

Trump 2.0 and Africa: Dangers and Prospects.

A paper Presented by Magnus Onyibe at CIAPS Auditorium, held on 6th May 2025.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen men, a very good morning to you all. With your kind permission, I would like to stand on existing protocols and go straight into discussing this highly consequently and controversial topic that is shaking the world trade order to its very foundation as it is causing a lot of anxiety to practically the world's estimated 8 billion people including those in countries in aurtahaky such as North Korea.

The highly unusual events happening across the world have been so fascinating that I have dedicated about half a dozen (6) articles to it in my weekly column in the mass media "Leading From The Streets" since Mr. Donald J Trump commenced his second term as the 47th president of the United States of America, USA on January 20 this year.

In slamming Mexico with a high reciprocal tariff—which has now been suspended for 90 days—the President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump, did not take into consideration the provisions in the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which precludes member countries from being levied tariffs on certain products.

Upon discovering the breach, Mexico pointed it out to the US, and promptly, the concern was addressed with the USMCA exemption recognized and the aberration-corrected.

Like the USMCA, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), introduced in 2000 under President Bill Clinton's administration, grants African countries exemptions from paying tariffs on some items exported to the US.

With the 10% across-the-board tariff that the US has imposed on all her trading partners worldwide—and the reciprocal tariffs (currently paused for three months) that raised tariffs on Nigerian goods to 14%, and up to 50% for a small African country like Lesotho which exports diamond and Levi's jeans to the US, Trump's new tariffs police may have breached the AGOA pact with Africa.

So, the question is: has Africa, like Mexico, approached the US to inform her that the AGOA arrangement has been breached, so that an adjustment can be made accordingly, in the same manner that a similar breach of USMCA was addressed when it was brought to the US's attention?

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That task squarely falls within the purview of the African Union (AU); it is a responsibility that rests directly on its shoulders.

Not on individual nations because the continent through the African Continental Free Trade Area has decided to engage the rest of the world collectively.

If peradventure, Africa has not yet made that move via the AU, the 90-day pause announced by President Trump is a veritable window for the pan-African organization to engage with the relevant authorities in the US to resolve the matter.

That said, at this juncture, it is appropriate that we take a look at Africa's uninspiring place in the world order and try to figure out how to reposition the continent to become a more active player in the new global trade framework being reshaped by President Trump through his sweeping tariff changes which offer both danger and prospects.

In identifying Africa's place in the new world trade order being unfurled and wrought by President Trump—through trade tariffs that have disrupted global trade in ways that may become unrecognizable to old-school aficionados—it is imperative to put the unfolding scenario in historical context.

We will do so by dividing the narrative into two (2) - the historical situation and prospects.

It is appropriate that we commence with the historical.

As we all would agree, from the Berlin Conference of 1884–85 where Africa was partitioned among European powers, to today's Africa where the likes of Tony Elumelu, chairman of UBA/Heirs Holdings is promoting Africapitalism (a vision for African entrepreneurs to develop the continent by intentionally investing in its abundant resources to bring prosperity to communities), European exploration and exploitation of Africa has a long and complex history.

For a deep dive into how entrenched the European and other superpowers' interests in Africa have become, here is a breakdown of key historical milestones:

Going back to the Ancient Era, the Phoenicians—a civilization from the eastern Mediterranean—are believed to have explored North Africa and possibly even circumnavigated the African continent around 600 BC. It is believed they established colonies, with Carthage being the most notable.

In the Medieval Period, during the Viking expeditions of the 9th century, North African Mediterranean coastal towns were also raided.

Then came the Portuguese explorers in the 13th–14th centuries. Genoese navigators such as Vandino and Ugolino Vivaldi attempted to find a sea route to India around Africa in 1291. Thereafter, Jaume Ferrer sailed down the West African coast in search of the legendary “River of Gold” in 1346.

That expedition was followed by the Age of Discovery explorations in the 15th century when the Portuguese—led by Prince Henry the Navigator—pioneered maritime exploration. That was when explorers like Bartolomeu Dias reached the Cape of Good Hope in 1488, and Vasco da Gama successfully navigated to India via Africa in 1498. All of the above is what many of us learned in European history classes during our formative years in school, right? One is going down memory lane because to truly understand the marginalization of Africa in the scheme of things by the rest of the world, and launch her into the global loop of industrialization, we must recall and place these historical realities in perspective.

