

Abstract

Africa Can Industrialise: Not A Far-Fetched Goal

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African countries have undergone industrial development to varying degrees. The differences in industrialisation can be attributed to industrialisation policies, market access, purchasing power, natural resources, human capital and presence or absence of conflicts.

This paper outlines four models of industrialisation which would go along way in achieving industrialisation of the continent. The first model is the extractive final stage processing. This paper recommends that value addition of natural products before exports by extraction of main ingredients instead of exporting raw materials would boost Africa's industrialisation. The second model recommends the support and expansion of import substitution industries. This model would greatly help the industrialisation process by helping the emergence of light and heavy industries in Africa. The idea being to manufacture most of the goods locally as well as accelerate technology transfer.

Export processing zones form the third model for industrialisation of the continent. This would deepen capital and technological input into the continent's sector. The entrepreneurs would receive tax rebates and profit retention for their manufactured goods. The fourth model for industrialisation of the continent involves emergent production systems-informal sector. These production systems should be supported by regional governments for technological advancement to make them additional avenues for production of goods for exports.

Advances in communication technology which enables instant communication will help with industrialisation. We are living in a global village in which communication between two or more persons in different continents is only a few clicks or button presses away.