

Exploring the Possible Benefits and Pitfalls Embedded in the New Partnership of Africa's Development (NEPAD) as a Development Strategy for Africa

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ABSTRACT The birth of New Partnership of Africa's Development (NEPAD) in Africa has heralded hope of Africa's economic and social integration with the hope of addressing its myriad problems such as mal-governance and poverty. The aim of the present paper is to make an autopsy of NEPAD'S milestone achievements and its possible pitfalls in African's development agenda and with respect to Millennium Development Goals. The paper has used a review of literature methodology. Findings indicate that NEPAD is an Afrocentric approach to achieving economic and regional integration; is both human centric and people-centred; has strengthened Africa's partnership with other countries; forms a formidable force to tackle governance problems in Africa; embarks on advancing African's economic problems; and also improving Africa's state of infrastructure. NEPAD also faces the following hurdles or pitfalls: African record of development is moving at a snail's pace; has weaker monitoring and evaluation tools; faces weaker infrastructure; weaker political will from the individual countries leaders; and apparently faces planning challenges. NEPAD has been challenged to urge African countries to shift their mode of production from the primary to secondary and tertiary production; and lobby countries to increase their commitment to NEPAD's mandate and interests.

INTRODUCTION

Though moving at a snail's pace, Africa's search for development has been enduring and promising. It is in the midst of malaise of underdevelopment, gruelling poverty and marginalisation from the global trade that African leaders in October 2001 at Abuja in Nigeria crafted a common vision called New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to solve African problems (Mkandawire 2011: 16). In short, NEPAD is an African policy frame meant to offer solution to African problems by African leaders themselves. With the birth of NEPAD, African leaders promised to stick to the tenets of good political and economic governance to engender Africa's development. Essential to the NEPAD plan, and in return for compliance with democratic and free market norms, is the restructuring of the partnership between African countries and the developed world, particularly the Group of Eight industrialized counties (G8) (NEPAD 2001; Bekoe 2002). This is pivotal noting that WHO has often advised African countries to work towards looking for their problems in their backgrounds (WHO 2002). This is because their overdependence on the West has not only created a

dependence syndrome, but has also not meaningfully translated to development. It is at this juncture that some development pragmatists and scholars such as these writers view the crafting of NEPAD as indeed a panacea.

The pivotal goal of NEPAD is to promote the conditions of sustainable development, sectorial priorities and mobilization of resources through active participation in the world economy (Ogbinaka 2006: 8). Since in reality a continent cannot develop in isolation, one of the other NEPAD'S objective is to connect Africa to the world market through promoting partnership with the developed countries. This is in short engaging them in globalization (Kang'ethe 2014a). This is important especially to strike a balance in terms of trade equality and global social justice. For many years, the developed world has always been controlling the lion's share of the global trade at the expense of the poor nations. Perhaps this is because it is the developed world that controls the global machinery through being the managers of the United Nations bodies that govern and control trade such as World Trade Organizations (WTO), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(UNCTAD) (Todaro and Smith 2006; Smith 2006). In fact, there have been accusations that the developed countries have been making decisions to favour them at the expense of the developing countries. This explains why developing countries continue to be in a state of poverty while the developed countries continue to make economic improvement (Todaro and Smith 2006; Smith 2006). The phenomenon of unequal trade is a critical one if the world is ever to embrace the much desired level playing field in trade dynamics (Igwe and Dike 2013: 141).

History of NEPAD and Its Relationship with the AU

NEPAD is the brain child of African leaders that resulted as a merger of The Millennium African Recovery Program (MAP) developed by Thabo Mbeki, the Omega Plan developed by former Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade; and the Global Compact for African Recovery (GCAR) initiated by the Economic Commission for Africa based in Addis Ababa. MAP's main objective was to address Africa's ever worsening debt challenge and Omega plan aimed at building regional infrastructure and educational projects. GCAR role is to stimulate economic transformation with emphasis on good governance (Ohiorhenuan 2003: 4). These three programs merged in July 2001 at the African Union summit in Lusaka, Zambia and named the initiative as New African Initiative (NAI). On 23 October in 2001 at a meeting which was held in Abuja in Nigeria, NAI was officially renamed as NEPAD. This is how NEPAD came into being. However, some scholars argue that NEPAD is a project of African Union (AU) in the sense that NEPAD is implementing structures that also comprise the mandate of the AU (Ohiorhenuan 2002). NEPAD was designed by Africans for Africans. Despite the arguments that some African leaders consulted the UN agencies such as the European Union and the G8 nations on its structuring, mandate and role, the fact remains that NEPAD was designed by Africans for Africans. Besides, these scholars are of the opinion that coming with such an initiative is a panacea and a move in the right direction. The move epitomizes Africa's stride in the much desired socio-economic and leadership liberation (Mulinge and Mufune 2003; Jacques and Lesetedi 2005: 26).

