



THE EDICT
INT ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
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EDITORIAL

The Institute for National Transformation (INT) thanks you for beginning this new year with us. In this issue you will find articles from the board chairman of INT and from a student from class 27.

We would love to hear from you. Kindly send your contributions to the March, 2021 newsletter. Articles will be assessed on rolling basis, and should be 500- 1500 words in length, including spaces. The deadline for submission of articles for the March, 2021 newsletter is Friday, 12th March, 2021. Your feedback and suggestions are highly appreciated.

Please send all your submissions to intuganda@gmail.com. Title of Email: Newsletter Article Submission.

Raymond D. Muwanguzi
INT/ Communications Coordinator



**DR. JAMES MAGARA
INT BOARD CHAIRMAN**

The brain is the most complex organ in the human body. Weighing around 1.4 kilograms, with billions of nerve cells, it is the source of our thoughts and actions. Without it, meaningful life cannot exist. Think tanks are to a country what the brain is to the body.

Just like the brain is dedicated to receiving and processing information then helping an individual make appropriate decisions, countries need institutions dedicated to making sense of the local and global environments, and recommending the most appropriate responses. Professor Stephen Adei of Accra, Ghana likens a country without think tanks to a human being without a brain.

What are think tanks?

The term, “think tank” was given to the secure places where American military

and civilian experts met to strategize during World War II. Later, the term was applied to contract researchers that did work for the military. In the 1960s, its usage expanded to describe experts who formulated policy recommendations. By the 1970s, it included those engaged in political, economic and social issues.

Think tank expert, Dr. James G. McGann of the Lauder Institute defines them as, “Public policy research analysis and engagement organizations that generate policyoriented research, analysis, and advice on domestic and international issues, thereby enabling policymakers and the public to make informed decisions about public policy”. They also legitimize government or party policies, and provide a space for debate.

Think tanks are dedicated quality collective thinking centres that scan the local and global environments, analyze trends, forecast and make recommendations to policy and decision makers. Leaders

of developed countries depend a lot on information coming out of think tanks in making decisions. Therefore they encourage the development of think tank capacity outside government (in academia, independent institutes and organizations) to complement and challenge official think tanks. No individual leader - let alone busy politician - can effectively do this all this alone.

Think Tanks in emerging countries

In almost all the emerging economies of the last seventy years, the first significant action of visionary leadership was the creation of robust, intellectually autonomous national think tank capacity either in institutes such as the Korean Development Institute (KDI), or as standalone units of the public sector such as the National Economic Bureaus in many East Asian countries.

Think tanks helped in crafting national vision, elaborating the agenda, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and making corrective actions. They were essential in anticipating policy shifts and guiding leadership in taking timely action. East Asian leaders like Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore and Park Chung-hee of South Korea remained fresh with ideas and guided their countries through quality development policies while many African leaders of their time floundered and gradually became dysfunctional. One major reason was that the visions of these leaders were adopted by capable and trusted think tanks that supported the prosecution of national agenda. In other words, these leaders enlarged their capacity by borrowing the minds of the best thinkers and researchers in the country. These indigenous think tanks in turn bor-

rowed ideas from others' experiences, which they contextualized for national application. Development is knowledge and thinking intensive. A country may receive advice from external sources but just as the brain of a third person cannot be borrowed wholesale, neither can national think tank capacity. To a large extent, African countries have "outsourced their brains" to outsiders over the last sixty years of independence.

Think Tanks in Africa

Africa still trails the world in the presence of think tanks. The lack of adequate think tank capacity has been a major constraint on the development of African countries. Since Independence there has been a dearth of independent thinking at the national level in most African countries. The result has been blind following of the development roads paved by others. In the process, ready-made development

recipes from abroad, like Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) have been followed without regard to local situations or the aspirations of the people affected.

The experience of the developed world and the more recent experiences of East Asian nations show that both state and nonstate indigenous think tanks have crucial roles in improving the planning frameworks to translate development aspirations and priorities into concrete results.

The development of Africa requires more state and non-state think tanks both as sources of new ideas and research, and as alternate sources of thinking about development vision, agenda, policies, and programs.

Preparing for African Futures

According to World Population Review, Africa is the only continent where the

population is projected to keep increasing throughout the 21st century. In the next thirty years (by 2050), the continent's population will double in size from its current 1.2 billion people to 2.4 billion. Its under-18 population will increase by two thirds to reach almost 1 billion.

America in the nineteenth century, China and the Asian sub-continent in the first half of the twentieth, also experienced rapid population growth. The difference with the African experience is that it is happening at a time of the most rapid global socioeconomic and political changes ever, and from a rural unskilled population base.

Moreover, there is large-scale migration to urban areas. By 2030 fifty percent of Africans will be living in cities, compared to 36 percent in 2010.

Africa's population of potentially productive youth will be the highest in the world.

These factors have the potential to lead to economic

growth and transformation, at par with or even better than experienced in China and other East Asian countries.

However, without focused thinking, leadership foresight, and long-term planning, this population bulge could steer the continent further into increased inequality, urban poverty, the proliferation of slums, and even social chaos worse than the 'Arab Spring'.

