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ENDOGENOUS DEVELOPMENT AND THE NEW AFRICAN INITIATIVES

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Introduction

Africa is perhaps the most sought after continent, for right or wrong reasons. Africa's unique endowments, human and material, have, over many centuries, made it a very attractive destination for both friends and foes. It has been an attractive destination for voyeurs, travelers, scholars, slavers, explorers, proselytizers, civilizers and developers. Perhaps, for its position at the centre, surrounded by all other continents, Africa has been an easy laboratory for all manner of experiments. Yet, it is also the case that Africa's rich resource endowments make it the most attractive. Its beautiful and diverse peoples, vegetation, minerals and climate attract all manner of persons, systems and institutions.

In recent time, Africa has become yet a centre of attraction. Its march through development has attracted, once again, all manner of actors, locally and globally. The march forward has been rough but persistent. The high levels of wars and conflicts, poverty and debt, disease and HIV/AIDS, among others, have and continue to make Africa an attractive destination for donors (multilaterals and bilaterals), civil society organizations (local and international), businesses (private and public) and critics (apologists and activists).

Africa has come a long way in its development march. Since the end of formal colonialism, Africa, led by its peoples and leaders, has been on a forward march to re-shape its destinies. It has looked in many directions for inspiration. At the early post independence period, the 1960s, Africa looked to the communist countries for inspiration. By the end of that decade the West had lobbied its way back and regained its hold with capitalism taking a foothold. In the spirit of its value of peaceful co-existence, Africa declared a non-aligned position together with many other Asian and Pacific countries. This allowed Africa to build and maintain friends whose values it found consistent with its own. Today, we all know that Africa has not been able to maintain that stand as bedding with the West has been more overwhelming than ever imagined. As a continent that prides itself in its social and communal ways of living, it would be consistent for Africa to drift toward the East. Yet, its version of social and communal living is distinguishable from that of the East.

A great son and leader of Africa, the Mwalimu, Julius Nyerere, knew too well about this difference, hence, his qualification of the African version in what he termed African Socialism. The term was intended to distinguish African natural practice of communal living from the Eastern European artificial imposition of communism. In spite of the many differences, the common thread of people-centeredness served as a pull factor during the early post independence period. However, Africa has since drifted toward the West, perhaps for its colonial history. That Africa should look to the West more than the East did not come as a surprise to the freedom fighters (nationalist liberators). In many of his writings, another son and great leader, the Osagyefo, Dr. Kwame

Nkrumah, warned of the imminent return or re-emergence of colonialism in what he called neo-colonialism. Others like Cabral, Kaunda and Kenyatta had shared similar thoughts.

I do not seek, in this presentation, to belabour the fact of Africa's bitter history of slavery and colonialism. But even if I did, I believe strongly that I would be justified. Yet, I choose to do something else, to reflect on that bitter history in my bid to add my voice to the fact that Africa does not need to stay trapped in that history. I wish to stress that even in those bitter times Africa did not throw its hands up in utter desperation. African creative genius survives, remains alive today and manifests in various political, economic and social struggles; home and abroad. Need I remind us of the many slave revolts in high seas, the Caribbeans and the Americas? Need I remind us of the anti-occupationist wars of the Ashanti and Zulu? Need I remind us of the independent struggles of Nkrumah, Lumumba, Cabral, Kaunda, Kenyatta, to name just a few? African resilience has lived on throughout its history, both ancient and modern, and in and through the most difficult times. Its creative genius has been unyielding and unrelenting amid the most outrageous attempts toward its annihilation, mentally and physically. In the late 19th century, in Berlin, Germany, Africa's rights to define and shape its own destiny and fortunes were stolen decided when the occupationist race was declared and Europe descended on Africa. At that time in Berlin, Europe licensed itself to colonize and dominate Africa; its resources, human and natural. Earlier, it was Africa's human resource (slave trade), mineral resources (mercantilism) and cultural resources (voyeurism) that were scrambled over.

Today, Africa is faced with yet another albatross in the name of development. All kinds of outrageous proposals have been and are being made regarding how Africa's march toward socio-economic progress should proceed. The only problem is that Africans have hardly been the actors or owners of those proposals. We must be familiar with the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAPs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); their benefits and limitations. We must be aware of the ongoing debates on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), the most recent proposal. Amid all of these, external pressures, Africa's own efforts, the Lagos Plan of Action and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), offer opportunities for African nations to look within for socio-economic progress.

