

**Workshop Title: *How can the diaspora contribute to the democratization of their countries?***

**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018**

**Venue: University of the Western Cape, Cape Town – South Africa**

**Host: AMIS BK Support Group  
(Reg. No: 085-501-NPO)**

**Keynote Speaker: Hon. Nqabayomzi Kwankwa**

**Facilitator: Leonard Mulunda**

## ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

Participants at the workshop represented the follows countries:

Country representative	Number of participants
Zimbabwe	4
Burundi	4
South Africa	1
DRC	12
Congo Brazzaville	2
Malawi	2
Cameroun	1
Gabon	1
Rwanda	2
Total	29

### 1. BACKGROUND

Diaspora, like other immigrant groups, have a history of participating in improving their home countries socioeconomically, culturally, and politically. Examples include providing much-needed financial support to family and communities, establishing small businesses, putting private commercial vehicles on the road, stimulating new home constructions and artisan enterprise development, serving as cultural ambassadors, helping to extend and maintain public infrastructures such as schools and hospitals, and their fledgling sector-thematic networks are beginning to deliver services in the health and education sectors in particular. These are mostly done through remittances.

These remittances provide much-needed finances for ensuring household security and alleviating poverty in the home country. Remittances also help siblings, kin and friends to cater for some of their daily needs. As networks of professionals, entrepreneurs, and investors, immigrants (including diaspora) share information with peers, and organize periodic field visits to home countries to provide services in areas of expertise. These activities are small-scale and hardly coordinated. Moreover, the impacts are not measured nor are the lessons learned shared for the replication of good practices.

African Governments have begun creating ministerial positions in cabinet or within the Presidency to be responsible for Diaspora affairs but without strategies that engage the Diaspora. As a result, institutional relationships between home country and Diasporas are weak. And although African Governments have begun to recognize the potential contributions of their Diasporas to home country development, serious efforts on the part of government in terms of strategies and instruments to harness these potentials are lacking. This was the rationale behind this inter-nationals' workshop organized by Amis BK Support Group, hosted at the University of the Western Cape (Cape Town).

As the Diaspora gains more voice and recognition through the power of their remittances in economic development of the home country, they have begun demanding participation in issues related to their home countries' politic. Examples include:

- Elected offices in home countries: An increasing number of Africans abroad are seeking elected office in their home countries, including as members of their national legislatures and even as presidential aspirants;
- Demanding the right to vote from their foreign locations;
- Political contributions to mainstream parties.

## 2. OBJECTIVES AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

The following topics were tackled in the workshop:

- increase the quality of design and implementation of Diaspora-led political involvement initiatives in participating countries
- De-remote the diaspora from their homeland citizen duties and responsibilities and have an engaged diaspora in the democratization of nations.
- Building up influence in order to have an effect on internal policies in countries of origin
- Information/successful story sharing.

The workshop succeeded in raising awareness and confidence amongst participating community leaders about their potential to contribute to the strengthening of democratic processes in their respective home countries.

## 3. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

### a. Presentations:

**Mr. Jamala Safari:** opened the workshop, welcomed the participants and introduced the purpose and the need of the workshop. Mr. Safari spoke about the concept of bringing people together and work together as the fundamental base of Ubuntu. He further emphasized that it is our responsibility as Africans to build a prosperous Africa that our fathers of liberation such as Kwame Nkrumah and Patrice Lumumba died for.

**Mr. Bertin Manwa:** gave a brief background of Amis BK Support Group, defining its mission and vision as well as its activities including achievements.

**Hon Nqabayomzi Kwankwa:** as keynote speaker, explained his involvement and the work he does with the African Parliamentarians' Association for Human Rights as president of AFRIPHR. Hon Kwankwa emphasized on transparency and accountability and the need of work with young Africans across nationalities, races, and genders.

