



research • assessment • evaluation

what research has become

ISSUE 8: NOVEMBER 2010

RESEARCH REPORT

AFRICA'S

**MOST**

**REVERED PERSONALITIES**

Supported by





## **Africa's Most Revered Personalities**

Published by Stakes Capital Limited's **International Corporate Research (ICR)** under the trade name Research Intelligence

**Stakes Capital Limited** P.O.Box 9170 Shomolu, Lagos, Nigeria  
www.stakescapital.com e-mail: letstalk@stakescapital.com

**International Corporate Research**  
www.icr.stakescapital.com e-mail: icr@stakescapital.com

Copyright © 2009 by Stakes Capital and ICR

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher or copyright owner.

The content is however open to review, citation and analysis/criticism without prior permission provided that adequate credit is given to the copyright owners.

This report is prepared only to provide information on the subject matter covered. The authors and publishers do not guarantee the accuracy of the data or information contained herein as some of them were gotten from third party sources. We therefore disclaim any liability, material or immaterial, that could arise from the content of this report.

**Research by:** International Corporate Research

**Report Authors:** Sanyaolu Taiwo  
Sanyaolu Kehinde

**Cover Design by:** ICR creative

The Oversight sign, the Stakes symbol, the ICR barge and Research Intelligence are all trademarks of Stakes Capital Limited and therefore may not be duplicated.



**T**he years between the second half of the 20th century saw many African countries agitate for and receive national independence from the colonialist who governed their (African) states owing largely to the censure of die hard pan Africanists of the time. Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Liberia, Morocco, Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria were among a host of tens of other African countries who were handed their sovereignty by various European and American colonizers during this time.

Independence was however not served on a platter. African citizens who had gained prominence and had become convinced of the necessity for their countries to become self governing, protested their continued enslavement through writings, international and local conferences, affronts, civil disturbances and arms struggle. While some got their independence without lifting a sword or shooting a bullet, others were facilitated by events like the

Suez crisis in Egypt, the UPC rebellion in Cameroun, the Hut Tax War in Sierra Leone and the Malagasy Uprising in Madagascar.

In either case, independence and the fight for self governance made heroes of some Africans. Some not only in their home countries but have been presented as continental heroes by their generation and are revered by the going generation. Beyond heroes of independence however, there are other Africans also who have contributed notably to the advancement of their countries equally held in veneration. Statues, currency notes, monuments, roads, airports, stadia, schools etc bearing their names and motifs testify to this truth that these people are most revered in Africa.

Using the presence on the face of a national currency as benchmark, ICR researchers mined data of people who have gained unalloyed respect and perpetual recognition across African states.

## The Report

This obviously pan African report identified Sixty-five (65) persons of African nationality and using set criteria drew a list of the Fifty (50) most revered of this number. The report covered 54 countries in Africa that had a national currency. Twenty one (21) countries were represented in the Sixty-five while the final list of Fifty (50) had Nineteen (19) countries represented.

## Selecting Africa's most revered



To create this list, we compiled the names of all persons whose face appears on a currency in Africa. We considered all fifty-four (54) recognized African countries and all currency denominations.

### The Selection Criteria

In the customary design of banknotes in most countries in the world, there is usually a portrait of a notable citizen on the front (or obverse) and a different motif on the back (or reverse). For most countries, it is usually the portrait of a notable citizen or national hero. This currency design format is used in most cases to immortalize individuals for their contributions and self sacrifice to the cause of the common good of the country and its citizens and is about the most potent way of expressing profound respect and reverent fear.

At the end of this compilation, sixty six (66) people from 21 countries made the list. We then revised the list by



excluding persons who did not live beyond the 19th century in order to present a more contemporary account.

We also delisted serving presidents, absolute monarchs and constitutional monarchs who had their faces on their nation's currency reckoning that they may have influenced this by fiat.

The faces on the currencies are as at the date of compilation which is the 30th of June 2010.