Problem Statement

Despite the fact that Africa is desperately groping about for sound avenues of development, especially to reduce or mitigate its ever worsening state of poverty, the cancer of a win-lose partnership between it and the developed world continues to wreak havoc on its trade benefits. Perhaps for decades, African countries have been at the brunt edge of the trade relations between the countries of the developed world and themselves, with countries of the developed world reaping out the lion's share of the trade dividends while countries of Africa get meager returns. However, the need for Africa to position itself to negotiate for fair trade relations and dividends remains a huge lacuna that needs to be addressed. This, then, welcomes the initiative bodies such as NEPAD, to advocate and lobby for equal partnership and dividends in the trade continuum. It is therefore critical that the operations and functionality of NEPAD are put on focus, to face an autopsy that will attract both positive and constructive criticisms. These researchers believe that such an autopsy is likely to appreciate the good work of the organization and possibly give way to more performance, or possibly unearth weaknesses that could be impeding its mandate to broker an effective trade collaboration and networking with the western world, in pursuit of trade fairness and justice. However, the paper wants to investigate the panacea or the beneficial position of NEPAD and at the same time arrive at the perfidious or the loss side of the organization.

Operational Definition

Panacea

While the meaning of the panacea is the solution to all maladies, or remedy to all challenges, in the present paper, the term means a desirable or a beneficial state of affairs.

METHODOLOGY

The present paper uses document analysis. Document analysis is whereby the study uses facts or information which is already there which may have been used for other purposes (Shepherd 2002: 44). Text books, internet sources, gov-

ernment records, newspapers, education websites, journals and reports have been used to explore the possible benefits and pitfalls embedded in New Partnership of Africa's Development (NEPAD) as a development strategy for Africa. Document analysis has been used because it is inexpensive in the sense that it uses readily available information at little or no cost (Pizzaro and Bartels 2011: 57).

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Possible Benefits of NEPAD

NEPAD Forms Both an Afrocentric and a Human-centred Approach to Solving African Problems

Of pivotal importance is to appreciate the fact that NEPAD is an afro centric approach to solving African problems. This is important bearing in mind that some scholars such as Mupedziswa (2001, 2005) and Osei-Hwedie (Osei-Hwedie 1996; Osei-Hwedie and Rankopo 2008) indicate the importance of African countries considering to restructure their educational curricula that will shed off foreign curricula and ideologies. This is in an endeavour to come up with Afro-centric approaches that are likely to solve African problems. This has led to increased emphasis on African countries to adopt an indigenization approach. This is an approach that takes cognizance of indigenous assets, cultures and ways of doing things for Africans while crafting policies and mechanisms for development (Osei-Hwedie 1996; Mupedziswa 2001, 2005; Kang'ethe 2014c). This indigenization could possibly provide an afro centric approach in advancing African development paradigms. This is important because most of the approaches that most developed nations have used to advance their economies have not worked well in Africa. In fact, each region has its own peculiarities such as cultures, norms, ethics, thinking that make the same approach to give different results in different geographical locales.

Another possible distinction is that NEPAD is both humanistic and people-centric. Its goals are all oriented to address and solve people's social challenges such as poverty. Appreciably, NEPAD has managed to produce positive results on democracy and good governance in some African countries. This is pivotal in that most of the African countries' problems ema-

nate from poor governance and lack of transparency and accountability. This has given undue powers to the officials in the leadership position and thereby using the same power to crash their opposition political leaders. This has been a recipe of underdevelopment, corruption, aristocracy and denial of democratic processes taking roots in the countries (Mulinge and Mufune 2003). Thus, through NEPAD, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, and Zambia managed to have democratic free, fair and competitive elections. It is also important to note that NEPAD is increasingly playing a pivotal role in championing, the restoration of peace in DRC, Liberia, and other African countries. Thus NEPAD is promoting democracy in African countries (UN 2007: 6). However, NEPAD needs to be more conspicuous. This is especially in its pursuit for good governance and accountability because African countries appear to be slowly coming off age in their electioneering process and management. However, there are always dissatisfactions of the election results from the opposition figures even when NEPAD and other regional bodies such as Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Southern African Development Commission (SADAC) declare them free and fair. For example despite these bodies declaring the Ghanian (2012) and Kenyan (2013) recently conducted elections as free and fair, the opposition in Kenya had to go to court to contest the outcome. It is apparent that these bodies' monitoring and evaluation tools on governance may have some grey areas that need to be addressed (Barkan 2013).

