

SUMMARY OF THE COLLOQUIUM ON THE NEW AFRICAN STATE, organized by the **Network of African Journalists in Paris** on 8 July 2018 in **Tribute to Mama Winnie and the Children of Soweto** with Guest Speaker from Germany Mr Senfo Tonkam

The Conference began with a libation ceremony in tribute to one of the greatest Heroines of Africa, the late **Mama Winnie Madikizela**, the Children of Soweto, the Mining Workers of Marikana. It was an opportunity to evoke the memories of other heroic Ancestresses and heroic Ancestors such as Queen Nanny, Yaa Asantewa, Abla Pokua, Marcus Garvey, Amy Gravey, Aimé Césaire, Queen Nzinga, Amos Wilson, Thomas Sankara, Amílcar Cabral, Patrice Lumumba, Um Nyobe, Félix Moumié, Osende Afana, Kwame Nkrumah, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Sylvanus Olympio, etc. They have now been joined by Mama Winnie in the Ancestral Queendom and Kingdom to continue inspiring, guiding and blessing us in the struggle to free the Continental Motherland and the Black Diaspora from our foreign oppressors.

The tribute to Mama Winnie, the Children of Soweto and Marikana Mining Workers set the tone for the opening session of the colloquium with Guest Speaker Senfo Tonkam emphasizing the importance of studying the way Mama Winnie, the Children of Soweto and the Working Class were betrayed by the South African post-apartheid state. For, they are the paradigmatic examples of how the African state has completely failed and betrayed its citizens. This, he said, is the complete failure of the neocolonial state and its comprador, pro-western and Eurocentric bourgeois and petty-bourgeois elites. Citing examples from different countries, Mr. Tonkam showed how western neocolonialism has transformed itself from an openly racist and militaristic, brutal and bloody form into a 'soft', allegedly 'democratic' form in which a peaceful consensus prevails among the political elites that allows regime change, but prevents system change. Thus, people are happy because they think they have achieved democracy, as they can speak, move, congregate and vote freely, but in reality, their land, riches, natural resources, labor force, culture, mind and future are still firmly controlled by the same foreign imperialist oppressors. The Mandela Syndrome, the Pan-Obama Curse and the Pan-Wakanda Plague epitomize the last stages of this new, self-deceitful form of neocolonialism.

After this well applauded first presentation by Mr Senfo Tonkam, the participants could effectively understand the dynamics at play in the current geopolitical system that drives the world and which makes it impossible for the African State to assert itself and to serve the Black People as it should. Mr. Tonkam's presentation was followed by a questions and answers session of which the major concerns raised by participants revolved around the need to identify strategies that can address the key obstacles to the building of a truly independent Africa.

Mr. Tonkam ended the Q & A session by reassuring the participants that we will surely conquer over our oppressors and free Africa one day. But once free, what kind of society do we want to build? How to prevent the new African state from betraying the African masses again? How to avoid that the foreign oppressors we would have chased through the front door come back through the back window again? How to make sure we avoid these endless power struggles, and other internal conflicts that are destroying our Nation today? Mentioning Aimé Césaire's play *The Tragedy of King Christophe*, Mr. Tonkam referred to this set of questions as the "**AYITI CHALLENGE**".

After the lunch-break Ms. Marie-Paule Babli, a Lawyer, Political Analyst and anti-imperialist Activist presented Mama Winnie's eulogy on behalf of the **Black Amazones in France**. The Black Amazons are a Group of Black Women Activists from Africa and the Caribbean in France who are members or leaders of various Movements fighting against racism, neocolonialism (mainly French, a.k.a. as "*FrançAfrique*"), dictatorships, human rights violations and impunity. Emulating their historical Ancestors, the Black Amazons of France are true warriors engaged with courage and determination in the struggle for the liberation, democratization and unity of Africa. Her vibrant and empowering speech energized the participants and reinforced their determination to walk in the footsteps of Queen Warrior Mama Winnie.

The program went on, with Ms. Liliane Ze as moderator. An anti-imperialist activist and African-centered analyst, Ms. Ze is a human resources specialist. Her superb moderation at the conference enabled the audience to be active participants rather than mere listeners at the conference.

Mr. Tonkam then set up workshops in which participants were organized into various groups to work together for forty-five (45) minutes on the political legitimacy of the different social groups that usually have conflictual relations and often fight for power in our societies. After the workshops, each group presented its findings to the plenary meeting.

