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Media Advisor's Note

We are excited to unveil to the general public, the June 2020 Edition of City Scope Africa Magazine (A Corporate People, Afrotourism and Lifestyle Publication of City Scope Africa).

The magazine was birthed out of the need to highlight outstanding achievements and excellence in people who have risen (and striving to rise) to the very zenith of their careers, business etc. and have positively affected Africa in those chosen careers, businesses et al.

This issue is a quarterly production (just like the previous ones) and expected to be relevant from June 2020 through to September 2020.

Another core of the Magazine is to shine the spotlights on beautiful places of interest in Africa using the concept of Afrotourism.

Afrotourism will contribute to local economies in Africa, just as we newly

launched our Afrotourism app. on google play store, LETSGO NIGERIA. Read details in this issue and guide on downloading.

Our cover personality for the issue is Aya Chebbi, a multi-award winning Pan-African feminist from Tunisia.

She is the first ever African Union Special Envoy on Youth and the youngest diplomat at the African Union Commission Chairperson's Cabinet. She is one of Africa's 50 Most Powerful Women by Forbes.

Also, get to read about the very inspiring feature of two of Africa's best, Beatrice Khamati Njenga and Christian Okorode.

Fasten your seat belts for an enduring ride.

Media Advisor

SCOPE AFRICA MAGAZINE JUNE 2020 ISSUE

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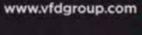




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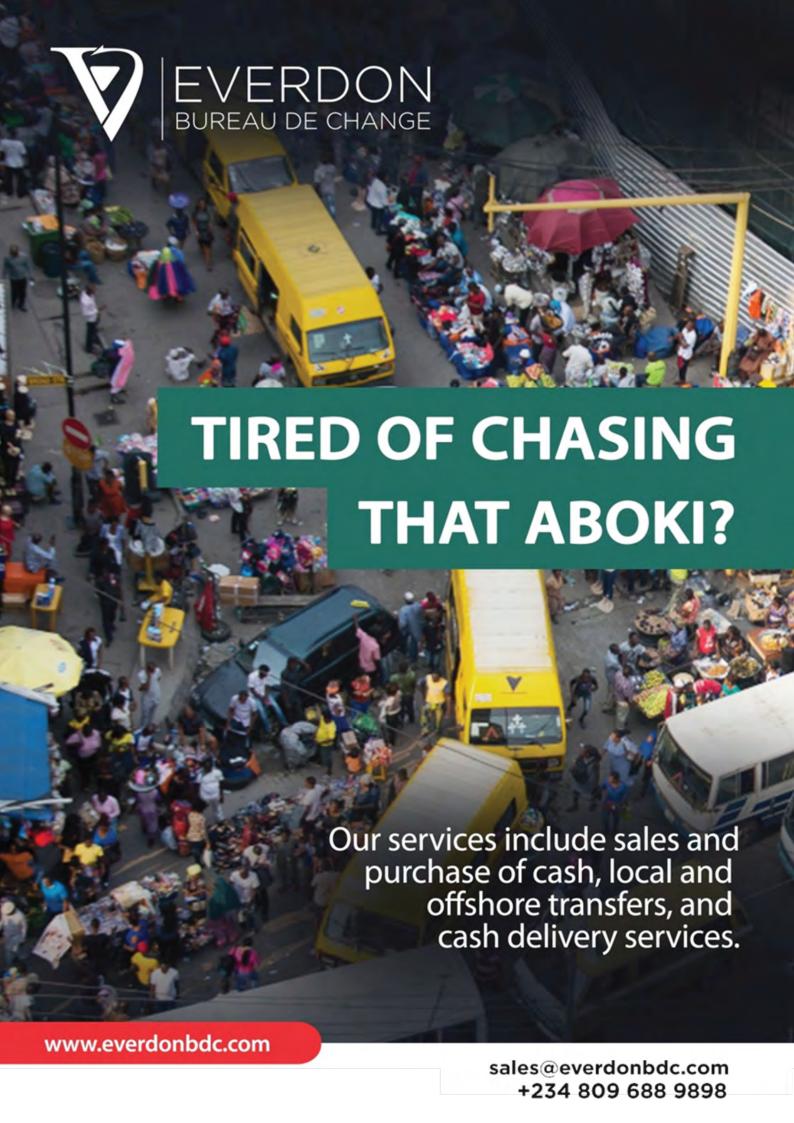












Beatrice Khamati Njenga:



Africa's King Woman of Kenyan Descent







Educationist and Environmental scientist with many years working in the areas of Education, Environment and Development; as Teacher, Researcher, Lobbyist and Policy Development Agent.

