

From Globalisation through Glocalisation to Glo-fricanisation of Development: Perspectives of African Diaspora in Penang, Malaysia

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The philosophies of championing and appraising development across the global North and South often win great appeal through democratisation, industrialisation, urbanisation, modernisation, globalisation, localization and glocalisation, however it is sad that these ideas hold little promise for most African countries, as expressed in their stunted progress. This is demonstrated in the reports of the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund among others. Seeing the inability of non-distilled globalisation to salvage Africa from development doldrums and the relatively marginalisation of glocalisation in the region, this paper examines the intricacies of globalisation and why they fail to launch Africa into development. It explores fresh ideas and tools for enriching glo-fricanisation, while borrowing a leaf from glocalisation. Further, the paper explains how glo-fricanisation could be applied for African progress and a more-friendly global order. Thus, views of 25 participants; citizens of Ghana, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan, but now residents in Penang State, Malaysia, were collected through face-to-face interviews. The participants were purposively selected considering their experiences in Africa, non-African countries visited and Malaysia. The study found that globalisation drew many African countries into competition on an unequal level with advanced countries and it promoted the importation and adoption of non-African social, political and economic ideologies that are not subjected to modification to suit diverse African cultural values. The developed economies' unhealthy struggles in marketing Africa contributed to the non-workability of globalisation agenda in the region. What is more, some Africans' efforts in de-Africanising their phenotypic traits to win favours from non-African, their affinities to imported religions, lingua franca and other non-African ways are parts of globalisation defects on regional development. Yet, some participants distance themselves from over attachment to foreign beliefs and racial superiority. The study reported that seeing oneself as a borderless African constitutes the starting point for building and enforcing glo-fricanisation in all developmental spheres. The study showed that glo-fricanisation could be enriched, if African development threats are seen as being internally created and externally supported with fewer backings to thwart the internal machineries. It also indicated that diasporic African pro-active sacrifices of their strategic ideas and resources to fight the prevailing development impasse in the region are needed. Indeed African development largely demands for not only foreign aids, but also the wits and wealth of the indigenous African diaspora and those living within the

region vis-à-vis location of development ideals and doings within the context of divergent African needs.