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2.7 As we enter the 21st century we have to pose similar questions about the possibility of our own renewal.

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2.9 So our societies should attempt to take advantage of the advances in all these fields in preparation for the challenges in the 21st century.

3. The African Renaissance - The Third Moment.

- 1.6** *What is certain, however, is that relations between African nation states and the major political and economic countries continued to be determined less by free policy choices on the part of the African countries than what the major donor countries prescribed. It was an unequal relationship both politically and economically.*
- 1.7** *It is also certain that ideological, economic and strategic imperatives of the Cold War played a huge part in the nature of this relationship.*
- 1.8** *Even the political and economic organisational instruments of the developing countries like the Non-Aligned Movement, the OAU and regional economic groupings, were rendered less effective by the ideological alignment of forces within them. To that extent, they ended up as loose formations incapable of empowering the developing countries to secure their independence from the adversity of the Cold War.*
- 1.9** *Today it is widely accepted that political decolonisation over this period, in the main, did not deliver the African peoples from economic and social underdevelopment.*
- 1.10** *The second moment roughly covers the end of the Cold War i.e. towards the end of the 1980's, and the decade of the 1990.*
- 1.11** *Regrettably, the Cold War era has not yet been replaced by a New World Order characterised by the restructuring of international social, economic and political relations with a guarantee for mutual respect and the redress of the legacy of colonialism and neo-colonialism. The bi-polar world of the Cold War has been replaced by the tri-polar economic and social world comprised of North America, Europe and East Asia.*

- 4.14** *There are presently more than 200 such organisations on the continent, more than sixty are intergovernmental and the rest non-governmental. As a result there is multiple membership, duplication, waste of resources and lack of institutional co-ordination.*
- 4.15** *Another important issue about the continental economy is that despite many decades of colonial exploitation, Africa is still heavily endowed with a multiple of natural resources which have not been explored. Africa's mineral resources alone can serve as an important pillar for renewal.*
- 4.16** *The continent has the potential to be self-sufficient in food production many times over. The equatorial area can produce two harvest in a year only on the basis of rain-fed agriculture.*
- 4.17** *Pestilences and endemic diseases serve as one of the biggest draw backs in African Development. The quest for renewal will have to work out a continental programme to combat these evils.*
- 4.18** *Our students of Social Science still have to tell us if there are any thing in the social culture of African life which needs to be identified and enhanced in order to serve the course of the African Renaissance. We are told that the classical renaissance of the 16th century benefited from the Protestant ethic. With the emergence of the Asian Renaissance, classical writings on Confucianism have multiplied in the bookshop shelves of the Western World. Some of those who read them today might not even be aware that in the 1920's Max Weber blamed Confucianism for Asia's economic stagnation.*

4.19 *There is a reason to believe that part of the explanation for the Asian resilience is the fact that Asian cultures were able to limit the extent of Westernisation on their social life. For instance, their written languages and their written traditions provided a more solid base for cultural resistance. They maintained written religious cultures with verifiable histories in Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, etc.*

5. Conclusion

5.1 *There are many elements necessary for the realisation of the renewal of the of the African continent which are still missing. Others, however, have begun to emerge, albeit in a rudimentary form. Our task is not to lament over those that are missing but to work on those that are existent to encourage and bring about those that are still missing.*

5.2 *The inexorable speed with which science, society and the economy of the world change today demands that our continent mobilise every possible resource and take advantage of every opportunity in order to catch up. Failure to do that threatens further marginalisation of the continent.*

5.3 *African people, through their own energies, must seek to realise their African potential domestically, and ultimately, aim to project it upon the world stage.*

5.4 *For this dream to come true we shall have to work tirelessly to build continental unity as well as to build consensus on the programme of action. Certainly, the continent will have to surmount obstacles set up by those who do not wish to see or those who fear a united and renewed continent.*

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1.12 The material basis of this world is the new advances in micro-electronic and biochemical technologies that have revolutionised production, distribution and the communication of knowledge.