It was not until much later in the scramble for Africa that other European powers such as the Dutch, English, French, and others soon followed, by establishing trading posts and colonies along the African coast.

In light of the above and based on historical records, the exploration of Africa's interior by foreigners did not gain momentum until the 19th century, with explorers like David Livingstone and Henry Morton Stanley mapping the continent's geography and "discovering" new regions.

For this discourse- Trump Dangers and Prospects, we will stay focused on how the Trump tariffs can end the exploitation of the African continent exporters of unprocessed commodities to a hub for manufacturing products like China and India are to the US in particular, and the rest of the industrialized world that invaded Africa since the time of Livingstone et al.

As already noted, following the arrival of European explorers in Africa in the 19th century, and especially after World War I, the continent has been actively and continuously pillaged by fortune seekers from other continents—particularly Europe, North and South America, and Asia.

Specifically, Africa's exclusion from productive trade was entrenched as far back as 1884/85, when then-German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck hosted the Berlin Conference, during which European powers carved up Africa without inviting a single African representative to the table.

After the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade—which occurred between the 16th and 19th centuries, during which roughly 10–12 million Africans were shipped as slaves to the Americas in a trading

system where African slaves were exchanged by Europeans for American products such as coffee and sugar, which were then shipped back to Europe—these Western powers transitioned from being slave traders to colonizers.

What the narrative above reveals is that although the U.S. was not directly involved in the trading of African natural resources and human slaves, it was benefiting indirectly because the Americas was the final destination of African human cargoes.

Unsurprisingly, the European colonizers lingered to further extract solid and rare earth minerals abundant in Africa—an unfair trade practice that remains in play to this day.

Unlike the countries in the Southern Hemisphere, which the Europeans were also scrambling to colonize but which were fortunate enough to benefit from the ‘Big Brother’ protection of the Monroe Doctrine—a U.S. foreign policy enacted in 1823, wherein then-President James Monroe prohibited further European colonization of countries in the Western Hemisphere—Africa was left unprotected. As such, the continent remained exposed to the insatiable greed of European powers with the US as the ultimate benefactor.

Remarkably, the original version of the Monroe Doctrine also prohibited the marauding Europeans from further colonization of other countries universally including other hemispheres, particularly Africa.

But it was then Secretary of State John Quincy Adams citing a lack of capacity to enforce the law globally that advised President Monroe to confine the proclamation to the Western hemisphere which was near. Otherwise, perhaps the Europeans would have been discouraged or

prevented from partitioning and colonizing Africa in 1844/5 in the manner they did,

It is significant to note that the reckless partitioning of Africa occurred over 20 years after the Monroe Doctrine was instituted.

Had Mr. Quincy not persuaded President Monroe to water down the Monroe Doctrine, perhaps the African landscape would have been different today as it would have been protected from the unbridled and devastating exploitation of the continent.

In other words, with no ‘big brother’ protecting Africa, the Europeans greedily ravaged Africa and the exploitation has been so overwhelming that countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)—blessed with abundant rare earth resources needed for manufacturing high-tech products—owing to exploitation bordering on criminality have remained ground zero for armed conflicts. Even fellow African countries like Rwanda have joined the scramble for Congo’s resources, which have been exploited continuously for at least a century. The scenario described above is a classical case of unfair trade.

Incidentally, the justification for President Trump’s ongoing tariff war includes not only an effort to stem the illicit drug fentanyl from entering the U.S. but also to correct what he considers unfair trade practices by the rest of the world against the United States. So, with its economic and military clout as the world’s global hegemon, and under the leadership of a bold and unorthodox President Trump—who was voted into power based on his reputation as a change agent, although a political outsider—the U.S. is using tariffs to fight for balanced trade with its partners.

But from the narrative about trade between Africa and other continents, as earlier highlighted, it is disheartening and disappointing that Africa has been a perennial and perpetual victim of unfair trade. Sadly, the continent lacks the clout to fight for itself, as the U.S. is currently doing.

