



# The Future vision of the African Continent

**Economy**

**Growth**

**Independence**

## Authors:

*Patricia Le Mouël*, Grad Dip Management-ICM (UK), Administrative and Office Manager (France),  
Student of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA -UK), and  
*Tuuli Sauren MAT*, Art Director, Creative Lead & Policy Advocacy, (Germany)  
Student of the Berlin School of Creative Leadership, EMBA programme

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**Public Policy in Africa  
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**Powering the Africa Economy**

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## The Challenge

*The present situation in Africa is associated with this...*

Africa gets practically nothing in return from what gets out of the Continent.

International companies “own” the Continent.

Contracts are poorly drafted.

Contracts give them the right to do whatever they see fit to do with, what has been handed over to them by Africa governments.

There is imbalance of power in most of transactions.

The continent is at the losing end.

Meanwhile, the world at large uses a piece of Africa on a daily basis.

This is outrageous!

This is unacceptable!

***Africa gets “ripped off” from all of its wealth (human, intellectual and economic) over and over again***

Arguably, this has been going on for the past 10 centuries, as stated below:

- The Muslim Arab slave trade for cheap labor that helped with shipment to the Middle East and India.
- European invasion in 15th century with the Portuguese who started selling Africans.
- The exploitation of natural resources in 17th Century.
- From 17th to 19th century, the African population barely grew. This still has had a negative impact on the continent.
- 19th – Business became too risky due to the end of slavery.

Then came time for ownership.

The continent got sliced into pieces.

Artificial lines were drawn on a piece of paper (map).

Those lines, unfortunately drifted people away from one another.

Those lines aggravated the damage that was already caused by slave trade.

There was a lot of hatred amongst people.

They blamed one another for their loss.

The loss of loved ones in exchange of presents or favours of some sor.

That ownership generated a lot of oppression, that was carried on for almost a century.

***The main objective of all transactions made in Africa then, was for the sole purpose of creating wealth for the “invaders”.***

Therefore, profit was to be maximised with no aim of reinvesting it in the community that produced that wealth.

This asserts that the type of business conducted in Africa was barely on an ongoing concept.

There has been no objective for development and sustainability to speak of.

This has, unfortunately, not stopped since. It is being carried on that's extraction and depletion of natural resources and minerals

Imperialists claimed to have granted Africa its independence.

Back then, there were already a lot of challenges to tackle.

Amongst which, Lack of Education, Lack of Infrastructure, Energy dependence, Inexperienced Leadership and Lack of Identity.

That, unfortunately, does not seem to have changed much, ever since.

***Africa has suffered more than any other continent on this earth.***

History has been made, we cannot go back to that era.

Going back, will not solve the problem.

Then, We (our ancestors) were not actors of anything that was imposed on us.

Our ancestors were no match for the weapons of the “invaders »

Our fathers shed blood for generations to come to be independent.

Almost six decades have passed since the independence of most African nations, but we are still failing to be masters of our own destiny.

This shows that real independence was not given.

If it were; thus, on bait and switch condition.

Agreements had to be made as part of the independence plan.

***Africans!***

Why are we not willingly to rewrite the history?

Why are we our own perpetrators?

Shouldn't the past be a learning point in order to better ourselves?

Instead we are inflicting to ourselves what was wrongly done to us?

We have opted on redoing to ourselves and our children the wrong deeds our ancestors went through.

It is advisable to always recall the past.

However, it is best to reminisce it if possible.

Positivity and trust in ourselves can help us see farther to the horizon.

***There is no way we should allow ourselves to be on the receiving end from the western world.***

Nothing comes without a heavy price to pay.

We have everything (resources) that can help flourish our continent.

We are allowing unfair trade, to the advantage of international companies that are backed by the former colonial powers, to plunge the continent into heavy debts.

Those international companies impose contracts that grant them sole power and benefit.

Thus, no investment is made to alleviate the existing and persisting challenges from independence.

It should be noted that international companies are ruthless.

They are on the continent to make money and go as it has always been for centuries.

***Nothing is new about this practice.***

Yet we give them free lands.

They reap and do not give back to the community.

They pollute and do not offer any protection and security for their employees.

