing the line between Tanzania and Zambia.” The country is planning to construct a hydroelectric power plant to generate 2,115 megawatts.

This conversation served as a vital reminder that the journey to Africa’s envisioned future is deeply reliant on the guidance and strategic direction of its leaders. The insights from the panel highlight the significant strides that are being made towards realising the aspirations of Agenda 2063. With strategic planning, sound policies, and inclusive development approaches, the vision of a transformed Africa is attainable.



DATA DIVE

Tanzania is currently exploiting only

20%

of its natural gas reserves, and is conducting further exploration.

The country’s proven natural gas reserves are estimated at 57 trillion cubic feet.

02

Faces of an Integrated African Market



**A. Tadesse****P. Wakiaga****K. Olebile**

SPEAKERS

Admassu Tadesse

Group President Emeritus & MD, Trade and Development Bank Group

Phyllis Wakiaga

Senior Advisor, Global Lead, Industry & Commerce, Tony Blair Institute

Keletsoitse Olebile

Chief Executive Officer, Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC)

James Smart

Managing Editor, Newsroom Production, Nation Media Group (Moderator)

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a monumental step towards realising the dream of an integrated African market. This panel, moderated by James Smart, discussed how the AfCFTA is opening doors for enhanced trade and industrialisation across the continent.

This ambitious initiative aims to elevate Africa's role in the global market, especially in manufacturing, where Africa currently

contributes only 1.9% to global numbers. By fostering intra-continental trade, which stands at a modest 15-17% but is on the rise, the AfCFTA is seen as a catalyst for growth and integration, setting the stage for a new era of economic development on the continent.

Phyllis Wakiaga highlighted the opportunities that the AfCFTA presents for value addition in Africa's manufacturing sector. She noted that a significant challenge for Africa has been the export of products without value addition.

However, since the launch of the AfCFTA, positive developments have emerged, such as the alignment on rules of origin and tariff exchanges. These advancements are already showing promising results, albeit with some challenges like delays in cross-border movement of goods.

Wakiaga emphasised the need for improved infrastructure, logistics, and payment systems to fully leverage the AfCFTA, particularly for small and medium enterprises, which form a substantial part of African economies. This is not just about trade enhancement; it is a success story in the making, with a focus on addressing ongoing challenges to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.

Keletsoitse Olebile emphasised the need to scrutinise the nature of Africa's exports. He pointed out that a substantial portion of African countries are primarily exporting unprocessed commodities, highlighting a crucial area for growth in beneficiation and industrialisation using Africa's natural resources.

"If you drill deeper into the data of what exactly we are exporting within Africa as well as across the oceans, you will realise that most of our countries are truly exporting unprocessed commodities . . . of 45 [African] countries that were recently surveyed, if you are not having your lead export product as oil, it is either going to be in agriculture or in mining," he said.

Even so, in terms of global exports, Africa claims a mere 2% of the market, trailing behind Asia and Europe. Olebile stressed that although Africa is at the lower end of global trade rankings, ambitious targets have been set, and the focus now needs to shift to effective planning and execution to realize these objectives.

On his part, Tadesse addressed the critical issue of climate finance, noting the gap between discussion and tangible action. Despite numerous Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings, including the recent 28th conference in Dubai, significant climate funding has yet to materialise. Tadesse criticised the lack of implementation of the fundamental economic principle of “polluter pays,” a concept widely acknowledged but seldom acted upon.

He pointed out the lack of systemic coherence in addressing these issues, highlighting the discrepancy between rhetoric and action and the challenges faced by poorer nations in implementing environmental initiatives.

Tadesse poignantly remarked, “...Don't ever be poor because if you're poor, then you can't do it, and everybody else you're going to look to will just turn you into a punching bag; they'll browbeat you into submission, and you can do nothing about it.” This encapsulates the harsh reality of the global climate finance debate, where economic disparities significantly influence a country's ability to engage in and benefit from environmental initiatives.

Despite some countries receiving incentives for their proactive stance in climate discussions, the benefits are not evenly distributed, leaving many African countries behind. The disparity between affluent and impoverished nations starkly impacts their capacity to contribute to and benefit from global environmental efforts.

Still, the panel remained hopeful that an efficient and prosperous African trade market was possible, and together they underscored the critical importance of strategic trade policies, sustainable development, and equitable economic practices in realising this vision.



Question and answer session during the panel discussion

“

Overheard at Kusi

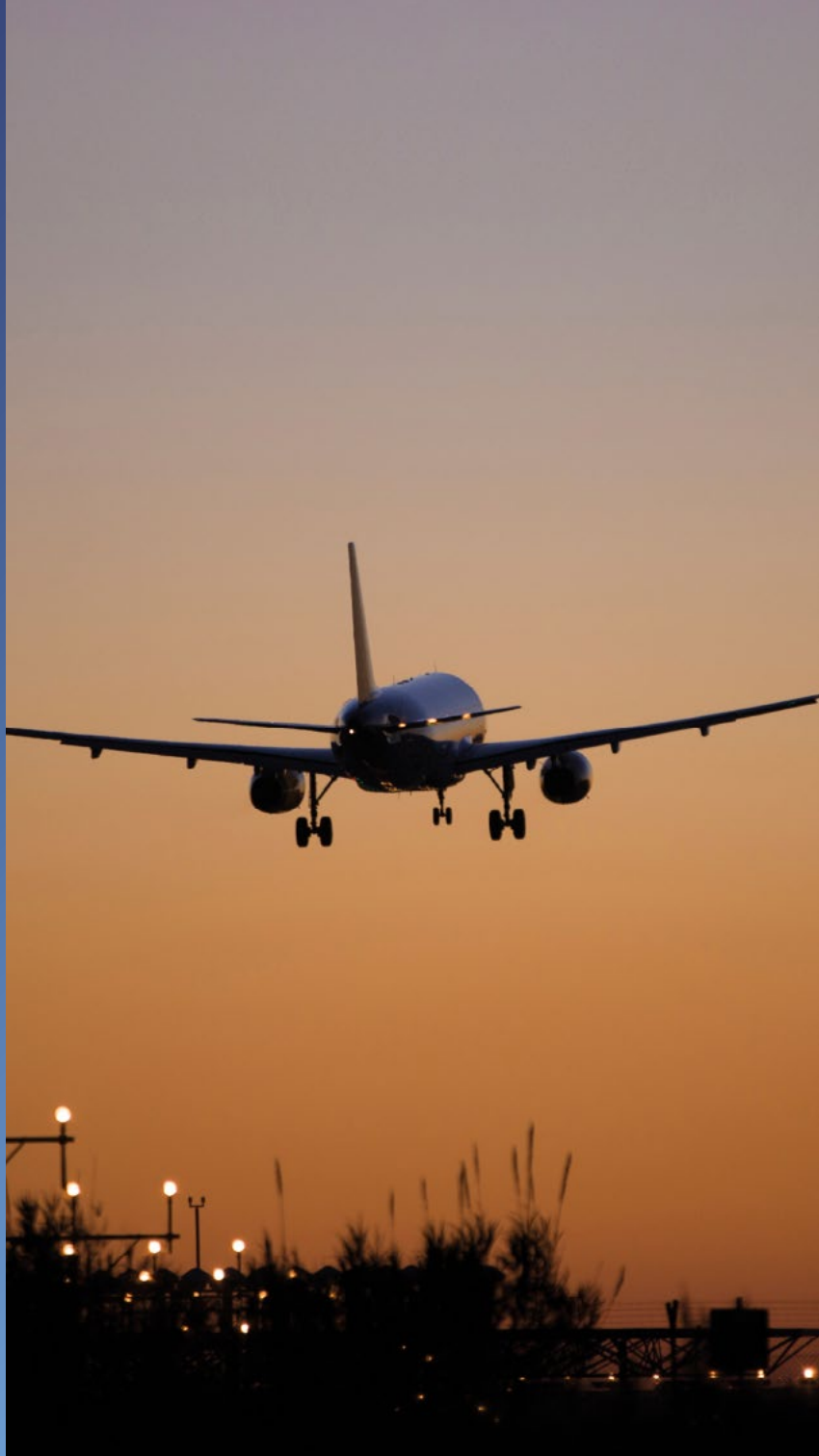
I hear these days some of the big South African multinationals are drawing almost 50%, if not more, of their total net profit from the non-South African operations . . .It is very clear that there is a very interesting continental marketplace that's available for smart private sector firms, that are multinational in orientation, to actually crack that opportunity.

