

Launching Ceremony

APN ASSEMBLY 2018

“African Philanthropy: Giving and Power”

Theme: Africa Gives: People, Policies and Practice

Thursday 8th November 29018 at 1230 Hours

Intercontinental Hotel, Balaclava, Mauritius

**Speech of His Excellency Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, GOSK, Acting President
of the Republic of Mauritius**

Mr. Paramasiva Chengan, President of MACOSS

Mr Francis Kiwanga, The Chairman of the East Africa Philanthropy Network and
interim board Chair of African Philanthropy Network APN

Mr Maurice Makoloo, Regional Director – The Ford Foundation Eastern Africa

Dr. Stigmata Tenga, Executive Director APN

Mr Abignil Bergesson, Chairperson of the APN Assembly Planning Committee

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is a great pleasure for me to be with you here for this Africa Philanthropy Network Assembly. It is a great honour for us in Mauritius to have the opportunity to host this assembly in our country. Mauritius is part of Africa. Though we are a small island outside the continent. We are a member of the African Union, we are part of SADC and COMESA. There can be no better proof of our belongingness to Africa than the support Mauritius received from the African Union when it voted as a block in support of our claim for sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago at the United Nations. For this we are very thankful to the African Union.
2. This assembly today is the flagship event of the Africa Philanthropy Network that brings together leaders and innovative practitioners like yourselves to discuss Africa's growth and development, to come up with innovative ideas to implement philanthropic work.
3. In this world we live in, philanthropic work has become necessary because of the divide, of the disparity, between the haves and the haves-not. It is imperative therefore that, together, we work to bridge the gap.
4. African Philanthropy is about Giving Power. In other words it is about Empowering. This means that, through Philanthropy, we have to teach those in need how to fish, instead of continuously giving fish to feed them day after day in a never ending scenario.
5. It is important to help those in need to develop life skills in order for them to become independent and self-sufficient.

6. There must be a call for personal efforts on the part of those in need to get out of poverty.
7. To my mind the elements necessary to achieve this is not only material in nature, namely food , clothes and shelter. But also in the form of capacity building, that is acquisition of knowledge (education), skills and attitude. A lot of emphasis has to be placed on the attitude of the person receiving help. The right attitude of mind is fundamental for change.
8. So philanthropic work must be geared not only to cater for the physical needs of the people in need but to cater for their mental, emotional and spiritual growth. In so doing, they themselves will become active in shaping their destiny instead of being and remaining passive, sterile recipients of charity.
9. We have to work on building the self-worth and the self-pride of the people in need of assistance.
10. It is important to make everyone realize that he/she can be the master of his/her own fate. But then also we have to bring home to them that not only do they have rights but at the same time they also have responsibilities.
11. The responsibility for their own personal growth, and if they are parents – to be responsible parents and have a family of size that they can support. This is responsible parenthood. They have to realise that they need to have the means to raise a family and provide all that is necessary for each member of the family to thrive.

12. African Philanthropy Network (APN) is a platform for promoting the “Voice and Action for African Philanthropy”, with a commitment to building a broad, multi-stakeholder understanding and recognition of the contribution of philanthropy as a field that bridges development and local ownership.

13. APN seeks to establish a strong voice for African philanthropy in order to address the growing challenges of conflict, poverty and bad governance in Africa. APN believes that Africa can effectively mobilize and harness domestic resources for its own development.

14. APN is a critical player to provide leadership and guidance in mapping and defining the continental philanthropy space and positioning African philanthropy in global development discourse to address the urgent need for African representation and African leadership in the global philanthropy space.

15. The sessions will concentrate on three pillars: **The People Pillar, The Policy Pillar and the Practice Pillar**

16. The People Pillar explores trends and socio-economic dynamics that are reshaping African development story. Participants will explore some trends, motivations, and social and economic dynamics that are shaping African philanthropy. Opportunity for transforming Africa’s development story from one of "need" and "dependence" to one of "self-direction and self-reliance" and the barriers when it comes to supporting issues that are considered "difficult" or "unpopular"

17. The Policy Pillar considers the role that national and international policies play in growth of philanthropy in Africa
18. National and regional policies have an important role to play in creating the conditions in which philanthropy can grow – and in which civil society can operate more generally. At the same time, in our globalized world it is not only national level government policies that matter. Rules and regulations in one country can enable or inhibit resource flows to or within another.
19. As far as Practice Pillar is concerned, never have there been more types of philanthropy. More and more interest groups and sub-groups are emerging: feminist philanthropy, venture philanthropy, community philanthropy, impact investing, participatory grant-making, social justice philanthropy as well as more platforms and networks to engage with partners all over the global.
20. You will need to focus on exciting new tools and strategies for building philanthropy, new networks (global and regional) as well as sector-level issues that look at what kinds of support a functioning ecosystem for philanthropy in Africa needs.
21. Let me conclude by congratulating and thanking all of you assembled here for your commitment to improving the quality of life of our less fortunate brothers and sisters. There is no reward to be expected for this philanthropic work. The reward is the personal satisfaction in the accomplishment of your generous actions.

22.I wish you all a very successful networking exercise, coming up with a number of excellent, innovative, thrifty methods, that will help to maximize the potential sources of funds. Funds that will be utilized to achieve productive capacity building, generate wealth and goodwill in order to improve the lives of people in need.

23.You have met this morning for the first session, you will have other sessions this afternoon and the whole day tomorrow. On the next day you will be taken to visit the island.

24.For now it is my pleasant duty to officially declare the African Philanthropy Network Assembly open.

25.Thank you for your attention.