

A tribute to George Padmore

By Paul T. Shipale

23 September this year marks 51 years since the death of the man who quietly worked behind the scenes for the total liberation of Africa. This is a tribute to his work with excerpts from an article by the Ghanian Cameron Duodu and his long time friend C.L.R. James who knew him very well.

The Ghanian Cameron Duodu wrote on the occasion



Cde. Paul T. Shipale

of Padmore's 50th commemoration of his death that "to begin with, his real name wasn't George Padmore at all but

Malcolm Ivan Meredith Nurse born in Trinidad in 1902. C.L.R. James who grew up with Padmore in Trinidad, as his senior by one year, recalls that he had so many books piled from the floor to the ceiling". Obviously young Padmore made good use of some of the books for he had such knowledge about Africa and its history as few "native-born" Africans could equal.

Padmore as an adult became obsessed with Africa's total emancipation, a rather unusual

preoccupation for a black Caribbean intellectual. After being chased from Universities in Britain, he joined a black socialist worker's group and became a serious activist. In 1929, he dropped out of University and migrated to the Soviet Union as the representative of the black workers of the USA. He was elected as a member of the Moscow Soviet alongside the party leader, Josef Stalin himself. When fascism rose in Europe, the Soviets decided that western impe-

rialism was no longer a threat to them and laid down a "line" which obliged Padmore to tone down or cease his agitation against the British, French and Portuguese colonialism in Africa. Padmore refused to toe the line and was expelled from the Soviet Unions and went to London.

While in London, He met C.L.R. James and the two worked together and organized the Fifth Pan-African Congress at Manchester in 1945 as one of the single most important

conference on Africa's future from where politicians such as Nkrumah, and Kenyatta went home and challenged colonial rule head-on.

When Ghana gained independence in 1957, Nkrumah invited Padmore and made him "advisor to the Prime Minister on the African Affairs". This resulted in Ghana promoting the African unity and liberation when Nkrumah proclaimed that "the independence of Ghana [was] meaningless unless it [was] linked up with the total liberation of the African continent" (Nkrumah, 1980:77). It was Padmore's working behind the scene that helped Nkrumah to link "Ghana's independence with the total liberation of Africa" wrote his two friends.

Thereafter, OAU was formed in 1963, with a liberation committee, by Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Ben Bella of Algeria, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt among other African leaders of the early 1960s including our own liberation struggle icon, Founding President Dr. Sam Nujoma.

The Tanzanian Chambi Chachage wrote an interesting critique with the original title "More than a continent? Remapping Africa with Ngungi, Prah, Shivji and Zeleza" and my good learned Scholar and Pan-Africanist, Professor Bankie F. Bankie, had the courtesy to alert me to it. I must say, I am immensely grateful for this gesture.

Chambi confirms what Padmore wrote long ago, in his book 'Pan-Africanism or Communism?' (1956), when he said Pan-Africanism was a clear alternative to communism and capitalism, with which he got frustrated, as well as against tribalism, white racialism, black chauvinism, and reverse racism of any form. In his words, "Pan-Africanism looks above the narrow confines of class, race, tribe and religion".

The Tanzanian scholar Chambi Chachage starts by pointing out a "glaring conflation and the factual pit-fall" in the writing of the learned African scholars such as Professor Prah and the Kenyan based intellectual Shivji equating "African Nationalism" and "Pan-Africanism". Shivji said "African Nationalism is Pan Africanism. There is no, and cannot be African nationalism outside of, apart from, or different from Pan-Africanism" (Shivji 2009; 196) but upon inquiry Shivji clarified that 'African Nationalism was born out of Pan-Africanism and not the other way round'.

Our learned scholars so far could hardly agree less when they asserted that "The Pan-Africanist idea was developed in the Diaspora towards the end



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development

Tel: (+264 61) 297-5111
Fax: (+264 61) 226049

Luther Street

Private Bag 13289
Windhoek, Namibia

ADVERTISING OF VACANCY

DIRECTORATE: FINANCE, HUMAN RESOURCES, ADMINISTRATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1) 1X POST DESIGNATION :	Analyst Programmer Grade 3A Level 1
DIVISION :	Information Technology
SALARY SCALE :	N\$ 125 802 x P- N\$ 149 796
DUTY STATION :	Windhoek

Minimum requirements: A three (3) years B- degree (or equivalent) with a major in Programming or System Analysis or Systems Development. Experience is not requirement but it will be an added advantage.

Main Duties of the job:

- Development, Updating and Maintenance of Ministerial website.
- Supervise and coordinate the activities of companies or staff members in the development, modification of computer programs.
- Consulting with colleagues or clients with views to writing and modifying low- level applications and provide necessary software support, including communications software.
- Testing, diagnosing and fixing faults in all such software, sometimes in consultation with users.
- Writing and testing code
- Designing and maintaining all database & DBMS within the Ministry.
- Providing written documentation for users, perhaps in conjunction with a technical author.
- Providing training for users on developed software.
- MRLGHRD Data Backups & Disaster Recovery
- Monitoring and evaluation of software performance and deployment of new patches.
- Project management for any software under development
- Perform any other related duties as assigned by his/her immediate supervisor.

Enquiries:

- 1) Assistant Human Resource Practitioner – Mr. S.T Shikale at Tel No. 061: 2975275
- 2) Deputy Director: IT - Mr. PW Van Heerden at Tel No. 061: 297 5291

Closing date: 15 October 2010

Applicants must be Namibian citizens. Application (on form 156043 obtained at all Government Offices) together with a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae and certified copies of educational qualifications must be submitted to:

The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Regional Local Government, Housing and Rural Development
Private Bag 13289
Windhoek

MR. ERASTUS I. NEGONGA
PERMANENT SECRETARY

Cont on page 7