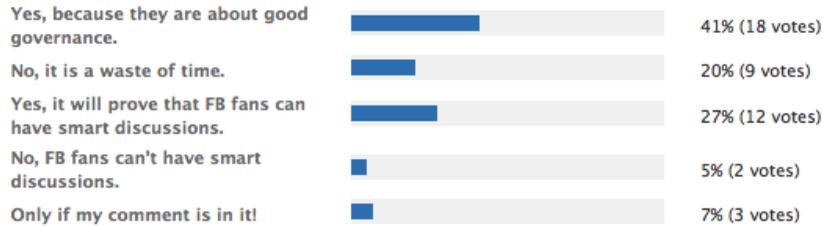


This FB page has 700+ comments made during Clinton's trip to Africa. Should they be made into a book?



Joe

That's for sure, and a nice idea. Should they include my comment :P?

Dina

Not really.

Debbie

I think dat's not a bad idea!

Sadiq

That would be an inspiring innovation.

Di

Yes, because I think that too much was made of her reaction in the Congo to that statement about her husband. Not enough has been shared about all the positive aspects of her visit. She is a great diplomat.

Ikenna

I think she should be a bit more respectful when making statements on our Polity. The woman's great but she made some "Out of the line statements"... vis-a-vis Corruption has entrenched Your country!! I mean it's true but Come on! -- not from YOU!!

Lidia

If she's right on corruption, why take

offence on that, do yourself a favour and read her biography, and meet a Hilary that you can admire.

Ikenna

I do not think that talking the truth is disrespectful.

Ida

Good idea!! But select for the best comments.

Maina

I support that. Let's see what everyone had to say. It will also be part of Obama's legacy. You can't fail on that one.

Willie

Yes!!!! It will give us an idea how people are thinking.

Teko

No, let's start the African journal for Africans only.

Isiaka

Yes. At least for the historical record.

Abul

Ah! how nice it will b! It's a constructive idea.



Comment!

Good governance and other hot topics on Facebook



In August 2009 Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited seven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Fans of the Facebook page eJournal USA made more than 700 comments about her trip and many of the profound issues facing Africa and the world today. Presented here is a selection of their remarks.



Clinton Plans Seven-Nation Africa Trip

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will begin a seven-nation trip to Africa on August 4 to highlight the U.S. commitment to sub-Saharan Africa's economic development while also emphasizing Africa as a place of opportunity, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said.

Clinton begins the visit at the 8th U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, better known as the AGOA Forum (named for the African Growth and Opportunity Act), in Nairobi, Kenya. Clinton will continue her travel with visits to South Africa, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Liberia and Cape Verde.

"This trip will highlight the Obama administration's commitment to making Africa a priority in U.S. foreign policy," Kelly said. It is the earliest time in any U.S. administration that both the president and secretary of state have visited Africa.

"In each nation, she will emphasize Africa as a place of opportunity, built on the ethic of responsibility," Kelly said. "She will underline America's commitment to partner with governments, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations and private citizens to build societies where each individual can realize their potential."



Above, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Kenyan Foreign Minister, Moses Wetungula, arrive at the 8th Africa Growth Opportunity Act Conference (AGO), in Nairobi, Kenya, 5 August 2009. (© AP Images)



From eJournal USA on Facebook

31 July 2009

Clinton Arrives in Nairobi Tuesday

comments

Lanre

"Emancipate yourself from mental slavery, none but ourselves can free our mind.....continent" - Bob Marley

Hillary Clinton is surely very and warmly welcome, but it still grieves my person that at this point in time what Africans are good at is paper presentations, jaw jaw, war, starvation, hunger, pestilence, poverty, misery, despondency. Yet we are naturally blessed with more than half of the world resources and potentially capable human capital. WHAT IS WRONG??? AFRICANS WAKE UP!!! It's time. Nobody can help us if we don't help ourselves.

Nyarko

WE really have to do something to eradicate hunger in Africa. It hurts to be hungry.

2 August

Dickens

Those who have not been to Africa may think that it is the most poorest place to ever exist in the world, but Africa is one of the richest continents

in the world. Many young people run to look for greener pastures in other places like USA and other parts of the world, not because there is nothing good but because of these different reasons:

1- Maybe the political situation in that country is too corrupt to a level that nothing under the moon could be made possible ...

2- Maybe the greener pasture seekers do not know their responsibility to make change in their own countries, to make it look like the other countries they admire. They may think that running out of Africa can solve the problems facing their families but that is a selfish idea.

Most of our African leaders have failed us in many ways but its also wise to think on how we have contributed towards the fail.

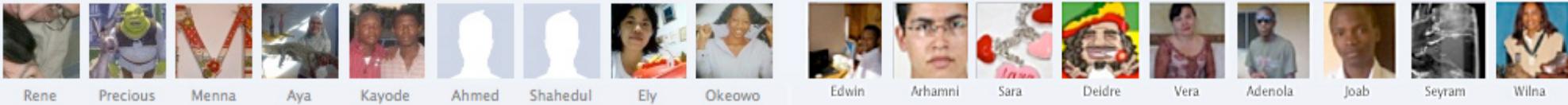
3 August

Nyameino

Welcome to Kenya madam secretary but tell the ruling elite about the truth. ...

Osy

She should have a very good meeting with our leaders and let them know that Africa should reform then open up to the world to help them develop. Africa needs a lot but we can start somewhere at least -- stable energy (Electricity) good roads as well as security --these will attract



investment that will create jobs.

Moses

The International community should help Africa to be self-reliant, that's the only way Africa can circumnavigate the predicaments facing them. Africa has all the resources necessary for being self-reliant. Don't give us bread, instead show us how to make bread.

Ahmed

That is great idea Mister, but the disturbing question is 'ARE THEY READY TO SHOW THE MEANS OF GETTING THE BREAD?' I highly doubt.

Nyameino

It's high time we try to sort ourselves out. Thanks for trade opportunities but what the U.S. should insist on is to entrench institutions which are democratic. This way the poor citizen can hope for a better tomorrow.

Maureen

I don't think Africans understand what democracy means.

Eunice

I disagree, Africans do understand what democracy means, the problem is actualizing democratic policies in their countries. I believe it's the desire of every African country to be seen as democratic in the eyes of the world. Bad leadership and lack of (realistic) support from the rest of the world makes this dream almost impossible to achieve.

Nyameino

Can Africans assist themselves? Are Americans, Chinese, Indians sincere or they come to satisfy their needs? What we need is patriotism, self-determination and a little pride and faith in ourselves.

Ademitope

Well spoken! If we want change we should start it frm within! All these cries! We are doin more damages to ourself thn anyone cn do 2 us! We lack discipline if we cn like wht others have then we shld do it d way othrs do things!

Bosco

hmmm! Africans! Who is truly an African? Why does an African person do the things he does? You see, it is not just enough to be African, it is to know the "whyness" of your "Africaness." If and only if Africans can de-robe themselves of that PRIDE, that self-determination will always be a captive in our negativities.

Mary

I am not sure whether this is the right forum for me to address the secretary of State. However, Madam, may I please remind you that USA got Independence in 1776!!!! But as late as 1968(When Martin Luther was assassinated), America still had major issues to deal with. (That is 192 years after independence!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!) While I appreciate that we need one another, what makes the U.S. become Kenya's prefect!!!!!!!!!! Look at the U.S. History and allow us to be!!!!!!!!!! I am

proud to be Kenyan. I am proud to be an African.

4 August

Has violence against women affected you?

Dina

Yes and a lot of others.

Violet

Yes o! It's time the female folks especially in Africa be liberated from the shackles of masculine oppression and marginalization tru international policies.