She has worked with a wide range of local and international agencies, and taught for many years at Kenyatta University - Appropriate Technology Centre.

Dr. Njenga has also done significant work in the areas of Youth and Women empowerment and mainstreaming through appropriate technology development, education and skills development, and mentoring.

Dr. Njenga worked as Head of Education of the African Union Commission, for 15 years, where she has been instrumental in the crafting of continental education policy frameworks, and development and implementation of such key initiatives as the Pan African University, the Mwalimu Nyerere Scholarship and Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme, the continental TVET Strategy, Strategy for Harmonisation of



....the boundaries have fallen for me in pleasant places, glory to God!

Higher Education in Africa, the African Quality Rating Mechanism among others.

She was responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) which aims at promoting quality inclusive education towards producing the skills, knowledge, values and competences required for attaining the "Africa We Want", as defined in the AU Agenda 2063.

CESA reiterates the value of STEM education and ICT in education in ensuring transformative education for individual empowerment as well as fitting young people and the general population with skills for future employability, innovation and entrepreneurship, thus enabling Africa to reap the demographic dividend.

We celebrate her at City Scope Africa.









SECOND-LARGEST **CONTINENT**:

Mauritania's ancient Ksours and Tunisia's mind-blowing Sidi Bou Said

Africa is the world's second-largest and second-most populous continent, after Asia. With about 1.3 billion people as of 2018, Africa accounts for about 16% of the world's human population. Recent economic expansion makes Africa an important economic market in the broader global context.

Leveraging on the population, Africa is a great tourism and investment destination. Afrotourism, (Africa's untapped tourism) will contribute to local economies.

In this peice, we spotlighted special places of interest in Africa you may want to add to your bucket list.



THE ANCIENT KSOUR OF OUADANE, CHINGUETTI, TICHITT AND OUALATA IN MAURITANIA

he ancient ksour of Ouadane, Chinguetti, Tichitt and Oualata in Mauritania were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1996.

Ouadane and Chinguetti are located in the Adrar Region, Tichitt in the Tagant Region, and Oualata in the Hodh Ech Chargui Region.

These cities were founded around the 11th century as stopping places for the caravans of the Trans-Saharan trade crossing the Sahara.

The ancient ksour are medieval towns characteristic of the Saharan ksar settlements and are well integrated into their natural environments.

Ksour is the plural form of ksar. The Arabic word, more correctly transliterated as qsar, is a term

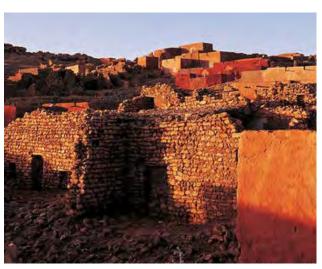
describing a village consisting of generally attached houses, often having collective granaries and other structures such as mosques, baths, ovens, and shops widespread among the oasis populations of the Northern Africa Maghreb region.

Once prosperous centres of Saharan culture, these cities survive today with many difficulties, not only due to the radical transformation of the trade routes but above all because of the advancing sands of the desert.

Founded in the 11th and 12th centuries to serve the caravans crossing the Sahara, these trading and religious centres became focal points of Islamic culture. They have managed to preserve an urban fabric that evolved between the 12th and 16th centuries. Typically, houses with patios crowd along narrow streets around a mosque with a square minaret.

They illustrate a traditional way of life centred on the nomadic culture of the people of the Western Sahara.

Mauritania is a land dominated



Oualata at www.newworldencyclopedia.org



by sand and barren soil, located on the western flank of the Sahara Desert. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries, four ksour (villages) arose in Mauritania to serve the trade caravans crossing the Sahara. These are Ouadane and Chinguetti in the north, and Tichitt and Oualata in the southeast. These trading and religious centers became focal points of Islamic culture.

Once magnificent settlements, these ksour began their decline in the sixteenth and seventh centuries.

