

SOAD STATE NEWS

A GLOBAL STATE WITHOUT BORDERS NEWSLETTER

AGRICULTURE – A SPECIAL ISSUE



FROM THE DESK OF VICE PRIMER MINISTER **Hugh Johnson**



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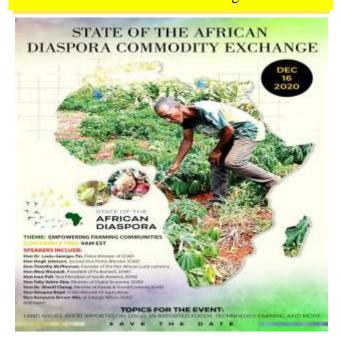
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Editorial of the Prime Minister of the State Of the African Diaspora



This January Issue of our newsletter is a very special issue, as it is totally devoted to the topic of agriculture. Contrary to most people think, we do not have any problem of agriculture in Africa. We are the cradle of humanity, we were the first ones to do agriculture, we know how to do it, thank you, and all the other peoples understand agriculture through us.

The only problem that we have is the fact that we grow food, and others decide the price. Ivory Coast and Ghana produce two-thirds of the world production of cocoa, but prices are decided in Belgium and Switzerland, where many children think chocolate is a fruit that grows on trees. As a result, the African farmers get less than 5% of the chocolate business.

So the only problem is, who controls the market, and who decides the price? Obviously, it is not us. All the biggest agricultural commodity exchanges are out of Africa. This is why, we need to create our own exchanges, and process our own raw materials to keep the added value at home.

The SOAD is already part of the West African Commodity Exchange (WAACE), where we retain 21% of the shares and now, we are working to create the Panafrican Agri-business Commodity Exchange (PACE) in order to control our own Panafrican business. So this is the next challenge for SOAD for this New Year!



The West African Commodity Exchange

The State of the African Diaspora (SOAD) is a member of the Steering Committee of the West Africa Agricultural Commodity Exchange (WAACE), which is a platform on which agricultural transactions are processed.

In the context of the Free Trade Agreement (AfCTA), which has now come into force, the objective is to increase intra-regional exchanges. The WAACE also provides storage, shipping, transport and payment facilities for the farmers and the cooperatives.

While most of the time, African people depend on conditions and terms defined by Western people, the WAACE is, in fact, creating a whole eco-system for African farmers in Africa, based on African terms and conditions. It is a powerful instrument for food security and food sovereignty.

Facts and figures about the WAACE

Siege: Lomé / Banjul

Number of countries involved: 17 (15 ECOWAS countries

+ Mauritania and Tchad)

Number of farmers involved: 54 Federations and Cooperatives, including more than 2 million members **Equity**: 8 700 000 USD (5 000 000 000 F CFA)



The State of the African Diaspora is one of the members of the Steering Committee.

Interview with Rozen Mohamed Kone



Rozen Mohamed Kone, manager of the West African Commodity Exchange.

-Dear Rozen Mohamed Kone, you are the leading manager of the West African Commodity Exchange. What is the objective of this organisation?

-BOPAO-WAACE aims to build a west-African solution with vision - with a solution - for a multi-country initiative to build a self-supporting, commercial / agricultural ecosystem to support and economically develop the producers and the agronomy of 17 targeted countries (15 ECOWAS countries, and Mauritania, and Chad) based around a shared agricultural commodities exchange.

More than 20 Commodities are targeted: Arabian gum, Cowpea, Poultry, Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Wheat, Colas, Cow's milk, Fish products, Peanut, Soy, Rice, Onion, Corn, Mil, Sorghum, Oil palm, Peanuts, Manioc and derivatives, Chili, Tomato, Cashew nuts, sesame.

-What has the Commodity Exchange achieved so far?

- -I can mention several important steps:
- 1) On July 2019, we have signed a MOU between AOTAH-WACTAF and FinComEco/GMEX Group to design and implement BOPAO-WAACE.