Admassu Tadesse

”

03

Progress on Freedom of Movement



**R. Opelo****T. Maphanga****S. Mugoya**

SPEAKERS

Rule Jimmy Opelo

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, Botswana

Treasure Maphanga

Chief Operating Officer, Ae Trade Group

Samuel H. Mugoya

VP Advisor, Infrastructure and Industrialisation, African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

Kefilwe Mokgaotsane

Broadcast Journalist, Botswana Television (Moderator)

Freedom of movement is vital to Africa's growth and prosperity, and this concept of mobility is not just about commerce – it is also about connecting people, ideas, and resources. This panel, moderated by Kefilwe Mokgaotsane, explored how seamless travel across African borders can enhance regional trade, foster cultural exchanges, and bolster overall integration.

Rule Jimmy Opelo shared insights on the strides made in easing travel between Botswana and Namibia, highlighting the use of national identity cards for cross-border movement. At first, there was apprehension from official quarters about how this would work. "When this idea was floated around, there were some doubts and suspicions [about] how an identity card could be used as an [international] travelling document."

Botswana's experience is that the policy change has simplified travel, because unlike passports, identity cards do not expire after 10 years, nor do they get filled up with stamps. He expressed satisfaction with this development, noting, "We are quite happy about that move, and I believe I'm also speaking on behalf of my counterpart, our peers in Namibia."



Delegates network during breaks at the Kusi Ideas Festival

“

Overheard at Kusi

I'm from Uganda but previously lived in Kenya and I am now based in Cairo. In each of these places, I use different mobile money systems. I have a Ugandan SIM card and a Safaricom M-pesa card for Kenya. When I'm at my desk in Cairo, I can easily switch my SIM cards and transfer money across these countries. We need to consider more than just the physical movement of people. We need to also focus on the establishment, digitalisation, and the mobility of services.

Samuel H. Mugoya

”

Samuel H. Mugoya delved deeper into the matter, unpacking what freedom of movement of people really means in practice, discussing the need to move beyond just visa facilitation.

He suggested looking at broader issues like residency and establishment rights — such as the right to work, study and even gain citizenship — to truly open up the region.

He also spoke of freedom of movement being about movement of services, for example, with cross-border micro-payments such as mobile money, that have a real impact on citizens' lives. On her part, Treasure Maphanga focused on the bigger picture of African integration as a catalyst for progress.

She underscored the importance of not only easing movement but also developing the necessary infrastructure to support it.

She argued that African leaders need to make radical choices on how to gain the technology, capital or political will to make these tough changes, stressing that change could take time. “It’s not a perfect or linear path,” she stated, “but what I’m pleased to see is that we’re making progress.”

Hers was a powerful call to action for collaborative efforts across the continent, highlighting the necessity of tailored approaches to tackle the unique challenges faced in promoting intra-African trade and movement.



DATA DIVE

21m

In 2020, an estimated 21 million Africans were living in another African country, a significant increase from 2015, when 18 million Africans were estimated to be living in another African country.

In terms of the number of immigrants, South Africa remains the most significant destination country in Africa, with around 2.9 million international migrants residing in the country; however, this is a drop of more than 9% since 2015, when the country had over 3.2 million international migrants. Other countries with high immigrant populations as a proportion of their total populations include Gabon (19%), Equatorial Guinea (16%), Seychelles (13%) and Libya (12%).

42

Countries in Africa have visa-free travel for nationals of at least five other African countries.

04

State of Technology, Science, Research and Innovation





L - R: M. Nyaruai, M. Stimela and J. Smart

SPEAKERS

Mary Nyaruai

Chief Executive Officer, Nyungu Afrika

Martin Stimela

Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Brastorne

James Smart

Managing Editor, Newsroom Production, Nation Media Group (Moderator)

Africa, while contributing just 1.9% to global manufacturing, is witnessing a surge in tech start-ups, with investment into the African tech start-up ecosystem surpassing the US\$3 billion mark for the first time in 2022. The ecosystem has effectively withstood global economic headwinds to post a record year, as 633 start-ups successfully raised funding.

This bullish backdrop set the stage for this conversation that offered insights into the possibility of an Africa leapfrogging into a future driven by innovation and technological advancement, while highlighting existing challenges and opportunities for growth.

Mary Nyaruai emphasized the critical role of education in fostering innovation, suggesting an overhaul of the current system to better nurture creativity and inventive thinking, which would align with the evolving demands of the modern world.

Nyaruai highlighted the critical role of universities in research and its commercial application. She noted a gap in the system, stating, “We do not have research to commercialisation programmes in universities to help people with actual inventions that can be scaled up.” However, she noted the promise of the Kenya Innovation Agency with its research-to-commercialisation innovator.

“I really love that the Kenya Innovation Agency is going to universities and trying to figure out what kinds of research are happening, and how we can commercialise them and help PhD students get ideas to the ground.” This reflects the need for

Overheard at Kusi

Don't worry too much that people are going to replicate your idea if you have a great idea. There is a saying that goes: Invention is dead and there's nothing new under the sun. It's all about how you can innovate and capture a market. If you create something and you're doing well and you've got first mover advantage, you can capture that market

Martin Stimela

academic institutions to not only engage in research but also to bridge the gap between academic research and real-world applications, thus cementing the impact of innovations on society.

Martin Stimela focused on resilience in innovation, particularly the necessity of embracing failure as a stepping stone to success. He argued, "We really need to be comfortable with failure. We need to start embracing failure a lot more quickly, [and have] a mindset of experimentation and being okay with that failure." This underscores the importance of changing attitudes towards failure, viewing it not as a setback, but as an integral part of the learning and growth process in innovation.

Stimela also addressed structural challenges, pointing to the need for governments to create supportive policies and structures that empower rather than hinder innovators and entrepreneurs. He stated, "We just have to be very, very deliberate about what we do at a policy level . . . and if government can't enable [innovation], then [they should] just get out of the way."

Stimela pointed out the difficulties entrepreneurs face due to stringent policies and standards that often favour foreign entities over local innovators. He stressed the importance of rethinking these structures to better support local talent and innovation.



M. Stimela



DATA DIVE

600

As of 2019, there were more than 600 active tech hubs in Africa, defined by GSMA (Global System for Mobile Communications) as an organisation currently with a physical local address, offering facilities and ongoing support for tech and digital entrepreneurs.

Nigeria and South Africa remain the most advanced ecosystems, boasting 85 and 80 active tech hubs respectively. Kenya is already established as the heart of East Africa's technology ecosystem, with almost 50 tech hubs. And Côte d'Ivoire continues its race to becoming Francophone West Africa's leading innovative ecosystem, with over 20 hubs.

9 Years

The amount of time it took for Amazon, Inc. to become profitable. 12 years: The amount of time it took for Uber, Inc. to become profitable.



M. Nyaruai

05

When African Youth Get Behind The Wheel



**M. Maluta****Y. Nuku****I. Havyarimana**

SPEAKERS

Magdalene Maluta

R&D Engineer, Arc Ride Kenya Ltd

Yandile Nuku

Regional Programme Manager, Start-Up Support Co-Creation Hub

Innocent Havyarimana

Chief Executive Officer & Founder, GLAP Enterprises

Kefilwe Mokgaotsane

Broadcast Journalist, Botswana Television (Moderator)

More than 60% of Africa's population is under the age of 25, and by 2030, young Africans are expected to make up 42% of the global youth population, underscoring the importance of investing in and empowering African youth. This panel, moderated by Kefilwe Mokgaotsane, illuminated the significant role of this demographic in shaping the continent's future.