### b. Panel discussions

Participants were divided into 5 groups and similar given task to come up with suggestion on “*how can the diaspora contribute to the democratization of their home countries*”. Each group chose their representative who presented their resolutions. The followings are the overview proposed resolutions:

- Promotion of equality in our home countries through establishing democratic institutions and financial accountability,
- We can learn from South Africa, the freedom of expression of their parliament where equal rights are given to parliamentarians and ministers as well as president when reporting to the parliament,
- We need to be wise when bringing something new to our countries, e.g.: when there is a new system to be used, citizen must understand it and its usability, impact as well as opportunities.
- Youth need to be educated in order to have skills that will allow them to start small businesses without depending on the West,
- We can mobilize our people against corruption. For example, corruption in our academic institutions, create a campaign on ethics and encourage to work in partnership,
- We need to change the mindset of people to be more patriotic towards their own countries, one must love and have the desire to work for his/her home country,
- Debts and borrowings need to be discontinued in Africa. We need to go back to what our forefathers were doing, they never borrowed but they exchanged good and services. We have the minerals that the West does not have but we are borrowing from them and selling our minerals at cheaper prices. We need to set-up our minds.
- We need to speak out on social media and internet with clear languages.
- Africa lacks love. Enforce love amongst Africans, the progress will come.
- We must stop undermining each other amongst ourselves as Africans.
- We need to distinguish between political, economic, social and environmental when addressing our problems.
- We need to know how to expand our network.
- We need to promote our countries by telling our own stories truthfully.
- We need to create channels to communicate and acknowledge that all Africans have same problems.
- We need to engage more and more in order to convey our ideas for growth, and by doing this we will be helping strengthening democracy.
- Writing about our issues and address them to specific portfolio in parliament.

#### **4. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr Justin Munyakazi gave last words, thanking everyone’s participation. He expressed gratitude to the UWC Management for offering the venue for the workshop at no cost. He then presented Amis BK’s future plans regarding series of upcoming workshops. The following are the suggestions given by participants with regard to future topics of discussion:

- Local integration
- Political dynamics of African countries

- Women contribution towards building the economy of our continent
- How to work together as African rather than ethnic led group
- Ubuntu and African renaissance
- Our rights and obligations as foreign nationals
- Lobbying South African parliament to help solve our issues
- Working from theory, discussion and talks to implementation
- Different components of African economy and celebrating diversity that Africa enjoys
- Empowerment of the Diaspora
- Open business platform of African Diaspora to challenge poverty and hunger
- The role of SADC in the democratization of the African Great Lakes region
- The role and contribution of African migrants in dealing with xenophobia in South Africa
- Building socioeconomic networks that can influence our countries

#### **6. BUDGET**

- Amis Bk managed to self-finance the workshop through the contribution and donations of its members. Despite the financial constraints, the amount of R8764 was raised. This helped in covering the catering and logistics (transport, catering, media, communication, printings and accessories).

#### **5. APPENDICES**

1. Workshop program
2. Evaluation form

## Appendix 1: Workshop program

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
09h30-10h00	Arrival and registration	Rosette Vuninga. & Adeline Ntagerwa
10h00-10h10	Welcome note	Jamala Safari
10h10-10h20	AmisBk Background	Amani Namufakage (President)
10h20-10h30	Introduction of participants	Leonard Mulunda
10h30-11h40	Guest of honor's speech	Hon. Naqbayomzi Kwankwa
11h40-12h00	Tea Break	All stakeholders
12h00-13h00	Workshop	Leonard Mulunda
13h00-13h30	Finger lunch	All stakeholders

### Appendix 3: Evaluation form

## Workshop Evaluation Form

Your feedback is critical for AmiBK Support Group to improve the standards of next workshop events. We would appreciate if you could take a few minutes to share your opinions.

**Please return this form to the instructor or organizer at the end of the workshop.  
Thank you.**

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	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	Strongly agree
1. The overall workshop content met my expectation 5		1	2	3	4	
2. I will recommend this workshop to other people 5		1	2	3	4	
3. The program was well paced within the allotted time 5		1	2	3	4	
4. The instructor was a good communicator 5		1	2	3	4	
5. The material was presented in an organized manner 5		1	2	3	4	
6. The instructor was knowledgeable on the topic 5		1	2	3	4	
7. I would be interested in attending a follow-up, more advanced workshop on this same subject 5		1	2	3	4	

8. What did you most appreciate/enjoy/think was best about the workshop? Any suggestions for improvement?

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9 Please describe the top two topics you would like to learn more about in the next workshop:

Topic 1:

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Topic 2:

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**Thank you!**

**Please return this form to the instructor or coordinator at the end of the workshop.**