

Economic Development vs Debt Trap: Is China's involvement in East Africa's economy a front to take over the region for strategic purposes? A case study of Tanzania

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Affidavit

I hereby affirm that this bachelor's Thesis represents my own written work and that I have used no sources and aids other than those indicated. All passages quoted from publications or paraphrased from these sources are properly cited and attributed.

The Thesis was not submitted in the same or in a substantially similar version, not even partially, to another examination board and was not published elsewhere.

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Abstract

One of the most prominent leaders of investments in East Africa is China. Its expansion of foreign direct investments to Africa has accelerated the continent's economic progress, but they have also sparked substantial criticism. Nations in East Africa are moving from least developed to developing countries thanks to China's financial assistance, and China's investments have made East Africa more appealing to foreign investors. However, everyone does not accept this, especially in America, the western economic power. As a result of China's inquisitive interest in the East African Community, the west has criticized the Chinese government as being nothing but a gobbling realm when it comes to natural resources. This paper studies China's relation with Tanzania, an East African country whose unique geographical position as being the nation of many lakes and coastal exposure is essential to trade for the rest of East Africa and the Indian Ocean. China relation to Africa has led to the so-called debt-trap diplomacy, which damages East African economies, prompting concerns about China's intentions in Africa. East Africa has attracted foreign direct investment from China, and since then, countries in the East African Community have reported economic growth. However, the African community debt is still a prominent figure. China happens to be East Africa's biggest lender, even though statistics have shown that many East African countries cannot pay back their loans. This qualitative research approach will involve people from Tanzania as the source of findings to enlighten on one of the most controversial economic and political topics.

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List of Abbreviations

BRI – Belt and Road Initiative

AGOA – African Growth and Opportunity Act

AEC – African Economic Community

CAD – China Africa Development Fund

COMESA – Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

DRC – Democratic Republic of Congo

EAC – East African Community

FDI – Foreign Direct Investment

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

IGAD – Intergovernmental Authority on Development

GSP – Generalized System of Preferences

IMF – International Monetary Fund

NBC – National Bank of Commerce

TIFA – Trade and Investment Framework Agreement

WTO – World Trade Organization

1 Introduction

1.1 Research Problem

According to Abdilahi (2020), China has been embedded in East Africa's economy and political atmosphere for a long time. Its involvement is mainly derived from the foreign direct investments (FDI) which flow from China to Africa. These investments that flow into East African nations positively affects Africa's GDP. A study has shown that for every 1 per cent increase in the Chinese FDI in Africa, there is an increase of 0.607 in Africa's overall GDP (Doku et al., 2017). China's Foreign direct investment is mostly concentrated on Africa's infrastructure and manufacturing sector (Donou-Adonsou & Lim, 2018). Specifically, the infrastructure in the East of Africa is an important element when it comes to trade. Between the 7th and 17th centuries, the Asian continent relied mostly on East Africa's supply of raw materials (Wood, 2015). However, as time went by, East Africa infrastructure did not develop much and caused trade efficiency to deteriorate (African Development Bank, 2013). Infrastructure and manufacturing sectors are important economic drivers, so it would only make sense that China's investment in these sectors contributes to East Africa's increasing GDP. China interest in East Africa is not all in favour of the African nations. These investments come at a cost; Africa has what China needs. Africa is abundant in natural resources; a third of China's oil and over 20% of its cotton originates from Africa (Shepard, 2019). To keep obtaining these resources, China must be strategic in its relationship with East Africa. China's investments have seemed to tighten the economic and political relationship between East African governments and China. Besides being the biggest investor in East Africa, China is also the largest creditor of African countries (Stones & Chazan, 2020). Between 2008 and 2018, China alone has reportedly approved loans worth 152 billion Dollars to 49 African countries (Stones & Chazan, 2020). This is interesting in the sense that it further clarifies how much the Chinese government is interested in

Africa. However, China's involvement in East Africa has also raised suspicions regarding the real reason Africa is in China's eyes.

The western government has accused China of using the debt trap strategy to gain control over Africa (Stones & Chazan, 2020). Nevertheless, no extensive research has been done to prove these allegations. Statistics have revealed that some African economies struggle to pay back the debts owed to China (Bodomo, 2009). Because some of these countries cannot pay the loans back, they might be forced to pay in another manner, such as reducing tariffs for the Chinese imports, leasing lands for many years, or as stated in the loan contract, before borrowing the money. Apart from the alleged debt trap strategy, there are two political moves China has constructed which have led to the formation of unproven claims that China is on the verge of controlling Africa. The first one is the construction of the African Union Headquarters in Ethiopia, which China entirely funded in 2012 (BBC, 2012). The fact that China built the union has raised concerns regarding China's intentions. In early 2018, a leaked report from the headquarters in Ethiopia has revealed that China bugged the entire server of the African Union headquarters, and that data was leaked from the union to Shanghai every night for six years from 2012 to 2017 (Statt, 2018). The second political move China has formed is the construction of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). BRI was formulated to promote infrastructure to improve trading routes, mostly in developing countries, including East Africa (ABC, 2021). China personally invests in these infrastructure projects by giving out loans to those countries under the BRI program. Many Africans start to realize that the generous Chinese loans are nothing but a strategy to gain control over Africa (the Africa report, 2021).

Globalization's influence on the global economy and the financial crisis has caused significant swings in China's economic and commercial cooperation with various East African countries. This has led to a shift in the

formerly steady trade into an uneven one. The problem is that most of East Africa's exports go to China in agricultural products and natural resources. At the same time, China's imports to East African nations are dominated by garments and textiles (Abdilahe, 2020). Such trade creates an unfair price tag in East Africa's market because the demand for clothing and textile is not in balance with China's demand for natural resources (Abdilahe, 2020). In other words, China is gaining more out of East Africa compared to what East Africa is getting out of China. This was even stated by the Tanzanian Ambassador to China, Mbelwa Kairuki, when he highlighted that In Tanzania often buy ten dollars' worth of commodities from China for every dollar worth of items we sell to the country (Lema & Ngwenya, 2020).

