

WHY FEDERALISM IS THE WAY OUT OF UGANDA'S PROBLEMS TODAY AND AFRICA'S LAST HOPE BEFORE ETERNAL DOOM

BY OBONYO OLWENY

AND

OTIM OKULLO

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - *Why Federalism Is The Way Out of Uganda's Problems Today And Africa's Last Hope Before Eternal Doom* is a criticism of Museveni's politics of the last 24 years as President of Uganda. It recognizes in detail, his political inconsistencies and contradictions, the art of lies, deceit and propaganda which he has mastered and uses so effectively in Uganda, the Great Lakes Region and Africa at large, to advance his personal interests and those of the neo-colonial West that he works for today.

Since the beginning of his bush war in Luwero, central Uganda, in 1981 he has been preaching unity, pan-Africanism, Africanism, patriotism, nationalism, democracy, development, etc. yet his record, however, is heavily loaded with genocide and human rights abuses starting in 1981 in Luwero, northern Uganda, Rwanda, and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Institutionalized corruption, marginalization, robbery by the state, property destruction (vandalism), divide and rule, etc. have all been part of the norm under his governance.

Put together they form part of what we have been able to recognize as a wider established scheme/war of property dispossession currently unfolding in the Great Lakes Region and Africa at large, undertaken with the conspiracy and support of the neo-colonial West. There are trillions of dollars worth of oil in Uganda, Sudan, DRC, Somalia and Ethiopia, and trillions of dollars in other natural resources such as minerals, timber and agricultural land in the Great Lakes Region that they are targeting for exploitation in the next fifty to sixty years through the continuation of their war of property dispossession.[1] The continuity of that war requires that the man who has been leading it, General Museveni, in the last 24 years remains in power.

Ugandans can therefore expect General Museveni to remain President indefinitely beyond 2011, whether he wins elections or not. Our position on the inconsistencies and contradictions of Museveni's property dispossession war/scheme in the region is supported by a document by the International Crisis Group (ICG) which we accessed after our treatise had been completed. The ICG document, *Uganda's Operation Lightning Thunder*, criticized the bombardment of the LRA camps in DRC's Garamba Park in December 2008 which brought an inconclusive end to the Juba Peace Talks. This very important document is hereby attached. Page 25 of it talks of a six-billion-barrel oil find in Uganda, comparable to the reserve in the Sudan. On this page, the government in Kampala insisted on a domestic refinery to add value to the oil profit left in the country.

Then for no apparent reason,

Kampala ceded its stake in a strategic infrastructure project (Kenya-Uganda oil pipeline) for no clear reasons to unnamed persons who are masking behind Turmoil, upping its stake. It turns out that these unnamed people are a US based private Equity firm which operates in the British Virgin Islands. The US interest lies in the

implementation of this project and in that regard, a peace deal with the LRA was needed so that the LRA threat along the 358km pipeline which will pass through north-west Uganda is not disrupted. The same applies for the need for stability in southern Sudan. The land issue current land problems in Uganda are also linked to this oil and pipeline issue, as the government has to acquire land.[\[2\]](#)

Explaining why on several occasions Uganda parliamentarians asked for the details of the oil contract to be availed, but without success. And the people of Uganda will now understand why Museveni and his investors are doing everything possible to dispossess the people of their land. In our document, sub-section IV, we documented the suspicion of the people of West Nile in the recent declaration of “No oil found in West Nile” by the government of Uganda and the oil companies, believed to be a tactical diversion to allow time for the government to take over the people’s land in the area oil exists, effectively dispossessing the people of their oil royalties through land dispossession.

The ICG document on page 28 states, The situation could be further exacerbated if the government is not transparent on oil exploration. West Nile oil find stretches from the Rhino Camp Basin to Wadelai in the North-eastern part of Nebbi District through Arua and Maracha-Terego districts up to Obongi County in Moyo District.[\[3\]](#)

The inconsistencies and contradictions of Museveni’s war of property dispossession of the last twenty-four years, has had a serious negative effect on the people of the state. Many people in Uganda will agree that their country has never been this excited before under any president with regard to fear of their land or property being targeted for dispossession by the central authority. This abuse of power has been made possible because the constitutions of the Republic of Uganda since independence have amassed all the powers of governance in the hands of only one central authority in the unitary system of government: the President of the Republic of Uganda.

Our treatise states in section VI, *Federalism as the Solution*, that the solution to Uganda’s problems is for the country to adopt the federal system of government. Decentralization of powers in the federal system, which must include the transfer of control of land and the riches that come with it to the local governments (people, communities, clans, kingdoms, chiefdoms, religions, etc.), denies the central authority (President of the Republic and the negative neo-colonial interests) room to engage in the property dispossession wars and schemes such as the one we have suffered from in the last 24 years in Uganda. It also denies the neo-colonialists the advantage of manipulating and corrupting the whole state through the head of state in the unitary system of government.

I - WHY FEDERALISM IS THE WAY OUT OF UGANDA’S PROBLEMS TODAY AND AFRICA’S LAST HOPE BEFORE ETERNAL DOOM

The inconsistency in Museveni’s politics and its effect on Uganda and the Great Lakes Region. As we journey through the 25th year of Museveni’s rule in Uganda, we have been inspired by two of the speeches he gave, one to the first East African Community (EAC) Peace and Security Conference on 4th October 2009 in

Kampala, and the other he delivered on the 26th March 2010 on the occasion of the state visit by H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa visited Uganda, to look at the social, political and economic situation in Uganda over the last 24 years, and what the effects of Museveni's rule has been in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, against his rosy articulated positions/aspirations for the community of Uganda and the Great Lakes Region.

We will also look at what we think the effect of his rule will be on the future of Uganda and the Great Lakes Region. At the meeting of the first East African Community (EAC) Peace and Security Conference on 4th October 2009 in Kampala, Museveni called for 'a joint East African defense system to protect the region's interest against new forces of colonialism.' (*New Vision*, 5th October 2009). Museveni voiced concern about the situation in Somalia, terrorism, piracy, the killing of people, the insecurity of the region, foreign influence, neo-colonialism and what he called small groups like Kony, the Interahamwes and Pokot cattle rustlers.

He also talked about the values of their political movement, the National Resistance Movement (NRM), which are democracy, social and economic transformation of Africa, national unity, nationalism, and pan-Africanism. He further claimed that their movement was on a historical mission. In the second speech, the one he gave the day President was visiting, he said, '... for us in Uganda, we are more interested in developing the human resources...;' meaning that while President Zuma was in pursuit of investment in the oil sector, Museveni's priority was developing/investing in the human resources. All these sounded extremely good. The kind of concerns that would come out of only respectable, decent caring statesmen. Africa has known a few of such men. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Colonel Gadaffi of Libya, Nelson Mandela of South Africa, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, just to name a few.

Indeed, it was Nkrumah who coined the term 'neo-colonialism' or the new faceless colonialism that took over the colonies after independence that Museveni would want us to believe is now coming to Africa through Somalia and some other groups in the region. Nkrumah had intended to educate Africans that colonialism wasn't going to end with the attainment of independence, but take on to a different guise. Many in Africa today think Julius Nyerere was a tireless champion of freedom. His contribution to the struggle for independence in Tanzania and the rest of Africa can never be forgotten. Like Nyerere, Colonel Gadaffi is considered by many Africans to be a true liberator and a champion of freedom and independence not only in Africa but all over the oppressed world. He got justice for Africa recently when he went after the injustice of colonial Italy and got the Italian people to stand up and accept the responsibility of the sin their forefathers had committed against Africa. Italy agreed to pay Libya \$25 billion in restitution for the damage that was done during the colonial days. The decency of modern day Italians needs to be commended. Nelson Mandela, one of the most respected statesmen in the world today, has been what the whole world knows today as a freedom fighter and liberator. He took a divided country - apartheid South Africa - and turned it into a nation with a zeal for the defense of human rights. These men amongst other notables have served Africa with distinction. They led by example.

Yoweri Museveni who is President of Uganda today went to the bush in 1981, after losing the 1980 General Election (both the presidential and the parliamentary

constituency seat of his area), to wage a guerilla war against the government of Dr. Milton Obote. The area he picked as his base - Luwero in central Uganda - was greeted by heavy civilian casualty. Thousands of civilians were murdered in the area starting in 1981 until 1985, ending with the overthrow of Obote's government by General Tito Okello. Museveni blamed the killings on the government of Obote, whose overthrow of the kingdoms in Uganda in 1966 during his first government had left a lot of bad blood between him and the southerners. On his part, Obote blamed those killings on Museveni. He said the atrocities were committed by Museveni against the population of the area as a way of driving the people away from his government to Museveni's guerilla group. His position was later corroborated by people such as Ms China Keitetsi, a child soldier who wrote a book, *Child Soldier*, after escaping from the rebel group of Museveni, and also the intelligence chief in Obote's second government, who said earlier in 2009 in an interview with the *Daily Monitor* newspaper that the killers were Rwandese who were hired by Museveni to do the killings.

Otherwise, the most significant corroboration was from Colonel Dr. Kizza Besigye, the president of Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) party, formerly Reformed Agenda party he formed after he broke away from the NRM government. When interviewed on Mwenda Live (Radio/TV talk show) just before the 2006 General Election, about who was responsible for the killings, he said it was both the government and Museveni. Here the significance is in that Colonel Besigye was a member of the rebel group of Museveni. He was Museveni's personal doctor and therefore knew a lot of secrets and what went on in the bush during their bush war. What Colonel Besigye told us was that in that war the government of Obote killed innocent civilians. He was also saying that Museveni, who claimed to have gone to the bush to fight for the liberation of the oppressed, did intentionally kill a lot of 'the oppressed' he should have liberated. This we can assume was meant to force the people to join him in the war against Obote's government, effectively creating military capital for himself.

After he took over power from Tito Okello in 1986, north and northeastern Uganda saw a lot of killings and atrocities committed towards the civilian population. An estimated one million people were killed. In Teso people were loaded in train wagons and burnt alive. Throughout Northern Uganda, people have been buried alive in mass graves. Museveni supported by the West, America and Britain especially, was able to wage war in the region non-stop. When he got to northern Uganda, the killings and atrocities he committed generated three different resistance (movement) groups in Acholi sub-region alone and also in other parts of northern Uganda such as Lango, Teso and West Nile, and in the end producing the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) of Joseph Kony. Like in Luwero, the northerners will tell you, Museveni's troops would dress up like LRA then kill, maim and commit many atrocities then blame it on the LRA. These went on for the most part of the war in the north. It was meant to drive a wedge between the people and the LRA and deny the LRA voluntary recruitment. That was the origin of the conflict between the LRA and the people that they took up arms to defend. In these wars in north and northeastern Uganda the people of the region lost an estimated three million heads of cattle to the government of Museveni who had armed the Karimojong cattle rustlers to assist them. Along with the cattle, the people of the region lost practically all their valuables to the government. Their houses were all burnt down by the government forces

starting in 1996 to force them to abandon their homes (land) and go to internally displaced persons (IDP)/concentration camps.

The government says the forceful evacuation to the concentration camps was necessary to protect the people from Kony (LRA), while all along they were the ones killing innocent people and inflicting all the atrocities including the bodily mutilations and dismemberment and blaming it on Kony (LRA), therefore creating conditions for conflict between LRA and the community. It later emerged that part of the major intention of the government in sending people to the camps was targeting land. In the conceptual paper of Divinity Union[4], which is owned by General Salim Saleh, Museveni's half-brother, with support of the Uganda Government came up with a plan to rob the communities of north and northeastern Uganda, Masindi (part of Bunyoro) and Luwero (part of Buganda) of their land.