In the twenty-first century they remain—though sparsely populated—as small towns, struggling to survive amidst the encroaching desert. They are the last existing ksour from the medieval era. Though largely victim to

wind, sand, drought, and the end of the caravan trade, what remains illustrates a traditional way of life centered on the nomadic culture of the people of Western Sahara.

Chinguetti:

It has great places like the Great Friday Mosque of Chinguetti, an ancient center of worship created by the founders of the city of Chinguetti sometime in the thirteenth or fourteenth century. The minaret of this ancient structure is purportedly the second oldest in continuous use anywhere in the Muslim world.

Tichit:

Tichit (Arabic: تيشـيت) sits at the foot of the Tagant plateau in south-central Mauritania on the route between Oualata and Ouadane.

It was founded c. 1150 and grew into a magnificent city and was a major trading center for salt. Its multi-storied structures—with blind walls on the ground floor, a door for an only opening to the outside and facades built of colored stones—are fragile remnants of typical Mauritanian architecture.



Its layout tells the history of the village. The northern section is the Shurfa quarter. This section was constructed in greenish stone, understood to be an expression of the tribe of the Shurfa's claim of decendancy to the Prophet Muhammad. The Masana tribe lived in the southern quarter, where a red stone was used. This tribe was the largest in the settlement and known as good merchants. White stones were used for the larger buildings in this quarter. While a variety of colored stones were used, each village section exists in polychrome.

Oualata:

A major trade route connected Ouadane with Oualata (Arabic: ولاتــــه (sometimes "Walata"), a ksar in the southeast part of the country. Oualata is believed to have been first settled by an agro-pastoral people akin to the Mandé Soninke who lived along the rocky promontories of the Tichitt-Oualata and Tagant cliffs of Mauritania. There, they built what are among the oldest stone settlements on the African continent.

The modern city was founded in the eleventh century when it was part of the Ghana Empire. It was destroyed in 1076 but refounded in 1224, and again became a major trading post for trans-Saharan trade and an important center of Islamic scholarship.



[Old Town] Chinguetti at -





sugar cube-and-blue village overlooking a turquoise sea. With its colours and domes, it bears a certain resemblance to iconic Santorini. Sidi Bou Said is famously known as the Blue and white village. Sidi Bou Said (Arabic: عبد بو سسيدي About this sound Sīdi Bū S īd) is a town in northern Tunisia located about 20 km from the capital, Tunis.

Named for a religious figure who lived there, Abu Said al-Baji, it was previously called Jabal el-Menar. The town itself is a tourist attraction and is known for its extensive use of blue and white.

It can be reached by a TGM train, which runs from Tunis to La Marsa.

In the 12th century/13th century AD Abu Said Ibn Khalaf Yahya al-Tamimi al-Beji arrived in the village of Jabal el-Menar and established a sanctuary. After he died in 1231, he was buried there. In the 18th century Turkish governors of Tunis and wealthy citizens latter built residences in Sidi Bou Said.

During the 1920s, Rodolphe d'Erlanger applied the blue-white theme all over the town. Sidi Bou Said has a reputation as a town of artists. French philosopher Michel Foucault lived there for several years while teaching at the University of Tunis. French author Andre Gide also had a house in the town. Former Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi was born in Sidi Bou Said.

Sidi Bou Said has a reputation as a town of artists. Artists who have lived in or visited Sidi Bou Said include famous occultist Aleister Crowley, Paul Klee, Gustave-Henri Jossot, August Macke and Louis Moillet. Tunisian artists in Sidi Bou Said are members of École de Tunis (painting school of Tunis), such as Yahia Turki, Brahim Dhahak, and Ammar Farhat.

French philosopher

Michel Foucault lived there for several years while teaching at the University of Tunis. French author Andre Gide also had a house in the town.

The village is a breath of fresh air after busy Tunis and serves as a weekend getaway for the city's artists, bohemian youth, families, and elite, as well as being a key stop on the Tunisia itineraries of tours and cruises. It overlooks the luminescent Bay of Tunis, with a steep road leading down to a pleasant beach and marina.

Artists have long been









www.plewall.com

attracted by the light and the colours here. The streets are blindingly bright in the midday sun, but the surroundings here are surprisingly lush, with pops of pink bougainvillaea and geraniums accenting the blue and white colour scheme.

