

The Strategy Approach: A Response to the Challenge of Ghana's Rapid Transformation by 2037

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The Republic of Ghana commemorated her fiftieth year as an independent and sovereign polity on the 6th of March, 2007. The expectations on the eve of Ghana's independence were extremely high. Ghana at independence was led by Kwame Nkrumah a visionary, charismatic and perspicacious leader; boasted one of the best educational systems in the developing world; possessed one of the most efficient and meritocratic bureaucracies in Africa and was relatively well off. Fifty-four years later Ghana watchers have been confounded by her rather banal achievements which reflect a grotesque gap between the euphoric expectations at independence and her prosaic contemporary socio-economic realities. Rationalizations for Ghana's current public policy challenges are legion. In this work however we attempt to depart from the characteristic ululations and focus on solutions.

It is our well considered contention that if Ghana is to attain far reaching and rapid socio-economic and politico-cultural transformation in a generation public policy formation must be driven by strategy. We contend that in the last thirty years Ghana's World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) led approach to policy formation spawned an inordinate focus on economic parameters which undermined bold, inventive strategic thinking. As a counterpoint we present the Strategy Approach (SA) as a prescriptive and theoretical policy process response.