Yandile Nuku discussed the importance of young African talent in creating products and services for a global scale. In her words, "I

think what the future looks like for me is . . . young people in their respective African countries producing products and services in their localities but also scaling them globally, [and not] young people growing up in African countries and wanting to relocate and go to Asia, Europe or America."

She also argued that workforce planning needs to consider how to incentivise early retirement for the older generation to make way for young talent in a sustainable way, and that youth-adult partnerships can help leverage the strengths of both generations to scale businesses across borders.

Magdalene Maluta highlighted that many start-ups in Africa are headed in the right direction of achieving the Agenda 2063 goals, through entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainable development solutions. She mentioned that governments and other institutions need to create a supportive environment for start-ups to thrive.

Overheard at Kusi

There is a difference between a young person who starts a business from a survival mentality because they couldn't get a job, and a young person who starts a business simply because they want to solve a problem, add value to society, and in the process, take care of [specific] needs, and scale globally.

Yandile Nuku

“Most start-ups start very well...after a while, due to bureaucracy in the government and institutions they die, [because] there is not much support.” Regional integration – spearheaded by visionary governments – will open opportunities through a diversity of ideas, access to larger markets, and freedom of movement across Africa, she added.

Innocent Havyarimana shared his experience on how he started his soap manufacturing business in Kenya after encountering difficulties in finding employment. He now employs 43 people, making and selling 16 types of soap.

“My dream is not only to work in Kenya but to be in all of Africa, employing hundreds of people. I am not doing that so that I get money, it is because I believe so much that the future belongs to us as young people.”

Havyarimana pointed out that young people need support from the government and the older generation to provide not just funding, but connect young entrepreneurs to potential partners, investors or markets that can help them scale their businesses and opportunities.

“

Overheard at Kusi

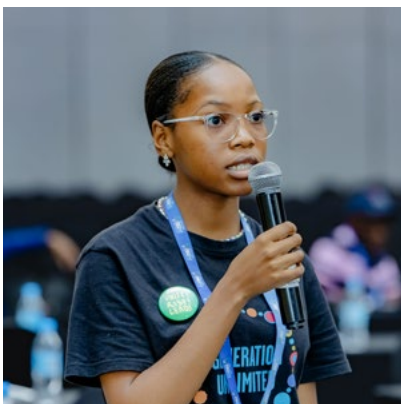
“Students who fail their [secondary school] exams could be employed while also being given a second chance to continue with their education. Part of their salary from employment could be used to pay for continuing their education. While working, they could be equipped with business and vocational skills. This would help address unemployment by providing jobs, while also giving them skills as well as a second chance at education. It could help more youth consider starting their own businesses rather than just seeking employment after school.”

15-year-old participant of Kusi Ideas Festival

”



L - R: Y. Nuku, M. Maluta, I. Havyarimana and K. Mokgaotsane



06

**The Big Culture
Debate**





L - R: J. Mutune, Prof. Segobye and S. Mongatane

SPEAKERS

Ayisha Osori (Virtual)

Director of the Executive Vice President's Office,
Open Society Foundations

Jinna Mutune Odede

Founder, Pegg Entertainment

Prof. Alinah K. Segobye

Chief Executive Officer, Human Resource Development
Council, Botswana

Omar Degan (Virtual)

Architect & Professor, DO Architecture Group

Setho Mongatane

Broadcast Journalist, Gabz FM, Botswana (Moderator)

Africa is becoming a force to reckon with on the global cultural stage, and this panel explored how Africa can better commercialise and retain value from its rich cultural heritage, traditions, and creative works. The conversation explored the need for collaboration across borders, harnessing the power of the diaspora, reclaiming African narratives, and unleashing creativity through a mindset of Afrofuturism.

Ayisha Osori set the tone of the discussion by emphasizing that African culture and art hold a significant place in global cultures, with a history spanning centuries. What is distinct about the present era is the remarkable potential for their influence to reach unprecedented scales. This is made possible by digital platforms, which provide new opportunities for reaching global audiences through streaming services, social media, and online marketplaces.

"How effectively is African culture and art creating wealth and supporting our economies, and also improving our critical thought and social imagination? The answers lie between the challenges and the opportunities. Youth already played a significant role in influencing cultural trends. How can we make sure that they do more than influence and consume?" she posed.



DATA DIVE

Africa contributed US\$13 billion to the global art market in 2018 and was set to contribute about US\$15 billion in 2023. Africa No Filter, a philanthropic initiative that supports and amplifies African voices and narratives, estimates that the creative and cultural industries across the continent generate US\$4.2 billion in revenue



Prof. Segobye

Osori pointed out that the African diaspora is becoming more connected to Africa and influencing the space for cultural arts, especially tied to conversations around cultural heritage restitution.

Jinna Mutune Odede, discussed the imperative to decolonise education, as the current system makes Africans feel inferior and hinders their ability to innovate and create. "Africans need to have internal pride in their past achievements and cultural heritage to unlock their full creative potential," she argued.

Odede also stressed the importance of strengthening local copyright laws in the digital era to protect African artists' work. "There needs to be laws that protect art, so that people will respect that if a musician sings a song, you cannot just take it and add it as a jingle to your advertisement. That is someone's work, you need to pay what is due . . . we need local awareness on that."

On her part, Prof. Alinah Segobye shared her view that African cultures and traditions have often been misrepresented and demonised, when in fact studying them in their proper context shows they upheld concepts like gender equality and women's rights. She underscored the point that oral traditions and intangible cultural heritage need to be better protected and leveraged through technologies like AI and digital media. Africans need to be the first consumers and supporters of local culture, arts and products to give them value and commercial viability, the panel heard.

Omar Degan brought insights from architecture and design, emphasizing that traditional African vernacular architecture



J. Mutune

and building practices respected the environment and community values, and can inspire more sustainable modern designs.

However, very little attention has been given in architecture schools to studying and translating vernacular designs using modern technology.

"For many years, [African] settlement has been seen by the West as a symptom of uncivilised communities, while the reality is quite the opposite . . . we need to embrace our traditions, our vernacular in everything from clothing to materials use." Degan stressed that African creators are ready to take centre stage globally by collaborating and supporting each other's work as indigenous innovators.

“

Overheard at Kusi

Growing up, the education system made me feel Africans are inferior and it had me questioning my identity. It took me a long time to get to a place where I could create as an African, because everything introduced to me at an early stage in school constantly reminded me that Africans are inferior. What helped break me free as a creative is understanding that I came from an intelligent past by learning about historical architecture and achievements in places like Kush and Axum.

Jinna Mutune Odede

”

07

Healthcare in Africa in the Post-Covid Era





L - R: J. Ndahiro, R. Muchilwa, S. Mapiki, F. Darboe and S. Twinoburiyo

SPEAKERS

Jack Ndahiro

Head of Logistics (Africa), Zipline

Fatou Juka Darboe

Managing Director, Make 3D Company Ltd

Stanley Mapiki

Director, MASTA Projects Pty Ltd

Racey Muchilwa

Head & President, Novartis Sub-Saharan Africa

Sandra Kahumuza Twinoburiyo

Journalist, NTV Uganda (Moderator)

As we reflect on the four-year mark since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, it becomes evident that Africa has, arguably, fared better than many developed regions. This panel highlighted the evolving healthcare landscape, its critical challenges and opportunities.

One of its notable speakers, Jack Ndahiro, shed light on his company's ground-breaking utilisation of drone technology in healthcare delivery. Zipline uses drones to efficiently transport medical supplies, such as blood and vaccines to remote areas across several African countries.

"At present, 75% of blood medical products being delivered by Zipline in Rwanda are outside of Kigali, and in the five countries where we

are present – Rwanda, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Kenya – we have served about 4,000 health facilities," illustrating the impact of this technology in improving healthcare accessibility.

