

Professor Horace Campbell: University of Ghana Kwame Nkrumah Chair in African Studies Installed



Horace Campbell (third person, in white shirt) and members of the University of Ghana faculty and administration).

The third occupant of the Kwame Nkrumah Chair in African Studies, Professor Horace Campbell, has been officially installed at a colorful ceremony on Tuesday, 7 February 2017, at the Great Hall.

After the installation, Professor Campbell delivered an inaugural lecture titled “*Reconstruction, Transformation and the Unification of the Peoples of Africa in the 21st Century: Rekindling the Pan African Spirit of Kwame Nkrumah.*” The lecture was underpinned by insights of Nkrumah concerning the building of a unified and secure Africa as a foundation for ensuring the true liberation of the continent. Professor Campbell used his lecture to outline his research agenda as occupant of the Chair. He made a commitment to deepening the work of his predecessors to amplify the messages about Kwame Nkrumah, Pan Africanism and freedom.

He emphasized the unification of African peoples, and presented the Agenda 2063 of the African Union as a home-grown pathway to ensure the integration and prosperity in an African continent governed by its own people and using its own resources for its own transformation. “We need unified economic planning for Africa. Until the economic power of Africa is in our hands, the masses can have no real concern and no real interest for safeguarding our security, for ensuring the stability of our regimes, and for bending their strength to the fulfilment of our ends”, he stated.

Professor Campbell argued among other things that Ubuntu and the spiritual linkages of the African peoples with nature should guide efforts to industrialize Africa as the continent leaps over linear models of growth through the use of biotechnology and shifts away from the fossil fuel economy. “Indeed, the emancipatory approach of this African philosophy of Ubuntu demands that there be a re-education, away from some aspects of the Enlightenment, to emancipate not just African people but the entire humanity from the destruction of planet earth and from the loss of the essence of our common humanity,” he stated. He also reinforced the need to recognize and unearth the potentials of the African youth as a way of making demographic dividends dynamic.

In her welcome address, the Director of the Institute, Professor Dzodzi Tsikata observed that the importance of the Chair to the IAS’s efforts to become a global leader in the production, dissemination, preservation and recovery of African-centered knowledge about Africa and its Diasporas could not be overstated. “The Chair serves as ambassador of the Institute and of the ideas and ideals of Kwame Nkrumah. It is also a hub of knowledge production and dissemination, the exchange of ideas and the nurturing of a new generation of scholars of African Studies,” she remarked.

Professor Tsikata made reference to Ghana’s founding president, Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah, and to his vision for the Institute to study among other things, the origins and cultures of peoples of African descent in the Americas and the Caribbean, as well as seek to maintain close relations with their scholars “so that there may be cross fertilization between Africa and those who have their roots in the African past.” She described Professor Campbell as one of foremost scholars of pan Africanism, whose presence was a proof of the Institute’s determination to live up to Nkrumah’s vision. She observed that the Institute was one of the treasures of the University that was positioned at the center of a wide network of institutions and partnerships concerned with showcasing African values, philosophies, aesthetics, cultures and innovations. Professor Tsikata commended AngloGold Ashanti Ghana Limited for its tremendous support in establishing and sustaining the Chair for the past eight years. She used the occasion to pay tribute to late Mr John Owusu, former Public Affairs Director of AngloGold Ashanti Limited, for his tireless efforts to ensure that the Chair was established.

The well-attended ceremony was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, who was assisted by the Director of the Institute, to install Professor Campbell. In his introductory remarks, Professor Oduro Owusu stated among other things that the Kwame Nkrumah Chair in African Studies was by far the most visible of the three endowed Chairs, which were set up by the University to promote research, leadership and mentorship.



Professor Horace Campbell after the Installation Ceremony.

The Kwame Nkrumah Chair in African Studies is an endowed Chair jointly established in 2009, by the University of Ghana and AngloGold Ashanti Limited to honor Ghana's founding president, Kwame Nkrumah, for his significant intellectual contributions, his vision and commitment to the liberation and development of African people on the continent and in the Diaspora and to promotes research teaching and the public promotion of Africana Studies. The Chair has had two distinguished occupants namely, Professor Kofi Anyidoho installed in February 2011, and Professor Jacob U. Gordon, installed in February, 2013.

