The African Science Fiction Project

putting technology production into Africa's culture

Partner of the CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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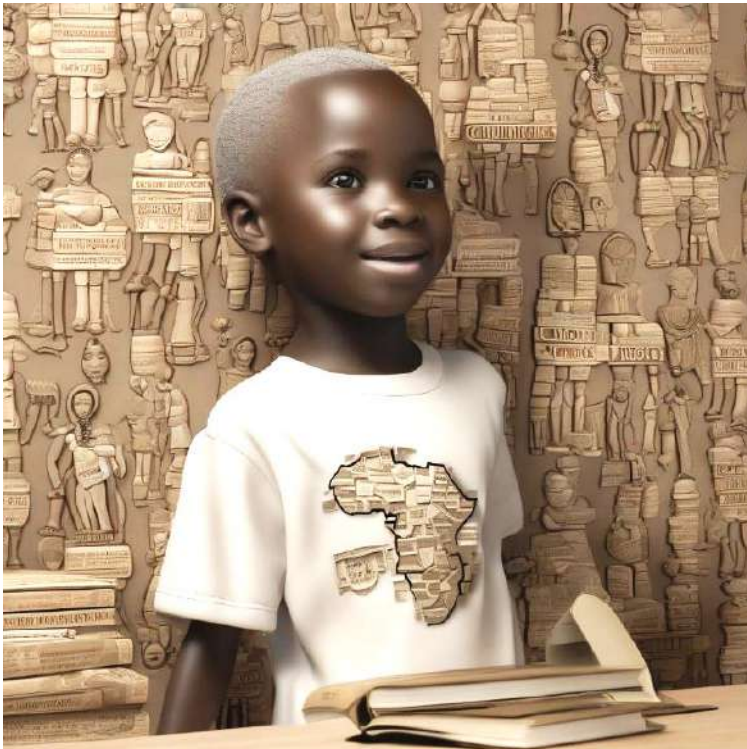*making world leaders out of African children*

Vision and Media Partner of the CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The African Science Fiction Project

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DETAILED OVERVIEW: The CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME is a new movement in African literature which trains secondary school students with significant writing ability for short-story development in the emerging genre of African Science Fiction. The new genre, **African Science Fiction**, defines stories that recast the past or forecast the future of an African society with developments in the people's science and technology as a central theme. So the general theme explores Africa's technological independence anecdotes in science fiction renderings within the framework of ***African Technological Nationalism***. The idea revolves around recruiting secondary school students with strong writing skills to contribute to the development of short stories in the emerging genre of African Science Fiction. This genre specifically focuses on narratives that reimagine the past or envision the future of African societies, placing advancements in science and technology at the core of the storytelling.

The overarching theme delves into the exploration of Africa's technological independence through anecdotes presented in science fiction narratives. These stories aim to depict a unique perspective on the relationship between Africa and technology, emphasizing the role of indigenous scientific and technological developments. The term "African Technological Nationalism" encapsulates the concept of fostering a sense of pride and ownership over technological achievements within the context of African societies.

In essence, the initiative seeks to encourage young writers to contribute to a growing body of work that not only entertains but also challenges traditional narratives surrounding Africa and technology. By showcasing speculative stories that highlight Africa's potential for innovation and progress in science and technology, the project aims to contribute to a more diverse and inclusive representation of the continent in the realm of speculative fiction.

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Adjunct to this is the children's fictional rendition of the SCIENTISTIC PERSONAE of the CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. The SCIENTISTIC PERSONAE of the CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME are defined as Africa's science and technology leaders in an alternate time. The human characters selected as our scientistic personae are Africans, dead or alive, in our known reality who carry in them tonnes of technological innovation which if harvested is capable of transforming the continent into a superpower position with the highest possible indices of human development. The scientistic persona then is a real-life character the children will be depicting in science fiction renderings of Africa's alternate reality. The SCIENTISTIC PERSONAE of the CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME represents a unique approach to fostering creativity and learning in young African minds. In this initiative, the chosen figures are influential African science leaders, both historical and contemporary, who have demonstrated significant contributions to technological innovation. These leaders serve as inspirations for children participating in the program, offering a tangible connection to real-world achievements.

