



24 May 2013, Johannesburg

PRESS STATEMENT
25 May 2013, Africa Day Celebration
Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance in Action

The ACTION Support Centre (ASC) and the Proudly Africa Campaign will participate in the Africa Week Street Festival in support of Africa Day, May 25th, 2013.

Coming as it does at a time when the unity of our continent remains threatened by mercenary unprincipled elements intent on holding our continent back we need to use this occasion to galvanise all progressive forces behind a solid unifying agenda towards an Africa that takes its rightful place on the global stage.

From May 19th to 27th 2013, the African Union (AU) had its 21st Summit at the AU's headquarters in Addis Ababa, under the theme 'Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance'. This included a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now the AU, established in 1963 as a vehicle for economic and political cooperation amongst African states. South Africa began celebrating Africa Day upon liberation from the Apartheid regime in 1994. The ACTION Support Centre acknowledges the important contribution of Nkosasana Dlamini Zuma who acts as Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

The future Africa can come alive now, with the contribution and participation of all of us in a celebration of the essence of being African, in memory of those we have lost along the way and in laying the foundation for those that have yet to come. The spirit of UBUNTU, of togetherness, of each of us being connected to all of us, will resonate from the streets of Yeoville and reverberate across the borders and boundaries that will eventually be shown to be the false dividers of our connected continent that we are intent on exposing and tearing down.

The ACTION Support Centre reflects and remembers those lives lost in the 2008 xenophobic attacks in South Africa, marked this year with its fifth anniversary. We remember past African leaders, Nkwameh Nkrumah, Nelson Mandela, Julius Nyerere, Patrice Lumumba and others for their commitment to combat the injustices and indignity of discrimination, poverty and oppression of Africa's diverse peoples.

The ACTION Support Centre celebrates the increased momentum behind the realisation of an African Renaissance. Equally, we celebrate numerous efforts and undertakings to establish and maintain peace in countries such as Burundi, South Africa, the DRC, Egypt, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Liberia.

The ACTION Support Centre recognises the need to consolidate and share information, experience and training across multiple levels; and to build stronger linkages between community-based movements and national, regional and continental decision-making bodies. We recognise the need to lobby and advocate the media to cover the many stories of hope, love, peace and progress emerging from our continent.

The ACTION Support Centre calls for a renewed strengthening of efforts and collaboration through nonviolent means, to stand in solidarity with one another against xenophobia, which is continuing to create divisions within our communities and societies. We call for collaboration with and support for the AU as it seeks to further establish policies and frameworks as a continental governing body in the face of disunity.

The ACTION Support Centre supports the freedom struggles of people everywhere, and especially in the DRC, Palestine, Madagascar, Tibet, Syria, Swaziland, Western Sahara, and Zimbabwe, and the struggles to implement political agreements. We support efforts to harness local conflict transformation efforts behind a collective agenda and to protect communities from violence wherever there is a need, including in Mali, Central African Republic, Myanmar, Somalia, Somaliland, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Egypt and South Africa.

The [ACTION Support Centre](#) will celebrate Africa Day, May 25th, in collaboration with local organisations and activists in Yeoville, Bellevue, Johannesburg. ASC will be hosting one of five stages at the [Africa Week Street Festival](#) on the **Corner Kenmere and Hunter Streets** along **Rocky-Raleigh Street** in Yeoville. Between **12:00** and **17:00** we will be filling our stage with a number of African solidarity-focused performances and addresses, in the spirit of celebrating our cultural diversity, promoting social cohesion and championing human and people's rights.

ASC is the Africa regional hub for organisations working in the fields of conflict and development. ASC is part of a global network of individuals and organisations committed to transforming conflict around the world, ACTION for Conflict Transformation, and amplify the voices of communities through a focus on; human rights, capacity building, lobbying and advocacy, people to people solidarity, development, grassroots mobilisation, building movements, facilitating dialogue, training and initiating innovative forms of organising.

The Proudly African Campaign is a CALL TO ACTION to all AfriCan people across Africa and around the world to begin to think and act creatively and collectively and find solutions to Africa's numerous challenges.

The Campaign seeks to give an opportunity to all Africans, including those in the Diaspora, to engage one another in an honest debate about Africa's challenges, its position in the global socio and political economy and the future Africans seek for themselves.

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