



مجلس الشباب العربي والإفريقي
AFRO-ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL (AAYC)
Conseil de la Jeunesse Arabe - Africaine

AFRABIA

Magazine



STEADY METAMORPHOSIS

18TH AAYC ANNIVERSARY

Theme:
“Transforming
Food Systems, Youth
Innovation
for Human and
Planetary Health.”

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ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES



"The fruit tree planting in Katakwi, Teso Sub-region"



"Bicycle racing on the Source of the Nile -Jinja Eastern Region"



Dialogue at Makerere University Auditorium Under the theme, "transforming food systems, youth innovation for human and planetary health"

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H.E. Abdul Haddi Elhwegi
AAYC President

Foreword

numerous natural resources, and a young potential population which only needs knowledge, skilling and an enabling environment to prosper. We therefore believe that with prioritization, and good enterprise selection, sustainable development is possible, economic progress, stability and security for our region, will help us tap our resources properly. We therefore Shun war, Shun backwardness, Shun Neo colonialism, Shun dominion of one tribe or religion over the other, and strongly advocate for the practice of modern-day democracy which prioritizes the human dignity above all.

Once again congratulations to the AAYC upon making 18 years of age, we are grateful to H. E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni our Patron for regularly guiding us and giving us the possibility to move this organisation forward. It would not have been easy especially after the Arab Spring, but we are grateful to his support and we call upon other Afro Arab member state heads to also make their contributions. To the Secretariat, Hon Abbas Agaba and your team, thank you very much for your tireless efforts to shine the light of this organisation.

Enjoy the reading of the 18th Anniversary Afrabia magazine.

H.E. Abdul Haddi Elhwegi
Founder & President AAYC

It was like this time in 2004, as youth who cared about the future of our different peoples of both the African and Arab World, we decided to formulate an organization to incubate our ideas and ambitions, and lay a firm ground for the achievement of these aspirations. We deliberately chose the 9th March, remembering the date for the last summit of the Heads of State of the African and Arab Countries in Iraq in 1977. So, on this day I happily want to say congratulations to our baby Afro Arab Youth Council (AAYC) who has now become of age. It has not been an easy to walk up to here, but we are happy we have been able to come this far and we keep walking till No youth is left behind.

We are committed stronger than ever before to the founding ideas of the Council; Peace, Unity and Development. It is our resolve that if we utilize the commonalities between the African and Arabs, we can have peace in our World, ensure unity of our peoples across the globe, even when it is unity in diversity and peaceful co-existence of those who are divided by many factors. We shall not relent in preaching the gospel of unity and tranquility and the application of peace and peaceful means to solve all the problems of the World. This is the basic foundation stronger than stone and concrete on which the basis for development can be hinged. All the youths in the African and Arab world choose peace over war, choose home over migration, choose development over poverty, ignorance and disease.

Both the African and Arab countries are endowed with



Business growth is our business

Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) is Uganda's apex body for the private sector. It is made up of over 200 business associations, corporate bodies and the major public sector agencies that support private sector growth.

Since its founding in 1995, PSFU has served as a focal point for private sector advocacy as well as capacity building and continues to sustain a positive policy dialogue with Government on behalf of the private sector. SFU aims to strengthen Private Sector capacity for effective policy advocacy and market competitiveness nationally, regionally and internationally.

Regionally, PSFU is the national focal point for the East African Business Council (EABC) and the COMESA Business Council (CBC).

Congratulations AAYC on your 18th Anniversary.

A Word from the Secretary General

It is only right to take a deep breath, or a sigh of relief with the view to congratulate the Afro Arab Youth Council for becoming of age. Eighteen years in Uganda and many other Commonwealth jurisdiction is known as age of consent, and it's very exciting that this organisation we have nurtured, blossoms into a formidable force and influence in the African and Arab region. This long journey has been punctuated with many challenges, but we are grateful to the support of the different stakeholders that has enabled the Council to sail steadily through the different turbulences. From 2008 when the Council took a decision to establish its permanent home called AAYC International Headquarters in Uganda, the Leadership in Uganda was ready and remained so, except for the challenges of the Arab Spring, as well as the Covid Pandemic.

I would therefore like to express our sincere gratitude to H. E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Patron of the AAYC, as well as custodian of the AAYC Secretariat. His support to the Council has enabled us to float when we would have sank, to fly when we would have run, to run when we should have walked, and to walk when we would have been still. To the International Executive Committee we extend our thanks and appreciation for the trust in the staff, such that we can



Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba
AAYC Secretary General

manage our Secretariat to your expectation. The other members of the Organisation, we equally thank you for your continued support as well as our partner organisation for regularly working with us for the benefit of our young people in the two regions.

During the metamorphosis of an insect, it takes off time to cocoon itself and ecdyse. During This ecdysis, the insect nymph develops all the necessary organs and appendages meant for the mature insect, only that they are small and short to suit its age. It now starts structural growth both in height and girth to become an adult. The AAYC takes the time of our challenges as the period of ecdysis and its now ready to leap forward with all the energy and stamina required.

In the days ahead, we want to audit, rejuvenate and widen our membership,

awaken the sleeping giants in our networks, as well as embark on the magnificent project of construction of the International Headquarters in Uganda. This project will house a big office block, a sports stadium and its accendant amenities, a leadership mentorship school, a cultural heritage facility, as well as a hotel and recreational facilities. This International Headquarters will be an AAYC Village in this beautiful Pearl of Africa. H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda has already donated the land on which to house this project and will soon launch the process of Construction of this International Headquarters with his Colleagues.

We remain committed to the achievement of the vision, mission and objectives of the AAYC as set out in the AAYC statutes, in order to ensure that the voices of the youth are heard and acted upon.

Hon. Dr. Agaba Abbas
Founder Member & Secretary General, Afro Arab Youth Council.

AFRO-ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL @ 18: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

EBENZER OYETAKIN



It is however, heartwarming to note that despite the challenges the organization continues to wax stronger and getting more purposeful, as can be seen in the re-emergence of its headquarters in Uganda.

The people always desire to be the defacto managers of their affairs, the administrators of their concerns in order to galvanize the desirable results, expectations and collective goodness for themselves as much as possible. This is the whole essences of advocacies, agitations and struggles for political participations and democratic aspirations that are tailored towards peace building, political stability and sustainable human and national development.

It was these necessities as espoused above that were the driving force of the youths and young people of the Africa and Arab space; when they decisively and pragmatically with all enthusiasm convened the first Afro-Arab Youth Festival in the Year 2004, in the city of Khartoum, the Republic of the Sudan.

Historical Perspectives

There comes a time in the life of a people when they must as a matter of necessity engage their present situation constructively in order to define a pathway to self-actualization, self-sustainability and self-fulfillment. In doing this, people tend to fall back on historical lessons and experiences in order to have a glimpse at the future they desire to build and to illuminate its directions.

It was this festival that crystallized the formation of the constitutive act that define the aims and the objectives of the African Arab Youth Council and its establishment as a non-Governmental, nonpolitically partisan and not for profit Organization in 2004, that is about eighteen years ago.

Sudan at the Cradle

At the time of the Afro-Arab youths festival in 2004, and the subsequent establishment of the Afro Arab youth council, the republic of the Sudan was a single country, consisting as it were the present independent state of Southern Sudan. Thus, Sudan was considered a melting pot of the Africa and Arab socio-cultural and traditional Affinity. Unfortunately, some years after the Republic of Sudan split with the exit of the South Sudan as an independent state on its own from the struggle of their people. The leaders of Sudan, Libya, Morocco, Uganda have all served as an inspiration, encouragement and pillars of

Hence the AAYC was establishing as a mechanism and an institution to help galvanize both the people and the government of the Africa and Arab space in this direction.

support. The very reason the organization grew faster and has stood the test of times. I particularly want to thank H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda for welcoming our idea to have a permanent home in Uganda for the Council to settle away from any political influences.