Another speaker, Fatou Juka Darboe, discussed the emergence of home-grown technology to address healthcare needs during the Covid-19 pandemic. "When [the pandemic] started, we realised that we could use technology that we already had to provide the solutions we needed." The crisis showed that African countries need to develop local solutions and not rely entirely on imports, as supply chains were disrupted during the pandemic.

She added that contextualising solutions for local use and involving local communities is crucial, and training more people



DATA DIVE

In the time it has taken to read 150 words – about the last three paragraphs of text – Zipline would have delivered a medical product to a health facility in one of the five markets they are active in. Put differently, Zipline delivers a medical product to a facility every 72 seconds.

to enable collaboration across sectors can help develop diverse local solutions and capacity for self-sufficiency.

Pharmacist Stanley Mapiki, sharing his insights, highlighted that African countries had been making notable strides in health indicators, including the reduction of child mortality and enhanced healthcare accessibility, prior to the onset of Covid-19. However, the pandemic brought about significant disruptions to healthcare systems and supply chains in Africa, resulting in challenges when it came to accessing essential medicines.

“There is a need to strengthen local manufacturing of medicines in Africa to reduce reliance on imports from countries like India and China,” he stated, adding that regional collaboration on issues like medicine regulation can help speed up approval processes for new drugs in multiple countries.

For Racey Muchilwa, the focus was on the need for African governments to prioritise and increase funding for healthcare to meet targets like the Abuja Declaration of spending 15% of GDP on health. There is a critical need to address shortages of healthcare workers, beds, and specialists in Africa to improve access and care, she argued.

“My expectation [is] that governments would have put a bit more budget towards healthcare [after the pandemic], but that has not been the case. We are still seeing a lot of sectors suffering by not having adequate financing.” She added that “... having sustainable partnerships that can outlive people to ensure that things are running whether we are there or not.” Underscoring that partnerships between governments, organisations and companies are important for sustainable healthcare solutions beyond times of crisis.



DATA DIVE

It costs about US\$1,500 to import a 120-foot container of vaccines from China to Rwanda via ports in Tanzania, and about US\$4,000 to route that same container from Tanzania to Kigali.



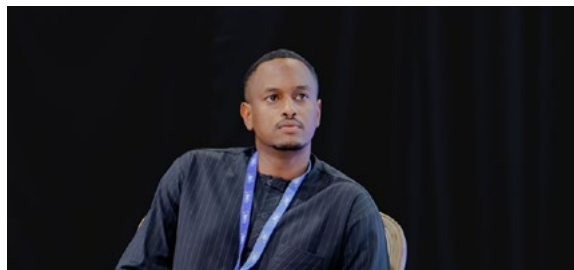
R. Muchilwa



S. Mapiki



F. Darboe



J. Ndahiro

08

A Roundtable on Africa's Agricultural and Climate Futures





Prof. Hutchinson



J. Roos



Dr. Naluyima



Dr. Nkhono-Mvula

SPEAKERS

Prof. Margaret Jesang Hutchinson

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Innovation & Enterprise, University of Nairobi

Dr. Naluyima Emma

Smallholder Farmer

Dr. Tamani Nkhono-Mvula

Chief Executive Officer, International Development Consulting

Jan Pierre Roos

Chairman Tuli Block Farmers Association, Botswana

Sandra Kahumuza Twinoburiyo

Journalist, NTV Uganda (Moderator)

The Festival's roundtable on Africa's agricultural and climate futures focused on the state of agriculture in a post-Covid era, highlighting the sector's challenges and potential. To start off, Margaret Jesang Hutchinson spoke about the historical context of agriculture in Africa, questioning whether African leaders had the right tools and knowledge from the start.

Hutchinson mentioned that agricultural research and development funding in Africa is still very low and relies heavily on foreign funding,

which influences the research agenda, and that isolated success stories in countries like Rwanda and Botswana cannot be replicated across the continent without more investment in research and development.

On his part, Ogone Madisa said that Botswana has deliberately supported and subsidised its beef industry through programmes like vaccinations, feed subsidies, and artificial insemination. This government support has contributed to the sector's success.

She also emphasised the need to attract youth to agriculture, considering the aging farmer population. "If you look at the age in Africa generally," she pointed out, "we are getting younger and younger, but agriculture is known to be very hard and to be for the retirees, the pensioners and so forth.

Overheard at Kusi

When we talk about where African leaders drop the ball [on agriculture], I wonder if they even got the right ball in the first place? Because at Independence, maybe they were told this is a ball; it could have been a balloon. Maybe they were supposed to play football and they were given one for netball. I do not know. Maybe if I was there, I would also have made the same mistakes.

Prof. Margaret Jesang Hutchinson

Jan Pierre Roos argued that the impacts of climate change like drought are already being felt severely by farmers, but governments have not adequately supported farmers through programmes and insurance schemes.

“We need to do our research properly and see what we need to bring to the continent, learn from that technology... and adapt it to African conditions,” he stated.



Delegate asks a question during the Festival

Dr. Emma Naluyima shared her perspective on utilising knowledge and innovation in agriculture. She said that Uganda’s agricultural sector and economy are not well supported by policies and infrastructure, despite agriculture being the backbone of the nation.

She took the initiative as a smallholder farmer to use her education and skills in veterinary science to start a successful farm and primary school to inspire others. “I asked myself - if I’ve been successful in farming, how do I encourage other people to farm, how do I encourage women to be successful, even if they’ve not gone to school.” Her farm uses integrated farming techniques like hydroponics and aquaponics to be productive and teach youth modern agricultural practices.

Tamani Nkhono-Mvula stressed the importance of food security for development, stating, “Food security is a prerequisite for development . . . there is no country that has ever developed before answering the question of food security.”

He said that Africa’s heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture and cereal crops makes food systems highly vulnerable to climate change effects. In his view, new crop varieties resilient to drought and heat through research are needed to adapt to climate change impacts. Additionally, diversifying production systems, crops and diets is important for building climate resilience in African agriculture.



