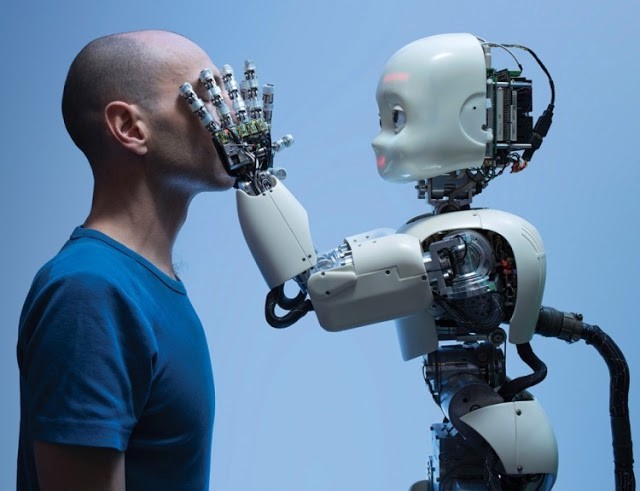
**Opportunities for Africa - 4IR & Digital Transformation 2.0**

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**The Collective Business Challenge:**

The Forth Industrial revolution or **4IR** as it is commonly abbreviated, has become a buzz word which has brought about a morbid curiosity within all of us with a sprinkle of anxiety created by the belief that machines will disrupt human employment leading to job losses.



**Are we ready as Africa?**

The answer is we will never ever be truly ready.

On one hand if you reflect on the state of our enterprises you will observe that there are vestiges of our societies that are still currently at the stage of development of the second and third industrial revolution(s) as far as productive efficiencies go.

The flip side of the coin, some of the technologies available easily adaptable to the current environment, with an err on the side of caution that this will require fundamental shifts in thinking and the ways of working.

**My five (5) insights on how we will experience the 4IR in Africa with its opportunities at least in the short to medium term.**

1. **The Law.** We are still some way off in aligning legislation, for instance there are massive opportunities to ensure that we bridge the divide between the current ways of work and the future,
2. **Customization**, In Africa significant work needs to go into first contextualizing the current technology to our market,
3. **The data question!** Before we endeavor to push any kind of agenda we need to address how we can form some sort of systems to cross validate data against physical archives. *This is a chance for Data scientist to create self sustaining forms of data generation and validation. Data design and integration will be essential.*
4. **Affordable indigenous hardware** and software for populations that were previously disadvantaged will present opportunities for partnerships,
5. **Education**. There is a huge chasm in the skills required in the future and the ones needed in the now. It is my view that Private Public Partnerships we will become more relevant and create a host opportunities across each industry value chain.

In short there are ample opportunities in our largely commodity skewed economies to infer that the 4IR will not happen to us as Africans, but will happen for us if we integrate its principles to our culture our ethos and ways of work. There is nothing to fear but fear itself.

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