Challenges and Prospects

Within its 18 years of existence, the AAYC has been able to transverse the continents of Africa and Arab world including Diaspora, influencing political processes, democratic development, participating in peace processes as well as political participation. Many original leaders and founders of the organization have metamorphosed into political leadership in their various countries. Within this period also, the AAYC experienced some challenges to her progress and advancement. It is however, heartwarming to note that despite the challenges the organization continues to wax stronger and getting more purposeful, as can be seen in its re-emergence stronger than before at its headquarters in Uganda. The greatest challenge to the Organization was the turbulent Waves of Arab Springs/uprising which led to serious crises in some of the organization's member countries and networking platforms but thanks to our great patron, president Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, whose generosity and magnanimity availed the organization the opportunity to embark on its headquarters in the Republic of

Uganda. And in deed Uganda is another country that qualifies as a melting pot of Africa and Arab socio-cultural and traditional affinity. In Uganda, the organization is experiencing a new lease on life, a new hope a new vigor and a new determination to achieve her defined aims and objectives with greater commitment and we as founders have a lot of confidence in Hon. Agaba Abbas the Secretary General being one of us as a founder member.

Conclusion

There is certainly a glowing prospect for the organization to achieve its intendments with the pragmatic restructuring and face lifting that is ongoing at the headquarters in Uganda. Consequently, we strongly advise the organization to explore both multilateral and bilateral co-operation in order to foster greater outreach and fulfillment of its aims and objectives. With these words, we must renew our ties with the African Union, Arab League and other sub regional organizations in our defined Space and beyond, thus our prospects toward fulfillment of our goals will be more certain and timelier.

I want to sincerely congratulate all members of the African Arab Youth Council, Leaders and Comrades on this landmark occasion of the 18th years of the AAYC, congratulations.

Thank you

Hon. Ebenezer M. Oyetakin
Founder Member AAYC
NIGERIA

AAYC: Great Fruits, Seeds and Flowers

I take the honor to congratulate the Afro Arab Youth Council upon making 18 years of existence. I am happy to have contributed to this journey in one way or the other. I particularly congratulate them upon steering forward and surviving through the turbulent times especially the Arab Spring which destabilized much of the Arab World, and later on the Covid error. An idea that was conceived in 2004 has blossomed into great fruits, seeds and flowers that we are happy to witness today.

The inspiration and motivation for the establishment of the Africa Arab Youth Council was born out of the understanding by the youth then that there are social cultural and traditional similarities between the people of Africa and the Arabian space. More so, considering the fact that over 70% of Arabs are in the continent of Africa, these social cultural similarities and affinity can be explored through multilateral and bilateral relationship and cooperation among the political leadership and the people of these define space, in order to promote the common cause of socio-political and economic development and prosperity of the people of the Africa and Arab space. It is a pragmatically considered opinion that the Youth can achieve these goals, if they realize that they as youth and young people have great roles to play in harnessing of these socio-cultural and traditional



Hon. Alitwala Kadaga
3rd Deputy Prime Minister & Honorary
Member, AAYC

ties to actualize peace, development, and prosperity through networking. Hence the AAYC is a mechanism and an institution to help galvanize both the people and the government of the Africa and Arab space in this direction.

I am happy about the decision to host the International Headquarters of the AAYC in Uganda. Our Country and our people generally are very receptive, hospitable and prospering. We have opened our gates to everyone who wants to come here including an opportunity to stay for those who may wish to stay. We are working through the East African Community to break barriers that hinder the close interaction of people as it were before the creation of boundaries. This is a deliberate effort by the leadership if this country and the East African Community countries to return the long-cherished Ubuntu, a great setting to which our people lived maturely and freely.

For the future I advise the leadership of the AAYC not to relent as far as advocating for the issues of young people is concerned. They are the future of our peoples. There is more effort needed to ensure that youth benefit from services of their leaderships, and governments. The youth are the vanguard of humanity and their active participation in the Management of society should be welcomed. Please encourage our youth to develop their entrepreneurial skills, create jobs, and earn something for themselves and their families.

The Uganda Government has been cherished world over for leading the way in youth empowerment. You may copy a few things and help advocate for the youth in other areas where you believe there for the youth in other areas where you believe these can work. Even the Ugandan youth, still need attention in the areas of wealth creation, skills development, and access to microfinance in banking institution. Once again congratulation to the leadership and membership of the AAYC upon 18 years.

A Great Breeding Ground for Young Leaders



OBUA HAMSON

Minister of State for Sports, Government of Uganda

I congratulate the Afro Arab Youth Council (AAYC) upon the 18th Anniversary. It has been a really long journey that we have walked and we are happy to associate with it. We celebrate this journey not just like the other journeys that people celebrate casually, but with humility, vigor and a sense of great achievement. The Afro Arab Youth Council just like our own National Youth Council, NRM Youth League, and other associated has been a great breeding ground for young leaders. There are several of us now serving in the Cabinet, others in Parliament, others in Non-Government Organizations, and others at large who have benefited from the hiring by Afro Arab Youth Council.

Particularly, I was very honored to participate in the Afro Arab Youth Festival 2008 as one of the Committee Members, and I remember I was specifically dealing with the welfare of our Guests and the other participants who were present at Munyonyo. It was a great experience dealing with the majority of our Guests from the Arab world, and other African Countries. It was a great / laborious assignment to ensure that our Guests stay well such that they have a memorable stay in our beautiful Country and I believe strongly, the Delegates choice of Uganda to host the International Headquarters of the Afro Arab Youth Council was largely based on how they felt they were treated while they participated in that memorable youth meeting. Uganda is very beautiful, rich, and hospitable with all multicultural out lay of the people in this region.

As we celebrate this 18th Anniversary, we want to buttress the achievements registered by Afro Arab Youth Council, to look forward to the future with a broader smile. We used to ask ourselves what more Afro Arab Youth Council can do above what they achieved so far. The journey is still on and the resting and celebration should not take too long. There are still places where Youth are viewed as the problem and not solution or at least part of the solution. Many young people in Africa and the Arab World are not yet on the negotiation task, their voices not heard, and treated as second class citizen in their own Countries.

I would like to thank H.E. Y.K Museveni the President of the republic of Uganda for leading the way in Uganda for Youth empowerment. Many democracies have Uganda to refer to and compare in the areas of Youth Empowerment. The raise and growth of the National Youth Council of Uganda and its appendages is testimony that Youth empowerment can bear fruits. We therefore land that partnership between National Youth Council and Afro Arab Youth Council as a hybrid for Youth Empowerment, training and growth. It is truly the time for the youth to shine.

Congratulation AAYC on 18 years but alutta continuer.

Following in the Right Footsteps

I am happy to associate with the progressive journey made by Afro Arab Youth Council (AAYC). Many Organisations especially for youth, die in infancy, and the mortality rate is higher if the organisation is at an International level. This is why I agree to with others to congratulate AAYC for their high adaptive and survival rate. The speed may not be as fast as we had hoped especially after the 2008 festivals, but the fact that it survived the Arab Spring, and the COVID error means it's a well networked organisation and greatly felt across its membership for its value addition.

I am one of those who believe that the future of both the Arab and Africans has common linkage. It is not by surprise that majority of the Arabs are on the African Continent, and despite the Red Sea separation, there is physical linkage to the Arab Peninsula (the Gulf). There is great need for our leaders

to focus on how to insure the future of our young people, and ensure stability of the region for economic and political prosperity.

I would like to thank H. E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for his constant guidance and stewardship to the young people. Every generation is a product of their reactions to the challenges they face. Left unguided, the youth can explode especially given the great inner energy that they possess. It has been a right decision to focus young people into gainful occupation in order to have some income into their pockets and homes to be able to support themselves.

We have transcended through greater challenges all of which have helped youth to rethinc their decisions, refocus their energy, and re-prioritise in their personal lives. This is the sure way that we shall enjoy the fruits of the future as we prepare for it. Sometimes our colleagues rush for greater/better settings which is not a bad idea but we need the patience to appreciate the working of systems such that we do not crush.