- 2) On September 2019, we have set up a Steering Committee to identify strategies, plans, and financial models.
- 3) On June and July 2020, the Constitution of the Commodity Exchange was signed by the partners involved.
- 4) On September 17, 2020, the Commodity was officially registered in The Gambia and we also have offices in Togo.

-What are your expectations for the future, and what are the next steps ?

- -Once these outputs are agreed, the following will be delivered:
- 1) Finalizing Equity raising process,
- 2) Establish and deploy a agro-sylvio-pastoral-fish sectors database with contact information.
- 3) Monitor, assess, mitigate risks in trade activities between buyers and members of federations, cooperatives or associations, from 17 countries.
- 4) Improve 5 agro-sylvio-pastoral-fish sectors per country: increased productivity, farm gate packaging, storage facilities, warehouse receipt/third-party receipt, logistics & transport, cross-border administration, processing units.
- 5) Establish and deploy an Electronic Warehouse Receipts system (EWR) and Financing Module (FM) to be provided by BOPAO-WAACE.
- 6) Establish an Electronic Trading Module (ETM) including bulletin board, and auctions modules,
- 7) Automation of collateralisation and financing of electronic warehouse receipts,

8) Ethical micro-lending to smallholder farmers through automated e-banking linked to e-vouchers to permit investment in verified inputs (seed, plants, fertiliser or more land).

The Panafrican Agribusiness Commodity Exchange

In the context of the SOAD cabinet reshuffle that occured at the beginning of December, the Prime Minister decided to make agriculture a top priority. That is why, he nominated as a Vice-Prime Minister, Hugh Johnson, who is the Vice President of the World Cocoa Farmers Organisation in Jamaica, has obviously a lot of experience in this area. Hence, Mr Johnson is the person who will lead the Panafrican Commodity Exchange

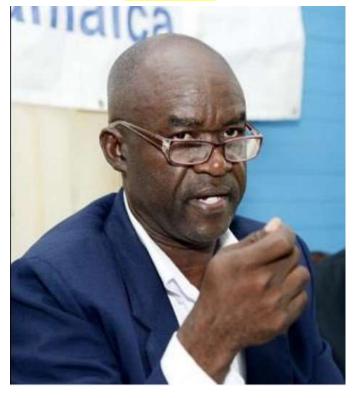


Many other ministers will also contribute to that initiative, such as the Minister of Agriculture, obviously, but also the Minister of Digital Economy, the Minister of Reparations, the Minister of Infrastructures, the Minister of Traditional Medicine, the Minister of Economy, the Minister of Family and Social Economy, etc, not to mention Timothy Mc Pherson, the Minister of Finance of the Maroon Territories, and founder of the Lumi, our national currency.

The State of the African Diaspora (SOAD) already detains 21% of the West African Commodity Exchange (WAACE), which is already in existence in 17 countries. Now, Vice Prime Minister Hugh Johnson is working to create the Panafrican Agribusiness Commodity Exchange (PACE).



Interview with the Vice Primer Minister Hugh Johnson



-Hugh Johnson, you are the Second Vice Prime Minister of the State of the African Diaspora (SOAD). You are in charge of creating the Panafrican Agribusiness Commodity Exchange. Could you tell us your experience in that area?

-My experience in the Agricultural sector and its challenges has been with me from a tender age. The son of an avid farmer, my father always carried me with him whenever possible to his many farmers' meetings as he was in poultry, cattle, ruminants and various crops. Seeing the many challenges facing farmers, I pledged in my heart to bring some meaningful improvement in the lives of farm families and farmers.

I am intimately involved in farmers group from a tender age, like President of the Jamaica Broilers farmers Association, founder of Jamaica Cocoa Farmers Association, Director Jamaica Agricultural Society, and I am now the Co-Founder and Vice President of World Cocoa Farmers Organization. Founder and CEO of Johnson & Sons Organic Fertilizer Company Limited which won the (FAO) Award for Food Security and Bio-Diversity (2008) and many other awards and accolades for my work in the Agricultural sector.