King Hassan II of Morocco  
Appears on the 200 & 100 dirhams note

① **T**his list of 'Africa's fifty most revered' has men from nineteen (19) countries represented with Nigeria producing the most number with nine (9) persons followed by Mauritius with seven(7).

Apart from Ghana and Botswana that had six (6) of its citizens each on the list, Liberia and Sierra Leone had three (3) each while Morocco, Djibouti, Cape Verde and Burundi had two (2) citizens each on the list.

Eight (8) countries including Kenya, Tunisia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Libya, Angola and Namibia had just one person each on the list.

## THOSE WHO MADE THE LIST

② **O**f the fifty (50) most revered, forty nine (49) of them representing 98% were male and none of them was female.

It is more likely to be revered in Africa when you have been or are a political leader as 58% (representing 29 numbers) of the most revered were political leaders who had been former Presidents or Prime minister of their country.

This is excluding Kgalemgang T. Motsete of Botswana and Herbert Macaulay of Nigeria who are categorized as politicians.

③ **R**ightly in reflection of the roots of slavery and colonization, 72% of these former presidents played significant roles in their

nation's independence and fight for freedom from colonialist rule.

Six (6) making up 12% were monarchs while there were only three (3) professionals and three (3) activists.

④ **T**he three professionals also happened to be government appointees with Dr. Clement Isong and Alhaji Aliyu Mai Bornu been previous Central Bank Governors in Nigeria and Joseph

Maurice Paturau been a former minister in Mauritius. Sir Moilin Jean Ah-Chuen, the only entrepreneur on the list, also held a

political office as the minister for local government and first Chinese member of the Mauritian Legislative Council.

⑤ **T**hough Africans have won several global prizes in literature including a Nobel Prize, only three literary writers made the list (Cape Verdean novelist and poet António Aurélio Gonçalves and Eugênio Tavares respectively and Tunisian poet Abou el Kacem Chebbi).

A few of these personalities held strong religious views and commitments, though none was notable for being a religious scholar. All those on the list of fifty (50) still appear on the currency notes till date.



# The List

## AFRICA'S MOST REVERED PERSONALITIES

50

NB: The List has been arranged alphabetically

# The List

|   | Name                               | Lifespan    | Nationality    | Era  | Appears on            |                                   | Profession        | Noted for/Notable achievement  |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
|   |                                    |             |                |      | Currency              | Denomination                      |                   |  |
| 1 | Abou el Kacem Chebbi               | 1909 - 1934 | Tunisian       | Late | Tunisian Dinars       | 30                                | Poet              | Considered to be one of the greatest poets in Tunisia and one of the best arab poets of modern times. He died in 1934 at the age of 25 from heart problems.  |
| 2 | Alhaji Aliyu Mai Bornu             | 1919 - 1970 | Nigerian       | Late | Nigerian Naira        | 1000                              | Professional      | First indigenous Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria. He became Governor of the Bank in 1963 and retired from its service in 1967  |
| 3 | Alhaji Sir Abubarkar Tafawa Balewa | 1912 - 1966 | Nigerian       | Late | Nigerian Naira        | 5                                 | Political Leader  | First Prime Minister of of independent Nigeria (1960 -1966). Balewa was Co-founder and deputy president of the Northern People's Congress  |
| 4 | Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello            | 1909 - 1966 | Nigerian       | Late | Nigerian Naira        | 200                               | Political Leader  | Founder of the Northern People's Congress and first premier of Nigeria's Northern region from 1954 -1966.  |
| 5 | Ali Ahmed Oudoum                   | 1913-1988   | Djiboutian     | Late | Djiboutian Franc      | 1000                              |                   |  |
| 6 | António Agostinho Neto             | 1922 - 1979 | Angolan        | Late | Angolan Kwanza        | 1000, 500, 200, 100, 50, 10, 5, 1 | Political Leader  | 1st President of Angola (1975–1979), leading the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) in the war for independence and the civil war.   |
| 7 | António Aurélio Gonçalves          | 1901 - 1984 | Cape Verdean   | Late | Cape Verdean Escudos  | 1000                              | Novelist          | Portuguese African story writer, novelist, critic, and teacher whose works challenge the traditional social role of women in the Cape Verde Islands.   |
| 8 | Bai Bureh                          | 1840 - 1908 | Sierra Leonean | Late | Sierra Leonean Leones | 1000                              | Military Leader   | Sierra Leonean ruler and military strategist who led the Temne uprising against British rule in 1898 in Northern Sierra Leone. He is noted for declaring the Hut Tax War of 1898 in resistance to British colonialism in Sierra Leone. |
| 9 | Bathoen I                          | 1845 - 1910 | Botswanan      | Late | Botswanan Pula        | 100                               | Traditional Ruler | Paramount ruler of the reunited Bangwaketse a territory located in present-day Botswana from 1889 - 1910.  |

