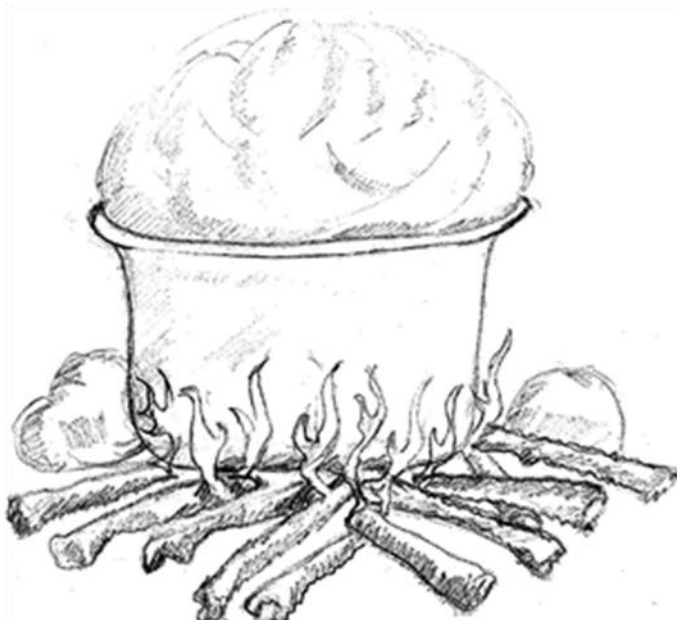


The Natural Law out of Underdevelopment

This law was ably explained in the previous article, accessible through the preceding link.

Uganda's non-conformity to this Law

To easily understand Uganda's non-conformity to the natural law out of underdevelopment, and how this non-conformity comes about, let's go back to the example of cooking food using the traditional African method made up of three cooking stones. Imagine again that one of the cooking stones was missing. The remaining two cooking stones cannot support the saucepan; they simply give way and the food ends up sitting on the ground (illustrated below).



Cooking food that is sitting on the ground

In this position, the food can never get ready no matter how long you cook it. The best it can become are small portions of food, in the sides of the sauce pan that is touched by the fire flames, getting ready while the rest stays uncooked! Just a handful of people get served.

The Explanation

The missing cooking stone symbolises the missing development pillar¹ for Uganda's society. The absence of this development pillar makes it impossible to move Uganda out of poverty and underdevelopment, in the same way the missing cooking stone makes it impossible to cook food and it gets ready (Illustration 2). Just as food cooked this way ends up feeding a handful of people, the economic growth registered in the absence of the third development pillar ends up benefiting a handful few in the country. Put differently, the failure of Uganda to get out of poverty and underdevelopment is a natural response that will happen regardless of who the leader is, in the same

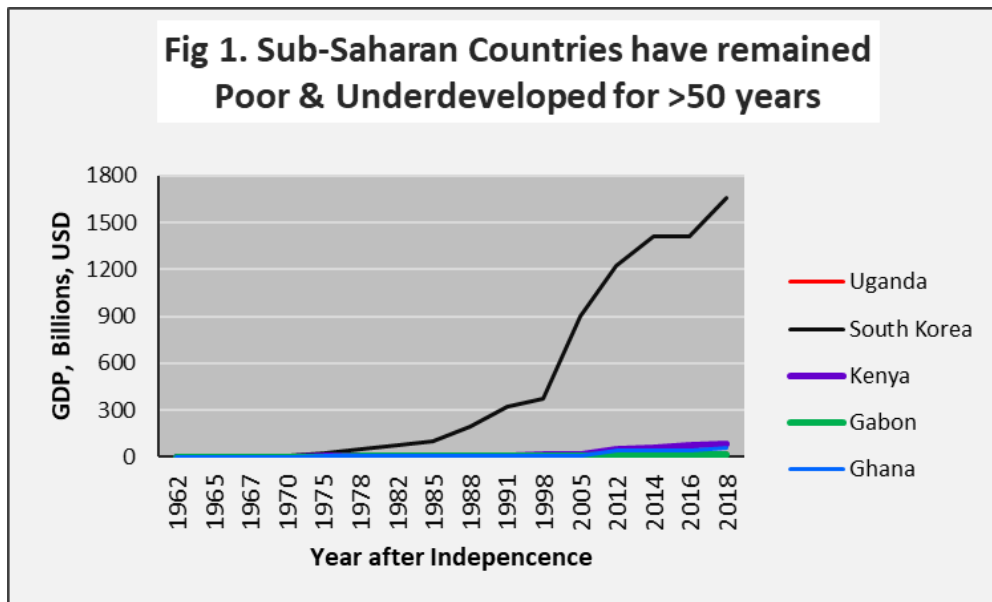
¹*The world that you and I grew up in prevents the African mind from growing attitudes that are critical to development. The absence of these attitudes in the African mind-set denied you, me and the rest of the Africans the right thinking for the country's development. For details, read prefaces of our story books.*