A major milestone here in Uganda has been in the fight against HIV/AIDS which was harvesting many young people and orphaning children at very early ages. We had child headed households, and many



HON. PETER OGWANG
Minister of State, Office of the President

grandparents had to actively had to close this gap to raise their second generation of children (grand children), yet they are older, weaker and poorer. Now as you can witness, we are raising healthier children and with a guarantee that children are born health, can live and grow healthy and have grown to bear healthy children.

Therefore as we celebrate 18 years of AAYC, we are happy to appreciate the great milestones achieved during this journey. We are still moving ahead in the stewardship of our great leader and Patron H. E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

Congratulation to Ndugu Lahweeji Abdul Haddi the President of AAYC and your Executive, and Ndugu Abbas Agaba the Secretary General and your Executive.

For God and My Country.

Today, the 9th of March, is a historical youthful event of distinction, as the Afro-Arab Youth Council was established with a common will of Arab and African youth. They were brought together by the vision, goals and challenges in the world where only the strong minded win. But the question is; was the 9th of March a spontaneous or programmed choice of the founding youth?

The answer is certainly an intentional choice that coincides with the first Arab-African Summit at the League of Arab and African Leaders on the 9th of March 1917. The message of Arab and African youth was the necessity of work, partnership and cooperation in all economic, cultural, developmental, social and political fields, and most importantly unity. Since Arabs and Africans possess all that it takes to be an economic and political locomotive of strength in the third millennium, and perhaps one of the strength is that a third of the Arab population live in Africa. In addition to the factors of geography, history, language and cultural heritage, the common preoccupations, and the common hopes and aspirations of our Arab and African peoples.

Arab and African youth are called upon today to work together, to network and build relations and to be a lever for joint action and even integration; and to create true partnerships that will defeat poverty, death and hunger and change the stereotyped image

AAYC @ 18: A Call to Action by the Youth

DR. ABDUL HADI-ALHWEGI
Founder members of the Afro-Arab Youth Council (AAYC)

of Africa and the Arabs, and to be economic and political partners.

Whatever is the world of today and tomorrow, the world of information, the world of knowledge, the world of economics, or a new world is needed in which Arabs and Africans are an active contributors to development, and not weak countries, waiting for aid and assistance, but an active, strong and positive partner. This can be done by bidding farewell to wars and conflicts, and not by the end of diseases and epidemics, and it can only be by leaving a series of professional Arabs and Africans, and it can only be by preserving the valuable segment of Arabs and Africa, i.e., the youth who are used to fuel wars. We want the today, in the new millennium, as fuel for development and progress.

Now the battle before all of

us today is a battle against diseases. The battle for the end of wars, conflicts and coups, the battle for stability and security. The battle for education and health for all, the battle for effective partnerships. Our battle is to change the negative stereotypes about Arabs and Africans, and this will be a responsibility of the youth, who represent half of the present and the future.

Hon. Dr. Agaba Abbas, and the staff of Secretariat, thank you for keeping the AAYC moving.

Long live a united Africa,

Long live the Arab and African youth,

And long live Uganda, the pearl of Africa and the icon of of its unity.

And greetings to His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni, the patron of AAYC, the founder of the new Uganda and the great African leader.



Youth are the Future

Today as we celebrate the 18th Anniversary of Afro-Arab Youth Council, may we draw reflections as to what extent we have tapped into the energy and potential of the youth.

The role played by young people in the social, economic and political development of any nation or society cannot be negated. Youth are not the problem as popular perception has asserted, rather they are a crucial part of the solution to addressing global challenges and shaping a more inclusive world.

Afro-Arab Youth Council deliberately harnesses the capabilities of young people in over 60 member states of the African and Arab regions. We are delighted to witness youth led initiatives in the social economic and political spheres of many societies; where youth have constructively added their voices towards democracy, social justices, and emerged as economic empowerment champions to promote human values, with an understanding that planetary health is a collective responsibility.

Hence the importance of the role that the council plays to prepare young people to face the challenges of the era in which we live (an era of science and knowledge), by educating the youth, and empowering them to deal with these challenges. Please note that

preparing distinguished youth does not come from a vacuum but through institutions of learning, that provide skills training and technological transfer;

- to motivate them to be creative and innovative,
- activate channels of communication between preparation institutions,
- and provide a specific vision and a clear philosophy for youth development.

Youths are the foundation upon which our nations built, and we place our hopes in them to keep peace with progress and prosperity, especially in these ever-changing times of advanced technology.

The world is witnessing every day a new scientific development with speed and ability that increases the widening and deepening gap between developed and developing countries. The larger the gap, the smaller the opportunities in front of countries that fail to build and rehabilitate youth. There is no doubt that developing that educating and skilling the youth is the only solution to save these countries from deterioration and backwardness and the consequent weakening of their sovereignty, the robbery of their will, and the marginalization of their culture. Education is the basis of development and the greatest common denominator in planning processes to prepare young people and build their capabilities, skills and experiences, and the basis for the production of wealth and the



MS. AMINA HILMI
*Deputy Secretary General,
AAYC*

renewal of its resources.

These contribute effectively to economic, social and cultural work, Hence I invite you all to strive together and through a serious work system to build scientifically and professionally qualified youth and to create the appropriate climate to push young people to creativity and innovation and to work on its functional, economic and family stability, so that we can offer the young people the capacity of achieving the goals we all hope for from them.

I am very happy that the Council has adopted this annual ceremony and the proper and purposeful planning for it. Therefore, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone who has contributed to this great effort. My best wishes to you and to all who have participated and have been a part of our continued progress and prosperity.

May God help us all for what is good for our dear youth under our esteemed president, the patron of this council Afro-arab youth council, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.



THE RISE AND RISE OF AFRO-ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL

HON. DR. ABBAS AGABA
 Secretary General and Founding Member
 Afro Arab Youth Council (AAYC)

In a number of our cultures here in black Africa, they attached a kind of bad omen about the night or the dark. You will often find people greeting others and the connotation about congs on surviving the night are regular. Basoga will say, *“Isuka obukyeire”*, Baganda will say, *“kulika ekiro”*, Bagisu will say *“Mukulike Buukyere”* among the Banyankore it’s even worse. The little hats herdsman rest in during grazing are called *“Kyamutwara Bwasesire”* meaning the predator took him/her when the day has started (around dawn).

In reference to the Afro Arab Youth Council I join others to congratulate the organisation upon making the 18 years of age, but more relevantly upon surviving what would have been the dark period in the life of the Afro Arab Youth Council; the Arab Spring, and COVID era, that claimed not only many organisations but also lives of many of our members and supporters.

I hasten to thank the leadership of the specific countries where the Afro Arab Youth Council kept a semblance of survival during this dark period namely Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia and Uganda. We are forever grateful to the overt and inner support we received, to keep the organisation moving. There are moments that will always be defined as turning points or defining moments of the struggle and I agree that our survival beyond some of these trials as a Council reflect our adaptation to manage the harder times.

I would like to thank H. E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni the President of the Republic of Uganda and Patron Afro Arab Youth Council for the continued support, guidance

The major objective of the Afro Arab Youth Council is to take advantage of the existing linkages between the African and Arab Youth, to deal with the issues affecting the young people and preventing them for achieving their full potential.

and deliberate effort to make this organisation a reality. In 2008, when the youth assembly gathered during the 2nd Festivals at Munyonyo decided that an International Headquarters be constructed in Uganda, to provide a permanent home for the Afro Arab Youth Council, H. E. the President offered prime land for this project and this was real time energy and momentum for the forward leap of the project. In October 2021, H. E. the President directed that the said land be released for the said project and we are very grateful for this support.