# The List

Continued

|    | Name                      |             | Nationality |      | Appears on     |                  | Noted for/Notable achievement |   |
|----|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---|
|    |                           |             |             |      | Currency       | Denomination     |                               |   |
| 10 | Chief Obafemi Awolowo     | 1909 - 1987 | Nigerian    | Late | Nigerian Naira | 100              | Political Leader              | First Premier of Western Nigeria from 1954 to 1959, Obafemi Awolowo organised the Action Group and ran unsuccessfully for the President of Nigeria in 1979  |
| 11 | Dr. Alvan Ikoku           | 1900 - 1971 | Nigerian    | Late | Nigerian Naira | 10               | Educationist                  | Established one of the earliest private secondary schools in Nigeria, the Aggrey Memorial College and became National President of the Nigerian Union of Teachers in 1955                                 |
| 12 | Dr. Clement Isong         | 1920 - 2000 | Nigerian    | Late | Nigerian Naira | 1000             | Professional                  | Second indigenous Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria. served as the Governor of the CBN from 1967 to 1975 at a critical time in the history of Nigeria.  |
| 13 | Dr. Joseph Boakye Danquah | 1895 - 1965 | Ghanaian    | Late | Ghanaian Cedi  | 50, 20, 10, 5, 1 | Political Leader              | One of the Big Six in the history of Ghanaian independence. Danquah was founding member of the United Gold Coast Convention and President of the Ghana Bar Association.                                   |
| 14 | Dr. Kwame Nkrumah         | 1909 - 1972 | Ghanaian    | Late | Ghanaian Cedi  | 50, 20, 10, 5, 1 | Political Leader              | First Prime minister and first president of Ghana. He lead Ghana and its predecessor state, the Gold Coast, from 1952 to 1966. He was honorary co-president of Guinea. He was founding member of the OAU. |
| 15 | Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe        | 1904 - 1996 | Nigerian    | Late | Nigerian Naira | 500              | Political Leader              | First President of Nigeria and former premier of the Nigerian Eastern region. He was President form 1963 - 1966   |
| 16 | Ebenezer Ako Adjei        | 1916 - 2002 | Ghanaian    | Late | Ghanaian Cedi  | 50, 20, 10, 5, 1 | Political Leader              | One of the Big Six in the history of Ghanaian independence. He was also a founding member of the United Gold Coast Convention, the political party that initially spearheaded the surge for independence. |
| 17 | Edward Akufo-Addo         | 1906 - 1979 | Ghanaian    | Late | Ghanaian Cedi  | 50, 20, 10, 5, 1 | Political Leader              | Second Republic President of Ghana. One of the Big Six in the history of Ghanaian independence. He was also a founding member of the United Gold Coast Convention   |