Belinda

Even if I am not personally affected, any form of violence against women should be punished severely. Weak men who cannot stand up to their fellow men but find women ready victims for their miniature egos should be brought to book. Stringent legal measures have to be put in place to serve as a deterrent. Women should not only be called weaker vessels for convenience. Even though they are mentally or emotionally and sometimes physically strong, they are first humans; whose rights must be protected from wanton abuse at all times.

Colette

Africa.... 1 - get rid of the dictators, 2 - contraception! People are dying of hunger, but yet keep on having babies. If you cant even feed yourself how can you bring new life into the

world? 3 - EDUCATION!!! When these issues are addressed the rest will follow. The main issues in Africa are hunger, unemployment, HIV/AIDS, crime, discrimination, fear. Greedy dictators, overpopulation and a lack of education forms the roots of these problems.

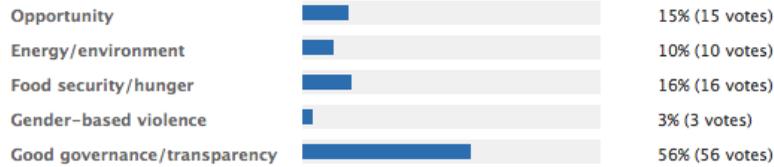
Estelle

Colette - the following on your post - 1. yeah get rid of dictators. ... 2. Contraception and education go hand in hand and AIDS goes with all this too. 3. You cannot do anything about the above till the people don't have JOBS. And this all points back to dictators who spend money on weapons and puts the rest of it in their back pockets! So the main thing - start from the top and clean up!

Kehinde

See, there our problems becomes elongated. How do we expect an outsider to do for us what we ought to do for ourselves? Will Europe or America leave their own developmental pursuits to focus on Africa? Nobody is that stupid, they will always talk about aid and all that but have you not heard of the book "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa"? Ask yourself how the aid-fund goes away like powder in the wind, money received by our leader finds it's way back in some foreign accounts back across the Atlantic. We don't need nobody to change out situation for us but ourselves, we need to stop being so myopic about this whole situation, get things right, we have all it takes

Secretary Clinton will address many issues in Africa. Which is most important to you? Why?



Nicholas

The most important issue to address is 'good governance/ transparency. Of all the problems associated with Africa, I think we can solve them all if we are able to have leaders whose value reflect the wishes of the people. Leaders who understand that leadership is responsibility to the people and not opportunity to emancipate wealth.

Maureen

African countries do not practice good governance and transparency and this is brought up by selfish leaders who mislead the common mwananchi. African countries have enough resources and expertise required but they are not utilized properly because of poor governance.

Blandine

Good Governance/Transparency is the root of every real progress in any system of government. Because it allows all deserving individuals a chance to serve their country with talents, skills that they may possess, it also promotes equal right and justice for citizen of all

levels and background. Therefore i think a specific emphasis should be put on the subject.

Malowa

Africa has enough resources and African's are extremely intelligent. There is no reason why we shouldn't be able to solve our own problems such as insecurity, food shortages etc. The only deterrents are our corrupt governments and the educated elite who don't care either way! We need good governance and transparency before anything else can be sorted out.

Sukoluhle

I believe Africa has the resources to develop and be rich if only democracy was as real as propaganda. If we can curb the brain drain from Africa and have all the young people who left for the Diaspora for greener pastures return and help build Africa it would be a good beginning. African is in need of change and good leadership skills. We need good leaders, more than heroes.



to stand up for the development of our dear continent only if our so called "leader" would stop to make us believe that we need help from outside to survive. We can't afford to keep behaving like beggars, we are blessed enough to feed, clothe and lead the world in developmental strides if we so desires.

Simon

Thanks to Secretary of State Clinton. I have had continuous love for her and her style of diplomacy. She called it "Smart Power diplomacy". We are expecting her here in Nigeria.

Blesseagle

Always remember the heart comes before head.

Nwadi

Blesseagle, did u mean to say 'the head comes b4 the heart'?

Adjabeng

Yet still leaders will look on while children are sent to their graves just because of mosquito bites.

Nicholas

The main change that is needed is the dependent attitude of Africans. If one's house is on fire and he decides to wait for the fire service without making a call, the lose will be terrible. PLEASE LET US change our attitudes at the personal and communal levels.

Gavin

Dear Secretary Clinton, Thank you for

being such a strong and determined leader. You're an inspiration to so many. I am forever grateful for all your hard work. Have a wonderful and productive time in Africa and welcome to South Africa! Would love to meet you in person one day.

Lidia

Gavin, Hilary is indeed a strong leader and I am a great fan, pity she did not become the President of America.

Gavin

I think everything has worked out for the better. I was a huge supporter of her run for POTUS [President of the United States]. Both Hillary and Barack are wonderfully talented people and will do immense good for the world. Hillary has gone further than any woman before and as she said the glass ceiling for woman has been shattered into millions of pieces. It would have been wonderful for her to be President, but Obama is definitely a superb choice too.

Deidre

Gavin, u not here to write poetry, or a author to be, just say it out loud! These 2 ppl are going to change the face of Africa ...

6 August

Can Africa become the world's breadbasket?

Abdelzaher

And also the world's Eggsbasket!



Shamala



Victor



Vida



Ademola



Trevor



Ikechukwu



Sofowora



Azalea



Radwa



Belinda



Ida



Bolade



Justus



Eva



Nagai



Monica



Don



Alex

Lola

It's all up to us. We can't blame the leaders - we made them into what they are otherwise we wouldn't have history repeat itself over and over again. We must keep talking at these and other forums and make our leaders AND OURSELVES accountable for each and everything we do.

Goddy

Africans can do better if the dead-minded, corrupt leaders of Africa can change their attitude of money laundering and stealing. Also, if the international community really thinks that they want a change in Africa, they should reject all money laundered to their respective countries. Then we can start talking of Change in Africa and it been the 'breadbasket' of the world.

Lola

I think we must first and foremost change our attitudes right from an individual perspective. How is it that we complain about corrupt leaders for forty years?!?! Do leaders in Africa land from the moon or mars? We, we the voters must hold the leaders we vote in accountable every step of the way otherwise we can talk ourselves hoarse with all these grandiose ideas without any meaningful outcome.

Nicholas

It's obvious that the Obama administration wants Africa to succeed. His intention is a good one but make no mistake that no amount

of good intention will work with same set of crime fanatics we have now as leaders. We will be pouring water into the ocean. What the west needs to do now, is to pressure these rogues we have as leaders to let democracy reign. Let them lead not with the gun but with ballot.

7 August

Is a 'world without malaria' possible?

Peter

It is possible if all the scientists responsible stop sleeping on their jobs, and the governments enforce what the scientist recommend and citizens toe the line of their governments. ...

Steve

I think we should blame African government because mostly highly qualified African are hired to work in foreigner's countries. For instance if am a scientist and am not well paid by the government, then I can look for a place to earn more money because I am highly qualified. If Africans are not keen enough that means everyone in Africa will be corrupt like their leaders cause they are our role model and you should do what your role model do.

Willie

That's right, but the people must wake up and do it. That is personal power, the ability to act. Africans will cry and die as long as the people just

complain. Action can change Africa. Everyone can be a leader, not just the family of leaders. Find new blood and new leaders with a heart for the people.

Mohamed

If u don't know any thing about Africa issues or don't visit plz don't speak.

Willie

I'm in Africa and from Africa, I know Africa and also its problems. People should speak out!!!! Too long people have been silenced and kept in the dark by criminals who think they know everything in association with corrupt leaders. Mohamed, are you an African????