Fortuitously, Africa could benefit from Trump 2.0 by harnessing the policies of President Trump that are disrupting the old global trade order by aiming to get plugged into the global value chain that is opening up.

Operating in an unstructured—and some may say ungoverned—environment, where six (6) countries (Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, and Sudan), mostly located in the Sahel region, have reverted from democratic governance to military dictatorships, Africa forging a common front to assert herself as a unified continent has remained a mirage since the time of the founding fathers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)—Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Nnamdi Azikiwe of Nigeria, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, among others—who convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1963.

Although the OAU was later renamed the African Union (AU) in Durban, South Africa in 2002—likely inspired by the somewhat successful European Union (EU)—the change was largely nominal. That is underscored by the fact that the continental body has never been able to transform Africa into a powerful trading bloc like the EU.

Instead, the continent has remained a mere source of raw materials and not a producer of value-added products that could have engendered prosperity for its people when it becomes the new manufacturing hub for the US.

The exception to the scenario above is the recent establishment of Dangote Refinery and Petrochemical industry which is located in the Lekki Free Trade Zone in Lagos, Nigeria.

That brings us to the second part which focuses on the prospects of Trump 2.0.

Perhaps the recently formed African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will make a difference in Africa's inability to be a manufacturing hub for the US by triggering the desired positive change.

In a previous article that I had published in my mass media column titled “What If President Trump Wants to Shift From Aid to Trade?”, I explored the possibility that Trump might replace aid to Africa—which he has begun to roll back—with trade. I argued that Africa needs trade, not aid.

That prospect is not far-fetched. The continent is increasingly being seen by forward-thinking investors as the next frontier for development. But with trade between industrialized nations now restricted by Trump’s tariffs, one wonders why Africa would not position itself to become a bride for the shift in global trade paradigm rather than being the dumping ground for goods that advanced economies can no longer trade among themselves.

If Africa positions itself to be the recipient of the new investments that the U.S. would relocate from its traditional trade partners- China,

Mexico, Canada, and Europe, etc, it would be a game changer for the continent.

Of course, the danger is that Trump 2.0 would further hinder industrialization on the continent. But on the flip side, this trade standoff could prompt the U.S. and others to manufacture in Africa instead of relying on China and Vietnam—countries hit by the heaviest tariffs.

Given Africa's closer proximity to the U.S. via the Atlantic Ocean (compared to Asia via the Pacific), the continent—especially Nigeria—could become a strategic manufacturing base. This possibility gains weight with the U.S. currently building its largest embassy in the world at Eko Atlantic, located on the shores of Bar Beach—Atlantic Ocean in Victoria Island, Lagos.

Signs of a Strategic Shift towards Africa by Trump 2.0.

The recent appointment of Mr. Massad Boulos, former Group Managing Director of SCOA Nigeria Plc, as Senior Special Adviser to President Trump on Africa affirms growing optimism that Africa will be a focal point for U.S. economic cooperation.

On a personal note, my self being a board member of SCOA Plc and chairman of its Audit Committee since 2012, I can guarantee that Mr. Boulos is a veritable asset to the U.S. and will make a great and positive impact for the benefit of both the U.S. and Africa. He knows the continent inside out, having worked with the SCOA Group—an

organization that has existed for nearly a century with a massive Africa-wide footprint.

Already, Mr. Boulos has initiated meetings with the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Uganda, and Nigeria to promote peace in conflict zones and foster mutually beneficial economic partnerships.

In fact, the prospect of ending the war in DRC by M23 allegedly being added by Rwanda targeting the abundant rare earth minerals resources there has become very high with parties in the process of signing off on the deal brokered by the US to end the several decades-old conflict.

For too long, as earlier stated, Africa has been sidelined in global trade value chains—operating on the fringes due to unfair trade practices entrenched during the colonial era, which saw the continent become an extension of European empires.

Even after gaining political independence, beginning in the mid-1950s, Africa has remained marginal in global trade—accounting for less than 3% of global trade volume.