To me, during this time when our activities went slow, it was an opportunity for the real metamorphosis, of the young organisation called Afro Arab Youth Council. It is during the cocoon stage of this process that insects and similar organisms ecdyse to develop structures similar to those of the adult insect, save for the size corresponding to the age. The rest of the growth then happens with increase in height/length and girth until the organism

is of full age. Here, the Afro Arab Youth Council was also able to ecdyse and develop its structures especially the Secretariat that now we are getting out of the cocoon stage ready to spread our wings and fly among equals.

In the coming days, the organisation will now put its fit to the ground, review and renew its memberships, contacts and networks, as we push to start the construction of the International Headquarters. This is a shared responsibility among the Heads of State of the Afro Arab Youth Council member countries spearheaded by the Patron. As we gather here in our multitudes from the different counties, it is evidence of the fresh breath of Afro Arab Youth Council and the readiness for us to take off. The commitment we have is to remain resolute to the aspirations of the young people who bore this vision to have this organisation propel their aspiration forward.

The major objective of the Afro Arab Youth Council is to take advantage of the existing linkages between the African and Arab Youth, to deal with the issues affecting the young people and preventing them for achieving their full potential. We need peace, unity, and development in the Afro Arab region coupled with peaceful coexistence of unlike people. This will be possible if there is cooperation among heads of State and Governments, and then realizing that the youth have immense potential to make their contribution to the development of their countries. The time is truly now for us to recognize that the youth are not

the problem at all but part of the solution to whatever problem it may be.

From its very setting, the Afro Arab Youth Council is an advocacy group, and will not relent until the plight of young people is given requisite attention. With our member organisation we have helped to amplify voices of the voiceless and call the attention of the authorities that be to appreciate the need for action to make the conditions of the youth better. We as a specialized group on youth issues for both the African Union (AU) and Arab League (AL) , and work with existing youth organisation in the member countries, to attend to the issues of young people. Therefore we look towards opportunities for youth of both regions, through round table investment forums, biannual youth festivals and similar gatherings, annual dialogues, and bilateral consultation between youth leaders of different countries.

We intend to lobby for and share opportunities existing in our regions for our young people ranging from scholarships, employment, business, investment, sports, culture, Trade, et al. We are grateful to the founding team some of whom will be attending this anniversary. The Vision shared at that time will continue to guide the implementation of the resolutions and objectives set out in the statutes.

Once again congratulations Afro Arab Youth Council upon 18 years of existence and wishing you more and more prosperous years ahead.

The future of African and Arab Youths

The sight of a tree devoid of green leaves exasperates us, and we look in search of the reasons for its inadequacy in the permanence of life, and when we find an excuse or something else, we realize that it has lost the entity of survival, and the flow of its continuity of giving. Thus, we are concerned about the future of the African and Arab youth, amidst the accumulation of negative repercussions that afflict the African & Arab presence from many directions to push us to think, without hesitation, about the role and responsibility of youth in carrying the trust and fulfilling their right.

And in the midst of two confused concepts, which draw attention when approaching the problem of youth, the first: defining and framing the meaning and concept of youth, not in terms of the succession of work and its frameworks, but in the search for a package of factors surrounding the action of young people and their role in life and creativity.

The second is to describe the process of caring for young people and work to provide them with the opportunity to express their role in the process of renewal and construction. Amidst all this, ideas fall apart and concepts intersect, but in the end they are heading towards one goal only, which is opening the doors of the future for young people and activating their positive role in building and thinking.



Ms. Lisper Machoka

**AAYC Coordinator
Eastern Africa**

In this context, ideas and contributions vary, and all initiatives are directed towards studying the reality of the African and Arab youth, and searching for the possibility of maximizing their role, and achieving their field participation in the process of construction and development and social modernization. Some of these contributions go to the formulation of intellectual studies, and others to conducting field surveys to map the movement, and to develop indications that guide the treatment of this issue from a civilized perspective based on an optimistic future outlook.





NEWS FROM THE AAYC SECRETARIAT

AAYC Secretariat along Entebbe Road-Bunamwaya, Kampala, Uganda.

Launch of the Secretariat

In 2008, at the conclusion of the Afro Arab Youth Festival in Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda a resolution was reached to have the Secretariat in Uganda. It's with this background that the AAYC Secretariat was established in 2009, at Bunamwaya Entebbe Uganda with staff that are committed and passionate to ensure that the organization achieves its objectives.

The strategic objective of the organization is; to mobilize, sensitize, supervise, stimulate and coordinate the activities of African and Arab Youth, enabling their participation in the economic, social and cultural development of the world.

Overview of the 18th Anniversary of AAYC

It's our pleasure as a host Country to once again preside over and spearhead the preparations for the 18th anniversary of the AAYC under the theme; *“transforming food systems; youth innovation for human and planetary health.”*

The theme has been adopted from the International Youth Day of 2021 and it will elicit with activities that shall amplify the role played by youth in achieving the rightful contributions of the young people in areas of food security, climate change for planetary health, youth as human capital both intellectually and physically in innovative capacities for nations.

The anniversary shall be a three-part celebration starting with a Bicycle Race dubbed **“The Source of the Nile Bicycle Race”** in Jinja-Busoga subregion. AAYC is concerned with the amplified diseases which are mainly brought about by lifestyle for example obesity, heart disease, diabetes,



AAYC in preparatory meeting with M.S Machora Kito the Busoga Kingdom Minister of Foreign Affairs (right) in Jinja.

pressure and many others so as to improve to the human and planetary health. The purpose of the bicycle race is to encourage cardio-vascular exercise that contributes to weight loss. Furthermore, bicycles should be used as a means of transport to reduce on the sophisticated jam and the environmental pollution the cars cause which pollute the environment.

Fruit tree planting exercise in Katakwi Teso sub-region

AAYC contributes to the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which among the program is zero hunger. When a population has food security then there will be a possibility to have a hunger free generation. AAYC has a project to plant trees in schools as a way of increasing food availability and also providing a nutrition which improves the diet and wellbeing.



A pre-visit to Adere Primary School in partnership with District Local Government for fruit tree planting project in Katakwi district, Teso sub region.

Dialogue at Makerere University, Kampala on the theme: Transforming Food Systems, Youth Innovation for Human and planetary health. This is intended to bring out intellectual, policy and practical discourse for eventual policy adjustments by the concerned agencies.

The youth are greatly discouraged to invest in agriculture and more so there are no measures yet successfully taken to motivate the youth to also consider agriculture as a means of earning great livelihood. In most cases the youth view agriculture as one for the peasants and also failures which is not the case. AAYC in partnership with RUFORUM wants to bring a brighter version of youth who are engaged in agriculture and the costs and benefits of agriculture.



A pre-visit of AAYC staff at Aligoi primary for fruit tree planting project in partnership with School management in Bukedea district, Teso sub region



AAYC leadership ready for duty



AAYC staff with the Chairman Katakwi District Local government at the District Head Quarters



18th anniversary delegates at Busowoko falls, the turning point for the cyclists in the Bicycle Race

Visit from the Office of the President

The AAYC, being under the Office of the President, we were obliged to host a delegation from the office of the president. The visit was necessitated to provide guidance and support of the council in its embryonic stages and also setting up systems of accountability and ensuring proper utilization of the funds received from the Patron through the Office of the President. However, the delegates appreciated how well the Secretariat has taken off after its relocation to Uganda.



A delegation from the Office of the President and the AAYC Staff at the Secretariat.

Another delegation comprised of Officers from the Audit department in the Office of the President and Auditor General, (External Auditors) followed up with auditing in the expenditure and activities of AAYC. We therefore appreciate the continuous support and vigilance of the Patron H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni who is actively walking with us every step of the way, holding us accountable for the work we do and ensuring that we account for the funds we receive for the youth.

The Know your Neighbour Program

As part of our Corporate Social Responsibility, we took the initiative to engage the community in our proximity through interaction with the Local Chairperson (LC) and the Officer in Charge of Bunamwaya Kinsigiri Cell to investigate their way of life, needs and wants. The delegation from the Local Area identified some modules that the organization can formulate to contribute towards the development of the area. The modules include caring for the environment, youth skills training and capacity building, scholarship programs and financial literacy programs. We shall look to some of our partners like RUFORUM to achieve some of these, as well as partner with our local banks.

