

Lily's Model of Development for National Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

The engagement of this paper is to craft a new model for the development of Africa and Nigeria in particular. It is called the "Lily's Model of Development" or Neo-communalist Lily's Model of Development. It is the outcome of the review of all prevailing extant dominant development Models which African nations have employed in the bid to achieve development, all to no avail. The capitalist, socialist and welfarist contraptions of development have not produced the needed holistic development of the African person as a living human. Any meaningful development Model must address the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of individual citizens. The Lily's Model is crafted with the benefit of hindsight and as a proactive model to chart a new and better course for African development. We have employed the analytical and synthetic method in achieving this goal.

Keywords: Lily's Model, Development, Non-communalist, holistic development, extant dominant Models

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Introduction

Lily's Model of Development is a novel thought experiment articulated both to critique past development models and to reticulate an autonomous and distinct model of development which should be adopted in steering Africa's indigenous development. It calls for pure, faultless, sanitized and indigenous and autochthonous way of exploring, analysing, prospecting, trajecting and engineering Africa's development.

The inherited western models have failed Africa because it was not a fit-all model. It is a model crafted to fit the western metropolitan nations with its logic of development wound around environment, need, psychology, education, experience, potentials, predilections and political ambitions. Africa's soil breeds her own needs, education, environment, experience, potentials and so our loci of development should be different and must be original to Africa from foundation to apex. (*Igbo call it "odi na na na e bu eke"*) Every soil grown its own kind of snake (plant).

We have chosen to call it the Lily's Model because like the proverbial Lily, it is envisaged to be pure, original, independent, faultless, uninfluenced by its environment, innocent of other development models. We can argue that all developments that are sustainable must adopt or had adopted Lily's Model of its own crafting without knowing it. Our attempt/effort is to delineate what Lily's Model entails? How does it work and how do we apply it to achieve development? Why Lily's Model is unique is that, it is inward looking, introspective, exploitative, not-dependency forming, deserving and convenient. It decries 'copy catism' and obnoxious integrativism. It encourages innocuous integrativism that is rooted in originality, peculiarity, relevance, essentiality, necessity and is undefiling. It is "autarkic" without being disdainful or foolishly exclusive. Inclusivity is based on universal human mental and intellectual operations. Human minds can work in similar ways in solving human problems.

The Lily plant is pure, innocent, undefiled, white, original, unique, path finding, exemplary, peculiar, unique, transparent and purposeful. These are the elements that characterize Lily's Model of development.

Necessity for Lily's Model of Development

Lily's Model of development is necessitated by the wisdom in the Chinese proverb which says 'No matter how far we have gone on the wrong road, the only option is to return to the right point? (retrace your steps)'. Our journey on the western path of development is flawed *ab-initio*. It is flawed because it was crafted to:

- i. Exploit Africa
- ii. Keep Africa Underdeveloped
- iii. Keep Africa Dependent
- iv. Keep Africa mesmerized and entangled
- v. Make Africa producer of cheap raw materials and consumer of expensive finalized products
- vi. Make Africans desire, thirst and glamorize made in the west products and loathe, deride made in Africa products.
- vii. Create incurable, insatiable thirst in our leaders for exotic Western products
- viii. Create high stealing ability in our politicians – Hide their stolen wealth for them and pretend to fight corruption
- ix. To effect regime change immediately a transformational leader emerges in any African country.
- x. To manipulate Africa's economy, leadership and development by using CIA, KGB and multinational corporations.
- xi. To encourage brain-drain
- xii. To ensure that Africans do not pursue Lily's Model of Administration.
- xiii. To undermine the economic growth of his nation.

To grow and develop, we must develop an independent mind and indigenous mind like Mu'ammarr Gaddafi of Libya.

The problem faced by African leaders/politicians is that they have been contaminated. What the colonizers, exploiters, imperialist do is to first contaminate the ruling class, the potential leaders, elite, the intelligentsia. When the bug of western contamination bites a person, it does not matter how fanciful, promising, progressive the person's manifesto may be, he will still steal, stash away money in foreign banks, patronize western hospitals, globe trot, glamorize western made goods at the expense of indigenous goods.

As Oloyede, has to say: 'Our government is so pathetically dysfunctional that at the bottom, institutions of government matter little, only individuals do. What must be done are:

- i. Mental decolonization
- ii. Spiritual sanitization
- iii. Cultural conscientization
- iv. Patriotic discernment
- v. Palpable Afrocentrism
- vi. Educational indigenization
- vii. Economic independence
- viii. Educational independence

When a leader is a determined patriot, a focused nationalist, a de-tribalized, de-nepotized, culturally knowledgeable, weaned from western product attractions and bodily mortified against the fleeting things of this world and has one purpose, that of lifting the living standards of his

people, then, we have a leader who is qualified to practice or deploy the Lily's Model for the development of Africa in general and Nigeria in particular.