East Africa's strategic position has got the eyes of many developed countries. In particular, Tanzania and Kenya are among the largest and fastest-growing economies in East Africa, and they also serve as entry points for nations into the Indian Ocean trade network (BUYS, 2018). The port of Dar es Salaam, which is part of the Central Corridor, serves as a backbone for Rwandans, Burundians, and eastern Congolese traders (DRC), allowing entry to the Indian Ocean trading routes (SID, 2015). All of this is advantageous to Tanzania, which services the majority of East Africa through its Dar Es Salaam port. However, there is a problem within the central corridor itself, and to understand the problem, it is vital to understand what the central corridor is. The Central Corridor connects the Port of Dar es Salaam to Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, the eastern section of the Democratic Republic of the Congo through roads, rail, and rivers (GICA, 2017). The corridor is a vital component of East and Eastern Central Africa's regional transportation system, carrying international trade for most EAC (GICA, 2017). The problem with the central corridor is that the infrastructure of all the nations that depend on it is poor. A solid and stable economy relies on infrastructure, which is essential to economic growth. Improved transportation infrastructure cuts the distance between areas and connects national markets and other economies at

reasonable costs (Wana, 2015). The lack of adequate investment and the construction of proper infrastructure would cause regional integration to be delayed. Still, it will also harm the overall economic growth of these EAC countries. So, the port in Dar es salaam, and the coastal position of Tanzania, in general, is crucial to the EAC, and it is the gateway to the Indian ocean which stretches to Myanmar; a gateway to Asia and essential to China's exports to Africa (Anthony, 2013). To achieve more significant strategic and economic objectives, China proposed building ports and supporting inland infrastructure on the East coast of Africa (Anthony, 2013). If China manages to control the port in Tanzania, it will control the entire trading network in EAC and most of the Indian Ocean.

1.2 Purpose of the Research

This study aims to investigate the influence of China in East African development, with a particular emphasis on Tanzania. China interest in East Africa is not all in favour of the EAC nations. China's Proposal to build and improve infrastructure in East Africa comes at a cost. East Africa has what China needs, natural resources. The western government has accused China of using the debt trap strategy to control Africa (Stones & Chazan, 2020). Nevertheless, no extensive research has been done to prove these allegations. Statistics have revealed that some African economies struggle to pay back the debts owed to China (Bodomo, 2009). As long as Infrastructure investments backed by Chinese loans do not result in significant economic benefits that increase the debt payment capabilities of the East African countries, then these countries will suffer from constant financial issues. This research will also lead to a better understanding and expose the nature of the debt trap. The critical information in this research is to find out whether China is providing loans for infrastructure projects in Tanzania with the aim of achieving geopolitical leverage and natural resources via the use of debt. Not to say that China should not obtain any resources from Tanzania, but the concern is in the methods deployed by the Chinese government to do so. This

research is unique since the researcher looks at the topic from Tanzania's point of view; credible sources within Tanzania will participate in making this study a distinctive groundwork.

1.3 Objectives of this Research

This study aims to get an overview of the Tanzanian relation with China, specifically in its debt history with the Chinese government. Analyzing Tanzania's economic deals with China in various sectors of the Tanzanian economy and the involvement of loans in those deals. Most importantly is to determine how has China benefited from the agreements and deals made with the Tanzanian government. These benefits could be geopolitical, as well as the protection of economic and strategic values. Given the history of the economic relation between East Africa and China, it is interesting to see how their relationship has progressed throughout the years. If their economic relation has deteriorated, identifying what has caused the downfall would provide a clearer image of China's interests in East Africa. To begin qualitative research, the researcher needs to have a set of concrete questions that set the case study's base. Poorly designed or built research questions, on the other hand, are likely to cause issues that influence the whole research process (Agee, 2009). This research will be guided by one main research question and two sub-questions.

- Main research question:
 - What are China's motivations for making Foreign Direct Investment, and how has this benefited Tanzania?
- Sub questions:
 - How do the people and the government feel about China's involvement in Tanzania's economic development?
 - To what extent has China's foreign direct investment benefited Tanzania?

1.4 Thesis structure

The structure of this thesis starts with a literature review in the second chapter. The literature review will consist of the main sections of vital economic elements necessary to define and understand their core principles and roles in the economic world. Sub-sections will extensively research the main sections. The first section of the literature review overviews "the general economic system of East Africa" and how its integrated within its community. Following the economic system of East Africa, the research will start off the next main section to focus the review on "the trade and financial structure of Tanzania". This section will be narrowed down to two sub-sections that look deeper into Tanzania's economic growth factors and explore how financial growth is linked to economic development. It is also crucial to understand how economic and monetary incentives are often used to attract foreign direct investment from other economies and why an economy would consider attracting FDI. The third main section of the literature review will revolve around "the economic development by China in East Africa",; emphasizing their growth and development history. Three sub-sections will follow that examines China's various trade and infrastructure agreements with Tanzania, Kenya, and Ethiopia. The last main section will focus exclusively on "the debt trap phenomenon" and how it works in the economy. The researcher will research why any economy would consider deploying a debt trap and discuss its ethicality. The researcher is essentially narrowing the literature review down from looking at the general economies of the EAC countries and how they interact with each other to reviewing their bilateral or multilateral trade agreements and FDI interaction between China and some of the countries in East Africa, Including Tanzania. Within that information, it will reveal and unfold the intentions of both countries, especially any loans given to Tanzania by the Chinese government. China is giving loans to Tanzania, but it also invests in the East African economy which

raises and further clarifies the topic: Is it an economic development or a debt trap situation for Tanzania?

The third chapter of this research study will consist of the research methodology used to study the case. Before going into the research, it's vital to understand and define the different types of methods that could be used in this research and provide the reasoning behind the chosen method which is the qualitative approach and why it suits this specific research. The researcher will also emphasize the chosen qualitative research method, which is conducting interviews and how those interviews will be conducted. Interviews involve the use of the questions, which makes it very important to discuss the type of questions used to ask the interviewee and why those questions are particularly important to the research topic. A general background information of the interviewees will be provided to strengthen and illuminate the reliability of the answers and data retrieved from the interviewees.

The fourth chapter consists of analyzing the data retrieved from the interviewee and putting them into the discussion. The researcher will further delve into the data and emphasize the critical points suggested by the interviewees. The researcher will briefly discuss the research constraints associated with this area of study and discuss the ramifications of the findings.

2 Literature Review

2.1 The economic system of East Africa

The GDP of East Africa has been steadily growing over the years. In 2018, it significantly improved by approximately 5.7 percent, which was slightly less compared to an impressive growth of 5.9 in 2017 (Kehinde et al., 2019). In 2019, the economic growth was estimated at 5.9 percent and 6.1. Percent in

2020. Among the countries with the uppermost economic growth included Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti (Kehinde et al., 2019). Among the sectors that has had a huge impact on the region's economic growth was the service sector, especially in Kenya and Tanzania, followed by the agricultural sector. On the demand side, consumption has been the underlying growth driver across East Africa. The region has continued facing more risks that could impact the economic growth and prospects for development (McIntyre, 2005). There are other risks that are related to agricultural vulnerability, increased reliance on the primary commodity exports and depending more on the oil-importing countries, leading to an increasing oil price (Diao, Kweka, & McMillan, 2018). Another issue that has influenced the economic growth in East Africa can be translated to the increase in the external indebtedness.

