



# TALKING DRUM

AFRICAN SCHOLARS FORUM NEWSLETTER



## FALL 2019 EVENTS

**November 19th**—UMass Boston ASF Pre-Conference Reception @ At the African Studies Association Conference, Copley place, Marriott. Time: 6PM—8PM. **See program/register here:** [https://www.umb.edu/news\\_events\\_media/events/pre\\_conference\\_african\\_studies\\_association\\_reception\\_2019](https://www.umb.edu/news_events_media/events/pre_conference_african_studies_association_reception_2019)

**November 21st- 24th**—African Studies Association conference @ Marriott, Copley Square.

**December 12th** – Remembering the Rwandan Genocide 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial (Human Rights Program). Timothy Longman {Boston University}.

**December 13th** – Kwanzaa Fest & Amilcar Cabral Speaker. Professor Nada Ali: ***Democratic Transitions in Sudan.***



The talking drum is one of the oldest musical instrument from West Africa and it is prominent among the Yorubas and Hausas. It can be regulated to mimic the tone of human speech. The talking drum is used as a form of communication to send messages to people both home and faraway.

NOVEMBER, 2019

## SPRING 2020 EVENTS.

**February 28th - Africa Day : "Challenges to Pan-Africanism: Afrophobia and migration across African Borders".**

**May 20th** - Ubuntu Awards Amilcar Cabral Speaker.

## CAMEROONIAN CONFERENCE: CONFLICT AND CHANGE IN CAMEROON

In case you missed the Cameroonian conference that took place on the 8th and 9th of Nov. 2019, here is a Synopsis



The Cameroonian conference is a two-day conference which aims to understand the conflict in Southern Cameroon and the ways by which institutions and the diaspora can play a role in bringing lasting peace to the region.

## **DAY 1**

Issues around conflict roots and background, The Cameroonian Peace Process and National Dialogue, Lessons from other Peace Processes and The Role and Impact of the Diaspora were discussed by the Various panels

### **SESSION ONE: Conflict Roots and Background**

The issue rests on Decolonization, marginalization, and opportunities denied to the British Southern Cameroons. There is a sense of historical humiliation which led to the 2016 upheavals. The UN is one of the root causes of the territorial uprisings and holds the sole responsibility to solve the problem.



### **SESSION TWO: The Cameroonian Peace Process and National Dialogue**

There is a necessity for frank discussions. The just ended Grand National Dialogue is still questioned. Is the Government in good faith in trying to resolve the Conflict? There seems to be a clarity on the Swiss initiative. There is a trust deficiency amongst parties.

### **SESSION THREE: Lessons from other Peace Processes**

People in conflicts tend to have the same behaviors. The ways conflicts are addressed have a particular trajectory. People from divided societies are good teachers to help you on how to actually resolve their conflicts. Cease-fire would not have been successful if it was done alongside decommissioning. Trust is not a prerequisite for going on negotiation tables. The parties to a negotiation must be united and serious before considering the negotiation process.

### **SESSION FOUR: The Role and Impact of the Diaspora**

The diaspora should be united.

The diaspora is well placed to be the voice of the Amazonian people but talks must be on the release of leaders abducted in Nigeria. The use of the name "Southern Cameroon" should be maintained because the name the Amazonian is aspirational. The use of the name "Southern Cameroon" should be maintained because the name the Amazonian is aspirational.

## **DAY 2**

Issues relating to the region, the role of neighboring countries like Nigeria in the peace process, and the fact that African problems need African solutions.

## **SUMMARY**

Nigeria has an important role to play in the Southern Cameroon crisis.

No region can resolve in the issues of another sovereign state.

Southern Cameroon should learn from other cases and not see themselves as distinct.



Try to get partners to look at the case legally and intellectually because these are the main advisers of the international institutions.

### **NEXT STEPS: The Way Forward**

A way should be sought to demilitarize the region.

Cease-fire will accelerate the Peace Process.

The post electoral struggle in French Cameroon is connected to the crisis.

The Cameroon government needs to pull back from the Southern Cameroon.

The UN should be able to reconstitute the French Cameroon as an autonomous region.

### **Meet Balkissa Diallo, a second year GGHS doctoral student who is sharing her experience at the 2019 Annual Sustainability and Development Conference.**

At the Second Annual Sustainability and Development Conference (SDC 2019), I had the privilege to present my paper on, "Rethinking Social Impact Assessment to Achieve Social Sustainability: The Case of the Niger River Basin Project (Kandadji Dam)". A paper that explores ways in which impact assessments for watershed management projects can produce viable outcomes for coastal populations. The Conference



was held from October 11th to October 15th at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. It provided a platform for scholars and practitioners from around the globe to exchange ideas and inform knowledge and practice on sustainable development.

My time in Ann Arbor was enriching both in terms of networking and learning. I had the opportunity to meet with various scholars and practitioners that work on similar topics as me. Also, I participated in two different workshops: Sharing Research for Impact and FLARE Decision Support Tool Workshops. The first was informative on types of research impact, and the pathways to influence practice and knowledge through research. The second workshop introduced new alternative ways to analyze and compare data based on quantitative and qualitative metrics. The exposure to the state of knowledge and practice on sustainable development added value to my paper and to my understanding of sustainability.

I extend my thanks to the Department of Global Governance and Human Security (GGHS) at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and the University of Michigan Sustainability and Development Initiative

for providing funding support to make this experience possible.

### **ASF EDITORIAL BOARD**

Professor Rita Kiki Edozie—Chairperson of ASF & Editor-in-Chief.

Benjamin Daniel—Managing Editor.

Hannah Brown— Assistant Editor.

For more information, contact the African Scholars Forum at [AfricaScholarsForum@umb.edu](mailto:AfricaScholarsForum@umb.edu) or at 617.287.5550