



# NEW

NEW CITIES NEW ECONOMIES



**OUR GENERATION'S  
VISION FOR AFRICA**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**03.**

What is the New Cities New Economies Vision?

**04.**

What is the rational for such a vision?

**06.**

Africa's Grand Plan: A Pan-African Economic Revolution.

**08.**

An African Vision's Contract with the World.

**09.**

Contacts.



*A contract with the People of South Africa, Africa  
and the entire World*

# 1. WHAT IS THE NEW CITIES NEW ECONOMIES VISION?



The New Cities New Economies thesis is our generation's vision for the economic revolution, which will radically transform and advance South Africa and Africa's economy. It is a proposition that is aimed at fuelling the long overdue economic growth and transformation of our society. It is indeed a Grand Plan, which will not only serve South Africa but has potential to reverberate across the entire African continent. This Grand Plan is the promise of the South Africa we yearn for, the Africa we want.

Essentially the vision advocates for massive urbanization in South Africa and Africa, which will be attained through the deliberate planning and building of new cities, ex nihilo, that is, in totally new spaces, in a manner that will drastically redefine apartheid's spatial legacies, which are sustaining economic inequality, poverty and huge unemployment. New cities herald new economies, new economies yield jobs and empowerment and therefore destroy both poverty and apartheid

economic legacies. The new cities should have a symbiotic relationship with the economy. As new cities herald new economies; new economies will anchor and sustain new cities.

The vision portends the creation of egalitarian cities. In a nutshell, egalitarian cities are justiciable cities, they will usher in spatial justice, racial justice, gender justice, class justice, social justice, economic justice, legal justice, educational justice, culture, heritage and spiritual justice, safety and security, youth empowerment, peace and harmony for all. Egalitarian cities will free poor people from the shackles of subjugation, abject poverty, underdevelopment and dependency.

These cities will embrace the features of cities as encapsulated in the Integrated Urban Development Framework, which is that they should be: "Livable, safe, resource-efficient...and socially integrated, economically inclusive and globally competitive, where residents actively participates in urban life" (IUDF, 2016:38).

## WHAT IS THE RATIONAL FOR SUCH A VISION?

South Africa is a country in transition. From its historical past, the country inherited a fragmented urban geography, racially segregated and with high levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality (Robinson, 1997). The city is an important phenomenon of development. Urbanization, and cities in particular, are known to be potent instruments of economic and social development and are catalytic for the prosperity of nations. They are spatial expressions of the health of a country in so far as social, cultural, economic and political phenomena are concerned (Hamann, et al. 2015).

**Given the fact that the engineering of the apartheid society was highly geographic, any serious attempt at dreaming a new society has to be based on fundamentally reconstructing South Africa's spatial geography.**

Racial spatial geography is the rock upon which apartheid was engraved; regardless of the racial laws having been repealed, this rock still holds strong. Spatial settlement is a concrete phenomenon. It is incorrigible, hard to transform, let alone reform.

Current South African government developmental plans do not emphasize spatial reconstruction as the overarching foundation for societal transformation and economic development. This is surprising because their aim is to eliminate apartheid legacies. Yet apartheid, at its heart of hearts, was envisioned, propelled and is currently being sustained by racial spatial





engineering. Once and for all, the South African government and society as a whole need to elevate the issue of spatial justice as the core of all South Africa's developmental goals and programs. Only this way can developmental policies and programs have an enduring effect in the destruction of apartheid and the birthing of a new nation.

The human migration patterns that have been projected to happen in the next few decades open for us a window of opportunity. And like many opportunities, that window will not remain open forever. It is projected that by 2030 71.3% of the South African population will live in urban areas; this will reach 80% by 2050. The entire Africa's urban population, on the other hand, is expected to reach 60%, or 2.5 billion people by 2050 (IUDF, 2016).

Colonial cities are failing to meet the democratic aspirations of millions of Africans across the continent. Majority of Africa's urban spaces have become symbols of poverty and inequality. The building of New Cities will herald New Economies for the various nations of African in ways that will totally redefine the image of our continent.