The fiscal growth in East Africa has also remained significantly low for a long period and this can be attributed to the increase in trade deficits. Current deficits and debt patterns are changing and mostly since all East African countries heavily hinge on primary produce for exports, reducing global prices, and bad economic governance has negatively influenced the terms of trade (Geda & Seid, 2015). Nonetheless, the region has also achieved high growth, and this is through investments and domestic savings. In 2018, the economic growth of East Africa has still not been connected to the substantial poverty and inequality reduction in the country. The region has still been crippled by unemployment, poverty, and inequality, especially in Rwanda and Burundi (Yussuf, 2021). The countries in East Africa are members of significant regional economic groups such as Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the EAC. These trade unions are projected to help achieve a monetary union by 2025 but the progress is substantial to the macro-environmental growth (Geda & Kebret, 2008).

Regardless of regional integration, the intraregional trade in East Africa has remained substantially low, accounting for at least 8.3 percent of aggregate trade in 2018 (Kehinde et al., 2019). Despite the changes in the economic revolution in East Africa, the region has also remained susceptible to asymmetric shocks and illustrating signs of only minimal convergence among key macro-economic variables that are used to account for the EAC readiness to improve the monetary union. The EAC countries lack the necessary readiness for monetary union and there is necessity to auxiliary and synchronize their monetary strategies (Kehinde et al., 2019). Further, it is important to harmonize the monetary policies and develop intraregional trade before selecting a common currency. There are several trade drivers and prospects for regional incorporation in East Africa. These include intact trade potential, underexploited cross-border transport means between interior and seaside member countries.

In East African region, there are several challenges of regional integration, and they range from a lack of trade complementarity, existence of a low competitive position of the nations to sustain the supply of products in the region, the inability of institutional capacity that weakens the advancement to regional assimilation, and a failure to address rising political issues (Kehinde et al., 2019). In East Africa, an informal cross-border trade exists that accounts for 50 percent of economic growth in the region (Kehinde et al., 2019). Informal cross-border trade is a main source of livelihood for most people in the region, but there are several factors that contribute to the informal cross border trade. For instance, high tariff and non-tariff barriers, excessive regulation, inadequate infrastructure, and distortion in the official market sectors affect regional integration and in the long run, these issues have affected the development of cross-border trade. Despite huge drivers of change in the region's economic growth, sustainability is affected by the absence of complementarity in trading, a low competitive position of the

nations to supply adequate products, low productivity, and poor incentives towards regional integration.

In most East African countries, the real GDP growth is primarily motivated by the development of services, followed by industry, primarily where the contribution of different sectors produces variant impacts to the region's economy (Kusimba, 2009). Among the leading countries in the region who have a record growth include Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya, and Tanzania. On the demand side, the leading driver of economic development in East Africa is consumption, followed by investments (Kusimba, 2009). However, the economic growth is projected to continue growing and mostly due to favorable weather conditions in the region, relationship with countries such as China who are undertaking infrastructure projects, and continued macroeconomic efficiency (Kusimba, 2009). For instance, in Rwanda, there is a "made in Rwanda" operation that is expected to improve the consumption of locally made products and enhance the integration and consolidation of the domestic activities of the private sector. In Ethiopia, the normalization process of economic relations with other countries in East Africa is expected to increase the opportunity for prospects for positive growth.

2.2 The trade and financial structure of Tanzania

The Tanzanian economy is increasingly agrarian. The main economic activity that boosts trade in the country is agricultural production that is enhanced by the government's commitment to central planning and socialist development (Viñals, 2010). Since 1979, Tanzania has been experiencing declining terms of trade and sluggishness that has been attributed to high international oil prices and the low growth of the local economy. These are among the issues that have caused rapid inflation and an introduction of an unofficial market that comprise of smuggling products in international markets to avoid price controls and taxes (Kapaya, 2020). Despite the efforts to reduce imports to the most acceptable level, trade deficit continues

increasing in Tanzania and the balance of payment issue has become acute from increased suspension of development projects. Such a period of economic crisis in the country is what prompted the Tanzanian government to solicit a loan from the international monetary fund (IMF) in 1986 (Kapaya, 2020). As of 2000s, the Tanzanian government continued implementing measures to develop a mixed economy and reduce the impact of untaxed and unofficial markets.

Tanzania experienced a duration of liberalization and reforms in its trade system in 1986 to 1995. The government established policies that advocated for exchange rate liberalization and the market systems along with changing the local prices to instigate reforms in the financial sector (Kapaya, 2020). The country adopted the World Bank and international monetary fund economic recovery programs. The direction of the country was inclined towards moving the economy from direct-controlled monetary policy and to achieve a market-driven monetary policy (Kapaya, 2020). There were several consequential developments that ranged from the adoption of a monetary targeting reign in 1993, the liberalization of the banking sector and issuance of government securities in the 1990s. The last period in Tanzania's economic and trade development can be linked to have started in 1996 to 2017. During this period, the main focus of the Tanzanian government was integrating structural reforms and macroeconomic changes. Some of the policies that were introduced included the privatization and reform of national parastatals, liberalization of the financial sector, and development of market-induced regulation framework, reforming trade, fiscal consolidation, and regional integration (Marobhe, 2019). This period was also followed by declining inflation, a rise in export growth, and the creation of a competitive banking system. The aim of the government was to ensure that it has increased the credits provided to the most productive sectors of the national economy (Marobhe, 2019).

Exporting cash crops is the main source of foreign exchange for Tanzania. Coffee and cotton are among the most important exports that help the country to increase its corresponding competitive advantage in international markets (Britannica, 2020). The country's exports have allowed the government to acquire at least two-thirds of the earnings to improve the GDP. This is by far among the most lucrative countries in East Africa (Kapaya, 2020). There are other exports such as agricultural products and materials, and textiles that also increase the trade outlook of Tanzania. The key imports for Tanzania include transportation equipment, machinery, chemical and petroleum products, and most of the country's imported products are received from countries such as South Africa, UAE, India, China, and Switzerland. Between 2000 and 2014, the economy of Tanzania grew, and this was due to the increasing labor productivity and the growth of the manufacturing sector by about 8 percent, which has higher compared to other periods (Diao et al., 2018).

In the country, all private banks were nationalized between 1967 and 1992. There have been provisions to open private banks, including international banks branches. The state-run Bank of Tanzania is positioned as the central bank in the country, taking initiative to manage the finances and issues currency in the country. The banking sector in Tanzania was liberalized in 1999, and presently, it is increasingly competitive. Local state-owned banks have become privatized, despite that the government maintains low shares in banks such as the National Bank of Commerce (NBC). Currently, there are about 40 local and international commercial banks that have been registered with the central bank of Tanzania. These international banks include Citibank, Barclays Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, and the Stanbic Bank. The influx of banks in the country's financial sector has increased the availability of financial services and has also enhanced the quality of existing services. In Tanzania, the government makes effort to ensure that the banking sector has remained sound and stable, capitalized and liquid.