The term "scientistic personae" refers to these selected figures, who act as role models within an alternate time frame envisioned by the program. The goal is to encourage children to explore the potential impact of harnessing technological advancements attributed to these leaders. The alternate reality crafted by the children through science fiction renderings becomes a canvas for imagining how Africa could evolve into a superpower through the application of these innovations.

By focusing on both deceased and living individuals, the program ensures a diverse range of perspectives and accomplishments. The emphasis on real-life characters aims to ground the children's creativity in the achievements of actual African leaders, fostering a sense of pride and connection to their heritage.

The children involved in the program engage in storytelling and creative expression, envisioning a future Africa where the technological prowess of these scientistic personae has propelled the

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continent to new heights of human development. This imaginative exercise not only stimulates creative thinking but also promotes a positive narrative of Africa's potential for greatness.

The CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME leverages the stories of Africa's best leaders in science and technology, both past and present, to inspire young minds and fuel their creativity. The resulting science fiction renderings provide a platform for envisioning an alternate reality where Africa emerges as a technological superpower, driven by the innovations of its scientistic personae. This innovative approach intertwines education, cultural pride, and creativity to empower the next generation of African leaders.

We are replacing traditional African literature with African Science Fiction.

Significance of the CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME holds profound significance as it pioneers a transformative shift in African literature. By nurturing the creative talents of secondary school students in the realm of African Science Fiction, the movement not only empowers young voices but also contributes to a redefinition of literary landscapes. The following are highlights of the importance and significance of this movement:

Cultural Empowerment

The program fosters a sense of cultural empowerment by encouraging students to explore and articulate narratives that blend traditional African values with futuristic elements. This infusion of cultural identity into science fiction narratives serves to strengthen a unique African literary voice.

Technological Narratives

By placing developments in science and technology at the core of storytelling, the movement responds to the evolving dynamics of the African continent. It becomes a medium through which young authors can explore and project Africa's potential in technological advancements, envisioning a future where the continent plays a leading role in innovation.

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Educational Innovation

The program introduces an innovative approach to education by integrating creative writing with science fiction elements. This not only enhances students' literary skills but also encourages critical thinking and imagination. The synthesis of literature and technology fosters interdisciplinary learning, preparing students for a future that demands versatility.

African Technological Nationalism

The overarching theme of African Technological Nationalism emphasizes the importance of self-reliance and independence in technological endeavors. Through storytelling, students become ambassadors of a narrative that envisions Africa as a key player in shaping its technological destiny, steering away from external influences.

Diversification of African Literature

By promoting African Science Fiction as a genre, the movement diversifies the literary landscape traditionally dominated by historical narratives. This diversification allows for a richer tapestry of stories that reflect the multifaceted nature of African experiences, breaking away from stereotypes and broadening global perspectives.

Youth Engagement in a Literary Revolution

Engaging secondary school students in creating this new literary movement not only hones their writing skills but also instills in them a sense of pride and responsibility. The youth, as storytellers of their generation, contribute to shaping the narrative of Africa's future, thus cultivating in the youth a sense of agency and ownership in the evolving technological culture of the continent.

The CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME represents a paradigm shift in African literature by empowering young writers to weave compelling narratives that celebrate Africa's cultural

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heritage while embracing the potential of science and technology in shaping a progressive future. This movement holds the promise of not only nurturing literary talent but also contributing to a reimagining of Africa's role on the global stage.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Between ten and fifteen stories (one from a student from each school) form a book. The final publishing agreement is made with the parents. A more active involvement of the school is optional where the school signs an undertaking to adopt the book in which their child's story appears as one of the required literature texts used in teaching and learning in the school. In the tripartite contract, the school benefits from the child's school identity, which is made very visible in the book. Detailed information about the child's school will be included in the child-author's information content. *Government schools are not under the obligation to include the books among the books used in the school, but schools with influential Old Students Associations can find a way to add the books which carry their students' stories among the Literature books used in the school.* Three schools in Owerri have already signed up for the programme as pilot schools of the project. They are Amen International Secondary School, Faithhouse Leadership Academy, and Government Secondary School Owerri, all along Okigwe Road Owerri.