-What are the main challenges of agriculture in the Panafrican world?

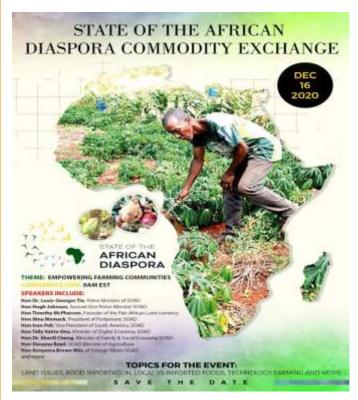
- -The main challenges of Agriculture in the Panafrican world are, if I may:
- 1) The lack of financing
- 2) The lack of fair pricing for our products
- 3) The lack of access to farmland ownership
- 4) The lack of agricultural infrastructures
- 5) The lack of agricultural manufactures.

-What is the objective of this future Commodity Exchange?

-The Objective of this Panafrican Agri-business Commodity Exchange is to create a level playing field for all participant in the agricultural value chain.

-What are the next steps, and what is your calendar?

-The next steps and timeline are to establish a Panafrican Agri-business Commodity Exchange that meets the transparency, accountability, and efficiency barometer. This must be accomplished within the next 6 to 12 months.



The SOAD Conference on Agriculture



On December 16th, the SOAD organised a conference on zoom under the authority of Vice Prime Minister Hugh Johnson. The title of this event was: « **Empowering the Farming Communities** ». This conference, or rather this seminar, given the very concrete objective, started at 9AM Jamaica time, and finished about 5 hours later, Deandrea Hamilton, spokesperson of the SOAD Government, being the moderator of this meeting.

Among the speakers were many ministers, MPs, experts in different areas. In the room, there were almost 70 people, coming from the USA, Nicaragua, Brazil, Columbia, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Dominican Republican, Neville and Saint Kitts, Martinique, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, UK, South Africa, Cameroon, The Gambia, Congo, Ivory Coast, Senegal, India. It was really the Panafrican United Nations.



Agriculture and Water

The State of the African Diaspora operates both in Africa and the Diaspora, our aim being to reinforce Africa through the Diaspora, and the Diaspora through Africa. One of the main challenges for African agriculture is access to water and this problem can only worsen with global warming. More heat means less water, less food, more famines, and also more conflicts, as can be seen in Eastern Africa along the Nile, and in many other regions.

To solve this problem, Emmanuel Ngombet, Minister of Infrastructures of SOAD, is working on a program of action which means to desalinate seawater and then transport it to the arid lands of inland Africa where people will be able to drink it and use it for their agricultural activities. As a result, it will feed their families, increase their revenues, reduce poverty and limit the potential conflicts among communities.



Desalination plant, Agadir

Two processes currently exist to desalinate seawater: the thermal process and the reversed osmosis. The first method means to extract the fresh water from the seawater by heating the mixture. As the water will condense, salt and impurities remain in solid form. The water vapor is then placed in a sealed tube to be cooled and turned into pure, liquid water. The second consists of filtering seawater using powerful high-pressure pumps, allowing only water molecules to pass through. This is the model we will use, as it requires less energy.

The plant envisioned by the Minister of Infrastructures is expected to start producing nearly 275,000 cubic meters of water per day, 150 000 for food consumption and 125,000 for irrigating 50,000 km² of plantations, to ideally reach 450 000 per day, its maximum capacity.



It will then be possible to plant fruit trees, covering an area of almost 10 million km2, and to manage this abundant production of fruits and vegetables, in all seasons, through an African fruit and vegetable company. Agri-food companies, which will be responsible for processing / packaging a large of this



fruit and vegetable production, will find considerable added value.

Another goal of the project is to replenish the rivers (and Lake Chad) in small doses per day in fresh water. Fisheries can then be organised, and once fed, the rivers (Senegal, Niger, Nile) will have a regular and constant flow all year round, so it will be possible to produce electricity through floating hydroelectric dams of 2 MW each.