With these and many more programs in the works, we have been very busy and continue to carry out our mandate and work towards the betterment of the Afro Arab Youth and the Youth in general.



AAYC staff with the Bunamwaya Kisingiri Cell Local Leaders.

Receiving the Ag. Deputy Secretary General



The secretary General Hon Dr Agaba Abbas welcomes the Deputy Secretary General Ms. Amina Hilmi at the Afro Arab Secretariat in Uganda.



Engagements with Nasser Youth Movement

The Nasser Youth Movement is a partner of AAYC with whom we hosted our Executive Committee meeting of the AAYC in which many decisions of great impact to the youth were taken. The AAYC team led by the Secretary General; Hon. Dr. Agaba Abbas participated in the Nasser Youth Movement Annual International Leadership Fellowship where participants were taken through various topics all geared towards empowering young people to emulate great role models, provide effective leadership and mobilize themselves for this century leadership challenges.

Partnership with the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)

One of the AAYC's strategic objectives is to create partnerships and synergies with both the national and international organizations with the same mandate as AAYC. AAYC is collaborating with the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) to boost the Youth's interest in Education and Agriculture.

RUFORUM was established in 2004 with a network of 129 Universities in 38 Countries and its Headquarters are at Makerere University. The mission is strengthening the capacities of universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers through the training of high-quality researchers, Farmer's National Agricultural Research Institutions and Governments.

Both RUFORUM and AAYC have the same target audience, Africa's Youth and both aim to improve the welfare and capability of the Youth to provide themselves a better standard of living. AAYC is honored with RUFORUM partnership and we hope to work together to achieve our objectives.

Afro-Arab: resilient and sailing forward, together.

The Afro-Arab region has exhibited a high level of resilience in the face of turbulent times, a clear sign that we are capable of finding lasting solutions to the problems facing our people if we leverage our shared goals. Historically, the relationship between Black Africa and the Arab World have been connected by insecure patterns of economic and cultural connections of more than 12 centuries. The last decades, however, witnessed a remarkable shift and establishment of strategic links aimed at promoting peace and development.

This important shift can be attributed to visionaries like H. E Col. Muammar Gaddafi (R.I.P), H. E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, among others who took it upon themselves to unite the youth of the region and redirect their strength and energy to worthy causes of peace and development. Their incredible support led to the birth of Afro-Arab Youth Council (AAYC) in 2004 to not only inspire innovation and creativity among the youth but also to



MUHSIN KADUYU

Manager - Membership & External Relations

guarantee peace and security through encouraging interfaith and intercultural dialogue.

No doubt, the region is still overwhelmed with many challenges but it is good to see the resilience and strength exhibited by our people and their ability to keep moving forward. Currently, the region is home to some of the fastest-growing economies in the world. This unprecedented growth has produced an enormous supply of entrepreneurial youth with innovations and solutions that are helping to solve problems facing our people including unemployment and low rates of literacy.

No doubt, the region is still overwhelmed with many challenges but it is good to see the resilience and strength exhibited by our people and their ability to keep moving forward.

Additionally, we see remarkable progress in many sectors including the fight against climate change. More and more young people within the region are standing up and calling for real steps to stop climate change. Notable among them is Ms. Vanessa Nakate, a young Ugandan, who has captured the public imagination on climate change and helped to inspire millions of people to take action.

Therefore, as we celebrate our 18th Anniversary, it is important for members, partners and friends of AAYC to remember that it is possible to transform the Afro-Arab region if we leverage on shared interests, gains and resources. This can partly be achieved through encouraging intergenerational mutual learning and collaboration, and providing leadership and mentorship opportunities for emerging leaders in all sectors to work collaboratively for sustainable peace and development.

The Inevitability of Youth Empowerment



Sakka Yasin
Youth Entrepreneur



Youth empowerment aids the young people in transforming to better change instruments in society, such approaches explore the resourcefulness in the youth instead of categorizing them as problematic.

AAYC seeks to add a voice and action to counsel, console and guide and facilitate the youths in the Afro-Arab countries to cause a positive change in society.

Youths are just like any other human category and all those who are older have been youths at some point in life while those who are young will also be youths at a time in life. Ignoring them can only create a big loophole for them to become a nuisance; it is therefore important to empower them, guide, and facilitate them to be important components of the planet thereby ensuring a positive continuity of the world generation after generation; Engaging youths in agriculture is one possible way of achieving this.

It is also important to cognitively empower youth; such are the

people with ability to see which problems affect them in society, identify where and which resources are available to tackle them. This aids strategic thinking to respond to environmental changes.

As a component of youth empowerment, cognitive youth empowerment intends to awaken the mind of the youth, re-channel the mindset of the youths to the most feasible and rewarding way of perception of an undertaking.

Many youths are not faced with lack of funding as such but the preparation of the mind that receives the little funding of whatever nature it may be.

Youth Groups and Accessibility to Facilitation



Having youths work and contribute together in groups cultivates a sense of responsibility in them to them and their near ones; thus there is still need to have as many youth cooperatives as possible to aid group participation and facilitation.

Working in groups creates security for business sustainability, transparency and accountability.

I call out all youths loudly to form beneficial groups and seek for funding in groups than as single individuals. The AAYC is one mother youth organization that would love to empower youths in groups.

As a strategy for success of youth projects, young people should have ownership over their projects, and they need an opportunity to be listened to through allowing them a platform to utter themselves out.

Once youths gain ownership over their projects, it creates a sense of responsibility in them, accountability, monitoring and evaluation.

The biggest obstacle that youth businesses face is negligence, business exploitation by consuming capital or sales instead of just profits. Having them get ownership and registration may need an external hand by the youth organizations like AAYC but it is paramount.

Nakakande Hafswa, Teacher and youth mentor

relief but not long term life solutions to youth challenges (Ile & Boadu, 2018) regional and district or local level decision-making processes. For inclusiveness in any social intervention programme, the policy process should be all-embracing sharing of knowledge and active stakeholders' participation which includes the youth. This paper delineates the context of Local Enterprise and Skills Development Programme (LESDEP).

This is an eye opener to the wider population that youth are a unique group of people, their needs are dynamic and every generation presents differently.

The United Kingdom through an aligned grants program, funded over 100 community-based and youth projects with an aim of discovering, trial, learning and idea sharing plus experiencing directly what works and what doesn't, and it is now a policy in the United Kingdom that young

Youth Empowerment Challenge; A Case Study of Ghana and the United Kingdom

Despite a massive increment in economic growth in Ghana, Public policy has not achieved the goal of meeting the needs of youth and their participation satisfactorily since their priorities seem to be unique and not easily identified. Consequently the youth policies in Ghana have targeted improvement of livelihoods, thus giving



Sharifah Namatovu,
Media & Youth Activist

people must participate in decision making although there are still challenges in its practical implementation.

This re-emphasizes youth engagement however the AAYC looks deeper into the method of youth engagement and empowerment thus analyzing and identifying agriculture and agricultural innovations as the most viable youth empowerment venture. Youth are a subject worthy of attention across the globe.

The theme of the AAYC “Transforming food systems, youth innovation for human and planetary health.” Was thought of thoroughly for the leaders to guide the youth to a better feasible venture; agriculture.

We realize that the youthful population is the biggest consumer of food, the most energetic group by nature, the brightest minds when it comes to ideas, innovation and implementing change for transformation. But many of these youths have been either left redundant or less productive by engaging them in what the less energetic can do, thus leaving majorly old women and old men in the garden thus leading to loss of billions of money through inadequate productivity.

The Evidenced Challenge of Land Acquisition by Youth



William Sentomero
Director Finance and Administration

It is a plain lie to think that youth can acquire agricultural land through savings since the biggest number of them is even unemployed, those who are employed earn very little that most of them work for food for survival and the prices of land are quite very high, and when it comes to young women; it too complicated that most of these are house wives who only wait to save a coin from the daily home feeding budget funded by the man.