The following constitute the truism;

- i. Africa is an agrarian continent
- ii. Africa is blessed with various mineral deposits
- iii. Africa is a home for crafts
- iv. Africa is blessed with tourist sites
- v. Africa is a place of untapped talents – culture, dance, Arts & Painting, architecture, football, drama, Nollywood.
- vi. Africans with the know-how on science and technology should be brought back home to fashion our scientific and technological growth, produce indigenous cars, machines, equipment for the development of African nations.

Areas of concentration should be;

- Agriculture – fishing, cash crops, fruits, timber, horticulture;
- Mining – coal, bauxite, gold, oil.
- Animal husbandry – chickens, guinea fowl, turkey, bush meat, fish.
- Cash crops - Yams, cassava, cocoyam, potatoes, Rice, Beans, Millet, Soya beans, Tomatoes, cocoa, groundnut, etc
- Tourism should be encouraged

Governance should be made unattractive and only those having the calling should be allowed to venture into it for the sole purpose of rendering selfless service.

There are certain western delicacies we have tested which we cannot vomit – the luxury of electricity, ICT, Media houses, good houses, posh cars, roads, hospitals, etc. These very necessary needs should be provided to enhance the life expectancy and living standards of the average African. But attempt must be made to craft our home-made variants. This means that our education will change, our curricula will change – courses will be organized on the basis of what is indigenous and original to Africa, what is relevant and what we can grapple with to avoid importing machines and equipment we cannot maintain in Africa. We begin by seeking to satisfy immediate and people's needs like food, housing, clothing, education, thereafter there can be intra African exchange on the basis of comparative advantage.

Africans have the brains for science, technology, administration, arts, agriculture. Our curricula will be determined by perceived need, ability and relevance. When we consolidate, then we can begin to extend our products to the outside world. Globalisation, United Nations is all western subterfuges for entrenching and perpetuating European dominance and neo-imperialism. They must be kept at arm's length.

Application of Lily's Model of Development

Applying Lily's model of development implies the following:

- That there can't be development without ethically sound leadership foundation
- Development is hinged on detest of corruption in all its ramifications.
- The need to know and work out implementable trajectory for development.
- The availability of political will to pursue and achieve the blueprint clearly articulated.
- The need to dispassionately choose competent hands to drive the programme of development.

- The need to harness the human and non-human potentials that are innocuous for the achievement of desired, developmental objectives.
- It has to involve the knowledge that every national development must be humanistic or human –centred. Any development that does not impact positively on the living conditions of the citizens is mal-developmental.(Ikeji and Ekot 2002)

Development is about the multifaceted improvement of the living standards of the people through multisectoral approaches. There is the need for the improvement of the materials, spiritual, psychological, social, economic and political well-being of the citizens.

This will include provision of basic needs like food, water, housing, clothing, power, good roads, health services, education and job opportunities. There has to be an enabling environment for people to pursue their different occupational goals without let or hindrance.(Nyong,2005).

In Nigeria for instance, we lack an organized, systematic and sustained developmental trajectory. Different leadership dispensations came up with different development programmes which do not meaningfully and logically connect with the vision of past leaders which instead of leading to sustained development leads to development gaps and disarticulation.

Lily's model of development encapsulates a vision where leaders are patriotic, ethically sound, and selfless and are rationally defined by a consciousness of holistic, integrated and harmonious development. But the development trajectory we have is unorganised and disarticulated. This type of development is reduced to the barest minimum, if nepotic considerations are extinguished, developmental policies are goal oriented, if development is based on sincere national needs and rational utility considerations. For instance, it does not make sense to site a Navy formation in Kano that does not have water, construct rail line from Lagos to Maradi in Niger when rail net work has not been achieved in the six Geo-political zones of Nigeria. We are talking of mining oil in the North when the existing refineries are not functioning.

Nigeria's development agenda is marred by political and nepotistic considerations with scant regard to the real needs of the nation. We must ask the question, what type of development do we have in mind? Technological, agricultural, petro-chemical, automobile or tourism driven development? Or do we intend to develop in all the aforementioned areas. We need to articulate a development plan that will serve as blueprint to which successive leaders will be made to pursue to achieve the desired outcome. (Ekanem,2010).