The documents [*The Conceptual Divinity Union: Uganda - the Breadbasket of Africa, 1996; The Developmental Concept Paper/Security and Production Programmes (SSP, May 2003); The Pilot Programme (2004); The Marketing Phase 2007/2008*] are hereby attached and available throughout Uganda. The Juba Peace Talks between Joseph Kony's LRA and Museveni's government which attempted to end the war in northern Uganda through dialogue convened in Juba in 2006 with the support of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) and the international community ended inconclusively in 2008, when the allied forces of Uganda, Southern Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), United Nations Mission in the Congo (MONUC), and the United States Army Africa Command (AFRICOM) in the Operation Lightning Thunder (OLT) attacked the LRA bases in Garamba Park. As the peace talks progressed between 2006 and 2008, Museveni would have his men dressed up like the LRA killing people in Southern Sudan, DRC, Central African Republic (CAR), and blaming it on Kony as a way of breaching the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) agreement, which was the first agreement between the Government of Uganda and LRA, so that war might resume, in effect derailing the peace talks. The mediator in the Juba Peace Talks and the CoH monitoring team, whose members consisted of Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), LRA, South Sudan government army (SPLA), and representatives of African Union (AU) from Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, DRC and South Africa, investigated the killings on three different occasions and each time exonerated LRA and implicated the government forces of Museveni, prompting the mediator to give the order to expel the UPDF from South Sudan in 2008. The tactic and the trail of killings by Museveni which started out in 1981 in Luwero, northern Uganda to Rwanda and to DRC had now resurfaced this time in Southern Sudan and Central African Republic.

All until almost the end of 2007, America and Britain were in opposition to the peace talks, preferring a military solution to the conflict other than dialogue, a position they had taken right from the beginning of the war in northern Uganda. This clued the people into thinking that the West needed the wars to accomplish certain interests in the region which they would not achieve under peaceful conditions in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. This position was reinforced when at the end of 2008, a Colonel of the US Armed Forces, of Ugandan origin, was reported by the *Daily Monitor* in Kampala campaigning for a military base in Northern Uganda (where land was supposed to be plenty). This was clearly a property dispossession exercise by

Museveni and the West. They were just clearing the field, killing people, and a military base for AFRICOM is what they were shooting for.

It is important to note that there had been four previous peace talks attempts all initiated by either Kony or the northern Uganda communities at ending the conflict in northern Uganda prior to 2006, which ended up being derailed by Museveni in preference to a military solution all the time. A member of the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative (ARLPI) was killed in 2004 by Museveni's soldiers as a way of derailing the efforts of the peace talks. They were on their way to the peace talks venue.

II - The exportation of Museveni's war of property dispossession out of Uganda. As war raged in northern Uganda, Museveni launched another war against the government of Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda in 1991. This war by the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) ended up overthrowing the government in Rwanda in 1994 but also causing the death of over 800,000 Rwandese. Shortly after that Ugandan forces headed to DRC supposedly in search of hostile forces to Uganda, the type of claim Museveni is making today for sending troops to Somalia. America and Britain are still with him in the venture in Rwanda and DRC.

In DRC his and his allies' venture caused the death of an estimated 10 million^[5] people and the number is still growing with the continuing war in eastern DRC in the Kivu area. There were a lot of atrocities and human rights abuses inflicted upon the civilian population of Congo, the type for which Kony is being blamed in north and northeastern Uganda, such as body mutilation and dismemberment to discredit one's opponent. The war in North Kivu complements the suspicion of Ugandans in the northern Uganda 25-year war. Radio France International/BBC reporting from North Kivu at the beginning of 2009 that that war as the Congolese understood it was an American effort to drive out China whose investment/development contract with DRC (Kabila's government) was well over US \$ 9 billion as of 2007. Analytically, where China comes in with \$9 billion to help develop Africa as it helps itself to the resources of Africa, America would rather just come with big guns and kill Africans and help itself to the resources left behind. This we believe is the main reason AFRICOM was created, so that it will be able to deliver the big guns to their areas of operation of property dispossession centers like Uganda, Congo, Sudan, Somalia and many other places in Africa where China and other competitors may be venturing.^[6]

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), in agreement with our position of the property dispossession schemes of the Musevenis as being fundamental to all these wars in the Great Lakes Region, said Museveni was also looking for other things like wealth beside 'hostile forces' they were in pursuit of. The court fined the government of Uganda \$10 billion for the plunder of the resources belonging to DRC such as timber, and minerals such as diamond, gold, columbite-tantalite (coltite) and others. All the loot - the raw materials - went straight to the West while the people of Uganda have been left with a hefty bill of \$10 billion dollars to pay DRC. The killing of innocent civilians which took place in Luwero, at the beginning of Museveni's bush war, caused or exacerbated the divide between the North and southern Uganda therefore cementing the alliance between Museveni and the southerners. Such killings have also persisted throughout his rule and the scale of the atrocities actually

got larger. While war has historically been used to destroy one's opponent (enemy), with Museveni we see it extended to the people he supposedly allies with or the innocent for as long as it brought him political and military gain. The discovery of oil in Uganda in 1969, which has been established to extend into DRC, and the discovery of oil also in Somalia years after that has been, as many believe, the main reason for the long-running wars in northern and northeastern Uganda, Congo, and Somalia. We have seen war in almost all the areas of petroleum discovery in Africa. From Nigeria to Angola, Sudan, Chad, and many others.

It is known as "the oil curse" to the oil companies and the neo-colonialists, meaning that somehow oil will always bring war or cause conflict in the community of its discovery. The fact is, as it is the case in northern Uganda, DRC and Somalia, that these wars and conflicts are usually a first step in the process of property dispossession in oil exploitation. This process may require clearing the oil fields and that may include depopulating the area, weakening the inhabitants of the oil fields through war by destroying their culture which is normally peasantry oriented in the Third World, to allow for the accommodation of the set up for the exploitation. In Sudan as we have been told the conflict between the North and the South which started almost 50 years ago, originally found footing in tribalism/ethnicity and religion. Clearly today, the motivations have been overtaken by the forces of the 'oil curse'. The neo-colonial West today is not just about to let China take over all the oil fields of Sudan.

III - Institutionalized corruption and marginalization by Museveni and the neo-colonial West in the Great Lakes Region.

This, we believe is why the alliance between Museveni and the West has been so strong in the last 24 years, because in the war for control of the oilfields of South Sudan, Uganda, DRC and Somalia, Museveni has been a very reliable General. He has been willing and available to do their dirty jobs of advancing the neo-colonial interest of the West in the Great Lakes Region. For that, the conspiracy in the West is to provide him and his government protection in international public relations and financial support (donations), even as it is known that half of the annual budget of the government of Uganda is actually stolen today by those in government. Such budgetary abuse and corruption by other African states around the Great Lakes Region is considered very serious crime by the Western governments and donors. Any African state in the region that dare commit such an offence is penalized immediately and donations and any financial support to them, immediately terminated. Clearly this is a case of double standards. Recently one of Museveni's lobbyists/apologists - a Congressman in the United States House of Representatives Mr. Donald Payne - had this to say about him to his fellow Congressmen, that '...but let us also consider what he is doing for us in Somalia....,' meaning, if Museveni, who is not squeaky clean, feels like killing off a million or two Africans here and there every now and then, for as long as he is helping them secure the oil fields of Somalia, he should be free to do so.

This was also the position taken by the US ambassador now in Kampala early in 2009 in his vetting/confirmation hearing in Washington. It is a trade-off that explains the impunity with which Museveni has been terrorizing the people in Uganda and the surrounding states for the last twenty-four years, while everybody else around him

are on their way to the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague. The manner in which Museveni changed in 2005 the 1995 Constitution, which had imposed a two-term limit for the Presidency, to allow himself to contest election for the fourth time by paying MPs Ugandan shillings 5 million/- to vote for the change, speaks volume about the sad political state Uganda has endured in the last 24 years.

It is precisely what the Americans were afraid of – the emergence of an imperial president / an elected monarchy, in other words a dictator, such as Museveni in Uganda today, that the founding fathers of the American federalism was concerned about in the 1760s after declaring independence from the British. That made them come up with an irrevocable two-term limit for the presidency of the United States. To cling to power the imperial presidents/elected monarchists such as Museveni will use everything including political constitutional changes, the divide and conquer politics, military force (use of guns), bribery – which explains why only him and a few of his people must have access to money/wealth in his government and the country. It is a way of impoverishing the people of the state and therefore creating dependents, who must keep coming back to him for support at all times, making it possible for him to dictate terms, manipulate and therefore rule them for a long time.

It also explains the institutionalized marginalization that is directed towards the different tribes (ethnicities) that are not close to that of Museveni. For instance, in the Ugandan army (UPDF), most of the top commanders (generals) come from Museveni's western region and out of 10 army representatives in Parliament, seven are from the same region.^[7] It is also the main reason corruption is practiced freely and encouraged by Museveni and the few people around him in his government today in Uganda, consuming over 50 per cent of the budget of the state through graft every year. By bribing the MPs Museveni succeeded in buying the legislative power that the people entrusted to the parliamentarians to make laws to protect the nation against such abuses that the imperial presidents/elected monarchists (the dictators) like Museveni use so forcefully and freely today to advance his interests and those of the neo-colonialists around him. The bribery amounted to the hijacking of the legislative body (the parliament of Uganda) by Museveni and his group. It explains why bad laws like the recently passed land bill which has laid the foundation to a land (property) dispossession schemes by the Musevenis, will continue to pass.

Already the most daring of all the land dispossession bills, the one that seeks to scuttle or destroy the ideology behind the right to property ownership, has been introduced and it is before Museveni's parliament. It is only a matter of time before it is passed. This bill places taxes on land ownership. Each year you must pay taxes on land that you own, whether it is active or idle. For those who cannot afford to pay taxes on their land, you must give it to one that can afford to pay taxes, leaving you landless, starting you and your family on a journey of homelessness. Salim Saleh's Divinity Union and the government's plan that was going to turn all the IDP camps in north and northeastern Uganda into permanent settlement communities which was going to allow a family of seven people only three acres part of the land they own, regardless of how much land you or your family owned before the war.

The rest of the land would be passed on to an investor, for whom you are now expected to labor for slave wages. This is the property dispossession scheme that Museveni is trying to introduce nationally through his parliament. This comes at a

time when for the last 20 years about 52% of the national budget of Uganda has been contributed/funded by foreign donors, while about the same proportion, over 50% is also being consumed by graft (institutionalized corruption) by those in government annually as revealed by the Inspector General of Government (IGG) in Kampala.

“Also, in 2009, National Resistance Movement’s own government Minister for Ethics, Dr. James Nsaba-Butoro, publicly stated that over 80% of the wealth owned by NRM’s military and political leaders is ill-gotten.”[8]

In the absence of the foreign donations under the current corrupt system and conditions that we have had in Uganda, the government would not be able to meet its budgetary responsibility such as paying the employees and delivering services to the state. Any government that cannot meet its responsibility to the state is a failed government and as the responsible authority causes the state to fail. This is where Uganda is today living on borrowed time and mercy of the donors following into the footsteps of Belgium Congo - now Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), originally renamed Zaire in 1966 when taken over by Mobutu Sese Seko in a military coup - heading in the territory where Somalia has been for a long time, a country without a central government. Belgium Congo (Zaire) with all its vast natural resources (timber, minerals, rich agricultural land, etc.) was one of, if not, the richest state in Africa, and if well managed politically, socially and economically, had all the potentials to stand out as a rich and prosperous nation not only in Africa but the rest of the world.

