

African Renaissance in the Contemporary Era of the African Union: Re-Thinking Strategies for Africa's Industrial and Economic Development

Nana Adu-Pipim Boaduo FRC*

Faculty of Education, Department of Continuing Professional Teacher Development, Walter Sisulu University: Mthatha Campus; Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, Centre for Development Support, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein Campus, South Africa

The blaming of colonialism, neo-colonialism and the multi-national corporations' sabotage of Africa's political, social, industrial and economic development must be something of the past in the new millennium. Introspectively, there is absolute need for re-think and re-strategize in terms of approaches, methods and techniques about implementation plans for sustainable and equitable development. In every respect – institutional resources, raw materials, skilled and unskilled labour, material and human resources -Africa has all these potentials to stand on its own feet to initiate its political, social industrial and economic development agenda in the new millennium. Dependency on foreign assistance from the same colonialists and imperialists for Africa's development should be limited or completely curtailed for obvious reasons. This empirical survey research paper presents recorded and observable evidence enlightened by analytical synthesis of the potential Africa has to trigger its development through its regional blocks. The analysis will be supported by case studies, concrete sources with scholarly argument to make a contribution to the debate towards the industrial and economic development of Africa in the era of the African Renaissance under the auspices of the African Union (AU).

Keywords: Africa's development dilemma, economic, industrial development, colonialism, neo-colonialism, African Renaissance agenda, African Union

Introduction

The Lagos Plan of Action by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1980 expressed concern about the industrial and economic development dilemma of the continent by stating in a declaration: *"We view with disquiet the overdependence of the economy of our continent...This phenomenon has made African economies highly susceptible to the external development and with detrimental effects on the interests of our continent"* (Lagos Plan of Action: OAU, 1980).

Basic arithmetic reveals that from 1980 to 2012, a period of 32 years has elapsed since this declaration was made but African leaders seem to be doing nothing the Lagos Plan of Action. Why has nothing been done by African governments about this dilemma? The answer to this question is not the objective of this paper and will definitely require another response in the future. How then, do we - all Africans in higher institutions as well as development research establishment – respond to this dilemma? This empirical research survey paper will base the analysis on the following premises:

- Brief discussion of the historical background of Africa's industrial and economic development dilemma.

- Outline major factors that have contributed to impede the industrial and economic development of Africa.
- Show how Africa's industrial and economic development dilemma is not the lack of either human or natural resources.
- The need to seriously consider and use the regional development blocks to initiate Africa's industrial and economic development.
- Conclude with a brief synthesis of the African Renaissance scenario by alerting the African Union (AU) that seeking financial and technical help from the Colonialists will nip in the bud any initiative towards the industrial and economic development of Africa.

Development is considered to be *"...Integrated change of societal institutions – political, social, economic, cultural and educational...according to collective, evaluative preferences which may be executed in an evolutionary or revolutionary manner through conscious human action"* (Boaduo, 2008:95).

The definition provided reveals that development is about people – their indigenous knowledge systems to provide development opportunities, raise standard of living through the use of the available natural and human resources within their environment sustainably. In every development initiative the most important basic statistics to keep in mind has always been

*Email: pipimboaduo@live.co.za

demographic because the whole action revolves round human well being (Coetzee, 1986; Beukes, 1991).

Development is also about the achievement of social, political, industrial, economic and other growths which include improvement of human and environmental conditions under which the people live and interact. The achievement of all these depends on the improvement made and the use of a country's human, natural, institutional and infrastructural resources (Ligthelm, 1986; Clark, 1991).

Brief Historical Background of Africa's Industrial and Economic Development Dilemma

When the Colonialists entered Africa in the 15th century they found, to their amazement, everything that could help to lay the foundation for sustainable industrial and economic development in their colonies. Despite the fact that the raw materials needed were available in great quantities they did not provide the infrastructural bases like roads, railways, seaports and airports for industrial and economic development apart from the establishment of basic industries that semi-processed African raw materials for shipment to the West to feed their home industries.