SPECIFICS OF THE BOOK PUBLICATION SERIES

➢ A participating school is designated as PARTNER SCHOOL OF THE CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME and should proceed to reflect this recognition on their billboards. The school can proceed to use this designation as a strong marketing stunt in any advertisement.

➢ Each book will contain a general introduction to the project at the end of which participating schools will be advertised with their insignias and other applicable identity symbols.

➢ **Each book, each title, will carry in the preliminary pages names and insignias of promoters, vision backers, and sponsors.** Prospective sponsors and vision partners have been reached, including Kiira Motors Uganda, Union Auto Parts Nnewi Nigeria, Techpoint Africa, Kumatoo, and Zenith Bank. Others such as the four major telecommunications companies in Nigeria are being reached about now.

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➢ Each book at the end will carry a brief biography of the child-authors, with their names and pictures, and the names and insignias of their schools.

HOW IT WORKS

➢ Where possible we visit participating schools to meet and teach the emerging child-authors. If we are able to visit the school and teach the students directly, they shall write the PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE EXAM at the end of which we issue them certificates. Otherwise, our normal communication channels for teaching the nuances of African Science Fiction are through our Facebook and WhatsApp platforms. We mentor and inspire selected students to create publishable short stories that belong to the emerging genre of African Science Fiction. Students can download and listen to the audio lectures from these platforms. GSSO is the convergence centre where students from proximate schools gather to take their lectures on Saturdays. Upon obtaining the PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE at the minimum pass level of D, we expose the children to a plethora of skeletal story-frames they can easily add flesh to form their first stories at this beginning stage.

➢ We undertake global and local publishing of the series. If we accept the child's story, we sign a tripartite agreement with a parent of the child (who acts on behalf of the child) and the school. The school signs as a witness to this contract and is committed to include the collection to be published in its array of literature books used at the school *if this can be implemented.*

➢ The children are producing a minimum of 1000 stories for takeoff which will be packed into a minimum of 50 books to enable us undertake a state by state launching of the series in Nigeria. Then the project is ready to engage the rest of Black Africa.

➢ The African Science Fiction Project shall generate and publish academic reviews of the stories of child-authors under THE AFRICAN SCIENCE FICTION PROJECT TEEN AUTHORS SERIES for global academic attention, highlighting their relevance in Political Science, Sociology, and Science and Technology Studies (STS).

➢ The significance of the upcoming series is that the history of this genre of literature in Africa cannot be told without including these children. The idea behind starting with our children is that the rest

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of the society will be challenged to pay attention. If teenagers generate a thousand stories on the scientific and technological possibilities of Black African states and they get published globally, the rest of the society is therein forced to wake up.

Introducing the CHILD-PROFESSOR OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

This is the latest addition to our package for "making world leaders out of African children." A Professor from Abia State University will be appointed the Academic Moderator of the Child-Professor of STS Designation and Scholar Partner of the Child-Author Development Programme. This level of instruction is four times deeper than the Proficiency Certificate level and is contingent on the student submitting an acceptable story for publishing. This certification level covers *advanced literacy in technology demystification epistemes*. The designation attracts a cash award of N100,000 (one hundred thousand naira) each for as many child-authors in the project as we can find sponsors and donors. This certificate-designation is the third stage in building our child-authors. Here is the order:

➢ Achieve a minimum of D in the Child-Author Proficiency Certificate.
➢ Produce a story accepted for publishing.
➢ Compete for the CHILD-PROFESSOR OF STS.