Agriculture, the Land and the Landless, By Ivan Poli, Vice President of the Parliament, in charge of South America



Brazil is the largest agricultural power in the world, accounting for 1/6 of the world's grain production, the largest exporter of soybeans and the largest cattle herd in the world. The country has agricultural technological development organizations such as EMBRAPA that brought the country to this position. However, the reality in the field is divided in two; the reality of large producers and large landowners that have extensive credit lines from state, private and national development banks and the reality of small producers in subsistence agriculture, as is the case with Quilombos (communities of indigenous African-descent remnant of the resistance against slavery) and family agricultural cooperatives, which rarely have their right to land recognized by government agencies.

Therefore, the right to land in the country is something that, despite the Agrarian Reform project since the 80s and 90s,

has not been widely guaranteed in the country where conflicts (sometimes bloody) occur in the rural sector promoted by movements of struggle for right to demarcate land for the landless, such as the MST Landless Movement, which often occupy unproductive rural properties used for speculation in rural areas with the purpose of settling settlers' camps that have not yet had their land plots allocated by the Government in the Agrarian Reform project. The policy of demarcating land for Quilombolas (remnant communities of Quilombos of indigenous Afro descendants who resisted slavery) and land reform varies widely from government to government. Between 2003 and 2016 with progressive governments in the country, thousands of hectares of land were demarcated for Quilombolas and small rural producers.



Demonstration organised by Landless farmers in Brazil

After that, with the advent of more conservative governments, especially after 2019 with the current government, President Bolsonaro himself ended the process of demarcating land for Quilombolas and indigenous people and has returned all state investment in agriculture to large landowners and benefited those who burn areas of native forest such as the Amazon and the Pantanal biome for livestock and soy plantations for export, as well as large landholdings and incentives for predatory mining. Therefore, the right to land as well as agricultural financing for Afro-descendent Quilombola communities, small producers of the family economy and the landless is less and less assured in the policy of the current Brazilian Federal government elected since October 2018, as well as respect for the environment.



Environment due to fires in forest areas and large natural biomes for the purposes of livestock and large plantations is also at risk and in this sense that our action as a Pan African Development Bank, ECO-6 is essential in association with other civil society associations to ensure the right to agricultural financing for Quilombola and landless communities. We cannot neglect this struggle that belongs to everyone, as well as the case of the anti-racist struggle.



Landless Farmers protesting in front of the Police

Agriculture and Lumi Cities, by VPM Keturah Amoako



There generally is no natural foods in big cities, most foods in the supermarkets are either GMO, hybrids, seedless, soiless, sunless or made from unknown material created in laboratories. We have a duty, in fact an obligation to restore and regenerate the natural authentic growing, harvesting and production of food.

As Africans in the Diaspora, the majority of us have lost connection to the earth, its sound, its vibration, its energy, its pulse, its frequency. We have lost connection to the night sky, we spend the majority of our lives in houses, cars, offices, shops, bars etc. Street lights obscure the night sky – we have lost our contact to the stars, the planets, the energies of the sha-

dow of the sun and the energies of the moon. The night conversations of the insects and creatures in the night. Cities disconnects us on too many levels, and essentially, this construct we have accepted as life in the west is not who we are and not what we want to do. We have the unique and blessed opportunity to create, design, construct and build our own cities. We have almost 30 smart city projects of which I like to call LUMI Cities. The LUMI, our national currency, as you all know, was brought into existence because of the challenges of climate change and thus, the LUMI complements the ethics supporting the way in which we approach the constructions of the cities, the building and in keeping with the efficacy of the root and meaning of the LUMI.

There are now in place and emerging a variety of farming methodologies and we can select and employ from the most environment conscious and clean methods of food production and manufacturing



We must certainly, inside our LUMI cities and in our local communities at large, arrive at a point that we should not need to pay for fresh produce, because it grows all around us. Nature gives freely, thus with the consciousness of our lumi city dwellers, we must plant for each other; thus LUMI city farming would be incorporated into daily work life.