Ethnic, tribal and racial sentiments through the use of divide and rule strategy were used as a weapon to shift the minds of Africans to defending their ethnic and tribal hegemony at the expense of fighting for economic and industrial development (Asante, 1987). The formal education system; from primary, secondary to tertiary, was limiting and inappropriate because no foundation was laid for technical education for industrial development. Both rural and urban poverty were and still are formidable despite Africa's comparable levels of available natural and human resources to initiate its industrial and economic development (Beukes, 1999; Singh, 2003; Wilson et al, 2001; Jordan, 1996).

Major Factors Inhibiting Africa's Industrial and Economic Development

The scramble for and partitioning of Africa by the Colonialists left gaping scars of division that led to all forms of violence and conflicts covering the face of the entire continent which are, from time to time, zoomed out of proportion by the Colonialists through the supply of arms. The significance of these is that they divert the attention of African governments from industrial and economic development plans to the defence of their demarcated enclaves left behind by the Colonialists. From this observation, one could not be wrong to conclude that the conflicts are

calculated strategies of the Colonialists to keep Africa's industrial and economic development at bay through the fomentation of these civil strifes.

The hope of the late Nkrumah of Ghana was to establish societies throughout Africa in which men and women will have no anxiety about work, food and shelter, where poverty and illiteracy no longer exist, and where disease is brought under control and where education facilities provide our children with the best opportunities for living were shattered through the West's supported ousting of his regime in February 1966 (Nkrumah, 1965 & 1967). Unfortunately Nkrumah's optimism and emphasis on industrial and economic development evaporated from the agendas of African governments immediately after his death.

The beginning of 1970 saw all African industrial and economic development initiatives grounded to a complete halt (Coetzee et al. 1997; Coetzee, 1986; Austen, 2003; Hansen, 1987; Allen & Thomas, 2000; Morgenthau, 1993). Throughout the continent economies experienced deep, pervasive and continual crisis characterised by stagnation, rising foreign and internal debts, increased unemployment, shortages of consumer goods and the deterioration of social infrastructures. All these were the deliberate attempt by the Colonialists to stifle Africa and suffocate it to death in her industrial and development tracks (CIA Files commentary, Botswana TV, 2006; Thomas, 2004).

From the middle of the 1990s, "African governments had cause for concern in their relationship with the international financial institutions. Since the beginning of the 1980s Africa had undergone the most intense and continuous application of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank policies over an expanding range of areas, all with deeply unsatisfactory economic and social results" (Thomas, 2004, p. 174). However, African governments responded through the application of the "honest" advice of the IMF and World Bank by introducing price controls and subsidies for many popular consumer items as well as inputs for production such as fertilizers and seeds. All these measures proved ineffective and as the situation in each African country deteriorated further the IMF and the World Bank intervened, ushering in a new era of the African industrial and economic development order history which popularly came to be known as structural adjustment (Turner & Hulme, 1997; John, 2001; Wilson, Kanji & Braathen, 2001; Singh, 2003). The epistemology of structural adjustment and its consequences leave much to be desired. From this epistemological perspective, by 1990 many African countries had borrowed so much from the IMF and the World Bank to the extent that they were unable to pay off their debts leaving the IMF and the World Bank no

other alternative but to introduce the structural adjustment programme by force to be able to retrieve the money owned by African countries (Taylor & Williams, 2004; Thomas, 2004).

The essence of structural adjustment, as envisaged by the IMF, lies in the neo-liberal notion that the state must divest itself of direct participation in the economy and the provision of social services to make way for free market exchanges. Unfortunately, the accompanying mechanisms such as the tightening of monetary supply and reduced public expenditure by African governments and the devaluation of their currencies exacerbated the already precarious socio-economic status of most African countries (Thomas, 2004). It, therefore, became increasingly clear that bodies other than governments would have to step in, thus paving way for civil society to become the major provider of social services which were basically impossible.

The protest against the economic hardships, arising from the structural adjustments and political repression under dictatorial regimes in Africa supported by the Colonialists led to calls for political reform through the introduction of multi-party systems having transparency, accountability, responsibility and tolerance. Unfortunately, the second optimism associated with the political reforms was never translated into respect for individual rights and economic and human development. Many African countries had despotic leaders supported by the Colonialists for instance Mobutu and Abachar. All these militated against any industrial and economic development effort.