Interest rates in the country vary from 17.2 percent for large and corporate loans, 18 percent for personal loans, and the deposit rates are around 2.8 percent. Nonetheless, higher interest rates are evidenced in customer credit fraud, and this is why the Tanzanian bankers association has initiated information sharing to develop a national credit reference bureau. To support the national economy, it has been evidenced that commercial banks invest more money in the country's treasury bills compared to any other sector. In Tanzania, the financial sector has undergone a period of substantial structural changes since year 2003. With the expansion of assets in the financial sector, this has allowed a growth in private credit and has allowed the country to increase its financial intermediation. However, despite the country having a seemingly strong financial system, the banking system has also remained inefficient, small, and the access to finance is very low. For instance, it is only one in every six Tanzania residents with a complete access to financial services.

The profitability in the financial sector is very low and the financial institutions lack the capacity to compete effectively with larger banks which have the resources and capacity to raise funds at very low costs. From the report by Leung and Zhou (2014), capital market development is still in its incumbent stages in Tanzania, and it is important for increasing access to funding and providing suitable placements for institutional investors. The security market in Tanzania stands to benefit from a closer integration of the EAC which makes it possible to share the market infrastructure and raise the economies of scale. In Tanzania, there also lacks credible credit information system which leads to poor creditor rights and the consequence of this is a restricted credit access that leads to a higher cost of credit (Sacerdoti, 2005). In the country, the procedures being used in creating security interests are comparatively less reliable compared other systems in East Africa (Sacerdoti, 2005). The enforcement of claims is unpredictable, lengthy, and is prone to legal complications.

2.2.1 Economic growth in Tanzania

After Tanzania acquired its independence in 1961, the country made a decision to align its economy following the socialist Ujamaa economy that was similar to the economic model adopted by the Chinese. According to Zoega (2013), in 1970s, China also introduced market-oriented policies that were followed by Tanzania in 1986. These policies were effective in contributing to increased competition and importation of international technologies. The influence of the public sector in the economy was minimized, and with the introduction of incentive schemes, there were also laws and regulations that were important to foster entrepreneurial activities in the country (Group, 2019). Prior to the market-oriented economic reforms in Tanzania, the country experienced poor economic performance, shortage of products and an inflationary economy (Nord et al., 2009).

Between 1986 and 1995, the country encountered weak macro environment stability and low economic growth (Robinson et al., 2011). After the liberalization of trade in 1996, this allowed Tanzania to experience higher economic growth, boost in productivity, expansion of manufacturing, condensed inflation, and strong exports growth (Marobhe, 2019). From the figures developed by Masenya et al. (2018) regarding economic growth of Tanzania between 2007 and 2016, there was a 7 percent growth that allowed Tanzania to be classified as the third fastest growing economy in Africa after Ethiopia and Ivory Coast. The economic reforms that took place in Tanzania allowed the country to have a shift towards a market-based economy, and this may have resulted in robust economic growth (Marobhe & Hembe, 2019).

2.2.2 Financial growth and economic development

According to the research by Schumpeter (1911), a robust financial system has the capacity to allocate resources, facilitating economic growth. The relationship between economic growth and financial development has been

widely assessed (Shahbaz et al., 2018). Research by Nazir et al. (2020) offer positive evidence implying that positive causality support the idea of financial growth and it aligns an economy towards the same direction. For an economy to be self-sustaining and improve the stature of the country, using less repressive and restrictive policies can foster deposits and credits along with an efficient financial mobilization and allocation. In a liberalized economy, how banks are supervised and regulated matters (Demetriades & Rousseau, 2016). Compared to the repressive policies that leads to keeping the interest rates low by imposing interest rate ceilings, liberalization policies are effective channeling mechanisms that can help to facilitate financial growth and economic development. Such liberalization policies include opening the entry of the banking sector, liberalizing interest rates, abolishing allocation of direct credit, denationalization of local banks and strengthening the regulations governing the banking industry (Fowowe, 2008).

According to the research by Apanisile and Osinubi (2019), monetary policies, credit and expectations are key issues that are important in stabilizing prices and outputs for a positive economic growth. From another study by Taivan and Nene (2016) in South Africa development community, local credits are important for investments. The financial growth help to boost economic development in different countries such as South Africa, Namibia, and Mauritius. Another study by Demetriades and Luintel (1996) proposed that the controls or policies in the banking sector are important in defining the financial structure of a country. For instance, lending rate ceilings have negative influence on the financial development in the country and this has effects on the economic growth.

According to the liberalization theory, when interest rates ceilings are used, they result from financial repression, and they discourage savings and curtail investments, and this has consequential negative effects on economic growth (Fowowe, 2008). Repression of the financial system is presumed as a

fruit of state control and ownership, and especially in the banking system. A research by La Porta et al. (2002) argued that government ownership of banks is more in economies that have low economic development, inefficient interventionist governments, and inadequate protection of property rights.

2.3 Economic Development by China in East Africa

With the accumulation of capital and material in China, this has compelled the Chinese government to seek solutions to invest overseas. In East African region, trade and investment barriers prevent economic integration. Issues such as a growing youth population, rapid population growth, and low living standards affect the efforts taken by countries in the region to reduce poverty. Economic growth is also affected by under-developed infrastructure, unreliable supply of electricity, inadequate agricultural productivity, inferior market competitiveness, and poor governance (Alden, & Yixiao, 2018). China's policy in East Africa is not primarily aimed at protecting the security and economic interests of the Chinese. The Chinese has also focused on ensuring that it has continuously provided development and stability to benefit the local East African communities (Leung & Zhou, 2014).

Influenced by globalization, the cooperative and friendly relations between East African countries and China have developed comprehensively and rapidly. China and East Africa has close development and cooperative relations with East Africa as a result of the mutual needs of the two sides (Abdilahe, 2020). China values its trade and economic relations with Africa as a whole. East Africa has attracted the attention of the Chinese government is the 17th century history that China shares with the Somalia coast (Mukwaya & Mold, 2018). China-Africa largest project Tanzania-Zambia railway covers most parts of Tanzania and this has also enhanced connectivity in East Africa, a matter that is of keen interest to the Chinese due to access of the interior. Since the 1990s, China has attempted to forge cooperative relations with East

African countries and this has facilitated the growth of the region (Tiboris, 2019).

China has continued establishing its strategic and diplomatic relations with East African countries and alternatively, it has also signed technological, economic, and cultural cooperation agreements with East African countries (Alden, & Yixiao, 2018). The economic development that China undertake in East African has been reflected through different aspects. These include offering financial assistance. Tanzania and Kenya are among the key beneficiaries of financial assistance from China. China offers East African countries with concessional loans, interest-free loans, unpaid assistance, and debt relief (Leung & Zhou, 2014). According to statistics collected by foreign agencies of the ministry of commerce, between 2008 and 2018, the economic aid that China has provided East Africa was estimated at 28 billion yuan. These funds go into different projects such as improving the infrastructure, well drilling, Road, port and highway construction, and technical construction.