In acceptance of these land acquisition challenges it is of wisdom to encourage youths create groups and have a management team from within the group so the youth organizations and governments

facilitate them by buying for them land, train them and monitor and evaluate them through milestones.

Globally, young people form a major mass in the current statistics of the world demography constituting over 1.8 billion of total population United Nations Population Fund.

Such a number must be thought of and planned for to ensure that the future becomes bright and rewarding to both them and other people.

With such a quantity we now do not have to wonder why they may be able to conquer governments, take on leadership of nations democratically, set up revolutions and movements, and influence the entire nation or region or continent. Therefore having them close, prepared and utilizing their quantities resourcefully will yield positive results to them and their countries.

AAYC Engagements with National Youth Council

AAYC has been engaged in a number of meetings and activities with other youth organizations as a way of promoting partnerships, that aid in achieving its objectives. We have held several engagements with the National Youth Council to map out common Strategies that we can apply in approaching the general problems faced by the young people. This involves strengthening our partnership and agreement to close gaps as we work as a team with a common agenda.-

Wandera Saadallah, Resource Centre Manager



BY KOMUJUNI DOROTHY

The Leaders/Organisations in the Modern VUCA World Today

The social Scientists at the U.S Army War College invented the acronym “VUCA” which stands for Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity in an attempt to characterize the environment in which their students would operate in the future. VUCA has a great implication on leaders, organizations and businesses. With turbulence in the current environment, VUCA provides guidance on how executives should guide organizations and how employees can best deal with increasingly frequent change and uncertainty.

The world is changing today with the new tools or technologies evolving and emergencies like the Covid-19

pandemic or crises like floods and landslides. Therefore, the leaders and organizations have to devise means of adopting new tools, coping effectively with stress and making sense of new situations together with elevating decision-making quality.

The organizations can survive in this VUCA world by being agile. Agility is necessary for proper management of VUCA where organizations or leaders have to require adaptive performance so as to make sense of new situations along with norms that support robust interaction and dissent to elevate decision making quality. The organizations ought to foster the agile behavior.

I encourage the leaders and youth of today to take up opportunities of training to develop both skills and knowledge so as to adopt to the new changing world.



Furthermore, the ability to communicate and make quick decisions is important to quickly adapt to the new environments for example, most businesses during the Covid-19 lockdown in Uganda registered little sales and some closed due slow decision making.

Later on, some adopted to the online business where they advertised their products online and delivered products at the customer residents. For those who were not quick decision makers had to close businesses because they were not making sales therefore, they couldn't afford rent.

The disruptive technology that drives economic growth and productivity are mobile

internet, 3D printing, automation of knowledge work, the internet of things and advanced oil and gas exploration and recovery. With these emerging technologies can help to create new products which usher in entrepreneurship.

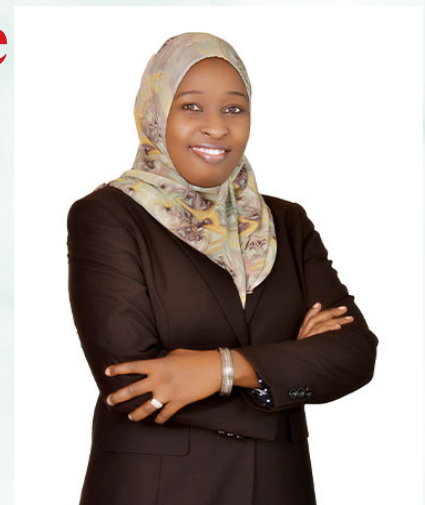
Information and experimentation can be used to solve the uncertainty and ambiguity. Perfect information is key in businesses and forecasting what the future holds. With perfect information then an individual or organization can make informed decisions. Organizations and leaders can use the processes of scoping, tracking, ranking, evaluation, evangelism and transfer when they notice the emergency of novel technologies. With these stages one can identify the risk analysis and cost benefits. Organizations should employ the foresight aspect for future predictions.

Why the Youth Should Engage In Food Systems

Food security exists when all people have access to physical, economic and social access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food at all times. This access to food meets the people's dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Food security requires responsible investment in agriculture which encompasses a number

of activities like production, processing, marketing, retail and consumption, fisheries, forestry and pastoralism.

Responsible investment and food systems engages and empowers the youth to advance their accessibility to productive land, natural resources, inputs, productive tools, financial services, markets, information



By Nansuga Halima
Director Programs and Projects.



and inclusion and decision making.

With engagement in food systems, the youth shall be provided with appropriate training, education and mentorship programs to increase their capacity and access to decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities and foster contribution to sustainable and inclusive economic development and eradication of poverty. The youth shall also develop access to innovation and new technologies to attract and enable the youth to be drivers of improvement in agriculture and food systems.



Education of the GIRL CHILD



By Kentembwe Clare,
Liaison for National Youth
Organisations

Uganda is a developing country with many encounters that affect girl child education. The challenges are seen as manifestations around limited access, retention, transition, and completion of the education system by the girl-child. The socio-cultural factors include patriarchal, cultural traditions, and traditional divisions based on gender that take the form of; taking care of the sick in the family, and the elderly, doing all the domestic work, and going to school after work, has been keenly noted enabler in limiting girl child education in Uganda. On the other hand, the conditions of poor sanitation in schools have stood against the girl-child opportunity to stay at school longer, exhibited by lack of proper clothing, sanitary requirements to use during menstruation periods, gender-based violence at home in form of rape, sexual harassment, and defilement.

Education of girl child is one of the most important tools in advocating for the desirable social and economic benefits for a country, in realizing growth and development. A lot of research suggests that the more the girl child stays longer in school, economic, and health benefits will accrue with it. Therefore, the girl child education is a prerequisite to a country's social and economic development, because when a girl child is educated, there is a tangible reduction in infant mortalities by 5-10%, delayed marriages, and delivery of fewer children permitting the country a better position to plan and solve its problems.

Uganda has used strategic policy measures in addressing the challenges that critically effect the girl-child's education by rolling out a working plan of the Education Sector Investment Plan (ESIP, 2000). The government implanted the National Strategy for girl's education with the aim of promoting girl child education by creating gender equity and equality in Uganda. It also emphasized the narrowing of the "gender gap" in education by promoting girl child education as a form of affirmative action.

With such efforts from government, Girls' education in Uganda has been steadily improving. Much of this progress was a result of the 1997 implementation of free, universal primary education. This policy significantly helped decrease the gaps in primary enrollment between girls and boys, despite significant disparities in performance, level of classroom engagement, and access to facilities (UBOS, 2014).

Based on the values of the Afro-Arab Youth Council, there is a need to draw the most effective

multi-sector responses to take a whole girl-child approach. These approaches to intervention should aim at harnessing resources that enable girls to have access to continuous, safe, and supportive learning environments that improve their learning, development, and wellbeing. The AAYC has to develop the need for creative solutions to address ongoing challenges among Afro Arab Youth, especially the least disadvantaged girls. The plight of girl child education requires the AAYC education sector system to think creatively about how to address the challenges of girls' education by engaging in multi-sectoral work to harness more available resources. It will also necessitate an approach of 'meeting girls where they are at, using a whole-child approach and prioritizing them because of the unique and immediate circumstances they face. For God and my Country and happy 18th anniversary celebrations.



THE GREAT IDEA

All the nations were whispered at, to join and share the joy of the black continent,

Which was the jubilation of black and Arab boyhood festival, on this day, the great idea emerged.

It was resolved on day nine third month 2004, was by Libya and Sudan's President, to establish the great idea and the following day, the great idea that emerged.

It covered the sub-Saharan Region and black Continent made a dance

witnessing intercontinental juvenile unity, the great that emerged.