Adeyemi

It doesn't matter if Mohammed is an African. You are making a cogent point. We as Africans are responsible for our fate. Our present is a result of the decisions we took in the past and our future depends on what we do today. Malaria and very many other issues plaguing the continent can be history if leaders and the followers get responsible and accountable

Richie

Let's ask the mosquitoes, after our politicians!

8 August

Great comment from a fan: "Good Local governance and transparency with accountability are what Africans leaders need

to emulate..." What are some ways to achieve this goal in your community?

Xara

by wipin out da verminz dat tread in our gov't n involving da kumn up generation in da upkeep o da country. cz most o da leaders r jst striving to make emslvz fat bundles of money ignorin da no o ppl below da poverty line.d leaders need to wake up n smel d vile air dey spreadin arau, n we d youth shud awakn doz sleepn lions!!!

Nedal

I the only one who doesn't see any accountability from any of our 'leaders'?

Samuel

Transparent electoral process at the local level would prepare the ground.

Llewellyn

Come on. Get real! Not only are the phrases "good local governance" & "transparency with accountability" both oxymorons in South Africa, but the debate is about as fruitful as what happens when the unstoppable force hits the immovable object.

John

The truth is that most African leaders are not ready for change. In Nigeria every move made at changing the status quo is vehemently resisted. All manners of opposition come into play. Once you are not on the side of the corrupt government you are shown the way out. And if you refuse



Above, Secretary Clinton visits the Victoria Mxenge housing development in Khayelitsha, near Cape Town, South Africa, 8 August. (© AP Images)

from America.gov 9 August 2009

Clinton Returns to Volunteer at South African Housing Project

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

On the last day of her visit to South Africa, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton danced, worked at a construction site, and praised South Africans who had pooled their savings and built homes for 50,000 people who had formerly lived in shacks.

Clinton visited the Victoria Mxenge housing development near Cape Town August 8, named for a South African anti-apartheid activist who was assassinated in 1985.

This was Secretary Clinton's third visit to the housing development. As first lady, she volunteered in 1997 with her daughter Chelsea and returned in 1998 with her husband, then-President Bill Clinton.

"I am very proud to see the progress that you have made, and to know that because of your efforts and this model, there are 50,000 houses built like this across South Africa," Clinton told community members.

The secretary said she had come "to sight-see," but according to news reports, she and her staff joined teams of women who were clearing rubble from a new construction site and planting flowers. She also danced as a choir sang for her arrival at the housing development.



Cynthia Osy Nyameino Moses Ahmed Anthony Jummana Eunice Oboke

your life can be sacrificed in the process. The present crop of African leaders needs to be flushed out to actually prepare ground for a fresh beginning. ...

Lucy

Good governance and transparency will only come to Africa through change of attitude and expectation from the people of Africa. As long as we accept substandard services the leaders will always assume that it's ok. We should also participate in decision-making and bring up our children well.

Caesar

Good governance starts with strong, independent and functioning institutions, not governors. Africa must get this right first and do something about the instruments of ruling i.e the constitution and think less about the players (the governors).

Nancy

An informed citizen need be at the forefront of any discourses that affects the well being of the populace at large therefore, in my humble opinion, I believe formal education ought to be one of the primary tools and springboards that will contribute greatly toward achieving the living standard, aspired by most Africans for so long, and for so long enjoyed by the developed countries.

Seynam

Legislation legislation legislation!

Hold all leaders accountable for their stewardship in office - if possible prison sentence for non-performers. Better election process, democracy has been compromise we need to evolve a better system.

Inny

The revolution is here, become an agent of change, say no to corrupt practices, Africa must embrace good governance with accountability. Let all youth arise, shun violence, cultism, and ritual killing/murder. As a youth refuse to be used by any godfather to cause chaos, don't be a society menace; Africa can do it, YES WE CAN.

Rose

I agree with what Lucy and Nana say. Africans have the same problems of poverty, disease, illiteracy and corruption. For us in Kenya Tribalism is a major hindrance. That even if you are a leader of integrity and morals (a leader Kenya really needs) you have to belong to the right tribe or be right with the tribes. Our attitude and stereotype towards tribe must change for us to forge forward. What we end up having are greedy rulers who don't care about us.

Again the mentality that the tribe in power is the one that enjoys national resources that are supposed to be shared equally among tribes is what drives us to war with each other.

Okoroafor

What Africans really need at this



point in time is total change of attitude. Africans should learn to celebrate hard work other than praising corrupt leaders who are power drunk. This change of attitude starts from our various families, parents should try to inculcate the attitude of selflessness in their children because they are the leaders of tomorrow. Think of what you will be remembered for when you have gone, what would the people you come in contact with say about you, - have I been able to impact positively in the lives of the people around me? - when we have all this in the back of our mind our attitude will change and Africa will be a better place to be. Think of what you can do for the people around not what the can do for you. God will deliver Africa someday.

Owolabi

I think the first thing Africa and Africans have to recognize is that there is a problem and after recognizing the problems then they can seek amongst themselves for solutions and not look up to external bodies for solutions. Organizations in Africa should start sponsoring research on good governance in Africa because the style in Africa is quite different from that of the western world. We have in Africa different cultures and beliefs that are very opposite the cultures and beliefs of the western world that will require a different style of governance. This is why organizations need to sponsor

research on good governance in Africa and how to relate and put together the western cultures to match the development of Africa and to aid the positive mental thinking of all Africans.

We are Africans, we have the solutions in us and I believe that we can do it if Africans will rise up to their challenges. I will like to participate in more of eJournal USA forum about Africa.

Nicholas

Simply by free electoral system. I believe that if peoples wish is done via voting, they will vote in people with right conscience that will lead them to greater height.

Gaurav

First of all I don't know much about Africa's situation, still I would like to share my opinion on 'governance' as a common point for every country. Just like the elders' of the family guide n control their children (keeping in mind d collective interests of the family as a whole), the leaders of respective nations should control n guide it the same way. For this they should love their people as they love their families, tears in anyone else's eyes should bring tears in their eyes. ...

John

Many comments have actually suggested free electoral system. The problem is the absence of a sincere institution to implement the free

electoral system. ...

Olohirenuah

I like what u guys are doing u should keep it up, they should shun alcohol and say no to drugs.

Abul

Is true, but difficult, sometimes impossible here in our community, as leader in power, loses morality 'n swims in corruptions.

Armon

If you ask me all the old leaders should be laid off and young ones be given the opportunity to serve. Also leaders should see their positions as that of service and not bossing.

Uju

Free and transparent electoral process, so we can vote for leaders with CONSCIENCE!

Anita

Good local governance is the key to good living anywhere in the world. In India too the need for accountable and public spirited/service leadership is a dire requirement. Most of the programs and welfare measures do not function on account of absence of locally accountable and transparent leadership. But in this cause people are the greatest catalysts. Until they demand better local administration - and strive for it - local leaders will continue to remain inept and incompetent.

Johannes

According to me there are some

ways to achieve this goal, where the leader should be:

1. Believe in God
2. Has a good Intelligence Quotient
3. Has a good Emotion Quotient, and
4. Has a good Spirit Quotient.
5. Willing to be criticized any time.

Ayo

Political reform in Africa can only be seriously contemplated when the endless circle of poverty is greatly minimized.

Omotunde

In Nigeria, we have got to devise a way/ways of making our leaders accountable. So far people always have solutions to our multifarious problems until they get to the position of leadership. Then, they develop amnesia and start on money amassing programmes, meanwhile, their purse keeps getting deeper and with long term amnesia, they forget completely why they are there in the first place. The Almighty Father gave us mouth to talk. We need to use it constructively, positively, progressively to save ourselves and future generations from further retrogression. WE MUST START NOW!!!!!!!