This year, 2007, is a special year in African history. It is a year that marks 50 years of Africa's strategic breakaway and breakthrough; a huge watershed that thrust Africa into a new age. I mean the age of independence. It has been 50 years since this breakout but Africa is still in struggle. Yet, Africa does not despair. Fifty (50) years are really long years to struggle but its struggles are incomparable to the many centuries that the rest of the world has taken to get to where they are now, especially when they had the added advantage of riding on the back of Africa; its human, natural and cultural resources. This time round, I think, Africa is poised to ride its own horses and its own back. A lot has been ongoing in this direction although some have been ill-informed. The mega proposal by Africa, continue to exhibit the same dependency syndrome. There are however, others that seek African-based alternatives. One such is the call to look and start from within before connecting with the rest of the world in the forward march of Africa's development. I mean the need to adopt an endogenous framework for African development.

I invite you, in this presentation to take the call to look to and start from within more seriously. I add my voice to the many forebears and contemporaries who did not only sacrifice their lives for Africa's liberation but also who had sought or continue to seek alternatives to the new shackles in the form of development aid or cooperation. In the spirit of Monrovia and Lagos, but also Lusaka, Algiers and Sirte, I add my voice to those alternate proposals for Africa to approach its development from an endogenous perspective. With them, I point Africa, in its continued search for social progress, to an emergent development paradigm, the Endogenous Development (ED) framework, which has been advocated and is being operationalized among the Compas Network. Especially as Africa considers various proposals for its development and works on new pathways, it is important for Africa, to consider and take seriously the ED framework. Before I examine what the ED framework offers, its nature, prospects, challenges and way forward, I will take a quick look at the new African initiatives.

New African Initiatives

Africa's struggle toward socio-economic progress has been characterized by various interventions and interruptions from within and without. In the last two decades or so, various initiatives have been designed for Africa's development under global, regional and continental frameworks. In this section, I undertake an overview of a few of the global and continental initiatives with an emphasis on the continental initiatives. I look specifically at two United Nations (UN) led global efforts namely the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). I then turn to endogenous initiatives, African led initiatives; namely, the Lagos Plan of Action and New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). My interest in these two programmes lies in their interesting dynamics: exogenous and endogenous; their historical coincidence and their purported shared agenda.

The global efforts have been described variously, but these all boil down to the fact that they have been externally motivated and driven (Manu, Gariba & Budu, 2007; SAPRIN, 2004; Odunuga, 2004; Zeleza, 2003; Adesida & Oteh, 2001; Mbilinyi, 2001). The varying critics of the global initiatives, largely African, agree that those initiatives have been imposed and ineffective. Rather than relieve Africa of its many challenges and center it as a key player in the global political economy of development, Africa's situation has been compounded and needs marginalized. Such critics argue that development aid has resulted in more widespread endemic poverty, aid dependency, social exclusion, mass exploitation, environmental degradation, high indebtedness and deepened inequalities. Even though, the global efforts, which I categorize under exogenous initiatives, have undergone significant changes in the last decade, due to the myriad criticisms that they have faced, the situation of Africa remains largely the same. In spite of its contributions, Africa does not enjoy its due share of the global economic boom.

Interestingly, the global, exogenous efforts have been matched by African correlates, which I call endogenous efforts. The Lagos Plan correlates with the SAPs, while NEPAD correlates with MDGs. Another interesting fact about these initiatives is their historical coincidence. Both the global and African initiatives occur around the same time. Finally, both initiatives purport to seek the progress of Africa. They have been concerned about widespread poverty and deprivation, war and conflict, disease and mortality, aid dependency and debt burdens as well as geo-politics and good governance, among others. In short, they both seek the welfare of Africa. The problem, however, is that they have not talked enough and as such have run as parallel or competing programmes, at best. In what they referred to as a dialogue between the "deaf and dumb," (with all apologies), Adesida and Oteh, (2001), explained the continued investment of critical African intellectual capital on debates that never took Africa anywhere. Indeed, energy and time have been wasted on closed deals. The global champions, lead by Europe Union (EU), United Kingdom (UK) and United States of America (USA) have and continue to play the "big brother" that know best and maintain the constant gaze, only this time round it is big brother's own interest and not that of "small brother" that is being served