DATA DIVE

1.3%

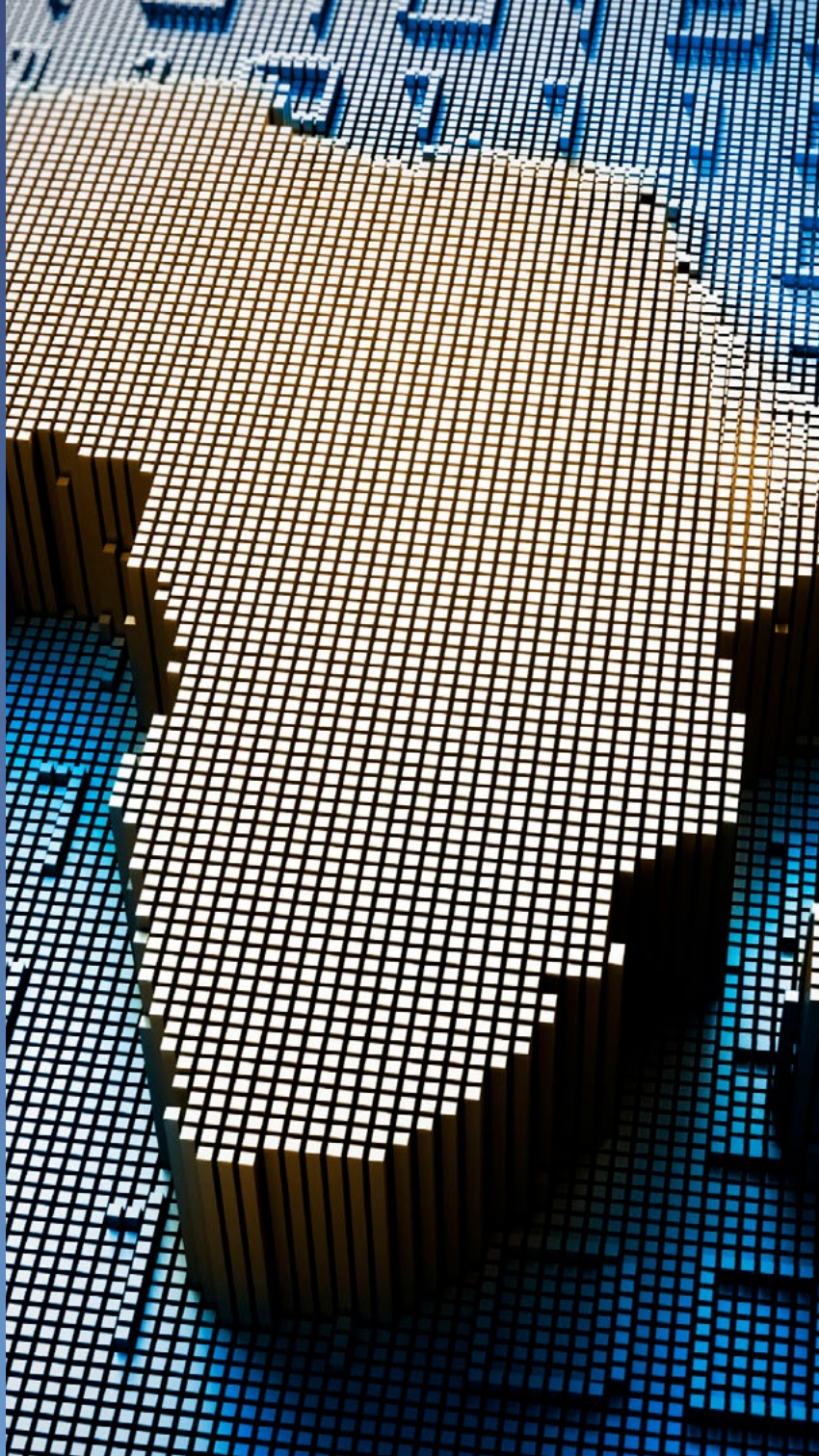
Only 1.3% of the global budget used for agricultural research and development is in Africa.

10%

Rwanda is the only African country on track to meet its commitments under the Maputo Declaration to invest 10% of national budgets in agriculture.

09

A Scorecard: Reflecting on Africa's Last 20 Years and Looking Ahead to the Next 20





L - R: A. Tsheboeng, L. Tsikoane, B. Bayendi, B. Sebetela and J. Ageyo

SPEAKERS

Alice Nderitu (Virtual)

Under-Secretary-General, Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, United Nations (Virtual)

Lineo Tsikoane

Human Rights Lawyer

Alfred Tsheboeng

Founder & MD, Environment & Infrastructure Advisors Projects Pty Ltd

Boyce Lephimotswe Sebetela

Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Republic of Botswana

Botho Kebabonye Bayendi

Director of Office of Strategic Planning and Delivery, African Union

Amb. Frederic Gateretse-Ngoga (Virtual)

Senior Advisor for International Partnerships, AU Commission (Virtual)

Joe Ageyo

Editor-in-Chief, Nation Media Group (Moderator)

The final panel of the Kusi Ideas Festival offered a reflective look at Africa's progress over the past two decades, and explored possibilities that lie ahead for the next 20 years. Moderator Joe Ageyo set the stage by highlighting the continent's development, noting its vibrant youth population driving diverse innovations and increasing smart-phone adoption. However, a significant number of places in the continent continue to grapple with challenges such as entrenched power, internal conflict, substantial debt, as well as dwindling healthcare and trade barriers.

Starting off the conversation, Alice Nderitu noted that the year 2023 marks 75 years since the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which was a milestone in codifying genocide as an international crime. (South Africa filed a complaint three weeks later on December 29, 2023, against Israel for "genocide" in Gaza with the International Court of Justice).

She mentioned that genocide does not happen spontaneously, but is a process that develops over years, with warning signs that must be addressed through prevention efforts.

"We must identify aggressive drivers of conflict that include the absence of the rule of law and economic deprivation. We must



A. Nderitu



Amb. Gateretse-Ngoga



DATA DIVE

87%

Smartphone adoption in Sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to reach 87% by 2030, up from 51% last year. Mobile internet usage in Africa as of 2021 was 13% higher than the global average and almost 5% higher than the Asian regional market.

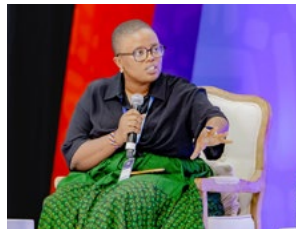
create and support a culture of peace, and of enhancing mediation in traditional dispute resolutions,” said Nderitu.

Lineo Tsikoane pointed to the problem of borders that artificially divide Africans and hamper freedom of movement. She indicated that Africans should see each other as human first before their respective nationalities and even before potential markets, and find ways to collaborate across borders. “If we can’t see each other as human enough, then how do we relate beyond just seeing each other as opportunities of buying and trading?” She asked.

Alfred Tsheboeng emphasised the need for indigenous knowledge in medicine, agriculture and crafts to be digitised and protected, to leverage for the future. In his view, “One of the greatest things that has divided us is lack of knowledge and information about ourselves, about what we do and what we have.” Africa needs to appreciate its own productions and knowledge more to change the narrative that Africa has nothing to offer, he urged.



A. Tsheboeng



L. Tsikoane



B. Bayendi



B. Sebetela

Echoing these sentiments was Boyce Lephimotswe Sebetela, who said that positive self-perception is critical for progress in Africa. He said; “We need to start to be more positive about ourselves and work from the progress we have made, [into] where we want to be.”

Another insight came from Botho Kebabonye Bayendi. In her view, the vision of pan-Africanism today needs to catch up with today’s youth and citizens to drive ownership of Agenda 2063. She emphasized that more needs to be done to accelerate implementation of Agenda 2063 from boardrooms to citizens in the next decade.

“[Implementing] Agenda 2063 has to be citizen driven, but it also has to happen under the light of a good policy and economic environment. It has to happen from free will, which is why it is clear that one of the critical success factors is that we need transformational leadership,” she said.

She also said that funding models need to leverage African entrepreneurs, rather than seeing the continent as begging from the West.

Closing the session was Frederic Gateretse-Ngoga, Senior Advisor for International Partnerships at the AU Commission. He said that the AU has shown commitment to African solutions through initiatives like the African peace and security architecture.

More proactive action is needed to play a more forceful role in resolving conflicts and crises across Africa, he said “Today the AU Peace and Security Council is seized with 15 crises, and six of our member states have been suspended because of unconstitutional changes of government. It is our hope that member states will facilitate our work, and not invoke sovereignty to prevent us from intervening.”

He stressed that regional integration, especially through the African Continental Free Trade Area, has great potential for economic development and prosperity.

Closing the Curtain



Delegates at the Royal Aria Conventional Centre

The Kusi Ideas Festival brought together diverse voices from across Africa, each contributing insights into the continent's challenges and opportunities. Throughout the sessions, speakers emphasised the critical importance of adapting to change, whether in technology, agriculture, healthcare, or cultural industries.

The festival underscored the vital role of African youth in driving the continent's future, with discussions highlighting innovative approaches in education, entrepreneurship, and technology. The sessions explored the promise of a borderless Africa,

the transformative potential of Africa's cultural and creative industries, and the urgent need for climate-resilient agricultural practices. Conversations also shed light on the challenges of healthcare in the post-Covid era, the state of Africa's progress today, and the continent's agricultural and climate futures.

In each discussion, a common theme emerged: the necessity for Africa to harness its own resources, knowledge, and innovative spirit, to address its challenges. The festival showcased Africa's resilience, its untapped potential for growth, and the imperative for collaborative efforts in realising a prosperous future.

Kusi Ideas Festival Gala Dinner



A Vision for the Future



Stephen Gitagama, Chief Executive Officer, Nation Media Group PLC gives his closing remarks at the Festival

It is a great pleasure to be here and to see all of you as we conclude the fifth edition of Kusi Ideas Festival.