To date, the search for appropriate, effective and sustainable industrial and economic development path continues to elude African governments (Todaro & Smith, 2006). All inputs by individual states, civil society and donor communities have not resolved the problems of Africa's underdevelopment, poverty, hunger and lack of efficient social services and infrastructure. Thus, the search for appropriate, effective and sustainable industrial and economic development path in Africa continues ad infinitum.

Bidstrup (2001) is of the view that Africa is capable of building on high and sustained industrial, social, economic, political, educational and technological structures that support growth at all levels. His argument is that the advent of the Colonialists engagement has altered the scope and character of external linkages and the imposition of colonial rule created fundamental changes that have conditioned the economies of African countries. According to him the truth of the matter is that colonial regimes shaped the structures of African economies including the sectoral distribution of activities, key products in the economy, the extent of physical infrastructure and the development of human capital (Chazan et al, 1999); and up to date,

they do not want to standby and see that it changed to their disadvantage. African governments have not realised that something has to be done about this and continue along the same path. This is unfortunate indeed!

The Colonialists returned to re-colonise their colonies. This is what the late Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana foresaw and termed neo-colonialism. Neo-colonialism has surfaced in Africa in different forms – the destabilization of African governments through coup de tats, especially from 1960 to 1990; civil strives and conflicts from 1991 to present, the IMF and World Bank financing of African debts and the structural adjustment advice. From these perspectives, Africa has since been experiencing arrested industrialisation as well as social and economic development stagnation in the midst of massive human, natural and institutional resources. Nkrumah saw that in the 1960s and warned African governments to do something about it without any further delays (Nkrumah, 1965). However, the ignorance of African governments at that time crowded their judgement and even up to this day they cannot see the relevance of unity to end the misery of Africans (Coetzee et al, 1997).

IMF and World Bank destabilization role in Africa is glaring but African leaders seem not to see and comprehend and do something about it. The role played by IMF and the World Bank in the destabilization of African economies is not a hidden agenda (Thomas, 2004). History has it that the IMF and the World Bank are the brainchildren of the Colonialists' eight great-industrialised countries, the conglomerate of financial powerhouse of Europe and the USA. Why did the Colonialists set up IMF and World Bank?

During the proclamation of independence in Africa and other European colonies elsewhere, the Colonialists needed a very strong and workable strategy to maintain the hegemony, control and linkages with their colonial subjects in a way free from repression, cohesion and force as it was during the colonial era, so that they are not blamed for anything wrong that happened in their former colonies. The only way to maintain these linkages was to set up such institutions as IMF and World Bank with the pretext that their colonies could be helped through borrowing to finance their development projects (Thomas, 2004).

Why the Colonialists Did Not Develop Africa Economically before Their Departure?

The Colonialists deliberately decided not to lay the foundation for sustainable industrial and economic development in their colonies despite the fact that everything needed to do just that was available in great quantities in Africa. Frankly, the World Bank and IMF were founded to make sure that no country in Africa apart from those in Europe, the

Far East and the USA would develop industrially and economically to pose threats and challenges to them (Taylor & Williams, 2004).

The first aim of the Colonialists was to subjugate African countries economically and for that matter all other developing countries and their economies to the dictates of their liking. The second aim was to fix currency values as well as market prices of commodities on the various stock exchange markets of the world. They advise devaluation of African currencies (Thomas, 2004). The truth about the issue is that while no African government will openly suggest that the Colonialists had sought to dominate African economies, in a subtle and cynical way that is exactly what they had set about doing for both political and economic reasons (Bidstrup, 2002).

It is clear now to understand and know the role of the World Bank and the IMF in the destabilization of African economies. As indicated earlier, during the granting of political independence to African colonies by the Colonialists they needed a very strong and workable strategy to maintain the control and the linkages with their colonial subjects. Since they could not do this through suppression and repression as was done during the time African countries were colonies; the World Bank and IMF were the most perfect strategically, to use in this exercise of subjugation (Thomas, 2004).