|    | Name                      |             | Nationality    |       | Appears on            |                              |                   | Noted for/Notable achievement   |
|----|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---|
|    |                           |             |                |       | Currency              | Denomination                 |                   |   |
| 18 | Emmanuel Obetsebi-Lamptey | 1902 - 1963 | Ghanaian       | Late  | Ghanaian Cedi         | 50, 20, 10, 5, 1             | Political Leader  | One of the Big Six, Lamptey was a founding member of the United Gold Coast Convention, the political party that initially spearheaded the surge for Ghana's independence.   |
| 19 | Eugênio Tavares           | 1867 - 1930 | Cape Verdean   | Late  | Cape Verdean Escudos  | 2000                         | Poet              | Known through his famous poems (mornas), written in the Crioulo of Brava. His name is honored in the name of the town square in Vila Nova Sintra along with a statue.   |
| 20 | Festus Mogae              | Born 1939   | Botswanan      | Alive | Botswanan Pula        | 10                           | Political Leader  | Third President of Botswana served from 1998 to 2008. He won the Mo Ibrahim Foundation prize for good governance in Africa in 2008.   |
| 21 | General Murtala Mohammed  | 1938 - 1976 | Nigerian       | Late  | Nigerian Naira        | 20                           | Political Leader  | Nigerian Head of State from July 1975 - February 1976, and first national hero. His short reign had a major impact on subsequent developments in the Nigerian nation  |
| 22 | Hendrik Witbooi           | 1830 - 1905 | Namibian       | Late  | Namibian Dollar       | 200, 100, 50, 20, 10         | Traditional Ruler | Was a king of the Namaqua people, a sub-tribe of the Khoikhoi in present day Namibia. He revolted against German rule in Namibia and was killed in action.  |
| 23 | Herbert Macaulay          | 1864 - 1946 | Nigerian       | Late  | Nigerian Naira        | 1                            | Politician        | Founded the Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP), the first Nigerian political party. The party won all the seats in the elections of 1923, 1928 and 1933.   |
| 24 | I. T. A. Wallace-Johnson  | 1895 - 1965 | Sierra Leonean | Late  | Sierra Leonean Leones | 2000                         | Activist          | British West African workers' leader, journalist, activist and politician. In 1935, he formed the West African Youth League and helped form the first trade union in Nigeria. He also helped pioneer issue-oriented politics in Sierra Leone. |
| 25 | John Chilembwe            | 1871 - 1915 | Malawian       | Late  | Malawian Kwacha       | 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 | Activist          | Orthodox Baptist educator and an early figure in resistance to colonialism in Nyasaland, now Malawi. He organised the 1915 rising against ill treatment of Africans   |
| 26 | Joseph Maurice Paturau    | 1916 -      | Mauritian      | Late  | Mauritian Rupee       | 50                           | Professional      | Minister of Industry and Commerce and the brains behind the private economic success of Mauritius. Authored "The sugar industry of Mauritius: trends & figures." Published in 1962.   |