Allow me to begin my remarks by thanking the President of the Republic of Botswana H.E Dr, Mokgweetsi Masisi, his government and the people of Botswana for welcoming us to this iconic nation.

I would also like to extend our most sincere gratitude to the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, H.E Emmerson Mnangagwa, Prime Minister, Republic of Rwanda, Hon. Dr. Edouard Ngirente, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy, Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Doto Biteko, for honoring the invitation to grace the Presidential Round Table yesterday.

To the other Heads of Delegation, Ministers, High Commissioners present representing their countries, I say thank you for your presence at this fifth edition of Kusi.

These two days have been exceptional to say the least. We have listened in on riveting conversations about Africa and the steps that we need to take individually and collectively to achieve Agenda 2063: The Africa we want.

I was particularly challenged by H.E President Masisi's sentiments that the Africa we want is possible and is achievable, if only we are determined to achieve it.

He went on to remind us that our continent is the cradle and the future of humankind representing the best hope for conservation, providing a rich biodiversity as well as incomparable species and varieties of both flora and fauna.

H.E Mnangagwa reiterated the need for a united Africa—and this featured consistently in all the panel discussions.

It has also been interesting to listen to the various strategies and policies that need to be put in place to make Africa the next growth frontier.

From creation of job opportunities for the youth, to the need for a borderless continent and the setting up of a 2115 megawatts hydropower plant in Tanzania, it is indeed clear that Africa is moving in the right direction to achieving its dreams and aspirations.

One of the objectives of the Kusi Ideas Festival is to create a winning future for ourselves.

All we need to do is to have a vision of that future, then build the tools and develop the strategies to make it happen. In this festival, we have all the three in abundance.

As we meet here, thousands of Africans have been killed by war and natural disasters. Millions in different parts of the continent have been displaced by floods and war. Some of the hottest conditions in two centuries are destroying lives.



Stephen Gitagama with Kenya's former High Commissioner to Botswana, H.E Mohamed Shidiye

But we have risen. Together, and with partners of goodwill, several countries have taken steps towards large-scale vaccination against malaria in Africa.

As drought and other environmental conditions ravage livelihoods, countries like Rwanda have built ambitious irrigation projects, and Botswana is aiming to build one of the world's biggest irrigation schemes to transport 495 million cubic metres a year of water from the Chobe-Zambezi River through about 1,250 kilometres of pipelines to its arid south.

Agenda 2063 envisaged a cultural revolution. In the last decade, about 10 world-class museums have opened in Africa. In Egypt, the Grand Egyptian Museum, the world's largest archaeological museum, has opened.

The combined annual auction worth of African art today is worth over \$72 million — more than double its 2016 value. For the first time, African or African-born artists, are selling art for over \$10 million apiece.

On the business front, Lagos-based Access Bank, one of Africa's biggest, is set to launch its first full banking service in Asia in the first quarter of 2024.

These stories of success, of overcoming, are plenty, and I would be here for two hours if I tried to list them.

We are truly grateful to the speakers, participants and all of us for exploring the possibility of a great African future. Thank you for accepting our invitation. Nation Media Group thanks you from the

deepest bottom of its heart for giving so much of yourselves to explore the possibility of a great African future.

Our appreciation also goes to our partners—these are individuals and organisations that believed in us and supported our vision. BIHL, Express Nova, Image Registrars, Avani Gaborone Resort and Casino and the African Union.

With 2 Heads of State, top government dignitaries, over 2,000 in person attendees, 31 speakers and over 1,500 virtual attendees, I dare say that this has been the most successful Kusi yet.

I would also like to, in a special way appreciate the teams at—Botswana and NMG, who overcame the most trying obstacles to make this happen. May the fruits of your labour be rich. And remember, in Nation Media Group, you have a friend on the east side of this great continent. Drop by, do business and call. We shall pick up the phone.

Putting up an event of this magnitude is not a walk in the park. Happily, most of the heavy lifting was done by others. All that was required of me was to sign on the dotted line to approve a request for additional resources.

The key drivers were designated as co-chairs of the Joint Kusi Planning Committee — Madam Goitsewang Morekisi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for State President, Botswana, and Mr Wangethi Mwangi, Director at Nation Media Group. May they please be upstanding to be appreciated. I invite their teams to also stand to be appreciated.



Delegates at the Festival

Moonshots from Kusi Ideas Festival V

Africa's Synthetic Currency



One idea presented at the Festival by Admassu Tadesse, is the creation of an African synthetic currency, akin to the units used by the IMF and the African Development Bank Group. This currency, a composite of various African currencies, could revolutionise how African nations trade.

Imagine a basket currency comprising the Botswana pula, Mauritian rupee, Moroccan dirham, and potentially others like the Namibian dollar. Such a currency could mitigate the transactional complexities (and disadvantages) of African countries trading among themselves primarily using the US dollar.

While constructing a credible synthetic currency from larger economies poses challenges due to their inherent complexities, focusing on a select group of countries with more stable economic environments could offer a feasible starting point.

Another innovative idea gaining traction is the Pan-African Payments and Settlement System (PAPS). While not a common currency, PAPS aims to streamline and integrate payment and settlement systems within Africa. This system would reduce the dependency on foreign currencies in intra-African trade, addressing design and institutional challenges along the way. These bold ideas, though still in development, promise a future where African economies can more dynamically and efficiently interact, paving the way for enhanced economic integration and growth across the continent.

A Language Mill for Vocabularies in Science and Technology



African languages have a limitation in scientific and technological contexts: Martin Stimela pointed out that languages like Setswana, spoken in Botswana, are not evolving adequately to encompass new scientific and technological terms. He observed, "As the English language grows, they create new words. But our language is getting smaller and smaller – we use the same words to describe 'science' and 'technology' for example. So how do you expect us to grow and teach people with new technologies when we don't even have the language for that?"

This statement underscores a critical issue: African languages are not developing at the same pace as technological advancements, which poses a barrier to education and progress in these fields. The Kusi Ideas Festival could be the birthplace of an innovative, albeit ambitious, solution: the establishment of institutions dedicated to expanding and evolving African languages, akin to a 'language mill,' specifically for technology vocabularies. This would be aimed at fostering linguistic growth to parallel technological development, thereby enhancing comprehension and usage of new technologies in native languages.

Botswana, Africa's Test Lab



One idea proposed by Yandile Nuku was positioning Botswana, with its population of around two million, as an ideal 'laboratory' for testing and proofing innovative concepts. The country's challenges mirror those across the African continent, making it a perfect testing ground for scalable solutions. This way, successful models in Botswana can be replicated and applied in other African markets, potentially transforming the continent's approach to problem-solving and innovation.

Kusi Throwback



The Real 'Alternative' Medicine?

At the Kusi Ideas Festival IV (2022), Dr Elisha Osati, Ph.D Candidate at Muhimbili National Hospital in Tanzania, presented a compelling argument for re-evaluating the perception of traditional medicine. According to the World Health Organisation, 80% of Africans rely on traditional medicine as their primary healthcare, whereas conventional medicine accounts for only 20%. This raises the question: which healthcare system should truly be considered the alternative? Is it really the traditional medicine which is labelled "alternative" in formal settings, or is it actually the so-called conventional or Western medicine?

Now, at this year's Kusi Ideas Festival, Prof. Alinah Segobye posed the same challenge: "If you look across the continent, traditional medicine is apparently utilised by more than 80% of our populace. However, when you look at how we approach health, often times we go towards a biomedical approach that relies on, say, conventional institutions such as hospitals, and modern medicine even for minor ailments. However, in many families, mothers, especially grandmothers, will have their own medical technologies that they utilise but will not do so in public spaces. So, there is this disconnect between what is seen as acceptable cultural forms and knowledge resources that can be leveraged."