1.13 Again, this tri-polar competition is threatening to marginalise the African peoples. With the African countries no longer considered of strategic importance to the interest of big powers as they had been during the Cold War, this marginalisation could be exacerbated even further.

1.14 African countries today find themselves in direct competition with more region economies in Eastern Europe and East Asian for global economic integration. Economic globalisation, in essence, has come to mean competition between the three major economic centres of America, Europe and East Asia. Today capital flows from the West to Africa falls behind those going into Eastern Europe, East Asia and Latin America.

1.15 An important lesson to be drawn from the experience of these two moments of Africa renewal is that the African people's struggle for total emancipation takes place in a real, concrete, albeit ever-changing world. The success of their struggle for total political, social and economic emancipation depends on their ability, both individually and collectively, to exercise meaningful influence in the realm of international relations.

1.16 The third wave of rebirth in our continent can only, in reality, begin to show its full potential in the context of our preparation and entry into the 21st century. It is not the 20th but rather the 21st century which is likely to be the historical era of The African Renaissance.

2. The concept “ Renaissance”

2.1 In popular and academic historical discourse, the concept of renaissance refers to a period in the 15th and 16th century, largely in Europe, when social motion underwent qualitative and quantitative transformation. The salient elements of this transformation were contained, inter alia, in the following developments;

- ♦ **scientific advances in technology and bio-chemistry**
- ♦ **voyages of exploration around the world,**
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- ♦ **the inventions which enhanced the operation of the printing industry,**
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2.2 The two questions which spring to mind are what really constituted the content of that renaissance? What were its main motive forces ?

2.3 The “ salient elements “ stated above are the main elements which constituted the content of that renewal.

2.4 The main motive force was the emergent mercantilist class which sought to multiply its economic fortunes through voyages of exploration and the conquering of foreign markets. This class spawned its own theoreticians, philosophers, poets and painters who sang praises to its credo of an insatiable desire to accumulate and aggrandise. This class together with its intelligentsia acted in collusion with the feudal

wandering between two worlds, one dead, the other unable to be born". We are a generation caught in a historical conjecture which privileges us with the possibility to seize the moment and become the midwives of The African Renaissance.

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- 4.8 South Africa assumes the presidency of the NAM next year. Indeed, we need to ask ourselves a question; in what way can the NAM enhance the drive towards the restructuring of the world order and the project of the African Renaissance.**
- 4.9 The need for a revolution in the curriculum of education in the continent is urgent. Modern and appropriate curriculum is indispensable in social renewal. It is noteworthy that American studies have shown that average school children in Tokyo and Beijing perform better than their counterparts in America, especially in mathematics. In Asian societies family participation and motivation plays a crucial part in the school child's education achievement.**
- 4.10 The enhanced role for education implies both a philosophical and practical content. It implies both a deep understanding of the direction our world is changing and what our role should be in this changing world.**
- 4.11 The inter-locking centrality of education and economic development in renewal is enhanced by the importance we attach to the information technology. The emergence of the Asian Tigers is not unrelated to the fact that there are more cellularphones, photocopies and satellite dish sets per household in Hong Kong and Tokyo than they are in London and Washington.**
- 4.12 Some research has shown that the quantity and quality of the information carried by the press in the advanced Asian countries is far superior to the one obtainable in Europe. The readership of books has also surpassed that of Europe.**

4.4 *Linked very close to this wave should be the struggle for the emancipation of the African woman from the claws of patriarchy. The point should be made that the process of democratisation is incomplete without the emancipation of African women. It should be emphasised that the liberation of the African woman shall set free more than half of the African population for it to contribute fully in the third moment of a continental renaissance.*

4.5 *The theme of The African Renaissance should constitute one of the major programmes of the youth movement in the continent. It is this generation which possesses the capacity to ensure the general sustainability of this programme well into the new century.*

4.6 *The continent needs capable political leadership and stable societies. The continent needs the leadership which can win progressive political debates within their own countries and provide effective national, continental and global leadership.*

4.7 *The talk about the New World Order should entail the restructuring and repositioning of many of the regional, continental and international institutions in line with the objective of empowering the developing countries. Not only should global institutions like the UN, IMF and the World Bank change, but organisations of the developing countries like the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the OAU should define their roles anew. These organisations should begin to gear themselves for the task of socio-economic empowerment.*

3.14 The larger section of this emerging middle class, either as individuals, as small businesses or through its organised unions should be encouraged to move closer to the levers of economic ownership and production. This section of the middle class, should also assume an entrepreneurial role, and become a crucial component in economic democratisation and sustainable economic growth.