|    | Name                          |             | Nationality    |      | Appears on            |                         |                   | Noted for/Notable achievement  |
|----|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------|------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
|    |                               |             |                |      | Currency              | Denomination            |                   |  |
| 27 | Julius Nyerere                | 1922 - 1999 | Tanzanian      | Late | Tanzanian Shillings   | 1000                    | Political Leader  | First President of Tanzania from the country's founding in 1961 until his retirement in 1985. In 2009, Nyerere was named "World Hero of Social Justice" by the United Nations General Assembly.                  |
| 28 | Kgalemang T. Motsete          |             | Botswanan      | Late | Botswanan Pula        | 20                      | Politician        | Founder and President of the Bechuanaland People's Party BPP and composer of Botswanan National Anthem   |
| 29 | Khama III                     | 1835 - 1923 | Botswanan      | Late | Botswanan Pula        | 100                     | Traditional Ruler | Was the kgosi (paramount King) of the Bamangwato people of Bechuanaland (now Botswana), who made his country a protectorate of the United Kingdom to ensure its survival against encroachments.                  |
| 30 | King Hassan II                | 1929 -1999  | Moroccan       | Late | Moroccan Dirhams      | 200, 100                | Monarch           | Proclaimed King of Morocco in 1961, Hassan II is noted for organizing the Green March which liberated Sakiet-El-Hamra and Oued-Dahab (former Spanish Sahara) and returned them to the homeland.                  |
| 31 | King Mohammed V               | 1909 - 1961 | Moroccan       | Late | Moroccan Dirhams      | 100                     | Monarch           | Sultan of Morocco from 1927-53, exiled from 1953–55, he was again recognized as Sultan upon his return. In February 1956 he successfully negotiated with France for the independence of Morocco and became King. |
| 32 | Mahmoud Harbi Mahmoud Harbi   | 1921 - 1960 | Djiboutian     | Late | Djiboutian Franc      | 5000                    | Political Leader  | Pan-Somalist from Djibouti. Prior to independence, he was the country's Prime Minister and the Vice President of its Territorial Assembly from 1957 to December 1958.  |
| 33 | Major General Dr. J. S. Momoh | -2003       | Sierra Leonean | Late | Sierra Leonean Leones | 100, 50                 | Political Leader  | President of the Republic of Sierra Leone from 1985 to 1992  |
| 34 | Melchior Ndadaye              | 1953 - 1993 | Burundian      | Late | Burundian Franc       | 10,000                  | Political Leader  | First democratically elected and fourth President of Burundi. He won a land slide in the 1993 elections.   |
| 35 | Mzee Jomo Kenyatta            | 1894 - 1978 | Kenyan         | Late | Kenyan Shillings      | 1000, 500, 200, 100, 50 | Political Leader  | First Prime Minister (1963–1964) and President (1964–1978) of Kenya. He is considered the founding father of the Kenyan nation.  |

|    | Name                           |             | Nationality |      | Appears on         |              |                   | Noted for/Notable achievement   |
|----|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|---|
|    |                                |             |             |      | Currency           | Denomination |                   |   |
| 36 | Omar Mukhtar (Umar Al-Mukhtar) | 1862 - 1931 | Libyan      | Late | Libyan Dollar      | 20           | Activist          | Led the 20 years native resistance to Italian control of Libya. Mukhtar was skilled in the strategies and tactics of desert warfare. He was captured on Sept 11, 1931 and killed by hanging 3 days later.             |
| 37 | Prince Louis Rwagasore         | 1932 - 1961 | Burundian   | Late | Burundian Franc    | 10,000       | Political Leader  | Burundi's national and independence hero. He was a Burundi nationalist and prime minister. He established a nationalist political movement, UPRONA (Union for National Progress).                                     |
| 38 | Renganaden Seeneevassen        | 1910 - 1958 | Mauritian   | Late | Mauritian Rupee    | 100          | Political Leader  | First Mauritian Minister of Education, he introduced a code of public education. His contribution to the Mauritian constitution was instrumental in ensuring a true Mauritian nation                                  |
| 39 | Samora Moises Machel           | 1933 - 1986 | Mozambican  | Late | Mozambican Metical | 200          | Political Leader  | 1st President of Mozambique, he led the country from independence in 1975 until his death in 1986. In 1964 he led FRELIMO's first guerilla attack against the Portuguese in the quest for independence                |
| 40 | Samuel K. Doe                  | 1951 - 1990 | Liberian    | Late | Liberian Dollar    | 50           | Political Leader  | 21st President of Liberia, serving from 1986 until his assassination in 1990. He was the 1st indigenous head of state in Liberian history.  |
| 41 | Sebele I                       | 184? - 1911 | Botswanan   | Late | Botswanan Pula     | 100          | Traditional Ruler | Son of Sechele I. and Paramount head of the Bakwena Tribe of Botswana between 1892 - 1911.  |
| 42 | Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed      | 1906 - 1978 | Mauritian   | Late | Mauritian Rupee    | 200          | Political Leader  | Indian born Minister in the Pre and Post independence cabinet of Mauritius. He played an instrumental role in bringing independence to Mauritius. He is the one who had the idea of the colours of the Mauritian flag |
| 43 | Sir Charles Gaëtan Duval       | 1930 - 1996 | Mauritian   | Late | Mauritian Rupee    | 1000         | Political Leader  | Mauritian foreign minister and leader of the Social Democratic Party, PMSD. He was the first Lord Mayor of Port Louis and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1981   |

