
The Independency Theory

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Abstract – Mindful of the gaps in development theories, the epistemological gap and ontological bondage in mineral beneficiation and value addition to the rich natural resources in Ghana. This study in a constructivist analysis has taken advantage of the author's construction site of knowledge development and production of the development of the Independency theory- a new development theory. And a new window Ghana development in managing dialogues in mineral beneficiation and value addition to the rich natural resources in Ghana will emerge. To present a paper that will provide an in-depth insight and understanding of the Independency theory - a new paradigm to transform Ghana. Sub-Saharan African countries that share commonalities with Ghana could evaluate and adapt the new paradigm of development in Ghana to transform their economy and industrialization and improve the quality of life, standard of living, wellbeing, and life expectancy of their citizenry.

Keywords – Development, Knowledge, Prosperity, Paradigm, Commonalities.

I. INTRODUCTION

Ghana is a resource rich country- cocoa, gold, bauxite, diamond, iron ore, oil, gas, and lithium. The raw value of the minerals in Ghana including salt worth more than US\$1 trillion. And with an estimated bauxite resource base capable of generating over one trillion US dollars in revenue if fully integrated (GIADEC, 2023). Furthermore, in the lens of the literature, Ghana at Independence in 1957, Ghana produced 10% of the world gold and a leading producer and exporter of the world cocoa. There has also been substantial investment in human resource development, trajectory of development plans/frameworks, education reforms, policies, programmes, curriculum planning, textbook and syllabus development in Ghana.

The trajectory of development plans/frameworks harnessed through the collective wisdom of the crowds and voices for change in Ghana, a broad-based stakeholder participation including the use of cross-sectoral planning groups (CSPGs), series of consultations and discussions and consensus building of internal and external stakeholders at the policy and grassroot level including civil society, media houses, and other local and national buy-in, development partners, technical expertise and academia include the Guggisberg Plan (1919-1926), the Seven -Year Plan for National Reconstruction and Development (1963/64-1969/70), the Ghana Vision 2020 (1995-2020) (Karikari-Ababio, 2024a).

And the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRSI) (2003-2005), Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) (2006-2009), Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA), 2010-2013). And Agenda for Jobs 11 Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunities for All (2022-2025) developed by National Development Planning Commission in October 2021 as a medium-term national development policy framework for Ghana. This again has been linked to the Long-Term National Development Policy Framework (LTNDPF), 2018-2057 also known as Ghana@100. To again address the growing joblessness and graduate unemployment in Ghana, a national security threat and issue (Karikari-Ababio, 2024a).

And on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, over 200 experts in policy formulation, development partners, heads of institutions, civil society organisations, traditional authority and all relevance stakeholders converged

again at the Summit themed “Building a sustainable resilient and prosperous Ghana” organized by the National Development Planning Commission to unveil Ghana vision 2057. The trajectory of developments in the Ghana Education System had included the Privy Council Report in 1847, the 1951 Accelerated Development Plan for Education and Education Strategic Plan, 2018-2030. The Education Strategic Plan (ESP), 2018-2030 had been the sixth in a series of education plans produced since 1998. And it follows from the Education Strategic Plan 2010-2020 (Karikari-Ababio, 2013, 2017, 2024a).

1.1. *Ghana Growth and Development Path*

Thus, Ghana awash with rich minerals and natural resources and the substantial investment in human resource development with its trajectory of development plans, it is mind-boggling and difficult to understand that Ghana growth and development path, Ghanaian economy, industrialisation-for decades-have been stifled with domestic resource limitations in Ghana. And this path - for decades- has further trapped Ghana in a depth of debt and underdevelopment, dilapidated roads, bridges, dams across the length and breadth of the country, depth of infrastructure deficit with uncompleted projects that have become graveyards in the Ghanaian landscape, industrial hurdles with its growing joblessness and graduate unemployment environmental degradation and the biodiversity of the country destroyed with its post-harvest losses and sanitation problems, the Ghanaian cedi instability.

And Ghana positioned as a raw material producing and exporting economy. And thus, it has been difficult to tell a time in Ghana history and development when the country has experienced a boom or surplus to pay Ghana debts. For decades of Ghana development borrowing has become a conscious policy instrument to achieve immediate gains to handicap future generations. Resources in Ghana are produced in Ghana but produced and used in a way that benefit the dominant states and advanced capitalist nations and not Ghana in which the resources are found and produced. Thus, Ghana a land of rich natural resources but most Ghanaians dispirited in grinding poverty (Karikari-Ababio, 2013, 2017, 2024a).

