Makoba authors new book on development strategies for Africa

Nevada sociologist Johnson Makoba contends that widespread corruption, economic mismanagement, lack of accountability, lack of sound leadership in government and the nascent private sector will continue to weigh negatively on struggling sub-Saharan African countries, unless these sectors collaborate with nongovernmental organizations and microfinance institutions to bring about real progress.

In his new book, Rethinking Development Strategies in Africa: The Triple Partnership as an Alternative Approach—the Case of Uganda, Johnson Makoba, associate professor and sociology department chair in the College of Liberal Arts, uses Uganda, his home country, as a case study.

Makoba has been researching development strategies for Africa for more than 20 years and contends that a “triple partnership” is the only way that sustained economic development and poverty reduction can be achieved in the region. He asserts that the massive amount of development aid channeled into the country over the past two decades has done very little to reduce poverty in the country or improve the peoples’ well-being.

“They must seek to engage the state, the private sector, and nongovernmental sector and donor agencies, in the development process. All these actors are critical to sustainable development,” Makoba said.

Makoba grew up in rural Uganda amid the social, economic and political devastation that began in the early 1970s during the Idi Amin regime. He was determined to “study hard to make a career and be able to help others to find self-help solutions to poverty.”

Novel by alumnus explores Indo-Pakistan relations

M. Bashir Sulahria ’69M.S. (renewable natural resources-forestry), ’72Ph.D. (hydrology/hydrogeology) was 7 years old when his Muslim parents fled their village in Pakistan, barely escaping an attack by Hindus and Sikhs.

“My elders painfully recounted our people’s horrific and heroic actions during the 1947 Indo-Pakistan partition,” Sulahria said.

“Throughout my school years and career in Pakistan, my advanced studies and decades of work in the United States, the stories lay dormant, only to resurface when the U.S./Afghan/Pakistan conflict intensified, causing the innocent to suffer once again.”

His new novel, Five Rivers on Fire, follows ordinary families of different faiths who, despite enduring ethnic and religious violence, show courage in helping each other and refuse to betray family and friendship bonds.

“Bashir Sulahria’s Five Rivers on Fire is an eloquent, richly historical, culturally complex narrative of two boyhood friends who become separated just before the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947,” said English professor emeritus Stephen Tchudi. “The book is also a page-turner, filled with natural drama among carefully evoked characters, as families struggle to survive, regain normal lives, and remain constant to their cultures and beliefs, all complicated by a state of semi-permanent war and military acculturation.

“Bashir’s personal history, parallel in many respects to the experiences of the central characters, adds great authenticity to the novel and makes actions and emotions accessible to those of us whose understanding of Indo-Pakistan relations is limited chiefly to newspapers and video clips,” Tchudi added. “As history-based fiction, Five Rivers on Fire is a wonderful contribution to global understanding in our time, and is an excellent read.”

Five Rivers on Fire, published by Xlibris, is available through your local bookstore’s order desk or the online stores of Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Xlibris. You may also order an author’s signed copy by calling (775) 762-8131. Learn more at www.fiveriversonfire.com.

—Roseann Keegan