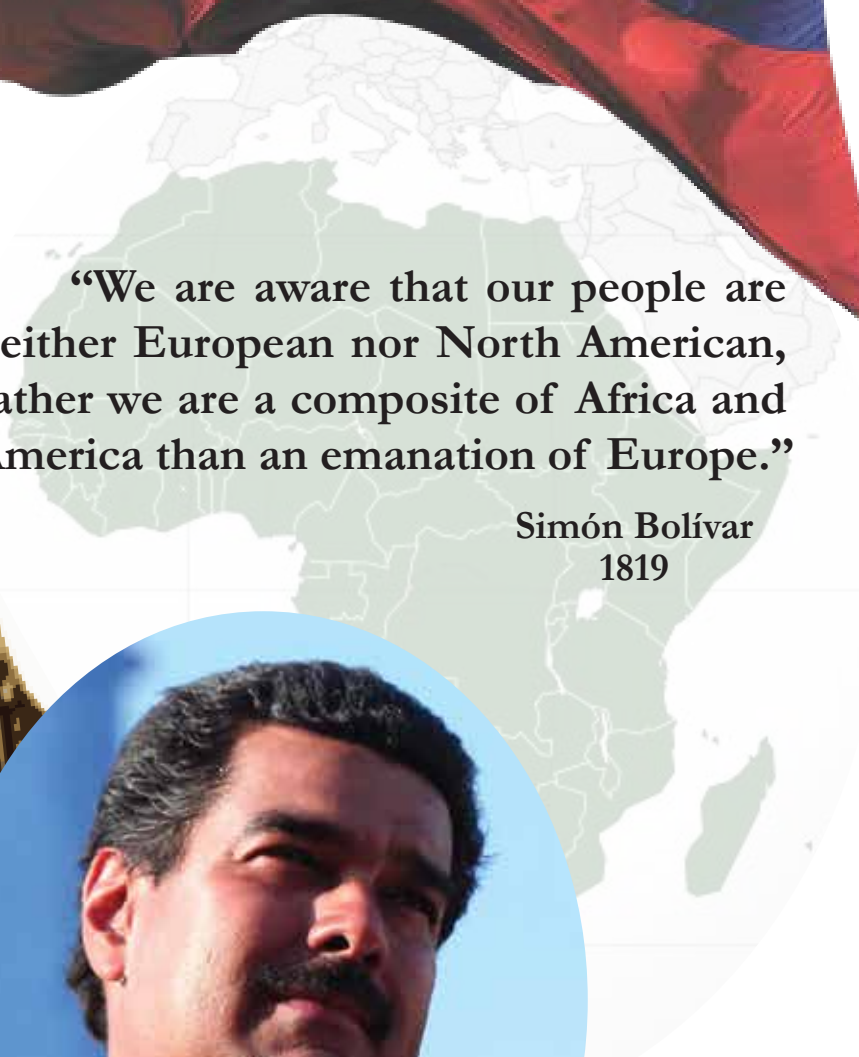


# The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Salutes Africa



“We are aware that our people are  
neither European nor North American,  
rather we are a composite of Africa and  
America than an emanation of Europe.”

Simón Bolívar  
1819



# Venezuela celebrates Africa Day

## *Editorial*

Prof. Jhonny Balza Arismendi,

In Venezuela since 2005, we reindicate every 10th of May the Afro-Venezuelan day. We reindicate the uprising of Jose Leonardo Chirinos (1795), an afrodescendant rebel against slavery and in favour of equality.

Another month of May that stimulates us and invites us to devote our words of encouragement to the African continent. This May 25th, 2016, we celebrate the Day of Africa, we celebrate its resilience, the validity of those pro-independence ideas that forged the birth of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now African Union (AU).

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and our people are committed to the future of Africa. As Venezuelans, we have roots in Africa that define our national identity, and therefore this continent is no stranger to Latin America and the Caribbean. As President Hugo Chávez said "*we will learn more, much more, by looking towards our brother continent, the mother Africa, than by directing our gaze towards the Western and capitalist universe*".