1.1.1. *The Potency of Development Theories in Ghana*

On Ghana growth and development path, there have been- however- abundance and over-abundance of development theories, claims and counter claims to explain, get the basis right and proffer solution to Ghana development with its international commitments channeled through globalization mechanisms (Karikari-Ababio, 2024c). Yet, on technology and innovation. And ranking of 166 countries’ readiness to use frontier technologies- technological capacities to increase productivity and improve livelihoods. United States of America attained the first position, Singapore in the 3rd position and South Korea in the 6th position, Ghana was ranked to have achieved 109 position with access to finance a major militating factor making it difficult for Ghana to enhance its technological capacities (UNCTAD, 2023).

It is- however- important to note that Ghana was at par with countries such as South Korea and Singapore at the time of Independence in 1957. These countries have been technologically transformed, And Ghana has lacked behind. This suggests that gaps in development theory and in understanding to explain, get the basis right and proffer solution to Ghana development still remain in the Ghanaian experience in the development of the country. The development theories engaged in Ghana include the liberal and neo-liberal theories and policy prescriptions. The neo-liberal policy prescriptions include the *laissez faire* liberalism, the Washington

Consensus, the ultra-trade liberalism measures, structural adjustment policies and neo-liberalism. The globalisation mechanisms include harmonisation, dissemination, standardisation, installing interdependence and imposition (Dale, 1999; Aryeetey and Kanbur, 2017; Karikari-Ababio, 2013, 2017, 2024a, 2024b, 2024c).

Therefore- Ghana trapped in a depth of debt and underdevelopment with myriad of problems, the empirical question has been development theories in Ghana to achieve what? The next question has been where have all the development theories in Ghana gone? The question again is has these development theories got the basis right in Ghana development? The hard question has also been their impact in managing dialogues, epistemologies, and narratives in Ghana development?

The trend of development in Ghana has- therefore- questioned the potency of development theories in Ghana. Therefore- in the light of key development theories and scholarship the nonavailability of the kind of development theory to explain, get the basis right and proffer solution to Ghana growth and development, Ghanaian economy and industrialisation suggest the need for a new development theory in Ghana. Thus, the essence of the Independency theory- a new development theory- defined as a pathway onto a sufficient and sustainable domestic resource in Ghana- a pathway to economic freedom in Ghana- a resilient and prosperous Ghanaian economy- an indispensable means towards political freedom in Ghana (Karikari-Ababio, 2024a, 2024b, 2024c).

II. THE INDEPENDENCY THEORY

Theoretical and empirical literature posit that Ghana development- for decades- have not mirrored the best and valued practices and experiences of resource -rich countries such as United States of America, China, and resource- poor countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Singapore. The Independency theory in the etymologies of development theories and scholarship and built on the dependency theory, And ingrained in an explanatory, paradigmatic and methodological frameworks has been originated, developed, and published out of the findings of the author Doctorate Thesis project: a case study of the development of science, technology and innovation policy at the higher education level in Ghana for the International Professional Doctorate in Education and the award of the Professional Doctorate (Research) Degree at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom (Karikari-Ababio, 2013).

And the development of the Independency theory further enhanced by the author background in Master of Science in Finance Degree acquired at the University of Leicester, United Kingdom with MSc dissertation: “The Impact of the Ghana Cedi Exchange rate on the economy of Ghana: resulting an empirical model that presents an in-depth insight and understanding of Ghana Cedi Exchange Rate Depreciation (Karikari-Ababio, 2001). And thus, in the lens of 624 Years of Economic Evolution of Ghana (1400-2024), the Independency theory has evaluated and adapted the best and valued practices and experiences of resource -rich countries (US, China, Canada, Finland, and India) and resource poor countries (Japan, South Korea, and Singapore). And a marriage of the two. This scholarly work will pave the way for a New Growth Path in Ghana. To achieve a standard paradigm of development in Ghana (Karikari-Ababio, 2024a).

The Independency theory was first published in the author book: Dynamics of Persistent Underdevelopment: The Case of Ghana, publishers - Smartline Ltd, Ghana. And launched at the Ghana International Conference Centre, 26 August 2017. And book available at Kindle Store: <http://www.amazon.com> (Karikari-Ababio, 2017).

