

Directorate of Information and Communication

PRESS RELEASE N.31/21st AU SUMMIT

OAU-AU celebrates 50 years of existence

“This is Africa’s time”, says Dr. Dlamini-Zuma



Addis Ababa, 25 May 2013 – Africans from the five regions of the continent and the Diaspora as well as guests from around the world converged on Saturday, 25 May 2013 at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) now the African Union (AU), established on May 25, 1963, in the same city.

The celebration featured intellectual debates on the theme: “Pan Africanism and African Renaissance”, followed by a cultural evening in the presence of current and former Heads of State of the Union as well as former Secretary Generals of the OAU and former Chairpersons of the AU. The United Nations Secretary General was among the guests.



Former President of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, who was present at the signing of the OAU Charter in 1963 animated the cultural evening with a message to the new generation and a song in honor of women that aroused a lot of emotion and determination from the crowd.



Mr. HaileMariam Dessalegn, Chairperson of the African Union and Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, stressed the importance of this day saying that it is a occasion to honour the founders of the continental organisation who created the OAU 50 years ago, with a resolve to persue the quest for African Unity in earnest, inspired by the ideals of panafricanism.

In her commemorative address at the Millennium Hall in Addis Ababa, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission called on all Africans to galvanize efforts and contribute to the Agenda 2063, so that Africa takes its destiny into its own hands and occupies its rightful place in the world arena. “We pay tribute to the pioneers of Pan-Africanism, on the continent and in the Diaspora, and to the Founders of the OAU for their wisdom and foresight to lay the foundations for the unity and solidarity of Africa”, she noted. These early generations, she said, embodied the Pan African values of selflessness, solidarity and service to the people.



Referring to the Oath taken by Amilcar Cabral in 1969, Dr. Dlamini Zuma said, “*I swear that I will give my life, all my energy and all my courage, all the capacity that I have... until the day that I die, to the service of my people, of Guinea and Cape Verde... and to the service of the cause of humanity... This is what my work is.*”

She reiterated the need to promote the image of Africa “We are proud to be African. In this great task, let us think like men and women of action. And act like

ARISE!
1 AFRICA 2063
PROSPERITY & PEACE

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243, Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822, Fax: (251-11) 5519 32
Email: africa2050@africa-union.org

men and women of thought....We pledge to take our destiny into our own hands, because power resides in hard work, scientific investigations, in intellectual curiosity, in creative greatness and freedom, in the fullest exploration of our human powers, and in the truest independence,” she emphasized.

Underlining her immediate priorities in achieving the Africa 2063 vision, the AUC Chairperson underscored that, “ as we start the journey of the next fifty years, we are clear about the task before us: to educate our populace, and ensure healthy bodies and minds; to modernize and expand Africa’s infrastructure and connect our peoples and countries; to grow our agriculture and agro-businesses so that we can feed ourselves and the world; to use our natural resources to industrialise and grow our shared prosperity; to invest in science, technology, research and innovation as enablers of rapid progress; and finally to empower women and youth as the drivers of Africa’s renaissance”. (See attached complete message of AUC Chairperson on AU website: www.au.int)

During the jubilee celebration at the Millennium Hall, several Heads of State took the floor to express their vision on Panafricanism in today’s context and renaissance through the 2063 agenda. They reiterated their support and encouragement to ensure the implementation of this development project. Musical bits and dances by different artists representing the cream of the African society crowned the OAU-AU jubilee which marking the beginning of year-long celebration of the 50 anniversary of the OAU-AU anniversary.

EAT/MW

Follow us on :

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AfricanUnionCommission>

Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/AUCommission>

Flicker : <http://www.flickr.com/photos/africanunioncommission>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/_AfricanUnion

ARISE!

1 AFRICA 2063
PROSPERITY & PEACE

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243, Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822, Fax: (251-11) 5519 32
[Email: africa2050@africa-union.org](mailto:africa2050@africa-union.org)