Instead DRC today is a failed state that has been held together by the United Nations peace-keeping force (MONUC), without which it would have already disintegrated into small fragments a long time ago. When MONUC came in, the economy had collapsed, the local currency had lost most of its value, and the American dollar was introduced beside the local currency and remains in circulation till today. For a long time the UN had basically taken over the fiscal responsibility of the government in Kinshasa. And because of lack of equipment, ammunition (logistics), the Congolese army has been a very weak force that cannot fight and win any war. The same conditions have also rendered the law enforcement ineffective. Taxes are collected daily if there happens to be any establishment that generates cash, such as travel agencies. Total collapse of the infrastructure had occurred by the end of Mobutu’s rule in Zaire. This the Congolese say happened because when Mobutu took over the state, he told the people close to him in his government, “... You get yours; I am getting mine ...” Intentionally or not, it was an invitation by the head of state to his government ministers / officials, friends and the neo-colonialists to come and attack Law and Order, to tear down government ethics and to rob and steal from the state. Mobutu had given order to implement corruption in Zaire. It was the institutionalization of corruption he had unofficially decreed. The result as seen today has been the failure of the state. For Mobutu when he was toppled by Laurent Kabila in 1998, he was estimated in the West to be worth over U.S. \$10 billion hidden in foreign accounts. Today his children in DRC survive mainly on Mobutu’s local investments (buildings – real Estates), as the billions in foreign accounts are mostly untraceable. “... *Diam* (diamond) and gold are all gone man; they took it all ...,” are some of the common talks you hear when you talk to Congolese in DRC about what happened to the resources of the state during Mobutu’s rule. They think the minerals

are exhausting very fast, and timber which is still vast throughout DRC is also being harvested too fast too cheaply and will be totally gone by the year 2042. They are not happy that all their resources are depleting while they are left wallowing in poverty.

The discovery of oil in the eastern side of the DRC state doesn't bring much excitement or hope either, because they think it will either go like the other resources that disappeared during Mobutu's rule, or the war by the Americans to drive out China through Rwanda and Uganda at the eastern border currently in the North Kivu area will disenfranchise the people of their oil. In all fairness, one can search for but fail to identify any accomplishment by Mobutu through his long rule in Zaire, at least in terms of development. The Congolese were free to party, drink Primus beer, play music and dance as Mobutu and his friends and the neo-colonialists carted away the wealth of Congo. One can only wonder if Mobutu alone was able to carry away \$10 billion through his entire rule, how much Congo lost to the outside world due to corruption during his rule. Like Mobutu, Museveni of Uganda upon taking over power in 1986 told a few people from western Uganda - the Bahimas and the Rwandese who were with him, "... get it while I am still here, because when I leave it will be a long time before you get this opportunity again..."

That started the state on the unfortunate trip it is on today. It was the crowning of institutionalized corruption which is here with us today and growing stronger. Immediately, the currency change of 1989 in Uganda deducted 30% of all money changed in the country, and till today we have not been told where the money went. Thereafter, the government officials took/assigned themselves big loans from the Uganda Commercial Bank (UCB), a government-owned enterprise, and intentionally defaulted on payment, and as a cover up, the sale of the bank was engineered for just a fraction of its real worth to one of their 'foreign investors'. The robbery of over three million heads of cattle from the people in the north and northeastern Uganda during the war of property dispossession followed. And the sale of 98% of all the previous government enterprises worth over US \$6 billion to "investors" and the proceeds never got to the government coffers. These amongst other multi-million dollar schemes that occurred in the last 24 years under Museveni, coupled with everyday losses by the state through the government institutions to corruption, has caused increasingly the government/state to fail in many areas.

The drainage of the state funds through institutionalized corruption under Museveni's rule has crippled Uganda's ability to develop economically. As it stands today, the little that is set aside for development fund is 90% donor funded. As Museveni admitted at the beginning of the year 2010, their cooked up figure of 6% of national economic growth that was preached to the world by his government and certain international financial institutions and governments as one of the highest/best in Africa, has not translated into national development, much employment or economic growth. Instead it has receded or stagnated at best. To understand this land interference, which would result into peasantry destruction for agricultural/commercial farming where Museveni would want to take Uganda, let us look at the agriculture in institution corrupt Zaire/Belgium Congo. By the end of Mobutu's rule, there was not much local farming, commercial or peasantry, in Zaire. The foreign farmers/investors, subsidized by their governments, were able to drive out of business, the local Congolese farmers, by dumping cheap subsidized farm

products in Zaire's agricultural market, making it impossible for the local (Zairian) farmers to compete because of the high cost of production locally.

The idea was to take over the Zairian market by the foreign investors/neo-colonialists, then eventually take over/acquire the idle local agricultural land cheaply and start to produce locally the agricultural products that were formerly being produced by the Congolese farmers. Developed countries like America and many countries in Europe call this practice "dumping" and do not allow it. It is mainly a way of protecting their farmers and market. Such practices today, and many others that target properties and natural resources (timber, oil, minerals) by foreign investors/neo-colonialists hatched and supported by their governments, if implemented in a foreign country like Zaire, Uganda and others, without the use of force, mass murder, oppression etc, by the host or the foreign investors or their government, is a very inconsiderately shrewd but legitimate business practice that a lot of companies/foreign investors are engaged in today in the Third World and many poor countries. When you bring in violence, force, mass murder, oppression, wars and AFRICOM as vehicles of implementation, then you have a situation that used to exist during colonialism. This is what Kwame Nkrumah referred to as new/neo-colonialism. It is what the wars in Sudan, Uganda, DRC and Somalia are about, an attempt to secure the oil fields, minerals, timber and agricultural land in the Great Lakes Region. This is exactly what Museveni intends for Uganda when he wants to tax land ownership - which will end up eradicating peasantry - therefore delivering land that is owned by 85% of the peasants/people to the foreign investors/neo-colonialists. Having liquidated and fed to institutionalized corruption 98% of formally government enterprises in the last 24 years, three million heads of cattle and other properties in north and northeastern Uganda, and recently government school properties, land in Kampala city area, the institutionalized corruption has more or less run out of easy prey within their reach/territory. Land is the last frontier in this business of property dispossession through institutionalized corruption and war by the Museveni and his group in Uganda.

It opens up a new scope that would serve the purpose of continuing to feed the institutionalized corruption. As the majority of Ugandans, 85% of who are peasants and therefore would be most affected and are people who depend on their land for everything, this government interference will be very contentious with them as they focus on how to keep what has been theirs since time immemorial. In the meantime, the Musevenis will be free to get away with the oil that is about to go into production – a good diversionary tactic. As many in Uganda think there are more oil discoveries to be announced and more discoveries to be made in the areas of Uganda after the land has been secured/people disenfranchised by Museveni and his group, it is a smart move of "dispossess the people of their land and dispossess them of the oil, timber, the minerals and all the other rich natural resources that come with the land." This is what the current bill in parliament, which seeks to levy taxes on land (active or idle), is hoped to do. Yoweri Museveni, the man who is president of Uganda today is following in the footsteps of Mobutu - doing what Mobutu did during his rule in Zaire - to the Great Lakes Region states of Uganda, Sudan, DRC and Somalia. He and his so-called investors must be made to understand that any community, a locality, Uganda or the continent of Africa will not develop unless the people (the human resources) are developed. In fact the development state of a country is only a reflection of the developmental state of the people of the moment.

IV - The state of the Republic of Uganda today - The result is that Uganda today is a state that is divided along tribal/ethnic lines, and even that is an understatement, because even the tribes/ethnicities are being sub-divided for political and economic exploitation by Museveni. Politically and economically, Museveni has taken Uganda to a near moral bankruptcy, a country that has no borderline between right and wrong, truth and falsehood, one that would more than likely fall apart in the absence of the current military force that is holding it together, while the looting continues. Where there was none, Museveni has succeeded more than any leader in Ugandan history in creating inter-tribal/ethnic conflicts that will remain with the people long after he is gone. Land grabbing by the government and the fear of it is not only limited to the north and the northeastern as we have described in the context of the 24-year-old war. The whole state has been affected. In western Uganda at the end of 2008, the *Daily Monitor* carried an article that had Mzee Byanyima, one of the respectable from western Uganda, a man who raised or helped raise Museveni as saying "Museveni's men took my land." This coming from someone that should be considered family member to Museveni, tells of how serious land problem in Uganda has gotten to be under Museveni in the last 24 years. It is no different in Bunyoro sub-region, where the discovery of oil was first announced in Uganda. Today the conflict in Bunyoro with the central government is similar to that of north and northeastern Uganda. Their complaint is that government is targeting their land and oil. That the NRM government is bringing in other people from other parts of Uganda and settling them in Bunyoro in the oil-rich areas.

That the government and the western allies (investors) have been taking up or assigning themselves large pieces of land in all the areas where oil is known to exist, in the area of Bunyoro under the cover of sunflower oil production, or other means which to them amounts to the trickery of the property dispossession of Museveni in the Great Lakes Region for the last 23 years. In Buganda it has gotten worse in the last few years. First, the government has been giving away land and properties that used to belong to the central government mainly in the Kampala city area, which is in the Buganda sub-region, to foreign investors. The rates (prices) and the manner in which these properties were disposed left a lot of people throughout Uganda to think this is part of the property dispossession that has been going on in the northern part of Uganda and the wider Great Lakes Region, now coming to Buganda.

Many Baganda think Museveni has been bringing a lot of Rwandese and settling them in Buganda as citizens so that they may help take over the land from the indigenous Baganda. The Rwandese factor gets complicated by the fact that many refugees from Rwanda who arrived as early as the late 1950s and settled in Buganda, some of whom have assimilated, are being alienated by the conflict between the government and some Baganda today. They think that the current land bill will empower the government to give their land to the Rwandese *ibalaloos* (semi-nomads). A lot of Baganda also think the large foreign agricultural development schemes such as Bidco Corporation and others that are engaged in palm and sunflower oil production in parts of Buganda mainland and in the islands of Lake Victoria, have been placed in areas where large oil and natural gas deposits are known to exist, effectively dispossessing the communities of the royalties that is naturally theirs. The forceful evacuation of the islanders of Lake Victoria to make way for palm oil production by the foreign investors in the 1990s, to them was just a way of dispossessing the Baganda of the oil and natural gas in the lake.

Whether oil exists in these areas or not, these are the kind of rumors that are common in Uganda today under Museveni's rule and definitely a source of conflict. Many will recall that towards the end of 2008, the Acholi parliamentarians from northern Uganda explained their resistance to Museveni's attempt to give away land in Amuru District to Madvhani (an investor) for sugar cane production, as an attempt by the government to rob the land owners of the oil royalties since it had been rumored for a long time that the area being targeted had large oil deposits, and to a great extent it is believed that the long-running war in northern Uganda was attempting to dispossess people of their oil royalties. Sure enough, the oil companies announced at the beginning of 2009 that the largest oil deposit in Uganda by far had been found in Amuru District, precisely in the area that was targeted for the sugar production by Museveni's investors. Museveni still got the land because the land owners were confined in the IDP camps. So in Uganda since Museveni and the international Western conspiracy suppress the truth and operate on lies and propaganda as the tools of property dispossession, rumours are in many cases the leading indicators of the truth.

