



DIVERSITY FRIDAY

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First of all, we would like to thank Mr. Kapache Victor (Legal Services) for his valuable input to this weeks edition of the Diversity Friday Newsletter.

In pursuant of the Africa Month theme, we reflect on one of the speeches of a great statesman of the African continent. On October 4, 1963, following the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa a few weeks earlier, in the presence of almost every African head of state, *Haile Selassie the First*; Emperor of Ethiopia spoke at the United Nations' General Assembly in New York. His historic speech carried the full weight of the OAU he had just founded in a masterful diplomatic operation, of pan-africanism on the rise and, more generally, of all the oppressed people throughout the world, in the name of whom everyone felt he spoke. Part of this legendary peace speech- which is relevant today as it was then in 1963 -was immortalised into the song "War" by Bob Marley. I still recalled him singing this song during Zimbabwe independence celebration in 1980.

In this speech, the Emperor mentioned of "two particular issues which are of deep concern to all men: disarmament and the establishment of true equality among men. Disarmament has become the urgent imperative of our time." He further said "I do not say this because I equate the absence of arms to peace, or because I believe that bringing an end to the nuclear arms race automatically guarantees the peace, or because the elimination of nuclear warheads from the arsenals of the world will bring in its wake that change in attitude requisite to the peaceful settlement of disputes between nations. Disarmament is vital today, quite simply, because of the immense destructive capacity of which men dispose."

He went on to say "When we talk of the equality of man, we find, also, a challenge and an opportunity; a challenge to breathe new life into the ideals enshrined in the Charter (United Nations Charter), an opportunity to bring men closer to freedom and true equality and thus, closer to a love of peace...the goal of the equality of man which we seek is the antithesis of the exploitation of one people by another with which the pages of history and in particular those written of the African and Asian continents, speak at such length. Exploitation, thus viewed, has many faces. But whatever guise it assumes, this evil is to be shunned where it does not exist and crushed where it does. It is the sacred duty of this Organization (UN) to ensure that the dream of equality is finally realized for all men to whom it is still denied, to guarantee that exploitation is not reincarnated in other forms in places whence it has already been banished."

In this historic speech he further made mention of a conference during May, 1963 in Addis Ababa, "where Heads of African States and Governments demonstrated to the world that when the will and the determination exist, nations and peoples of diverse backgrounds can and will work together in unity, to the achievement of common goals and the assurance of that equality and brotherhood which we desire".

He said, "On the question of racial discrimination, the Addis Ababa Conference taught, to those who will learn, this further lesson:

That until the philosophy which holds one race superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned: That until there are no longer first-class and second class citizens of any nation; That until the color of a man's skin is of no more significance than the color of his eyes; That until the basic human rights are equally guaranteed to all without regard to race; That until that day, the dream of lasting peace and world citizenship and the rule of international morality will remain but a fleeting illusion, to be pursued but never attained; And until the ignoble and unhappy regimes that hold our brothers (in Angola, in Mozambique and in South Africa) in subhuman bondage have been toppled and destroyed; Until bigotry and prejudice and malicious and inhuman self-interest have been replaced by understanding and tolerance and good-will; Until all Africans stand and speak as free beings, equal in the eyes of all men, as they are in the eyes of Heaven; Until that day, the African continent will not know peace. We Africans will fight, if necessary, and we know that we shall win, as we are confident in the victory of good over evil."

Let us conclude this nostalgia with another insert from this historic speech: "The problems which confront us today are, equally, unprecedented. They have no counterparts in human experience. Men search the pages of history for solutions, for precedents, but there are none. This, then, is the ultimate challenge. Where are we to look for our survival, for the answers to the questions which have never before been posed? We must look, first, to Almighty God, Who has raised man above the animals and endowed him with intelligence and reason. We must put our faith in Him, that He will not desert us or permit us to destroy humanity which He created in His image. And we must look into ourselves, into the depth of our souls. We must become something we have never been and for which our education and experience and environment have ill-prepared us. We must become bigger than we have been: more courageous, greater in spirit, larger in outlook. We must become members of a new race, overcoming petty prejudice, owing our ultimate allegiance not to nations but to our fellow men within the human community."

Finally, enjoy your Friday with this scripture from Jeremiah: 29:12-14 (Message Bible) with the Lord speaking in your spirit. "When you call on Me, when you come and pray to Me, I'll listen. When you come looking for Me, you'll find Me. Yes, when you get serious about finding Me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed." God's Decree. I'll turn things around for you. I'll bring you back from all the countries into which I drove you"—God's Decree—"bring you home to the place from which I sent you off into exile. You can count on it."



Candlelight Memorial Day is a day to think back on all the friends, family or co-workers that have been lost to HIV & AIDS. What can you do? Where do you start? Begin by thinking about what the effects of HIV & AIDS means to you and how you have been affected, either directly or indirectly...

Monday, 16 May 2016, the Office of the Premier (EHWP Unit) marked the day as a Candlelight Memorial Day in support of those who have lost loved ones to HIV&AIDS and to give support to those who are living with the virus. We wish to applaud the team for showing a spirit of Ubuntu in their effort in making this a success and to the colleagues who showed their support by lighting a candle. It is very important to understand the importance of lighting a candle, each and every candle lighted sends a message to those affected by the virus. **A candle represents light and hope.** In many cultures and traditions, lighting a candle is a ritual of remembrance of those who have died. Light a candle for someone you love who has passed or who has been affected by HIV & AIDS.

