

# Global Warming Catastrophe, Africa Remains Prime Victim; top British Economist Warns.

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*Global Warming is set to make many of the problems which Africa already deals with, much, much worse; [Andrew Simms, 29, 10, 2006, New Economic Foundation]*

## I. Grave Threat to the Future of the World

Top British Economist, Sir Nicholas Stern [former World Bank Chief Economist], warns his government and the wider Western nations that can make difference to the rapidly increasing global warming and its possible catastrophic risk; that is purely caused by their century and a half old industrialised economic systems, in his report published and presented to the UK parliament, on October 30, 2006. Sir Stern seriously emphasises in his critically researched scientific [on economic cost of the climate change], report on global warming that, if his government, Western nations and wider World fail to act on time the danger will cause incalculable damage to the global economy with further irreversible recession.

‘Without action, up to 200 million people could become ‘**Climate Refugees**’ as their homes are hit by drought or flood’, he warns. That further causes more social unrest and conflicts of various magnitudes caused by competition for scarce resources [tacit]. Further, he argues about the economic cost of global warming if the business is left as usual, to reach up to 20% of global GDP; whereas if immediate the action is taken for instance by using alternative technology to avert the danger; the cost might remain 1-1.2% of the GDP by 2050. This only might be achieved by the complete change of the behaviour in the Western nation’s lives and by supporting poor African nations to develop alternative technology.

Repeated use of artificial fertilisers distributed by the American and European trans-national Companies to African, Latin American and Asian poor countries; in particular since the introduction of *Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs)* imposed by key players (lender/donors) such as IMF, European Financial giants and WB; also blamed for its huge contribution in global warming. Most African and Asian countries’ lands that used to be fertile and organic material growing are virtually made to rely on artificial fertilisers; or otherwise face the consequences of remaining infertile; leaving its beneficiaries powerless and beggars with profound ‘relief-mentality’. This is a part of reality that makes most Africans to rely on aid than developing self-sufficiency in addition to the other factors that impoverished African and the rest developing countries.

‘Stern comes up with the stark conclusion that if we do nothing to stem climate change, there could be a permanent reduction in consumption per head of 20%, Robert Peston, BBC Business Editor’.

Unless global warming is brought to the lights of politician's priority, the future remains uncertain for the West, never mind deliberately underdeveloped Africa. The effect of global warming is already rampaging Africa and making some part Sun-Saharan African countries virtually inhospitable while key player are dealing with other priorities. Their lack of vision and wisdom of predicting futurity is putting the world's fate at stake. While they are enjoying temporary pleasure, their off-springs will face an uncertain futurity.

In the past two decades and so, the issue of global warming was the concern of green house gas campaigners and those who are victimised by its effects. Its risk wasn't alarming enough to wake the West up; in particular those who are major contributors such as the U.S. and other industrialised Western nations. The current growing Asian tiger economies are also helping the bleeding northern pole's ice sheets to profoundly haemorrhage. That in turn increases the levels of seas to engulf places that used to be hospitable to compromise human existence.

China's new plan of scramble for Africa to promote its economic interest further puts pressure on already fragile regional weather and adds on the existing danger if global warming is not taken into account. China also became one of the most polluters with its counter-part newly emerging economy, the India. The other prime victims also are South Asian nations such as Bangladesh whose people perish on yearly bases and millions are made homeless. In general, social and financial disaster caused due to global warming is incalculable for Africans in particular, poor countries in general; and it's showing its inevitable signs for the West. This inevitably awakening silently rested West to rush for urgent measures; not for the sake of Africans, but simply because it is knocking at their doors!

## **I.1 Major Polluters, the US and Europe fail to Predict Unpredictable.**

Since Scientists fully recognised the magnitude of the danger global warming is posing; they made repeated pleas to the politicians of the Western nation to enable them to influence the change of their people's life styles, make changes on Arsenal competitions and proliferations of atomic arsons which is another threat to human existence. Despite these campaigns and warnings, global warning wasn't in their priority and it is not their priority to this date.

For instance the U.S. didn't agree to sign Kyoto agreement on global warming and cut in green-house-gas emission, since its inception decades ago. Even today, after this seriously alarming report, the U.S. president, G.W Bush refused to sign the Kyoto agreement claming; the cut in green house gas emission affects his country's economy. The irony is that the U.S. is the major polluter of the planet with its highly sophisticated industrialised production system and consumerism for the passed more than 100 years. Yet, it prioritises its trans-national company's economic upper-handedness by doing so to keep their global political and economic superiority. Their failure to predict an unpredictable that compromises the existence of the planet proves their failure to genuinely think for their future generations let alone the Africans!

In the West, in particular in the U.S., the sizes of automobiles being utilised, domestic power consumption methods, entire veins of economic and technological system are main responsible for rapidly increasing global warming catastrophe that they still failed to prioritise. Unless an alternative technology is made available, we might be obliged to inherit our children dangerous world.