Many in Buganda also explain the dispute over ***Migingo island in Lake Victoria***, an island believed to be situated in Kenya's territory but claimed by Uganda, as proof of the existence of oil in the lake because Museveni hopes to use Migingo as a drilling pad if and when they decide to start the process of oil exploitation/exploration. In the West Nile area, starting from Alur sub-region in the south all the way to the Sudan-Uganda border, people believe they are floating on oil, but the government is not telling them the truth. The recent land dispute between the villagers on the South Sudan side claiming land that their southern counterparts in Uganda believe is theirs, is cited as proof of existence of oil and that "the oil curse" is beginning to rear its head. The 1990 agreement of cooperation between the SPLA and Museveni that touched on oil exploration/exploitation in that area which is now being disputed by the villagers, amongst other things, and the documented result of the 1969 survey that reveals the potential of oil presence starting from western Uganda through Amuru and the Alur area all the way to southern Sudan border with Uganda, on both sides of the Nile, as proof that the government of Museveni is not telling them the truth. That the recent declaration of "no oil found" in the whole of West Nile was a tactical calculation on the side of Museveni and his group to divert attention of the West Nilers from the oil in their areas, to make it easier for them to grab the land and therefore the oil.

To them the oil that starts from Bunyoro and extends into Acholi and across Lake Albert into DR Congo, and into Alur along the Nile on both sides till South Sudan, goes all the way to North Africa. It is supposed to be one vast underground oil lake. The questions they ask is: Why didn't Museveni make any agreement pertaining to oil with states like Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and others that share common borders with Uganda also like he did in the 1990 agreement with the SPLA? Many people in Uganda will agree that their country has never been this excited before under any president with regard to fear of their land or property being targeted for dispossession by the central authority. The constant refusal of the central government to release details of the oil contracts the state made with the oil companies, as demanded by parliamentarians, to them is proof that Museveni as usual is not telling the truth about the contract because he is the main beneficiary in the agreements.

This belief is not helped by the fact that throughout Uganda in the areas that have been confirmed to have commercial oil deposits and are currently under the process of oil exploration/exploitation, no attempt or arrangement has been made to reach or determine who is the owner of the land, what they have to say about their land, and what they would expect from the agreements/contracts and oil on their properties. Instead Museveni is busy training an oil protection force (dispossession force) under the command of his son Colonel Muhoozi in the UPDF, to ensure that the oil in Uganda remains in Museveni's control and the property dispossession forever a reality. Conditions that were created by history - the divide and conquer policies, institutionalized corruption, marginalization, autocracy, market/economic domination by minority outsiders (investors) in collusion with some few in government and their friends to accumulate wealth at the expense of the majority indigenous Ugandans, etc. - have been astronomically compounded by Museveni, exist today in Uganda and are getting worse by the day. These conditions coupled with the practice of crony capitalism by Museveni's government in collusion with foreign investors for the last 24 years of his rule, had made him by 2006 the third richest head of state in the whole world, with about U.S. \$11 billion[9] in foreign accounts while an average Ugandan lives on less than a dollar a day. Many Ugandans die daily simply because they cannot afford clean water, mosquito nets, or malarial and HIV medication amongst others.

V - Response to Museveni's speeches to the East African Community (EAC) Peace and Security Conference and on the occasion of President Jacob Zuma's visit. In light of Museveni's record of the last 24 years in government in Uganda before us which includes the effects on the Great Lakes Region, to the questions, 'What do we do to Somalia? What are the forces in Somalia?' and 'What do they want? They are killing people.' The first thing we need to do is to help the Somalis realize or identify the root causes of their conflict. Primarily the root cause is the same as the one for the war in northern Uganda and other places, which is 'the oil curse', a war for the control of the oil fields of Somalia. Some of the conflicts are also rooted in the pre-independent colonialism and in the cold war of the previous century between the East and the West, who fought each other through a third party like Somalia, Uganda, Sudan, Nigeria, Angola, Cuba, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Ireland, etc.

Back then during the cold war, as it was during the colonial days, the East and the West courted, promoted or even initiated conflicts between tribal groups/ethnicities, religions, cultures, communities, gangs, historicals, etc. and out of it they recruited fighting men and women. In that war the East was trying to bring in a social aspect to a global economy which had always been capitalistic. The Somalis will be well served to realize that some of the fighting men or the so-called peace-keeping forces on their soil today are products of the old conflict propagation strategy of the colonial and the cold war era. One of those conflict courtships/propagation in which Somalia and the Great Lakes Region found root/evolved was that between the Tutsis and the Hutus of Rwanda. The Tutsis, who make up 14% of Rwandese population against 85 % Hutus, dominated the Hutus for over four centuries (the last under Belgian indirect rule), as a cattle-owning aristocracy.

The two tribes spoke the same language, inter-married, successful Hutus could become Tutsis and as such the line of divide between the two was

porous/permeable. Things changed when the Belgians arrived. Tribal/Ethnic superiority and classification of people was introduced, with identity cards issued on the basis of nose length and cranial circumstances. This resulted into a much sharper tribal or ethnic division that was later exploited by the leaders of the Hutu nationalism. In 1933-1934 the Belgians conducted a census and issued ethnic/tribal IDs, making it impossible for Hutus to become Tutsis. This made it possible for the Belgians to rule Rwanda indirectly through a system in which Tutsi chiefs/leaders controlled the Hutu majority, extracting their labor on behalf of the Belgians (Indirect Rule). The Belgians favored the Tutsis, giving them superior education and assigning them all the best administrative and political positions, reducing the Hutus to a group of a humiliated pool of forced laborers who were expected to labor under the Tutsi leadership. The result was what French scholar Gerald Prunier called "an aggressively resentful inferiority complex" developing/deepening and festering among the Hutus. By the time independence came the Tutsis were a privileged, arrogant, economically controlling tribal/ethnic minority. The Hutus political who were calling for majority rule and democratic revolution were seeking not equality, but revenge.

Calls to unite in Hutuness and Hutu power in the late 1950s as the Belgians, now seeming oblivious to the escalating ethnic rhetoric, assumed the role of an ex-colonizer, assisting the transition to independence. They scheduled elections, but before the elections were held war began. Rwanda achieved independence in 1962 after a social revolution that started in 1959 drove out the Belgians. A lot of Tutsis left the country in that social unrest as ethnic nationalism on the side of Hutus continued to grow and some settled in Uganda with the help of UN refugee programme. When Museveni started his bush war in Uganda he relied heavily on the Tutsi refugees as was described earlier in our analysis of the beginning of the war in northern Uganda. Conflict courtship/propagation that had started centuries ago with the Tutsis and the Belgian alliance against the Hutus in Rwanda had followed the Tutsis to Kampala.

Here the neo-colonialists – Britain and America – whose interest was to take control of the region because of its natural resources, saw the Tutsi-Museveni alliance as a conflict propagation opportunity of a lifetime; an opportunity for an Anglo-Saxon indirect rule or conquest of the Great Lakes Region. Museveni did take advantage of the conflict-driven Tutsis to initiate/propagate conflict in Uganda with the intention of acquiring political and economic power, and in return he would assist the Tutsis to return to Rwanda and retake their lost crown through military force. The neo-colonialists – Britain and America – would use this conflict generating alliance in Uganda between the Tutsis and Museveni to achieve their interests of eradicating French interests (Francophone), and implementing Anglo-Saxon (American-British) influence in Rwanda, and if that worked they would later do the same in DRC with Rwanda as base. This was the beginning of the 'oil curse' or the implementation of the property dispossession scheme by Museveni and the neo-colonialists which has now brought neo-colonial troops to the soil of Somalia under the command of General Museveni.

The invasion of Rwanda in 1994 by the Tutsis and the Musevenis caused the death of over 800,000 Rwandese. Comprising of only about 14% population of Rwanda against 85% Hutus, and mindful of the 1962 election at independence, which voted in 90% Hutu officials in Rwanda, the Tutsi minority were aware that to take over power and maintain control over the majority, they would need more than just

democratic forces in Rwanda. They would need the type of arrangement that existed in the last century of their domination of Hutus through the Belgians (the Indirect Rule).

This has provided opportunity for the most convenient alliance for all three (Museveni, Tutsis and neo-colonialists). In it the Tutsis get to play dominance over Hutus and survive in Rwanda protected internationally by the neo-colonialists (Britain, America and the West in general). Museveni plays General and gets to rule Uganda indefinitely, also protected in Uganda and also internationally by the same neo-colonial group/foreign interest. In return Rwanda and Uganda do continue the propagation/initiation of conflict (property dispossession wars) in Africa, as we have seen in Uganda, Rwanda, DRC, Sudan, Central African Republic (CAR) and Somalia. In short the conflict we have here in the Great Lakes Region today is just to set up for control of the oil and other natural resources of our region to flow out cheaply – not in the direction of China and the competitive powers, but to the neo-colonial West.

For this operation to be successful, the neo-colonialists need a force/ army similar to the ones that existed during the colonial /pre-independence era that made it possible for the colonialists to colonize and rule Africa. They figure such a force would not be welcome by most Africans today, especially when Africa is still struggling with the fresh memories and the effects of colonial rule on the continent. The best thing to do was then to use the armies of the Musevenis, under the command of the neo-colonial AFRICOM – an extension of NATO. This is what the East African defense system, which Museveni was calling for in the meeting, was all about. Many people believe AFRICOM already has that base in Rwanda, but if not it will soon, either in Rwanda, Uganda, and Kisangani in DRC where construction is in progress.

AFRICOM's primary purpose is to secure the oil fields and the other resources of the region, through conflict propagation and wars. When the cold war ended with the bankruptcy and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the main supporter of the effort and leader of the Eastern Block, the West was overjoyed. Some of the western countries like Britain and America went back to peddling neo-colonialism, a faceless colonialism that fights for territorial control. The war for territorial control targeted or was motivated by wealth – the natural resources that existed in a territory. In most of the conflict areas you will find the presence of oil, minerals, timber, and rich agricultural land. Up to today many in Somalia do not know oil exists in their territory, just as Ugandans were kept in the dark until recently about their oil since 1969.

The guns which were once aimed at the Eastern Block were quietly turned towards the weak property owners of the world today in the property dispossession schemes that we have seen in the Great Lakes Region for a long time now. Because the conflict in Somalia today is neo-colonially motivated and manipulated, this war of resource control is against the people of Somalia. Technically the damage being done to Somalia is by the neo-colonial forces regardless of whether they come from Uganda, Burundi, Britain, America, Ethiopia, Nigeria or even the Somali people themselves who have failed to see the manipulative forces of the 'oil curse' at work in Somalia. When you hear the Musevenis and the neo-colonialists coming out with questions such as, "What are the forces in Somalia?" and using the term "terrorism" which has been a rallying war cry in the West against "Islamic extremism/terrorism"

in areas of strategic/property dispossession interests to the West, then the Somalis can brace for a long Islam bashing as a tool of conflict initiation/propagation as has been used in the Arab countries, the Middle East and the wider Islamic world in the last half a century. Some do read it as the beginning of the conflict initiation between the predominantly Christian communities of the Great Lakes Region and the Islamic communities of the region. The present warring groups in Somalia - the al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam - and the previous group of the Islamic Court Union, whose leader is the current head of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in Mogadishu, were all labeled extremist Islamic groups that fought the previous transitional secular government of Somalia before the invasion of Ethiopia in 2006/2007. When the former government collapsed, for purpose of continuity of the conflict propagation and relevancy of the Musevenis and the neo-colonialists in the property dispossession scheme/wars, one or two groups had to be found to be more/ultra extreme.