Ousanee

It is so interesting to learn about transparency with accountability if anyone has good journals to share, please feel free to. I am looking forward to receiving them.



Members the Angolan National Assembly prepare for roundtable meeting with Secretary Clinton in Luanda, Angola, 10 August 2009. (Department of State Photo)

from America.gov 10 August 2009

Clinton Pledges U.S. Partnership for Angola's Growing Democracy

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Citing the importance of government transparency and strong institutions to protect rights and ensure accountability, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told Angolan lawmakers their country can become one of Africa's leading nations, and the United States wants to work in partnership to help Angola realize its full potential.

Speaking to the Angolan National Assembly in Luanda August 9, Clinton said the Obama administration believes Angola "is positioned to be

a leader on the economic front, the social and political fronts, the security front, in every way."

"After 27 years of war, there is a lot of work to do," she said. She praised the peaceful 2008 National Assembly elections and said the role of Angola's legislature is "absolutely crucial" in defining the country's future.

"The parliament must demand accountability and transparency, and stand against financial corruption and abuse of power," she told lawmakers. "Indeed, I believe no democracy can thrive and bring benefits to its people over the long term without an elected body like a parliament that represents the will of the people and holds leaders accountable."



9 August

Do you see good governance in your own country?

Dina
hell no

Ijeoma
I think the whole world is still struggling in varying degrees to get democratization right but in Africa our leaders have gone to a whole new level in creating and imposing a militarized version of democracy on their citizenry. Western models of democracy will never work for us, we have to find our own model, one that is fair and humanitarian-based.

Ugo
IN A WAY ...YES, with full realization that absolute good governance is utopianistic.

Faten
We need democracy in our life. It's the right thing to do everything and the way to live better.

Wilna
Democracy – is it something that we can purchase? -- It is within you and me. We should find it -- how? Education -- we can make it happen if we engage democratically in dialogue, debate and through reasoning and interaction. We will learn about each other's needs -- find understanding -- and live accordingly in a democratic society....Shouldn't each one of us start to govern

ourselves.. in a democratic way...

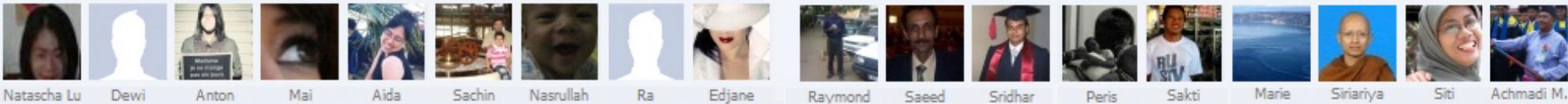
Phinehas
Every thriving society is as a result of good governance. Ghana is now the biggest thing in the world today. Good governance is seriously working. What Africa needs is not strong men - it's strong institutions that will only come about through good governance.

Adejoke
Good governance can be achieved in my country when there is transparency in all ties of government!

Nani
Secretary Clinton said, "true economic progress in Africa will depend on responsible governments that reject corruption, enforce the rule of law and deliver results for their people. This is not just about good governance - it's also about good business." This is true, the same thing can be to Latin America, including my country, Brazil.

Nanoo
Sure Nani, I'm with u, that economic progress will be achieved with a government official, and also in the presence of active participation between the government and people and the openness of all aspects of things between the two governments and individuals.

Omotunde
Good governance is service to the



people. It considers what will benefit the majority of the people being served both now and in the future. It involves a type of government that takes into consideration our peculiar environment and needs. We need not follow democracy to the T, we need to evolve our own Naijacracy that is suited to our environment.

Osifo
Omotunde u are right

Cletus
We cannot claim to have good governance when our democracy has become a laughing stock all over the world. Good governance comes from true democracy where majority of the people are carried along in the everyday implementation of policies. Not a situation where a political few act selfishly and greedily at expense of the majority of the people they claim to govern. That to me is "bad governance".

9 August

Women Are Drivers of Positive Change

Dina
Women rock

Stacy
Dina, I second that - Women Rock!

Ijeoma
Certainly, the 'iron' lady of America!! There is a lot to admire in her, she's not pretending to be anyone but

who she is and fights tooth and nail for what she believes in. That's the power of a woman.

Raja
Hillary could you please raise your voice for the women of Kashmir?

Om
First get rid of Taliban and others like LeT [terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Toiba], etc who do not allow women even the right of education.

Ugo
Let us be careful how we further divide the unity of our human society. We are becoming too gender sensitive and that could be the beginning of a new kind of social ill. It doesn't matter if Hillary is male or female, the fact is that she is on top of her responsibilities. PLS. PEOPLE STOP THIS GENDER CRAZE!!!

Abdul-Razak
I love you for that Ugo, thanks

Soyeb
We should do more about women. In Bangladesh and India women are far behind than men in every field. I think this situation is prevailing everywhere in the world.

Adejoke
Women are drivers of positive change because whenever a woman is put in any humanitarian position, she discharges her role with the blessed instinct God has endowed her with

most especially in her caring attitude as a mother and sister. she also breeds future generations of leaders! Kudos to all mothers!

Lydia
Both women and men can play great roles in advocating change! What matters is the kind of change they're driving and how that transforms the living standards of ordinary people and the poor of the poorest! We leaders touring the world, attending conferences of whatever kind, signing all kinds of agreements and cooperation, but there's little transformation happening at the grassroot level esp. among many African countries!

Magdalene
Yup you educate a man you educate one person BUT if you educate a WOMAN you educate a whole nation.

Martine
I was privileged to be at a dinner with Hillary this weekend in South Africa and her stance towards women can only make improvements to so many lives.

Abdirahman
Hey Fellow Africans, We Should look for solutions within Africa, real Democracy is the only way OUT! Any way, I'm very thankful to Mrs. Clinton for trying!

Willie
Always remember, Mrs. Clinton is not in Africa to change Africa, she

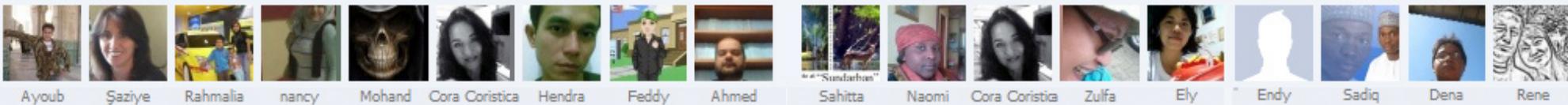
cannot!! She is here in Africa to help Africans to change themselves. Their mindsets and their action. If Africans cannot change their mindsets and actions, Africa will remain the same for the next 100 years!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Poverty comes from the wrong actions and decisions you make. Your mindsets are equal to the standard of your life or the result of your life. Change that and Africa will change!!! I've seen women do things for people where men would back down long ago. Where are our real men? Too many abusers and lazy men hanging around and looking for someone to worship them. I've worked for years with poor people in poor communities. If you want something done, give it to women. You will be amazed. I'm a man! Where are our real MEN?

9 August is National Women's Day in South Africa. Is the empowerment of women a step towards good governance in your community?

Nicole
Yes it sure is!!!

Mazin
How u can know that?

Ijeoma
I believe so too. I think more women should take up positions of leadership in Africa, we will certainly see positive changes if and when they do.



Shirangi

Of course, woman need to be empowered for good governance in any community not only my community.

Anne-marie

Definitely. Especially in Africa women r da most hardworking yet da most neglected when it comes to economic empowerment.

