
Role of Benevolent Political Ideologies in Enhancing Development Compact: Appraising South Africa's Credo in the Establishment of the North South Corridor



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Introduction

It is well documented that notions of the nation state often dovetail with ideologies that are most commonly propounded and propagated by revered political thought leaders in the society, for example, Turkey and *Kemalism* (Kemal Atatürk), *Nasserism* (Gamal Abdel Nasser) in Egypt and *Gaullism* (Charles de Gaulle) in France.

Characteristically as a country that is home to former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, one of the world's most iconic statesmen and humanitarians, South Africa is no exception to the rule of thumb alluded to. Indeed, since the advent of democracy in 1994, South Africa's national and foreign policy objectives have drawn their moral fabric from Nelson Mandela's talismanic aura and altruism, which derived from the African ethos of *Ubuntu* (Translation: "I am; because we are").

The ethical essence of *Ubuntu* advocates for unity, selfless and humanistic behavior that places less emphasis on the interests of the individual in favour of the furtherance of the common good. Under the ambit of *Ubuntu*, South Africa's foreign and national policy objectives espouse the advancement of various fundamental South-South Cooperation values such as equality, universal human rights, social justice, sovereignty, solidarity, and non-discrimination. Therefore, South Africa's approach to development cooperation shares an abundance of commonalities with the ancient Indian ideals of "daanam" (giving) and "dharma" (duty), which underline the highly successful Indian approach to development cooperation.

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In light of the 44/55 African states ratifying an agreement to establish a Pan-African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), it remains critically imperative for the regional integration and development efforts in Africa to be infused with benevolent Development Compact¹ in order to level the playing field between the lesser developed African nations and the more developed ones, such as South Africa, in order to circumvent exploitation.

The aim of the research paper is to underscore the value and importance of humanistic frameworks in the implementation of Development Compact by giving a brief overview and micro-level impact analysis of the North-South Corridor regional integration process.

Background on the North-South Corridor Project

It is often said that poor infrastructure development remains one of the main “Achilles heels” of African economic development and that Africa will never realise its full potential until the pitiable infrastructure albatross is resolved. Discerningly, the African Union (AU) remains privy to the infrastructure challenges faced by the continent, and in July 2010, the inter-governmental organisation unveiled an African Infrastructure Master Plan (AIMP) pillared by the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Much has been written about the AU’s caprice and velleity with respect to programme implementation to such an extent that the organisation’s visions and plans are often dismissed as mere

rhetoric and cajolery. Hence, as the former Presidents of the PIDA and the Republic of South Africa respectively, Jacob Zuma, made a proposition for the establishment of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) to accelerate implementation of the AIMP.

This proposal was made during the 23rd Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee meeting in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010. The role of the champions is to bring visibility, unblock bottlenecks, co-ordinate resource mobilisation and ensure project implementation. President Jacob Zuma took up the role of the Champion of the North-South Corridor. The project focuses on multi-modal (road, rail and ports) trans-continental interconnector, ultimately connecting Cape Town in the south and Cairo in the north. South Africa champions this project, which will involve numerous countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).²

However, the initial phase of the project, which is being spearheaded by South Africa, will involve seven countries from three of the eight RECs recognised by the AU: the Southern African Development Community, the East African Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. The seven countries include Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The value proposition of the infrastructure project, amongst many other benefits, includes the improved feasibility of the CFTA, increased intra-regional trade, potential GDP contribution to the tune of \$16.1 billion annually and

in excess of 500 million jobs that could be created by 2035. Below, is a figure which exhibits the NSC blueprint.

As illustrated in the image below, phase one of the project will grant land-locked resource rich countries such as the DRC and Zambia easier market access to other countries in the region as well as continents on the Indian Ocean through Durban Port and Port of Dar-es-salaam.

Infusing Developmental Regionalism With the vales of Ubuntu

“Always look for the fool in the deal. If you don't find one, it's you” - Mark Cuban.

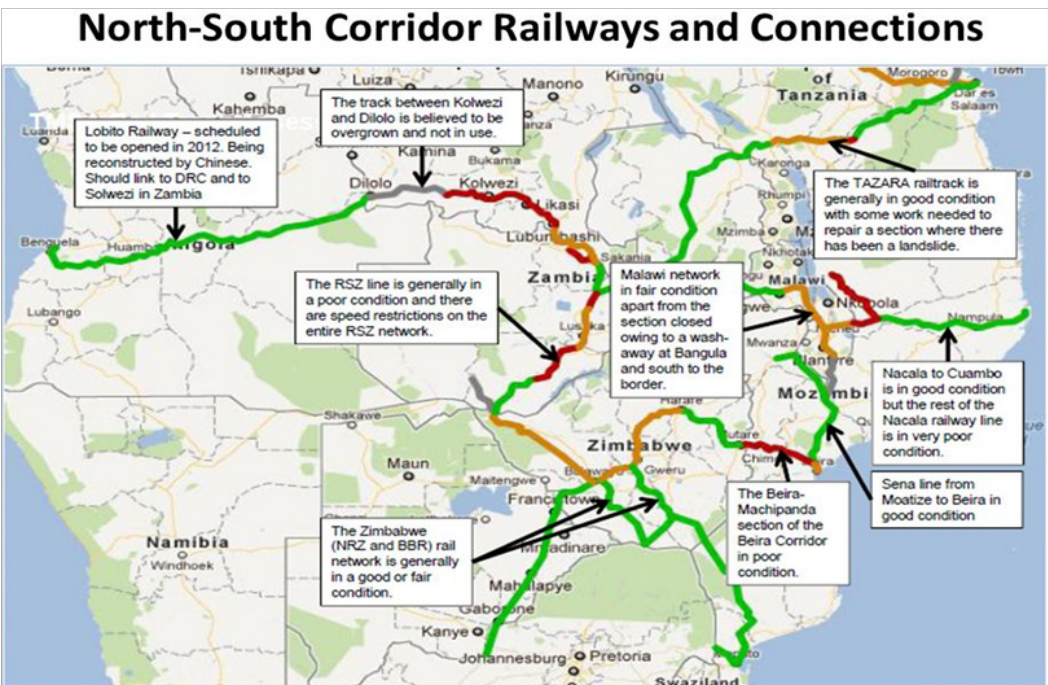
According to Sören Scholvin and Jöran Wrana (2015: 3), “transregional transport infrastructure and the co-ordination of industrial-development policies are essential for what South Africa’s

Department of Trade and Industry labels “developmental regionalism”.

