

On the way to the All Africa Youth Congress



By Daniel Orogo

Conceptualizing together

A peaceful and secure Africa requires an empowered generation of youth who are committed to the holistic transformation of their countries and continent. A campaign that will invest in the youth in Africa and to rekindle the spirit of Pan African Movement as it was in 1945 that was spearheaded by young people has become expedient, because of the existential challenges faced by young people in continent. Therefore, the AACC seeks to initiate a continental youth campaign on African patriotism that will create platforms for constructive engagements among African youth. The campaign will endeavor to deepen awareness on the potentials of and opportunities for young people in Africa. The campaign which will take the shape of movement will be institutional through convoking of Congress once in two years with the maiden to take place this year 2022.

The All Africa Youth Congress (AAYC) is an initiative of the All Africa Conference of Churches' (AACC) to facilitate continental Youth Campaign on African patriotism. The Campaign that will be mobilize under the theme **"Africa: My Home. My Future"** will endeavor to increase awareness on the tremendous potentials of and opportunities for young people in the continent, thus inspiring the young people to be patriotic to their countries and to Africa by using utilizing their talents and gifts towards building a thriving continent. The All Africa Youth Congress christened "Accra 2022" happens to be the first organized by AACC. The Congress will no doubt be a viable space for approximately **2,000 young people**, male and female alike within the age bracket of 15-35 years within the Continent, in the Diaspora and from among people of African descent.

Ghana is strategically chosen to host the first All African Youth Congress for two important reasons. Firstly, the Country is a home to one of the prominent Pan Africanist, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, the first

President of the Republic of Ghana. He was one of the pioneers of Pan-African Movement and a founding Father of the Organization of African Unity. Secondly, Ghana is currently rated as one of the most peaceful, democratic and hospitable nation in the continent.

The Congress will feature prominent and famous Pan Africanist, politicians, eminent persons, business men and women, renowned entrepreneurs, Africa's sports personalities, heroes, heroines and young people who are champions in different in development spheres in Africa. Some senior Pan-Africanists that have demonstrated their commitments and actions for Africa's transformation shall be special appearances at the Congress. His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and AU Special Envoy to Horn of Africa who has graciously accepted to serve as the Grand Patron will lead this category of eminent leaders.

No one should be left out

The African Union as a continental body is entrusted with the responsibility of facilitating platforms that will champion youth participation and inclusion in building a thriving continent. The AU as a Continental oversight unit, has a role of initiating legally binding agreements that guarantees for a peaceful and secure continent that is viable home for youth and future generations. In the spirit of collective responsibility, all the states parties and AU heads of States and Government are held to account in ratifying the legal binding agreements and other instruments that will contribute in making the continent flourishing.

For a flourishing continent that attracts and keeps the youth, the role of Heads of states and governments are critical. They are expectedly required to ratify and operationalize Agreements, Resolutions, Conventions and Protocols that facilitate youth empowerment and participation in governance with due recognition that they are guarantors of safety and conducive



environment for all peoples. Governments should put in place safety nets that protect the youth from vices of drugs and substance abuse, harmful cultural practices like female genital mutilation, gender-based violence, gangsterism, conflicts violence, recruitment to violent extremists, irregular migration and human trafficking.

The international organizations and development agencies complement the governments in Africa by supporting systems and programs that more often ensure socio-economic development of the continent. These organizations and agencies have the obligations to ensure that supports provided to governments are utilized for socio-economic transformation of the continent. Development plans of the different governments must clearly include the aspirations of the youth demography. The youth should be in the know of supports received and mechanisms put in place to ensure their utilization. International organizations and development agencies should ensure that youth agendas are mainstreamed into government plans that are up for support.

The faith-based communities in the continent are perceived as the moral compass in African society. Churches, mosques and other places of religious meetings have played critical roles in socializing the youth to behave in ways that are acceptable in different African Communities. The religious communities have prophetic roles to ensure accountability from duty-bearers and equitable distribution of resources that benefit all people regardless of their religious

persuasions and cultural leaning.

Therefore, the AU and its member states, the international organizations and development agencies, the faith communities and all other stakeholders have a crucial role in making the continent a truly home and a future for the teeming youth demography. The Congress and many other initiatives offer viable opportunity in shaping the perception of Africa's youth to deepen their commitments and passion for the dreamed peaceful, prosperous and integrated continent, while participating as global citizens.

Congress conversations are tailored around four thematic areas:

- **Youth and African Patriotism:** this is about celebrating African arts, culture and heritage. This session will also focus on education system that decolonizes the African youth while unlocking their potential for innovation, entrepreneurship and job creation.
- **Active Citizenship;** focusing on youth meaningful participation in governance, politics and in major decision making processes. Also building a new generation of transparent and accountable Pan Africa leader advocates of anti-corruption in Africa.
- **Peace and Security;** focus on eradicating all forms of inequality and injustice that causes violence conflicts in Africa. For example, topics such as mitigation of human trafficking,

confronting climate change, silencing the guns, responding to debt crisis shall be discussed

- **African Dignity:** At the Congress, discussion under this thematic area will be on addressing inequality and discrimination against people with disabilities. Also in Overcoming xenophobia, racism, religious persecution, Afrophobia, Overcoming harmful traditional practices and Wellness (mental, physical, spiritual, financial).

Additional activities during the congress will include: Concurrent Sessions with renowned Pan Africanist, Exhibitions by Cooperates, Side Events (hosted by interested organizations), Africa Celebration Night with classic live performance from the Afro Centric Musicians and Worship and prayer sessions.

Partnership and Sponsorship

The All Africa Youth Congress creates possibilities for partnership and networking with organizations and institutions with similar agenda and programs towards a successful Congress. The partnership and networking can take form of sponsoring youth to the congress or sponsoring thematic engagements during the event. Individuals, organizations, corporate institutions, foundations and philanthropic entities are welcome to partner and network with AAYC–AACC.

Who can participate?

The participants to All African Youth Congress shall be:

- Youth within the Continent and those in the Diaspora.
- Youth of African descent
- Youth from AACC's constituencies
- Youth between age bracket of 15–35 years.
- Passionate about Pan Africanism and have demonstrated in leadership and service in various capacities.
- Demonstrate capability to mobilize resources for self-sponsorship in the categories.
- Commit to abide by the set rules and guidelines for the Congress as shall be decided by the organizers.

Dates: Arrival 29th October -
Departure 4th November, 2022

Venue: Pentecostal Convention Center Kasoa – Accra, Ghana

Registration and participation

To participate in the congress, please visit the All African Youth Congress 2022 Website and register your interest to participate in the congress <https://allafricayouthcongress.org/create-account.html>. Upon completion of the registration process, applicants will only receive confirmation of participation after the selection process. Each participant is expected to pay \$250 (USD) as registration fee.

Cost of participation

Participants are to mobilize resources to cover the following costs:

- Flight fare / vehicular transport fare
- Visa fee (where required)
- Covid 19 PCR Test

Please note that during the online registration process, participants will be required to indicate self-sponsorship category. The categories are; full (100%), partial (75%), and half (50%).

For further details and enquiries:

Please visit the All African Youth congress:

Website www.allafricanyouthcongress.org

Facebook page @aaccyouthcongress2019

Twitter @aaccyouthprog

Instagram @aaccyouth

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