Trade between China and East Africa has also improved from the late 1990s. China's trade with East Africa is between seven countries, ranging from Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Uganda, and Djibouti. From the relations these countries have with China, there has been an encouragement of the Chinese government and companies to establish state-owned companies and private enterprises that help with establishing factors and key businesses (Maliszewska & Van Der Mensbrugge, 2019). China has sought to secure its investments in East Africa by coming up with investment protection agreements (Geda & Seid, 2015). With its involvement in the local economies of East African countries, China has increased its contracting value and turnover in the region. The political situation in most countries in East Africa is stable, allowing for economic growth and this is why China has become interested in most countries (Tiboris, 2019).

East African countries are in need of China's support to navigate national development and international struggles (Abdilahe, 2020). As a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, African countries hope that China can present their issues such as democracy and human rights. The relationship between China and the East African countries is thus based on the fact that China has the capacity to promote the establishment of a new international political and economic order (Odgaard, 2018). China has the capacity to offer the East African countries more assistance in international affairs and this is why China requires these countries to actively support them (Maliszewska & Van Der Mensbrugge, 2019). Over the different years that the relationship between China and East African countries has been developed, there has been an economic going global initiative that encourage Chinese private and public enterprises to invest in factories overseas, including East Africa.

2.3.1 Belt and Road Initiative in Tanzania

The Communist Party of China officially accepted the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a means of "achieving shared development through debate and cooperation" during the 19th National Party Congress in 2017. More than 68 nations are included in the BRI's scope, with massive investments in a wide range of infrastructure projects including transportation, communications, and energy. As a global economic tool, the BRI has been positioned as a tool to serve foreign policy, economic stability, and security objectives for the Chinese government (Breuer, 2017). Nonetheless, there has been questions related to sustainability of the BRI strategy and how the Chinese government aims to position itself on the sustainability of the debt.

Africa's has been integrated into the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is positioned as a global infrastructure development project among other development aspects introduced by China in 2013. The BRI, proposed by Xi Jinping in 2013, consists of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and the Silk Road Economic Belt, which seek to construct infrastructure and commercial

networks that link Asia, Africa, and Europe and expand beyond the traditional routes utilized in the Silk Road (Breuer, 2017). Xi understood the significance of the relationship that China had with Tanzania over decades, noting that Tanzania was among the leading African countries that China is willing to strengthen political trust. The BRI, as a development strategy adopted by the Chinese government has been a strategy to develop infrastructure in different international organizations and countries in Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, and Africa (Githaiga et al., 2019). The belt covers the rail and road transport routes and the sea routes are related to the existing 21-century maritime silk road (Carmody, Taylor & Zajontz, 2021).

Two thousand years ago, China opened a network of trade routes. Both maritime and land routes were intended to be facilitators of trade. After the introduction of the Silk Road economic belt and the 21st century maritime Silk Road, the two were merged to form the belt and the road initiative. Using the BRI in international countries, China aims at helping the involved regions attain economic prosperity and development, speed up regional integration, and condense the development gap, allowing each country to have an added advantage in economic integration, connectivity, financial integration, and social bond between the people (Carmody, 2020). Since the BRI was introduced in Tanzania, there has been profound development and growth in experience, expertise, and industrial discipline. Through this BRI initiative, Tanzania has also managed to scale up its cooperation by providing the country with regional development connectivity, basic infrastructure in terms of roads and railway, and industrialization (Githaiga et al., 2019).

After assuming office, the former president of Tanzania, Magufuli ensured industrialization has become a fundamental aspect in national development and a focus of his governance to achieve the corresponding 2025 vision to transform the country to be middle-income country. At the core of BRI in Africa, there is a contingent integration of East Africa into the regional

infrastructure corridor and networks (Mayer and Zhang, 2020). In other parts of Africa, there has been large scale development in Eritrea and Djibouti that are part of the BRI flagship projects, and that are intended to boost the economic growth in the region to increase prosperity. However, despite the effectiveness that the BRI initiative has introduced in East Africa, it has also resulted in an increase in controversies over the relationship between the countries in East Africa and the debt owed to China (Chellaney, 2017).

When implementing the BRI initiative in Tanzania, the aim of the Chinese government was to facilitate connectivity. This is a key priority area and among the basis for the implementation was that China and Tanzania respect the sovereignty of each other and address the economic stability concerns (Carmody, 2020). The BRI initiative is expected to improve connectivity of Tanzania's infrastructure and the technical standard system to push forward the construction of international passages. When facilitating the BRI in East Africa, there was a huge task related to investment and trade cooperation. Since it was initiated in 2013, the Belt and Road initiative has been growing steadily and it has also managed to achieve a high expected outcome and progress. According to the research by De Soyres et al. (2019), the Belt and Road initiative is significantly different from other development programs in the context of ensuring that globalization has been achieved and with minimal control of the United States.

The key reason Tanzania was invited and endorsed to participate in the Belt and Road initiative was mostly because of the special traditional connection it has built with China over the course of history (Group, 2019). China has thus become the largest trade partner for Tanzania and a major source for the country's FDI. After the Belt and Road initiative started in Tanzania, there has been a number of Chinese state-owned and private companies that has strong technical, capital, and management capacity that have taken part in the country's industrialization process. The outcomes of

China-Tanzania cooperation can be evidenced in various sectors of the national economic development and aspects of people's livelihood in Tanzania. To show the influence that China has on Tanzania, the Nyerere Bridge was among the infrastructure projects built by the Chinese private and state-owned companies. Other projects under the Belt and Road initiative include the natural gas pipeline that was also laid down by a Chinese company, allowing Tanzania to achieve the vision of generating electricity using natural and national resources. Besides, it has been projected that there are more Chinese projects to be initiated in the coming months, including building a large ceramic factory in East Africa with \$80 million in Chinese investments (Mutethya, 2017).

China-Tanzania relationship and cooperation capacity has borne better fruits as it has paved way for a solid foundation for bilateral cooperation under the Belt and Road initiative (Hurley, Morris & Portelance, 2019). The intensively complementary growth and development strategies create an internal impetus that allow for Tanzania to support the Belt and Road initiative. From the promises made by the former president Magufuli during the presidential campaign, Tanzania's second five-year development plan along with measures by the government over the past year, the government's motive is to forge better relations with China and change the stature of the country to become sustainable and turn into a middle-income country by augmenting economic progress, infrastructure improvement, expanding trade cooperation with foreign countries, endorsing industrialization, and invigorating the farming industry (De Soyres et al., 2019). The hereby mentioned strategies were well-matched with the concept of the Belt and Road initiative. To better grow the economy, there are certain actions that the Tanzanian government must undertake. For instance, the country needs to address the weaknesses in the form of lacking adequate capital, technology, and skilled personnel (Hurley et al., 2018). China has already acquired a national and comparative advantage in areas such as

economic development, capital, and skilled labor. Through the Belt and Road initiative, China is willing to help Tanzania without making any reservations. China's development model and path along with the experience have a core reference to Tanzania and in the process of integrating national development through Belt and Road initiative, China will also share these experiences with Tanzania and help the country in the process of achieving prosperity and strength (Gu & Qiu, 2019).