Yet Africa is resource-rich:

- 30% of the world's mineral reserves
- 40% of global gold reserves
- 90% of global platinum and chromium
- Over 10% of global oil reserves
- 65% of the world's arable land

- 60% of the world's uncultivated fertile land
- A population of 1.539 billion as of March 2025, representing 18.83% of the global population (estimated at 8.1 billion)

If Africa is to thrive in the emerging world order, it must seize this moment of sweeping changes engendered by Trump's second coming to the White House not as a threat or danger, but as a strategic opportunity to renegotiate its place in global trade—by adding value, fostering local production, and becoming an active partner in global manufacturing and economic integration.

Using the recently released Forbes list of billionaires for 2025 as a barometer of Africa's global standing, there are a record 3,028 billionaires on this year's list. Their combined wealth totals a record \$16.1 trillion. Yet, only twenty-three (23) of them are Black. Alhaji Aliko Dangote remains the richest Black man on earth. Other Nigerians on the list include Chief Mike Adenuga, Alhaji Samad Rabiu, and Mr. Femi Otedola—who all reside in Nigeria—while Mr. Bayo Ogunlesi and Mr. Tope Awotona, also Nigerians, live outside the continent.

The 23 Black billionaires account for just 0.8% of the total wealth of the world's 3,028 billionaires. Effectively, less than 1% of the world's billionaire wealth is held by Black individuals—and even less by Africans living on the continent.

Based on Forbes figures, these 23 Black billionaires have a combined wealth of only \$96.2 billion—less than \$100 billion—a mere drop in the ocean compared to the \$16.1 trillion owned by the remaining 3,005 billionaires, mostly in industrialized and advanced societies.

Apart from its vast mineral wealth, Africa holds a global comparative advantage in agriculture. However, subsidies provided by industrialized nations to their farmers significantly neutralize any potential gains for African producers. For instance, eggs that were once produced in excess in the U.S. used to be dumped locally or even thrown into the ocean during gluts, rather than being exported to famine-stricken areas in Africa—especially in the Horn of Africa—where people have died from hunger-related diseases. Ironically, the U.S. is now experiencing an egg shortage. Hopefully, when the egg surplus returns, the U.S. will remember to ship excess produce to Africa, where the need is dire. This is especially critical given that despite its massive potential, the continent is increasingly unable to feed itself due to unfair global trade practices orchestrated by powerful players in the developed world.

Against the backdrop of Trump's ongoing reciprocal high-tariff upheavals, one is hopeful that this would be an opportunity to bring Africa more squarely into the global trade framework—especially now, as a new world order seems to be emerging under Trump.

Take, for example, the case of avocados. High tariffs imposed on Mexico—currently the largest supplier of avocados to the U.S.—have created a supply gap. Africa, also a major grower of avocados, could potentially fill that gap under a tariff-free framework such as the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), introduced by President Bill Clinton in 2000. AGOA significantly boosted trade between the U.S. and Africa's 54 nations.

Similarly, although the US currently obtains most of its urea from North America, Asia, and China, with a 14% tariff on Nigeria, she has the chance of replacing the countries' hitherto the US dominant sources of urea but which have been slammed with high tariffs.

Unfortunately, that might no longer be the case. That is because as earlier noted, AGOA which has been in practice for 25 years and seemed to have been sidelined under the current Trump 2.0 reciprocal tariff regime is being rectified.

What remains Africa's biggest handicap in becoming a manufacturing hub for U.S.-bound exports is the lack of infrastructure. This, coupled with financing deficits and debt traps, has made the continent less attractive compared to Asian countries such as Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand, which are now thriving manufacturing hubs serving the U.S. market. Vietnam, for instance, has been hit with tariffs as high as 46%. Africa with farmers less tariff imposed on it can replace that Asian country.

The industrialization of these countries is the result of a ripple effect—an economic radiance originating in Japan and China, spreading outward to nations like Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia. These countries now orbit as stars around the moons of Japan and China within Asia's industrial ecosystem.

The U.S. could intentionally choose to industrialize Africa. The continent's lack of industrial capacity underscored by energy insecurity could be mitigated by fixing its chronic electricity shortages. Africa possesses abundant untapped energy potential—from hydropower and

solar to wind and biomass—even without considering nuclear power. Elon Musk has already developed battery pack technology capable of powering entire cities, tested successfully in Australia. Why not introduce it to Africa?