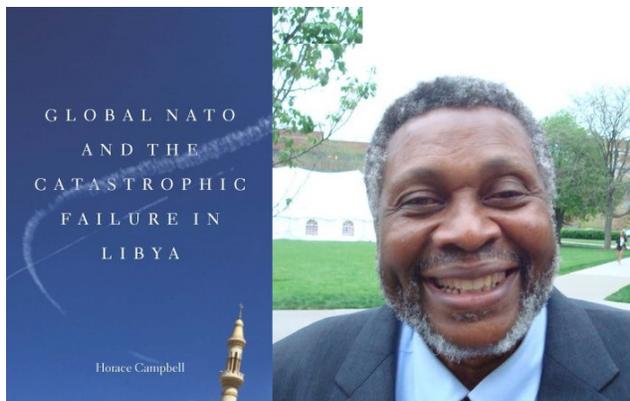
The Managing Director of AngloGold Ashanti Limited, Mr. Eric Asubonteng, in his remarks, reiterated the need for individual African States to take advantage of each other's unique strengths to realize the full potential of the continent as envisaged by Nkrumah. He stated the company's preparedness to honor Nkrumah's intellectual legacy as well as promote his agenda for continental unity through trade, culture and technology.

He thanked the first two occupants for the critical roles they played during their tenure, and pledged the continued commitment of AngloGold Ashanti to partner the Institute in sustaining this great initiative into the future.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor stated that the Kwame Nkrumah Chair in African Studies was a flagship reflected on the disparity between the vision accompanying Ghana's independence and what would appear to be a setback 60 years on. He called for stock taking and individual participation in making Africa the great continent it is meant to be, in honor of Kwame Nkrumah.

The ceremony, which brought together members of the University community as well as officials from AngloGold Ashanti Ghana Limited, and a cross section of the general public, was spiced up with a poetry recital, drum appellation and a choreographic performance by the Ghana Dance Ensemble to depict the story of resistance to oppression symbolized by the story of the 18th Century Asante-born Jamaican heroine Nanny of the Maroons.

Horace G. Campbell: A Profile



Horace G. Campbell is Professor of African American Studies and Political Science at Syracuse University in Syracuse New York. He has been an activist and a scholar for over forty years. From his early years in Jamaica, Campbell has been involved in the Black liberation struggle and in the struggles for peace and justice. From his years in Toronto, Canada to his sojourns in Africa (Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe), the United Kingdom and other parts of the Caribbean, he

has been an influential force offering alternatives to the hegemonic ideas of capitalism. While at the University of Dar es Salaam, he was the secretary of the Liberation Support Committee. As a member of the Dar es Salaam school he was active in debates on the transition beyond colonialism. He also serves as the chairperson of the Walter Rodney Commemoration Committee. At Syracuse University, he is the director of the Africa Initiatives and he works in the wider Syracuse community as an activist for peace. He is a board member of the Syracuse Peace Council. Within the University, he serves as a mentor for younger scholars and teaches courses on African Politics, African International Relations, Militarism and Transformation in Southern Africa, Introduction to Pan Africanism and the Caribbean Society since Independence, and Introduction to African American Studies. Also, he is a member of the International Relations Faculty in the Maxwell School, and one of the principal conveners for the Graduate Seminar on Pan Africanism: Research and Readings

Campbell has published widely. His most important book *Rasta and Resistance From Marcus Garvey to Walter Rodney* (Africa World Press) now going through its sixth edition is an in-depth study of the Rastafarian movement in all its manifestations, from its evolution in the hills of Jamaica to its present manifestations in the streets of Birmingham in the UK and the Shashamane Settlement in Ethiopia, hence, the book traces the cultural, political and spiritual sources of this movement of resistance, highlighting the quest for change among an oppressed people.

He has contributed over twenty chapters to other edited books and has published numerous articles and reviews in scholarly journals, and is currently completing a book on the wars against the Angolan people. Campbell writes regularly for the major newspapers in the USA, Southern Africa, the Caribbean and the United Kingdom. He has been a commentator on international politics on Pacifica Radio. His commentaries on international issues are widely circulated and his interview for the Blackelectorate.com, on the implications of September 2001 for humanity was widely reproduced on web sites in Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America.

Horace Campbell is a member of the African Studies Association and the National Conference of Black Political Scientists. He is an active member of the African Association of Political Science and was the guest editor in the first issue of the African Journal of Political Science, where he coordinated the publication on the question of Pan Africanism in the 21st century.

Horace Campbell was the first Director of the Syracuse University Study Abroad Program in Harare, Zimbabwe. He spent three years in Zimbabwe between 1993 and 1996. In the region of Southern Africa, he participated in the debates on regional cooperation and continues to be an active researcher in the Southern African Region Institute for Policy Studies (SARIPS). Between 1996 and 2001 he served on the board of SARIPS and is one of the lead researchers in the Peace and Security Research Network.

