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Reflections on the Concept of Development and the Kenyan Context

By Eric Simiyu Wafukho

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When we talk about development, we are not merely talking about what the government does or what the people do but about what we are all becoming in the process of doing what we do. Development changes our worldview, transforms our mindset and helps to move us from being perennial, **"serikali saidia"** victims to champions of a self-determination, (Harambee) spirit by which our founding fathers navigated the country out of the shackles of colonial rule and positioned it on a growth trajectory.

Development does not merely build capital base in our nation and move us into a middle economy as envisaged in our economic pillar in Vision 2030 blueprint but it must also cultivate caring growing communities in which every person is nurtured, developed to lead lives of dignity and deployed to exploit their gifts and talents in service to humanity and to God as envisaged in the social pillar within that same blueprint, in our National Anthem , Constitution 2010 and other legislations and policies targeting especially women, youth and the vulnerable groups such as Persons with Disabilities, orphans and senior citizens.

Consequently, Vision 2030 which seeks to transform Kenya into a newly industrializing middle-income country providing high quality life to all its citizens must not be seen as what the government does on its own but we do together as Kenyans and our partners that are far and wide. This requires stronger public participation in which every Kenyan is given an opportunity to speak into development and funding priorities and ensure that they are both aligned to each other.

The feedback coming from our Monitoring and Evaluation process both through NIMES (National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System) and CIMES (County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System) must find its way into our program and project re-designs and in turn, funding priorities must support program and project re-designs. This will eliminate potential funding-planning asymmetry that would otherwise frustrate the journey towards the fulfilment of vision 2030.

Given the magnitude of the task before Kenyans, the country has no option but to embrace good governance in which power and resources are managed in such a manner as to demonstrate proper stewardship, bridge trust deficit and harness collective resolve for change. This demands the strengthening of key think-tanks and oversight and regulatory institutions, chief of which are; the Office of Auditor General

(OAG), the Judiciary, Parliament, Director of Criminal Investigations Office(DCIO), Office of Public Prosecutor (OPP), Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission(EACC), New Partnerships for Africa's Development / Africa Peer Review Mechanism(NEPAD/APRM), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock and Research Organization(KALRO), Kenya Institute of Public Policy and Analysis(KIPPRA), Kenya National Bureau Statistics(KNBS), Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), Kenya Medical Research Institute(KEMRI), Kenya School of Government (KSG),and the Capital Markets Authority(CMA) among others.

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