Strengthening Partnership with International Partners

Among the United Nations eight crafted global agendas to advance development, the so called the Millennium Development Goals, the seventh one envisages to see countries bolster and strengthen their bilateral and multilateral cooperation and networks (UNDP 2004). While countries of the developed world have perfected this goal as they have richly embraced and perfected the tenets of globalization, the developing countries, due to a barrage of problems such as poor social and physical infrastructure, as well as poor technology and innovation, are

in these researchers' perspectives only moving at a snail's pace and thereby scoring averagely in the goal (UNDP 2004). Perhaps, the birth of NEPAD as an initiative geared to improve inter-country relationships among the Africa region and also broker and advance inter regional and intercontinental cooperation and networking, is also viewed as a panacea. In fact, NEPAD has made significant inroads compared to other development frameworks in addressing African problems especially of governance, regional and continental cooperation and partnerships (NEPAD 2001; Bekoe 2002). If properly implemented, NEPAD will genuinely transform African economies (Mkandawire 2011: 17). Besides, NEPAD has allowed African leaders to engage with the international partners for instance the Eight leading industrialised countries (G8). More so, United Nations fully supports the functionalities of NEPAD. According to the UN Secretary-General's 2005 Report to the General Assembly entitled United Nations System Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2005/6), it underscored that United Nations has been supporting NEPAD with technical, institutional and financial support. This clearly proves that the international community is beginning to listen and respond to African-driven development priorities (UN 2007: 25).

NEPAD a Formidable Force to Tackle African Governance

Perhaps a glaringly conspicuous achievement of NEPAD is its spirited effort to advance governance agenda among the African countries (NEPAD 2001; Bekoe 2002). These researchers think that the biggest enemy of development in Africa is poor governance that translates into weaker institutions, whether judiciary, executive and public management of offices. Since Africa is endowed with the much desired natural resources such as the minerals, timber and cheaper human resource spurred by a larger population growth, it is only the lack of good governance that is lacking to spur the countries country to a higher state of growth. The birth of NEPAD, therefore, has come in handy at a time when African countries are yearning for a sizeable cake in the global trade and globalization activities (Kang'ethe 2014a).

Additionally, NEPAD has contributed to some improvements in economic governance and

public administration through the formation of the African Peer Review Mechanism that intends to encourage the adoption of best practices in the economy and governance. It creates a better investment climate for local and foreign companies. This spirit and desire for good governance has created a force leading to civil society bodies, NGOs and even private bodies to demand more transparency from the governance structures of the governments. This has made the governing bodies in various countries to energize their commitment to issues of governance. In some countries such as Kenya, this may have had the effect of creating the office of ombudsman that allows public space for people to comment about the governance challenges and other malpractices that may be bedeviling the countries. The efforts of NEPAD have had good effects especially in urging many African countries to improve their transparency and political environment in order to increase and widen space for foreign direct investment. The truth is no investors are willing to invest in an environment with political instability (UN 2007: 8).

Improvement in Economic Performance

Although the results from NEPAD may have been accompanied by other fiscal issues, the existence of NEPAD seems to have brought with it some conspicuous economic improvement in the African region. Therefore economic pragmatists and some scholars such as these writers believe that NEPAD must have had an immense impact in bolstering the spirit and engine of economic improvement (NEPAD 2001; Bekoe 2002). According to the Economic Report of Africa (ERA), in 2007 alone, the GDP from African countries on average increased to 5.7 from 5.1 in 2003. More so, external debt decreased to \$282 billion in 2005; official development assistance (ODA) increased to \$35.6 billion compared to \$21 billion in 2002; and FDI increased to \$30 billion or 2 per cent of world FDI in 2006. To some extent, this might not indicate extraordinary progress, but we cannot dispute the fact these improvements are a result of NEPAD (UN 2007: 8).