While the world is in the midst of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Africa missed out on the first two. However, the continent caught up during the third—the telecoms revolution—by skipping telephone landlines and going straight to mobile technology, thanks to GSM. Similarly, Musk’s super battery packs could revolutionize Africa’s power sector in much the same way.

These are ideas worth considering by President Trump, the leader of the world’s most powerful and wealthiest nation, and Elon Musk, the world’s richest man as well as African leaders using the instrumentality of the African Union, AU, and African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA.

During the ongoing tariff war driven by Trump2.0, the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, made the following remarks at a Commonwealth event in London on March 31:

“Amidst all this turbulence, what is still good is that there is still \$24 trillion of goods trade. The U.S. accounts for 13–16% of world exports, and China 15%. If 75% of trade is still going on outside the U.S. and China, it means there’s a world out there trading within itself, coming together to reaffirm support for the system. So, take a deep breath—let’s preserve what works... But when you throw out retaliation, it just goes back and forth.”

Her non-retaliatory stance appears to be the most pragmatic way forward.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent echoed this sentiment after President Trump announced the new tariffs in the White House Rose Garden, urging affected countries not to engage in tit-for-tat retaliation. The nations that heeded his advice had the tariff paused so it is only China that retaliated with a 125% tariff against the US the 145% has been operationalized.

Africa has not retaliated so it remains in the good book of the US.

And President Trump does have a valid argument when he claims that the U.S. has been exploited through trade imbalances and security expenditures—particularly in its relationships with Europe. The high reciprocal tariffs, according to him, are a correction of those long-standing disparities.

Coincidentally, in that regard, Africa is in the same boat as the US.

The only difference is that the US of its own volition a few decades ago shifted its manufacturing activities to China etc after she made efforts to get her to join the WTO in the 1980s while retaining leadership in the service industry.

From a global security perspective, one could argue that the U.S., as the longstanding global hegemon, has carried the burden of maintaining world order—which may have justified its earlier trade concessions. But President Trump is now reversing those concessions in line with his America First policy.

After the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Russia—the main remnant—has struggled to match U.S. dominance in either economic or military terms. The Cold War, which once divided the world between a communist East and a capitalist West, ended with the U.S.-led West as the undisputed superpower.

President Xi Jinping of China, the nation bearing the burden after being slammed with 145% which is the highest, has extended olive branches to neighboring nations like Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia through a “neighborhood diplomacy” initiative. That is a sign that the US's biggest trading partner and manufacturing hub is pivoting elsewhere indicating that Africa can replace her as the US manufacturing hub and trade partners.

In the meantime, the U.S.—unopposed in its superpower status—continues to shape the world according to its vision. Nevertheless, President Trump has paused his reciprocal tariffs for 90 days, ostensibly to allow room for negotiations by the over 60 nations hit with the reciprocal tariffs. So, the window is open for Africa to find a slot in the space being vacated by the countries in other hemispheres that had been occupying the space.

All said and done, the world’s richest man, Elon Musk, is originally from South Africa. Morally, he should fight for Africa, leveraging his immense wealth and global influence. Given his concern about land disputes in South Africa, it’s clear Musk cares about the continent. All he needs to do is broaden his scope to include the “rainbow coalition”

(black and white people) across Africa—widely recognized as the world's next frontier.

If Tony Elumelu can commit \$100 million in ten years through his foundation, TEF to empower African youth across 54 countries with entrepreneurial skills and start-up seed money, there's no reason why Musk cannot dedicate \$1 billion to provide electricity to Africa—powering industrialization and creating new prosperity on the continent of his birth.

After all, Africa—as economists have confirmed—is not an aid case. It is a land of untapped potential.

The bottom line is this: Africa needs industrialization and trade, not aid. And both President Trump, leader of the world's most powerful country, and Elon Musk, the world's wealthiest man, can make it happen.

Musk has already explored the unknown in space with his SpaceX program. Now it's time to explore Africa—for real, and for good.

Alhaji Aliko Dangote the wealthiest man in Africa has already shown a good example by stating 20 billion dollars in a 650,000 barrels a day refinery which has changed Africa from a net exporter of crude oil to an exporter of the commodity to a far-flung location like the US and Saudi Arabia.