All developments achieved so far will need to be articulated and then, the gaps filled to enable us reap the full potential of our developmental efforts. Infrastructural gaps like lack of good roads, power, housing, portable water, transportation, health facilities and affordable education will need to be a filled as a matter of urgency.

A national plan that will make land available for farmers will need to be vigorously pursued. Farmers will need to be supported to make farming lucrative. This is the only way our teeming youths can be encouraged to take to agriculture. Politics should be made less lucrative or attractive else nobody will want to leave the quickest means of enrichment to opt for farming. This means that,

- Corruption must be fought.
- Leadership must be sincere
- There must be laid out plan with prioritizations.
- A nation's vision and the political will to pursue and accomplish the vision.
- Checks and balance must be put in place as enablers, drivers, consciences and gadflies to keep leaders on their toes.

When the above are put in place then, the type of development Lily's model envisages will come to fruition.

Our Greatest Enemies

Our greatest enemies identified by the Lily's Model is ourselves – The human factor – How do we cure ourselves of corruption, pervasion, tribalism, nepotism, kickback, extortion, love for opulence, greed, selfishness, avarice, extravagance, pride, arrogance, power drunkenness, wickedness, treachery, betrayal, deceit, lying, etc. These are the attributes of the carnal man, that is, the debased nature of the ordinary man. The schools, churches must be used to deal with the character-cancer that destroys our potentials for greatness.

Lily's Model may be accused of being utopian, outlandish, idealistic and impracticable. This will be a defeatist attitude. The Lily's Model is based on the aphorism, that says "shoot at the moon perchance you land on the stars" – if we painstakingly pursue this trajectory, we will arrive at a somewhat progressive outcome.

According to Rooney (1988), Nkrumah, had such clear vision at the onset, but the manipulation of colonial forces discoloured and frustrated the vision. His personal character deficits defeated his good vision. Ghedaffi (2005) had similar vision but like Nkrumah was destroyed by bloated vision to rule and dominate Africa. Lily's Model emphasises humility, love for humanity, justice and patriotism as indispensable first lessons and qualities for aspiring leaders'. Appropriate taxation to dissuade political business men from venturing into politics – clear, clean, transparent voting system leading to peaceful succession should be put in place. Where there is a will, there will be a way. There may be need for the cleaning of the political Augean stable for the Lily's Model to be put in place.

Conclusion

What we have attempted are the main outlines of the Lily's Model of Development. It is coming as a patriotic response to the need to address the yawning gap that exists in our development parameters. We are working hard but no real development is being witnessed. We have applied the classical model, the Neo-classical, the Agrarian, the capitalist, the socialist, the welfarist, all these models have not helped us. We have passed through Neo communalism, modernization theory, (Industrialization, import substitution, structural Adjustment programme, Multinational corporations, mixed economy, trade liberalization, World Bank, IMF Conditionalities, Globalisation, NEPAD, and other adhoc development programmes and all these theories have not led to the desired destination which is the holistic development of the human person and Africa. A neo-communalist Lilian Model is what this paper is advocating to wean Africans of the corruptions that goes with presidential democratic system of government.

Lily's model of development is concerned with achieving transparent, corruption free and goal oriented development. It insists on true, morally sound and sincere and patriotic leadership. Need for a development blue print and trajectory that is based on locational utility that is, investing in each region of the nation in such a manner as to derive maximum returns on investment. Prioritizing development thinks of basic needs and essential infrastructural needs. Then, the development should be sustained and progressive. We are also to develop bearing in mind areas where we have the highest level of comparative advantage against other competing nations. Also, our development imperatives must be forward looking and in tandem with global realities.

Recommendations

We recommend that for Lily's model of development to be adopted in our developmental programme, the following are needed.

- Leadership that is characterized by integrity, transparency, accountability and probity.
- There must be a thoroughly thought- through development programme which has to be rigidly followed to the end of development process.
- There must be clean and transparent system which makes corruption different.
- A system that must practice separation of powers in a rational and progressive manner.
- We recommend that Lily's model be applied as a home-grown economic developmental panacea to curb the pitfalls common to developing nations.
- A national independent body should be set up to screen would be leaders to ensure that they are of sound moral character.
- An economic and development think-tank has to be constituted to evaluate the development policies of successive administrations to ensure coordination and continuity.
- Lily's model recommends that both the process and the product of any development trajectory must be seen to follow due process and adhere to the guidelines of transparency and fruitfulness in terms of the impact of development policies on the existential situation of the citizens. The essence of development must be about the wellbeing of the citizens of the nation (Ozumba,2018).

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