

Mr. Isinga debunks the cliché that Africa's industrialisation journey is hampered by lack of injectable financial resources. He opines that Africa's challenge with the industrialisation journey is not lack of financial resources but putting the available resources on the wrong priorities. For example, it makes no economic sense to sink hundreds of millions of shillings into a hospital building that ends up as a white elephant because there are no drugs. If the same went into a manufacturing hub, the benefits are instantaneous. A manufacturing or processing hub will create jobs, the resultant human needs and liquidity will attract private investors who will put up hospitals, schools and other social amenities to service the emerging salaried people and their dependants. The ripple effect to the surrounding community is tremendous and the government in turn benefits from the taxes across board.

The Managing Director sees all these industrialisation interventions as doables that are within the grasp of most African countries. And that there are existing functional models on this continent that have proved that this approach is working and only needs to be embraced and upscaled and the continent will experience rapid and sustainable socio-economic development of unprecedented levels.

According to him, to give the industrialisation initiative a strong push will also need other complementing aspects to be considered as well. These include; enacting enabling policies that will ease doing

of business, provide tax incentives improve efficiencies in immigration, customs and licensing.

It is necessary to come up with more diverse and robust platforms that will provide for continent-wide information sharing and exchange between countries, industrial stakeholders, investors and traders. Lack of adequate information remains a weak link in the continental industrialisation drive.

He cites a comparison that is now a cliché, between South Korea and Kenya. In the late 60s and early 70s, these two countries were at the same level of development. South Korea however, sprinted away emerging as one of the Asian Tigers with an unmatched level of industrialisation and economic development. In this time and age, there is no comparison between Kenya and South Korea except for good diplomatic ties.

He avers that, the missing link, that marked the big difference between Kenya and South Korea is how the two countries prepared their young generations for the industrialisation take-off and world of work. In South Korea, apart from a good education and impartation of job skills, the education system was designed to inculcate good morals and values. The young Korean in school was trained to be patriotic, shun corruption and be passionate about the work he or she set to do.

South Korea's industrialisation is therefore built on a strong foundation by people who are committed to the tasks that are geared to greater industrialisation and resultant economic growth.