Instead they instil terror in their employees, the community and governments in certain cases.

We (Africa) entered business agreements; we should have, therefore, started thinking like businessmen.

Instead of fuelling up the argument brought forwards that African governments are lured into those unfair agreements.

Of course deception was in those agreements from the outset.

Please, we are dealing with ruthless businessmen.

Maybe there was no choice at first and the agreement had to be executed because there was some form of duress.

***Question is, how do we enter an agreement that goes over a decade without reaping any benefit from it?***

A three or five year agreement, at most, could have been contracted.

Then evaluate the performance every now and then.

In business, If one sets his/her price low; the buyer will definitely offer according to the price that is transpiring.

We should turn away from the mindset of dependency

We need to have institutions that will put in place good governance.

We first need to trade within Africa, as it used to be in old times.

BARTER TRADE for Africa<sup>1</sup>.

Therefore, we welcome African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Educate the population, so we can get involved in the politics of our own countries

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1 Barter trade means that within the African continent resources can be traded. Knowledge, manpower, and investments can be sourced within the continent.

African countries are centered on the extraction of minerals.

For instance, the Congo basin region is a highly gifted place with all sorts of natural resources.

That is a rainy region just like the Amazonian region. Unfortunately, no positive comparison can be made apart from that.

The land is very arable. Corn, rice, and millet should be grown on a larger scale to feed the whole continent.

On the contrary, the region is more focused on the extraction of minerals and is subjecting itself to the importation of their staple food.

Yet, on the continent, we have South-Africa that has well-established companies that can construct roads and help with agriculture in return.

In return, South-Africa gets to run and exploit the parks for an amount of time.

Regressively, terms of the agreement get to change.

Like what Botswana did with the diamond mines.

We have living examples of:

- A South-African company that constructed a mineshaft in Chile.
- Another company that helped with the rescue of miners got stuck in a mineshaft in Chile.

That shows without a shadow of a doubt that investments can be found within the continent.

We cannot refuse foreign currency.

We do not believe in isolating Africa from its partners.

We believe that Africa needs to evolve in every aspect.

### ***Most young people have not known independence time.***

They have lived through this chaotic time.

It is high time, they play a role and be the masters of their destiny like it happened in Burkina-Faso in 2014,

No one will ever solve our problems.

We had no choice at first,

We now need to be equal contractors in all business agreements we engage into.

We are not beggars to be expecting handouts from the West.

## **The potential Solution**

### ***Wealth taken out of Africa, in theory, belongs to the Continent.***

Sad truth is the richest continent on Earth remains the poorest as a result of corruption and neocolonisation.

On average Africa is “losing” 203 USD billion a year to foreign shareholders and investors. This is an unacceptable situation. How can we come out of this vicious circle?

While the COVID19 pandemic leaves the Global Market paralysed, it is high time to roll up our sleeves and work towards a strong future vision for the African continent.

The future of the African continent will be successful, by actively engaging in decision making and taking an active role in: the development; the economy; the education; the research; and building modern healthcare systems.

Women are well positioned to lead alongside men. They have the extraordinary capacity of having the vision, the strength, the empathy and the compassion towards their fellow citizens.

Africa’s economy should be build on:

- Investing in research, AI and IT;
- Supporting solopreneurs and SME with attractive taxation regime;
- Making sure that no more biodiversity is lost;
- Maintaining current forest coverage and preserving pristine forests;
- Maintaining and respecting rich different cultural diversities;
- Effectively using and promoting Barter Trade within and outside the continent;
- Supporting small farmers<sup>2</sup>;
- Moving support from foreign owned industries and companies to the advantage of local ownerships; and
- Introducing regulations to ensure that most income from natural and non-natural resources are reinvested in Africa.

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2 Small farmers are in the position of being more flexible. They can provide the continuation of food production, in the face of pandemics such as COVID19 today or any other in the future. At the same time this will result to ending the destruction of biodiversity and displacement of rural communities.

***Statistics state that out of Africa (International companies' profits) 203 Billion USD a year. Aids and remittances to Africa is 162 USD billion.***

162 Billion USD comes from foreign governments' aid, from Western countries tax payers' money and not from the International companies' profits.