Improvement in Infrastructure

Anywhere on the globe, the quality and scope of infrastructure determines the spur of the countries' growth. This is because infrastruc-

ture, whether social or physical forms an important thrust or platform of experiencing both social and economic growth (Mulinge and Mufune 2003). To this end, NEPAD has expedited the growth of countries' state of infrastructure. In addition, through NEPAD, African countries have developed the Short-Term Action Plan (STAP) on infrastructural development and mobilized resources through the African Development Bank and other development partners to fund these projects. The projects include power, road, rail and water transport as well as telecommunications and the East African Submarine System (EASS). Examples of projects include the Southern African Power Pool, Integrated Development of the Eastern Nile project, and the Enugu-Abalukeke- Mamfe road project. In the areas of water supply, NEPAD now has 22 water projects under way in seven river basins. STAP is to be rolled into the Medium-to-Long-term Infrastructure Plan, which is currently in the final preparatory stages and is being submitted for funding (UN 2007: 10).

Pitfalls Embedded in NEPAD

African Countries Development Moving at a Snail's Pace

Despite some success stories, several challenges remain. First, the average growth rate in many African countries is far less than the 7 per cent required to achieve the MDG of halving poverty by 2015 (UNDP 2004; United Nations 2012). Secondly, unemployment rates in African countries remain extremely high. This poses a serious challenge as the school leavers especially the university graduates are left to roam in the streets of the cities. This points to lack of strong fiscal and monetary plans as well as structural investments plans for the countries. Perhaps this is one of the areas that NEPAD should be expected to assist. This is because higher unemployment statistics may be associated with an array of social vices such as crime, drug use and other desperation activities such as engagement in serious alcohol abuse, prostitution, etc (Kang'ethe 2014b). Unless there is a rapid increase in productivity of capital, investment needs to increase dramatically if the MDGs are to be achieved in Africa. Finally, the proportion of the population living in poverty in Africa has actually increased slightly, from 37.2 per cent in

2002 to 38 per cent of the population in 2007 (UN 2007: 10).

Weaker Monitoring and Evaluation Tools

Lack of monitoring and evaluation is another challenge besetting effective implementation of NEPAD (NEPAD 2001; Bekoe 2002). Proper and effective monitoring and evaluation will allow or correct some adjustments for the programmes with the aim of making it effective. This will reduce wastage of resources on inappropriate programmes. However, monitoring and evaluation should be guided by clearly defined goals. In the case of NEPAD, monitoring and evaluation should be linked with the eradication of poverty, placing Africa on a sustainable development path and reducing the marginalization of Africa (UN 2007).

Lack of Infrastructure

Lack of infrastructure is another challenge besetting NEPAD'S functionality in Africa (NEPAD 2001; Bekoe 2002). Poor infrastructure increases transaction cost, decreases access to markets, and hampers regional integration. Without an adequate road network, port facilities, electricity, telecommunications, water, and other infrastructural networks, for example, investors are not likely to come to Africa. These are the gaps that most countries of Africa are trying to fill. In fact, most of the countries lack proper and effective transport and telecommunications networks. For example, Africa accounted for less than 5 per cent of the world's internet traffic in 2005 (ITU 2006). Further, lack of infrastructure substantially increases the cost of trade. For example, it costs four times as much to ship goods from East Africa to West Africa as it costs to ship the same goods from Japan to West Africa (UN 2007). These are the important areas that NEPAD should strongly be advocating for by engaging individual governments. However, some countries continue to face many governance related challenges such as corruption. This has seen most its countries' resources being diverted to the pockets of a few ruling party loyalties.

Lack of Political Will

Prioritising politics at the expense of NEPAD goals by African ruling elites is another big chal-

lenge. As many countries have gruelling challenges surrounding its leadership, much energy and resources are used to sustain the incumbent leadership into power position. A good example is Zimbabwe and Cameroon. Perhaps this is why these countries' leaders have retained power despite clear indications that other leaders may have beaten them in the polls. These countries' leaders, therefore would wish that their citizens are poor enough so that with handouts just before the elections, the citizens can easily return them to power. Such countries development agenda follows the individual leaders' priorities and not economic priorities (Todaro and Smith 2006). It is corruption that bedevils African countries. Instead of African leaders supporting each other on ways which promote democracy and good governance as they agreed during the launching of NEPAD, they do completely the opposite. For instance, the support of Robert Mugabe's autocratic rule in Zimbabwe by Mbeki and other African political elites demonstrates how rhetorical their support for democracy and respect for human rights is. Instead of facing reality, Mbeki went on to defend Zimbabwe during the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting stating that the push to suspend Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth was nothing but sheer racism on the part of the leaders of the White Commonwealth (Sahle 2007: 213). To some extent, the fact of racism is true but the truth is that Mbeki ignored the fact that the 2002 March presidential elections in Zimbabwe were not free and fair since people were being terrorised and coerced to vote for the ruling party (Sahle 2007: 213).