The Causes of Africa's Economic Development Dilemma

The revelation from the above discussion is that Africa's industrial and economic development dilemma is not a lack of talents, human, natural and institutional resources. Currently, Africa has a source of highly intelligent and carefully trained professionals in a variety of skills, who unfortunately, practice their professions outside Africa leaving it to crumble. Once again Africa's development dilemma is not a lack of resources either. Any one with the most basic knowledge about the economic geography of Africa is aware of the vast variety of resources - natural, human and institutional - universities of science and technology. And if all these hold true, then "Why has Africa come to this terrible state of industrial and economic development stagnation and unable to survive in the midst of plenty?" To answer this question, there is need to give a brief list of some pertinent factors and discuss their contribution to the creation of this terrible state of affairs in the continent. The arrested industrial and economic development of Africa can be attributed to the following factors:

Corruption

The Colonialists media dub the African politicians as corrupt, and the question that needs asking is

'Who encouraged the African politicians to be corrupt?' It is common knowledge that billions of Africa's wealth have been stolen and deposited in European and American banks by African leaders. The financial institutions where these bounties are deposited are aware that individuals cannot amass such wealth taking into account the combined income from their businesses and other sources. The fact that African colonies have been granted political independence for over fifty years is not the issue. The issue is the continuous backing of the Colonialists' financial institutions acceptance of the billions stolen from African countries by their leaders and deposited with them. Assuming such deposits by African leaders have been rejected by the Colonialists financial institutions, African leaders would have thought twice before stealing from their countries - consider Mobutu Seseseko, Bokassa, Abachar and Taylor. The conclusion that can be drawn is that African leaders' corruption is another plot by the Colonialists to stagnate the industrial and economic development of African states. Stolen monies by corrupt African leaders deposited in the financial institutions in the West help them to finance their plans to keep Africa in perpetual poverty.

Political instability

From 1960 to 1990 African countries experienced destabilization from the political front with the help of the Colonialists intelligence agencies like the M16, the CIA, the KGB, the Massad and the various French and Italian intelligence agencies including the Mafia. The result had been a string of coup de tats leaving a trail of destruction and the legacy of potential instability (Taylor & Williams, 2004; Williams, 2004; Krosiak, 2004). Another excuse for the Colonialists not to invest in African countries had been that these countries were not stable for investment. Who caused the civil strifes and conflicts? Who sold the arms to the fighting factions to contribute to the destabilization? Countries that suffered from the instability included Ghana (1966-1990), the then Zaire, the Congo Republic, Uganda, Nigeria, Angola, Mozambique, the Gambia, Ethiopia, and recently Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Ivory Coast and Burundi and Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Chad and Libya. Who benefits from all these destabilization activities?

Ill-advice of IMF and World Bank

African governments seem not to realise that the IMF and the World Bank are not their allies to help them in the economic development of their respective countries. Unfortunately they rely on these institutions whose aim is to cause the total industrial and economic doom of African countries (Thomas, 2004).

The role of multi-national corporations

The development agenda of these financial giants has nothing to do with the industrial and economic welfare of African states. Their development programmes have been transplanted into Africa and do not benefit Africans. In everything they do, it is their interests first no matter the consequences to the host countries. How many plantations have failed to provide for African countries industrial and economic development needs?

Ineffective African regional integration

Even though Africa has regional industrial and economic development groupings like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), South African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Economic Community (EAEC), they seem to be concerned about their territorial extravagance and not real integration of the industrial and economic development of Africa as a whole. Instead of integration, they stand in their isolated forms where development initiatives are not planned among these regional economic development blocks. Could they not have concentrated on the principle of comparative advantage and specialise in products each region has greater comparative advantage? There is need for immediate action to rethink in this respect to herald Africa's industrial and economic development.

Ineffective democratic practices

African governments lack the spirit of tolerance and criticism by the opposition thereby choking the process of democracy for industrial and economic development. There is therefore need for political maturity to be displayed in all African countries where the opposition should be considered as the Godfather of the forgotten lot thereby putting the ruling parties on their toes to consider the people first in their governance.

Extravagance and lavish spending of African leaders

Many African leaders are known for their extravagant spending at the expense of the welfare of their citizens. Several of such leaders do not even see the need to raise the socio-economic levels of their people. They buy expensive presidential planes that take them round the world to further sell their countries to the Colonialists. Others buy multi-million villas in Europe and the USA and expensive cars with the tax payers' money which should have been used for economic development projects.

Currency disparity

The currencies of African countries have no value in the international market arena. When will there be currency parity among nations? The question of who determines the value of currencies on the international market has never been answered. Why should the African world compare its currencies with the Western World? Can Africa not develop its own currency zone and compete on equal footing with the West? This ploy needs circumvention, lest African currencies remain pieces of papers worth nothing.