The MDGs, which from start held the promise of enabling Africa obtain its share of development, seem not to be doing too well. Seemingly submitted as an admission of the failures of SAPs and commitment to take responsibility for the injustices of that order, the MDGs were received with much hope. In Ghana, we find semblance in the Programme of Action to Mitigate the Social Costs of Adjustment (PAMSCAD). While it might be too early to consider the MDGs as yet another global failure, the signs are on the wall. The partnership commitment of the global economic leaders does not seem to be forthcoming and many developing, including African countries, remain trapped in borrowing to support programmes. Some debt relief has been granted under very tight conditions. Faithfuls such as Ghana have been able to weather the storm and have received their share of the stipends. Through the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS I) and Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II), Ghana continues to demonstrate its commitment to the global agenda and is reaping some benefits in the form of debt relief, grants and loans. Other African countries, which are still striving, are yet to benefit due to practical challenges. This situation is in spite of the fact that many African countries are reported to be unable to meet the MDG targets (Institutio del Tercer Mundo, 2006; TWN, Africa/Netright, 2006).

Somewhat parallel to these global grand programmes have been the local initiatives. These include the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa (the Lagos Plan) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). In spite of their various shortcomings, I still consider the Lagos Plan and NEPAD as endogenous initiatives on the basis of their origins, largely, but also for some provisions that call for local African leadership and agenda setting. They also make provisions for external support.

The Lagos Plan was designed for the period 1980 – 2000 by the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) now African Union (AU). The Lagos Plan was a result of long planning by African leaders and experts. It was also intended as a response to the injustices that Africa was suffering from the global economic order. In a preamble to the Lagos Plan of Action, this has been succinctly expressed as follows:

1. The effect of unfulfilled promises of global development strategies has been more sharply felt in Africa than in the other continents of the world. Indeed, rather than resulting an improvement in the economic situation of the continent, successive strategies have made it stagnate and become more susceptible than other regions to the economic and social crises suffered by the industrialised countries. Thus, Africa is unable to point to any significant growth rate, or satisfactory index of general well-being, in the past 20 years. Faced with this situation, and determined to undertake measures for the basic restructuring of the economic base of our continent, **we resolve to adopt a far-reaching regional approach based primarily on collective self-reliance.**

(Organization of African Union, n.d.: 4, my emphasis)

Undoubtedly, the Lagos Plan had provided, from within, an economic strategy for moving the continent forward. In a July 1979 event, the “Monrovia Declaration” of Commitment of the Heads of States and Government of the OAU on the guidelines and measures, the parties had declared their commitment to “national and collective self-reliance in economic and social development for the establishment of a new International Economic Order” (OAU, 1980: 4). This brave and laudable effort was not pursued, at least, wholly, due to internal (lack of political will, selfish interests, structural deficits, resource limitations) and external (external commitments, alliances and pressures as well as lack of enthusiasm and support) factors.

The Lagos Plan, which had been internally-motivated, was clear on seeking an African alternative and input for Africa’s development. Yet, what really happened in terms of progress in implementation can be attributed largely to externally motivated strategies and pressures. The SAP overshadowed the African agenda just as the MDGs are doing now. In Ghana, almost all reporting is tailored to PRSPs or MDGs. Ghana’s own Vision 2020 or Medium Term Development Plan has been marginalized in the process. What happened to Monrovia and Lagos but also Algiers, Lusaka and Sirte? Two decades and more down the line, NEPAD seems to be facing the same challenge.

NEPAD was conceived as “a VISION and STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA’S RENEWAL” (NEPAD 2005: 1). This statement delineates the agenda of the African renaissance project. Its emergence from the amalgamation of the OMEGA and MAP plans demonstrates African commitment to move past its internal problems. The OMEGA Plan was developed and championed by President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal. It details out strategies for addressing various development challenges in Africa. The plan was intended for the United Nations (UN) as an African regional development plan. The other, the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MAP) was mooted by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa in conjunction with Obasanjo of Nigeria and Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria. MAP had sought to uplift Africa to become a major player in the global economic order and geo-politics. Influenced by the UN Millennium Summit resolutions of Africa, the two Plans, OMEGA and MAP, were merged to become NEPAD. This happened after three separate meetings in Sirte, Libya in March 2001, which resulted in the agreement to merge; Algiers, Algeria in May 2002 to examine the resulting merged document and Lusaka, Zambia in July 2001 to endorse and accent the merger.

