



AFRICA-FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

"AFROCENTRIC THOUGHT"



SOME CASUAL MUSINGS ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEO-COLONIALISM FOR CONTEMPORARY AFRIKA AND HER PEOPLE

BY VELI MBELE "SOMPISI"

WHAT IS NEO-COLONIALISM?

"What is freedom? In my view, freedom, liberation, independence or whatever related word you use-is the unconstrained capacity to create a reality that accords with your basic aspirations.

For any group to legitimately declare itself free, liberated or independent, there are at least three requirements that must be met: the capacity to feed yourself, the capacity to educate your young and the capacity to defend yourself against an external threat."
-Veli Mbele

In the context of Afrika's contemporary political history and in order to understand the incessant political turbulence that is ravaging our continent-the phenomenon of neo colonialism is arguably the most important thing that my generation of Afrikans must understand.

'Neo-colonialism' is essential a sophisticated political contraption that has its genesis in Asiatic (read Arab) and European imperialism in Afrika. While the concepts may have only come into prominence later, Asiatic

and European imperialism in Afrika is fundamentally characterised by interrelated forms of oppression such as racism, capitalism, patriarchy and more broadly, anti blackness.

'Neo-colonialism' as the word structure denotes-is not necessarily an entirely new form of oppression. It is simply a metamorphosed form or extension of the original oppression, thus the prefix 'neo'.

In practice, it suggests the substance of the oppression has not changed, but what has changed is its form, appearance or manifestation. Thus, making neo-colonialism is a proxy type oppression.

**"...IT IS SIMPLY A
METAMORPHOSED
FORM OR
EXTENSION OF
THE ORIGINAL
OPPRESSION..."**

How so? As stated, the substance of Afrika's colonial invasion was essentially predicated on racism, capitalism, patriarchy and anti-blackness.

Even though it was often portrayed as a mission to 'civilise', 'enlighten' etc, by nature, the invasion of Afrika, over a thousand years ago, by the Arabs and Europeans was essentially a morally bankrupt and criminal project.

A criminal project that was characterised by various forms of violence such as mass murder, mass rape, mass theft, mass robbery, mass terror, mass deception and lies and to sustain and legitimise this diabolic project, all manner of corruption was invented.

And so, it is not surprising that the continuation of this project today in the form of neo-colonialism is exhibiting the same characteristics of the original and grand oppression: Arabo-Euro imperialism.

This means that, through the facility of a handpicked-Afrikan-predatory-ompradorial-political elite, today the project of neo-colonialism in Afrika is also employing the facility of mass murder, mass rape, mass theft, mass robbery, mass terror, mass deception and lies and all manner of corruption, to entrench and legitimise itself.

Therefore, much of the political turbulence you see in various 'Afrikan' states is simply a manifestation of the continuation of the centuries-old imperialist project of Arabo-Euro imperialism in Afrika (through the predatory- native- compradorial class).

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF NEOCOLONIALISM ON THE LIVES OF AFRIKANS?

What does all of this mean? It means that, what we today call Afrikan states are actually political contraptions that were established to administer the violence of the project of Arabo-Euro imperialism in Afrika.

And the fact these colonial cubicles are dressed in emotive indigenous names such as Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania etc, doesn't mean they are incapable of the kind violence and brutality that the Arabs and Europeans have unleashed on Afrikans.

Put differently, these emotive indigenous names that are given to those colonial cubicles (read Afrikan states) that declare themselves 'independent', don't imply that the Afrikans who take over the management of the colonial states, will not be brutal towards fellow Afrikans. And in some cases, more brutal than the Arabs and Europeans.

Most fundamentally, for their own self-serving survival, many of Afrika's predatory-political-compradorial class and their political movements, continue to maintain their umbilical cord with their Arab and European puppet masters. Many of them will do whatever it takes to maintain this colonial umbilical cord.

It is this colonial umbilical cord that makes it possible for Afrika's predatory-compradorial-political elite and their families, to receive high quality medical care outside the Afrikan continent or for their children to study at the best universities in the 'revered' capitals of this world.

This colonial umbilical cord is also responsible for the billions of illicit money and other forms of capital that leaves Afrika every day and is stashed in offshore accounts, across the world. Therefore, the act of selling your soul as an 'Afrikan' leader and your people to Afrika's invaders and colonisers-is a monumentally lucrative and multibillion-dollar industry.

A multibillion industry in which individual Afrikan leaders (or those close to them), are heavily ensnared and can become instant billionaires, all at the expense of the very people who vote and often die for them.

In fact, Afrika's predatory-compradorial political elite are so committed to maintaining their ill-gotten status in this multibillion dollar industry, that they are even prepared to hire cold blooded assassins to eliminate those who dare to rebel against the auctioning of our continent (even if these are childhood friends or old comrades).

Many of Afrika's greatest sons such as Dedan Kimathi, Patrice Lumumba, Amilca Cabral and Thomas Sankara, were betrayed by their own kind and killed like dogs because they dared to rebel against the auctioning of Mother Afrika.

"...MANY OF THEM WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAINTAIN THIS COLONIAL UMBILICAL CORD...."

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE MILLIONS OF MARGINALISED AFRIKANS?

What is the most fundamental lesson that our generation of Afrikans must learn from all this? The millions of Afrikans, who are not part of Afrika's predatory-compradorial-political elite.

Those Afrikans whose day-to-day existence depends on the donations of so-called donor agencies. Those Afrikans who can't afford to give their children a decent meal or education.

Those Afrikans who are so powerless that they don't even have the means to bury their own children, who die every day because the life-saving medication they were supposed to get, has disappeared in some corrupt political deal.

The truth that this category of Afrikans must accept is that, to continue to place their future and that of their children, in the hands of Afrika's predatory-compradorial-political elite-is essentially an act of criminal neglect.

The millions of Afrika's marginalised, excluded, downtrodden, invisible, oppressed and terrorised women and men must realise that, their future and that of their children lies in their own hands.

#DownWithImperialism

#DownWithNeocolonialism

#DownWithTheTraitorsOfAfrika

#LongLiveTheFightingPeopleOfAfrika



Veli Mbele is an Afrocentric essayist, political historian and secretary of the Black Power Front.