



Africans Rising!

Stories from the Movement
2023

Africans Rising is a Pan-African movement of people and organisations, working for unity, justice, peace and dignity.

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For Unity, Justice, Peace & Dignity

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Celebrating 2023 African Liberation Week

AUGUST 2023

www.africansrising.org

INTRODUCTION

In this third edition of our stories from the movement, we highlight various events and actions organised by individual members and movements across Africa during this year's African Liberation Week (ALW).

ALW is a Pan-African mobilisation which takes place the week of May 25 every year during which Africans mobilise and take actions in solidarity. Over the years, Africans Rising has used this historic occasion to mobilise citizens across the continent and diaspora on issues around good governance, anti corruption, civic space expansion and promotion of democratic participation, climate change, gender justice, reparative justice and broader African unity.

This year, all activities were centred around the broader theme for the need to have a borderless Africa so we can stand together to ensure that the protocol on Free Movement of People is ratified by African Union (AU) member states.

Share your successes with our global network

Africans Rising is working to put together another edition of the success stories booklet for the second half of 2023. If you or your organization has held an event, or achieved success in your activism work during this time, let us know! We want to showcase all the ways our members are working to improve their communities and bring justice, peace and dignity to the lives of Africans wherever they live.

If you would like us to feature you or your movement, please send an email to media@africans-rising.org.



TABLE OF Stories

Smallholder women farmers in Malawi cry out for a borderless Africa to enhance their livelihoods
By Chikulamayembe women forum P. 04-05

How youths in the continent are contributing towards Africa unification
By Fondinkea Kaffo - Ganjur, The Gambia P. 06

A community in Namibia receive free sanitary towels and foodstuffs
By Jonas Taukondjele Shilongo P. 07

Sensitising the public on the Borderless Africa campaign
By Voice of Tanzania P. 08

Does the future lie in a visa-free Africa?
By Wahenga Youth Group P. 09

Promoting the spirit of solidarity and oneness
By WeBuild P. 10-11

Culture, Art & Africa Borders
By Ambassador Moody Mwiya Prince TV P. 12-13

The People's petition for the Borderless Africa P. 14

Smallholder women farmers in Malawi lament border restrictions on their work and trade

By Chikulamayembe women forum



During this year's commemoration of the African Liberation week, a group of smallholder women farmers, Chikulamayembe Women Forum and an Africans Rising member in Malawi demanded the removal of the temporary export ban and called for the ratification of a borderless Africa.

The women gathered in Khong'onthelo Katumbi Rumphu district northern part of Malawi and expressed the challenges they face when selling their produce as their target market is closer to Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique than Malawi.

Currently, they are unable to sell their produce in these countries which is costing them their income and livelihoods. Despite the women having groundnuts, maize and soya in surplus, they are unable to sell their produce in the neighboring markets due to border and export restrictions.

They decry sexual harassment and corruption they face at the borders.

During their second meeting held in partnership with different stakeholders from the Malawian government and civil society organizations, the women demanded a need for the free movement of people for all Africans and appealed to other stakeholders to sign the petition for a borderless Africa.



Chikulamayembe women forum

How youths in the continent are contributing towards Africa unification

By Gunjur Youth Movement



The Gunjur Youth Movement is a movement that focuses on environmental protection through activism, advocacy, education and volunteering.

With solidarity token from Africans Rising, Gunjur Youth Movement, Africans Rising member organised a double event at the coconut project site on the 27th of May to mark the African Liberation Week. Anchored on the theme, "Developing Borderless Africa", the event aimed to build Africa, end exploitation of African people and their resources as well as contribute to African development and promote African identity.

The event brought together several youth groups, including student volunteers, young people without borders and our vibrant volunteers. It commenced with youths taking climate action by watering the coconut saplings and remembering some great African figures who fought for African independence, Africanism and unifying Africa.

This was followed by a round table discussion which focused on the role of African youths in making Africa great and developing a borderless Africa.

Participants identified some important roles that African youths should play in the development of a unifying Africa. They concluded by further identifying collectivism as one of the significant tools for African unity.

Fondinkea Kaffo - Ganjur, The Gambia

A community in Namibia receive free sanitary towels and foodstuffs

By Jonas Taukondjele Shilongo

Lack of access to some basic commodities such as sanitary products for most girls from low-income families has forced them to use unhygienic materials to manage their menses.

Jonas Taukondjele a member of Africans Rising in Namibia held an event in Changwena, Namibia where she distributed free sanitary pads and foodstuffs within her community which positively impacted these young girls.

Through this initiative the young girls were sensitized on menstrual hygiene and would help in decreasing the risk of infections and keep the girls in school.



Jonas Taukondjele Shilongo

Sensitising the public on the Borderless Africa campaign

By Voice of Tanzania



Voice of Youth Tanzania, or VOYOTA, is a youth-led non-governmental organisation and an Africans Rising member in Tanzania that aims to raise youths' awareness by sharing experiences and knowledge through a wide range of activities.

This group of young people organized a peaceful protest with an aim to sensitise the public and the government on the Borderless Africa campaign and to get more people to sign the People's Petition.