Stroll around the streets and you'll spot the occasional rebellious red and yellow door.

Moucharabiehs—the name for the wooden latticework screens around balconies and windows — keep interiors cool but ventilated and provide a further canvas. To top off the sensory feast, jasmine and orange blossom scent the air here, with secret gardens and flower-filled courtyards hidden amongst the streets.

The village itself is lined with luxury houses built for wealthy politicians and is immaculately maintained. It's a somewhat





manicured version of the exotic but beautiful, nonetheless.

The most popular activity in Sidi Bou Said is to drink in the views, from one of the numerous cafes or terraces. There is a road down to the beach at the base of the cliff if that turquoise water calls you.

Baron Rodolphe d'Erlanger – a French baron, musicologist, and patron of the arts who moved to Sidi Bou Said in 1907. His hilltop palace, Dar Ennejma Ezzhara (the 'The Star of Venus' or 'Sparkling Star') hosted many musicians, artists, and writers of the period, and is now a Museum of Arab and Mediterranean Music.

'The Baron' poured funds into the village and lobbied the local government to grant it protected status, including the blue and white paint scheme.

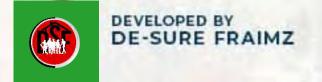
Sidi Bou Said now forms part of a UNESCO World Heritage site along with the nearby ruins of Carthage.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, Sidi Bou Said became a popular retreat for writers and artists:

Flaubert, Chateaubriand, Simone de Beauvoir, and Matisse all passed through.

Most famously, Klee, Macke, and Moilliet made the 'Journey to Tunis' in 1914; the resulting paintings and sketches are a highlight of early Modernism.

The village retains its artistic influence; the streets are dotted with small galleries, workshops, and traders. The local specialty craft here is wire birdcages that echo the village with their domed shapes and ornate blue and white filigree. Hunt out the workshop of Azouz Samouda to purchase the original and best.



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Real Estate is generally a great investment option. It can generate ongoing passive income and can be a good long-term investment if the value increases over time. You may even use it as a part of your overall strategy to begin building wealth.

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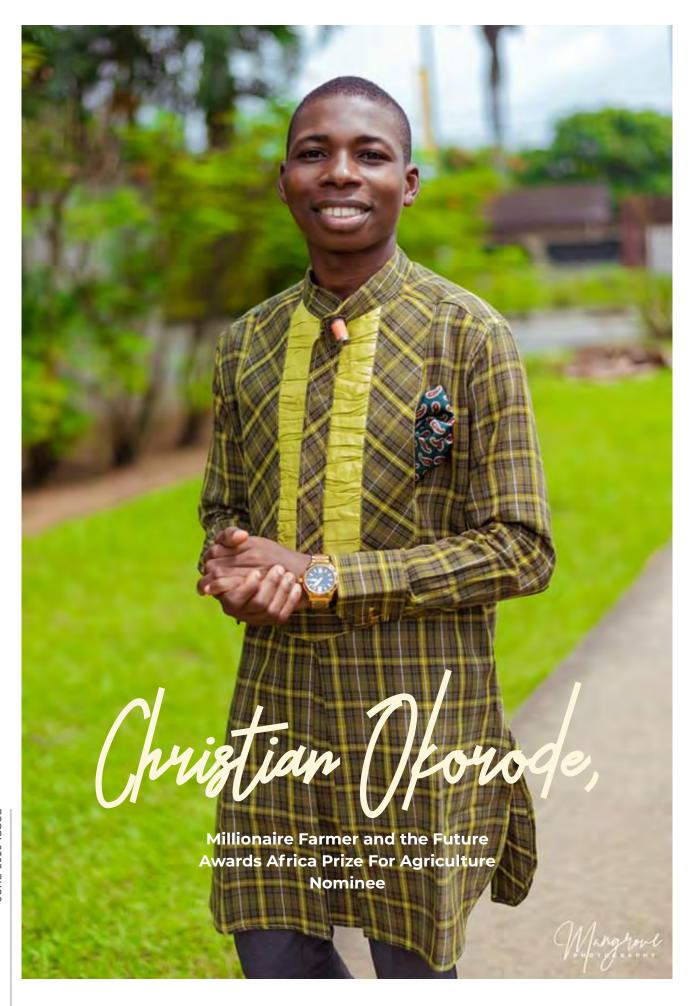
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HRISTIAN OKORODE,
Millionaire Farmer and
the Future Awards
Africa Prize For Agriculture
Nominee has alot of untold
stories too:

Recently, one of our editorial team members at City Scope Africa met a young Nigerian farmer by name Christian Okorode who delivers some bunches of plantains to available customers. A recent one was his meeting a woman at her residence, who got interest in him and ask questions like "where is your truck for delivery, where is your company van, where are your workers, why do you have to do it yourself"?