It is extremely difficult to believe that Museveni, a world renown Christian who has been able to kill or cause the death of over seven (7) million people - majority of them Christians - in Uganda, Rwanda, DRC, Sudan, Central African Republic in a neo-colonially motivated property dispossession scheme/wars, would together with the neo-colonialists today have a soft spot for the Islamists in Somalia and would actually send his troops (the UPDF contingent of the African Union force) there simply to 'protect' the people or government of Somalia. Whom is he is trying to fool? The best thing our Moslem brothers and sisters in Somalia can do, is to quit looking at each other through the eyes of the Musevenis and the neo-colonialists, and pray for the vision and guidance of the One and Only Almighty God, which has been revealed to them/mankind through the Quran, and exemplified by the life of Prophet Mohammed on earth.

Piracy in the seas of Somalia and surrounding international waters is a result of years of neo-colonial wars and manipulation of the area. It is a result of total destruction and lawlessness on the manipulated land of Somalia causing the hungry Somalis to strike out to sea for some fish and a loaf of bread. If therefore Museveni continues his property dispossession in Uganda and the neighborhoods by taking all the land from the people, minerals, oil, timber, and other resources from our region and giving it to the neo-colonialists, it is only a matter of time, with the fast-growing population of the region, and the fast-approaching desertification, before piracy moves from the high seas to our streets and neighborhoods as people will be fighting each other for the same loaf of bread and fish the Somalis are looking for in the sea today.

As far as the threat of terrorism coming to our region through Somalia, it is only a front, a cover for the colonialists to come in and secure the oil fields in the war of property dispossession. In the last twenty-four years that threat has come to our region through Uganda of Yoweri Museveni and the West. In his address, Museveni said the new threats to the region were caused by foreign influence. To this we are in total agreement. But we will point out that, as we have seen in the last 24 years of his rule in Uganda, he is the General at the top today in the whole of Africa championing that foreign influence (neo-colonialism).

As far as Kony is concerned, he came to the scene in the 1980s as a resistance force to a government that was killing innocent people in northern Uganda, raping, maiming, rustling cattle, and destroying people's properties. He is clearly Museveni's creation. Without Museveni terrorizing Uganda, Kony would never have come to the scene. The same can be said about the Interhamwes in the DRC, a remnant of the force that fought the incoming invading RPF from Uganda sponsored by Museveni. The Pokot rustlers that he is attacking could not be too bad; they must be Museveni's type of people. Because in robbing the cattle from north and northeastern Uganda, Museveni used the service of the Karimojong rustlers. Rustling is rustling whether committed by the Pokots, the Dinkas, the Karimojong or the Musevenis and his group.

In his attack on the media and the claim of their political movement's aims of democracy, social and economic transformation of Africa, national unity, nationalism, and pan-Africanism, for heaven's sake, how can anyone, leave alone a head of state, the President of the Republic of Uganda, claim to stand for these good values and ideas, then turn around and kill and maim fellow Africans in Uganda, Rwanda, DRC, South Sudan and now Central African Republic by the millions as he did throughout his 24-year rule? How can you talk of nationalism, national unity and pan-Africanism when you are tearing apart nations, communities, kingdoms through your property dispossession wars by robbing three million heads of cattle from those communities in northern Uganda, plundering the wealth of DRC among other things?

Uganda or Africa cannot economically transform constructively when leaders like him continue to siphon off billions from Africa to foreign accounts. This money would transform the economy of a place like Uganda instantly if invested as a down payment (capital) in the country. To the call by Museveni in that meeting of the first East African Community (EAC) Peace and Security Conference for a common defence system, the East African Community Secretary-General responded by saying, 'Regional integration and development hinges on peace and stability.' Has Uganda under Museveni for the last 24 years been peaceful and stable? And has Uganda under his leadership been a source of peace and stability for the region?

The answer to both questions came a few months ago in the East African national poll, when the people of Tanzania, a country considered very peaceful and stable, rejected the idea of fast-tracking of the East African federation. Ugandans, now as reported in *The EastAfrican* weekly paper, have joined Tanzanians in their opposition to the fast-tracking of the East African federation. (*The EastAfrican*, January 2010). The claim by Museveni of developing human resources as being his priority in Uganda, sounds like a big joke. It shows just how little Museveni and group do respect the intelligence of the people of Uganda and the Great Lakes Region, in order to be able to come out openly and claim that his priority has been and is developing human resources in the region. Contrarily, in the Great Lakes Region we see his record of the last 24 years in power, littered with the death of millions of people, human suffering caused by his property dispossession wars, corruption, marginalization, spread of HIV/AIDS in the IDP camps with the intention to effect genocide by his soldiers who have tested positive, through rape and sodomy of women and men in northern Uganda, land grabbing and intentions to grab land, the use of chemical/biological weapons in the property dispossession wars on innocent civilians – some of which was intercepted in London in 2008 – and the siphoning out

of billions of dollars and natural resources, amongst others. All these, and a lot of them intentional, did not and will not support the development of human resources and therefore that of the state, as reflected in his State of the Nation address in January 2010 in which lack of growth in the economy was captured. Without a doubt we can say that this address to the East African peace and security conference by Museveni was just a distraction or a diversionary finger-pointing attempt to try to shift focus away from the war-mongering record of his 24-year rule which has been just a vehicle of property dispossession that they have undertaken in conspiracy with the West in the Great Lakes Region. In that meeting Museveni as General, was just aligning African troops to serve under the supervision of AFRICOM in their war of property dispossession in the Great Lakes Region.

VI - Federalism as the solution - Many agree today that the turn Uganda took in 1967 laid the groundwork for what we are experiencing today by amassing all the powers of governance in the hands of only one central authority - and that authority is the President of the Republic of Uganda. The abolition of the traditional leadership with the use of force (the army) immediately after independence literally discarded our baby political institutions and therefore denying them the opportunities to mature into supportive African political organs of the communities under the nurture of the traditional leaderships. The traditional leadership were the only checks and balances the communities had and needed against the colonial extremism. It is that element of relationship between the good shepherd (political and economic) and the communities, nations, kingdoms, etc that we lost when Obote abolished the cultural leadership.

This vacuum that was created by the abolition, and therefore the eradication of the good shepherd's stewardship was taken over by the wolves (political and economic) that existed at the time and the new, both local and foreign, to wreck havoc in Uganda throughout the 47 years of independence. It is therefore our collective responsibility today to look critically and carefully at what we have called Uganda since the coming of colonialism to this land that was formerly kingdoms, chiefdoms, clans, nations, communities, etc, and most people will agree that:-

- 1) Uganda as a nation today is on the wrong path politically, economically and socially; that we need to go back to basics and re-introduce traditional leaderships or the element of the good shepherd and the participation of the grass roots / communities, back into our national politics, where the needs exist;
- 2) The unitary system of government has been our primary source of failure and problems;
- 3) The central authority today has and wields too much power that needs to be decentralized in specific policy areas to permanently decapitate the ability of the dictator of the day to abuse the powers that are available to him/her;
- 4) The central authority has and continues to be the vehicle of advancement to neo-colonialism and the negative foreign interests in Uganda and its surroundings. That we think decentralization of powers will do away with the 'corrupt-one-and-corrupt-all' advantage that the negative forces have today through the central authority or the unitary system of government with the President on top;

5) Land matters and other natural resources like oil, timber and minerals, which has and continues to be the source of mass killings and atrocities committed towards populations in different communities such as north and northeast Uganda, DR Congo, Somalia, and Sudan should permanently be transferred to the control of the local governments with the central authority barred from making any laws, initiating/negotiating any contract, business or otherwise pertaining to land and any mineral resources in the land. The transfer of land to the local government guarantees land and property protection against the dispossession schemes of the Musevenis and the West till a matured responsible national leadership and parliament is realized in our national politics. This will only be possible if the decency and the responsible character of the grass root/electorate is reflected into national politics, through their local control of their land, property and destiny.

6) Any new development/investment by the central authority in the unitary system is risky and potentially bad investment because as we have seen recently on the advice of the World Bank and the foreign financial institutions, all these new developments, be it oil or mineral extraction and business investments owned by the central government, will in future be privatized or sold at an undervalued price to some private investors who are supposed to be better business managers. This is looterism which in effect amounts to continuation of the war of property dispossession that has been going on for a long time in Uganda and the rest of Africa as we have seen recently. The need to decentralize and, preferentially and permanently, keep investments in private hands and the local communities barring the central government from owning properties that they could later privatize cheaply benefiting themselves and the outside investors, cannot be overstated;

7) Tax collection will be a joint operation between the central and the local government and distributed in blocks proportional to the population of the localities, mindful of the burden of infrastructure developments. This is about the surest way of minimizing corruption in the war for its control;

8) The central authority may levy only general tax on the income that is derived from the sale/transfer of ownership and the development income of the land and the mineral resources;

9) Any community is free and has the right to set up any form of government it deems fit culturally or otherwise and has the freedom to set any united local government in association with other communities within the country known as Uganda;

10) The power to declare war has to constitutionally be denied to the presidency as it has and continues to be used in Uganda just as a vehicle of property dispossession in and outside of Uganda today. In northern Uganda where Museveni did the most damage in the last 24 years, people especially those who had little to do with national politics, the workers and peasantry group, in attempting to make sense of Museveni's action towards their communities, do say, "He did this to us just because he is not a Ugandan; he is a Rwandese." Some say, "He is a Tanzanian who was brought to Uganda after birth. He is not attached to Uganda." This, Museveni brought upon himself because as part of his divide and conquer military politics. When he took over from Tito Okello in 1986 he alienated the Northerners

calling them “Nilotics, *Banyanyas* (biological substances), Sudanese, etc.” as a way of uniting the southerners (who are predominantly Bantu), to help him fight the Northerners. Soon after, the Nilotics-hater/Bantu-lover Yoweri Museveni headed to Rwanda and DRC causing the death of over seven million Bantus collectively. For that both the Bantu and Nilotes in Uganda today express their pain by disowning him. Here what they are saying is that if this man – Yoweri Kaguta Museveni – was from their village, he would not have done what he did to them in the last 24 years through war. Of course the president of a state can only come from a village (locality) at a time.

As a policy against conflict generation/propagation between tribes, ethnicities or inter-states, because of such recurrence/occurrences and protection for all communities, the power to declare war cannot be the prerogative of the President alone.

11) Provision of a simple recall clause in the law against corrupt and ineffective elected leaders that can be initiated either by the parliament or the people is a necessary insurance against corruption, marginalization and abuse of political office and the waste of the people’s resources.

12) A move away from the presidential system of government to a parliamentary type would be more suitable in dealing with corrupt and unruly leaders and the cronysts they associate with. It would make it easier to get rid of them; in effect providing the electorate with a short circuit fuse on their elected officials.