Using an ancestral conversation technique, Mr. Tonkam brought the participants to express their views openly and without taboo, to confront their respective positions frankly, to share their experiences deeply and to exchange their ideas constructively.

Thus, he succeeded in getting the best out of the interventions and proposals of the participants and the analysis and synthesis he made of those contributions clearly showed that they had understood and proven beyond any doubt that they had innate knowledge of what is good for Africa and they are true Nation-Builders.

This was an empowering self-revelation that proved to the participants that Black People have all the solutions to Africa's problems in their sub-consciousness, in their history past and present, in their traditions and in their culture. Thus, Africans need no lessons from foreign oppressors as to how to build their countries.

The participants particularly appreciated this session because they had the opportunity to speak during three (3) hours, instead of just sitting and listening to the Keynote speaker. They enjoyed and commended it all the more since they were not used to such an interaction with a keynote speaker as was introduced by Mr. Tonkam by his way of engaging the public in the search for solutions to Africa's and the Diaspora's challenges. Mr. Tonkam was flattered by the appreciation, but humbly insisted that they should rather thank the Ancestors, as his approach and his conversation technique are inspired and derived from the African traditions of public debate and initiation rituals.

After the last tea-break, Mr. Tonkam made his final presentation in which he articulated the foundations on which tomorrow's New African state must be built and gave an outline of what this state should and will look like. Here is, verbatim, what he said:

1. On Citizenship: *"The African State should make our Ancestresses' and Ancestors' vision of **"One race, One People"** come true in that, it should be a **Home for all Blacks**, regardless of their place of birth, passports, legal statuses, residence permits, family ties, group belonging, and the colonial dialects or African languages they speak".*

2. On Self-Determination and Self-Management: *"The best state will be the one that the **Self-Determined and Self-Organized African Masses will rule themselves in Full Sovereignty** and in the spirit of **Inclusion, Participation and Complementarity that define the MAAT**"*

This self-determined and people-centered state built in accordance with the Ancestral Ethical Principle of **MAAT** and standing as the reconstruction of an authentic African political system, Mr. Tonkam calls it **NubiaKemet**.

Due to the lack of time, Mr. Tonkam couldn't present and explain all the institutions of the new state. Thus, he focused on the most important of them, i.e. the legislative power. In his vision, **NubiaKemet's** lawmakers will not be professional politicians, but the people themselves, empowered and acting as self-organized and self-determined social groups which Mr. Tonkam calls **"BODIES OF SOVEREIGNTY"** (a.k.a. *"Sovereign Bodies"*). They are nine (9) in number and they build what he calls **"THE PYRAMID"**. To play their role and accomplish their missions, each Sovereign Body will enjoy a **Veto Right, Administrative Prerogatives, Police Powers and Judicial Powers** recognized and guaranteed by the **NubiaKemet** Constitution. Thus, they can defend their rights themselves and, if necessary (for example in times of crisis), they can stand for the whole Nation alone if other groups fail or betray the people.

Attached is the Pyramid of NubiaKemet as outlined by Mr. Tonkam whom we thank for allowing us to share it with the participants and the general public.

To conclude his remarks Mr. Tonkam made it clear that the most important ethical and political implication of this new political system is that the new African Revolutionaries under his paradigm must know that they will never enjoy the privileges, advantages and any other benefits of power because they will never be the rulers of the liberated country. Indeed, after having freed Africa and set the Maatic foundations of the new state, they will have to relinquish the power to the African masses through the Sovereign Bodies as structured and empowered in the **NubiaKemet** institutional chart. Thus, Mr. Tonkam's theory will enable the masses to distinguish between genuine revolutionaries who want a radical change rooted in authentic ancestral values from the power-hungry ones who, despite their revolutionary rhetoric are a serious threat to the people's well-being due to their Eurocentric mindset.

After a last African snack, the conference ended at around 8 p.m.

The participants were all very happy and felt empowered to continue the fight for African Liberation with more determination and a strengthened faith in the success of this struggle. Many remarked that Mr. Tonkam has given them more reasons to believe in themselves, in their skills and competences, in the genius and the power of the Ancestresses and Ancestors and in the Black People as a whole.

A DVD of the conference will soon be ready. Please, contact the **NETWORK OF AFRICAN JOURNALISTS IN PARIS** for any additional information.

Due to high demand, a series of more conferences on the African State will be held in France, with Mr. Senfo Tonkam invited as keynote speaker.

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