Conflicts and civil strifes

These have characterised African countries for far too long and are detrimental to any form of development initiative (Asante, 1987). When will there be peace in Africa? African governments fail to realise that there is always somebody behind all those destabilization ploys that have decimated Africa. When will Africa remember the pains of the gaping stab wounds of divide and rule and get it healed to herald Africa's industrial and economic development?

Colonialists Resistance to Africa's Industrial and Economic Development

To a decisive degree the foregoing factors have, in the past, contributed to the Colonialists resistance to Africa's industrial and economic development. In other words the basis of Africa's industrial and economic development dilemma can be understood through the understanding of power structures and their relations that are essentially components of any process involving action for social change (Participatory Research, 1994). 'Social change in whose interest?' is another question worth considering.

To answer the question posed earlier: Why has Africa come to this terrible state of industrial and economic development stagnation and unable to survive in the midst of plenty? We are all aware of the fact that when the Colonialists invaded Africa and made it their personal property like their backyards, they took charge of practically everything, especially those resources that were found in the demarcated areas of their jurisdiction after the partitioning. They found several raw materials that could be used to lay the foundation for the industrial and economic development of their colonies to provide their subjects jobs and social security. Instead of establishing the required industrial base in Africa they took the raw materials free of charge to their factories at home for processing to provide jobs for their kit and kin. The finished products were then sent back to Africa to be sold at exorbitant prices further enriching

themselves and leaving the African subjects in dire poverty (Asante, 1987).

The same process continues unabated in the new millennium. The multi-national corporations see vast resources in Africa, which they want badly (Hines, 2005) and will stop at nothing to get them (If you look at what is going on in Iraq and Libya). Their intelligent agencies that have lost their mission after the end of the Cold War are now supporting the multi-national corporations on their new mission to get the resources out of Africa for their benefit. The intelligence agencies have been the brain behind all the political destabilization agenda in Africa from 1951 to date and there is no view in sight that this will stop if Africans do not take the initiatives to stop them.

From these analyses a clear picture emerges. The Colonialists have conspired to maintain the status quo in Africa. They do not want Africa to develop but Africans aspire to the contrary. To the Colonialists the opinion of the African does not matter (Bidstrup, 2002) so long as they remain in the commanding position, which they really are except a realistic action is taken by African governments.

Africa's Industrial and Economic Development will threaten the Colonialists Commanding Position

From the perspectives discussed above, one comes to think analytically and ask questions like:

1. What will the Colonialists do if Africa develops its economies, gets industrialised and becomes able to process its raw materials that feed the numerous industries in Europe?
2. Where will Europe get the bulk of its raw materials to feed its industries, especially tropical products?
3. Where will the West sell its finished products?

The answers to these questions are obvious and this is the main bone of contention that has contributed to the Colonialists deliberate decision not to industrialise African colonies before they granted them independence and are still working hard to make sure that this does not happen (Vale, 1991; Clark, 1991).

Another observation is the urge of African governments to seek the Colonialists support for their industrial and economic development. Many African leaders travel every now and then to meet the G8 magnate for assistance to develop Africa. This action is in itself very funny if not stupid. The development vocabularies that African governments have been using have been borrowed from the Colonialists. African governments have not as yet devised their own industrial and economic development concepts applicable, convertible and relevant to their needs.

African governments regularly forget the fact that the essence of political economics is to direct economically weaker countries to believe that the economically stronger countries wield both political and economic power, which cannot be challenged making them to dictate terms to Africa with no due consideration to the consequences those terms will have on the people. This is done through many diverse ways, two of which are:

- First to praise the economically weaker African countries that their economy is picking up and as such there is nothing to worry about but must continue in the direction advised by the World Bank and IMF.
- Second to see to it that their currencies are below par with the economically advanced countries through the devaluation advice given by the World Bank and IMF. The implications of such thought are very devastating. African countries sell products at no cost at all to the economically developed countries because their currencies are worth nothing in terms of value as compared to the West.

What have been presented so far are illustrations of the fundamental facts that the identification with economically oppressed countries in a system that makes a certain part of the world enjoy every privilege and live on the sweat of the disadvantaged is not only unfair, it is also absolutely inhuman in terms of Human Rights.