When this is computed together: Net outflow is 41 Billion USD taking aid into account, which as suggested below. It is a figure used to camouflage the fact, that an average of

203 Billion USD is pouring out of Africa, to China, EU countries, USA and the Middle-East. Minimum of 111,65-121,8 Billion USD (55-60%) of the profits should remain in the Africa continent to facilitate effective growth.

On average 4/10 individuals live in extreme poverty with less than 1,90 USD per day in the sub-Saharan Region. We need to address this huge gap of inequality. Africa, similar to Europe, needs to benefit from its own resources and use the income to build its own economy and research its own full potential to become independent free nations.

***In normal circumstances, the net outflow would have been reinvested to help boost the African economy.***

Currently, Africa has made no profit as a result of business activities.

To address this issue, we are recommending the following win-win solution:

Many European countries are suffering from a high unemployment rate of educated youth.

The educated youth should be offered an opportunity to work abroad in Africa. This would create jobs and provide the experience they are currently lacking. These jobs would be part of the international mentorship programme in Africa for a five years period.

The aim is to upskill local professionals who will, in turn, take over their mentors' position at the end of the mentorship programme.

This will strengthen the countries' capacity further by acquiring highly qualified specialists and exchange of knowledge.

***We can do better***

It will be ideal that:

1. The Civil Society Organization (CSO) monitors, evaluates and is in charge of managing agricultural subsidies;
2. We focus on small farms and grant subsidies per surface cultivated of biological/organic products; and
3. Subsidies of farms are limited to a threshold of 50% for a surface < 15 ha, 40% for a surface 15-30 ha, 30% for a surface 30-45 ha, 20% for a surface 45-60, 10% for a surface 60 ha and above > per annum; in order to avoid food shortage.

Most profits should stay inside the African continent as stated below:

1. Foreign companies operating in Africa should be fully taxed in the country of operations. Not in the country of their Headquarters (often located in tax havens like Luxembourg and the Republic of Ireland). Taxation should also be applied to dividends earned from operations in Africa, at the tax rate of 20-25% using a progressive rate.
2. Foreign companies should be taxed at the rate of 22-30% using a progressive rate of their operational profits.
4. Foreign companies should pay social security contributions to their permanent and temporary workers.

5. Set up minimum wages for workers (permanent and temporary), throughout the continent. An average of 18 000 USD per annum to be paid to employees, working for companies that are financed by foreign investment.
6. Foreign companies must follow, Former Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) processes in all development projects.

### ***Farm Subsidies and other local government aid***

Subsidies should be distributed as follows:

1. 50% to smallholding farms i.e. 1-15 ha;
2. 40% to 15-30 ha, 30% to 30-45 ha, 20% to 45-60 and 10% to 60 ha >;
3. Fund small businesses such as women trading at the market; and
4. Offer financial aid to start-ups, freelancers, solopreneurs and SME.

Each African country's government should cooperate with the local Civil Society Organization (CSO) which represents the local communities as well as audits the use of Governments funds.

1. Food security should come from small farmers, producing edible food.
2. Food export from Africa should be reassessed. First, by taking into consideration the overall food security situation within the continent. Thus, assuring that all African countries have enough food to feed their own citizens.
3. By 2026, Beneficial Owners should be resident in the country of their business operations.

The amount of export is to be decided as a variable element each year.

### ***Foreign Aid***

Foreign aid is an efficient tool tailored to keep the African economy dependable on foreign countries. It stops Africa from becoming self-sufficient and independent as a continent.

The purpose of this article is to outline, among other things, how to empower local communities. As a result this will lead to a better, a fairer and a true independent Africa. Thus, Africa would not have the need to depend on foreign aid for her to survive in the future.

### **Aid creates apathy**

Aid blocks the urge to set up a better economy for the citizens and Independence from its former Imperials. Today many African countries are facing neocolonialism.

Economic freedom can be reached when the African continent:

- Is fully self-sufficient; and
- Has boosted her internal trade by more than 60% of her locally produced goods and 80% of her agricultural produce.