# The List

|    | Name                      |             | Nationality |      | Appears on      |                  |                  | Noted for/Notable achievement   |
|----|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---|
|    |                           |             |             |      | Currency        | Denomination     |                  |   |
| 44 | Sir Moilin Jean Ah-Chuen  | NA          | Mauritian   | Late | Mauritian Rupee | 25               | Entrepreneur     | Founder of the ABC Group in 1931. He was the first chinese member of the Mauritian Legislative Council and served as Minister of Local Government.  |
| 45 | Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam | 1900 - 1985 | Mauritian   | Late | Mauritian Rupee | 2000             | Political Leader | Known as the "Father of the Nation", he was Prime Minister of Mauritius from 1968 to 1982 and Governor General from 1983 until his death in 1985. He led his country to independence from the United Kingdom in 1968. |
| 46 | Sir Seretse Khama         | 1921 - 1980 | Botswanan   | Late | Botswanan Pula  | 50               | Political Leader | The first President of the republic of Botswana. He founded the Botswana Democratic Party in 1962 and became Prime Minister in 1965 and then President in 1966  |
| 47 | Sookdeo Bissoondoyal      | 1908 - 1977 | Mauritian   | Late | Mauritian Rupee | 500              | Political Leader | One of the major leaders who fought for the independence of Mauritius. He became Minister of Cooperatives in 1967 and resigned in 1969.   |
| 48 | William Ofori Atta        | 1910 - 1988 | Ghanaian    | Late | Ghanaian Cedi   | 50, 20, 10, 5, 1 | Political Leader | Founding member of the United Gold Coast Convention and was one of The Big Six in the history of Ghanaian independence. He was Minister for Foreign Affairs in the second republic between 1971 and 1972.             |
| 49 | William R. Tolbert        | 1913 - 1980 | Liberian    | Late | Liberian Dollar | 100              | Political Leader | 20th President of Liberia from 1971 to 1980. In 1965 he became the first African to serve as president of the Baptist World Alliance.   |
| 50 | William V.S. Tubman       | 1895 - 1971 | Liberian    | Late | Liberian Dollar | 20               | Political Leader | 19th President of Liberia from 1944 until his death in 1971. He is regarded as the "father of modern Liberia". He is best known for the policies of National Unification and the economic Open Door.                  |



International Corporate Research (ICR) is a department-brand of Stakes Capital Limited. We are experts in Research, Assessment and Evaluation studies and in developing Assessment and Evaluation Models. ICR research capabilities span all aspects of research with specialty in corporate research, market intelligence, price survey, benchmarking, media monitoring, data analysis etc. Recent research projects include; the Nigerian Banking Fact Book, the HOB Web Assessment Report, Stakes 55 report and Africa's Endangered Kings of Capitalism Report.

ICR Models are purpose built and tailor made for specific research, assessment or evaluation projects. Models we have designed include the Connected 09 Model for website assessment and content structuring, the Stakes Sixth Sense a perception analysis model, the Brand Perception Model, the CBC Model for conference assessment & consolidation and the Agungi® Ranking Model .

We are a pan African institution with global reckon.

For additional information contact:  
Sanyaolu Kehinde, *Chief Research Analyst* Stakes Capital Limited  
P.O.Box 9170, Shomolu  
Lagos  
Nigeria  
+23412128084, +2348060043692  
Email: [icr@stakescapital.com](mailto:icr@stakescapital.com)  
[www.icr.stakescapital.com](http://www.icr.stakescapital.com)

**The electronic version of this report can be downloaded at  
[www.icr.stakescapital.com/reports](http://www.icr.stakescapital.com/reports)**