

Changes at ADF

Dear Colleagues

I hope you are all doing well!

I am still trying to settle in here in France, but that process has been negatively affected by the sudden turn the African Diaspora Forum (ADF), an organization we have formed, an organization we all love and an organisation whose continued existence and prosperity keep us going, has taken.

It has been barely a month after I left, yet the swift way in which events have taken place in the ADF has been more a cause of concern than a source of optimism. Tensions have continued to rise, personal vendettas have come to the fore and attempts to shelve the organisation's mission, vision and focus by some of those we appointed to certain positions have been threadbare.

Before I left, we appointed new people to try and beef up the Executive Committee and allow it achieve a smooth transition as we prepare for our next Annual General Meeting, which will give us a constitutionally-elected Executive Committee that will then have a full mandate to pave the way forward for the ADF. We appointed people we trusted, people we had worked with before and people we believe would stick to the main objectives and grand vision of the ADF.

To boost the organisation's day-to-day running, we also appointed a Management Committee (Manco) with express orders to help manage the ADF office work as an operational wing of the ADF, reporting to the Executive Committee as it should serve under the Executive Committee.

While some new members added in both the Executive Committee and the Manco have performed their duties with perfection, honesty, we however, note that there are some who - maybe for lack of understanding of their role, or because they are driven by certain wishes and agendas, have begun to drive the organisation in a certain direction we did not intend when we appointed them. The Manco has – in acts that are ultra-vires their mandate, suddenly given itself powers that supersede the Executive Committee and moved from its operative role into assuming an administrative role, even trying to stage a boardroom coup d'Etat against the Chairperson Marc Gbaffou.

We have seen them begin to make unilateral decisions of writing to sponsors and other stakeholders telling them that Marc Gbaffou is no longer involved in the ADF; we have seen them driving character assassinations, they have even gone to the extent of opening a new bank account with signatories that are only known to themselves and calling on members to deposit money into that new account. Some members of the Manco have since withdrawn because the team was diverting from its core mandate. It would have been understandable had these steps been taken under the directive of the Executive Committee, which remains the supreme decision-making body of the ADF, but unfortunately, the Executive Committee was not even informed about these giant steps.

Colleagues, we cannot run the organisation in such a manner and true to what some of our Executive Committee members have suggested, action needs to be taken urgently to save the ADF from further tensions and looming disaster.

It is therefore, for that reason that we hereby notify you that the African Diaspora Forum (ADF) Executive Committee under my leadership has taken the following decisions with immediate effect:

1. To dissolve the Management Committee (Manco) which was established in June 2018. The only highest decision making body to remain the Executive Committee. Any decision about the organisation shall be discussed and agreed upon with the Executive Committee.
2. To recall the spokesperson Mr Kennedy Mabe Khabo from his duties with immediate effect. All partners should be informed that Mr Khabo does not represent the African Diaspora Forum (ADF) as from 01 August 2018 for damage caused to the organisation.
3. The issue of ADF office shall be discussed during next Saturday's meeting and agreed upon. Members should be informed about the outcome.
4. The Vice Chairpersons representing our respective regions together with the Vice-chairperson (Dr Ur Koumba, Milton Taka; Nicholas Mabhena; Talla Niang; Ahmed Habibhalla; Masum Billah) to put in place an elections committee no later than 30th August 2018. The election committee to draft the election rules, come up with elections dates, supervise the elections and announce the elections' results. We are suggesting that the elections being held no later than 30 November 2018. This will put in a substantive ADF Executive Committee to pave the way forward.

Colleagues, let's continue prioritising the plight of migrants and human rights.

The ADF is working tirelessly to establish branches in some African countries this month. Details will be circulated soon.

Colleagues, let's converge our efforts for a better ADF.

Thank you very much.

Yours Faithfully,

On behalf of the ADF Executive Committee

Marc Gbaffou, ADF Chairperson