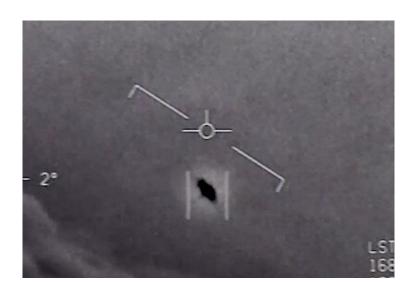
Securing the Pan-African Aerospace: The Role of Academia in Analysing the US Navy's "Unidentified" Aerial Vehicles

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- 27 April 2020 US Navy issued a statement "unidentified aerial vehicles" – Defence Website:
- <u>https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2165713/st</u> <u>atement-by-the-department-of-defense-on-the-release-of-historical-navyvideos/</u>
- 2020 United State Space Force (USSF) "stood up" budget of US \$ 15.4 billion for 2021 - <u>space "warfare"</u> service branch
- The U.S. Navy has officially published previously released videos showing unexplained objects;
- Office of Naval Intelligence conducting analysis;
- What is **Africa's position** on this emerging phenomenon?
- What is the role of academia in analysing the UAV's?



- Back-track to 2007-2012:
- Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) -Defense Department officials – a budget of US \$22 million from 2007-2012 – collected video evidence;
- 27th April 2020 US Navy formally authorized release of statement, posted on its website, confirming that the three unclassified videos depicting high velocity UAV's were real;
- videos were captured by trained Navy pilots in *November 2004*, and the other two in *January 2015;*
- information obtained citizen-initiated

Freedom of Information (FOI) requests submitted to

the Naval Air Systems Command;



- *First time in history* that a branch of the **US government** has confirmed that there are UAV's that are not in "known" inventory;
- there was always a reluctance by the senior military leadership to release the information;
- "ridicule and of stigmatization" around the topic;
- What are we doing as Africans to analyse this emerging phenomenon – of UAV's?



- This is also an *ungoverned space* too preoccupied fighting terrestrial battles that we forget *to look up to the skies* to see what might be lurking out there that is *beyond the realm of our cognition*;
- Colleagues with *classified security clearance* to know what is going on, helpful if they let us know what is emerging in this *ungoverned space*?

- US Senator Marco Rubio, Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence – requested a report from the Defence Intelligence Agency in 2021 – "an unclassified report" and on the UAV's;
- In anticipation of this report...
- Appeal to all of the participants at this conference to apply their minds to answering two questions:
- What is this 'unidentified' phenomena?
- What should be Africa's response?
- How do we secure the Pan-African aerospace, in light of the formal establishment of the US Space Force?
- African Union Non-Aggression and Defence Pact, entry into force in 2009;
- Establish a Working Group to further research Pan-African Aerospace Security;
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