## II. Africa's Fate at Stake

In the last year alone, more than 25 million people in Sub-Sahara Africa have faced food crisis, [Andrew Simms, BBC online, October 29, 2006]

The effect of global warming primarily was the issues of Sub-Saharan-African countries that were and are victims of recurrent drought and famine. Most parts of this region at the moment are becoming virtually inhospitable. Andrew Simms from New Economics foundations adds that **the 'great tragedy' was that Africa had played virtually no role in global warming; a problem was caused by economic activity of the rich, industrialised countries.** Unless climate change was tackled, all the best efforts to help Africa could come nothing, [Andrew Simms, BBC online, October 29, 2006].

Sadly, most prime victims of the global warming effects remain perhaps those who haven't seen and used single electric bulb in their lives. People who are primary victims are those who haven't made their single cup of tea using an electric power. People who are primary victims are those who haven't travelled by bus, plane, train or any forms of cars. However, they become a sacrificial lamb, to make others lives much comfortable.

In their action plan here in the UK for instance, on October 30, 2006, Prime Minister Tony Blair didn't dare to mention that how Africans are suffering by the problems of global warming purely caused by the industrialised nations. Instead, the politicians seriously started to predict its effect on the Western society. The report of Sir, Stern, however, emphasises that wealthy nations of the West have to support the poor to help them to cope with the problems [that are caused by the West] and change their life styles. Genuine people argue asking, 'why the West all the times live at the expense of Africa, why they knowingly kept silent while Africans are unnecessarily perishing'?

### II. 1 Why Africa is unnecessarily getting punished all the times?

The decisiveness of the short period of Colonialism and its negative consequences for Africa spring mainly from the fact that Africa lost power. Power is the ultimate determinant in human society, being basic to the relations within any group and between groups. It implies the ability to defend one's interests and if necessary to impose one's will by any means available. In relations between peoples, the question of power determines manoeuvrability in bargaining, the extent to which a people survives as a physical and cultural entity. When one society finds itself forced to relinquish power entirely to another society that in itself is a form of underdevelopment,

[Dr Walter Rodney 1972, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa]

During the era of slavery African made to suffer for the betterment of others'. Its economy has been plundered and its peoples were brutally dehumanised. While Africans are languishing between life and death due to such barbaric act of slave masters, people were obliged to deny their identity and their being 'human'. Disregarding the historical fact that Africans' inherit. '*Before even the British came into relations with our people, we were a developed people, having our own institutions, having our own ideas of government, J. E. Casely Hayford, 1922, Africa Gold Cost Nationalist*'. African's made to conform to an unjust system imposed on them by the slave masters and even some of the native Africans made to help the brutalisation of their fellow Africans on behalf of Slave masters.

While Africans are suffering from such inhuman systems, the second and most instrument that helped Europeans to snatch the power of African nation's came in to being. Scramble for African through Colonialism; the plan that further facilitated systematic and well structured operation to plunder resources including precious metals and exploitations of all kinds. Such system was theoretically ended in 1960s by changing the course of Africans social, economic and cultural lives for ever. African's decision making power has been entirely taken away, or being compromised, leaving them with no choice, but subservience.

The third and most civilised systematic exploitation also started to take its shape. In this era, the first experiment was trying to find-out how they can continue to plunder and exploit available resource of Africa indirectly under the pretext of development. International institutions created by the Western economic powers, IMF/WB/ILO, soon after that gives them pretexts to do whatever they feel is right for their socio-political expansion. The pre-planned programmes such as Structural Adjustment Programmes 'SAP' with its preconditions of privatising public sectors such as health, education, electricity, water and others that made the lives of most Africans difficult to survive, were imposed on African to promote the interests of trans-national Western companies.

In addition to this, African governments were made incapable of doing their own issues without verification of their donors to introduce new ideas, initiatives and any kind of development activities. If they tend to do such programmes born by Africans, the donors threaten to stop aid and loan packages that are meant to support the development of the poor. On the other hand if any regime agrees with their programmes, they keep such a person on power under whatever the cost; at the expense of deprived and marginalised.

### **III. Conclusion**

Therefore, the existence of Africa is not for the benefit of Africans; but entirely for the politico-economic interest of the Western powerful economy's existence. The African continent is purely serving the said regions than its peoples since the era of slavery. The suffering of Africans by the global warming is not new phenomenon therefore; but has been at least for three decades palpable in particular, in Sub-Saharan African countries. However, its effect became profoundly pervasive in the Western world just now that

might make them to act on time to minimise the magnitude of the sufferings of their peoples that in turn relieves neglected African's sufferings. If the West fears for their futurity, then they inevitably minimises the industrial out puts that further minimises the sufferings of Africans by reducing the levels of green gas house emissions. The need for consorted effort to minimise the likelihood of this catastrophe, however, has to be the agenda of international community although African's didn't contribute to this end. We need to work hard to save the planet from the looming catastrophe.

**Kambata Xoola, October 30, 2006.**