

# UHURU

## Africa Now: Contemporary Issues in Modern Africa



African Studies Students' Association (ASSA)  
of McGill University

2019-2020

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African Studies Students' Association

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## Land Acknowledgement

McGill University is built on a land which has long served as a meeting place for many Indigenous peoples, such as the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations.

The UHURU journal team would like to pay respect and recognize these nations as the traditional keepers of the land.

“The day will come when history will speak.

But it will not be the history which will be taught in  
Brussels, Paris, Washington or the United Nations...

Africa will write its own history and in both North and  
South it will be a history of glory and dignity.”

- Patrice Lumumba

## THE UHURU Journal Team



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## Opening Statement by the ASSA

The African Studies Students' Association (ASSA) represents all students enrolled in the African Studies Joint Honors, Major and Minor programs at McGill University. The vision for our association has been to enhance visibility, achieve legitimacy, foster community and uphold accountability for the association, Africa and her people.

We are confident that we have fulfilled our vision with the consideration of the various initiatives we have executed during this academic session. These initiatives included, but were not limited to, our involvement within the *Black History Month* program at McGill, the *Africa Speaks* Conference, our collaboration with the *Desautels African Business Initiative*, and the establishment of tutoring services.

Most importantly, this journal serves as the pinnacle of what our association aims to achieve- the enhancement and promotion of Afrocentric scholarship at McGill and beyond. The publication of this journal serves as the fulfilment of our vision as a whole. The Uhuru editorial team has demonstrated exemplary effort throughout the academic year, and it is with much delight that we are able to release another edition of the Uhuru Journal!

Sincerely,

Iyanu Soyege and Suko Bhebhe  
Co-Presidents 2019-2020

## Statement by the Editor in Chief

UHURU is dedicated to all Africans in love with their continent, to the African diaspora seeking to understand the inextricable threads of their identity, to those willing to learn more and to the Mother continent that we all cherish.

In trying to understand the theme (Africa Now), our team stumbled upon an academic, literary and artistic treasure taking us on a tour of the continent from Morocco to South Africa and from Ghana to Kenya. The multiple subjects pay close attention to the dynamics of the continent in a freedom of tone, style and academic or non-academic form.

In 2020, Africans continue to build the threads that weave the beauty of the multifaceted continent. In 2020, students continue to rethink the continent's past, its effect on the present and the challenges facing its future. In 2020, Africa, riddled with legacies of a heavy past (still affecting contemporary societies), is this journal's focus as a reminder that freedom still needs restoration. In 2020, students continually pave the way to a truer understanding of Africa.

UHURU, *freedom* in Swahili, reminds us that the future is played out in the mind and that the words we attribute give meaning to them and that producing decolonized, nuanced and balanced knowledge is a key to educate about Africa, recognizing its beauty and its challenges and where they come from. In this edition, we emphasize that the key to liberty, the essence of being able to re-think Africa and its issues, is the most powerful tool, knowledge.



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