3.15 This middle class should also be understood and be seen as the driving force of civil society. A strong, integrated civil society is indispensable in the development of a strong, integrated economy and bureaucracy geared at serving the people.

3.16 A “renaissance” is an historical moment whose many elements will develop independently, irrespective of our subjective intentions. It cannot simply be decreed or conjured up like a spell but will arise on the basis of a certain minimum of factors. However, without an integrated programme of action to build upon those minimum factors, the dream of the renaissance shall forever be deferred or remain a romantic idealistic concept.

3.17 It is therefore imperative to identify the key areas of action which African peoples, individually and collectively, should engage in, and fashion out the programme of action.

4. The Programme of Action

3.4 One of the most fundamental elements which constitute the content of this renewal is the construction of a growing and sustainable economy capable of assimilating the best characteristics, contribute to and take advantage of the real flows of economic activities around the world.

3.5 There is no experience so unique as to keep others from learning something from it, although what exactly is to be learnt and to what degree from a particular experience would be different for each country.

3.6 East Asia today sets the benchmark of global standards in many industrial products. East Asia finances American debt.

3.7 Emphasis on sustainable economic growth and competitiveness does not imply that the wave of an African renaissance cannot commence before this economic reality is achieved. What is certain, however, is that this economic condition is an essentials element for the survival and consolidation oaf this African dream.

3.8 All great moments in history are preceded by their visionaries, their philosophers and their strategists. Certainly, the moment of the 21st century dawning coupled with the political, scientific and economic changes in our world, presents a moment whose possibility for radical transformation is multiplied several times over.

- 4.1** *It has already been stated above that every major historical epoch is heralded by its own visionaries, theoreticians, strategies, philosophers, politicians, poets, prose writers, painters etc. Certainly, the 21st century, if it is to become the century of African renewal, should be ushered in by all its people through a programme of action, meant not only to galvanise and sensitise the continent about its import, but also meant to send a strong message to the world that in this coming century the African continent cannot be marginalised.*
- 4.2** *Among other things, that programme should be comprised of seminars, conferences, exhibitions, sport events, cultural shows, etc. It is in context that the Olympic bid for 2004 as well as the Soccer World Cup in 2006 should be projected as African bids. In this regard a continental and global programme needs to be set in motion.*
- 4.3** *The new wave for the democratisation of the African continent should be broaden, deepened and sustained as part of the quest for Africa's rebirth. The African continent must lead the world by example that is a continent based on the will of its people and singularly dedicated to their total emancipation. One does not have to emphasise that in pursuing this agenda the many realities of the African continent should be taken into consideration.*

***“ The African Renaissance:
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- 1. Introduction - Two moments of African Renewal***
- 1.1 The end of the Cold War and the surge of more open political and economic interaction on a world scale, has inspired new vision of political and economic renewal in Africa surpassed only by the optimism which greeted the first years of decolonisation in the 1960s.***
- 1.2 Campaigns for democratisation in the 1990s and the political liberation of South Africa in particular, have energised African peoples nearly as profoundly as did the nationalist movement more than two generations ago.***
- 1.3 These two moments of African rebirth serve as dress rehearsals and, indeed, they hold important lessons for the third moment i.e. The African Renaissance.***
- 1.4 The first moments would roughly cover the period from the time of Ghana's independence in 1957 to the collapse of the socialist community of states in 1989.***
- 1.5 There are many debates over reasons why the developing countries, Africa especially, could not effectively utilise this moment of political liberation in order to usher in a moment of social and economic emancipation.***