A Homegrown Vaccine Manufacturer

During the third Kusi Ideas Festival in Accra, Ghana, Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), pointed to the urgency of Africa being able to manufacture its own vaccines, not only for what was the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, but also in the event of future pandemic outbreaks. At that point in 2021, just 7-10% of Africans had been fully vaccinated against corona virus.

In June 2023, bringing that moment full circle, Rwanda announced a partnership with German pharmaceutical company BioNTech to establish a vaccine factory in the country. This collaboration marks a significant step in enhancing vaccine production and availability in Africa, contributing to health security not only in Rwanda but across the African continent. The facility was opened in December 2023.

The East African Readouts



A Future Where Africa Stands Tall and Proud is Within Reach

A united Africa, presenting a formidable economic bloc with highly developed infrastructure, where people move freely, utilising a common currency, and where peace and harmony flourishes, is a reality we can bequeath to our grandchildren.

Dr Wilfred Kiboro, Board Chairman, Nation Media Group.



Unveiling Thika Cloth Mills: Pioneering Excellence in African Textile Manufacturing

As the global marketplace evolves, the call for self-sufficiency and intra-Africa trade has never been more resonant.

Thika Cloth Mills



The Aspirations of African People

By 2063, Africa will have undergone a deepening of the culture of good governance, democratic values, gender equality, and respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law. This aspiration reflects the desire for an Africa where women, men, youth, the elderly and all races of the continent will enjoy fundamental freedoms and rights to participate in the development of modern societies in the continent.

African Union



The Continent is on Course to Recover the 'Lost Decades'

As the continent embarks on its Second Ten-Year Plan (2023- 2033) of Agenda 2063, it should give pride of place to the implementation of the Grand Inga Dam project, estimated to generate 43,200MW to support Africa's transition to clean and affordable energy

Prof Peter Kagwanja, CEO at the Africa Institute, Adjunct Professor, University of Nairobi and the National Defence University—Kenya.



Africa Needs More Women in Fintech

If the fintech industry is to continue to expand and strengthen financial inclusion, it needs not only to serve women, but also to include them. This would benefit the women employed, the industry as a whole, and many of its clients.

Nick Barigye, CEO, Rwanda Finance Ltd



A United Africa Would Be One of the Greatest Forces for Good of the World

The moment for Africa to become a serious player in global value chains is now or never. With solid political momentum behind the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, we have a window of opportunity to improve regional value chains and further upgrade into Global Value Chains.

Phyllis Wakiaga, Senior Advisor & Global Lead, Industry and Commerce, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change



Cross-Border Payments to Boost Africa Trade

By integrating the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System into their existing systems, commercial banks aim to enhance efficiency, transparency, and reliability in intra-African settlement, driving financial inclusion and continental economic development.

Offei-Ansah, Publisher, Africa Briefing magazine



Africa's New Billionaires Will Be in Food Value Chains, Not Oil

Africa must become a global player in food and agriculture. To do so, Africa must end the export of raw agricultural commodities. We must recognise that the fastest way to poverty is via the export of raw commodities, while the highway to wealth is from export of value-added products.

Dr Adesina, President, African Development Bank

Kusi Ideas Festival Speakers

Speaker	Designation and Organisation
H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi	President of the Republic of Botswana
H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa	President of the Republic of Zimbabwe
Rt. Hon. Dr. Édouard Ngirente	Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda
Hon. Dr. Doto Biteko	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy, Republic of Tanzania
Admassu Tadesse	Group President Emeritus & MD, Trade & Development Bank
Hon. Kabo Neale Morwaeng	Minister for State President , Republic of Botswana
Phyllis Wakiaga	Senior Advisor Global Lead, Industry & Commerce, Tony Blair Institute
Keletsoitse Olebile	Chief Executive Officer, Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC)
Rule Jimmy Opelo	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour and & Home Affairs, Republic of Botswana
Treasure Maphanga	Chief Operating Officer, AeTrade Group
Samuel H. Mugoya	VP Advisor, Infrastructure & Industrialization, African Development Bank Group (AfDB)
Dr. Naluyima Emma	Veterinary Doctor and Small Holder Farmer, Uganda
Dr. Tamani Nkhono-Mvula	Chief Executive Officer, International Development Consulting, Malawi
Jan Pierre Roos	Chairman, Tuli Block Horticultural Farmers Association, Botswana
Vivienne Yeda	Director General, East Africa Development Bank
Prof. Margaret Jesang Hutchinson	Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Innovation & Enterprise, University of Nairobi
Mary Nyaruai	Chief Executive Officer, Nyungu Afrika
Martin Stimela	Co-Founder & CEO, Brastorne Enterprises, Botswana
Magdalene Maluta	R&D Engineer, ARC Ride Kenya Limited
Yandile Nuku	Regional Programme Manager, Start Up Support, Co-Creation Hub, Botswana
Innocent Havyarimana	CEO and Founder, GLAP Enterprises, Kakuma
Ayisha Osori	Director, Executive Vice President's Office, Open Society Foundations, London
Georgina Mutune Odede	Founder, Pegg Entertainment, Kenya
Prof. Alinah Segobye	Chief Executive Officer, Human Resource Development Council, Botswana

Kusi Ideas Festival Speakers

Speaker	Designation and Organisation
Omar Degan	Architect & Professor, DO Architecture Group, Somalia
Fatou Juka Darboe	Managing Director, Make 3D Company, Gambia
Jack Ndahiro	Head of Logistics (Africa), Zipline, Rwanda
Stanley Mapiki	Director, MASTA Projects Pty Ltd, Botswana
Racey Muchilwa	Head & President, Novartis, Sub-Saharan Africa
Alice Nderitu	Under Secretary-General-Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, United Nations
Lineo Tsikoane	Human Rights Lawyer, Lesotho
Alfred Tsheboeng	Founder & Managing Director, Environment & Infrastructure Advisors Projects Pty Ltd, Botswana
Amb. Frederic Gateretse-Ngoga	Senior Advisor, International Partnerships Paps , AU Commission
Boyce Lephimotwse Sebetela	Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Republic of Botswana
Botho Kebabonye Bayendi	Director, Strategic Planning and Delivery, African Union

Kusi Ideas Festival Organising Committee (Botswana)

Secretariat	Designation and Organisation
Goitsemanang Morekisi	Permanent Secretary – Ministry for State President (MSP)
Bagakolodi Motsamai	Strategy Officer – Transformation Office (MSP)
Morwalela Kesalopa	Chief Public Relations Officer (MSP)
Betty Dithuri Marumo	Principal Broadcasting Officer I (DBS)
Maggie Mabechu	Principal Broadcasting Officer I (DBS)
Tshidiso Raditladi	Assistant General Council – Office of the President
William. K Sentshebeng	Deputy Permanent Secretary – Gov. Communication
Tapologo Kwapa	Agt. Director – Botswana Government Communication & Information Services
Phologo J. Gaumakwe	Deputy Senior Private Secretary – Office of the President
Oshinka Tsiang	Deputy Permanent Secretary –Information & Broadcasting Services
Raymond Tshoko	Director - Broadcasting Services
Marea Leshongwane	Director – Dept. of Information Services
Buyani B. Zongwani	Deputy Director – Dept. of Broadcasting Services
Joel Thuto	Manager – Botswana Television
Bentia .T Chingapane	Chief of Protocol – Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)
Lesedi Thema	Deputy Director – Department of Multilateral Affairs (MOFA)
Moses Nkolonyane	Deputy Manager – Procurement (MSP)
Keletsositse Olebile	Chief Executive Officer – Botswana Investment & Trade Centre (BITC)
Kutlo Moagi	Executive Director Brand Management – BITC
Keitumetse Setlang	Chief Executive Officer – Botswana Tourism Organization (BTO)
Tebogo E. Matebesi	Deputy Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture
Clement Nsala	Marketing Officer - BTO
Nathaniel Tlhalerwa	Director – Public Sector Reforms
Raphael Ramatu	Deputy General Manager – Fleet Management (Transport)