Like the Lagos Plan, NEPAD has been intended to promote an African agenda. The principles of NEPAD are a good indicator.

- Good governance as a basic requirement for peace, security and sustainable political and socio-economic development;
- **African ownership and leadership, as well as broad and deep participation by all sectors of society;**
- **Anchoring the development of Africa on its resources and resourcefulness of its people;**
- *Partnership between and among African peoples;*
- *Acceleration of regional and continental integration;*

- *Building the competitiveness of African countries and the continent;*
- Forging a new international partnership that changes the unequal relationship between Africa and the developed worlds; and
- Ensuring that all Partnerships with NEPAD are linked to the Millennium Development Goals and other agreed development goals and targets. (NEPAD 2005: 1, emphasis mine)

NEPAD has been criticized for many things including its sell out to the global community. Indeed, the OMEGA was meant for the UN to implement and not Africa. MAP sought an uncritical integration of Africa into the globalization process, in spite of its negative implications for Africa. Together, the two plans still look largely to exogenous motivators. They fall short of the much needed critical interrogation, proposals and positioning of Africa as an autonomous continent, regional player and collaboration in the global playing field. Practical evidence reflect an unfortunate trend, where African leaders drift toward foreign aid rather than the internal mobilization of local and regional resources.

While not very particularly enthused myself of the shortcomings of the Lagos Plan and NEPAD, I still find their internal motivation a good starting point for looking within for development options. I think the Heads of States of Africa and experts have been somewhat realistic, in responding to exogenous forces. To maintain their membership of the class, this has been necessary. Yet, the imbalance in commitment, to the detriment of the internal agenda, remains an object of criticism. What is needed is for the continent, nations and civil society to recommit to the local agenda in order turn the scales in their favor. This notwithstanding the Lagos Plan and NEPAD still exhibit good potential for self-reliance and local ownership. Such potential is attractive to the ED framework

The Endogenous Development (ED) Framework

Often when the call to go back to our African roots is made, the tendency is to think of a nostalgic past where everything remains in situ and in nature; perhaps the cave days and “primitive” past. Unlike other traditions, African traditions have often been associated with “primitive” living and all the negative things that can be conjured. Yet, as Africans, we know better. Of course going back to our roots is also about our origins and histories; who and what we are. As such we cannot afford to ignore our belief systems, traditions and systems. The Europeans do not ignore their Judeo-Christian heritage, why should we? It continues to shape their ethics and moralities even in economics. We can not afford to ignore our communal lives either. The Asians have not, why should we? Indeed, the successes of the Japanese and Chinese have been attributed to their culture. So African culture should remain a key part of Africa’s development. What we need however are instrumental cultural systems that are not museumized and archived but exhibit sufficient dynamism to mitigate change appropriately.

African cultures are ever-evolving to meet our changing needs and aspirations. Keeping cultures in situ and still defeats the African creative spirit, to say the least. Culture unlike nature is about growth although culture is underpinned by nature. Often times we focus on the element of nature, and the past of it; without considering the dynamic qualities. This tendency has attracted the many criticisms of culture in Africa’s development. Times were when the use of simple tools served our purposes as a small population. In these times we require more complex tools to meet our sophisticated needs. Many of Africa’s ancient kingdoms thrived on the development of complex tools. It is therefore unthinkable to live in today’s Africa as if our continent is frozen in time and space. Indeed, Africa should and needs to seek improvements in its cultural traditions and systems. If that were not the case, we probably should not be seeking development. Poverty and deprivation, writ large among our peoples and nations, continue to slow progress. These give cause for the search for socio-economic improvement, social progress and planned development. As a matter of fact, development is about people and their well-being. Given our conditions, as Africans we should seek and pursue development. Yet, this pursuit should suit our situation and time.

The argument for endogenous development is that, like all other cultures and people, we should model our pursuit of social progress around our natures, systems and resources. Europe, Asia and America did and are still doing so. Since Africa has the benefit of history and hindsight, we should be taking and learning from those systems to enhance our pursuits. Africa needs not re-invent the wheel. Neither should it seek to uproot its own wheel (culture) and replace it with foreign transplants. Practical evidence regarding the failures of technology

transfer (i.e., borrowed) is a good indicator. The problems of foreign aid, foreign investments and market liberalization is quiet informative. Hence, I will expect African heads of states to meet in China to investigate and learn from Chinese success rather than handouts (aid), open another avenue for aid dependency and socio-economic exploitation. At the national level, we see this tendency replicated in demands for governments to provide development motivators rather than local initiative. Critical community development workers deal with similar situations when their efforts to animate communities to shape their own development pathways are met with appeals for handouts. It makes me wonder what has happened to African creative genius and spirit as well as our individual and collective self worth!