2.3.2 Multilateral Trade System in Kenya

There exists no current global issue as complex and involving competing interests and interpretations such as that concerning internationalization and a globalization of trade and investment. Kenya is a developing country, and this makes the economic recovery strategy to focus on poverty reduction by boosting trade and investment. The Kenyan government has developed a thrust to create a conducive environment to promote Kenyan products in the international market. Through multilateral trade agreements, the Kenyan government seeks to ensure there is a relatively easier access to international markets for Kenyan products and endorse foreign direct investment (Chemingui, Bchir & Karingi, 2008). Kenyan exports enjoy a preferential access to international markets under several special access and tax reduction programs.

The intra-regional trade has been on rise as Kenya continues enjoying access to regional markets through its membership in the East African Community that encompass Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya as well as its membership in COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa). The exports and imports in Kenya thus benefit from preferential tariff rates within the member states (Kamau, 2004). The E.U. under the ACP agreement has been found to be the leading trading partner for Kenya. Following the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), Kenya has also qualified for duty free access to the U.S. market. (Privacy Shield Network, 2020). The Kenyan

products that mainly benefit from these preferences are handicrafts, textiles, and apparels. Under the GSP (Generalized System of Preferences), several Kenyan manufactured products are offered preferential duty treatment in international markets such as Canada, the USA, Switzerland, Australia, Norway, and New Zealand among other European countries (Geda & Seid, 2015).

Through WTO (World Trade Organization), Kenya has directly engaged in the multilateral trading system. The main objective is to achieve market access and support the strengthening role of the country's trade in the international market (Rwigema, 2020). While apprehending the role played by WTO in promoting a rules-based and predictable trading environment through a removal of trade barriers, the official position assumed by the Kenyan government is that Kenya will continue participating in negotiations under WTO and this helps to warrant that Kenyan trading issues and interests are considered and continually improve the market access for Kenyan products (Chemingui, Bchir & Karingi, 2008). The country is also committed to implement its obligations under WTO agreements and it is also in the process of introducing trade-related regulations in conformity with WTO regulations. There has been a notable progress towards implementing obligations and this has sparingly allowed the country to amend the intellectual property legislation system as a way of aligning the market requirements in the international market environment.

With the help of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), Kenya will continue enjoying a duty-free access to the United States market until 2025. The World Trade Organization is the underlying international organization that deals with the implementation of international rules of trade between countries (Rwigema, 2020). As a member of the World Trade Organization since 1995, Kenya hosted the 10th Ministerial Conference in 2015. After signing on to the African Free Commerce Area (AFCFTA) in order

to ease trade throughout the continent, Kenya has now signed on to the African Economic Community (AEC). Kenya is also a member of the East Africa Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), and being a member of COMESA; this has allowed the country to be in position with trade and investment opportunities and agenda introduced by the U.S. government.

China and Kenya have signed several bilateral economic and trade agreements, including the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the China and Kenya (Onjala, 2008). This is agreement allows China to export rice, agricultural and industrial tools, electric appliances, and other everyday use items to Kenya. On the other hand, Kenya exports coffee, tea, and leather to China. Another agreement is the Agreement on Trade between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Kenya. This is a general bilateral trade agreement between the two economies. Up to 2008, there has been a total of 12 bilateral agreements between the two nations, which touches on a vast trade and cooperation agreement from the economy and technology to energy and tourism (Onjala, 2008).

2.3.3 Bilateral Trade Agreements with Ethiopia

Ethiopia and China have maintained diplomatic ties for almost three decades now. There has been a long-standing relationship between the two nations that stretches back to the first century B.C. (Asia Australasia and the Middle East General Directorate Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2006). Ethiopia and China have been at the forefront of the anti-colonial movement for the last two centuries. Ethiopia, Africa's second-largest nation by population, is considered a significant marketplace for China. Key tools for economic cooperation between the two nations have been put in place. Some of these agreements included collaboration in the areas of agriculture and food security; agricultural exports and imports; commerce; investment promotion; and education, cultural exchanges, and tourism (Asia Australasia and the

Middle East General Directorate Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2006). Compared to other countries in the area, Ethiopia has enjoyed the greatest and closest bilateral relations with China during the last ten years. By 2015, China's annual bilateral trade with Ethiopia reached 3 billion USD (Venkataraman & Gofie, 2015).

Many challenges have arisen as a result of China-Ethiopia trade's rapid expansion. When compared to Ethiopia, the second biggest economy in the world that relies heavily on agricultural exports, China is significantly more advanced in terms of its manufacturing and industrial sectors (Venkataraman & Gofie, 2015). One of the problems is that even though the trade between the two economies has increased, China is providing low-cost manufactured products and tools such as machineries in exchange for accessing to Ethiopia's vast market and resources. Ironically, most of these exported machineries and manufacture tools are used by Chinese owned companies in Ethiopia (Venkataraman & Gofie, 2015). This imbalance of trade between the two countries creates a trade deficit for Ethiopia and thus reducing the incomes of domestic workers.

In 1951, Ethiopia signed a Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations with the United States. This agreement was updated in 1994. However, besides African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), Ethiopia has no other bilateral trade agreements with the United States. AGOA was approved for Ethiopia in 2015 and it has been extended until 2025. Ethiopia is however a signatory to several trade agreements. These include Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) and African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). The aim of Ethiopia is to ensure that it has benefited from market access and lower tariffs for the products it imports and exports to other countries in Africa (Tebekew, 2014).

Ethiopia is the fourth largest economy in the sub-Saharan Africa and it has entered into bilateral trade agreements with Kenya. The business community in Kenya have applauded the efforts made by Ethiopia in enhance the relationship towards realizing trade objectives as stipulated by the Special Status Agreement (SSA) for both countries (Zeray, & Gachen, 2014). Through bilateral trade agreements between Ethiopia and Kenya, there has been an increase of trade from 2.2. Billion Kshs in 2004 to 7.4 billion in 2014 (Tebekew, 2014). This has been mandated by the interests that the governments in the two countries have towards working closely with each other, in an attempt to improve the commercial and economic ties. Kenya and Ethiopia are among the countries in Africa with impressive growth rates and in 2015, while the income status in Kenya grew at 5.6 percent, in Ethiopia, it grew by 11 percent (Tebekew, 2014).