In his characteristic style and mild smile signature he replied her, "we are yet to get a delivery van or a truck for the company, however, we will accept with deep gratitude if you donate a truck for us. Second to that, I am the Chief Errand Boy of my organization."

Operating a business in Nigeria comes with a lot of pressures, and in most cases, pressure to acquire equipment that is not needed at a particular stage of your business.

Pressure to live the flamboyant life of a CEO like in American movies.

Being the CEO of your business means that you have to literally do all the work at the infancy stage of your business.

You are required to be the cleaner, customer care representative, the operational officer, the strategist and sales representative, etc.

Don't look at other people's business and want to do what they are doing when you are just few months into business, while they have been in



business for about half a decade or a decade.

Be patient with yourself, but have a rugged quantum leap strategy that will accelerate your growth. Till then, fold your sleeves and do the dirty work.

HOW AND WHY HE BECAME A FARMER:

Making impact and becoming famous is what his heart desired even as a child, and not to forget, becoming very wealthy. It's a very good desire.

There were hundreds of things he wanted to do as a teenager; from singing (rapping), dancing, hosting his own talk shows and events, poetry, even becoming a motivational speaker, the list is endless.

Becoming a farmer was NEVER on his list, even after his first degree. At the NYSC Orientation Camp, he had an idea to go into farming (Specifically, plantain farming).

When people ask him, 'why did you venture into farming'? His first response is always, "It's a Godinspired idea."

So after NYSC, he went to his village and acquire plots of land and set up a one thousand plantain suckers farm from the prize money he won as the winner for the Public Speaking category of SHIFT (A talent hunt competition hosted by RCCG).

His plan was just to set up a farm that will pay his bills while he job hunts and engage in other productive activities that will generate money for him.

Few months into setting up his one thousand





plantain suckers farm, He had an inner dialogue with himself, and truly believe that it was God telling him to "go fully into agriculture, expand and solve problems! "

Within six months from that day, he leveraged on social media to raise funds from investors to scale his one thousand plantain suckers farm to a (10,000) ten thousand plantain suckers plantation and got Millionaire Farms Limited fully registered in Nigeria.

His mission is to solve hunger, food shortage and unemployment problems in his region and beyond.

He has spoken on International and big National platforms and have being been interviewed and featured by CNN and other big national media platforms.

Previously, he got nominated for several awards, including the Future Awards Africa Prize for Agriculture.

He was listed among 30 under 30 Most Influential People in Rivers State.

He has also trained over 3,000 individuals in the business of Agriculture.





Aya Chebbi, is a multi-award winning Pan-African feminist. She is the first ever African Union Special Envoy on Youth and the youngest diplomat at the African Union Commission Chairperson's Cabinet. She founded numerous platforms such as; Youth Programme of Holistic Empowerment Mentoring (YPHEM), coaching the next generation to be positive change agents, Afrika Youth Movement (AYM) one of Africa's largest Pan-African youth-led movements and Afresist, a Youth Leadership Program and multimedia platform documenting Youth work in Africa. She served on the World Refugee Council and Oxfam Independent Commission on Sexual Misconduct. She rose to prominence as a voice for democracy and shot to global fame as a political blogger during 2010/2011 Tunisia's Revolution. She received the 2019 Gates Foundation Campaign Award and was listed among Africa's 50 Most Powerful Women by Forbes.





Give us a brief into your background.

I am an only child to a religiously conservative muslim extended family. But I rebelled about how I want to live, what I want to wear, study, work and believe; with the help of a supportive father. Very young, I experienced patriarchal abuse, psychological violence and discrimination, and has since carried out my childhood traumas and turned them into resistance, fights and search for liberation.

