

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST NEO – COLONIALISM IN AFRICA BASED ON THE JUCHE IDEA

Professor Francis Fanuel Lyimo,

Deputy Director General,

Africa Region Committee for the Study of Juche Idea

National Chairman of Korea – Tanzania Friendship Association.

Associate Professor

St. Augustine University of Tanzania

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Introduction

Contemporary underdevelopment in Africa is in large part the historical product of past and continuing economic and political relations between the African countries and the developed former European colonizers of African countries. When the metropolitan expands to incorporate countries of Africa into the worldwide economic system, previous development of the countries of Africa are channeled into directions of neo-colonial exploitation.

The first President of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere, pointed to the problem of neo-colonialism which quickly became obvious to African national development and for the better of African masses. But the African governments do not have effective power over economic development in Africa due to problems of neo-colonialism.

Neo-colonialism in Africa

National political independence and formation of nation-states did not cut off the links between countries of Africa and the former colonizing countries of Western Europe. Political independence of Africa countries also opened the door for capitalist foreign exploitation. Trade was one of the major means of contact between domestic economy and the international economic system. Neo – colonial policies oriented to Africa have been manipulative to the ruling elites who have become prone to various external contacts and who view falsely their interests being compatible with those of the dominant classes in Western capitalist countries.

Foreign Aid is an aspect through which external economic and political interests of the developed capitalist nations influence policy formulations in Africa. Seen as the transfer of resources from foreign governments and foreign institutions and international organizations dominated by the developed capitalist countries, foreign aid can be in the form of finance, personnel, capital goods, or food. "Aid" has never been an unconditional transfer of resources. Conditions attached to foreign aid are clearly and directly intended to serve the interests of governments providing foreign aid which may be used to buy goods and services from its provider.

Foreign aid is usually given to countries whose internal political arrangement, foreign policy alignment, treatment of foreign private investment, debt servicing record, export policies are considered desirable, or at least acceptable by the countries or institutions providing foreign aid, and which do not appear to threaten their interests. Refusal to accept these conditions means the African countries will not get foreign aid.

African countries need progressive ideology to guide their struggles against Neo-colonialism.

The President of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Il Sung wrote in 'Let us step Socialist Construction under the banner of the Juche idea' (1983) pp. 14-15. President Kim Il Sung creatively authored the Juche idea as an ideology which guided successfully the anti-Japanese fascist imperialist domination and exploitation of DPRK in 1940s and the anti-United States imperialist aggression of DPRK in 1950s. The success of anti-imperialist struggles in DPRK have made the DPRK achieve genuine independence and real sovereignty. DPRK is independent in economy, politics, culture and military against US military threats and economic sanctions.

African countries need people-centered ideology to guide the struggle against neo-colonialism. In order to understand the relevance of Juche idea in African philosophy in the struggle for development and progress we need to understand the essence of the Juche idea President Kim Il Sung taught that the Juche philosophy on its essence and substance is that the masters of revolution and construction are the masses of people and they are also the motive force of revolution and construction. The revolutionary struggles and construction work are undertakings for-the good of the masses and must be carried by the masses themselves as the masters. That is what fundamental change means and implies and what social transformation calls for.

The people of Africa are the masters of the struggle for genuine independence and real sovereignty in each African country and the decisive factor of victory in this struggle is the country itself.

The struggle for liberation in countries of Africa cannot succeed without a progressive African ideology. President Kim Il Sung wrote in "Historical Experience of Building Workers Party of Korea' (1986) p. 1 "In order to lay the masses foundation for the liberation movement it is necessary to awaken the masses and organize them. Although the people are the masters of the revolution and construction they need to be awakened and organized in order to play their role as dependable political base in the struggle for genuine independence and real sovereignty."

There is hope for Africa to adopt and adapt the Juche idea principles to enrich an African philosophy. Juche idea is a way forward for Africa. Juche idea does not contradict African traditional cultural values and beliefs. The similarity between African traditional philosophy and the Juche idea is found in the common beliefs about man and his role and position in the world. Thus, the Juche idea principle of man-centered philosophy to revolution and construction is appropriate to enrich the African traditional philosophy of man-centered philosophy. In African systems of governance, people themselves are responsible for developing their own country for transforming it from what it is to what they desire it to be.

Juche idea should be supported by intensified adult education. President Kim Il Sung wrote in his work on 'Adult Education in Korea' (1982) p. 3 "Adult education is the education of working people who are engaged in socialist construction. It is of great significance in consolidating and developing a revolutionary world outlook and continually raising the level of general knowledge and technical and cultural standards".

According to President Kim Il Sung (ibid.) p.4 "Man is the master of everything and decides everything".

Progressive people in Africa must rise up and fight against flunkeyism and dogmatism. Patriotic progressive leaders of Africa should go to the masses of people, live with them, listen to them and learn from them. Patriotic progressive people of Africa must awaken national and patriotic consciousness as masters of their own countries and decide the destiny of their own countries.

The commanding heights of the national economy should signify the power of the people so they should not be owned and controlled by neo-colonial investors. The commanding heights of the

economy are the basis of a country's genuine independence and real sovereignty. These are national patriotic, pride and self-reliance pillars of the economy. Privatization of commanding heights of the economy and social assets in countries of Africa is contrary to the wishes of the popular masses in African countries.

The greatest challenge on the Juche idea in Africa is to adopt it in the African situation so that Africans concerned can understand its relevance to the solution of Africa's poverty and predicament. Juche idea should enrich the African philosophy and create Africa ideology which reflects African reality derived from the historical experience of Africa.

Development in countries of Africa has to serve the interests of people of Africa. Development for the people can only be achieved under conditions of genuine independence and real sovereignty of African states. People of Africa should learn that underdevelopment has persisted and deepened in Africa because of neo-colonialism.

Conclusion

The hope for Africa to develop and prosper in social and economic sectors depend on the success in the struggles for liberation which should be guided by progressive ideology. Application of science and technology are pre-requisites for social and economic development in Africa. Industrialization is essential for economic progress to realize the application of science and technology in the sectors of production. Self-reliance and co-operation among countries of Africa is indispensable to freedom and development in Africa. All these pre-requisites for development in Africa culminate to the need of waging struggle by progressive and patriotic nationalists in order to achieve genuine development in Africa, guided by progressive ideology which is based on the Juche idea.

Submit to:

dogbonna@agilecomp.com

dmw@star-co.net.kp