Following this the Independency theory has been published as a theoretical framework on Ghana's country paper. To guide a study on the Development of TVET (Technical, Vocational Education and Training) in Ghana, a paper and power point for presentation. To engage the academics and graduate students and a public lecture, St Anthony's College, University of Oxford. United Kingdom (Opoku- Prempeh, 2022). Furthermore, the Independency theory had been presented in a power point presentation at NDPC (National Development Planning Commission) in Ghana at their headquarters, a rich interactive learning space with academia, scholars, think tanks, policy makers and leadership. This was the first attempt by the author to build national consensus at the policy and planning level of the Independency theory that will pave the way for a new growth path in Ghana with the Independency theory as its theoretical and intellectual basis. To put Ghana onto a prosperity paradigm path. It is worthy of note that NDPC is an authoritative planning system in Ghana. And to provide Ghana with a sound policy choices for the development of Ghana to ensure accelerated development of Ghana (ndpc.gov.gh). Further analytical work on the Independency theory has been the following manuscripts produced by the author. And are at the advanced stage to be published and launched:

- The Independency theory, 2024.
- The New Growth Path in Ghana, 2024.
- Rational for Investment in Education in Ghana, 2024.

And journal articles, yet to be published on the Independency theory.

2.1. *Construction Site of Knowledge Production of the Independency Theory*

It is important to note that in the construction site of knowledge production of the Independency theory, Professor Adam Tickell, former Vice Chancellor, University of Sussex, United Kingdom- for example- wrote to the author in 1/27/2020: Matthew and the University: "..... potentially a transformative project being driven by a Sussex alum and look forward to seeing this project help advance our strong links with Ghana" VC@sussex.ac.uk).

Professor Mario Novelli, Professor in the Political Economy of Education and Programme, Main Supervisor of the author Doctorate Thesis Project, University of Sussex, United Kingdom also wrote on the draft Thesis Project, "Matthew you now have a solid critique of the failure of Ghana to develop. I can see now the kernel of an excellent and critical research project that could be both theoretically and policy relevant and important for the development of Ghana." And on the author manuscript: The Independency Theory- a pathway to sufficient and sustainable domestic resource in Ghana-a pathway to economic freedom in Ghana- resilient and prosperous Ghanaian economy- an indispensable means towards political freedom in Ghana- Mario further in September 20, 2023 wrote: "Hi Matthew: Congratulations on your book" (M.Novelli@sussex.ac.uk).

Professor Stephen Adei, Professor of Economic and Leadership, former Rector, GIMPA (Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration), Accra and former Chairperson of NDPC (National Development Planning Commission) and Chairperson of Internal Revenue wrote the Foreword of the author book: Dynamics of Persistent Underdevelopment: The Case of Ghana, 2017. And noted "Dr. Matthew Karikari-Ababio has written a good book-full of material and insight on Ghana and not only makes serious intellectual contribution to the development discourse but provides invaluable pointers to new thinking, policies, and actions that Ghana must engage in to come out of its dependency model onto a pathway of growth, development, and prosperity. ---

This book, therefore, stands the chance of being a reference point for many years” (adeistephen@gmail.com).

Dr. Johnson Odharo, Deputy Chief of Party at fhi (360), USAID Ghana Partnership for Education Learning activity (Project) also in 2017 wrote, Dr Ababio.” “This book: “Dynamics of Persistent Underdevelopment: The Case of Ghana, 2017” is a major contribution to Ghana and other African countries having the same conundrum, congratulations (Odharo@fhi360.org).

Professor Ato Essuman, The Dean of the Faculty of Education and Entrepreneurship, Methodist University College, Ghana; Chairman: The West African Examinations Council; former Chief Director of the Ministry of Education, Thursday, September 23, 2020, accordingly wrote: “Matthew, I am very proud of you and appreciate the good work you are doing at the Ministry of Education. We only need about 5 people in the ministry to demonstrate the kind of commitment and ownership you portray, and education in Ghana will be transformed. Good luck and God be with you.” And based on the author empirical work further wrote in 2023: “Matthew, always thoughtful”. And again, wrote on 17/12/2023: “Thank you for your consistency and persistence in seeing Ghana to pull through its difficulties” (senioressuman@yahoo.com).

Grayson Clarke, International Public Financial Management Consultant: Bannock Consulting Firm, United Kingdom acknowledged in the construction site of knowledge production, “from the beginning I have been extremely impressed by Matthew’s ability to absorb complicated issues and help to devise and apply positive solutions. He is a natural self-starter. And Dr Ekwow Spio-Garbrah, former Hon. Minister of Education, Ghana wrote, “I have always cherished such initiative, hard work, and intellectual curiosity----. I therefore urge you not to rest on your oars but rather continue to work hard to unearth new areas which may positively change the fortune of the sector” (Karikari-Ababio, 2024c, p 104).

2.1.1. *Assumptions Under the Independency Theory*

The Independency theory that has been developed with the theoretical and intellectual basis to put Ghana onto a prosperity paradigm path in mineral beneficiation and value addition to the rich natural resources signifies an epitome of a binary world. To provide theoretical and intellectual basis for Ghana to achieve a paradigm shift of growth-led debt model type of development onto Ghana new growth-led mineral beneficiation and value addition to the rich natural resources in Ghana model type of development. To generate sufficient domestic resources for the development of Ghana with implications on the development of TVET in Ghana (Opoku-Prempeh, 2022).

