

**THE AFRICA CHANNEL BEGINS AIRING TWO SERIES**  
**PRODUCED BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA**

**Daily 'Africa 54' and Weekly 'Straight Talk Africa' Cover News and Issues  
from the African Continent**

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 12, 2015— The Voice of America (VOA) and The Africa Channel announced today that the network has begun broadcasting two VOA-produced series that report and explore news and issues from the African continent. "Africa 54" airs Monday through Friday on The Africa Channel from 7-7:30 p.m. ET, and "Straight Talk Africa" airs every Saturday from 8-9 a.m. ET.

In addition, the partnership between the two organizations will allow for cooperation in other areas of content development and production including licensing of The Africa Channel content to Voice of America for their Africa broadcasting service.

Lee Gaither, general manager/executive vice president, The Africa Channel, said: "We're pleased to have the opportunity to bring these two high quality, informative and engaging series produced by The Voice of America to our viewers. Our interest was immediate and enthusiastic, and we are proud to add 'Africa 54' and 'Straight Talk Africa' to our programming lineup."

For David Ensor, the director of the Voice of America, the new partnership "is a great way to make two of VOA's most popular programs for Africa available to a wider audience, and we look forward to working with The Africa Channel to make the venture a success."

On "Africa 54," Vincent Makori heads up a reporting team to inform viewers about Africa, the U.S. and the world.

"Straight Talk Africa" is hosted by veteran journalist Shaka Ssali. He and his guests discuss topics of special interest to Africans, including politics, economic development, press freedom, health, social issues and conflict resolution.

**ABOUT THE VOICE OF AMERICA**

The Voice of America (VOA), a dynamic multimedia broadcaster funded by the U.S. government, broadcasts accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information to an international audience.

VOA started in 1942 as a radio news service for people living in closed and war-torn societies. It has grown into a multimedia broadcast service. VOA now reaches 175 million people weekly, worldwide, on air, online and mobile– using the medium that works best for specific audiences.

VOA's work in all languages and platforms is governed by the VOA Charter, signed into law by President Gerald Ford in 1976.

**ABOUT THE AFRICA CHANNEL ([www.theafricachannel.com](http://www.theafricachannel.com))**

The Africa Channel is a showcase for the African continent's most outstanding English-language television series, specials, documentaries, feature films, music, soaps, biographies, current business analysis, and cultural and historical programs. These travel, lifestyle and culture-oriented programs reflect the people of Africa, their incredible stories, their daily lives, their music and art, their successes, celebrations and challenges.

The channel's mission is to open up a daily window into modern African life and, in the process, help demystify Africa for American viewers.

The Africa Channel is based in Los Angeles and is available in just under 10 million homes in the U.S. on cable systems such as Comcast, Time Warner Cable and Cox.

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