13) Decentralization will localize decision making on both national and local issues effectively enlisting the participation of the local communities and therefore help broaden decision making, creating stability right from the grassroots;

If all these ideas amongst others were to be adopted or incorporated into our constitutionality and made law of the land, that it would definitely help change or even stop the reckless slide of our country into that inevitable state of political, economic and social hopelessness and destruction that awaits us and most of the communities in Africa as it is today. The decentralization of powers - the ceding of certain powers in certain policy areas - to the local governments by the central authority as part of an affirmative action amounting to shared powers/division of powers in some policy areas between the two, is an arrangement which is available in the federal system of government. **Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia** states:

Federalism is a [political](#) concept in which a *group* of members are bound together by covenant (Latin: *foedus*, [covenant](#)) with a governing representative head. The term **federalism** is also used to describe a system of the [government](#) in which sovereignty is [constitutionally](#) divided between a central governing authority and constituent political units (like states or provinces). Federalism is a system in which the power to govern is shared between national and central (state) governments, creating what is often called a [federation](#). Proponents are often called [federalists](#).

Federalism is the type of politics wherein a group of members create a sovereign constitution with central governing authority and political units.

We see it today at work in Europe, Canada, the United States, India, Brazil, Russia and a few other places in the world. The example of the United States stands out because the world has seen that country domestically do social, political and economic miracles in the last 200 years since the adoption of the federal system of government. It has been able to transform from a country suffering from conditions such as ours if not worse, starting with the declaration of independence in the 1760s from the British colonial rule to one of, if not the most, democratic countries in the world.

Fear of domestic insecurity, land claims and feuds, uncertain economic conditions and investment climate, poor and declining international credibility and lack of protection for property (property included slaves until its abolition in the 1860s), were some of the negative forces they say forced them to find more accommodative social, political, economic climate under the federal system of government. These conditions exist today in Uganda. We think it is important to point out that an American in the 1760s was more prepared to recognize and deal with the conditions and forces that existed in their country than a Ugandan of today, because it was such conditions in colonial Europe that forced some of their forefathers to flee or get ejected from Europe before getting on the ships to go make home in America.

Their experience with the conditions such as political and economic corruption, marginalization and persecution in colonial Europe and in America had given them a head start which helped them build new political structures and organs, a near perfect, by Ugandan standard, judicial system equipped with the provision for a jury of private citizens approved by the defendant, to sit in a criminal court trial, therefore helping cut out corruption in the system. For a Ugandan today a study of the American system of governance would be enlightenment in the search of solutions to most of our problems. It is a system that was built at the time with fears and the effects of colonialism/neo-colonialism in consideration.

VII - President Obama and 'neo-colonialism as part of American foreign policy. The question that comes to mind is that, 'How does America get cast in very good light now for its political, economic and social development in the last 200 years, while in much of this treatise America comes out as killer, oppressor, neo-colonialist, etc? Why the contradiction?' The answer to this question is that America does many good things domestically and internationally. The sad truth is that America also does a lot of bad things internationally (outside America), such as the ones we have talked about in this treatise. An American who goes by the name Dale, recently exclaimed, "They would kill us too if we let them." What he was saying is that there is some body (the business establishment) which uses the populous American muscle to effect their interests around the weak undeveloped world. These establishments are not limited to America or Britain. In fact you find them all over the world. Museveni of Uganda is their number one man in Africa today. The ascendance of Mr. Barrack Obama to the presidency of the United States avails the American population the opportunity to understand why the world has been increasingly turning anti-USA even as their tax dollars on many occasions has helped in relief emergencies and assistance around the world.

It does help explain to the oppressed world like the continent of Africa, why a country like America with a very high human rights standing at home is today the number

one human rights abuser outside America with respect to the exploitation of the world's natural resources. The world can also now clearly see how entrenched, neo-colonialism is in the American foreign policy. **Hon. Barack Obama** who is president of USA today campaigned against corrupt clenched-fist dictators and oppressors around the world. On his trip to Ghana in West Africa, he talked about dictators on the continent who change the constitution to prolong their stay in power. In all honesty he came out as part of the decent silent majority population of the American citizenry (society), who truly are opposed to neo-colonialism practiced by their government internationally in respect to property dispossession wars around the globe. To many Africans in the east and central Africa, Museveni fits that profile of the dictators that President Obama talked about in his campaign and after he became president. In Rwanda, DRC, Sudan, Central African Republic, northern Uganda, Museveni and the neo-colonialists have caused the death of over seven million people since he came to power 24 years ago.

To the surprise of many in this region who have been affected by Museveni's dictatorial rule in the last 24 years and who have been following Mr. Obama's ascendance to the presidency, President Obama whose clear stance in regards to dictators and human rights abusers on the continent of Africa has been loud and clear, early last year, nominated a man who in his vetting/confirmation hearing before the US Congress to become US Ambassador to Kampala, Uganda, said in dealing with Museveni the US should be mindful of the support he is giving them in Somalia. This was read by many in the region as the new position of Barack Obama, a few months into his presidency, towards one of the dictators that he talked about during his campaign and when he became president.

Keith Harmon Snow, an investigative journalist, in the article *AFRICOM Backs Bloodshed in Central Africa*, dated April 11th 2010, writes about the ongoing conflict in the central African region, Extracts from his authoritative article state:

“The eastern Congo remains awash in bloodshed due to western mining companies and their proxy armies, the military regimes of Paul Kagame (Rwanda), Yoweri Museveni (Uganda), and Joseph Kabila (DRC), all hidden behind reams of western newsprint blaming Congolese victims for their own suffering. Across the continent a new rebellion in western Congo has reportedly engaged Belgian paratroopers and UN “peacekeepers” in alliance with the DRC government. With massive casualties and more than 200,000 civilians forced to flee western Congo the United Nations and western media have covered up the new rebellion. Meanwhile, AFRICOM under the Obama administration has major base constructions and secret deployments across Central Africa, with NATO, Dyncorp and Special Operations Command shipping Ugandan grunts to the U.S. wars in Somalia, Afghanistan, Darfur and Iraq.

“With the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) engulfed in bloodshed and terrorism due to the secretive occupation and expansion by the Rwandan regime of Paul Kagame, Congo's President Joseph Kabila has received support from Belgium and the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) to crush a growing rebellion sparked by resistance forces in far Western Congo. But the United Nations Observers Mission in Congo (MONUC) has downplayed the new rebellion and hidden massive military and civilian casualties.

“Thus western Congo is awash in bloodshed involving COALITION forces backed by AFRICOM, Belgium and Israel Amongst the biggest Kabila supporters are the U.S.-Israeli Dan Gertler, Moshe Schnitzer and Benny Steinmetz families, also holders to Congo’s most lucrative (copper/cobalt) mines.

“The current death toll in the eastern provinces of Congo alone stands at some 1,000 people per day, with at least ten million dead in Congo since the U.S. invasion of 1996, with millions of refugees in the Great Lakes member states. Rwandan allied forces in DRC are perpetrating genocide at present in North Kivu, and the western media and “humanitarian” agencies have remained silent.

“Violence in eastern Congo is universally and falsely blamed on the Forces for the Democratic Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), but in fact violence is primarily due to Rwandan allied forces. Additionally, more than 168,000 people have been uprooted due to recent fighting in Western Congo.⁷

“Equateur Province is the site of major untapped petroleum reserves. Belgian, French, Portuguese, German and U.S. families and corporations control vast tracts under attack by industrial logging. There are also Western-owned plantations with modern day slavery involving tens of thousands of Congolese people subject to terrorism by state paramilitary services.⁹

“The plan has all along been to colonize Congo through Rwanda. This involves eliminating as many Congolese people as possible to control their land, balkanizing the Congo and creating a “Republic of the Volcanoes” (Republique des Volcans) as Clinton-Bush official Herman Cohen has repeatedly called for since the U.S.-backed invasion of 1996.

“For years now several high visibility Western intelligence organizations, in particular the groups ENOUGH, STAND, Genocide Intervention Network, and the RAISE HOPE FOR CONGO—created and funded by the International Crisis Group and Center for American Progress—have lobbied college students and Western governments to action. Legislation backed by these intelligence fronts includes the “LRA Disarmament Act” (Lord’s Resistance Army), the so-called ‘Blood Minerals’ legislation, and the “Violence Against Women Act” (Resolution 1888). The Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) is blamed for all terrorism in the northern Uganda region, which is awash in oil, thus shielding the organized war crimes of Ugandan President Museveni and his western allies, just as the Forces for the Democratic Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) are blamed to shield the Kagame terror networks.

“Rwanda has become the Pentagon’s main base and center of military operations in Africa, and this partnership involves Israel.

“In December 2009, a group of Congolese chiefs sent an open letter to U.S. President Barack Obama proclaiming a “categorical refusal of your AFRICOM Project in the Congo.”

7. United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and OCHA.
9. The Elwyn Blattner Groupe plantation holdings are revealed in the 2008 documentary film [Episode III: Enjoy Poverty](#) by Dutch filmmaker Renzo Martens.

The URL of this article: <http://kanan48.wordpress.com/2010/04/11/africom-backs-bloodshed-in-central-africa-by-keith-harmon-snow/>

Out of this, one can make the case that with President Obama, you (a leader or ruler) can practice dictatorship for as long as you are on his side helping bringing home the loot, you are safe.

In fact President Obama typifies the millions of Americans who grow up opposed to human rights abuses globally, whether by their government or foreign ones, who at some point in their life are faced with this type of decision to make because of the institutionalized neo-colonialism in their foreign policy. The need to succeed for politicians and career-minded individuals has forced a lot to condone the evil or go into denial about what their government and foreign policy does abroad.

Nevertheless the Obamas who will once in a while, come out openly against the dictatorial rule and human rights abuses in the world, must be supported and encouraged to continue to voice opposition to dictatorship. Based on Dale's statement, oppression, exploitation, human rights abuses, etc. as part of a neo-colonial property dispossession scheme in Africa and the Third World will last for a long time, as long as the oppressed (the affected) allow it.

VIII - Opposition to federalism - Opposition to the idea of federalism has and will continue to come from different groups of people in and outside Uganda, both from Ugandans and foreigners. The question they are bound to ask is, "If federalism was the solution to problems for people and states in Africa, why isn't Nigeria any different from the rest of the states in Africa?"

The answer is simple, that, in federalism, we seek empowerment of people through decision-making, participation, education and enlightenment etc, of the people as to the causes of their problems, which is primarily economic motivated in Africa today. In federalism the Nigerians left economics mainly in the hands of the central government which like anywhere in the Third World is bound to be under the control of the negative foreign forces. Without money as we have seen with Congo, Uganda, and Somalia, a state cannot function leave alone develop. In Uganda colonialism and the neo-colonial war of property dispossession of the last 24 years, have left a lot of disparities in development between the areas of the north and the south, east and south-central (Kampala) area. Therefore many of those who come from the less developed areas are bound to oppose federalism, because of fear of being disenfranchised from the developed part of Uganda.

For those in the north and the north-east the war of the last 24 years should serve as an eye-opener. Over a million lives were lost, three million heads of cattle were stolen by the government of Museveni, and virtually all properties lost to Museveni and his group in the current unitary system of government. Today through Museveni's parliament, the people are just about to lose the last thing they have left, which is land, individually or communally, to the same group of people in the unitary system. Federalism provides an opportunity to take control of your destiny, to begin by protecting your land, build a home for yourself, your family/people, communities etc. without the interference of the Musevenis and the neo-colonialists in the unitary system.