Lack of Commitment from Leaders

Lack of commitment is another challenge to NEPAD. Ogibinaka (2006: 21) described the lack of commitment by African leaders as "the 'begging bowl' syndrome, which refers to the tendency of African government to sign on major initiatives, which they either under fund or make no budgetary outlays for. He also points out that this challenge is further worsened by the syndrome of 'broken promise' which refers to the tendency of Africa's development partners not to work according to their agreements which they signed for. Thus NEPAD's spectacular achievement has been in signing of agreements, protocols and treaties amidst pomp, wine and

dines in luxury hotels. Actually, African leaders know what to do, but they do not put it into practice. Their interests and ways of maintaining power comes first. These researchers think that African leaders are not adequately committed to lead their countries. They would wish they emulated committed and charismatic leaders such as Mwalimu Nyerere of Tanzania, Nelson Mandela of South Africa, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia. These leaders will be remembered for their commitment, charisma and spirit of liberation of their people. They were good examples. However, only fewer leaders in Africa are today committed to the course of making NEPAD to make significant milestones in its goals and objectives.

What NEPAD stands for continue to be ignored by some countries. For example the incidences of xenophobic treatment of immigrants of Black origin in the 2007-2008 period left a lot to be desired as to the commitments of Africa to champion peace among the neighbouring countries. Many foreign nationals were killed and thousands were displaced and had their assets looted by the South Africans. The irony is that the acts did not attract a lot of leadership advocacy against what was happening. This appears as a problem that has not healed in South Africa as more cases of the locals looting the foreign investors have continued in many parts of the country without much criticism from a cross section of leaders (Kang'ethe and Duma 2014). South Africa being a strong signatory of NEPAD and the biggest economic powerhouse in Africa should work hard to address this state of xenophobia among its people. The leaders of other countries under the austerity and auspices of NEPAD need to press the Southern African leadership to address the reasons why people are finding it difficult to accept the pseudo investors from other countries. Perhaps NEPAD should use the legacy of Mandela of love, forgiveness and peaceful co existence as the banner to guide African thinking (Chingono and Nakana 2009: 402).

Poor Planning

The other challenge that besets NEPAD is poor planning, theorising issues instead of providing practical solutions. For instance, while working towards poverty eradication is one of the core values of NEPAD, there is little evi-

dence of how to deal with the problems of poverty as a core value. These researchers think that Africa should learn a lesson from Europe. Europe is not successful because of foreign theories but because of dealing with reality. The fact is that Europe and United States of America do not rely too much on textbook theories in dealing with their problems, for example terrorism. Africa should also invest in their indigenous approaches to solve their problems and stop always relying on the theories from the western world. Perhaps this is why the WHO (2002) advises the African countries that they should solve their problems with their indigenous home-grown solutions. Then, using the theories of indigenization becomes a good testing ground (Mupedziswa 2001, 2005; Osei Hwedie and Rankopo 2008; Kang'ethe 2014c). It's apparent that Africa's adoption of the western based theories has not adequately worked to address its problems. The million dollar question that begs for pleaseable answer is why does the western world support and offer advice to Africa to continue using western based theories for solving African problems as if Africa is their human laboratory (Ogbinaka 2006: 25).

Critique Directed to NEPAD

These researchers do not see NEPAD as a new African's development frame. The truth is that NEPAD is not the first, but it is a refinement of existing policies in the African continent. This brings into question the 'newness' that NEPAD claims. The African Charter for Popular Participation for Development, 1990 and The African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programme for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation have been supported by European partners and they are linked to NEPAD. So it is not the first and new partnership for Africa as it is claimed (Mulinge and Mufune 2003).

Despite emerging from African prepared development documents, NEPAD is not a home grown development policy frame, but instead it is an externally designed capitalist agglomeration because it surfaced after an extensive consultation of Thabo Mbeki with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund managing director in 2000 and 2001, and the G 8 rulers at Tokyo in July 2000. Apparently, NEPAD could be just one of the other weapons of control by international creditors. It could be a disguised

child of the western world countries (Jacques and Lesetedi 2005: 5).