Kusi Ideas Festival Organising Committee (Kenya)

Secretariat	Designation and Organisation
Dr. Wilfred D. Kiboro	Chairman, Nation Media Group PLC
Wangethi Mwangi	Director, Nation Media Group PLC
Stephen Gitagama	Group CEO, Nation Media Group PLC
Richard Tobiko	Chief Finance Officer, Nation Media Group PLC
Clifford Machoka	Kusi Consultant and Former Head of External Affairs, Nation Media Group PLC
Charles Onyango-Obbo	Kusi Consultant and Former Editor of Mail and Guardian Africa
Monicah Ndung'u	Chief Operating Officer, Nation Media Group PLC
James Sogoti	General Manager, Commercial, Nation Media Group PLC
Philbert Mdingi	Head of Marketing, Nation Media Group PLC
Pamella Sittoni	Group Managing Editor, Daily Nation, Nation Media Group PLC
Jackson Mutinda	Managing Editor, The EastAfrican, Nation Media Group PLC
Mercy Kimani	Head of IT, Nation Media Group PLC
Kinya Gitonga	Ag. Head of External Affairs, Nation Media Group PLC
Hosea Kimani	Finance Manager, Nation Media Group PLC
Grace Nduma	Ag. Procurement Manager, Nation Media Group PLC
Carl Okello	Business Manager, Nation Media Group PLC
Sheila Adam	Account Manager, TAG Brand Studio
Leonard Ngugi	Event Experiential and Activations Manager, Nation Media Group PLC
Arnold Magenyi	Project Manager, NTV, Nation Media Group PLC
Naomy Ikenye	Events Coordinator, Nation Media Group PLC
Faith Ronoh	Corporate Communications Officer, Nation Media Group PLC
Esther Mwangi	Assistant Events Coordinator, Nation Media Group PLC
Julius Muli	Brand Assistant, Nation Media Group PLC
Agatha Lenjou Waleghwa	Producer, NTV, Nation Media Group PLC
William Sindan	Procurement Officer, Nation Media Group PLC

Kusi Ideas Festival Moderators

Moderator	Designation and Organisation
Admassu Tadesse	Group President Emeritus & MD, Trade and Development Bank Group
Joe Ageyo	Editor-in-Chief, Nation Media Group PLC
James Smart	Managing Editor, Newsroom Production, NTV, Nation Media Group PLC
Kefilwe Mokgaotsane	Broadcast Journalist, Botswana Television
Sandra Kahumuza Twinoburiyo	Journalist, NTV, Uganda
Setho Mongatane	Broadcast Journalist, Gabz FM, Botswana



A. Tadesse



S. Mongatane



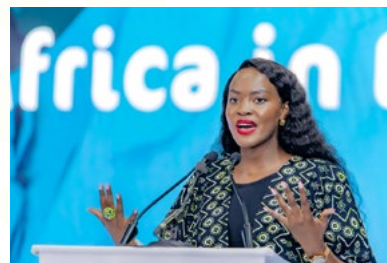
J. Ageyo



K. Mokgaotsane



J. Smart



S. Twinoburiyo



ABOUT NATION MEDIA GROUP PLC

Nation Media Group's dream began 64 years ago when the world and, indeed, Africa was going through a great transition.

From the challenges of the Cold War to independence across the continent, the wind of change was blowing across the world. It was during this time of political turbulence, struggle for independence, promise, and Pan-Africanism that the Nation was born.

From a small newspaper company, with only one title, Taifa, a Swahili publication, we have grown to become the largest multimedia house in East and Central Africa with operations in print, broadcast and digital media all of which attract and serve unparalleled audiences across the continent and the world.

NMG was founded by His Highness the Aga Khan on the bedrock of a set of core values whose central theme was to promote independent voices, diversity and freedom of expression as enshrined in our editorial policy.

Another critical element in these values — and the purpose for our establishment — was, and continues to be, a mission to be a trusted partner of African democracies, a champion of the ordinary person, a supportive voice for the rule of law and respect for human rights, and a strong advocate of free market economies.

This mission has remained unchanged and has been renewed over the years. As we seek to positively influence society, we shall continue to be guided and to stand by the values of truth, independence, fairness, balance and accuracy.

We remain steadfast in the conviction of our goal to fundamentally improve the quality of people's lives and to contribute to a sustainable world through our business.

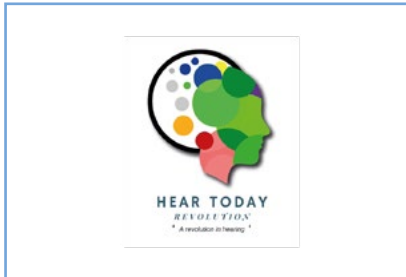
We will stay at the forefront, identifying the many issues critical to social transformation such as education, the environment and health, and highlighting solutions to their achievement. We will work with our stakeholders, customers, shareholders, supporters and the communities we serve to pursue a win-win growth strategy by going further together.

NMG's pursuit of its mission is driven by its deep conviction that ideas are central to human development. This was the essential purpose of creating the Kusi Ideas Festival.

As a company, we endeavour to deliver good quality journalism — as we have demonstrated over the past 65 years.

This has indeed served as the foundation of our philosophy of serving the continent as we position ourselves as the Media of Africa for Africa.

Our Partners



Kusi 2023 Story

“More than ever before, Africa is at an inviable intersection to shift from outside dependence and instead leverage on the continental endowment of human capital and material resources and turn the collective African dream into a reality. Engagements such as the Kusi Ideas Festival can only hasten this transformation.”

H.E Mokgweetsi E.K Masisi, President, Republic of Botswana.



32

Speakers
From 13
Countries



1,374

In-Person
Delegates



2,384

Virtual Participants
From 232 Cities
In 51 Countries



2,888

Digital Live Stream



2m

TV Reach

Albania · Australia · Austria · Belgium · Botswana · Brazil · Bulgaria · Burkina Faso · Burundi · Canada · Chile · China · Croatia · Cyprus · Denmark · Ethiopia · Finland · France · Germany · Ghana · India · Indonesia · Ireland · Israel · Japan · Kenya · Lesotho · Mauritius · Morocco · Namibia · New Zealand · Nigeria · Norway · Rwanda · Senegal · Singapore · Somalia · South Africa · Spain · Sweden · Switzerland · Taiwan · Tanzania · The Netherlands · Turkey · Uganda · United Arab Emirates · United Kingdom · United States · Zambia · Zimbabwe



ABOUT KUSI IDEAS FESTIVAL

launched the Kusi Ideas Festival in 2019 as part of its 60th Anniversary celebrations, and to being building a “pan African ideas transaction market” to capitalise on the opportunities and innovations available to Africa to help her win in the 21st Century.

The Festival brings together some of the most free-spirited and bold people calling out Africa’s challenges, and those turning them into opportunities. For many years to come, these will be the people shaping the continent. The Festival allows connections to this valuable cast of players, and gives institutions and business a great opportunity to hitch their wagons to the coming African Century.

The first Kusi Ideas Festival was held in Kigali, Rwanda, with subsequent editions being Hosted in Kisumu-Kenya, Accra-Ghana, Nairobi-Kenya and Gaborone Botswana. The Festival will continue to be held in different African cities annually in years to come.

Kusi is the southerly trade wind that blows over the Indian Ocean between April and mid-September, and enabled trade up north along the East African coast and between Asia and Africa for millennia. Beyond trade, over centuries, Kusi and other trade winds made possible cultural, intellectual, and technological exchanges, and considerably shaped the history of the nations on the east side of Africa, its hinterland and the wider Indian Ocean rim.

In the 21st Century, the spirits of the trade winds express themselves in new ways. The Indian Ocean is a rich bed of fibre optic cables that make the Information Age possible in a large part of Africa. Africa is at a cross roads, and what it does in the years ahead could leave it a big winner or with scars of a few half-won victories. We believe it will win. Nation Media Group (NMG)