If the Akan symbol and philosophy, Sankofa, is anything to go by and indeed it is a major philosophy, value system, to stand by, in this era of failed promises and development disillusionment, Africa should retrace its steps in ways that allow it to proudly take control of shaping its own development pathway in a critical manner. That is what, I believe endogenous development advocates and for which it stands. Kwame Gyekye (1988/96) captures this symbolically in his critical reconstruction of Sankofa by joining two adinkra symbols, “sankofa” and “ofamfa.” “Sankofa,” which means, return for it, is joined to “ofamfa,” which means critical examination, on the head. In his seminal lectures, Gyekye (1988/96), following Socrates, demonstrates how the unexamined life is not worth living. In an earlier paper with Issaka and Afegba (2006) I demonstrate how, gender becomes an important area for critical re/examination. In this paper, I think, the entire development agenda needs that critical examination for it to assume an endogenous character.

One definition offered by the Compas Network of ED is as follows:

Endogenous development means growing from within. Endogenous development is, therefore, development based on peoples’ own resources, strategies and initiatives. The available resources and solutions developed from the grassroots include material, socio-cultural and spiritual dimensions. It is local people with their own resources, values, knowledge and organizations who drive local development. Support to endogenous development aims at strengthening the resource base of the local population, enhancing their ability to integrate selected external elements into local practices and to broaden the options available to the people, without romanticizing their views and practices.
(ETC Foundation-Compas 2007: 1)

Like NEPAD, the ED framework seeks local ownership and yet, does not pretend to be self-sufficient. Indeed, in the Compas scheme of things, the global-regional connection will be necessary in the form of mutual partnerships.

Millar (2005: 93- 94), an African father of Compas and a strong proponent of ED offers yet another definition as follows:

Endogenous development implies development from within that is both biophysical and socio-cultural in nature. Although not exclusively, it draws mainly on locally available resources, local knowledge, culture and leadership, and their cosmovision, with an openness that allows for the integration of outside knowledges and practices (Haverkort et al, 2003: 30). This form of development is more akin to African systems of agricultural productivity than most other previous paradigms. (...) Endogenous development aims at the local determination of the development options; local control over the development process and the retention of the benefits of development within the local area. Endogenous development takes the form of in situ conservation and development. It takes local values, local concepts and practices (with its biophysical, socio-economic and spiritual dimensions), local resources and opportunities as the starting point to development. It however does not assume that indigenous knowledge (IK) will have all the answers to present day problems.

From the foregone, the close connection between what has been proposed within the NEPAD and Lagos Framework share some similarities with ED. These similarities include an emphasis on local resources (human and material), local initiative and ownership; locally enforcing partnership building and African-centredness. Hence, it is easy to see various prospects in efforts to endogenize African development

Prospects for African Development

There are many benefits that Africa can derive from looking within for its development impetus. These include:

Harnessing of local resources.

By looking from within, Africa can enjoy the benefit of harnessing all of its diverse resources; human, material and cultural, toward the optimization of its development outcomes. These resources, which are widely dispersed and distributed among African nations, can serve as basis for intra-African collaborations to the benefit of the nations and the continent. Past collaborations with European, Asian and American nations have resulted in the repatriation of African resources to Europe and plunder of African resources. Relevant technologies for refining mineral resources remain undeveloped while foreign investment by the Australians, British and Canadians result in the carrying of Africa's rich natural resources to their home countries. Our traditional authorities and governments are manipulated to participate in partnerships from which they receive peanuts (royalties, shares, dividends) while huge chunks of our natural resources are pirated into foreign destinations. These trends **are not** only symptomatic of unfair partnership but also serve to perpetuate poverty by failing to create jobs for the people, retain wealth locally, plunder local natural resources and re-distribute hard earned development resources. In spite of these limitations, Africa continues to depend largely on foreign investment to drive its development. Yet, on the African continent abound well-developed and time-tested institutions, value systems and technologies that can be harnessed to drive African development.