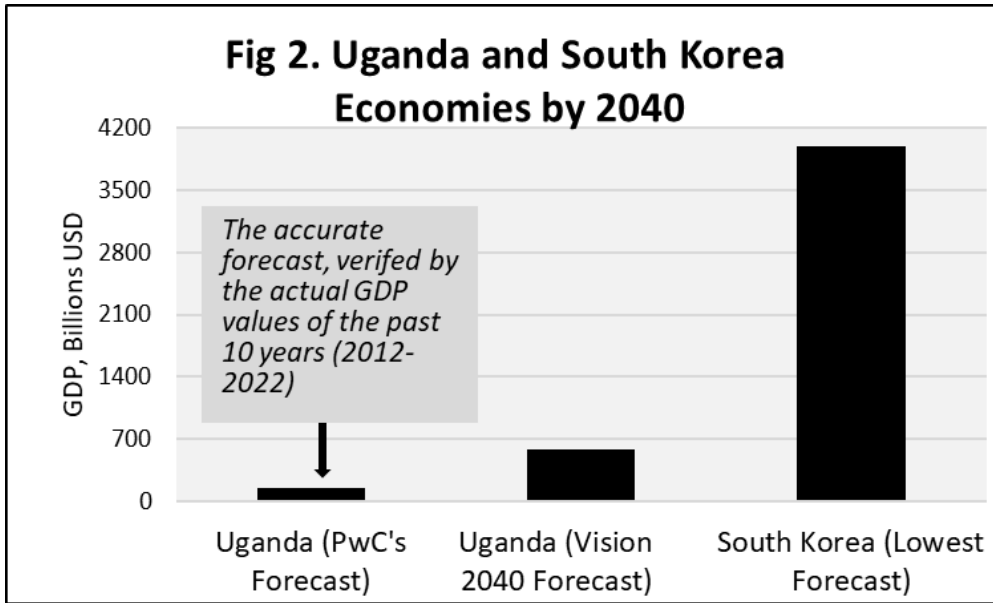
way cooking food and it fails to get ready, because it is sitting on the ground, is a natural response that will happen regardless who the cook is. As long as non-conformity to the natural law out of underdevelopment holds true, chances of Uganda getting out of poverty and underdevelopment will remain non-existent, regardless of what the policy makers say, as the next three paragraphs testify; and thus, creating a bleak future for your children and grandchildren.

Consequences of Uganda’s non-conformity to the Natural Law out of Underdevelopment

Although Uganda has changed leadership a number of times since independence, although it has been producing an educated/skilled work force for decades, although it has received numerous financial and technical aid, it has remained practically the same, namely poor and underdeveloped (Figure 1). Meaningful opportunities are for a handful few relative to the population and this has not changed from independence to date.

The scarcity of meaningful opportunities was not felt in the initial years after independence, though. This was mainly because of the few people with formal education/training then. Over time however, this scarcity became increasingly visible and it is now felt in almost all walks of life. It manifests itself as rising unemployment and underemployment among young people, a desperate search for greener pastures, growing polarisation of society along ethnic lines, increasing conflicts over land, and so on. This disheartening trend, supported by the accurate projection of Uganda’s economy over the next 20 years (Figure 2), points to a bleak future for our children and grandchildren.





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