

Towards a Viable and Credible Development in Africa: The Push Factors

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This book is dedicated to the millions of African victims of the skewed distribution of global wealth generated from the exploitation of African markets and investment opportunities, and human and natural resources, due to the failed leadership of African governments, business communities and civil society groups, and the conscious policy and concerted efforts in developed countries to retain an abnormal share of global wealth generated from Africa's wealth-creation capacities.

Part of the profits from this book will be donated to Tambaroua Foundation for Africa's Development (TFAD), spearheaded by Niang & Associates of Tambaroua Business International, who donated 1,000 sqm. to host its headquarters in Bamako, Mali. TFAD will support the emergence of change agents in African governments, business communities and civil society groups to help create and maintain conditions for a viable and credible development across the continent and from generation to generation.

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Participation in high level meetings, working groups, and seminars was seized as an occasion to test arguments at various stages of the evolution of the manuscript. I would like to thank Professor Anthony Youdeowei who pushed the project of the book to fruition. Several versions of the manuscript were distributed and as a recipient of that manuscript on June 30, 2004, he encouraged me to publish it as a book.

I am indebted to the advance readers who reacted in great numbers and expressed great interest in my research work. It

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would be impossible to mention all those whose intellectual inspirations gave rise to my thoughts, though I have tried to list additional names and relevant sources in the *Information Sources*.

To each and all I am truly grateful.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I think I can say with some authority that people who are making an effort to embrace the future are a happier lot than those who are clinging to the past . . . But people who are attempting to grow, to become more comfortable with change, to develop leadership skills—these men and women are typically driven by a sense that they are doing what is right for themselves, their families, and their organizations. That sense of purpose spurs them on and inspires them during rough periods. And those people at the top of enterprises today who encourage others to leap into the future, who help them overcome natural fears, and who thus expand the leadership capacity in their organizations—these people provide a profoundly important service for the entire human community. We need more of those people. And we will get them.

—JOHN P. KOTTER
Professor of Leadership at the Harvard Business School
1996

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He holds the view that the proper use of the technique will help build the critical skill and capacity of human beings of African origin and, thereby, help unleash their greatness through enhancing the capacity of each to get and better use the tools that each requires in governments, business communities and civil society groups to change, grow, and strive for its leadership potential, in particular, and to perform its leadership task in achieving a broad-based economic growth with food security and poverty reduction and equity and better environmental management based on a global partnership inspired by the shared vision of Africa as nations networked into a unified continental economy and market.

The development of RADP was possible because of the iron will and determination to make a contribution to a betterment of life, especially for African people. The author holds the firm belief that a strong Africa is good for Africa and even better for developed countries. The technique is applied to NEPAD, the fifth region-wide initiative, to help take the NEPAD Process forward through igniting an epidemic of rethinking to generate the push factors required to move the continent of Africa towards a credible and viable development.

In pursuing the development of RADP—especially through testing the technique on sensitive issues such as the Lomé Convention and Uruguay Round, the CFA Franc and Euro, the African debt and the Concept of Co-responsibility for African Debt, the conflicts of economic origins and validating it through the relaunching of regional integration in the richest subregion of Central Africa, and the renewal of one of the five pillars of the African Economic Community (AEC) namely ECCAS—the author pushed himself out of the comfort zone, taking some personal risks.

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The self-denial was especially painful for the author's family, but solidarity grew stronger every day as each member of the family became convinced that the sacrifices would yield benefits for African people, in particular, and humanity, in general. With the right vision and goal to develop into an agent of change for Africa's development, especially through the development, release and application of RADP, an appealing cause was found for which to fight.

The author is indebted to the extended and nuclear families, friends and colleagues who helped to overcome fears and provided moral assistance especially during rough periods. He is particularly indebted to his mother, Kadiatou Touré, who is lovingly called by each and all Nandi, his wife, Diénabou Fofana, and his eight children and their families.

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