Om

Empowerment of women is empowerment of nation. Africa needs it urgently.

Cynthia

Empowerment of women everywhere is a step towards good governance, good families, healthy children.

Ugo

Women need not to be “empowered” what they need is to rise to the occasion and possess their possessions. Democracy encourages competition and women must be ready to compete and be the best of whatever they are in other to earn leadership...after all, nobody “empowered” Men or even women like Benazir Bhutto, Margret Thatcher etc.

Abdul-Razak

Yes the empowerment of women is a major step towards good governance in Ghana. Both the past and current government have shown great commitment in empowering our mothers and sisters. This is the

way forward if women are allowed to pay roles in politics, business etc then they can stand foot to foot with men and contribute to national development. I will say yes, the empowerment of women is a step towards good governance in my community.

Cynthia

If most women had a business that could support their family, children would not go hungry, if most women had a business that made sure that their children were not hungry, their children would be better educated, better educated means that there is a possibility, not certainty, that more informed, enlightened choices will be made concerning governance. Somewhere compassion and mercy must also be cultivated or else you get, well fed, well educated grown up spoiled brats who become dictators. A community curriculum for positive change would be an interesting curriculum indeed.

Adejoke

Yes because when women are given their right and seen equal to men in achieving success in any endeavor, their will be justice in the world and women would not be seen as only mothers and cooks in the kitchen. They would be seen as a tool towards contributing to the growth and development of any environment she finds herself.

Joy

Women need to take the steps

necessary to empower themselves - and therefore families. We need to stop asking for permission to be who we know we can be, who we really are. And we need to stop waiting for someone else to liberate us- whether that is emotionally, financially or economically. the power to transform our lives lies within us. it is a matter of making a conscious choice to choose something different and to stick your neck out to be bold enough to make that change! I believe in transforming from within regardless of what is going on externally. If I had to wait on governments for my good I would never see it!

Omotunde

I believe we women must get our priorities right. We need to understand who we are and what we are, before we can even begin to change our environment. The utmost duty of a woman in creation is the ennoblement of her surroundings. We function best from home, we teach children and imbibe true values in them, we make our men look up to us, I said look up, because we are in actual fact higher than them spiritually (think about this, think deep). We put them in a position where they would think hard before taking wrong decisions because if they do, they can't face us. How will they escape from all the women (mothers, wives, friends...) around them, if these women are actually standing at their duty posts. Why do we want to drag ourselves

down to their level. Scrambling for political post with them, in the process, get dirtied, get hardened, do what a REAL WOMAN should not dream of doing. PLEASE, PLEASE, dear women, do not forget the saying “Behind every successful man, is a real woman”.

Stephen

The improvement of health and the education of women coupled with their direct involvement in decision-making positions is a viable investment and when they are included in national legislature they give positive policy outcomes for their children and families, who actually make up the nation. Therefore the empowerment of women is very crucial in good governance in any society.

Sukoluhle

Of coz, and it would be best if empowerment starts from the roots by encouraging the girl child to reach out for better results in any given situation.

Godfrey

The answer to this question is an obvious “YES”, but it doesn't just stop there. On the contrary, empowerment is not about public relations and painting beautiful pictures at big events where government brag about the importance of women in society. It is about doing something on grassroots level. Government should stop that top-down approach to social issues. It is patronizing!



Secretary Clinton visits the Heal Africa clinic in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo. (© AP Images)

from America.gov 12 August 2009

U.S. Pledges \$17 Million to Aid Rape Survivors in DRC

By Kelly Daniel, Staff Writer

The United States will provide \$17 million to help survivors of rape and prevent sexual violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced during an unprecedented visit to the eastern city of Goma.

Clinton, the first U.S. secretary of state to visit the war-ravaged eastern Kivu region in the DRC, met individually August 11 with two rape survivors, and then attended a roundtable discussion with medical providers, health care activists

and other Congolese now living in camps after fleeing the fighting in the DRC's long-running conflict. She said she was "overwhelmed" by what she saw in the camps and by meeting the rape survivors, and she strongly condemned the systematic use of rape as a weapon of war.

"The atrocities that these women have suffered, which stands for the atrocities that so many have suffered, distills evil into its basest form," Clinton said in remarks at the Heal Africa Hospital, where many rape victims are treated. "The United States condemns these attacks and all those who commit them and abet them. And we say to the world that those who attack civilian populations using systematic rape are guilty of crimes against humanity."



Maggie

Most definitely! I have always advocated for this! Give them leadership roles and see the world change! No wars, no killings, no corruption, greater equity, less crime, less loan defaults... need I go on?

10 August

Steinereunice

African leaders should shift purposefully and deliberately from a focus on things to a focus on information; from exporting natural resources to ideas and from being a consumer of technology to producers of technology -- only then, can we say "we have arrived!"

Muazu

We need not even good governance -- a fair governance can even help. We have the worst form of governance in most parts of Africa.

Ijeoma

That is true but we the citizens must hold our government accountable and not allow our leaders to 'overrun' the masses. We do need good governance; we must demand that of our leaders!!

Ifeanyi

The problem with Africa is not the bad governance its the weak citizenry...if the citizens should courageously stand up to the bad government there will be a positive change.

Victor

Love all your comments. We are stuck in this vicious circle, IMF/World Bank-corrupt regime + debt, lack of infrastructure, poverty, lack of education, lack of independent will of action all begets bad governance and the spiral goes on.

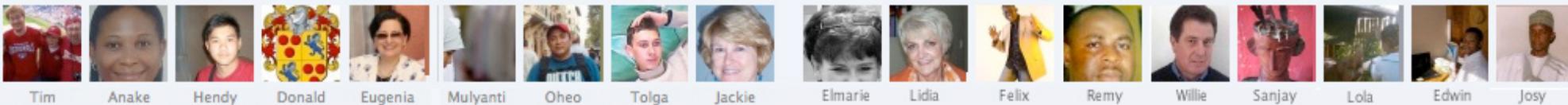
For Africa to be redeemed, we must come together. African Union is achievable - lose the erstwhile grip of decapitating foreign influence, and then remodel ourselves. Stop importation of ideals, machinery and what not that was researched and developed for some 1st world society, then accept that we are in a mess, re-brand ourselves, then begin to tailor-make our ways out. Only then can victory come our way.

Sannie

Victor, the questions we need to ask ourselves is, what are the strings attached to IMF/WORLD BANK/GRANTS/LOANS? How many poverty alleviation programmes dat have been implemented but failingly failed to address thee problems, how much is paid to the so-called technocrats who form part of the deal with our leaders. The earlier Africa realizes dat IMF/World Bank and its co-hosts are integral parts of our problems the better. We need to break away from this IMF/World Bank jinx.

Muazu

Even with the new spirit of Obama, good governance still has a long way to come.



Jason

"Governance?" Apparently spell check is a long way to come as well...

Victor

Sannie, that's exactly what I am saying...Give loans to corrupt and unaccountable regimes- They embezzle back the money in their swizz account...Then poor citizenry start paying a debt they not owe... and sweating it out to do so, cos they supposedly infrastructure were never built..Then a new program comes on and the and embezzled money is re-borrowed and the spiral goes on and on...and one day someone comes in a holy angelic robe and wants to cancel a debt that was never owed...Cant U see the routine we are stuck in????

Sannie

Victor, English language is not our mother tongue. We would continue to make mistakes using it. But the most important thing I think is the idea behind what we say or write. Rattling good English has taken no country anywhere but rather ideas are what keep the world going round. Keep up with the good work.