The introduction of AFCFTA has helped to bridge the trade gap in East Africa. There are only five countries in eastern Africa that have taken a mandate to ensure the effectiveness of the AFCTFTA by removing regional block of contiguous countries. From 1st January 2021, through this bilateral trade agreement, countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Uganda will start reducing their tariffs. Ethiopia in this case will oversee a linear reduction on 90 percent of tariffs, resulting in an elimination of tariffs on intra-regional imports over a period of five years (Tebekew, 2014). One of the main advantages of Ethiopia being a member of AFCFTA is to have the capacity to unblock the trade barriers between Ethiopia and Kenya. However, despite that the economic relations between Kenya and Ethiopia has remained for a long time, the bilateral trade between the two countries (Venkataraman & Gofie, 2015). To illustrate this, the bilateral trade between Ethiopia and Kenya never reached \$70 million in 2019. This accounted for 0.5 percent of total exports in Ethiopia and 0.09 percent of Kenyan exports.

The reason behind neglected trade and issues in the bilateral agreements are attributed to the prevailing low per capita incomes. Ethiopia retains a protectionist policy, with high tariffs in some sectors. The EAC members such as Kenya has imposed high common tariff on Ethiopian imports regardless the fact that they are all members of COMESA. Ethiopia has also failed to accede to COMESA terms on free trade area and this leads to increase in tariffs on bilateral trade. However, it is professed that AFCFTA implementation will create a path for a steady dismantling of impediments and issues with cross-border trade. Together with removal of non-tariff barriers, Ethiopia has taken steps towards removing the increasing tariffs and reducing the time it takes for exports to pass through customs.

2.4 The Debt Trap Phenomenon

There has been some talk about China engaging in "debt-trap diplomacy," the idea that the country is actively working to obtain a strategic advantage or asset by entangling other nations in debt. The term debt trap first emerged as a meme in 2017 by a group of researchers in India. In 1976, scientist Richard Dawkins created the term meme in his book *The Selfish Gene* (Castaño, 2013). He defined as "the unit of cultural transmission"; meaning a concept perceived by someone spreading from one person to the next within a society in order to impart an idea, concept, or occurrence.

China supposedly uses the "debt trap diplomacy" and this continue to create consternation (Chellaney, 2017). Progressing even to the white house, it has been instrumented politically that Chinese investments in African infrastructure has different motives and this is why they need to be discredited (Nyabiage, 2019). The Chinese debt trap that signifies an intentional attempt by the Chinese government to ensnare the African continent in debt and it needs to be refuted (Carmody, 2020). The sustainability of debt and quantity of debt by some African states contracted with the Chinese-built infrastructure has become of key concern and this is

similar to the economic feasibility and the long-term advantages of the BRI projects (Singh, 2020). China has become interested in supporting the economies of the East African countries as a way of making sure that it has gained control over resources after the said countries have failed to meet their debt obligations (Johnston, 2019).

According to Johnston (2016), the influx of the Chinese loans in East African communities has generated huge burdens and debt implications and the underlying feeling is that unless the financial investments financed by the economic gains increase the debt servicing capacity for the East African governments, the credit implications of such lending has increased the debt burdens and contribute to weaker external positions (Johnston, 2019). China has been accused of luring the developing and also the underdeveloped countries to borrow money to improve their infrastructure projects and later taking control if they fail to pay off these loans in time. The Chinese government has been found to be giving loans and debts to sustain the ambitious BRI program, which would pave way for the global leadership intention that China has for its future (Were, 2018).

The theory of debt-trap diplomacy is that the creditor has the option and capacity to extend excessive credit to another country with the intention of acquiring political concessions or economic gains. Manufacturing is the backbone of the global economy, and this is why China has vested much interests in promoting trade in manufactured products and industrial development (Singh, 2020). This is why the BRI has become the backbone of the country's global integration strategy on the basis of transport, logistics, transport, and communication links across Africa. The debt strategy by China is not in favor for African countries accepting the loans in the middle and long term. This is because these loans will allow China to acquire massive profits. When considering the fact that repaying the debt may be challenging for

most countries such as Kenya with its growing economy, China will most probably have a lot of influence on the countries with loans (Tarrósy, 2019).

Few examples of why some economist and people in general hold on to China's debt trap diplomacy. Hambantota, a port city in Sri Lanka. According to an article by Rithmire (2021), Beijing encouraged Sri Lanka to borrow money from a Chinese bank to finance the port project, which showed no to little economic viability to Sri Lanka. Beijing sought the port as collateral, and when Sri Lankan government could not pay back the loan, they were forced to hand up ownership of the port to a Chinese company as collateral. A recent similar occurrence happened in Uganda, a country in the EAC. An agreement between Uganda and China was signed as part of BRI program to expand Entebbe International Airport (Ojambo, 2021). Similar to the port in Sri Lanka, the airport had a collateral that would allow China to grab the Airport if the Ugandan government could not pay back the loan. Uganda agreed to a 200 million USD from the BRI program to finance the airport construction. However, this case is still ongoing, and China has not taken the airport so far (Ojambo, 2021).

A vital fact to know is that about 45% of all the projects financed by the BRI program, regardless of the country invested in, comes in the form of loans and not monetary grants (He, 2020). The BRI projects are financed by loans from two main Chinese banks, Exim bank of China and China Development Bank (He, 2020). Banks always demand for collateral when lending out for whatever purpose. The Chinese government could negotiate and eliminate loans that were not paid back and easily label them as grants. However, this might cause problems for China with not only East African countries but any country that was part of the BRI program. If China forgives a loan as a result of negotiation with a certain country, all other economies embedded in the BRI would also want to negotiate their loans and therefore cause chaos for the Chinese government.

On the other side, the interactions, trade, and project agreement between China and East Africa or any other country in general might be a matter of dependency; a developing country partially depending on China for economic growth. In fact, most developing countries like those in East Africa prefer to borrow money from China because of its low interest rates compared to other countries (Usman, 2021). In general, the East Africa is desperate of economic growth, and so attracting FDI and foreign trade will effectively boost economy growth and even cause technology spillover. Low interest rates combined with programs that promise modern infrastructure such as BRI, is irresistible to the East African economies.

3 Methodology

3.1 Research Design and Qualitative Methods

Research design refers to the framework adopted by a researcher to guide the collection, analysis, interpretation, and the reporting of the data required or gathered during the research study. The research design ensures these processes are geared towards answering the research questions of the study. One of the research designs is descriptive research design where the main focus of the researcher is observing and describing the object of the research without influencing it. The approach is popular in the fields of social science and psychology where activities such as the observation of objects in their natural settings to assess behaviors are common (Saunders, 2019). The use of descriptive research design focuses on answering the how and what questions pertaining to the study. To guarantee success of descriptive research, the problem statement must be clear as it acts as the guide for the researcher in determining the extent of the study.

The main attribute of descriptive research designs is that they provide a basis that can be used to conduct further studies on a topic area as the variables are observed in their natural settings without being manipulated

(Marczyk et al., 2005). Nevertheless, the lack of any manipulation of variables implies that the results cannot be statistically tested. Also, the results of the study cannot be replicated.