We will stand on these principals to ensure the future of our generations will enjoy having the highest vibrational quality foods, not just in Africa, but from around the world. As Global Pan-Africans, this is an historical moment which we must utilise to its greatest potential.





We must allow nature to do what nature does, that is to grow, to reproduce and to transform and as living beings we have the opportunity to remove ourselves from being subjected to concrete cities but move to being an integral part of green jungles of our LUMI cities.



Therefore, our Commodity exchanges will form the backbone and pillar of our global movement in the trade of food and in certainly experiencing the variety of foods and medicines that can be harvested around the global diaspora in bettering our social, national and international economics and wellbeing. This is how we see our smart and LUMI cities.



Agriculture and New Technologies



According to the McKinsey Center for advanced Connectivity, « if connectivity is implemented successfully in agriculture, the industry could tack on \$500 billion in additional value to the global gross domestic product by 2030 ».

Especially in Africa, where 65 % of the population works in agriculture, there is a high potential of development. And as the population is growing very fast, it is crucial to increase the level of technology to make sure everybody has access to food security.

There are many obstacles to the development of new technologies in agriculture -most of them are in fact psychological. People usually see agriculture as a traditional activity, which is true. But even the oldest traditions can benefit from new technologies.

Some people are reluctant to new technologies. It is true that not everything is good in new technologies, for example the GMO. But similarly, not everything is good in old traditions. So whatever we do, old or new, we need to sort out what is relevant and what is not. And in fact, the adoption of emerging technologies



is expanding at a rate greater than the consumer's capacity to understand the opportunities.

Many examples can be provided. The most obvious are the soil and water sensors, which are not very expensive; they can help to decide when to water or fertilise precisely without any waste. Irrigation control is of course an important benefit, especially in a time of global warming, when water may become more and more rare. The drones can also help to monitor the agricultural activity, as they provide high resolution imagery revealing information about crop development, bacterial or fungal infections, etc. What would take a lot of time and human resources when the field is large can be done quickly from a distance.



Also, blockchains facilities have proved very efficient to track all the goods on the chain of supply, to know where is what, and to make sure the products are delivered in time and in good conditions. Tractors, and even driverless autocarts are now available and help farmers to perform activities that would normally take a lot of time, energy and money. And of course, new technologies are even more important in transformation, factories and agri-business, where we need to develop new products, new storage and transport facilities, new systems of payments, or even sometimes new ways to preserve the tradition.

Insurance and Pensions for the Panafrican Farmers

In Africa and in the Diaspora, small farmers are traditionally exposed to many risks: droughts, floods, cyclones, insects, epizotics, etc. And, because of global warming, these catastrophes can only happen more and more. When the small farmers lose the crop, as they have no cash, no guarantee, no access to credit, given the loans to be repaid, they have no more future, it could be their final ruin.

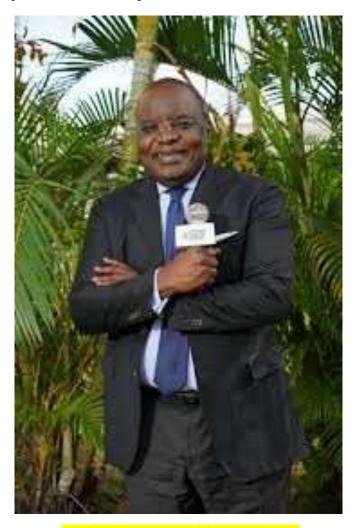


And if they escape all these risks, there is another one they will probably not escape, especially among the Panafrican communities: poverty. Paradoxically, the ones who feed the world can hardly feed themselves. They have very small salaries, they do not have any savings, no capacity to finance their pension, so they have to work until they die, which often happens prematurely. They work very late, they die very soon: their lives are constantly exhausted, jeopardised, without rest, without vacations and without retirement.