Activism started for me by standing up for my rights within my extended family and society, then healing and liberating my body and my mind by unlearning and learning again, then grew into action for the collective and becoming a political voice.

How would you describe your Personality?

I am a Pan-African feminist.

At what point exactly did you set out in life?

I would say it is the Tunisian Revolution, or as we call it the "Revolution of Dignity". Being part of the revolution made me believe that change can happen and we, young women are at the forefront. It was a moment of becoming fearless and nothing seems impossible to me ever since. Young women like myself took to the streets, unafraid to die for freedom. Despite a history that steered towards depriving women equal opportunities, we decided to re-write this history and make it right for the next generation. I embraced the conviction that we should stop watching and blaming systems of oppression whether it's economic, political or patriarchal and take responsibility for our future because change eventually will be bottom up, youth-female led, and with people's power.

Few weeks after Tunisia's revolution, a

Senegalese Y'en A Marre movement and Burkinabè Balai Citoyen movement, among other African countries, started raising the same slogans "Dégage!" I put my skills to use for the next eight years and started traveling across the African continent to support and train thousands of social movement leaders and activists on mobilization, blogging, leadership and nonviolence.

Crossing colonial borders, living with people I have never met before, and experiencing Africanity, made me feel at home in every corner of Africa. I started to see myself as a bridge, across languages, cultures, stories and beats,

across the Sahara, which is a place meant to bridge us not divide us.

The more I travelled, the more I realised that in our shared marginalisation as African youth, we could develop a sense of common identity and a critical consciousness that would enable us to challenge the status quo and to lead. That's when I made my mission to radicalize youth into Pan-Africanism and bridge North Africa with the rest of the continent.

Share with us some of the heart wrenching challenges you faced, growing up.

I grew up in a religiously conservative Muslim family. I come from a small village in the northwest of Tunisia, on the Tunisian- Algerian borders where a traditional ritual called tasfih (the locker) is practiced on girls. The ritual is believed to safeguard the girls' virginity and prevent them from having sexual intercourse. Enduring tasfih was the start of a long-term trauma for me. The violation of our bodies might heal from the physical pain, but the psychological trauma and the damage to our minds and violation of our right to choose is very difficult to heal.

There was no time to heal in a society that does not consider trauma healing as a necessity for the growth of children! After crying that night, I realised at that young agethat I had gone



through some form of violence because of my gender. Years later, I became convinced that practices like tasfih were weapons of patriarchy used to keep women trapped in inequality. My activism, standing up for my rights and challenging traditional norms, started at that moment.



On your vision for a world where gender equality is a reality: "a world where women own their own narratives, because our struggle is a struggle for voice". How much success have you achieved, and what are the tools you are using to achieve your aim?

Being feminist is being an every day activist, it's when you do not only speak for yourself, but also try to change the reality of women around you, who don't have the same privileges and access to education, health, and even internet.

During the revolution, I also learnt to own my narrative. I started a Blog called Proudly Tunisian, read by millions of people, reporting to the world what was happening in my country, speaking out against injustice and challenging mainstream narratives. I found power in my voice and everything digital has become my tool to tell my version of the story calling for peace and equality.

Since then, I have lived with the mantra that we make the news until we become the news. I blogged for hours, months and years during the most chaotic and

exhilarating days of the democratic transition because I wanted to see our stories of agency and nonviolence become the mainstream not the exception and these blogs eventually made the headlines.

Starting from my blog, I've created

multiple platforms for young women to speak up, be heard and have access to the digital space. One of them is the Voice of Women Initiative, a feminist collective where we trained correspondents around the world to document the stories of ordinary women doing extraordinary things and empower them to fight for their rights in media,



social, and political spaces and voice their unedited and underreported stories without barriers of language, exclusion, editorial gatekeeping, access to the internet or agenda setting. As a feminist collective, we laid the groundwork for a new culture of debate. The use of online tools and the conquest of the digital space is key to my fights and in revolutionizing the way we campaign, the way we use technology, access information and organise in new ways of activism. Digital is indeed our space for thinking critically, connecting, organizing, mobilizing and most fundamentally exercising one's

'The Baron' poured funds into the village and lobbied the local government to grant it protected status, including the blue and white paint scheme.

freedom of expression.