It came to Cast out the fruits and the calves of Uganda laughed of joy of 2008 conclusion of housing the head on their own land the great idea.

Excellent to the Secretary General, The Foundational Heads of State, We Look at the journey covered and the

The manifestation of the great idea, Which is the Afro-Arab Youth Council.

By Rugambwa Raurini



**UGANDA
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

Driving Industrial Growth

Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) is an investment institution established as a wholly-owned government entity with the mandate to facilitate the industrial and economic development of Uganda through the establishment of a subsidiary and associated companies, public-private partnerships, research, financing, and management of entities that promote industrial development. It was established by the UDC Act of 2016.

Its mission is to make long-term investments in strategic sectors of the economy in order to stimulate industrial and economic development and private sector growth. This mission includes sometimes investing in strategic sectors of the economy that are not attractive to the private sector due to the required high initial investment costs, low returns on investment and long break-even periods.

The Corporation is governed by the Board in line with the UDC Act and management is headed by an Executive Director; with its investment program and operations guided by a strategic business plan.

UDC's Contribution to the Economy

UDC has been instrumental to Uganda's economy through nurturing the industrial sector; especially manufacturing. UDC has built capacity, created synergies in the sector, created jobs, implemented the import substitution strategy, and provided support services to manufacturers.

Capacity Building

UDC has enabled individuals in industrial entities associated with it to obtain, improve, and retain the skills, knowledge, tools, equipment and other resources they need to do their jobs better. The capacity building is intended to ensure that manufacturing firms have well-trained staff, equipment, and other resources for the production of quality and competitive products for local and international markets. As part of capacity building, UDC also offers training in finance management, agronomy, value chains, cooperatives and more. Beneficiaries could include raw material suppliers and members of out-grower cooperatives.

WE CONGRATULATE AAYC ON THE 18 YEARS JOURNEY.

Reflections on the Journey

There is great significance of this 9th March celebration. This Anniversary date, is historical. On 9th March 1977, the first Africa Arab Summit was held in Iraq, subsequently another summit was held in Egypt Cairo, all of which affirmed the importance of exerting continuous efforts and removing obstacles that hinder the active development of Africa-Arab cooperation, based on common interests in the political, economic, social and cultural fields to further consolidate the foundations that safe-guard Africa-Arab relations.

It is from such background that the Afro-Arab Youth Council draws inspiration. The Afro-Arab Youth Council by identity cannot be divorced from the Pan-African spirit that refreshes our drive to see African Youths thrive in a world of so many imbalances, as history has defined our path to self-determination as a people. The very history is so inter-related with our brothers in the Arab region. On this day, we also celebrate the anniversary the Caribbean Emancipation Day, the end of slavery.

This alignment of celebrations is testament to our vision as a youth organisation, for Unity, Peace and development.



MARY MUTESI

Director Communications, Coordination and International Relations

These pillars of AAYC vision are pre-cursors to building our thought and efforts at inter-regional cooperation of the Young people. As we stand in this moment, the joy of birth and the memories of the years of growth and struggle fill us with pride and a true sense of accomplishment. The Afro-Arab Youth Council's international flagship of inter-regional, multi-dimensional Youth affairs' influence, stands tall with its magnificent record of delivering quality multi-sectoral youth empowerment programs designed to endow the Young people with capacities to claim a space in the affairs of their communities.

As one of the Young people that was identified by the Organisation as early as 2006, just two years after its establishment in Khartoum on the 9th, March 2004, I am proud to salute the international executive committee, the secretary General, and all the membership across the board on this occasion of the 18th Anniversary.

The road to this happy moment

has not been without its bumps and bogs. In fact, as we celebrate we are mindful of the heavy cloud of uncertainty enveloping the African continent, the Arab World and indeed, the World as we all struggle to chart a manageable course in spite of the harsh setbacks brought on by Covid 19, the worst global pandemic the World has seen in a hundred years. I am certain that the Organisation will overcome all turbulence it faces today and in the future. I am firm on the faith that; "However long the night, the dawn will break".

To date, AAYC celebrates the thousands of proud young leaders, now of mature age and influence; who have contributed to AAYC's international well-being and are now making good contributions as leaders in the Public Service, in Private Enterprise, and national political leadership across Africa and Arab nations and across the diaspora.

Happy 18th Birthday AAYC! Together we will move mountains tomorrow by continuing to lift stones today.

AAYC JOURNEY IN PICTURES (2004 – 2021)



Ms Alice Kaboyo (left) leader of the Ugandan Youth delegation to the AAYF 2004 in Khartoum, as one of the panelists in the specialized break sessions. She is now the Minister of Luwero Triangle.



His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni being received by the AAYC International Executive Committee and Hon. Saïda Bumba (Minister of Labour, Gender and Social Development) for the opening ceremony of the 2nd Afro-Arab Youth Festivals 2008, at Speke Resort, Munyonyo.



Bro. Leader Muammar Qaddafi the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony of the Afro Arab Youth Festival, 2008 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, is being received in Uganda at the State House and handed a bouquet of Flowers by Aisha Kebirungi in March 2008.



A meeting of Heads of Delegation with Hajat Saida Bumba the Minister of Gender, Labour & Social Development and the Afro-Arab Youth Council Executive Committee at Speke Resort Munyonyo 2008.



Afro-Arab Youth Council Executive Committee and Youth Delegates with the Patron, H.E.Y.K. Museveni, at Arab Youth Festivals 2008 in Munyonyo



Secretary General AAYC, Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba meeting with H.E. President Y.K. Museveni, the Patron 2019



The President AAYC and the Vice President AAYC, participate in a "Peace for Libya" Symposium in Morocco, 2018.



Afro-Arab Youth Council Executive Committee and Secretariat Staff meeting with the Patron, H.E.Y.K. Museveni, at State House Nakasero, 3rd February, 2019



A delegation from AAYC, meets the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda Ms Rebecca Kadaga 2019.



Vice President Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi meeting with some members of the Executive Committee 2019.



THE KINGDOM OF BUSOGA (OBWA KYABAZINGA) CONGRATULATES AFRO-ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL ON ITS 18TH ANNIVERSARY

Busoga Kingdom is one of the famously known as the traditional Bantu Kingdom and it belongs to one of the five constitutional monarchies in the current Uganda. The Busoga kingdoms fights vigorously for oneness in people with the geared goals of social, cultural and economic prosperity. Jinja city is the famous known as the economic and industrial hub of the Busoga areas. The Busoga region is surrounded by Lake Kyoga and here it is separated from the Lango area in the north, it is neighbored by the Buganda kingdom in the west separated by the Victoria, it is bordered by Tanzania and Kenya in the south and it is separated by Lake Victoria. It is as well bordered by the small groups of the Bagishu and Bugwere and they are separated from the Busoga kingdom by River Mpologoma.

The Kyabazinga(King)

The Busoga kingdom is headed by the Isebantu Kyabazinga and apparently he is known as William Kadhumbula Gabula Nadiope IV. Isebantu means the father of all people and this names stands as a symbol of unity, it was given out of expression as well as recognition from the Basoga people with an essence that the Isebantu brings all people together in love and oneness.

The Economic activity in Busoga kingdom has been agriculture and it has been significant in the establishment of the Busoga capital. There was improvement of services such as Electricity, piped water, Hospitals, Roads and schools among others. The farmers in the Busoga regions who were going both the cash crops and food crops were assured of the market for their produce. Crops which were grown include coffee, cotton, potatoes, Cassava, Bananas, vegetables and the fruits among others. People's standards of living improved, there was rapid increase in the revenue of the Busoga kingdom, there was both economic production which was on a high demand but still people could as well grow crops for subsistence consumption.

The Source of the Nile: is the Origin Point of flow of the second longest river-River Nile in the World. River Separates from Lake Victoria in Jinja which is the adventure capital of East Africa. Apparently the source of the Nile is one of the key tourist attractions in Uganda that hosts numerous numbers of visitors from all over the world.

