

Of Africa's natural resources, underdevelopment, and poverty (Part 2)

- From Africa's 'Brain drain' to 'Brain circulation'

Education Matters

With Anis Haffar



ABOUT 1980, while serving on a board as an alumni representative of my alma

mater - California State University, Los Angeles - I was approached by another member, now a vice-president of a large oil company. Knowing I was African, he asked if I would be interested in joining their sales sector to market oil in Nigeria.

In my naivety I replied, "But Nigeria is a member of the OPEC, and has oil in abundance". He shrugged off the response and said, "Yes, they have crude, but not refined oil."

Adding value

The quest to add value to Africa's huge natural resources brings into focus the gist of Professor Kwamina Panford's new book: 'Africa's

the IMF/World Bank to attract foreign investment. He demonstrates that policies inspired by the west to allow more

multinational companies to exploit Ghana's gold and diamond contributed to the indiscriminate and almost uncontrollable use of such deadly toxins such as sodium cyanide and mercury for gold production and the current social monster nicknamed galamsey.

He shows instances from all over Ghana—the blockade of the Black Volta threatening Ghana's hydropower supply, abandoned water-filled pits leading to the drowning of innocent citizens, and the dangers of working right underneath high tension electrical cables.

He explains in this easy-to-read book why and how