To the diehard supporters of the unitary system who continue to say, 'We built that place (Kampala and the other developed metropolis),' which to them is the bread basket/economic powerhouse of Uganda; we say, not all of Kampala and the other metropolis were built by the government. In fact much of Kampala was privately built and owned. Also they should find comfort and want to move to federalism by learning that 98% of all they used to own in the unitary system of government since the founding of Uganda was privatized, sold to the "investors" and the proceeds disappeared in corruption. So clearly all that we have left is only sentimental attachment, and everything to lose to the same people (Museveni and his group) if we continue blindly in the unitary system of government.

The other expected opposition groups to federalism are the investors and the neo-colonialists who, because of the advantages they have in the unitary system such as crony capitalism, wars, corruption and other capacities which are available to them through the corrupt unitary system and because of fear of losing these advantages would oppose the necessary constructive changes that the people of the state would want to make for the benefit of all. Federalism would stabilize the state socially, politically and economically. Anything that stabilizes the state stabilizes the market economically, and for those who are constructive developers/investors businesswise, the change would be in their favour.

IX - The future and President Zuma's solution to Africa's problems. The wars we have seen in the Great Lakes Region which started in Luwero in 1981 and spread to northern Uganda, Rwanda, and to Congo, Sudan and now to Somalia are not isolated wars. As analyzed earlier, these wars make one common war that we have established as the war of property dispossession in the Great Lakes Region. Considering oil in Uganda, DRC, Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia, minerals in Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and above all DRC, timber in DRC and Sudan, and the rich agricultural land which they are targeting in Uganda, DRC and South Sudan, you have trillions of dollars worth of natural resources at the disposal of the Musevenis and his group in the next fifty to sixty years.

This is precisely why the war which started out under Museveni 24 years ago, has lasted this long and will continue in the Great Lakes Region. For the continuation of this war as the neo-colonialists want it they must have their General at the top. For that matter you can expect Museveni to remain President of Uganda by all means, come 2011 General Elections and beyond, whether he wins the election or not. To many who wondered why America and Britain and a few countries in the West opposed corruption in some countries around the Great Lakes Region while happily contributing more than 52% of Uganda's national budget, which has been lost to graft in government every year for a long time now, can clearly get their answer.

It is in that corruption that the war of property dispossession is implemented/executed by Museveni, the locals, the foreigners, and the neo-colonialists. It (the corruption) is the vehicle that carries the loot out of Africa. The 52 per cent goes to take care of the institutions that provide cover and make the dispossession scheme possible. Of course there are some other reasons beside corruption, such as shielding himself from his past and fear of the ICC, that make it a must for Museveni to remain President for Life. As Uganda continues with Museveni as president beyond 2011, and as demonstrated by the ability of Museveni and his

group to manipulate parliament in 2005, the interest of the neo-colonialists to grab land from 85% peasants of Uganda through a compromised legislature (parliament) will be realized, setting Uganda in the direction of social, political and economic chaos this country has not seen since independence.

The attempt to take over land in order to control all the natural resources that come with it by the Museveni and his group is an ill-conceived neo-colonial idea that hopes to rely mainly on the aliens and the alien government in Kampala to implement it through the property dispossession war/scheme in the Great Lakes Region. This land takeover by the so-called moneyman (investors) of the Museveni if successful would create a situation in Uganda today, similar to what we currently have in countries like Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), South Africa, some countries in South America and southeast Asia, where the indigenous majority population live like slaves, at best relegated to second class citizens on the very land their forefathers owned but were disenfranchised by colonialism and today is owned by the descendants of the colonialists.

The story is the same in most of the former colonies/affected states. The neo-colonialists expect you (the indigenous) to accept only the colonially-created condition wholeheartedly. Any nationalistic redistributive effort aimed at alleviating the suffering of the indigenous majority after independence while still taking into consideration the welfare of the current owners (descendants of colonial settlers) is met with sanctions as we have seen in the case of Zimbabwe, where President Mugabe was attempting to redistribute some of the disenfranchised land to the original (former) owners. The result has been a totally destroyed economy that was once very healthy in Zimbabwe. The idea was to send a message to the other states like South Africa where such colonially-created conditions exist that colonialism before and after independence is forever a reality, and anyone/country that dare uproot it will face Zimbabwe's fate.

Naturally many people do wonder why the neo-colonialists support corruption, which has destructive effects on societies, in some states in the Great Lakes Region like Uganda, while opposing it in a select few states in the same region? Does it mean they like or favor certain Africans and are opposed to some in the areas where corruption is promoted? As the Zimbabwean case tells us, to the neo-colonialists, it is all about money. Where they oppose corruption, they must be protecting money. Therefore they must be heavily invested in that area, or the area has already been conquered, and are afraid of losing their investment to corruption, which as we have seen always has a failing effect on states that institutionalize it. Also they would be afraid of losing money to another competitive corrupt hand. The property dispossession war/schemes we have seen in Uganda, Sudan, Congo and Somalia attempts to destroy both the existing human and material developments, and replace them with the ones they own, amounting to the establishment of one giant dispossessing conduit with a leeching effect economically in the Great Lakes Region.

The purpose of this conduit if established in the Great Lakes Region replaces General Museveni, who for the major part of his 24-year rule has lent himself into that 'Giant Mouth of the Leech', that sucked out to the benefit of neo-colonialists everything from lives to money, natural resources such as gold, diamond and timber

- and to that list we are about to add the rich agricultural land and oil. This practice by the neo-colonialists, along with crony capitalism between the Musevenis and the few foreign investors who control/dominate the local economy/market of the state, explains why the economy of the Third World countries like Uganda, a country that has been through war for the major part of her independent existence, and the other countries which have been peaceful and stable after independence, have both failed to transform from Third World economies to either developing or developed economies. This transformation of economies was realized in Asia with the Asian tigers – countries with which Uganda was at par economically at independence. This happens because reinvestment of capital does not occur. Most of the profit realized is channeled out along with our very valuable natural resources, either for banking or reinvestment purposes in foreign countries, ending up developing somebody else's economy, country and continent.

Many do agree that the Asian tigers were able to transform economically from Third World economies to developing or developed ones because their countries did not have the economic leeching effect that countries like Uganda and almost all the states in Africa, with the exception of Sudan and Botswana, do have due to their local economies being in the hand of neo-colonialists/ negative interests. The other reason attributed to the tigers' success is their entrepreneurial (economic/market) spirit and capacity at independence. They clearly understood business, had the capacity, connections and were in control of their markets. In Uganda attempts by the previous governments before Museveni to help the majority of the indigenous people (the 85% peasants) to develop the spirit and capacity of entrepreneurship (headstarts) in business and commercial agriculture and etc, by availing the peasants the capital (cheap loans) through cooperative unions and banks, were all killed under Museveni's rule in favor of foreign investments and the neo-colonialists, making it possible for them today to embark on a land dispossession scheme because the indigenous majority were denied development/empowerment entrepreneurially and lack the capital to help them develop their land at the level of today's modern economy.

Also these wars of property dispossession on the continent or wherever they exist do not usually allow favorable conditions of peace and stability, a prerequisite for constructive investments. So by the time the Musevenis and their group are done with the war in an area, they have themselves only as investors/developers, as the other would-be constructive investors/developers were scared away by wars and are not about to return, fearing a resumption of the conflict, not realizing that the property dispossession war was intended to take from the indigenous and drive away the competitive constructive investors, as the Congolese say is happening today in eastern Congo (North Kivu where America is trying to drive out China). The resulting development is Zimbabwean (Rhodesian) type. The impact of the institutionalized corruption in Uganda for the last 24 years is being felt environmentally.

The attempted sale of Mabira Forest, one of the region's last water catchment in Uganda to a sugar cane producing investor, revealed to the world how reckless and unscrupulous Museveni and his group are, and how far they would go to accumulate wealth. A few months ago the world watched as Ugandans took to the street confronting Museveni's security forces in a demonstration that killed three people to stop the sale of Mabira Forest to the sugar cane producers in Uganda, who have

been known to export their product (sugar) which is locally produced and re-importing it (the same locally produced sugar) without it ever leaving the country on paper, with full knowledge of the government so that they may get the opportunity to charge their customer, the people of the state, for imported sugar. As it turned out, Museveni's real interest was harvesting the timber from the forest, which is estimated to be worth around U.S. \$500 million, an amount the sugar cane producers would not be able to realize at the current rate out of maximum sugar production in the acreage of the forest cover in 100 years. This is based on the assumption that the current rainfall quantity that waters the forest continues for another 100 years.

This tells us that Museveni and his group are only out to liquidate everything that belongs to the state or the people (individually or collectively), and will not stop at anything to achieve their objective in their war of property dispossession. As stated earlier, the people of Uganda and the region can therefore expect the land takeover to become a reality, and along with it if the attack on Mabira is any indicator, the resulting environmental degradation which is bound to occur bringing home desertification and eventually the desert, since these investors are only interested in making money. Today in Uganda either because of poor environmental laws/the lack of it or lack of enforcement, a country that thirty years ago was almost ever green with exception of limited areas in the north and northeast, is today browning up fast. Most rivers that carried water year round are drying up as the water catchments, have been destroyed mostly by government soldiers/agents. In fact after the human rights abuses that occurred during the property dispossession wars in the region, the environment suffered the worst degradation that is going to be hard to reverse at this rate.

Environmentalists are predicting the state of Uganda to become a total desert in the next forty years. That estimated time will actually be cut down or drastically reduced if the investors (new landowners) who hope to use the rich agricultural land acquired from the poor peasants, cut down the trees and forests to make room for open field for their agricultural activities as would have been the case in Mabira Forest had it not been stopped by the public demonstrations a few months ago. The situation gets very serious and scary as the forest of the Congo (DRC) is expected to be totally destroyed by loggers (foreign) by the year 2042, following that of Congo Brazzaville which is by now about totally destroyed. Take out the Congo basin's capacity as the largest water catchment in Africa and the second largest in the world, the people of the Great Lakes Region can only hope for divine intervention to stand in the way of the fast-approaching desert. At the moment we can still stop or slow down the process.

This will only be possible if the outward flow of money and our natural resources by the Musevenis and their allies in the regional war of property dispossession can be stopped and some of the resources redirected in the development of the human resources/alternative energy to help support the ever-increasing population of the area while helping to support the fight against environmental degradation due to consumption of wood (cheap fuel). A regional comprehensive approach to this war of property dispossession is a must if we are to escape future consequences of the selfishness/recklessness of the Musevenis. Consider this, today Uganda is the number one trading partner of Kenya. That means the more money Ugandans have,

the more money they would spend on Kenyan made products, translating into employment creation and hopefully better employment, education, living conditions and development for Kenya. Practically Kenya has every reason to want to see to it that the war of property dispossession going on in Uganda and the Great Lakes Region stops. There are many states in Africa like Kenya or Uganda that depend more on their neighbors for trade/market. African markets support African development, keeping prices low, benefitting the Africans.