Lake Victoria: The Busoga kingdom is bordered by Lake Victoria in south which is the one the Africa's great lakes with fresh waters. The Lake Victoria coastline runs from east of Jinja to the border of Kenya.



Congratulatory message From Tooro Kingdom

Tooro is a Bantu kingdom located within the borders of Uganda. The current Omukama of Toro is King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV. The people native to the kingdom are the Batooro, and their language is likewise called Rutooro, Bakonzo, Babwisi/Bamba. The Batooro live on Uganda's western border, south of Lake Albert.

Cultural influence

The Batooro people have a strong culture naming system (PET NAME) known as Empaako. With the Empaako naming system, children are given one of twelve names shared across the communities in addition to their given and family names. Addressing someone by his or her Empaako is a positive affirmation of cultural ties. It can be used as a form of greeting or a declaration of affection, respect, honour or love. Use of Empaako can defuse tension or anger and sends a strong message about social identity and unity, peace and reconciliation.

The Toro kingdom had a cattle-owning class, the Hima, while most Toro, called Iru, were small-scale farmers. The Toro social organization is strongly stratified; the formerly pastoralist Bito as well as the Hima claim greater privileges and wealth than the Iru. Millet, plantains, cassava, and yams are grown, while wheat, cotton, and coffee are raised as cash crops; fish are traded as well. Toro also received tax benefits from the Kilembe copper mines. Queen Elizabeth National Park, in Toro lands on the south, has significant numbers of many species, including elephants, hippopotamuses, and Ugandan kob (a variety of antelope).

A fruitful AAYC 18th Anniversary Celebrations.

PARTICIPATING DELEGATES

No.	NAME	SURNAME	TITLE	COUNTRY
1.	ABUBAKAR	KHALED ABDULAZIZ YOUSEF	Member of General Secretariat of Libyan Youth organization (NOLY)	LIBYA
2.	AHMED HASSAN HASSAN	MONA	Coordinator, Global Youth Ambassadors Team	EGYPT
3.	AL MAJRAFI	ABDUL AZIZ SAID SALIM	Special Guest	Sultanate of OMAN
4.	AL SULAIMI	AHMED K .M.A.M	Special Guest	KUWAIT
5.	ALFIRJANI	HANEEBAL MOHAMMED ALSAGHEER	Member of Youth league for Libyan Future Movement	LIBYA
6.	ALHUWEEJ	ABRAHEEM MOHAMED ABRAHEEM	Member of general secretariat of Libyan Youth organization (NOLY)	LIBYA
7.	ALI	AHMED MOHAMED HASSAN	Member of the Ataa Association	BAHRAIN
8.	ALJABERI	MOHAMMAD SAIF RASHED MATAR	Special Guest	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
9.	ALMARZOOQ	HASAN MOHAMED NASUR ABDULAZIZ	Secretary General of the Democratic Unionist Rally - Bahrein	BAHRAIN
10.	BAUDRICK	ELAMBO MOSENDE	ROJALNU	Democratic Republic of Congo (KINSHASA)
11.	BOUBACAR	ZOUBEIR	Vice President of the Student Council of the General Union of Mauritanian Students	MAURITANIA
12.	CLARKE	ALVIN KPALAY	President/ Executive Secretary at Economic and Trade Cooperation of African Youth (ETCAY)	LIBERIAN
13.	DRISSI EL-BOUZAI	MOHCINE	Member of Excecutive Board of Istiqlal Youth Organisation	MOROCCO
14.	EL BALLAH	MORAD	Member of Excecutive Board of Istiqlal Youth Organisation	MOROCCO
15.	EI GHORABI	KHALED	Founder of the Arab and African Youth Council.	LEBANON
16.	EL MOKDAD	NATHALIE	Development manager for an investment company	LEBANON

No.	NAME	SURNAME	TITLE	COUNTRY
17.	ELFARSI	RABHA.M.MOSTAFA	Vice President for Libyan Future movement	LIBYA
18.	ENNAHOUI	EL KHALIL	International Relations Officer of the National Youth Committee of the Union for the Republic	MAURITANIA
19.	HAMANI	ACHIR KHALED	Coordinator of International Youth Forum	LEBANON
20.	HAMID	ALI HAMID	Ex-Founder of AAYC	IRAQ
21.	HICHRI	AHMED	Vice President of Youth Association for Active Citizenship (AJPCA)	TUNISIA
22.	HILMI	AMINA	AAYC Secretary General Coordinator of North Africa	MOROCCO
23.	HUSSEIN MOHAMED	HAWA	Representing National Union of Somali Youth.	SOMALIA
24.	ISSA AHMAD SHATNAWI	SHOROUC	Director of the Shura Foundation for Building National Consensus	JORDAN
25.	JAD	YOUSSEF ZHMED MOHAMED AHMED	Secretary of the Ataa Association	BAHRAIN
26.	JAMAL	HALA	President of the Ataa Association	BAHRAIN
27.	JEBROUNE	RANIA	Member of Excecutive Board of Istiqlal Youth Organisation	MOROCCO
28.	JOULAL	YASSINE	Member of Excecutive Board of Istiqlal Youth Organisation	MOROCCO
29.	K.A.MOTLAQ	ZUHAIR	President of Palestinian Youth Union	PALESTINE
30.	KHATRY	CHEIKH	Member of the National Youth Committee of the Union for the Republic	MAURITANIA
31.	LAHWEEJ	ABDULHADI IBRAHIM MOHAMMED	(AAYC PRESIDENT)	LIBYA
32.	M.A.EBEID	ALAA.	Vice President of Palestinian Youth Union	PALESTINE
33.	MACHOKA	LISPER KERUBO	Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife	KENYA
34.	MAKHALIF ATEF MOHAMED BAYOMI	MOHAMED	Assistant Secretary in charge of Foreign Relations in the Central Secretariat of the Future of the Nation Party	EGYPT

No.	NAME	SURNAME	TITLE	COUNTRY
35.	MESSAOUD	FATMA	Representative of the FemWise-Africa network in Algeria and North Africa	ALGERIA
36.	MOAPA WALLA IBOUTHAKOHO	RODRIGUE	PRESIDENT OF ROJALNU AFRIQUE	GABON
37.	MOHAMED NASER MOURSI MOHAMED	WALAA		SUDAN
38.	MOHAMME DABDULATIF KILANI	MANAR	Member of Youth League for Libyan Future Movement	LIBYA
39.	MUZWACHE SIGUDHLA	ALFRED	Member of Executive Committee AAYC Coordinator (Southern Africa)	SOUTH AFRICA
40.	NASSER	RAHIM RAJAB	ROJALNU AFRIQUE	TANZANIA
41.	Ngambili Ibam	Bersol Exaucé	Rapporteur of the commission of laws and administrative affairs of the ANC President of the National Youth Council	Republic of CONGO BRAZZAVILLE
42.	NOMNQA	AMANDA	Secretary General of ROJALNU	SOUTH AFRICA
43.	OBAM' ONDON	ANTOINE BIENAIME	Member of General Assembly (MP)	Republic of CONGO BRAZZAVILLE
44.	OYETAKIN	EBENEZER OLAOLU MELCHIZEDEK	Chairman of AAYC Oversight and Accounts Committee	NIGERIA
45.	PETER LOUIS	MMBANDO	Coordinator of International Peace Youth Group	TANZANIA
46.	SALHI	HASNA	Member of Excecutive Board of Istiqlal Youth Organisation	MOROCCO
47.	SENGHOR	ELYSE EMMANUEL GNILANE	Journalist (Dakar Radio)	SENEGAL
48.	SHAQALEH	SAIF ALDEEN ABDALMALIK RAMADAN	PDG NATCO International Investment Company	JORDAN
49.	WIRFALLI	MILAD MOHAMED OMRAN	Mbre of Libyan Future movement	LIBYA
50.	ZALLOUM	HAMZA.M. I	Member of General Secretariat of Libyan Youth organization (NOLY)	LIBYA



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