

2. Afrikatu Kofi Nkrumah (Prague, Czech Republic)

Category: Diaspora and migrants' role in job creation, enterprise, investment and public policy

Category: Beyond Xenophobia - social inclusion of diaspora and migrants

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Afrikatu Kofi Nkrumah has done more for Africa than most people. He is a Ghanaian by nationality but he is only enveloped in a Ghanaian skin – his real citizenship is pan-African as the Ghanaian tag is too limiting for him, at least according to the work he has done so far, which I have known for almost two decades.

From his base in Prague, and prior to that in Munich, Kofi has worked indefatigably to connect Africans (both continental and Diasporan) to the African and ‘black’ cause (black, for the lack of a better word). I, as editor of New African over 15 years, benefitted a lot from Kofi’s work and support.

He never tires of the work to build a better image for Africa and Africans abroad, many times at the expense of his own personal interests. Blood flows in the veins of all human beings, but for Kofi, Pan-Africa flows in his veins. He eats it. He sleeps it. He works it. You don’t get many people like him who have dedicated their lives to building a better image for Africa and black people, and understanding between Africa and Europe where he has lived for many years now.

A superb human being, I have known him when he set up an “African shop” in Prague to service African needs. I have known him when he started an “African library” in Prague to service the needs of both Africans and Czechs who wanted to know more about Africa. I have known him by his writings and the agency he set up to propagate positive stories about Africa globally. The centre that he and his wife started in Prague has grown to cover many other African-Czech political/social/cultural activities beneficial to all.

His work with African ambassadors in Prague is commendable, trying to make them do more to enhance Africa-Czech relations than what normal diplomatic relations call for.

His humanitarian work in Ghana and other African countries have brought much-needed help to disadvantaged school kids who would not normally be in a classroom. Kofi deserves to carry the name of Nkrumah, as his name-sake, the first president of Ghana and Africa’s man of the 20th century, would have been proud to see Kofi’s work if he were still alive.

He is a good comrade, a born leader, and he gets things done, as I have known him. If only Africa can have many of his type.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ozx6JD8newY>