AFRICA'S INDUSTRIALIZATION:
A SOLUTION TO UNEMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES.
AN ARTICLE SUBMITTED TO AFRICAN MAGAZINE, UNITED KINGDOM 2018.
BY
STEPHEN LAZI AKHERE Ph.D. Postdoc.

Pre industrial revolution started in the 16th – 19th centuries in Europe and America, with improvement of standard of living of their citizen through agricultural boom, cultivated by slaves. Some pre-industrial economy like classical Athens, Romans civilization, and the medieval Islamic (caliphate) states were all able to source for better standard of living for their people through agriculture.

However, developed economies such as United Kingdom, America, France, Germany, Russia and Asian Tigger had their take off stages of industrialization from agriculture and commerce. This dispensation facilitated unprecedented population growth with equilibrium work force in farming to harness the existing economic potentials that triggered developmental growth.

Industrialization simply mean, imploring scientific methodology in human and material resources for socio-economy benefit of a nation. This new discovery implies a radical change that compare an improvement in the standard of living of citizen. Thus, the aforementioned Countries have been able to cease this opportunity of scientific research to better the lives of their citizens and subsequently position themselves in global map.

Having said that, Africa (Egyptian civilization) was the criddle of civilization dated back from 14th to 15th century. By implication, Egypt experienced agricultural revolution as it were before the Western world did. The accumulation of capital allowed for stronger agricultural capital and application investment in scientific core area of technologies to dominate the world economy, enabling the industrialization in other countries like Hungary, Austria, Poland and many other European countries to move upward in the 1880s.

The Asian continent in immersing industrialization in the 1870s through military might, had greater influence on economic reconstruction that promoted technological industrial development which eventually transformed and snowball into entrepreneurial evolution that trigger economy growth in the 19th century.

In the era of cold war, European nations such as Spain and Italy experienced moderate industrialization during in the 1950s and 1970s which integrated European economy through their levels of development as well as those of the socialist European countries.

INDUSTRALIZATION IN AFRICA

From the above, most Africa countries did not follow the footprint of Egypt. They rather relied on poor farming system that could barely feed more than three families. Although there was a resemblance of governance for most Africa States, but this governance was not knowledgeable enough to drive the concept of development through agriculture that could have been the platform for industrialization. During pre-colonial state of Africa, we pride

ourselves or masqueraded in peasant farming before the coming of Colonial masters who divided Africans within Western Colonies of their choice.

The first industrialization that took place in Africa was on arable agricultural produce driven by the colonial commerce in exchange of slaves and cowries as medium of exchange. At the abrogation of slave trade by the United State Federal Law (The Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves) in 1807 which took effect in 1808, gave Africa leverage for upward looking for the emancipation of past set-backs resulting from such continental abuse and deration imposed on Africans.

African started looking up toward economic and technological empowerment at the instance of the Colonial masters who came to impose their own foreign business and political ideologies. This led to another delay in the development of the continent as it were. During Colonial era, Africa under the supervision of the Western world started imbibing cultural imperialism in the area of commerce, technology, manual skill acquisition, educational acquisition, and language were compared on Africans whose saw it as a **New Order.** While advance skill in technology were kept from their reach.

In the area of power/energy, construction and economy, Africa has moved forward fairly. These take off stage commenced, was short-lived after independence of Africa Countries living Africa to inwardly drive their own self-reliance development process toward industrialization which has remain a solidarity movement with vest potentials on the continent to springboard if harness properly. In spite of the foregoing, Africa still remains a fertile potential continent for massive technological advancement and development if priority is given to economic policies that will wheel growth.

In a 21st century, Nigeria, South Africa, Angola and other potential African states are in the road path to industrialization. While the Western states are gradually migrating to the continent of Africa to harness her investment potential in order to advance wealth for their continent.

Every country of the world had to advance their technological and economic base to attain development. In the same vein, created lots of job opportunities for their citizens. Although, Africans seems to be growing in this regard, there are spirited determination to develop in the area of technology.

In late 1990s, President Obasanjo in his eight years of leadership as Nigerian President, created economic platform for entrepreneurial revolution and industrialization of the economy. Such as opening up of the petroleum sector to investors, deregulation of telecommunication in Nigeria that empowered small and medium scale enterprise (SMEs), job creation and social development. The establishment of Nija Satellite was another milestone to Obasanjo's sleeves as quest for industrialization, a pivotal to current growth of the Nigerian economy. This, bridge the gaps of existing unemployed ratio experience in the 1990s to early 2000s.

However, it is not untrue that Africans are grossly unemployed, a situation where the workable age bracket can't be gainfully employed. This is sad. Africa is most blessed with

natural and human resources that are yet to be explore as economy good. Industrialization is a factor of qualitative research on science, technology and entrepreneurial development with a proven marketing mix. Africa has these above mentioned potentials to industrialize if only African leaders are purpose driven.

Global economy are technologically and entrepreneurial determinant, while government creates an enabling environment upon which investor operates. Another booster to industrialization is adequate and constant energy supply which Most African Countries have not been able to overcome, and the theory of sentiment by African Leaders has hampered industrialization in Africa.

In conclusion, although the current investment invasion in Nigerian oil and gas couple with its sectorial reform, massive drive on the resuscitation of agricultural sector, and giant stride taken on energy development in most African States, when completed, will massively generate employment that will bridged the current unemployment gap witness in the continent. Clearance by desk officer satisfactory.

The present economy recession experienced early 2017 to first quarter of 2018 in the country is due to lack of industrial and developmental ideology that will revolutionize gains from internally generated revenue (IGR) coupled with foreign earnings like it where in oil boom and indigenization era of the 1970s in Nigeria. Industrialization is not only an aged form of a New Global Order, rather, an economic engine that energizes wealth for socio-structural development, advance technological growth and a broad economy empowerment.

A nation is said to be underdeveloped when she is yet to alien with current global digital era, when her per capital income is less than a Dollar ($), alienation of the middle class, unpractical economic policies, short life span of her citizens due to poor health facilities and poverty, high level of class struggle amongst fewer elites, primitive acquisition of wealth, and a large proportion of illiteracy. Again, a nation is said to be underdeveloped when there is total absence of the rule of law, poor leadership style, octopus policies without equilibrium drive to achieve it, astronomical level of unemployment within workable age bracket. The quest for development is not a sentimental nor mediocratic call. It is a call for selfless service to national duties. Thus, it should take center stage of leadership at all levels of administration, eliminating bereaved and moribund ideology.

Another positive impact of industrialization to any economy is the improvement of disposable income of its citizen. This implies free-flow of wealth among citizens, it will reduce inflation /economic recession, wider the existing tentacles of social vices and eliminate high unemployment ratio. When this happens, it means Africa will be able to compete in the long run with industrialization matrix (the take-off stage of economic growth), forcing every socioeconomic and political indices to automate itself into massive development. Thus, redirecting our preferences, thoughts and ideas of an average African to want to create, initiate, explore, and discover new horizon as invent frontiers that will break and celeberate African States in global environment. In addition, the indigenous market will attract huge foreign investor and eliminate imperialist capita flight to other continents.

Industrialization will enhance modern challenges such as change in lifestyle, educational improvement, efficient in medical services, urbanized transportation system, improve living standard and energizes small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), which is the hallmark for socioeconomic advancement.