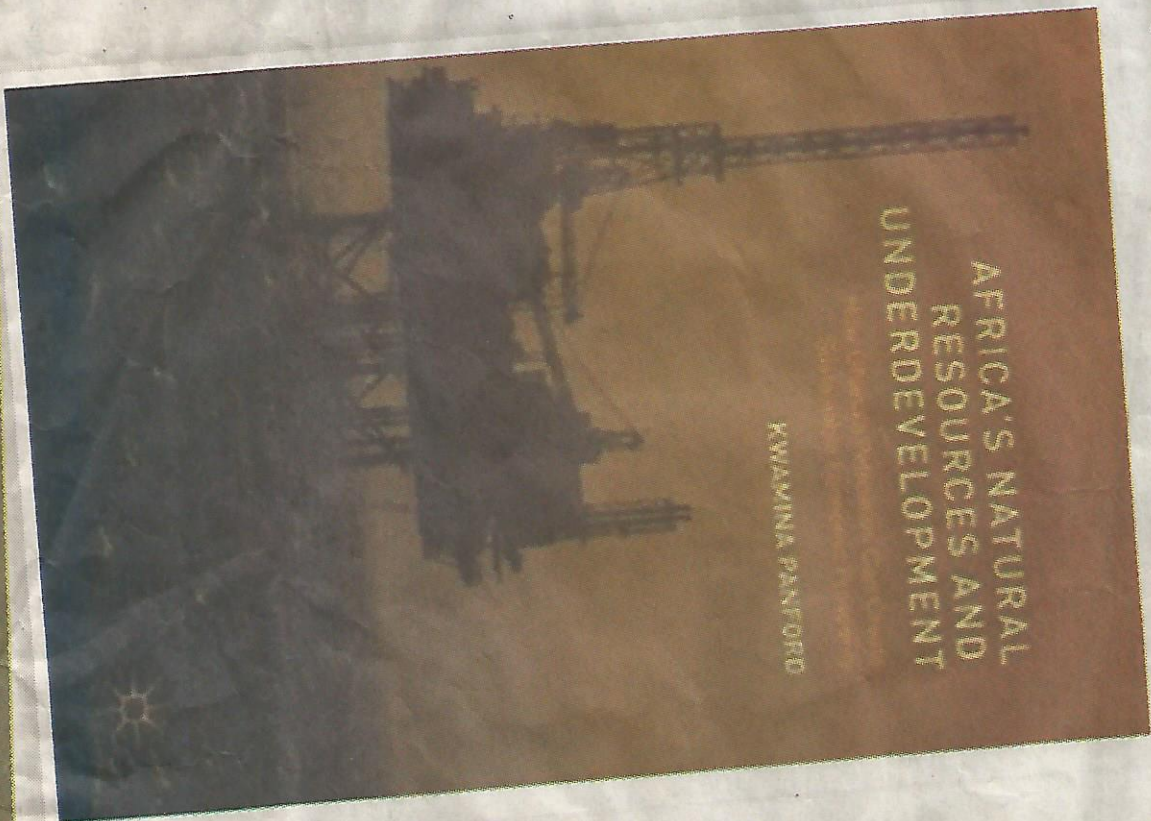


some influential Africans in the area. Right away the name of Prof. Panford was suggested and his telephone number duly given to me. I called and met him at Northeastern University where he taught in the African Studies department. We had lunch at the Faculty Lounge in the company of a young Ghanaian he was

earlier visits to Ghana have entailed other assignments. From 1991-2003, for instance, he was engaged with the Ghana Trade Union Congress (TUC) and the Government of Ghana / Labour Department to review and craft Ghana's labour laws. With Ghana's discovery of oil in



captured and analyzed by the

Ministry of Finance - to draft the nation's landmark Petroleum Revenue Management Act (PRMA) and the creation of the Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC).

He then collaborated with the TUC's leadership including the recently retired Secretary General, Kofi Asamoah and the current one, Dr Yaw Baah, to get TUC a full recognition and representation on the PIAC.

About that same time, Prof. Panford was on the public lecture circuit - the *Daily Graphic* Business Forum on Oil, Institute for Economic Affairs' Ghana Policy Journal Special Edition on Ghana's Oil, and drafting the Ministry of Energy's Local Content Legislation. He even liaised with the Catholic Bishops on oil at Takoradi in 2011, and addressed TUC's Executive Board in 2012 at Tema.

Prof. Panford was the lead consultant who together with Ghana's current Minister of Natural Resources, Peter Paul Amewu and the current Deputy Minister of Energy, Dr Amin Mohammed, wrote Ghana/Africa's first accounting for oil revenues and expenditures.

Institute for oil and gas studies

Coming from a labour background with experience from the ILO (Geneva, Switzerland), Prof. Panford led the TUC's effort to write its maiden oil policy paper and as a resource person,

He focuses on

Ghana's recent discovery of oil, the nation's woes with "Galamsey", and how to turn natural resources into assets for economic prosperity.

called the

resource curse and its application to Ghana and four major natural resource producing African nations— Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola.

The author seeks to unravel that mystery through his book,

"Africa's Natural Resources and Underdevelopment: How Ghana's Petroleum Can Create Sustainable Economic Prosperity" (Palgrave Macmillan, NY 2017, 249 pp.)

He focuses on Ghana's recent discovery of oil, the nation's woes with "galamsey" and how to turn natural resources into assets for economic prosperity.

The book is poised to contribute to discussions and policy formulation in Ghana and elsewhere in Africa. More importantly, it is full of practical policy recommendations. For example, at the time the new NPP administration seeks to eliminate the scourge of galamsey, illicit environmentally destructive gold and diamond mining, Prof. Panford provides a history of this social menace and lays out how Ghana can exploit its gold, diamond and now oil for the greater good.

[To be continued]

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