Knowledge and Experience Sharing.

Endogenous development (ED) promotes the comparing and sharing of knowledge, values and skills. Compass, which stands for comparing and supporting ED, is a tool for such exchange. The perpetually low level of science and technology, key tools for development, in many African countries is unpardonable. This is especially so when some nations have made great strides and who should share are not sharing their successes in science and technology to the greater benefit. Since the arrival of South Africa in Ghana, one can see a great difference. South Africa, in spite of its precarious history has been an important destination of Ghanaians, especially the business and knowledge generation communities. Such exchanges are putting African problems, solutions and lessons in a wider domain and contexts. Such exchanges are resulting in the sharing and joint development of knowledge and technologies from wider and more informed perspectives. We have tried various Western and even Eastern options with varying successes and failures. The fact remains that Africa continues to perform dismally relative to the quantum investment from such sources. Poverty and disease still writ larger. At the same time, local African options remain largely unexplored and undeveloped. It is time for Africa to rethink and look within for initiatives and solutions.

Human resources development

Africa also stands to benefit from intra-African partnerships for human resources development. The trend to import not only technology but also skills from abroad, rather than look from within serves to create unemployment while pushing local skilled labor unto foreign markets. The same persons that are ignored at home often become key resources on the missions in Africa at very high costs. The continued dissipation of critical development resources in the name of technical support can be curtailed and eventually eliminated if Africans can share their equally highly developed but scarce, continent-wide, human resources. Our human resources, from traditional and non-traditional sources, comprising women and men, would be developed to serve the purposes of our communities, nations and continent. The long dependence on foreign expertise has led not only to the wastage of hard earned foreign exchange on costly imports but also the underdevelopment of local human resources. By concentrating on and looking within Africa would have to develop its own resources to drive its development. South Africa, Nigeria and Ghana have made great strides in this direction. South Africa and Nigeria are important African-based destinations for post-graduate training of Ghanaians in special areas in medicine and applied sciences.

Enhanced Economic Cooperation

Intra-African partnerships will be very beneficial for the various parties. Rather than import raw materials from outside Africa at additional cost, such partnerships can help bring the resources at cheaper cost and help

promote resources re-distribution. The continued disadvantage that Africa suffers from its inability to convert primary resources to secondary products can be curtailed through African-wide technology exchange. The inability to find markets in the West and East can also be addressed when African products can be sold in Africa's vast local market. Indeed, why should Africa be seeking market for fish, fruits and garments in a foreign market, where the people hardly share African tastes? Why is Africa not seeking markets from its own borders where these tastes exist? Ghana continues to import dairy and meat products from Europe, when African countries such as Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya, can easily supply Ghana. The irony is that rather than promote local exchange, these countries choose to compete in the unfair global markets in Europe and elsewhere to their own disadvantage.

Reduction in Aid Dependency

The persistent dependence on foreign aid continues to tie Africa to donor nations and institutions and for that matter their debilitating conditionalities. If Africa were not borrowing massively, it probably would not have to stay in development co-operations that are lopsided and marginalizing. The huge amounts of donor assistance (aid), often spent on foreign technologies and technical support, can be minimized by drawing from local sources. Additionally, the dependence on aid continues to make African leaders more accountable to donors than their peoples. If Africa were relying on local tax monies and depending on the commitments of its people to generate resources, they would not only account to them but treat the people and manage the resources better. The high levels of corruption and leakages can be traced in part to aid funds. Even countries supposedly blacklisted for their poor human rights records continue to receive aid from external sources. It makes one wonder about the real intend of aid.

The above examined prospect made the ED framework attractive for its appeal to self-reliance and dependence on local initiative. There are various practical programming models, led by the Compas Network in Africa, Asia and South America that are yielding great dividends. Promoting Local Innovations (PROLINNOVA) is doing similarly. Both Compas and PROLINNOVA are currently looking at the basic development unit, the community level and among rural peoples. They have used strategies such as Participatory Technology Development (PTD), Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA) and Participatory Innovation Development (PID), which serve as useful tools and models. The successes from these strategies can be harnessed, adapted and applied at the national and continental levels to promote the greater regional agenda as defined and advocated in the Lagos Plan and NEPAD.