What has become apparent is that any African government who declares solidarity with the Colonialists is allowed to enjoy a certain amount of privilege. It is being shown here that African political power has always rested with governments who have direct affiliation and have submitted completely their nationhood to the Colonialists for aids or loans. Any African government who does not do that is squeezed out of their industrial and economic oxygen and power either by organised coup de tat or economic hanging or the agitation for civil strife as was the case with Kwame Nkrumah's Ghana in the early 60s which eventually brought his government down through the machinations of the CIA backed uprising in February 1966 and the current upheaval in Libya.

Another fact worth mentioning in this connection is that if the Colonialists feel that their support base for authoritarian African leaders becomes too plain to hide, they dispose of such leaders. Mobutu Seseseko and Jonas Savimbi are typical examples in this line of action.

Not only has the Colonialists been guilty of being exploitative in terms of human and natural resources; they employ skilful manoeuvres and have managed to control the responses of African governments. Not only have they been able to economically kicked African governments in their guts but they have also managed to control the painful responses of their kicks.

The Colonialists Will Thwart the Ambitious Plans of the AU's NEPAD

The African Union (AU)'s New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) formation is not anything new. The Colonialists have deliberately undermined the emancipation of African governments. At the inauguration of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana proposed what has been enshrined in the documents of NEPAD but because the African leaders of that era had no matured minds to look into the future, they ignored Nkrumah's ideas. What is happening among the AU members is the revamping of Nkrumah's ideas. There is urgent need for a call for Black Consciousness Awakening and strategically positive plan and action now. What must not be forgotten is that the Colonialists will not stand by for AU's initiatives to mature, except African governments stop seeking the financial and technical support from them and do everything their own way.

Africa Must be Responsible for its Industrial and Economic Development

The revelations have been clear at this point that Africa's full misery clearly emerges. However, there is absolute hope to kick-start Africa's industrial and economic development. Africans still have untapped natural, human and institutional resources. Africa has the best store of hydroelectric potential especially in the tropical rain fed areas. Africa has store of untapped natural gas and oil in Libya, Nigeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea and recently Ghana and Zambia, Sudan and South Africa. There are several deposits of strategic minerals that have not been exploited for development especially in the Sahara fringed countries. Africa has all the resources that can help to lay the solid foundation of industrial and economic development – iron ore in West Africa, coking coal in Southern Africa, aluminium ore, manganese and bauxite in Ghana, platinum in South Africa, diamond in Botswana, gold in South Africa and Ghana, to mention but a few. In addition, Africa has large reserve of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour and above all Africa has its own consumer and industrial markets.

Universities and Schools of Science and Technology have been set up in many parts of Africa with research and development faculties and departments for example the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in South Africa. What is keeping Africa at bay to develop industrially and economically? We need answers!

While it will not be easy to dislodge the image of the Colonialists' deliberate sabotage of Africa's industrial and economic development initiatives

over night, a positive move towards a change needs to be initiated. To begin with, there is need to provide sound representative governments in all African countries through positive political education and the adherence to the democratic norms of governance. The traditional African communal democracy should be revisited and employed to constitute the basis of governance in African countries. In the traditional African communal democracy everybody works for the common good of the community (Obasanjo, 1987). Industrial and economic development paradigm shift in Africa is required (Kajese, 1988). The 21st century promises Africa to rediscover itself in what President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa captioned as the African Renaissance (Vale, 1991).

Recommendations and Strategies for Action for Africa's Industrial and Economic Development

Education

African governments should embark on a progressively new education provision from primary to tertiary. The new education system that will respond to the development needs of Africa should reflect on the realities of the world of work and production as well as the available natural resources in localities. Changing the focus of primary, secondary and tertiary education curricula from academically oriented content to a more realistic and practical oriented programmes of courses that will provide graduates with basic, relevant and applicable life skills that can be utilised immediately after graduation must be the aim of curricula planners and education policy makers (Boaduo, 2005; Boaduo, 1998). All programmes in the education institutions should be geared towards the kind of opportunities available in African societies. Such programmes should be relevant, applicable and appropriate to local, national and international needs so that graduates are neither localised nor wasted on completion of their studies but must have absolute mobility potential across Africa.