## AFRICA'S GRAND PLAN: A PAN-AFRICAN ECONOMIC REVOLUTION

The ultimate objective of our commitment to Africa must be to attain a united continent, United Continent of Africa (UCA), united not only in sentiment, but in prosperity. Africa should become an oasis of development, innovation, construction, and attainment of human potential. Thus the New Cities New Economies vision should be implemented in such a manner as to boost massive urbanization, modernization and industrialization in the rest of the African continent as well. This will define South Africa's economic vision as a Pan-African Revolution and will thus make this vision an African Grand Plan.



# ONE AFRICA ONE GRID



One Africa One Grid seeks to attain a prosperously united continent that is interconnected by a common economic grid. A grid is a network, a pattern or system of something. The concept is often used to refer to energy and transport, an energy

grid, a transport grid. But it can also apply to many things, such as the economy, water, telecommunications, etc. The South African economy will grow significantly if it intertwines itself with the African economy. There are massive opportunities earmarked for Africa's economic growth. But Africa itself has to champion this.

The new cities that will ultimately adorn the African continent will form an African economic grid that will be linked altogether by mutual economic interests and activities. One of the most urgently needed investments for intra-Africa trade is the African transport network. Transport is the bedrock of the economy; it connects goods and people across spaces.

One Africa One Grid is the cornerstone of Africa's Grand Plan, an economic development plan that is perceived for overall economic development of the African continent, and which is anchored on massive urbanization, modernization and industrialization.

# AN AFRICAN VISION'S CONTRACT WITH THE WORLD

The financial requirements for this vision are too enormous to be singularly guaranteed by the South African financial institutions. There will be a need to canvas this vision the world throughout. It will have to be massively marketed, irrespective of how it will be immediately rejected in certain quarters. The international community will have to be robustly pursued to come to the party. Success in mobilizing international financial support will mount necessary

pressure to the domestic financial market, as well.

Beyond this there are numerous economic sectors that will be hugely impacted upon by this African Grand Plan. It is our wish for Africans in the Diaspora who are leaders in various economic sectors to become involved in this massive economic development vision. Some of the sectors that we need to canvas for partnership with include:

- **The construction sector**
- **Electrical and electronic sector**
- **Automobile sector**
- **Retail sector**
- **General manufacturing sector**
- **Agriculture and food production**
- **Information, Communication and Telecommunication sector**
- **Energy sector**
- **Mining sector**
- **Financial Services sector**
- **Real Estate sector**
- **Media sector**
- **Arts, culture and heritage sectors**
- **Travel and Tourism sector**
- **Research and Development (Academics and other intellectuals) sector**
- **Monitoring and Evaluation sector**
- **Marketing, Advertising and Communications sector.**

## Professional Services

- Accountants
- Financial Planning
- IT consultancy
- Legal
- Actuarial
- Architectural
- Valuation
- Civil, structural and electrical engineering
- Quantity Surveyors
- Land Surveyors
- Town planning
- Legal
- Economic advisory
- Water and sanitation consultants
- Transport infrastructure (rail, road, airports, seaports) consultants
- Energy infrastructure consultants
- Business development consultants
- Environmental consultants

In all these sectors and more we require partners to work with, especially Africans in the Diaspora who are successful professionals and business people involved in these sectors.



## WHO ARE WE?

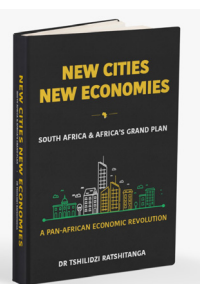
The New Cities New Economies vision is a project under the Global Consortium for Africa's Economic Development (Global Consortium). The Global Consortium is a Non-governmental organization that was created to advance Africa's economic development. The founders of the Global Consortium are social activists and scholars who are keenly committed to the development of Africa.