No one can deny our kinship with Africa – already in 1817 our Liberator Simon Bolívar said "*we are more an extension of Africa than of Europe*". Our relationship with Africa existed from the moment the forced migration of Africans to America began. This is why we say that the African continent is a very important component of our historical legacy. It is because of this that this May 25th, 2016 we remember the contribution of Africa to our independence.

This month of May Venezuelans reindicate the 221 anniversary of the libertarian insurrection of Africans, who, commanded by José Leonardo Chirino, attempted to do away with slavery. That insurrection, even though it failed, set a historical precedent for the independence of Venezuela in 1810-1811. For this and other reasons, we say this continent is no stranger to Latin American and the Caribbean.

On this day, as Venezuelans, we continue admiring those springs of wisdom that have become independent voices that oppose the submission and the dismantling of the African culture, which are intentions, ideas and projects sponsored from the west.

On the 25th day of May, the Day of Africa, we remember Thomas Sankara when he said "*a special solidarity brings together the continents of Asia, Africa and Latin America in the same struggle against the same political dealers and the same economic operators*." We believe it is important to turn Africa and the South into instruments generating sovereignty and development in the social, economic, productive, environmental and political spheres.

Today we recall the complimentary South-South that Nyerere so intensely longed for. Today we recall the anti-colonial hope of Lumumba, Nkrumah, and Nasser among others.

It is necessary and urgent to continue recognising their spirit in forging African Unity.

Today we see Africa with respect and admiration; we understand it as part of a frank and friendly process of dialogue that aims at complementing each other by creating the necessary linkages to allow defining and redefining common purposes for the good of humanity.

# Some of the Afro-Descendant Forerunners of the Independence ( 1810 - 1811 ) of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela



**José Leonardo Chirino**

José Leonardo Chirino (1754-1796), only son of a free Indian and black slave belonging to a Creole family, led distinct insurrections to abolish slavery thus generating a series of disturbances in the colonial order in Venezuela.



**Negro Primero**

Pedro Camejo (1790-1821) better known as "*Negro Primero (First Black)*", was the only official of African descent in the army of Simón Bolívar who fought in the war of independence of Venezuela.



**Juana Ramírez "La Avanzadora"**

Juana Ramirez (1790 - 1856), better known worldwide by the nickname "*The Advancer*" was a military heroine of the War of Independence of Venezuela.

# Today we reindivicate Pan - Africanism



**Jomo Kenyatta**  
1893 - 1978. Kenya

“ When the whites came, we had the land. They brought the Bible and taught us to pray with our eyes shut. When we opened them, they had the land and us the Bible.”



**Kwame Nkrumah**  
1909 - 1972. Ghana

“ We will show that after all the black man is capable of handling their own affairs. We will demonstrate to the world, the other nations and the young people that we are ready to drive our destiny.”



**Nelson Mandela**  
1918 - 2013. South Africa

“ I have fought against white domination and black domination. I have wanted an ideal democracy and a free society in which all people live in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal for which I want to live and achieve. But if it were necessary, it would also be an ideal for which I am willing to die. ”



**Julius Nyerere**  
1922 - 1999. Tanzania

“ Our basic demands are as a result of recognizing that people and nations of the South have equal rights in the world, access to a fair share of the world's resources, so that we can be self-sufficient in the future, and for a just pay for a fair day's work. ”



**Samora Machel**  
1933 - 1986. Mozambique

“ The battle ahead is critical, it is aimed at the expulsion of imperialism from Africa (...) decolonization is not simple geographical transfer of the centre of decision making... It is to dismantle the political, administrative, and cultural systems...”



**Muammar Gaddafi**  
1942 - 2011. Libya

“ The party only represents a fraction of the people, while popular sovereignty is indivisible. The party governs on behalf of the people, but the correct thing is not to substitute the people.”

# CHAVEZ PROMOTING RELATIONS WITH AFRICA STIMULATING SOUTH - SOUTH COOPERATION



## Chávez in Benin August, 2006



Guest book  
Embassy of Venezuela in Benin, 2006.