3.1 *It is difficult to discuss the possibility of the emergence of the era of renaissance in our continent without occasionally making reference to the new Asian Renaissance. It is widely accepted that the phenomenon of this Asian resurgence has not been fully grasped by historians, economist and politicians alike. However, those of the African continent who are engaged in social transformation of their societies cannot ignore its historical significance as well as its sheer socio-economic scope and dimension. As a result, in the projection of our own continent, we are bound to look for lessons from some of its indices.*

3.2 *The advent of the East Asia economic miracle is one of the most important socio-economic developments of the 20th century. The term globalisation, to a certain measure, has come to mean economic competition between the East Asia and the West. This miracle has offered hope to the people of Africa that economic development can be rapid and can be achievable without the annexation of foreign markets through imperial physical force. It is instructive to note that in 1960 South Korea has a per capita GNP exactly equal to that of Ghana. Today South Korea has ten times more.*

3.3 *The raison detire for a renaissance in the African continent is the need to empower African peoples to deliver themselves from the legacy of colonialism and neo colonialism and to situate themselves on the global stage as equal and respected contributors to as well as beneficiaries of all the achievements of human civilisation. Just as the continent was once the cradle of humanity and an important contributor to civilisation, this renaissance should empower it to help the world rediscover the oneness of the human race.*

3.9 Which elements will constitute the main motive forces of renewal in the African continent? An important observation to be made is that sustainable economic growth and competitiveness on a world scale has necessitated a corresponding change in the nature of the division of labour as well as the skills straining of the work force. Especially the influence of information and micro- electronic technology on the production and the service industry.

3.10 A new proletariat class is emerging unionised into new form of trade unions which are increasingly cutting a role for themselves in the market place of economic ownership, production and distribution. It is a working class which is demanding a more respectable relationship at the working place because it is convinced that economic sustainability and growth can benefit many fold from its larger say at this level.

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3.12 In the African context, however, form of economic production and ownership are still largely rural and subsistent. Optimum economic growth and economic development will only be realised with the incorporation of the rural masses in the economy of the information technology.

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3.14 The larger section of this emerging middle class, either as individuals, as small businesses or through its organised unions should be encouraged to move closer to the levers of economic ownership and production. This section of the middle class, should also assume an entrepreneurial role, and become a crucial component in economic democratisation and sustainable economic growth.

3.15 This middle class should also be understood and be seen as the driving force of civil society. A strong, integrated civil society is indispensable in the development of a strong, integrated economy and bureaucracy geared at serving the people.

3.16 A “renaissance” is an historical moment whose many elements will develop independently, irrespective of our subjective intentions. It cannot simply be decreed or conjured up like a spell but will arise on the basis of a certain minimum of factors. However, without an integrated programme of action to build upon those minimum factors, the dream of the renaissance shall forever be deferred or remain a romantic idealistic concept.

3.17 It is therefore imperative to identify the key areas of action which African peoples, individually and collectively, should engage in, and fashion out the programme of action.

4. The Programme of Action

4.4 *Linked very close to this wave should be the struggle for the emancipation of the African woman from the claws of patriarchy. The point should be made that the process of democratisation is incomplete without the emancipation of African women. It should be emphasised that the liberation of the African woman shall set free more than half of the African population for it to contribute fully in the third moment of a continental renaissance.*

4.5 *The theme of The African Renaissance should constitute one of the major programmes of the youth movement in the continent. It is this generation which possesses the capacity to ensure the general sustainability of this programme well into the new century.*

4.6 *The continent needs capable political leadership and stable societies. The continent needs the leadership which can win progressive political debates within their own countries and provide effective national, continental and global leadership.*

4.7 *The talk about the New World Order should entail the restructuring and repositioning of many of the regional, continental and international institutions in line with the objective of empowering the developing countries. Not only should global institutions like the UN, IMF and the World Bank change, but organisations of the developing countries like the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the OAU should define their roles anew. These organisations should begin to gear themselves for the task of socio-economic empowerment.*