Research in higher institutions

Research in higher institutions of learning should be encouraged and supported both materially and financially. The AU should have research centres established throughout Africa, guided by HSRC in South Africa and supported both in material and financial terms and the ideas from research institutions pooled together for dissemination to African states to utilize. Even though some of such institutions exist in Africa, they have not taken their responsibilities seriously enough to help emancipate Africa from its industrial and economic development stagnation. Research findings should

be convertible and turned into feasible, practical, relevant and applicable commodities that could be utilised both at home and for export. For instance, Cuba is a poor country in terms of natural resources and has been blockaded by the USA since 1960 but has developed through progressive education system and developed its human resources to the highest standard that they are sought every where in the world. In scientific and technological research, Cuba excels well. As a result Cuba has been able to withstand the onslaught of American economic aggression and has been able to export its human resources to most parts of the world including the USA. African countries can also emulate and do something similar.

AU-NEPAD Initiatives

Philosophically speaking, AU-NEPAD is not just a forum for economic and industrial emancipation of the African World. It is rather a reactionary proposition of African industrial and economic emancipation. With the emergence of AU, the final stage of complete African industrial and economic revolution for economic independence has dawned. The quintessence of this emancipation is the realization by African governments that in order to feature well in this game of political economics and industrialization, they have to use the group concept power (AU) and to build a strong foundation for this through sacrifice and dedication using the existing regional economic development blocks. African Union must become a reality NOW! Having been politically, economically and socially disoriented and dispossessed for centuries, African governments have the strongest foundation from which to operate as a unit. AU-NEPAD expresses group economic ideology. It is just as has been the case in the European Union (EU). This will enable African governments to say in unison what the late Kwame Nkrumah identified and said during the independence celebration on the 6th of March 1957, thus

“...at long last the battle is ended” and Africa my beloved continent is trying to do something that will set it free from the clutches of colonial prison of economic, industrial and social development. (Words in italics are author’s own).

At the heart of this kind of thought is the realization by AU-NEPAD that Africa is on its own and must stand on its own. It is therefore important to remind African leaders to refrain from the beggar instinctive pleas to request the Colonialists to finance AU-NEPAD development initiatives. African Governments who have billions in foreign accounts should bring such money back to invest in Africa. Thinking along this line of action for Africa’s industrial and economic emancipation, African governments will see themselves as *Governments of their people and not as an extension*

of leverage to some distance machine which is robotically controlled at will by the owner, as Steve Biko indicated during his trial in 1976 before his deliberate murder by the apartheid regime.

Power of the regional economic blocks

The establishment of African regional industrial and economic blocks is one of the initiatives for economic and industrial development in Africa. However, ECOWAS, EAEC and SADC have been interested in their limited regional development initiatives. It is time such economic development blocks merge and look at wider connections in terms of education, manpower development, research, infrastructural connectivity for easy movement of people and exchange of goods, services and labour like the EU and pave way for continental integration for industrial and economic development.

At the end of it all African governments must cease to tolerate attempts by the Colonialists to dwarf the significance of their industrial and economic emancipation. Once this happens we would know that the real African government for Africa and Africans has, finally, emerged.

Conclusion

This paper has sketched the industrial and economic development dilemma of Africa, what Africa needs to do to be able to develop economically and industrially. The discussion has been that the Colonialists have deliberately stood in the path of Africa’s industrial and economic development with the combined efforts of the IMF and the World Bank with their strategic plans of devaluation of African currencies and the structural adjustment initiatives. It has been indicated that African governments must take part of the blame for their myopic foresight as well as their characteristic looting of the coffers of their countries and depositing such loot in financial institutions of their adversaries. The author has clearly identified and listed the potential Africa has to initiate its economic and industrial development. It has been stressed that the AU leaders should not be fooled to believe that the Colonialists will accord attention to their request for financial and technical assistance to help Africa develop economically and industrially. The humble request the author has made is that African leaders who have stuffed billions in foreign accounts should bring that money back for investment in their countries. It is suggested that AU-NEPAD should have their own economic strategic advisors and stop taking the so-called free economic advice from the World Bank and IMF. It has also been indicated that Africa has the required resources: human, natural and institutional and given time, can further develop its infrastructures to meet its needs.

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