Farai

I like the discussion. Africa does need strong institutions that are home grown. The only irreplaceable phenomenon that the West inherited in Africa is the culture of thin bottleneck capitalism that is responsible for huge economic disparities between the poor and the rich.

Dorothy

Yea good Governance begins with me, Dorothy. ...

11 August

Promoting Good Governance in the DR Congo. Which examples of Good Governance in the video can be useful to your community?

Don

Men watch out! You've blown it in Africa, powerful women will take over from you, and they would've deserved it!

Willie

Africans should expect to change their mindsets and actions in order to get better results for themselves. Don't expect others to change your situation. They can't. Africans can learn from other countries and do the same. You have all the minerals, land and workforce to do it. Roll up your sleeves and just do it. Get rid of corrupt leaders and work.

Enem

Mr. Willie I understand ur concern 4 us but let me tell u, we Africans don't need any coach and also we must respect our culture and tradition as we strive to improve our livelihood. We must not copy the west, rather we must develop wit wat we ve got to make our lives better.

Trever

No, no, Enem, these African leaders especially men they think of

themselves how many millions are suffering coz of them. What culture? If a woman can bring peace and joy let them lead. Willie is right. Let us stop this west, south side thing. Woman, now is your time to make a better Africa for all.

Ademola

Great to hear ds.

Alex

Every success and every temporary setback only serve to prepare you for the time when you will eventually prevail. Your short-and medium term goals should be realistic and achievable, but your long-term goals should always far exceed your present capabilities. We only need transparency as Africans to promote good governance and also respect 4 all.

Vida

Yeh, agree wit u bro

Shamala

Governance! governance! governance!!!! Africa needs some new leaders young jubilant focused for tomorrow. The old folks ain't got no more new ideas and can't catch new tricks. There can't be good governance without liberal minds, honesty and transparency. Our leaders don't show it nor do it and all they do is stand in the way to block it. Kenya suffers this plague.

Alex

The people who complain the loudest

about never having an opportunity in life are usually the ones who always have a ready excuse for their failures. Nothing is ever their fault; they are victims of their heritage, their environment, insufficient education, or any number of other factors that they perceive as placing them at a disadvantage. Let us all change our attitude an pray 4 a better Africa. God bless Ghana. God bless Africa.

12 August

Secretary Clinton: "We strongly support and encourage the government of Nigeria's efforts to increase transparency, reduce corruption, provide support for democratic processes..." Real hope for reform?

Adu

i watched d program and felt like cryin for my country cos she said it is evident dat Nigeria has evrytin it takes to do well and b part of the G20 but for corruption in the high cader.they can c as well dat the rich are oppressin the poor rather than allow thier influence change their status

Sunny

Please, never give African Nations money in any form or way, no matter how much they cry or skim. The only support Nigeria needs is to drum into the citizens mind, soul, body and not the Government that they are HUMANS NOT ANIMALS, AND SHOULD SAY NO!! TO EVIL AND



Secretary Clinton waits to address Nigerian government officials and industry leaders in Abuja, Nigeria 12 August. (© AP Images)

from America.gov 13 August 2009

Clinton: Nigeria Is at a Crossroads

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Graft and corruption have eroded many good governments, but it does not have to be that way, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said August 12 at a town hall meeting on good governance in Abuja, Nigeria.

"We recognize, as I have told the government officials with whom I have met today, that Nigeria is at a crossroads, and it is imperative that citizens be engaged and that civic organizations be involved in helping to chart the future of this

great nation," Clinton said to civil society representatives.

"In order to create a peaceful, stable environment that creates development among the people, citizens need to have confidence that their votes count, that their government cares about them, that democracy can deliver basic services," Clinton said. "The foundation of a democracy is trust."

Citing a recent speech by President Obama, Clinton said Africa does not need more strong men, it needs more strong democratic institutions. "Without good governance, no amount of oil or no amount of aid, no amount of effort can guarantee Nigeria's success," she said. "But with good governance, nothing can stop Nigeria."



STOP CROWNING ALL FORM OF EVIL,CORRUPTION, FALSEHOOD, ETC. The problem is no longer the leaders, but the people are so cowardice to allow themselves to be use against themselves. IT'S THE PEOPLE THAT NEED CHANGE TO STOP THE TYRANNIES, AND NOT THE TYRANT.

Hannah

What can we say? Is Hillary going to tell d thieves in high places to repair our refineries? To stop using Niger delta boys for money? To pay lecturers their due so that public universities can re-open? To create jobs for the masses? To make education truly free n fair? to build well equipped nursery, primary, secondary n tertiary institutions? To bring back our monies from their Swiss accounts n pay pensioners what they truly deserve? Is she going to tell them to make low cost or even free accommodation a right for every Nigerian? to put the military in their rightful place? to give back value to our currency and watch their millions become kobos? no she won't bcos if she does, Nigeria will become a world power n compete with The Great AMERICA!! Thanks for the visit, Hilary move on to ur next port of call lets assume u neva came.

Omotunde

I quite agree with Sunny, we can no longer remain passive. We need to wake up from our slumber. If we do not care enough to change the situation of things for ourselves, lets do it for the sake of our children.

Nothing will change, if we are not ready for change. The whole of America cannot help us, unless we are willing to help ourselves. The only reason why America is what it is today, is because Americans will never keep quite. They fought and will keep fighting with their voices. Let us rescue Nigeria, Elites, lets demand transparency, lets demand accountability. Okonjo Oweala was publishing statutory allocations to all tiers of government, what did we do with the information? Did we even notice when the new regime stopped publishing it? I believe, we should move to the next stage and start discussing "HOW"

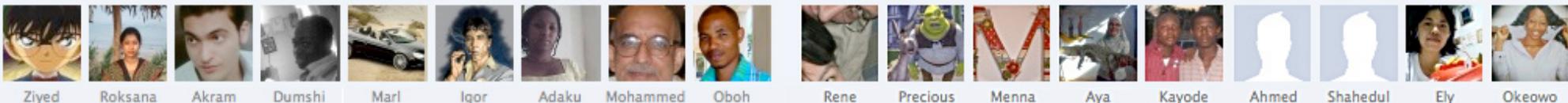
i think that this is the time for us to say our minds. but could be better on the National news

Victor

Now we are talking, come October 1st let us converge at eagles square and make our request known to the political leaders. If we can mobilize 100,000 Nigerian youth, the political class will know that we are very serious. Enough of being second class citizen in our own country. If u are in for this signify your interest and together we can change things. Our hope did not lies in the hand of any American, our hope lies in our hand. Omotunde and Hannah have spoken my mind.

Idris

You guys got it all very wrong! Good governance, good economy,



transparency, accountability, etc.
 -- All these essential ingredients for development are TOTALLY LACKING here in Nigeria, in particular. We're talking about the largest black Nation in the world!! Now, we might not be as big as China or India, but just imagine what would happen, if Nigeria fails, and its population began swarming other African countries as refugees... MRS, CLINTON, WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR THE "REDUCTION" OF CORRUPTION, NO! WE'RE LOOKING FOR ITS ELIMINATION, AMONG OTHER THINGS!!!

Willie
 Ayo, the problem is big, but remember God is even bigger. It will only take one person to start, like Moses. Not a perfect person with power or money, but one who can trust God and do His will. God is looking for a Moses in Nigeria!!! He could be a David watching after the sheep. Go and get him, anoint him and support him, pray for wisdom and God will perform a miracle before your eyes.