This is why the State of the African Diaspora has decided to create two different services. The first one is an insurance. This SOAD insurance program will be associated with local insurance companies. The small farmers will have the opportunity to receive Lumis from Eco-6, so they will be able to save part of this income for their insurance. And when a problem occurs, they will receive the support that they need. This insurance will be made available for the citizens of Africa and the Diaspora, especially for the members of the Commodity Exchange. The second program is the pension scheme. The SOAD will provide a pension scheme for the small



farmers, the landless, the poorest. The program will be designed and implemented by Blaise Mendjiwa, international expert in insurance and pensions.



Agriculture and Traditional Medicine

-Mr Thurston Bilal, you are the Minister of Traditional Medicine. What is traditional medicine exactly?

-Traditional Medicine refers to Healing Methods used by indigenous people since the beginning of time that include Health practices, approaches, knowledge, protocols incorporating native plants, animal and mineral based medicines, spiritual therapies, manual techniques and exercise applied alone or in combination to treat, diagnose or prevent illness and or maintain good health

-What are it powers and its limits compared to western medicine?

-Its Powers are that the Creator has provided edible plants (cell food) in every region that can assist the body in its natural ability to cleanse, nourish and heal itself and based on

on knowledge of the person/healer you can heal yourself as long as you do not wait to long or do too much damage to yourself eating man made foods and drinks that the body cannot process.

The only limit, in my opinion, compared to western medicine is in emergency situations. Western medicine has procedures that can stabilize a person, stop bleeding, or set a bone or even to keep you breathing.



-What is your program of action for the State of the African Diaspora ?

- -I would like to organize different programs:
- 1) Traditional Medicine Centers of Healing that will include Research on the indigenous plants medical an edible,
- 2) set up healing Villages that will employ the healing arts and every other natural healing science and keep detailed records of our results before and after diagnostic sheets,
- 3) set up Seed Banks and laboratories in every region and a school to house the knowledge of the healing arts to do research to make sure that they are not hybrid / man made and to create Healing Formulas and test them.
- -How can we develop a kind of « agri-pharmacopia », to use the word coined by Vice Prime Minister Amoako, that is how can we do agriculture for the purpose of traditional medicine?



- -How can African medicine be recognized internationally, but also in Africa where a lot remains to be done?
- -We need to set up an infrastructure at our healing villages/centers and keep detailed diagnostic sheets of all of our successes curing pathologies, and set up infrastructures to process and manufacture our own formulas on the continent and market them, then African and international recognition will come.

The Challenges of the SOAD Food Bank

The SOAD Food Bank program started officially on march 29, 2020. Nina Womack, President of the SOAD Parliament, is the director of the program. The two vice-directors are Melvin Brown, Vice President of the SOAD Parliament for Central America and the Caribbean, and Gemma Vecchio, Vice President of the Parliament in charge of Europe.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and the recent hurricanes in Central America make the program relevant in people every day lives, as they battle to survive adverse conditions in the communities, territories, Palenques, Realms, Quilombos, tribes, nations and nation states they belong to.

From an institutional point of view, SOAD is building an emergency response system. Food security is an important component of the system, as well as infrastructure capability to gain access with help and relief in any grade or level of emergency. Logistical support, medical assistance, supply chain of goods and services, are all part of the response process.







In Panama where we are based, we have served over 6,047 persons from different age groups and socio economic and medical conditions. We offer assistance and food to black, mestizo and indigenous people and communities who are of African Descent.



The program is currently operating from an office space shared with Melvin Brown Consultas as part of a collaboration agreement between SOAD, MBC Consulting Firm and the Afropanamanian Foundation for Sustainable Development.



In Panama, we are operating in 7 communities and two provinces, but we have over 30 communities we have not reached in the 2 provinces where we are currently working. We have 11 volunteers who work an average of 72 hours a week combined assignments. We are very distant from a national operation; in order to grow, we need to increase food supply, additional equipment, logistical capability to transport dry and refrigerated goods.