The CHILD-PROFESSOR OF STS (Science and Technology Studies) designation within the CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME holds significant implications for both individual students and the broader context of African Technological Nationalism. The implications include the following:

Advanced Literacy in Technology Demystification Epistemes

- The designation signifies a profound level of understanding in Science and Technology Studies, reflecting advanced literacy in demystifying technological concepts.

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- It implies that students have surpassed traditional proficiency levels, indicating a deeper comprehension of the intricate relationship between science, technology, and society.

Integration of Academic and Creative Skills

- Requiring an acceptable story for publishing adds a creative dimension to the certification process, showcasing the ability of students to communicate complex concepts in an accessible manner.
- The combination of academic prowess and creative expression aligns with a holistic approach to education, fostering well-rounded individuals.

Scholar-Practitioner Model

- The appointment of a Professor from Abia State University as the Academic Moderator highlights the program's commitment to a scholar-practitioner model, bridging the gap between academic theory and real-world application.
- This model enhances the practical relevance of the education provided, preparing students not just as scholars but as contributors to the field.

Financial Incentives and Sponsorship

- The cash award of N100,000 for each Child-Professor serves as a powerful incentive, recognizing and rewarding the students' exceptional achievements.

African Technological Nationalism

- The programme's focus on developing child-authors with advanced skills in STS contributes to the broader goal of propagating technological nationalism in Africa.
- By empowering young minds to excel in science and technology, the initiative aims to build a generation of innovators and leaders who can contribute to the continent's technological progress.

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Community Engagement and Collaboration

- Collaboration with the Old Students Associations of participating schools exemplifies a community-driven approach to education, showcasing how different stakeholders can unite to support the development of future leaders.

- The involvement of sponsors and donors reinforces the idea that the community values education and is willing to invest in the potential of its youth.

The CHILD-PROFESSOR OF STS designation in the CHILD-AUTHOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME represents a pioneering effort to nurture exceptional young talents, combining academic excellence, creative expression, and community support to promote technological advancement and nationalism in Africa.

THE AFRICAN SCIENCE FICTION PROJECT IS OPEN TO PARTNERSHIP IDEAS AND COLLABORATIONS WITH FUTURIST GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE WORLD.

Appendix : Books Published by The African Science Fiction Project on the subject of AFRICAN TECHNOLOGICAL NATIONALISM

1. Ethnic Construction of Technology. https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0BQY8C8M2

2. Constructing Reward Systems for Science and Technology Practitioners in Black Africa. https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0BRLW4XKT

3. Theory of the Scientific State. https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BSSLLDN3

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4. Ethnic Science Fiction in Africa's Political Sphere: the drivers of Technoscience.

   https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BVC8ZHX1

5. The Political Dimensions of Science Consciousness in Africa https://www.amazon.com/Political-Dimensions-Consciousness-Technological-Nationalism/dp/B0CDK3WPLR

6. Inventing Technological Independence for the Third World --- 2nd edition for republishing in July 2024.

7. **Constructing Traditional Rulers as Cultural Forces of Technological Takeoff in Black Africa**
                              -----   Published May 2024.
   https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D55MQQGR?ref=cm_sw_r_mwn_dp_PA19ANQVGN4WPJKEJ2VN_1&ref_=cm_sw_r_mwn_dp_PA19ANQVGN4WPJKEJ2VN_1&social_share=cm_sw_r_mwn_dp_PA19ANQVGN4WPJKEJ2VN_1&language=en_US

8. The Social Capital Networks of Union Auto Parts ---- forthcoming in September 2024.

9. The Philosophy of African Science Fiction ---- forthcoming in August 2024.

10. Constructing Intelligentsias for Technological Takeoff in Africa --- forthcoming in August 2024.

11. Politics of Import Substitution in Nigeria ---- forthcoming in August 2024.

12. Milestones in Africa's Technological Independence: Making Cultural Automobiles at EJAAS   ----- forthcoming in September 2024.

13. The Political Philosophy of Technological Independence: Constructing Technological Independence as Political Theory   ------ forthcoming in July 2024.

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