For Africa's preferred future, much thinking and planning is crucial from leadership at all levels. This cannot be left to chance, to outsiders with their own agendas (and they are many), or even to a few individuals.

Indigenous think tanks have a pivotal role. The Centre for Advanced Strategic Leadership (CASTLE) is talking a bold step into this space as a private player to support development initiatives in African countries geared towards moving Africa to its preferred future.



ALICE DDAMULIRA

DIRECTOR, ST. MARK'S COLLEGE NAMAGOMA

My transformation journey

Enrolling for a training at the Institute of National Transformation (INT) whose vision resonated with my deep convictions of building a value based culture on biblical principles for our next generation, was arriving home.

My journey to INT started with an engagement in a Mastermind with Mr. Stirling Gapara who first mentioned the relevance of this course to my undertakings as an owner of a school. At that time I didn't give it much thought until I

interacted with Mr. Alex Matovu an alumni of the same training. Given the recommendation from two leaders I hold in high regard, whose anchor is to transform nations, I decided to join. Then came the lockdown with schools out of operation which gave me an edge to fully throw my weight to make the most of this training. I can assure you my first lecturers were mind blowing, so much relevant information for me as a person and the work that I do.

My vision as a person is to see a generation of impactful high achievers whose greatness is undoubted. I purposefully appreciate the goodness in people and empower them to exercise their uniqueness. Given the school setting I have intentionally come up with school programs that mentor and guide youth through information sharing and developing networks that will groom their uniqueness into a resource that will transform genera-

tions. Institute for National Transformation is an ideal place and home for living my vision and mission. My signing up for this course compounded the ideals that I always upheld of living by biblical based principles. It is fundamental to note that for national transformation to happen our values need to be addressed but the beauty is that if there are from a biblical perspective it is eternal truth that will last a lifetime. What this has done for me is to relay this truth without thinking that it is just a spiritual perspective but a deep integration in our daily lives. This has profoundly changed my mindset and the trajectory of my life, I am unapologetic when making reference to biblical principles. We have the privilege to be useful and honorable by living out these values. Currently in my school during our Wednesday fellowships, we are using biblical principles to change the behavioral practices of the students and it is working

out very well.

I anchor in the sphere of Education and INT has exposed me to the factors at play in the other spheres which I would have otherwise avoided or downplayed. INT has leveraged for me the need to incorporate all spheres in pursuit of my dream and focus on the importance of engagement given the years ahead of me to build a legacy. It should be a life well lived intentionally. The lecturers have made a profound impression on me in respect to my role in national transformation and the call to rise up to this noble challenge. Having a burden, compounding my hedgehog, research and innovation and following the global trends carried the day.

Singapore has been our reference in regard to a statesman Lee Kuan Yew who labors to turn his country into a model nation. One of the key things he does is to ensure that he places the right people

in the right places since it was key in national development. My greatest take in this respect is hiring the right person for the position is very important, you would take a little longer to take on someone than recruit someone just to fill a position, and the hiring follows the order of character, competence then credentials. This fits well in my deep conviction and the truth I have always shared as a Human Resource person that we are hired for our qualifications but fired for our character. This is the message, as we pursue transformation because human resource is any nation's or any institution's greatest asset which is the essence of promoting value-based organizations. We can no longer afford to downplay the importance of values in national transformation. More so one of the challenges stipulated in Uganda's Vision 2040 states that, the country's problems are due to the lack of a national value system. In building the

nation Lee ensured that he purposefully engaged the highly educated and intelligent human resource with strong values to run the nation. Political scientist H.D Lasswell stated that an elite is the greatest asset who has a very high control of values given the high positions that elites hold in any given society.

As elites the onus is on us to the make most of all the knowledge we have received during our short time with INT to cause national transformation. So much has been accorded to us and we have ample resources at our disposal to cause national transformation besides we belong to a "tribe" with whom we share our deep convictions that it is possible to effect change and be accountable to each other as we promote the values of Integrity, responsibility, compassion and excellence. Every lecture carries wealth of knowledge and it is required of us to translate this knowledge into activities that nurture

understanding and wisdom. We are values-based, “NO EXCUSE” leaders purposefully transforming our spheres of influence to greater levels of performance and achievement. Through research and advocacy I purpose to engage with my “tribe” to change the story in the education sector especially in preparing a generation whose approach to life will be valued based.

Every lecture at INT has impacted me significantly and my perspective to be part of the change in my country has deepened. I appreciate my friends who saw that I had a good vision but it was so small and confined to my small workspace. I never listened in then to the sirens that it was not about me but God’s purpose for my life, but after my engagement with INT all that has changed. I have been “reborn” in my life’s journey.



The OakSeeds

Alumni of the Institute for National Transformation

The Council for the Alumni of the Institute for National Transformation invites you to the meeting;

Theme: The Transformation Series

TOPIC:

My National Transformation Experience



DATE

Sat. 27th Feb. 2021



SPEAKER

Dr. Gudula Basaza



TIME

6:00 a. m - 8:00 a. m.

Other events include:

Planned Activities 2021 | Feedback Session | Oakseed Strategic Plan



Sign up

<https://bit.ly/Oakseed-Feb>