In the summer of 2001 did research on peace in Central Africa and was based at the Global Pan African Movement in Kampala, Uganda. He gave presentations on Peace and Reconstruction before the Uganda Society in Uganda, the Nairobi Peace Initiative (Nairobi, Kenya) and the Desmond Tutu Peace Center (Cape Town, South Africa). Campbell was a presenter on Globalization at the NGO Forum of the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban South Africa. He served for five years as the Chairperson of the International caucus of the Black Radical Congress.

Campbell was educated in the Caribbean, Canada, Uganda and the United Kingdom. He did his doctoral work at Sussex University in the United Kingdom. The title of his thesis was *The Commandist State in Uganda*. Since 1979, he has been studying issues of militarism and transformation in Africa. Before teaching at Syracuse University, he was at Northwestern University in Evanston and for six years at the University of Dar es Salaam.

He has been a Visiting Distinguished Professor in China (at Tsinghua University), South Africa, Ireland and Uganda. In 2011 and 2013 he taught as a Visiting Distinguished Professor in the Department of International Relations at Tsinghua University in Beijing. At Tsinghua University he taught courses on comparative politics and international political economy. He was born in Montego Bay, Jamaica. He is married to Professor Makini Zaline Roy who is an educator and community activist.

Professor Campbell is author of *Global NATO and the Catastrophic Failure in Libya: Lessons for Africa in the Forging of African Unity* (Monthly Review, 2013) which investigates the political and economic crises of the early twenty-first century through the prism of NATO's intervention in Libya as he traces the origins of the conflict, situates it in the broader context of the Arab Spring uprisings, and explains the expanded role of a post-Cold War NATO, a military organization, he argues, is the instrument through which the capitalist class of North America and Europe seeks to impose its political will on the rest of the world, however warped by the increasingly outmoded neoliberal form of capitalism. And he points out that while political elites in the West were quick to celebrate the intervention in Libya as a success, the NATO campaign caused many civilian deaths and destroyed the nation's infrastructure, and thus, the instability it unleashed in the forms of militias and terrorist groups have only begun to be reckoned with, as the United States learned when its embassy was attacked and personnel, including the ambassador, were killed. In 2010, author of *Barack Obama and 21st Century Politics: A Revolutionary Moment in the USA* (Pluto Press) which outlines how significant the movement behind Obama was for the politics of the United States and examines the networks that made the electoral victory possible and discusses the importance of self-organization and self-emancipation in politics as it develops a theory of politics that starts with the humanist principles of Ubuntu, healing and reparations for the 21st century to argue that key ideas like quantum politics and a 'network of networks' move away from old forms of vanguardism during a period in history that can be characterized as a revolutionary moment. He is coauthor of *Pan-Africanism, Pan-Africanists, and African Liberation in the 21st Century: Two Lectures* (New Academic Publishing, 2006) with Rodney Worrell, a hard hitting discourse on Pan-Africanism. Campbell engages the attention of the reader on a number of important issues : Africa and International Partnerships, defining the task of the 21st century, retreating from the mechanical concepts of humans, leaderism and the lessons of Pan-African struggles in the last century, retreating from wars and violence, African women and liberation, re-conceptualizing Pan-Africanism, Walter Rodney 1974, Pan-African renewal in the 21st century, USA and their concept of partnering with Africa, reparations and peace in Africa, what kind of Pan-African partnership is possible, can the Pan-African movement learn from the lessons of biological warfare, African youths liberation and peace and information revolution and peace. And Worrell highlights the social and political thought of Leroy Harewood one of the unsung heroes of the Caribbean arguing that unfortunately many working class West Indians have made sterling contributions in the quest for social justice but their contributions have never been recognize.

Hence, he seeks to address this deficiency by bringing to the attention of readers Harewood's views on several issues that are still relevant including: who are African people, hunger and underdevelopment, Pan-African solidarity, failure of Barbadian political leaders, shortcomings of the Black middle class, Clement Payne/NDP alliance, smashing the neo-colonial state, weaknesses of the liberal democratic model, Caribbean unification, re-colonization and the revolutionary potential of Barbadians. And in 2004 he authored *Reclaiming Zimbabwe: The Exhaustion of the Patriarchal Model of Liberation* (Africa World Press) that looks at Zimbabwe's problems, including state and ruling party violence against citizens as manifestations of and deriving directly from the masochist, militaristic, and gender-biased conception of liberation deeply imbedded in the post-independent state. In his exploration and analysis of Zimbabwe's experiences, from the transition to independence, he places issues like Zimbabwe's involvement in the Congo, executive lawlessness, the land crisis, homophobia, and the politics of intolerance into perspective; and he concludes that the politics of emancipation, militarism, and patriarchy are exhausted models of liberation and suggests new models of liberation for economic prosperity, human rights, political tolerance, non-discrimination, peace, and stability.