

Saying NO to pessimistic views about Africa's resource-based industrialisation (1)

SERIES ON INDUSTRIALISATION FOR AN EMERGING AFRICA

The pessimistic view:

Resource-based industrialisation in Africa is as hard to achieve as any other path due to:

- ~ *High uncertainty and risks; and high entry barriers to export markets*
- ~ *Poor infrastructure, inadequate human capital, low access to financial capital*

Why Africa should discard the pessimistic arguments and move on:

- ~ *Selective industrial policies are instrumental in catalysing resources in high-potential sectors rather than spreading them thinly across all sectors (good examples are Argentina, Venezuela, Malaysia, Thailand)*
- ~ *Resource-based industries would enable the accumulation of capital, skills and technological capabilities*