“Here's Venezuela sister homeland Benin.  
The Venezuelan people are here .  
Bolívar is here.  
God Bless our Embassy, as the house of friendship and  
unity.”

## Chávez in Mali August, 2006



“Unity is not to fight against someone or against a  
particular country, but to face the great challenges of  
this imperialist, neoliberal and outrageous era ”.

“ It is essential to cultivate the awareness that we  
are one people in achieving true integration ”.

## Chávez in Gambia August, 2006



“ How good would it be to articulate an energy  
strategy, oil, gas and petrochemical. ”

“ Africa and Latin America are energy powers, we  
will put in place a well coordinated a project, Petrosur,  
and we will see miracles in the short term, it is about  
economic independence and development . ”

**Chávez at the African Union**  
August, 2006 Gambia



“ We believe in racial equality, equality of men and women. We proclaim and practice it, as we deepen the rescue of our own roots for our America and Africa . ”

**Chávez in South Africa**  
September, 2008



“ Likewise as Venezuela was sending petroleum to the United States and other developed countries of the North since 100 years ago, now it's time that we start to send it to our brothers of the South . ”

**Chávez in Algeria**  
September, 2009



“ We want to strengthen economic, trade, energy and technology links, and elevate the level of our excellent political relations . ”

**Chávez in Libya**  
September, 2010



“ Comrade President, this is a replica of the sword that liberated America almost 200 years ago. It is a gem that was given to Bolivar by the people (...). This sword is alive and tours Latin America today . ”

# Hugo Chávez strengthening ties with Africa

“ The world is threatened by the hegemony of the US empire intended to end this planet. Only united Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa, based on our conscience, our courage, we can achieve what Simon Bolívar, our liberator, called the balance of the universe, ie, a multipolar world. ”

*African Union  
Gambia, 2006*

“ The African Union has covered more ground than the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) but both are part of the new geopolitical world map, a world that must be multi-polar or there will be no world for anyone.”

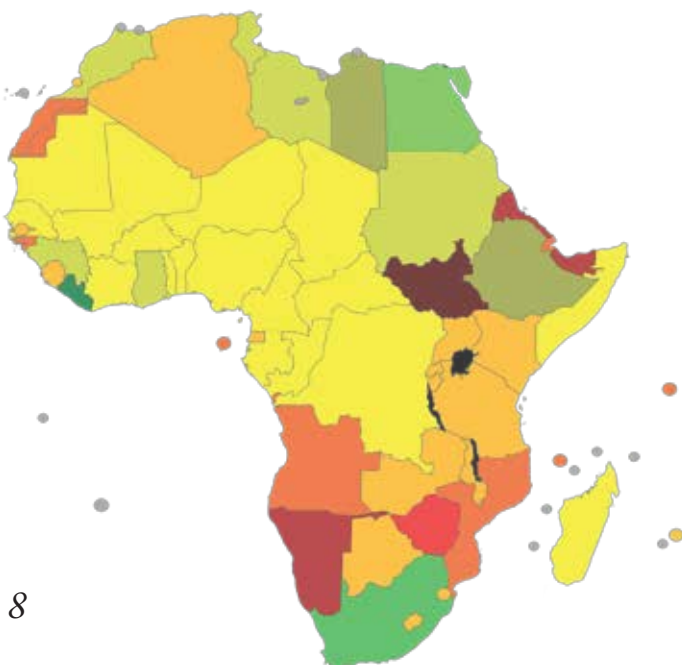
*African Union Special Summit  
Libya, 2009*

“ It is here where the slave ships arrived; they therefore joined us in pain, in martyrdom. Now we are reborn with love, hope, and work, in building a better world, free and equal. Africa and South America have much to do in this world. ”

*II summit South America - Africa  
Venezuela, 2009 (ASA)*

“ It is in our continents where there are enough natural, political and historical resources that are needed to save the planet from chaos to which it has been conducted. Let's not waste the opportunity the independence sacrifice of our ancestors provides today.... ”

*III summit South America - Africa  
Equatorial Guinea, 2013*





# AFRO-DESCENDANTS IN VENEZUELA



Social  
Movements

## Afro - Venezuelans