The theory is based on a simple assumption of paradigmatic framework of binary world where countries are either dependent or strive to be independent in their growth and development path (p.61). And “signifies an epitome of a drawing board to suggest that countries that are dependent on their model of economic development such as Ghana are to make great efforts to pursue an independent model of economic development to achieve real growth and development, solve unemployment and underemployment problems and improve the quality of life and standard of living of their people (Karikari -Ababio, 2017, p.61 cited in Karikari-Ababio, 2024c, p 103).

Thus, the Independency theory has been built on the dependency theory - the theoretical framework. And Dale’s mechanism - the methodological framework - of the author’s Doctorate Thesis Project. To present the motives and intentions, in-depth insight and understanding, meanings, hideouts, trappings underpinned Ghana

growth and development path, Ghanaian economy, industrialisation. To clearly inform policy direction in Ghana. To harness the wisdom of the clouds and voices for change in Ghana. And transform Ghana.

And the Independency theory with a methodology that takes a global perspectives in determining the unit of analysis as well as focusing on the nation-state, and emphasis on the real Ghanaian identity (Karikari-Ababio, 2024a) has positioned the Independency theory with the greatest explanatory power to not only explain but get the basis right in Ghana development and proffer solution to Ghana development- for decades- trapped in a depth of debt and underdevelopment (Opoku-Prempeh, 2022, Karikari-Ababio, 2024a, 2024b, 2024c).

III. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Therefore- it is insightfully suggestive that managing dialogues, epistemologies, narratives, alternative approach and new strategies of resilient and prosperous society, the Independency theory is the knowledge, and a new window Ghana development will emerge. And sub-Saharan African countries that share commonalities with Ghana can evaluate and adapt to transform their economy.

Thus, a thorough, effective, and successful engagement of the Independency theory- therefore- will naturally position Ghana to achieve a paradigm shift of a dependent model of economic development to an independent model of economic development - a pathway to a growth -led debt model type of development to a growth -led mineral beneficiation and value addition to the rich natural resources in Ghana model type of development. This well pave the way for sufficiency and sustainability of domestic resource mobilisation in Ghana. To address Ghana growth and development path, Ghanaian economy and industrialisation stifled with domestic resource limitation. This window of sufficient and sustainable domestic resources provided will position Ghana to produce the top best scientists, engineers, technologists, innovators, and other creative geniuses in other discipline (second industrial revolution achieved). This new growth and development path will pave the way for leapfrogging the digital divide (the third industrial revolution) bridged in Ghana. To give Ghana the best engineering techniques in mineral beneficiation and value addition to the rich natural resources in Ghana and road construction, the best technology in infrastructure development, housing, waste management and environmental degradation and development of refineries, assaying plants, and Ghana Technology. And a paradigm shifts of underdeveloped country to a developing country. And Ghana development leapfrogged onto a prosperity paradigm path of a developed country, an enhanced frontier technology with its innovative solutions (the fourth industrial revolution). To firmly position Ghana to enjoy the benefits of the automated revolution, the emerging fifth industrial revolution in the world, agriculture efficiency and food security. And Ghana economically advanced on the global scale. To create more jobs, fruitful employment, stability of Ghana cedi, fuller and more fruitful life and improvement of national wellbeing, standard of living, quality of life and an improved life expectancy in Ghana.

IV. CONCLUSION

Ghana awash with rich minerals and rich natural resources-for decades- 624 Years of Economic Evolution in Ghana (1400-2024)- there have been the search for a new development theory to bridge the epistemological gap and ontological and ideological bondage in mineral beneficiation and value addition to the rich natural resources in Ghana. The Independency theory has emerged with a new knowledge and with a new strand of understanding in education and human capital development in Ghana. To manage the dialogues in mineral beneficiation and

value addition to the rich natural resources in Ghana. And get the basis right in Ghana development to bridge the yawning gap in mineral beneficiation and value addition to the rich natural resources in Ghana, invigorate and transform Ghanaian economy and industrialization in Ghana.

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AUTHOR'S PROFILE



Dr. Matthew Karikari-Ababio, is a prolific writer, critical social scientist, researcher, and development theorist. And with the demonstrative skills, competency, consistency, and persistence in getting the basis right in Ghana development. And in seeing Ghana to pull its difficulties. Matthew is a product of the University of Sussex with international Professional Research Doctorate Degree in Education, Master of Science in Finance at the University of Leicester, both in the United Kingdom and read B.A (Economics and Statistics), University of Ghana Legon.