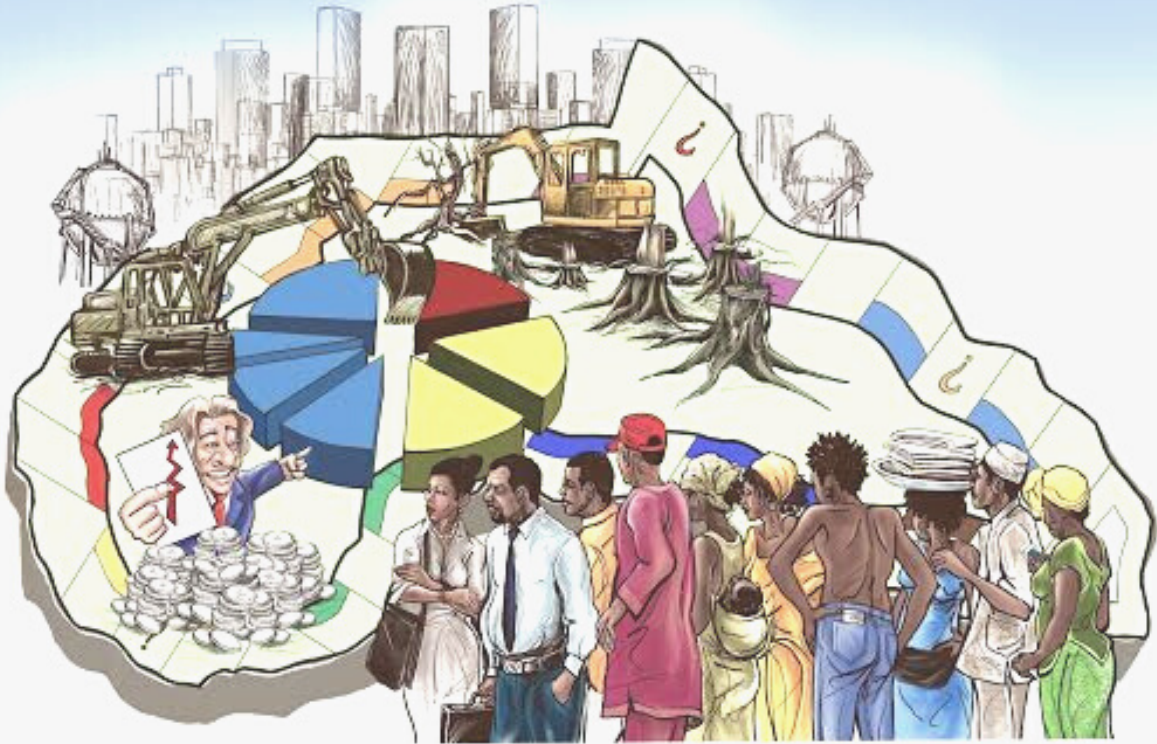




Arise Back Child

AFRICA-FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

"AFROCENTRIC THOUGHT"



CASUAL MUSINGS ON THE PARADOXES OF AFRIKAN BEING

BY VELI MBELE "SOMPISI"

Did we as Afrikans create the current dominant institutions and systems of validation in the various spheres of people activity?

I refer here to the dominant institutions and systems that provide validation in the areas of education, religion, politics, culture or economics?

I ask these questions because it seems as if, in terms of the current system, if you as an Afrikan have any ideas or are doing any work in any of the areas of people activity, such ideas or work is generally not regarded as 'valid' or 'credible', until they are endorsed by the dominant educational, religious, political, cultural or economic institutions.

As a consequence, even we Afrikans look down on or frown on ideas or work that is done by other Afrikans that doesn't have its genesis in the dominant educational, religious, political, cultural or economic institutions.

Have you seen how much reverence we Afrikans give to the dominant educational, religious, political, cultural or economic institutions, systems or their products?

For example, why do we Afrikans regard it as mark of 'sophistication' or 'intelligence' when an Afrikan is fluent in a European language or can speak confidently on who Plato, Marx or Einstein is, but we don't attach the same prestige to Afrikan children knowing who Imhotep, Ahmed Baba or the Kunti scholars are?

To what extent are these dominant institutions or systems afrocentric? In other words, to what extent are these dominant institutions or systems based on the lived reality of Afrikan people?

It is almost as if we don't believe in our own capacity to create authentic Afrikan ways of understanding the self and the world.

**"TO WHAT EXTENT
ARE THESE DOMINANT
INSTITUTIONS OR
SYSTEMS
AFROCENTRIC?"**

All ways of understanding the self (cosmology) and the world (epistemology), have their basis in the lived experience and resultant paradigms of a particular people.

Are we as Afrikans looking at the self and world through the authenticity of our own lived reality experience and paradigm?

I think we must challenge the way we look at the self and the world and reorient our mindset to respond to the fundamentals of our lived reality.

Just thinking aloud. Let me hear what you think.

Camagu! Lesedi! Kganya! Makukhanye



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