Nigeria's and indeed Africa's gas has been wasting away through flaring (literally burning cash) as it has remained unharnessed due to a lack of funding to capture and transport the commodity to Europe where it is highly in demand especially since Russia the preeminent supplier of gas

to Europe is under sanction banning the export of her products arising from her invasion of Ukraine.

Given the opportunity awaiting a bold investor like Dangote in the wasting gas sector waiting to be tapped for the good of the world, Africa awaits another Dangote equivalent to convert the gas assets from amongst an impressive list of black billionaires in the US.

A similar investment opportunity is available in the cocoa and coffee value chain.

It is significant to note that the first black president of the US, Barack Obama has his origins in Kenya, Africa as his father was originally an immigrant from Africa into the US. His immigration is influenced by the US interest in coffee which is abundant in the East African nation.

Somehow, without the US interest in coffee, perhaps there might not have been an Obama in the White House between 2009 to 2017 with all the great values he has added to American society.h

To date, coffee remains endemic in Africa waiting for another bold Aliko Dangote-type investor to commit funds to processing coffee beans into coffee beverages on the continent and reap huge returns even as jobs and prosperity will be created and sustained in Africa.

The same applies to cocoa and commodity in which Africa is a leading producer but Germany, Switzerland, and the US are the biggest earners and consumers of chocolate made from cocoa.

As alluring and lucrative as investing seems for the likes of Tony Elumelu whose bank UBA has a footprint of over 100 branches across 20 African countries and Aliko Dangote whose Cement firm operates in 14 African nations, significant barriers are discouraging Americans who are uninitiated from investing in Africa.

Nevertheless, there are indeed US investors active in the highlighted sectors in Africa, although the level of investment may vary depending on the sector and country. Some examples of US Investors in Africa include:

- (1) Renewable Energy-US companies like Azure Power (solar energy) and Bidgely (energy efficiency) have invested in Africa's renewable energy sector.
- (2) Digital Infrastructure: US companies like Google, Microsoft, and Facebook have invested in Africa's digital infrastructure, including undersea cables and data centers.
- (3) Agriculture: US companies like Cargill and Monsanto (now part of Bayer) have invested in Africa's agricultural sector.
- (4) Manufacturing: US companies like General Electric and Caterpillar have manufacturing operations in Africa.
- (5) Mining: US companies like Freeport-McMoRan and Newmont have mining operations in Africa.

Challenges and Opportunities

While there are US investors active in the sectors highlighted above there are impediments and challenges bordering on:

- (1) Regulatory frameworks- inherently, complex regulatory environments can deter investment.
- (2) Infrastructure- Limited infrastructure can increase costs and risks.

(3) Market dynamics- Basically understanding local market dynamics is crucial for success.

Despite these challenges, US companies can be engaged by African investors for partnerships towards exploring opportunities in Africa.

The continent's growing economy and consumer market make it an attractive destination for investment.

And the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has the potential to boost investment in Africa by Americans in the following ways:

(1) Single, unified market- AfCFTA creates a single, unified market for Africa, making it easier for American businesses to access and invest in the continent.

(2) Reduced trade barriers- By reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers, AfCFTA can increase trade between Africa and the United States, encouraging American investment.

(3) Increased economic integration- AfCFTA promotes economic integration among African countries, creating opportunities for American businesses to participate in regional value chains.

(4) Improved business environment, can lead to improvements in the business environment, such as more transparent and predictable regulations, which can attract American investment.

(5) Increased competitiveness- By creating a larger, more integrated market, AfCFTA can increase the competitiveness of African economies, making them more attractive to American investors.

6. Diversified investment opportunities- AfCFTA can create opportunities for American investment in various sectors, such as manufacturing, agriculture, and services.

To fully leverage the potential of AfCFTA, the African Union and its member states can work on:

(A). Implementing trade facilitation measures- Simplifying customs procedures and reducing bureaucratic hurdles can make trade easier.

(B) Improving infrastructure- Investing in transportation, energy, and digital infrastructure can support trade and investment.

(C)Enhancing the business environment- Implementing business-friendly policies and regulations can attract investment.

To scale or break through the barriers earlier identified, American businesses and investors can benefit from:

(i)Market research- Understanding the opportunities and challenges of investing in Africa.

(ii)Partnering with local businesses- Collaborating with African companies can provide valuable insights and support.