Development regionalism is similar to Development Compact in that it extends beyond trade facilitation to include, for example, research and development sharing, capacity building initiatives, investment, industrial and infrastructure policy harmonization and transboundary transport networking. *ipso facto*, South Africa’s approach to developmental regionalism, like India’s approach to Development Compact, needs to be predicated on altruistic values.

The reasons for the above are three-fold:

(1) South Africa is a regional giant and its level of industrialisation and infrastructure development is incommensurable with many of the other six NSC countries. South Africa successfully hosted the 1995 Rugby World



Source: The African Development Bank

Cup, the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) World Cup in 2010, hosted the seventeenth edition of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and will be home to the world's largest radio telescope; the Square Kilometer Array. With respect to the three important infrastructural features: rail, roads and ports South Africa's total road network is about 747 000km, the longest network of roads in any African country, the country is home to some of the most sophisticated ports, infrastructures in the world, and has a world class rail network which is being augmented by the Gibela Rail Project which will render South Africa as one of the first African nations to manufacture locally its own trains. South Africa therefore, is in an advantageous position to share technology and skills with its regional partners.

(2) The worldwide financial catastrophe of 2008 stifled South Africa's economic growth to negative 1.7% and the 2011 economic downturn in the US and Europe, two of South Africa's major trading partners, culminated in the export industry in South Africa declining. Therefore South Africa needs to play a leading role in boosting intra-regional trade and capitalise on import substitution industrialisation. Furthermore, South Africa is home to many asylum seekers and migrants who cross into its borders from neighbouring countries (many from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi) seeking greener pastures. This influx of non-nationals from neighbouring countries resulted in xenophobic attacks the South African in 2008 and 2015, as émigrés and locals competed for scarce

resources. Therefore, South Africa needs to help ensure that countries in the region develop rapidly to create opportunities for their citizens and ease the prevalence of immigration into South Africa. In the absence of such remedies, the essence of *Ubuntu* needs to be imbued within the local South African population and they need to be taught to accommodate expatriates. Especially as many South African liberation movement figures were accommodated in neighbouring countries during their exile in the fight against apartheid.

(3) Political and economic instabilities in countries such as the DRC, Zimbabwe and Mozambique will need to be adequately addressed so as not to delay progress in the project. South Africa has a respectable mediation footprint on the African continent and will need to heighten its efforts to ensure peace and regional stability. The Angola-DRC-South Africa Tripartite Mechanism for Dialogue on Cooperation was established in 2013 to help stabilize the DRC politically and South African Deputy President, Cyril Ramaposa, led mediation efforts in Lesotho under the auspices of the SADC in 2015. These two instances highlight South Africa's commitment to establishing development regionalism that is buttressed on peace, stability and inclusive human development - virtues of *Ubuntu*.

Conclusion

South Africa is home to some of the most sophisticated rail, road and ports infrastructures in the world. One of the major rail projects in South Africa is the Gibela Rail Project wherein South Africa will build its own locomotives.

This capacity needs to be shared with its neighbours. Increasing access to resources is also an important aspect of SSC, and through its major ports in Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Richards Bay, South Africa needs to grant access to landlocked countries to export their goods at concessional rates. Furthermore, as the championing nation of the North South Corridor, South Africa needs to infuse its development cooperation agenda with its philosophy of Ubuntu to ensure that capacity building, knowledge sharing and concessional market access is manifested optimally. Countries such as Malawi and Zimbabwe do not have strong economies and the benefits of the NSC need to be shared with these countries to bridge the inequalities that exist between the seven NSC countries

with respect to infrastructure development and industrialisation.

Endnote

- ¹ Conceptually, SSC may be considered to have branched into five founding modalities of development cooperation that includes capacity building, trade and investment, development finance, grants and technology cooperation. These are collectively referred to as 'Development Compact', highlighting the logic that they are not mutually independent of one another.
- ² The New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Reference

Soren Scholvin, Joran Wrana. 2015 Retrieved May 20, 2018, URL: <https://www.africaportal.org/publications/from-the-cape-to-cairo-the-potential-of-the-tripartite-free-trade-area/>

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE JAMAICA-PANAMA JOINT COMMISSION

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica recently hosted the first inaugural meeting of the Joint Commission between Jamaica and Panama.

The technical meeting is aimed to promote and facilitate cooperation between both countries in the field of economic and technical fields. Jamaica will focus its attention in providing technical assistance to Panama in the development of sports, culture and education. Panama in return, will assist Jamaica in the areas of aviation, ports and tourism.

The Joint commission exemplifies a truly progressive model of international partnership in development cooperation. It promotes joint ownership of cooperation objectives, and through meetings such as this, allows flexibility to remain responsive to changing national circumstances and the needs of the peoples and the partnership has opened a way for increased collaboration in areas such as maritime and port development, tourism, civil aviation, education, sports and trade and investment, which are critical to our economic growth and job creation agenda.

Details available at http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Inaugural_meeting_of_the_Jamaica/Panama_Joint_Commission