So far, the operational cost of the program is close to 250,000 dollars, between in-kind services, cash donations, food donations, pampers for children. We need 50 million dollars for 2021 to have a national operation with installations in 9 provinces, equipment and supply chains. For Central America and the Caribbean, we need 1.5 billion dollars.

The SOAD Commodity Exchange that is developed by Hugh Johnson, SOAD Second Vice Prime Minister, is very important strategically to the Global Food Program. The surpluses, which always exist, might be allocated to our global food bank. Having supplies of farm goods is crucial to the sustainability and expansion of the SOAD Food Program. And the people who are deprived of food could also receive support, education and jobs opportunities from us and from the Diaspora Commodity



Exchange, so that they do not depend on the SOAD food bank any more.

Agriculture and Factories

In the agricultural sector, the situation is not any different from what it is in mines, energy and any other raw material: Africa produces a lot, but does not manufacture. Our products are sent and transformed abroad, where all the added value is done, and then they are sent back to Africa, at a very high price, of course. So, being the source of many things, African farmers remain exploited.

That is why one of the solutions is to build factories everywhere on the continent. Nothing should leave Africa in its basic condition, we need to transform everything at home, serve our population first and then export the surplus. That is why the State Of the African Diaspora has started to contribute to this agri-business process.

For example, when it comes to cocoa, we have three industrial projects. Emerging chocolate consumption trends in Western Europe, in the United States and further into Asia which have rendered the global chocolate industry ripe for disruption. This is why the SOAD is glad to work now on three chocolate factories, one in Ivory Coast, one in Congo and one in Ghana. Probably, in the future, we will also build others in the Diaspora.

The objective is to create high quality chocolate to have a better added value. One of the members of our network recently received the 2nd award among several hundreds of candidates in a world competition. He is willing to help small Panafrican producers to increase the quality level of their product. This is what has to be done in each sector.



The chocolate factory campus will include four main buildings (1) factory, (3) training center, (4) warehouse and laundry

Agriculture and Finances



Final Statement by the Prime Minister

« In the past, we could see horrible photos of children dying of starvation, with all the flies around. We all believed these images were history. But because of global warming, they could also become our future. As a matter of fact, while Africa is only responsible for 5 % of global warming, 2/3 of the countries most affected by the climate change are, in fact, in Africa. So it means that Africa is paying, and we will pay more and more for the wrongs caused by others. It is the same in the Caribbean Islands and in Central America where the hurricanes are more and more violent, destroying crops, houses and communities every year.

The western countries and China, of course, do not want to accept and take their responsibilities for this problem, and refuse to pay any serious climate reparation -just as they refuse to pay reparation for slavery and colonisation. If we do not do anything, we will see the advances of the desert, the reinforcement of the hurricanes, the increase of famines, hunger riots and hunger wars. That is why our agricultural programs of action in Africa and in the Diaspora are a priority and an emergency.

The conference organised by Hugh Johnson occurred on December 16th 2020. The Panafrican Agribusiness Commodity Exchange has to be launched by December 16th 2021.



This is a SOAD commitment. After my consultations with the two Vice Prime Ministers, Mrs Keturah Amoako and Mr Hugh Johnson, I have decided that the State of the Africa Diaspora will invest **at least 1 billion USD in Lumis** to develop the Panafrican Agri-Business Commodity Exchange (PACE).



And also, after discussions with the Minister of Infrastructures, Emmanuel Ngombet, the same amount will be invested to finance the program to bring water to Africa, in Western Africa in particular, where we already have a basis, with the West Africa Commodity Exchange.

After 2020, which has been such a difficult year for everybody, and even more for the poorest and African people in particular, the State Of the African Diaspora is very proud to bring this momentum for 2021: 1 billion for Africa, 1 billion for the Diaspora, this is the SOAD commitment to start the new year in good conditions. »