Maro
 Not Moses only but all people in our life because our God create people and look for them and does not wait thanks from them but he wants them better and wait people to be good

Musa
 We strongly believe with the type of electoral process of the United States, but we do not expect the Secretary

of State to accept to participate in Nigeria's electoral reform that would be full of fraud and illegitimacy, for the kind of people that would be involved in the electoral reform are the fraudsters of Nigerian election.

Mudi
 BLEEDING LOVE.... So goes the song! Nigeria is a case-file on its own. A nation where demons wear faces of angels. My heart bleeds each time we are at crossroads like this. Watching the broadcast of this event... The attentive faces of 'who is who' in Nigeria listening to HILLARY speak. Then I realize this is 'one more session but too many have passed'. What have the so-called recycled leaders taken out from meetings like this is in the past. Only to seek PHOTO-UPS - "I was there when Hillary Clinton visit Nigeria". Lastly, A WORD IS ENOUGH FOR THE WISE. Case-study: Botswana and Angola are certainly set on their track.

Victor
 Thank you very much about these moves. God will bless you. But I think that you should also start fighting all the Banks in the western world who kept collecting the embezzled misappropriated funds in the country from this our Nigerian Leaders and Bank for them. Then the corruption thing will start cutting down. Then not just encourage them but to act and refuse them visa to your country yes. Because most of this monies are spent in your country buying houses and all that. Please start checking

them on the Banks area also the properties area too.

12 August

The quest for Good Governance continues. Can Nigeria reform itself?

Kelvin
 Don't even think about it.

Cassandra
 'Bout damned time!

Xara
 It will require a lot o proper social 'n political governance.

Austin
 Yes, if we really want to, that is, our leaders.

Olatunji
 Says who?

Collette
 I think you should rid yourself of acute pessimism. Nigeria will surely get better through efforts from you and I.

Ayo
 Nigerians make me sick - the upper class n the middle class. Everyone complains about something and no one is willing to fight for anything. They expect the USA or God to cure Nigeria of corruption. Wake up people! God will not save a nation from corruption, you all need to stand up and fight for your right and

stop praying.

Osy
 Either we reform or we crash sooner than later. What we have is not democracy. It's pure "Demonstration of Crazy".

Sannie
 Victor, how can Nigeria reform itself when the western powers have not stopped meddling in politics to save their oil exploration interests? Go back to the archives of wars in Nigeria and c 4 urself , oil is the main cause of the wars. ...

If America was able to go into Panama and oust Manuel Noriega because he flipped on them, without any blood shed, they should do same to our African leaders if they really mean to fight corruption.

Ayo
 Sannie, I am so sorry about your point of view. Its shameful to have such a thought in one's head. No one fought for America to cure it self of corruption, America is still fighting corruption in its polite way. Please tell me why America should be the ones to fight corruption in Nigeria. Would you allow an American to be the president of your country so that he can make this changes? Of course you would answer no to that. ...

Nicholas
 I have always believed that the success of Nigeria depends on reform of the electoral system. If we can



Secretary Clinton arrives at Roberts international airport near Monrovia, Liberia, 13 August. (© AP Images)

from America.gov 14 August 2009

Clinton: Liberia's Progress Is a Triumph of the Human Spirit

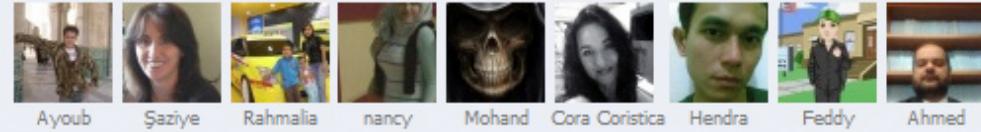
By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

That Liberians emerged from 14 years of bloodshed and lawlessness to produce peace, free elections and a democratic government is not so much a triumph of might as it is a triumph of the human spirit, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in an address to the Liberian National Legislature.

"Some of you in this chamber bore arms against each other, but the people of Liberia demanded peace, stability, and a better future," Clinton said in an August 13 address at the Capitol Building in Monrovia.

"And your being here, committed to the peaceful resolution of dispute, is a great message that the people of Liberia have representatives of a unified government in a parliament and in a presidency entrusted to serve the Liberian people, to help rebuild a nation, and to realize the goals of development that will once again give every boy and girl in this country a chance to fulfill his or her God-given potential," she added.

Before her speech to the National Legislature, Clinton held talks with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and her Cabinet. After speaking to legislators, Clinton addressed a class of new cadets for the Liberia National Police, the force charged with safeguarding Liberians and upholding the rule of law throughout the country.



correct the mistakes at the polling booths where the rigging is done and unwanted leaders are selected, we will move forward. We cannot move forward unless we stop accepting money from these folks who will stop at nothing to get selected. ...

Jackson

Yes if only we have a fair and free election.

Yinka

It would certainly take more than the dilly-dallying we are doing at the moment to reform the country. It's either our leaders are extremely wicked people or they are just totally clueless. Basic light, H2O, good roads, medicals & education, are issues. Sectarian violence & oil debates are somewhat far down the list. ...

Ikechukwu

Yes, Nigeria can reform, because the people are good and wise, where the people of Nigeria will ask more question and participate more in the issues that affect their country, the country will reform, after all the so called political groupings are not more powerful than the people. When we feel, see and understand that non participation will allow...

Herbert

Why not?

Abimbolu

SURE YES, if they will allow us.

Mudi

I've always wondered when & why have we as nation continue to dissipate our resources to our own detriment. Reform is tough call. Corrupt leaders and desperate followers. This living is CRAZY.

13 August

Is there a connection between empowerment and good governance?

Marc

Whitout good governance how can Afrika be empowered? ...

Sanjay

Empowerment is only successful with good governance not with anarchy and civil wars and poverty, if Africa has to succeed then all these have to end. ...

Abimbolu

Empowerment & good governance go hand in hand. A good Govt. is that which serve d large majority of its own people first.

Not doing eyes service to some foreign dictators who hv always bn breathing down our necks, saying one thing and doing direct opposite.

When large majority of your people are empowered in their 'home' brew ways. The Govt. is Good.

I personally understand U.S. situation more than they might imagine, let



them keep running back to the GOOD OLD AFRICA especially now that they are in serious mess.

It serves them right, if only they have imagined that one day their theories would fail them, just like NOW. Unfortunately for them we are IDIOTS they made of us now that they wish we had some brain, but poor us.

POOR AFRICA with our over-schooled, but largely uneducated rulers, who is still waiting for OBAMA and H Clinton to come build our Nations, while they pass our resources through backdoors.

Rosemary
Who makes these questions up? Poly-Sci undergrads doing internships?

Harris-Okon
There is no real empowerment when d govt is not accountable 2 d pple.

Nicholas
Yes there is a connection between them but this connection will not work if the government is not sincere and accountable to the people.

Godswill
Empowerment is an essential ingredient of good governance. A poverty ridden, educationally disadvantaged and politically alienated people can never challenge the excesses of corrupt and vision deficient political class.

Suraya
As a strong woman, I think that Hillary Clinton has been underestimated and has the ability to help bring about good governance in Africa.

Aymen
But Africa does not need any help!! Just mind ur business please!!! Just correct yourselves!!! It is time that each nation has the right to determine its own destiny!!!!

Richard
Africa needs economic growth, America and China require our resources - there is a serious opportunity for Africa to shine. We need to start implementing serious economic policies, good governance, unification, which will ensure that we all benefit from it. I believe we have what it takes and it's time Africa had it too. I think that is what Obama, both himself and Hillary, are trying to plant through their various visits. YES WE CAN!! And it's time. Who's game??

