

of Africans across the globe.

The

fight for political independence was fiercely fought and eventually won by the legendary heroes of African history, although sadly, some did not live to witness the result of their selfless struggle. The ones who survived like Kwame Nkrumah, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Julius Nyerere, Nelson Mandela, Sam Nujoma, Kenneth Kaunda among others, did

all in their powers to steer the newly independent former colonies towards the right path. They were single-minded in their pursuit of total independence and self-rule, putting the interest of their countries, people and continent first before self. They overcame challenges, tried to find a balance between the old ways and the new world order, empowered themselves every which way in the bid to beat the erstwhile imperialists at their games and practically started from scratch to build the countries that exist on the continent today.

The loyalty and total dedication exhibited by these Icons to their countries and indeed the African continent is admirable as it was evident they gave their all, went way and beyond the call of duty to protect, rebuild and serve their countries, eschewing dictatorial tendencies, corruption and perpetuation in office – all the vices that later became the bane of governance in Africa.

The countries flourished under the guidance of these heroes of the liberation struggle and it was during their time that the Organization of African Unity(OAU was formed in 1963, with the primary objective of promoting the Pan-African movement. The OAU, which is today known as the African Union (AU)), played a key role in helping the remaining African countries that were still under colonial rule gain independence, thus heralding the birth of a new Africa, free of foreign domination.



Julius Nyerere of Tanzania
at the UN Headquarters in New York
July 11, 1961

UN Photo/MB



President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia
arriving at Semina on Apartheid,
Racial Discrimination and Colonialism
25 July 1967, Kitwe, Zambia

UN Photo