The peaceful protest was attended by 60 participants who obtained legal backing and support from the government and the police department to carry out the activity. The protest kicked off from Usa River police station all the way to the main road Moshi-Arusha Road to Leganga, with police officers and the Ras band accompanying the protesters.

The protest culminated with a community dialogue at the Voice of Youth Tanzania premises and signing of the people's petition.

Voice Of Youth Tanzania

Does the future lie in a visa-free Africa?

By Wahenga Youth Group

Wahenga Youth Group is an award winning consortium of visual and performing artists and also an Africans Rising member in Kenya who use art for advocacy, edutainment and to address social injustices in the country.

As this year's African Liberation Week drew closer, the group went beyond the ordinary local mobilisation and included the refugee community in the locality from Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. Their presence gave this event a Pan-African outlook which implied a step towards a borderless Africa.

They narrated their struggles living as refugees in Kenya and intimated that if the borderless Africa dream had been realised, they wouldn't be facing the challenges they are currently in. Kayole has a large population of refugees especially in Patanisho and Nyama villa estates. These refugees have fled violence and successfully resettled in Kenya.

The group had a great opportunity to sensitise the community on the need of a borderless Africa and how it will play a major part in reducing the refugee crisis in their community and beyond. They successfully collected 104 signatures from which some were signed by participants in the event and the rest came from the passersby.



Wahenga Youth Group

Promoting the spirit of solidarity and oneness By WeBuild



WeBuild is an organisation and an Africans Rising member in Cameroon aimed at promoting the empowerment of young people in the domain of peacebuilding, preventing violence extremisms, radicalisation of youth and gender-based violence, promoting sustainable development, conflict prevention, intercultural dialogue, human rights and freedom, civic education, nation building, personality development, gender equality.

WeBuild organised a two phase event on the 27th of May in Buea Southwest region of Cameroon to mark the African Liberation week with solidarity token from Africans Rising. The first event was a peaceful demonstration that kicked off early in the morning with over 200 youths marching from the Buea independence square all the way to the Molyko Omnisport stadium.

Dressed in identical T-Shirts and blowing whistles and singing songs of unity calling on the African Union to let Africans move, the demonstration caught the attention of the general public leading to a heavy traffic snarl-up. The demonstrators seized the opportunity to raise awareness and sensitise the public and curious onlookers on the Borderless Africa Campaign and its importance to Africans. A total of 174 persons signed the people's petition on that day.

At sunset, a campfire followed and turned out to be a place of bonding and healing as participants shared a laughter, engaged in different activities which included singing, storytelling and sharing traditional meals.



The aim here was to promote the spirit of solidarity and oneness. As a result, the campfire night was highly embraced and following the requests by participants, it was endorsed as a weekly event and a tool for peacebuilding.

WeBuild

Culture, Art & Africa Borders

By Ambassador Moody Mwiya Prince TV



Ambassador Moody Mwiya Prince TV, a promoter of Pan Africanism, culture, tourism, dance and heritage and an Africans Rising member in Zambia, got solidarity token from Africans Rising and organized two Pan African cultural dance performances. These took place in Livingstone borders between Zambia and Zimbabwe and Kazungula border post in Zambia's Tourist Capital which falls between Zambia and Botswana.

The main objective was to sensitize cross border traders, cross border truck drivers, marketeers and prominent business persons and other local community members around Livingstone district and Kazungula on the borderless Africa Campaign.

Parallel to this event, ambassador partnered with an international Pan-Africanism cultural assembly from the republic of Angola known as SASA CHOKWE Cultural Ensemble and Band who visited Livingstone during the African liberation week celebration along side Likumbi Lya Mize cultural association from Zambia hosted by Ambassador Moody Mwiya Prince TV at Maramba Main Stadium on 20th and 22nd May 2023 at the Main Market.

Over 40,000 persons followed the event both online and in person across different platforms that were live streaming the event.



Ambassador Moody Mwiya Prince TV

The People's petition for the Borderless Africa

Following the recent launch of the People's Petition for the Borderless Africa campaign, Africans Rising has deployed over 200 member volunteers in 30 African countries who are moving around the villages, markets, cities, towns etc to collect signatures of people who may not have a privilege to sign the online petition owing to limited access to the internet. We have over ten thousand signatures collected online and offline by volunteers who are getting communities involved.

Samuel Omare from Nairobi is one of the volunteers who has made waves with an image where he bent over for his back to be used as a surface for the signing of the people's petition. This proves that despite challenges encountered in the field, there are no barriers to signing the people's petition as the volunteers remain engaged. The zeal and passion displayed by people gives hope that Africa will be free, unite and prosper.

Africans Rising continues to seek participation of African people in the #BorderlessAfrica campaign by asking people to sign the online petition.



Stories From our Movement Podcast Series

Our movement recently started a podcast series to feature the amazing stories and successes of our individual and organizational members. We currently have 3 episodes of the "Stories from our Movement" podcast series available in English, Swahili and Arabic.



You can listen to the podcast on



soundcloud.com/africans_rising



anchor.fm/africans-rising



podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/stories-from-our-movement

If you have a story you would like to share, please email us at media@africans-rising.org.