(iii)Staying informed- Keeping up-to-date with developments in AfCFTA and African economies.

Also, by leveraging AfCFTA, American businesses and investors can tap into the vast potential of the African market.

The good thing is that there is a huge number of billionaires in the US that can take advantage of the earlier identified investment opportunities in Nigeria with high yield if they are determined and deliberate about going beyond their investment comfort zones into the new frontier that Africa represents.

Drawing from 2024 data from Forbes, Brookings Institution, and MadisonTrust report, there are between 759 billionaires to 492 billionaires based in 43 out of 50 states in the US.

The state of California leads the list. Below is a snapshot:

(1)California- 186 billionaires

(2)New York-135 billionaires

(3)Florida-78 billionaires

(4)Texas-73 billionaires

(5) Illinois-23 billionaires

These billionaires whose wealth has had a substantial impact on the US economy with their combined wealth of over \$16 trillion globally, some of which can be relocated through investment in Africa as Trump 2.0 sweeping tariffs steer them towards Africa with huge untapped opportunities.

Assuming but not admitting that race or color could be a barrier for US investors to stake bold initiatives on the continent of black people hitherto deemed a dark continent not just due to shortage of electricity but the opacity of the regulatory environment, there is a significant number of black billionaires in the US who could look towards their motherland.

Here are some notable ones:

(1)Robert Smith- American investor with a net worth of \$12 billion, founder of Vista Equity Partners.

(2)David Steward- American businessman with a net worth of \$12.8 billion, founder of World Wide Technology (WWT).

(3)Oprah Winfrey-American media mogul with a net worth of \$3.7 billion.

(4)Jay-Z- American rapper and entrepreneur with a net worth of \$2.5 billion.

(5)Kanye West- American rapper and entrepreneur with a net worth of \$2.7 billion.

(6)Michael Jordan- American sports executive with a net worth of \$3.5 billion.

(7)Tyler Perry- American media mogul with a net worth of \$1 billion.

(8)LeBron James- American professional basketball player with a net worth of \$1.2 billion.

(9) Magic Johnson- American former professional basketball player with a net worth of \$1.2 billion.

What is more striking is that there are Black billionaires from the continent that the American ones can partner with.

Amongst them are

(A) Aliko Dangote- Nigerian businessman with a net worth of \$28.3 billion, who is the founder and chairman of Dangote Group, dominating Africa's industrial territory in crude oil refining, cement, sugar, salt, and flour production.

(B)Mike Adenuga- Nigerian business mogul with huge investment in telecommunications, and crude oil production with a net worth of \$7.1 billion.

(C)Abdul Samad Rabiu- Nigerian businessman involved in cement production, with a net worth of \$7.6 billion.

(D)Patrice Motsepe- South African gold magnate with a net worth of \$3.2 billion.

(E) Strive Masiyiwa- Zimbabwean businessman with a huge stake in telecommunications having a net worth of \$3.1 billion.

(F) Folorunsho Alakija- Nigerian businesswoman with a net worth of \$1.1 billion from oil/gas exploration.

(F) Femi Otedola-Nigerian petroleum and electricity energy entrepreneur with a net worth of \$1.5 billion.

So, Africa is not bereft of entrepreneurs, but there need to be intentional efforts by wealthy people in America to through a well-curated matchmaking process birth a new Africa which can be an unprecedented and probably unbeatable legacy of Trump 2.0 where I envisage more prospects than danger.

On that upbeat note, I would like to conclude by restating the fact that Africa beckons President Trump, Elon Musk, and the rest of the billionaires in the US keen on opening up Africa in the manner that President Richard Nixon in 1972 led the US to China intending to normalize relationship with China by signing the " Shanghai Communique" ending 25 years of no communication between the two countries.

Thereafter, President Jimmy Carter 1979 signed the " "Joint Communique" with China which opened the floodgate of American investment in China that metaphorically joined countries in the hips like the Siamese twins which Trump 2.0 is aiming to separate incidents with a very reverberating effect worldwide.

President Trump can replicate in Africa the feat that both Presidents Nixon in 1972 and Carter in 1979 performed by leading US investors to China.

Thank you for listening.

I hope I have not been fastidious.

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