

WORLD BRIEFS

INVESTMENT KEY TO DEVELOPMENT; AID BREEDS DEPENDENCY

Museveni ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (PANA) - Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has said "investment is the shortest root to development." He noted that in Africa, as elsewhere, people thought aid was the root of development. "Aid had been the life-support of a dead system," on which development in Africa in the past depended, Museveni told a conference on trade and investment in Africa. The two-day conference brought together government and business representatives from 15 African countries as well as corporate leaders and business groups from the United States and Japan and from 14 other countries in Europe and the Middle East. In a keynote address, Museveni said aid makes one dependent on others, "and dependency is slavery. The correct strategy for development in Africa is to emancipate the private sector," he said, adding that people benefit a great deal under free economy. Museveni said the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have "impressive ideas" for development, "but their officials are difficult to do business with." He accused them of being "arrogant, superficial and contradictory." "They come and tell you" do this and that, "because the board said so," he said. "They show no interest to listen, they see only the surface of our problems and talk about ownership of the projects they finance on their own terms." Museveni said mutual cooperation thrives through investment. "Mutual benefit is the sustenance of cooperation — the investor makes money and Africa develops," he said.

GOVERNMENT BARS FOREIGNERS FROM BUYING COUNCIL HOUSES

LUSAKA, Zambia (PANA) - President Frederick Chiluba said the government would not issue title deeds to foreign nationals who bought council houses from Zambians. Speaking to a cross-section of Zambian women at state house to mark International Women's Day, Chiluba took a swipe at some Zambians whom he accused of reversing the home ownership policy of the government by selling council houses to foreigners. He reminded them that the homeowner scheme initiated by his government was meant to empower Zambians and not foreigners. "It is wrong to sell property which does not depreciate and I urge you people to stop doing so," he said. Chiluba said he will soon visit Madras Residential Area where almost all the council houses sold to council employees have been bought by Asians for as much as 60 million kwacha (about \$45,000) per house. Meanwhile, Chiluba assured the women that his government would continue to implement sustainable measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children. He said since women make up 51 percent of Zambia's population, the government could not afford to discriminate against them. Chiluba regretted that women everywhere in the world continue to suffer from many forms of deprivation and indignity despite their contribution to the development of their countries. Earlier, the Executive Director of the Non-Governmental Organisation Coordinating Committee (NGOCC), Grace Kanyanga, said women's groups in Zambia were concerned with the discrimination in Chiluba's cabinet and the National Assembly.

VERNON JORDAN PLEADS FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (PANA) - Lawyer Vernon Jordan said sub-Saharan Africa could be one of the fastest growing regions economically in the world in the near future if internal reforms are supported by global investment. Jordan said trade liberalization and privatization taking place in Africa need international financial support to project the sub-region to higher and more rapid economic performance. He was speaking on Sunday, March 8, at a dinner for delegates attending the Addis Ababa forum on trade and investment in Africa. Jordan, a close friend of President Bill Clinton, called for U.S. investment in sub-Saharan Africa, saying the role of the U.S. is critical to the economic growth of the region. He recalled that the American dollar was responsible for the economic recovery of Western Europe after the second world war and the "American dollar fueled the Asian economic miracle." Jordan was optimistic that in the near future, the world will be talking of "African economic lions" in the same way it talked of the "Asian tiger." With the end of the cold war, he said, America is now paying attention to the economic development of Africa, as evidenced by the African Growth and Opportunity Act recently passed by the U.S. Congress. Jordan stressed that Africa is part of the global trend towards democracy and open markets. Sub-Saharan Africa offers unlimited opportunities for investment, the "sleeping giant of Africa can no longer be ignored by the world," Jordan said.

INTERNATIONAL

NAACP chief joins Clinton in South Africa

Mfume says we must redefine our nation's relationship with all of Africa

Special to Sentinel-Voice

BALTIMORE — On Wednesday, March 25, 1998, NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume will join President Bill Clinton in South Africa for the fourth leg of Clinton's six nation, 11 day trip to the continent of Africa.

To help underscore the importance of the trip and recognizing Mfume's history of activism and that of the NAACP, President Clinton invited Mfume to join a small delegation of non-government officials.

"President Clinton's trip to Africa provides the opportunity for our nation to redefine its relationship with Africa," Mfume said.

This trip is essential to bring the problems and progress of Africa into full and open focus. We must recognize the importance of Africa to our long-term economic stability

and the stability of the global economy.

"The President's trip to South Africa has particular significance as South Africa moves toward its fourth year of democracy and begins the transition for the 'era' of Nelson Mandela to future leadership. The American people will now be able to see the future of Africa through the eyes of the President of the United States, and they will see that Africa not only exists, it matters."

"The emerging democratic nations should be supported by the United States both politically and economically. The only way to ensure this is through high level government contact," Mfume said. "At the same time, the military dictatorship of Nigeria and the slavery and international terrorism coming out of Sudan speak volumes about their

exclusion from this very important mission. Such an exclusion is both fitting and proper," Mfume added. "Conversely, the burgeoning democracy of Ghana under the courageous leadership of President Jerry Rawlings is an excellent example of economic growth and cultural stability."

Mfume's record on South African issues is long-standing. In 1986, then Baltimore City Councilman Kweisi Mfume introduced and passed one of the nation's first municipal divestiture laws, calling upon the city of Baltimore to divest its pension funds from any U.S. companies doing business with South Africa.

For 10 years from 1982-1992, he led annual candlelight vigils and participated in anti apartheid rallies and demonstrations leading to his arrest in front of the South African embassy in 1984.

Upon joining the U.S. Congress, Mfume became one of the leading opponents of the South African apartheid regime.

"I have been connected to the struggles of South Africa for over 25 years," said Mfume. I have a vivid memory of welcoming Nelson Mandela to Washington, DC at the dawn of democracy in South Africa and then standing with him as my guest at the inauguration of Bill Clinton as President of the United States.

"Now, South Africa is in an era of peace and stability. We can focus on the economic issues that are of mutual benefit to our nations. This trip reinforces the long overdue recognition by the U.S. government that the countries of Africa are indeed a world force to be integrated into an ever-evolving global economy."

Zimbabwe's land policy rife with thorny issues

By Pedzai Ruhanya
Special to Sentinel-Voice

HARARE, Zimbabwe (IPS) — Tribalism, racism, nationality, and discrimination are just some of the words being hurled around as Zimbabweans hotly debate the government's controversial land acquisition program.

"Land in Zimbabwe was designated on the basis of ethnicity, tribalism, and other subjective considerations," Tawanda Mutasa told delegates at a one-day seminar on "The Land Question In Zimbabwe" organized by the Poverty Reduction Forum.

The Harare-based lawyer said it was unfortunate that the government was concentrating solely on the plight of landless people in order to solve politicians' narrow agenda.

"I am concerned that we are talking about the land question and ignoring the broader macroeconomic fundamentals needed for the stability of the country's ailing currency," he said.

The government "is not addressing corruption and the amassing of wealth by the ruling clique. We cannot address the land issue in isolation," Mutasa told IPS.

Late last year, the Zimbabwean government acquired 1,500 hectares of land from mainly White commercial farms for resettling the majority of the country's more than 11.5 million Black population who live in arid, unfertile regions. The land acquisition sparked cries from some quarters of the international community,

especially Britain, Zimbabwe's former colonial ruler, because they believed the move was an unconstitutional means to settle

old political scores.

But a leading Zimbabwean academic, Sam Moyo of the Southern African Political and Economic Series (SAPES),

said the move does not spell doom.

"I want to suggest that despite the fumbling in policy-
(See Zimbabwe, Page 13)

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