NEPAD also seems to do projects that do not alleviate poverty holistically, for instance, it proposed computer redistribution as way of mobilising resources. While computers are good as tools of development, the truth is that computers cannot alleviate poverty. Perhaps, ensuring communities have electricity before thinking of the computers would be a move in the right direction for many African countries without power. This is, contrary to its aim of aligning with the millennium development goals of putting in place plausible and visionary means of reducing poverty in Africa by half by 2015 (UNDP 2004). Perhaps NEPAD should base its plans on factors on the ground in many countries. Perhaps making the development follow an indigenous path as suggested by Osei-Hwedie and Mupedziswa could be a visionary and a sustainable ways of dealing with poverty (Mupedziswa 2001, 2005; Osei-Hwedie 1996).

It is a fact that Africa needs to be linked to the global world but the problem is on linking Africa by a role of being only the exporter of raw materials with meagre added value. It has been argued that the use of Neoliberal policy by NEPAD could allow Africa to continue suffering economic exploitation from larger economies in the name of globalization (Prempeh 2006: 103-104; Kang'ethe 2014a).

Theoretical Framework

NEPAD is influenced by a Neo-liberal theory. NEPAD is of the view that Africa can develop through integrating herself in the world economy. Thus, this theory supports that Africa should allow new relationship between Africa and the international community in which the non-African partners such as those of the Western World, the NGOs and the private sector will be complementing Africa's own efforts (Mkandawire 2011: 16). More so, NEPAD supports free market fundamentalism whereby there will be limited role of the state in the economic arena, cuts in social spending, valorisation of private capital, and the promotion of international free trade. Through this path, it is hoped the continent will attract more investors and improve the economic development of Africa and at the same time expedite its integration into the world economy. In other words, neoliberal theory views Africa's

economic crisis and stagnation as being a result of the state's extensive role in economic affairs (Sahle 2007: 200).

CONCLUSION

NEPAD has brought hope that African countries can come together and follow the western world in their pursuit of regional economic integration, collaboration and cooperation. It is a commendable move that needs support from all the countries. It is also a negotiation pad in the world that is fast globalizing. The individual members need to welcome and appreciate the achievements so far made by NEPAD. It should be strengthened through support by researchers such as these ones so that it can continue treading on the path to tackle the challenges of mal governance, corruption and lack of transparency. These are the forces that continue to impede Africa's development agendas especially those prescribed by the United Nations crafted Millennium Development Goals. However, NEPAD needs more political support from individual countries, adequate advocacy by scholars and other development partners. Since its launching in the year 2001, not much has been achieved especially in the governance issues of many countries of Africa. Observably, African leaders continue to impose themselves on the electorates, countries continue to export unrefined and primary products and therefore earning meagre resources, countries' leadership continue to fight with opposition political leaders etc. Ironically, Africans continue to be the global laughing stock of the global population. NEPAD needs to do more for Africans. However, these researchers are immensely proud of it.

RECOMMENDATIONS/ THE WAY FORWARD

Shifting from Primary to Secondary and Tertiary Industries

Instead of focusing on primary industries, Africa should shift to manufacturing industries. For this to happen, African governments should create a conducive environment to attract investors. This will expand Africa's industrial base by creating jobs and at the same time cause economic growth. More so, investors will bring new skills for Africa. In other words, Africa should

shift from primary industries if she is to delete this misapprehension of being referred to as the ghetto of the world.

Succinct Financial and Fiscal Policies

There is a need to increase capacity in the financial sector and improvement in the fiscal policies. Policies should create a win-win situation between Africa and the global world so that Africa will not be a victim of globalisation. Global support is important, for instance financial support from donors is important, but Africa should also utilise her internal resources effectively and efficiently so as to develop from within. This calls for African countries to sterlingly follow an indigenous path of achieving sustainable development.

Effective Participation

There is a need for Africa's strong participation in global issues. Thus, Africa needs to be properly represented if her diversities are to be considered. During the initial phase of the operations of NEPAD, it was hugely dealing with the Group of 8 but now there is the Group of 20, which includes China, India, Brazil, South Africa just to mention but a few. Since the number is increasing, Africa should also increase so that it will be able to participate and properly be represented. Also, on the issue of participation, African leaders should not dictate, but they should allow local people to participate if NEPAD is to be effective. NEPAD is meant to alleviate poverty but the people who are affected by poverty are not being involved in the process of how poverty is to be alleviated. If only they can allow holistic participation, NEPAD will be effective.

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