

# Foreword

THE challenges that the African Continent faces range widely and deeply. These challenges are depicted by unstable political situations, poorly-developed capital markets, value-erosion of minerals and agricultural produce, outbreak of diseases, escalation of conflicts, poor education systems, poor infrastructures, depleting resource base, environmental degradation, social disintegration and so much more. These challenges, I believe, are results of historical imbalances and decades of inappropriate “development” interventions.

Many institutions and individuals have prescribed “development” agenda for Africa; yet very few have come up with contextual and appropriate models. It is because these institutions and individuals only became instrumental in the introduction of development models that were manufactured in foreign countries. Indeed, the all-important context has been defied, neglected in the models that were borrowed from foreign countries and



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applied in Africa. Hence, not a few models have actually exacerbated the already difficult challenges rather than address them.

The sad fact is that some individuals have selfishly benefitted from Africa's miseries and have therefore sought to maintain the status quo, in one way or another. The real core of “development” for Africa has not been struck. Hence, tangible and transposable results are not evident.

It is advanced here the importance of highlighting one key aspect of the African way of life, which has either been deliberately or ignorantly excluded from “development” models that are at hand. This one key aspect is **spirituality**. Spirituality plays a key role in the African way of life. Spirituality shapes the political, cultural, and economic spheres of original Africa. In that regard, spirituality (in its positive and unadulterated form) points to the need for the superiority of the beyond-human element of life. Spirituality is the fount of the belief that everyone is created by God equally and everyone deserves opportunities and privileges of life by the mere fact that he/she exists. In this spectrum, the issue of human-centeredness in every consideration is a key anchor of Africa's way of life.

It is my conviction and submission that in all “development” models that I have come across, I have sensed utmost mechanistic and elaborate materialistic approaches. Hence, the human-centered nature of the African way of life is totally disregarded. Indeed, there has been exclusion of spirituality in the “development” models that were borrowed from foreign countries and were applied in Africa. This sad fact has resulted in some drifting away of focus - instead of development agenda being of service to the needs of the last, the least, and the



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lost Africans; it has instead become a dollar-driven agenda (regardless of whose pocket that dollar ends up in).

In his book, Dr. Rex T. Linao conversates about ***Full Humanity Development***. I believe Dr. Linao is coining a relevant development framework for Africa. His analyses of the attributes of his framework and his presentations of historical imbalances bring a new dawn of development guidelines for our great African Continent. Dr. Linao's work is revolutionary in that it takes development back to what it genuinely and originally ought to achieve. His work highlights the cultural, economic, political, spiritual, and ecological distortions that have invaded the world of “development”.

***Full Humanity Development*** is a book for Africa even as its relevance brings us an excitement that is borne from our identification with Dr. Linao's own convictions. What this book does for us in Africa is giving us the comfort and confidence that we have one identity with the like-minded brothers and sisters of ours out there in the world. We are not excluded from the concept of ***Full Humanity Development***. The fact is that we are made to feel that we are integral part of it - as in fact we are.

**Indeed, this work of Dr. Linao is a cause of celebration - not only in Africa but the rest of the world as well.**

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