

scientists that Africa is the cradle of humanity and has given humanity her civilization.

They are strengthened by the knowledge that Africa has works of art that date back thousands of years. Our fine arts encompass the varied artistic creations of the Nubians and the Egyptians, the Benin bronzes of Nigeria and the intricate sculptures of the Makonde of Tanzania and Mozambique. They also know of the evolution of religious thought made by the Christians of Ethiopia and the Muslims of Nigeria.

They have seen the architectural monuments in their continent as represented by the giant sculptured stones of Aksum in Ethiopia, the Egyptian sphinxes and pyramids, the Tunisian city of Carthage, and the Zimbabwean ruins, as well as the legacy of the ancient universities of Alexandria in Egypt, Fez of Morocco and Timbuktu of Mali.

These Africans have chosen to act together to change the lot of their continent. And insist on taking the destiny of their continent into their own hands. They are hard at work to actualize the dream of Marcus Garvey, Du Bois, Abdul Nasser, Oliver Tambo, Amilcar Cabral, Patrice Lumumba and Nkrumah of African Unity and Prosperity.

Contemporary Realities

Having taken this momentous decision we expect nothing less than to liberate the continent from the oppressive legacy of slavery, poverty, diseases, backwardness, underdevelopment and malnutrition.

Coming from the liberation movement, the African National Congress that has been the integral part of this struggle, we have for decades waged the principled, unrelenting and protracted struggles for the right of the people to govern themselves –The People shall Govern.

Africans in many parts of the continent have moved to embrace good governance and adopted multi-party democracies with regular elections for the people themselves to choose a Government of their choice. A number of African countries have undergone this democratic process of testing the will of the people. We must remain vigilant to ensure that this process is irreversible.

Nevertheless, there are still problems confronting the continent of Africa such as political instability in Zimbabwe and Madagascar and conflicts in countries like, Angola, DRC [Democratic Republic of the Congo], Sierra Leone, Burundi, Liberia and Somalia. These and many other hot spot areas are receiving the immediate attention of the continental leadership. Committed to chancing the negative perception of their continent, the leadership of Africa has taken two major decisions to respond to the challenges they are facing; these are the formation of the African Union and the blueprint for the continental economic revival programme.