Challenges

In spite of the prospects of ED for Africa, there are also challenges. These challenges include:

Availability of Committed Leadership

ED is about local initiative and resource management. However, this will require a critical mass of African leaders and development workers who share the vision of self-reliance and ownership. During the early independence era, Africa was home to a good number of such leaders. This made it possible for Africa to achieve the successes that it did achieve. Today, this hard won independence has been sold back to the colonial masters. Hence, the agenda and strategies that were designed could be cared through. Five decades later, we still do not have such leaders. They still can not make up their minds about a united Africa. Perhaps we need another 50 years to be able to make that decision. Meanwhile, while Africa waits the rest of the world moves and continues to take advantage of the lack of a united and commitment leadership to continue to plunder our continent.

External Pressures

A related challenge, are the pressures that African nations are likely to face and which continue to split Africa in many places. Africa continues to maintain strong alliances with its colonial rulers. It continues to promote their interest in spite of the injustice meted to African peoples, past and present. Franco- and Anglo West African leaders continue to pay allegiance to their colonial French and British colonialists than they are prepared to commit to their own continental causes. The recent debates on building a united Africa is still a case in point.

Besides, multi-lateral and bilateral agencies and transnational corporations continue to manipulate Africa in order to maintain their hold. Military, commercial and political interests in Africa by both the West and East remain strong.

Suspended Gratification

The shift from aid, which grants immediate relief with long term consequences, to local resources will serve to cut down on available resources for development work. This will mean that Africans will have to work harder and get used to the idea of “no free lunch.” This will require the massive orientation of the masses and the leaders to focus on promoting local production, increasing national product rather than on foreign investments and gross domestic product which distort the development picture.

Black Skins, White Masks Syndrome

Africa is faced with the huge problem of culturally alienated and detribalized peoples, especially the elite members whose tastes, values and worldviews are everything but African and indeed their true African selves. This situation, which Fanon, describes as Black Skins, White Masks syndrome, is a real inhibitor to Africa’s development. This situation, which presents as westo-centricism, continues to deny Africa the benefit of locally informed, defined and shaped agenda in its development pursuit. Their well-developed foreign tastes continue to shape their mentalities and manifests in their preference for Western goods and services as well as sciences and technologies.

Way Forward

Conscientization

There will be the need for the mass education and rational/regional/continental re-orientation toward self-reliant ends. Africa must look to themselves and their resources for hope and strength. This will require extensive education and orientation at all levels. Ghana is in the lead in developing a national re-orientation programme. Unfortunately, this seems to target just the followers. If Africa is to move forward, its leaders as much as people need massive critical re-orientation toward Africa rather than Europe, Americas or Asia.

Committed Core Leadership

African is blessed to still have maintained various forms of leadership, right from the community to the national levels. All of these leaders need to be re/oriented to play their roles more effectively toward the development of their communities, nations and continents. Traditional authorities, local government officials and national level actors will need such re-orientation. Under indirect rule the colonialist appreciated the potentials of our traditional monarch and used them in various ways to serve their purposed. Such potential can be re-harnessed and directed toward the realization of an African-centered agenda. Especially for our traditional leaders who have direct responsibility of conserving African culture, human resource mobilization and natural resource management must be oriented to give off such commitment to African interests. Such commitment will immune them from the machinations of foreign investors whose activities continue to jeopardize not only the natural environment but also natural resources, human sustenance and socio-economic development.

Nurturing of African Resources

Africa will have to appreciate and work toward the nurturing of all of its resources, material and immaterial, human and non-human as well as social, spiritual and physical, toward positive ends. Africa’s women, rural peoples, and poor, who are often disadvantaged in human resources development, will have to be given greater attention. In our traditional systems, the royal and non-royal, women and men as well as young and old were socialized. Our traditional system of education was wary of the various roles of the various constituencies and provided for all in the holistic education that was provided. Our decision-making systems and structures can not remain the preserve of men and elite but should be opened to Africa’s women, youth and non-elite.

Conclusion

The above analysis has sought to demonstrate that an endogenous framework for African development will be very productive. The work of Compas but also PROLINNOVA offers useful learning points for tools and strategies at the local level. The Lagos Plan and NEPAD provide the continent-wide contexts for seeking development from within while the MDGs provide the global context for forging partnership as delineated within the NEPAD framework. Together, these new initiatives give Africa a context to move its agenda forward by looking from within while collaborating with external actors toward mutual and varied ends on equitable basis.

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