

Analyze, Proposals and Message for the end of the crisis by Mamou Daffé – Cultural actor - concerning the difficult situation faced by Mali

Our country is going through, one of the darkest periods in its history. Since March 22, 2012, following the overthrow of the regime of President AMADOU Toumani Touré by a military junta, due to the resurgence of the crisis in the northern part of the country. Mali is experiencing a serious political, military, social and security crisis, the country is in bad! And ECOWAS promises heavy sanctions....

As far as I'm concerned, as a Malian cultural actor, today the debate is no more about who is for or against the coup or making great statements of democratic principles, or organizing marches and boycotts, or criticizing each other, or taking a position with a camp ... the situation is serious, the nation is at risk ! We must act...

We remain convinced that Mali is a great people, and is at a critical juncture in its history, a global solution plan to end the crisis is ever more imperative and urgent. This will come true only with the involvement of all stakeholders... a global and inclusive to end the crisis. Could this solution come from a single part?

As a cultural actor, therefore for peace and justice, I think we cannot remain indifferent to the situation that is deteriorating day after day in our country. I think we should make concrete proposals to overcome this impasse, that's why I share these analyzes, proposals and this message to the various stakeholders in this crisis, to bring my modest contribution to the construction of a new Mali.

What are the questions today?

In full sight of all observations from the first week after the coup, we are tempted to ask the following questions: What do we do? Is there a solution to end the crisis without first addressing the issue in the north? Knowing that it was the catalyst for the crisis, is there a solution to end the crisis without the army? Knowing that the difficulties that caused the coup still exist, and that there is a crisis of confidence among stakeholders, is the period given by the ECOWAS to transmit power to the political class in 72 hours realistic? Are the sanctions fair and appropriate in such a context? According to the ECOWAS texts, is it legal and legitimate to apply sanctions in a member country in war? Does the Malian political class ready to ensure a transition worthy of the name, fair and just? Knowing that it is not structured, should we ignore the voices of the civil society who stood up to support the junta in the name of the great principles of democracy?

The Malian specificity

Mali is a great country that has its specificities in the sub region, the people of Mali is peaceful and non violent, we do not want war... this is a legendary nation of dialogue consensus, in spite of the sudden break of march 22, there was very little violence so far...in another context, it would have been a bloodbath. Even president ATT, in his grief has sent a message of dialogue and peace to his colleagues of the ECOWAS. This is a main factor that must be considered when one wants to help Mali.

Threats

Two fronts were created and hardened day by day, the antis and pros coup. It cites as evidence the violent clashes between these two extremes on March 29 at the "Bourse du Travail" of Bamako. With the sanctions of the ECOWAS and the international community, the hardening of the two extremes can have very serious consequences for the society in Mali... let's not be afraid to say it; the country runs into an unprecedented civil war! With the total anarchy in the north, Mali could sink at least twenty years....

Proposals to end the crisis

We must start again on new bases, transforming pain into action by turning this crisis into a real opportunity for Mali to rebuild its state and its institutions.

In a few hours to create a framework for dialogue, politicians and all forces of the nation, without exception to dialogue with the CNRDRE, to agree on the transitional body, the timing, terms, etc., and then associate the ECOWAS, the solution is Malian or it's not at all....

The transitional body will be headed by a honest civilian, experienced, neutral (politically) and rigorous.

Set up a limited mission government made up of persons of integrity and ability, from political parties, CNRDRE and civil society organizations, always through dialogue and consensus, to drive a short transition phase of six (6) months, to cope with the crisis in the north and efficiently organize future elections.

- a. Releasing all personalities who were arrested in the favor of the coup and restore their absolute right.
- b. Restore President Amadou Toumani Touré in all his rights and assign him all the honors due to a former president.
- c. Urge ECOWAS to postpone its ultimatum to the sanctions and to become more involved in resolving the crisis in the north of Mali and help Mali strengthen the fight against terrorism raging through AQMI.
- d. An amnesty should be given to authors of the coup and request the return to barracks for most of them.
- e. No member of the transition will be a candidate for the Presidential Elections
- f. The essential missions of the transitional government will be :
 1. Bringing peace in the northern part of the country, organizing free and transparent presidential elections.
 2. Organizing a National Platform on the problems of the nation: the north crisis, school, political system, corruption, army, etc. Putting the country back on track.
 3. Reviewing / rereading the Constitution.