So clearly Zaire's (DRC's) loss under Mobutu was not Congolese' alone but Africa's. The problem of Uganda today, most of it generated in the last 24 years of Museveni's rule and some of it in the 23 years immediately after independence, plus that which occurred during the pre-independence colonial rule has left the state and the region riddled with much afflictions. Neo-colonialism, foreign interests, property dispossession schemes/wars in the region by the Musevenis, institutionalized corruption, marginalization, divide and conquer politics, autocracy, crony capitalism between government leaders/foreign investors and etc. as mentioned earlier are some of the ills that must be confronted before Uganda can ever think of developing/transforming socially, politically and economically. As mentioned earlier America found herself in similar predicament in the 1760s when they were under British colonial rule. They dealt with the problem by declaring independence from British rule. Concerned and fearful of the advancement of neo-colonialism and the negative forces (both local and foreign) by the Musevenis of their time after independence in the 1760s, they sought and brought together under one central authority - the federal government of the United States - all the former colonies in the continental USA constituted under a set of friendly protective national policies (laws). This helped rout out the neo-colonialists because it more or less eliminated their capacity to divide and conquer, a condition which Africa suffers from today, effectively eliminating the property dispossession schemes/wars.

Desiring to control the 'economic' leeching effect which doesn't help development of the human resources and therefore the state after independence as we see today in Uganda and Africa at large, they came up with, amongst others, affirmative actions which included economic re-distributive measures in areas of employment, such as minimum wages, unemployment insurance fund that takes care of the unemployed, social security welfare programmes, public housing programmes for the homeless, progressive tax codes (pay as you earn). They also came up with two legislative houses to maintain checks, balance and stability. This and other measures did lay the foundation for the peace, stability, development and prosperity which the Americans enjoy today. The redistributive measures did keep money in the country. Like the Americans in the 1760s, the Europeans sensing growing American influence, unilateralism and neo-colonial tendencies during and after the cold war, conceived and implemented the idea of a united Europe (the European Union) as a panacea of possible hostile elements/policies from the USA and others.

The Hon. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa, was on a visit to Uganda on 25th March 2010, to explore investment opportunities in the new found oil wealth. At the Ugandan parliament, Zuma challenged African leaders to work towards unifying the continent as key ingredient for development. Mr. Zuma said Africans can only be liberated from economic slavery if they stand together as one, telling MPs that economic integration is key remedy to the dire situation that the continent finds itself

today. It is also by uniting our people and pooling our economies that we will overcome this devastating legacy.

President Zuma, like the Americans in the 1760s and the Europeans during the cold war, recognizes that his continent is in trouble and headed toward eternal doom, unless unity as remedy is realized. A very accurate diagnosis and prescription many people agree with. In fact many like Nkrumah and others agreed with President Zuma's position at independence so much that they went ahead and formed the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to help realize that dream. Unlike the Europeans who conceived the same idea after the formation of the OAU and went ahead and implemented the idea, and today boast of a united Europe (the European Union), Africans were only able to accomplish a name-change from OAU to AU (African Union). The failure of OAU to realize the dream of a continental unity after independence can be attributed to many things, but above all stand three main reasons.

- The lack of will on the part of the numerous member states (heads of states/leaders) to relinquish state (unitary) powers to a united continental (federal) Africa. So selfishness was the primary obstacle.
- The use of puppet leaders by foreign/neo-colonial interests to generate and propagate conflicts and disunity in Africa. As we have seen in the last 24 years of his rule, Museveni has been used by the neo-colonialists/foreign interests in a divide and rule undertaking in the war of property dispossession in the Great Lakes Region. They initiated and propagated conflicts because it is in the conflict that they get to support one party militarily and in return that party must reciprocate favors and that is how they siphoned out everything from lives, natural resources, money, etc. The neo-colonialists/negative foreign interests opposed/will oppose the formation of a united Africa, for fear of losing the capacity to operate in the union as we saw happen earlier in America in the 1760s and Europe more recently with the formation of EU.
- Thirdly, and most importantly, we think it was the failure of the common man in Africa to realize/identify the root causes of Africa's problem and the inability to understand and appreciate the union of a continental Africa as remedy to most of the continent's problems. That was due to lack of education which would have empowered them to recognize and reject the negative foreign forces, neo-colonial interests, the property dispossession schemes and wars, and African puppets, who have and will always work against Africa and costing Africa unity and development.

These reasons amongst others that stood in the way of Africa realizing unity on the continent under OAU are alive and well today. The positions of the states/leaders in Africa regarding the issue of a continental unity are as diverse today as it was at the time of the creation of OAU. The AU Heads of States meeting that dealt with issues of fast tracking of the African Union in 2009 revealed three different perspectives from three different African leaders.

- ✓ Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, was ready for immediate implementation.

✓ President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa advocated a slow cautious approach, emphasizing instead the idea of an African renaissance.

✓ Museveni of Uganda opposed it at the continental level, wanted it at the East African regional level (East African Community), but is totally opposed to the idea within the state of Uganda even though it is being demanded by some communities in Uganda.

Here with Museveni you get the games and contradictions of the neo-colonialists which have prevented Africa from making any gains in the area of unity. President Zuma will agree with us today that some of our leaders like Museveni have done a huge disservice to the idea of unity in Africa after independence, and that as long as Africa and the neo-colonialists continue to generate such leaders in Africa, the dream of that continental Africa will not happen soon. We say this not lightly.

Consider this, would the Congolese readily join in a union with Uganda, Rwanda and Sudan today, or would they be more inclined to accept unity with Tanzania, Angola and Zimbabwe? This situation would not have arisen 24 years ago before the beginning of the property dispossession wars of the Musevenis and their group in the Great Lakes Region. So with the Musevenis around dividing and conquering Africa for the neo-colonialists, the main challenge with unity on the continent becomes implementation. How do we go about it?

President Obama in his campaign to become President of the United States ran on a platform of change. He said the change he was seeking to bring would have to come, not from the top (leaders, law makers, etc.) but from the bottom (people, grass roots, and the common man). This is where the Zumas, the visionary leaders, of Africa must invest. The unity that exist in localities starting with families, clans, villages, parishes counties districts, kingdoms, tribes/ethnicities, religions, states would be cultivated and consolidated in mutualities/harmony in an accommodative arrangement in a federal system of government at the local, state and continental level. The Honourable President Zuma will agree there is a lot of work to be done before the dream of an African unity can be realized.

While in Kampala talking about unity and trying to help his country to the new found oil wealth in Uganda, in South Africa, not too long ago, South Africans were slaughtering their African brothers and sisters (the immigrants) from the other parts of the continent, for taking over their jobs, money, and opportunities. While President Zuma clearly thanked Ugandans, and is appreciative of the support the Africans extended to them during the struggle against Apartheid, the majority of the disenfranchised Africans who still live like tormented slaves in ghettos and townships in South Africa and whose number continues to grow at the rate of about a million a year by the turn of the century/millennium, do have a very serious problem that overshadows all that connect us and warrant taking the lives of innocent African immigrants.

The unity Jacob Zuma could deal with immediately is in those townships and ghettos. The anger and energy that was unleashed towards the African immigrants, we must agree was accumulated over centuries of colonial abuses/practices which disenfranchised/dispossessed the indigenous South Africans in favor of the

colonialists and their descendants. That unity – unsupported by the violence that was directed towards the African immigrants - was borne and used in South Africa as a tool of resistance against apartheid during colonialism (before the end of apartheid). It also affected the apartheid resisting indigenous in the black-on-black violence between the ANC, Chief Buthelezi's group (Inkatha Freedom Fighters) and other groups before finding its way to the immigrants recently. So it is roving and any time it can strike, unless dealt with.

Take out the immigrants, then you are left with the indigenous, the settlers, the former colonizers and their descendants to face the situation in South Africa. For the sake of peace unity and posterity in South Africa and Africa at large, the disenfranchised (indigenous) and the beneficiaries of apartheid need to find courage to come together and develop an acceptable solution to the current impasse. Again history tells us that, in the American situation after slavery and racial de-segregation, that decency found initiation with the majority beneficiaries who amongst other reasons did not want their children and the following generation in America yoked with the selfishness of the American history.

The will and the leadership against continued selfishness and neo-colonial tendency/hangover in South Africa today, would serve well the unity, peace and posterity and would help bring an end to that roving violence that is affecting South Africa and the rest of Africa, when initiated by either the minority beneficiaries of apartheid or the affected indigenous Africans. This is where Zuma would want to start, and if accomplished, the decentralization in federalism would guarantee, keeping out the recurrence of the negative forces and arrangements which helped initiate apartheid centuries ago. For those who are wondering what the future holds for Uganda, the Great Lakes Region and Africa in general, Museveni's last 24 years in government is the embodiment or the revelation of what is yet to come.

Always painting a good picture in the minds of the masses through lies and propaganda in their property dispossession wars/schemes while talking about democracy, pan-Africanism, anti-neo-colonialism and terrorism, yet his record has only genocide in northern Uganda, Rwanda and continuing genocide in D.R. Congo (now standing at 10 million), robbery of three million heads of cattle in northern Uganda, plundering of DRC natural resources, institutionalized corruption and marginalization, terrorism and exportation of it across state lines, dictatorship, etc. All these as part of a divide and conquer exercise with the West. The neo-colonial property dispossession wars in the Great Lakes Region is the Middle Easternisation of the Great Lakes Region, which is the bringing of the natural resources found in the region such as oil, minerals, timber, rich agricultural land under the control of the neo-colonial West.

In fifty years to come most of these resources in the region will be gone, and like what happened to Uganda in the last 24 years and Congo under Mobutu, the liquidation and theft/looting or the siphoning out of state resources causing the state to fail. We can then expect a lot more states in Africa to fail as the Musevenis and the neo-colonialists set up their economic leeching pumps in the Great Lakes Region and other places in the war of property dispossession. The United Nations will not be able to support all the failed states in future because of the enormity of the situation. It is a shame that Africans have allowed the continent of Africa to be turned into a

junk yard/spare part basket where the neo-colonialists with the help from the Musevenis can come and pick a part forcefully to go and develop another continent. Because of this type of practices Africa is dying slowly but surely.

Our drying rivers and lakes, the fast approaching deserts due to environmental degradation, drought, and preventable diseases are all signs of the continent's ever diminishing capacity to support life in the face of a fast-growing population. Clearly only disaster and doom awaits Africa in the direction and path she is on at the moment. The rejection of the fast-tracking of the East African federation by the peace-loving Tanzanians earlier in the polls and recently by Ugandans in the same polls, are decisions which can be attributed to the community's concern about the political instabilities of the region in the recent past. It is a vote against neo-colonialism, re-colonization through the property dispossession wars of the West headed by President General Museveni. So there is a ray of hope. That means it is not all lost already. It means some people, the Africans want change from the divide and conquer wars of property dispossession of the recent past.

This makes the current and the next generations some of the most important in the history of the continent of Africa. If we can re-adjust our ways, lifestyles, we can slow down or even stop the desert from totally taking over Africa. To do that we are going to require some of the wealth of the region in terms of the exploited natural resources, to remain here on the continent to help us bring meaningful development, not just lip services of the Musevenis through lies and propaganda. For more of our resources to remain and develop Africa, we the people/common man must be in control of our assets and resources in the communities, so decentralization of powers in federalism, from the corrupt dictators who are in league with these negative forces - a lot of them foreign - in the current unitary system, is a must, if we are to save Africa from the imminent doom. The world is missing out an opportunity to develop a huge market in Africa that would not only benefit Africans, but the rest of mankind.

About the authors

Obonyo Olweny - Obonyo Olweny hails from Northern Uganda. He was a delegate at the Juba Peace Talks, Juba, South Sudan. Contact: obonyolweny@yahoo.com

Otim Okullo - Otim Okullo was a former peace talks delegate at the Juba Peace Talks. Contact: jubsubinc@yahoo.com

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