We recommend the Civil Society Organisation (CSO) to monitor and evaluate all developments, on the African continent, coming from:

- Foreign aid, government subsidies, foreign and local investments / corporations; and
- Engaging in all agreements made between foreign aid / companies and African governments.

There is an increasing evidence, stating that foreign aid organisations and companies have taken part in displacing indigenous people and rural communities from their home lands without using the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process. Evidence shows that foreign businesses are accused of land grabbing, humanrights abuses, promoting slavery, displacing communities and even murdering environmental defenders, resulting in unethical business practices.

## Efficient, better use of Foreign Aid

Foreign aid received by Africa 162 USD billion per annum on average, should be used for a period of 5 upcoming years, to:

- Build hospitals;
- Build new and modern Universities (offering diverse curriculum such as Economics, Medicine, Law, Arts, Sciences, Social and Political Sciences);
- Introduce Distance learning for elementary and high school during this sanitary crisis;
- Investing and building research centres, which will be distributed in different geographical locations;
- Implement pharmaceutical manufacturers in the Sub-Saharan region;
- Establish Solar and Wind power energy; and
- Improve Internet networks.

It is imperative that the amount of aid available each year is dedicated beforehand to specific development projects that are to achieve goals within the recommended time frame.

***“The only legitimate purpose of government is to protect the lives and property of its citizens.”***

– Mike Klepper

## Foreign Loans to African Governments

Loans are placing countries into deep debts that cannot be paid back. Ownership and collateral portions of loans are used to gain foreign ownership and influence in countries. They are one way to gain control over one's independence. Foreign loans are fatal for countries and their citizens. Africa, with its natural wealth, does not need loans. It should take control over its resources and put an end to foreign ownerships. Loans are not recorded in local currency (usually in USD). Higher debt comes with more risk and volatility. Moreover, few loans are invested in infrastructure development.

While debt tools can create faster growth by giving people and countries easy access to capital and components they need to be productive with. Loans could be made without collateral conditions, but the interest rates would be much higher.

Therefore, countries can:

- Create more secure business and political environments for operations, thus reducing risks and reducing required interest rates.
- Increase the expected profitability of running operations in a country that loans are granted, thus increasing the revenue from the activities.
- Get more companies and/or countries to bid for the same loans, thus increasing competition in loan providers and reducing interest rates.

## Climate Change

Each African country's government is to be responsible for ensuring that biodiversity hotspots are not converted into large agricultural land.

Climate change is inducing further hardships, such as drought, water shortage which are both affecting economic growth.

In order to reverse the damage already done, it is recommended to work together and prevent further destruction.



Many people are living out of the forests, collecting regional herbal medicines, fruits and any other edible products.

Africans have a lot to teach others, worldwide. Wealth does not only come from financial gains.

***Transparency is a tool to end Corruption.***

Africa should establish its own sustainable trade union/syndicate that:

1. Has local Civil Society Organizations (CSO)s Monitoring and evaluating committee in-charge of overseeing new contracts signed with foreign enterprises and aid organisations (See page 6);
2. Requires foreign enterprise and aid organisation's shareholders and investors to provide and prove, that they are publicly listed on an acceptable Global Beneficial Owner Register;
3. Has strong focus in building Africa's internal market and self-sufficient economy; and
4. Concentrates on the internal capacity building by empowering women and the youth.

Leadership in Africa should concentrate on the citizens' best interests at heart.

It should make business decisions that are empowering freedom and economic growth.

Hence, building a more equitable economy, with respect to the environment and biodiversity.

It should plant a seed for independence, not a seed of oppression and destruction. In the free African continent, everyone will be motivated to take part in building the society that is evolving from its developing stage to developed one.

True leadership is built on honesty, transparency and integrity. Everyone has the right to self-determination. Development should not happen at the expense of African rural communities and indigenous peoples lands as "collaterals".

**“We can no longer continue to make policies for ourselves, our countries, our region and our continent on the basis of whatever the westerners will give us. It will not work, it has not worked...Our responsibility is to charter a path which is about how we can develop our nations ourselves...”**

—the Ghanaian President his Excellence Nana AKUFO-ADDO's speech of 07 December 2017.

**WE are our own solution!**