Victor
But I also think that people like her (Hillary Clinton U.S. Secretary of State) should start fightin' the Banks in the western world who collect all the cash from our leaders they carry to their country and served in their Banks. Because this is part of why the Nigeria Leaders are corrupt. Yes my brother; ur talkin' about education. But I'll tell u that most Nigerians are well educated. But now we have to find out what kind of education



the western world gave to them first. Was it to serve their country or themselves because Nigeria is a country without love. ...

Marius
Can anybody tell me what empowerment is?

Youssef
Hillary Clinton

Ikechukwu
Empowerment has many meanings whereas good governance is universal no matter the multi-cultural diversities of the people of the world. In African one of the meaning of empowerment is embezzlement and another meaning is corruption. So it depends on which side of the world you live and practice politics

Willie
Marius, in South Africa empowerment is having an AK47 and a stolen car and getting away with it.

Ernest
Of course

Isiaka
Yes! Empowerment is a function of good governance.

Charles
I got to believe there is.

Narko
There certainly is, if there is good governance and people are not empowered to do what they have to

do, then there won't be development and everything will be still the way it has been.

Aremu
Yes, when there is empowerment among the ruled, it shows that the government of the day is ruling & directing the affairs of that country democratically.

Oluwasola
Definitely, there is a connection between empowerment and good governance, it cannot be ruled out.

Anita
Yes I think there is direct connect between the two. Anywhere in the world only informed and empowered people push administrations to change policies and pressure governance structures to deliver on practices of better accountability and people oriented development. Without active people's participation in the process of change not much can be achieved independently by political leaders. People's rights usually have been attained through sustained advocacy by citizens groups functioning at local levels to improve standards of governance and transparency.

Ayo
Yes, an empowered people can demand good governance. Ending the endless circle of poverty will go along way to ensure better and more responsive governments.



Cape Verde, number 12 on the travel map above, was the last stop on Secretary Clinton's trip.

from State.gov 14 August 2009

Hillary Clinton: Remarks With Prime Minister José Maria Neves of Cape Verde

Mr. Prime Minister, I am absolutely delighted to be here today with you in this beautiful heart of your country. I bring greetings from President Obama, who joins me in commending you, Prime Minister, your government, and the people of Cape Verde, for making your nation a model of democracy and economic progress in Africa.

I commended the Prime Minister on Cape Verde's economic advances, and of course, its successful implementation of the Millennium Challenge Corporation compact. Cape Verde was the first of three countries to receive an MCC com-

compact. It has been very successful. The 5-year, \$110 million compact, which began in 2005, is improving access to credit, markets, and social services, increasing agricultural productivity, expanding roads and the country's infrastructure, and helping to carry out key policy reforms for sustainable development.

I am also pleased that, as a result of the African Growth and Opportunity Act conference in Nairobi last week, we will work more closely with Cape Verde to fully capitalize on the possibilities of duty free exports to the United States under AGOA. We are confident that continued economic reforms will stimulate growth in tourism, commerce, transport industries, and more.



13 August

Secretary Clinton: "Liberia is a model of successful transition from conflict to post-conflict, from lawlessness to democracy, from despair to hope." How is Liberia achieving these results?

Nur
Indonesia had a more than successful transition from conflict to post-conflict, from lawlessness to democracy, from despair to hope.

Abdelhak
I think this is an African issue, Africans must rely on themselves they should look toward a better future without conflict and civil war. They may take South Africa as an example because South Africans ended racism by themselves and organised a democratic election that led to stability and a developing economy.

Ikechukwu
I have not been there, but from the statements and observations of those who have cause to be and observe happenings there I tend to agree with Mrs. Clinton considering the fact that it is a post conflict regime and stability and democracy is taking root from another MOTHER AFRICA- Sister Johnson.

Ebbie This shows how women can lead effectively.

Henry
African leaders should love Africa as themselves. We have few leaders who have shown exemplary leadership and they should serve as role models Nelson Mandela is a great citizen of Africa for his commitment to end the apartheid. Like Obama said he is a citizen of America and a fellow citizen of the world. We all belong to one world and we should see each other as one and stop the wars and corruption.

Deidre
Funny, people always just comment but, never remove these leaders they complain about, sorry pal u vote in these heroes! u then must work for, provide for them, en make sure they get to stash away enough bucks for "THEIR OWN" old age, life is forwarding en advancing en it seems the tribal instinct just don wanna die. ...

Suraya
No I think that small minded, selfish people support dictators and repressive regimes, why do we have to blame the USA for everything?

Safura
I don't think that solutions are about who are solving them, but the fact that it should be solved. Whether an American or African decides to help and contribute time along with so many other factors, then so be it. It should be acknowledged that Mrs. Clinton has paid attention to African causes; yes we are well developed



in South Africa, but whatever can be contributed to our neighbouring countries, then what's the problem?

14 August

Did Secretary Clinton's trip to Africa make a difference?

Nicholas
It made a whole lot of difference and result will soon be out. Her visit has begun a new chapter of debate in Nigeria. People are beginning to understand the importance of good governance and engage in a vigorous debate on how to advance our democracy. I am most pleased to have Clinton but will be happier if America takes a tougher stand in Africa as it relates to imposition of leaders. Thanks Obama for this opportunity.

Veltman
It's really all about follow up and not speeches.

Jay
Yes, because she did her best to help them.

Ikenna
Positive thinking my dear.

Aya
Yes of course it made a huge difference. Even alllllll the hungry people in Africa are no longer hungry! There's no more Aids no more Cholera no more diseases no more civil wars - nothing from these at all

exists now! Really that visit changed everything in Africa even the people are so damn rich now! (Sarcasm). Be realistic people! WAKE UP!

Derrick
No! Until Africa is able to own up to it's mistakes and elect officials who are not corrupt, accept help from the west with out rhetoric, hold free elections that are not disputed along racial lines and adopt and implement true reforms without discrimination, we of Africa will never be free or even in a position to accept help from people who think we can develop without the stick of control

Hannah
Let me have the pleasure of saying NO!!!

Anyanwu
Clinton has succeeded in being blunt to the African leaders in the area of poor governance, corruption and sit tight leaders. But I will suggest that her home government should match this bluntness with practical action by not aiding and influencing African leaders to there own test. I mean their American selfish interest. They should aid Zimbabwe. Post-conflict Liberia should stand without interference. Kudos to them if they can!

14 August

What does Good Governance look like to you?

Bright
Good governance depends on transparency, accountability and equality in ways that are responsive to the needs of people. It is composed of the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups can articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences. ...

Izuchukwu
Good government to me is the act of living in peace of the people, having the heart of the people you are leading, thinking about what to do that other who are under you power may benefit from it.

Lidia
Good Government is when you can govern your country in a real democratic way, without the help of other countries.

John
There is a lot of pigeon-holing going on today. We must be all capitalistic or else we will have to be all socialistic. Truth is that a good country (region/city/town) has a little bit of all. Communism perhaps in the city or national parks, socialism in the fire department and police, capitalism on the major industries and free enterprise in some of the local products. Good governance is going to look a bit like a good conductor in an orchestra. That's my opinion.

Steven
Why do we keep doing this to ourselves? Do we need anybody to tell us that all our leaders, lawmakers go there for personal interest? Good governance starts from the home -- familes and homes. How can a father who sees white and calls it black because of party interest or godfather interest make a good leader? How can a leader who is competing with his co-politicians in material wealth make a good leader? Until we know the difference between money and wealth we'll not produce leaders who will govern well. ...

Obioma
Steven, y are right ma guy

Ebi
TRANSPARENCY IN LEADERSHIP = GOOD GOVERNANCE

Victor
Liberty

Ayo
Good governance means the greatest good for the greatest number.