We recently launched Sauti صوني - Africa Young Feminist Blog, to amplify untold stories of young women across Africa and the diaspora showcasing their innovation and impact in the community in fighting COVID-19 through their creative work which will become a digital Sauti publication and ignite debate through organized webinars.

Aya Chebbi was born in Dahmani, yet spent her childhood years in 6 different cities in Tunisia, following her father who served 40 years in the Tunisian Armed Forces.

In those days, what core values did you learn from your parents which built the Aya Chebbi we know today?

As an only child, my father, a retired Major Colonel, imbued in me a strong sense of self-worth and the innermost conviction that I deserve the same chances in life as anyone. He used his privilege and power as a man, as the "head of family", to pave the way for me to be. He provided that protection for the consequences of my 'radical' actions (in the perception of others), regardless of our fundamental disagreements, the right of choice was guaranteed. He nurtured my courage to be bold and it really takes a lot of courage in our societies, as young women, to speak up. It takes courage every day to reveal our fullest truth to the world. When I think of a feminist

It's also the mosaic of Tunisia, and different towns I lived in that built the human I am today, a nomad, curious about new cultures and experiences, immersed in diversity and activist for unity.

man, I think of my father.

Mentorship and organizing of retreats and training are key tools, and you aim at leading people into acting as active citizens and change



makers. In a novel COVID-19 Pandemic disease period we found ourselves, how best can this be achieved?

I believe that youth are central to fighting Coronavirus.

I think we need to bring young people closer to the leadership system to contribute to the response to the current crisis.

In my advocacy as the AU Youth Envoy, I promote what I call intergenerational Co-Leadership. The average age of African leaders is 64 years old and the average age of the population is 20, which leads to at least 40 years of gap in leadership. The political system tends to see youth as a threat, while the young people feel they are not being listened to and their needs are not being met. In my role, I am building dialogue on the importance of intergenerational co-leadership.

Since March 23rd, we pioneered a project of Virtual AU Youth Consultations Series on COVID-19 for African Youth Collective Response in collaboration with Africa CDC, as a series of online conversations, convened over 400 youth leaders from 43 countries throughout 13 consultations, and 6 public consultations with over 15,000 participants allowing youth activists, feminists and leaders to be in direct engagement with decision makers, to be briefed on continental response, empowered with information they need as well as learn from each other, share best practices, and come up with action plans on how to support their affected communities.



So mentorship and dialogue should not be disrupted because of the pandemic, it's more needed and relevant now and we need to be creative and innovative in hosting these intergenerational spaces.

I think also at national level, our ministries of communication should work with youth campaigners and tech gurus who know exactly how to get the message across to their peers, but can also help our traditional bureaucratic institutions to digitize and build capacity for our governments.

Towards achieving your Pan-African vision, you founded Afrika Youth Movement, what will you recom-

mend that the government do to support raising youth who are independent and sold out to build a peaceful world?

In Africa, we ended up with a generation in waithood – waiting for adulthood, unable to achieve its financial freedom as well as social and political life. Particulaty, when we show the intersections of class, gender, race, and other relations of power. Africa has enough valuable natural resources to empower everybody, including women and the youth, if resources are distributed in an equitable way. But youth are dying in the Mediterranean and recruited to violent extremism as an alternative.

We need to empower youth, especially during these challenging times when they are strongly impacted by many socio-economic issues, such as the disruption of education and unemployment especially for those living in the rural areas.

It is time for governments to open the space for youth to occupy leadership positions they deserve, the young people who are showing their commitment and engagement and strong will to build the Africa We Want: a better, prosperous, peaceful and integrated Africa. Governments have to listen to young people and scale up their innovations. It's not a choice anymore, it's the right thing to do.

The African Union is the first intergovernmental organisation to create a high level policy and advocacy framework for young people to colead Africa's response to the pandemic, it is the African Youth Front on Coronavirus. How impactful is this response and what will the world stand to gain in no distant future?

The African Youth Front on Coronavirus is a youth led multistakeholders advocacy group designed to bring Africa youth to the decision-making table to ensure youth solutions are incorporated in Africa's response to the pandemic.

This initiative is the first of its kind to empower young Africans amid the covid19 pandemic, as we are encouraging them to engage strongly in Africa's response to fight COVID- 19, and bring their energy, innovation, activism and



resilience to the table. We need to make sure their ideas are translated into actions and their crucial role in fighting coronavirus is valued instead of denied.