...to political parties

You are accountable for the management of this country for the last 20 years. It's because management has failed somewhere that we are in the current situation. The situation is serious and it's no longer time for small political calculations. As opinion leaders, history will judge you for the decisions you will have to take in response to this crisis. We urge you to put your moods into oblivion and think only the best interests of the nation. Mali, today more than ever, needs the unity of its worthy sons. It is no good time to disperse. Now is the time of joining forces the best interests of the nation. We do not doubt your patriotism, that's why we urge you to turn this crisis into an opportunity and not a factor of division. We must embrace our values of Maaya, humanism to make concrete proposals, without exclusion, to end the crisis, taking into account the specificities of Mali.

... to the civil society

Our voice counts a lot in these difficult times for our country. We must seriously analyze this new situation and see what opportunity this gives us. We must be able to reason and make moderate and nonpartisan speeches that range in the direction of appeasement. Leaders of civil society associations, your people look at you and count on you to make appropriate proposals that take into account their aspirations.

... to ECOWAS, A.U, all the international community

We welcome the commitment of ECOWAS to help Mali end the crisis, and we regret the events that have prevented on Thursday march 29 the delegation of Heads of State of ECOWAS to land at the airport in Bamako, a situation that has certainly worked against the negotiation.

We strongly condemn this coup as any good democrat. However, the facts are there and facts are stubborn. Today, no one is supposed to ignore that some of Mali's population adheres to the ideals of the junta. It sees in this situation hope for a revival: social justice, the restoration of democracy, the defense of the territorial integrity, etc. If the people support the junta, it's probably because it needs perspective, hope, but especially, it needs to clear its name sullied by rebellion in the north. Shouldn't we analyze more critically the situation we're facing? And take advantage of this situation to reset all the counters, and start on new basis? Shouldn't we rely on the Malian specificity and consider the exceptional context of our country in war before applying sanctions? According to the ECOWAS texts, is it legal and legitimate to apply sanctions in a member country in war?

So we strongly urge you in the future to anticipate the conflicts of our area to bring most effective solutions, because for a long time our country was attacked in its northern part, in its flesh and in full sight of the whole entire community... right now, you're working on the consequences, and working on consequences is difficult and risky...

We must recognize the fact that Mali is a specificity, which has always, through dialogue, gats out of most compromising situations. We urge you to trust the people of Mali to improve its dialogue with forces in presence in the current context, to repeal the suffering of the population at risk of collapse under the weight of all these sanctions. The solution is not military intervention. A military intervention of ECOWAS will only worsen the situation. Mali, from great civilizations, is able to overcome this impasse by virtues of Maaya, dialogue... And as we have stressed above, this dialogue must be inclusive (include all segments of Malian society) to achieve a comprehensive and lasting solution. We request you to trust in Mali...

... to captain Sanogo

The history of our country is moving forward. We understand your claims, and much of Malian people think your claims are legitimate. But, you must know that we are in the 21st century, it's global governance that manages the world with rules and principles that no one can escape; it's not possible in the world today that a military heads a country with weapons. Try to repeal the suffering of the

population. Continue to increase the dialogue with the forces of the country to develop a relevant scheme to end the crisis. We also advice you to increase dialogue with ECOWAS, AU and the entire international community. And above all stop the arrests which often tend to be a witch hunt, because the new Mali should certainly be built on new foundations, but it must be built with all its sons. It is essential to ensure the safety of persons and property and stop all acts of vandalism in the capital city... Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely, we urge you therefore to deal with all the forces of the nation, to the best interests of our beloved country.

Conclusion

Finally, I want to emphasize that I am apolitical and impartial, the proposals that I make here are based on observations I make, after taking a step back to analyze the situation coldly. Far be it from me to support any side. The most important thing is Mali, Mali and yet always Mali. Only Mali is great, everything else is just procrastination and small calculations certainly doomed to failure...I say it loud and clear that the solution will not come with only one party or one man, it is the combined effort of all the forces of the nation that will allow us to transcend this crisis, with a global solution strategy that takes into account all the parameters of the problem.

I close with a saying of the Mandingo “ *manding be lonbo lamba, manding tèh bonw*”, that means “ Mali can pitch, but Mali will not fall into chaos “

May God preserve Mali!

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