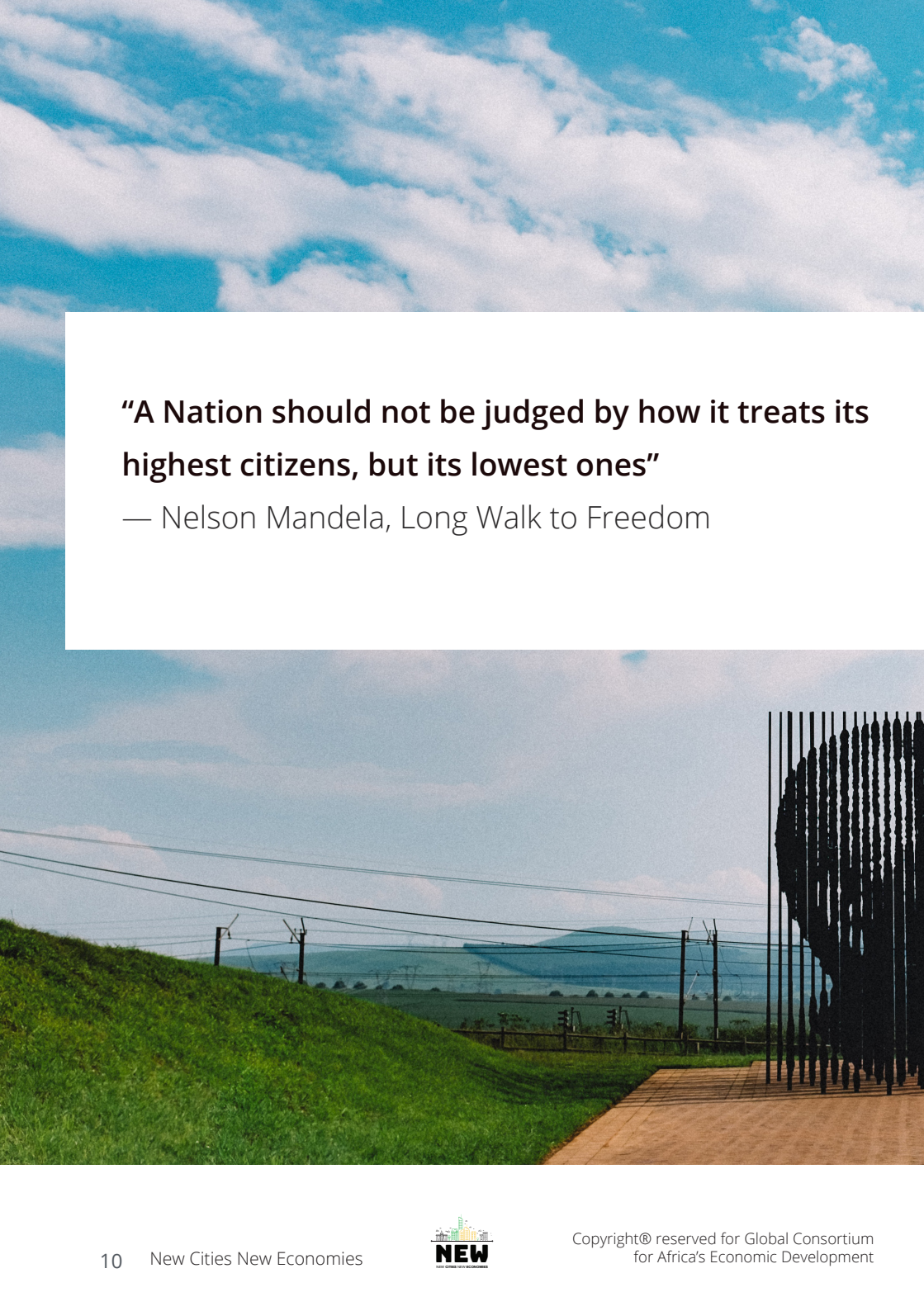
In joint partnership with the University of Johannesburg, the Global Consortium is currently establishing the New Cities New Economies Institute, which will carry out further detailed research around this vision. A detailed disquisition of the New Cities New Economies vision is contained in the book that was authored by Dr Tshilidzi Ratshitanga, which is available in different book and online stores.

## CONTACTS

Please contact us in order to get involved with this groundbreaking Vision for Africa:

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**“A Nation should not be judged by how it treats its  
highest citizens, but its lowest ones”**

— Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom



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