The Youth Front holds weekly meetings with the participation of commissioners as well as briefs from Africa CDC, each month the group submits through my Office a policy brief with recommendations to the leadership. The Youth front also convenes monthly consultations with youth and supports the dissemination of information from Africa CDC in order to reach the grassroots. We hope by the end of their 6 months assignment we will be able to evaluate the model of engagement.

You have continued to successfully build a good name in your career and appointments. In Africa, if you are not bold, courageous and intelligent enough, you may not have the capacity to serve either in Government or Corporate Organizations. It is maledominated. How have you been able to withstand that, as a woman and determined to be exceptional?

Our African history has taught me that there is no pan-Africanism without feminism. It is anti-pan-African to reduce women to maternal functions or to seek to control their bodies, minds and desires in the name of culture, faith or any other excuse. I live and breathe with Pan-African values and I beat the male argument with the Pan-African ideology.

As I cracked the ceilings to live differ-

ently from what culture and society expects, I have become unapologetically, me.

My career has not been conventional. When I graduated secondary school, I followed my family's dream to be an engineer and went to engineering school "Ecole Préparatoire d'ingénieurs" which I failed since the first semester and by the second



semester I dropped university. I failed my first year of university because I did not study what I really wanted which was Pharmacy. My scoring was not enough with a minor difference and we had one Uni of Pharmacy in Tunisia.

I went on to do a competitive exam for

another chance to enter the program, but I felt it was not fair when I saw the daughters of doctors and sons of ministers got admitted and I did not even for my second chance. I almost fell into depression because I have always been top of my class in primary and secondary schools. After a tough summer, locking myself in my room, I went to four universities in different cities in



Tunisia looking for What I want? What am I good at? "my identity", before I landed at University Tunis El Manar switching completely to humanities and studying International Relations which I excelled in with my scientific background. I learnt the hard lesson

which is why I waited four years before going for a masters program. Then I got involved in Tunisia's revolution and transition. I went back to university to complete my masters degree after four years from my undergrad. For someone who had failed freshman year at Uni, I would have never imagined to get into SOAS, University of London, get a scholarship out of thousands and graduate with distinction in an intensive year with a completely different learning system, a freezing city and no cooking skills.

Throughout my activism years, I experienced unemployment and endless rejections but continued to serve my constituency and live my mission.

After a decade of activism, I did not expect to be one the first ever Special Envoy on Youth for the Africa Union and the youngest diplomat in the organization or to be invited to sit on boards and Councils but that happened, not because I followed the establishment or looked for recommendations, on the contrary it happened because I challenged the status quo and spoke truth to power.

So few lessons to share with you, your power is your radical self, find it! Find your true self, your identity, pursue excellence and it's okay to fail, you will thrive afterwards but be whoever you want to be.

What would you define as your greatest moment of pride and fulfillment so far?



For every young person who becomes a Pan-African, I am closer to achieving my mission.

If you could go back in time and change something in your life, what would it be?

I am proud of every stage I passed through during my life journey, I am grateful for all that I have been through, the crises, the challenges, the breakthroughs, and the support and bond with loved ones, even in the worst times I have ever experienced, I have come out stronger and I thrived. It's all part of the journey of growth and becoming the best version of myself. I believe in being coherent with myself, living what I preach, acting what I say and trying what I don't know.

What do you do to unwind?

Every time the plane lands when I return to Tunisia, my heart rejoices! I love taking a long walk in the Medina of Tunis and meditating on the shores of the Mediterranean in Sidi Bou Saïd. Oh and I can't stop dancing when I start, you have been warned.

Where can Enthusiasts find you?

Website: ayachebbi.com

Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/in/ayachebbi/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/aya_chebbi

Facebook: https://web.facebook.com/Proudly-Tunisian-

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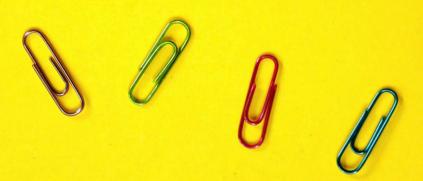




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LAUNCH OF NEW AFROTOURISM APP., LETSGO NIGERIA

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