Another type of research design is the correlational research design which is non-experimental in nature and focuses on investigating the nature of relationships between variables without the researcher attempting to control any of them (Saunders, 2019). The research design facilitates the identification of the strength of the association between the variables. The research design is non-experimental in nature and its main attribute is high levels of external validity. The researcher focuses on measuring the correlation or statistical relationship between two variables even though there are no efforts to control the impact of extraneous variables (Marczyk et al., 2005).

However, a researcher would be adopting a correlational research design if there is belief that the nature of relationship between the two variables is non-causal in nature (Kothari, 2009). The choice of a correlational research design is informed by situations where even when the researcher believes that the relationship between two variables is causal in nature, the manipulation of the independent variable is impractical or can be considered unethical (Saunders, 2019). Correlational research design is mainly applied in case-control studies and other forms of research that are observational in nature.

Further, another research design is the experimental research design, which is one of the most popular as it is regarded as the most rigorous. This approach entails the manipulation of one or more of the independent variables whereas the subjects are assigned to varying treatment levels at random and then the results emanating from the treatments on the dependent variables are observed (Marczyk et al., 2005). The main strength of the experimental research design is its high levels of internal validity as it

easy to identify the causality or the cause-and-effect relationships between the dependent and independent variables after administering the treatments while controlling for the impacts of the extraneous variables (Saunders, 2019).

Experimental research designs are best suited for explanatory research where the main objective is to identify the cause-effect relationships between the dependent and independent variables (Marczyk et al., 2005). Also, the research design suits studies where the independent variables are clearly defined as it makes it easy to manipulate or apply controls to the variables.

The other form of research design is the qualitative and quantitative research designs. Quantitative research design focuses on responding to questions such as who, what, when, and where (Kothari, 2009). Most of the quantitative approaches utilize data collection methods such as surveys where close-ended questions are utilized thereby facilitating the computation of empirical data and computation of statistical results. Most quantitative research designs focus on large sample sizes as the emphasis is the number or quantity of responses rather than gaining deeper insights or understanding of the phenomena under research (Kothari, 2009).

The main standard in quantitative research design is that each of the respondents is asked the same questions as it guarantees the fair analysis of the entire data sample (Creswell, 2003). The data is usually presented in a numerical format to facilitate the generation of statistical results. Quantitative research designs are considered more efficient than qualitative designs as they do not require cumbersome procedures like the coding of the data such as the open-ended responses that one must read through (Friedman, 2003). Nevertheless, their failure to identify the deeper insights on an issue makes them non-comprehensive.

Qualitative research designs on the other hand focus on answering the how and why questions regarding the issue under investigation. Most of the data gathered in qualitative research is in narrative formats rather than numerical formats (Krauss, 2005). Qualitative research designs adopt different methodologies such as participant observation, interviews that can be conducted face to face or through telephone and focus groups amongst other methods.

This study adopts a qualitative research design as the approach facilitates the ability to obtain richly detailed understanding of the topic. The nature of the data required is in the form of opinions, experiences and perceptions of the individuals and such data is best obtained through the adoption of a qualitative research design (Glaser & Strauss, 2006). The use of a qualitative approach also makes it easier to gather deeper insights into the topic. Further, the use of the qualitative approach accords the researcher greater flexibility in understanding how the variables in the research are manifested in the population. Such flexibility is vital in enhancing the comprehensiveness of the data gathered for the research and such data positively impacts the ability to answer the research questions of the study.

3.2 Data Collection

The primary data for this research will be gathered through the use of semi-structured interviews where the interviewer identifies the main topical areas that will be covered and the main questions that will be posed to the interviewees. However, there is flexibility in the order of the topics to be covered as the interviewees are government officials and some have more experience in some areas than others even though their general understanding of the issues pertaining to the topic of the research is unquestionable. Consequently, more emphasis is placed on the need of the interviewee to elaborate and provide detailed responses and in-depth information pertaining to the questions. The collection of the primary data

will be guided by a set of questions prepared by the researcher to ensure the pertinent areas of the study are covered.

The secondary data for the study will be obtained from online databases and also through government periodical reports and other relevant sources such as reports of government taskforces relevant to the topic. Some of the main online databases that will be prioritized include EconLit, International Financial Statistics Online, JSTOR, World Development Indicators, Business Source Ultimate, and OECD iLibrary amongst others. The secondary information that will be prioritized includes reports and research information from peer reviewed journal articles containing relevant information on the topic.

3.3 Interview Development

One of the reasons for adopting the interview approach is that it is the most suitable method for obtaining in-depth and detailed information on the topic (Saunders, 2019). Such detailed insights are vital in highlighting the nature of perceptions in the involvement of China in the East Africa's economy. Since the interviewees are government officials, they have first-hand information on the goings-on and the levels of involvement of the Chinese in economic development and provision of debt. They are also strategically positioned to understand the policy implications of the trend and whether it is informed by policy or political maneuvers based on the implications both in the short and long-term.

The ability of the interview approach to facilitate face-to-face with the government officials is vital as these interviewees are 'key informants' that are involved in the daily public activities and engagements with the donors and are well-versed with the rationale behind the involvement of the Chinese in offering debt to the country and how it compares with other donors and possible implications. Such insights are essential in facilitating the generation of comprehensive responses to the research questions of the study.

Further, the use of interviews is beneficial as detailed data is obtained based on the priorities, ideas and opinions of the interviewee. The approach makes it easier for the interviewer to expand on the ideas and opinions expressed through the use of interview techniques such as probing questions where the interviewee is required to offer deeper insights into an area of interest expressed in relevance to the topic of the study (Saunders, 2019). Also, through the interviews, the interviewer has the opportunity to enhance the clarity in the responses from the interviewee through tactics such as asking follow-up questions. It is also easier for the interviewer to circle back or revert to some of the questions asked earlier as the interview progresses to facilitate developing a rich understanding of the perceptions, attitudes and experiences of the interviewee on specific areas relating to the research.

The use of interviews is also advantageous as they enhance the flexibility of the researcher. Such flexibility is vital as it facilitates the ability of the researcher to establish rapport with the respondents. Such rapport is essential as it makes it easy for the researcher to make the interviewee feel comfortable and safer, especially when discussing sensitive information relating to the topic. Consequently, such flexibility and the ability to handle the interviewee one on one is essential in generating further insights into the topic (Kothari, 2009). The insightful information is pivotal in enhancing the comprehensiveness of the data at the disposal of the researcher and positively contributes towards providing comprehensive responses to each of the research questions of the study.

Additionally, the suitability of the interviews for the study is informed by the direct contact between the interviewer and the source of information or the interviewee. Such proximity facilitates the ascertainment of the information provided for accuracy and relevance (Marczyk et al., 2005). It is easier for the interviewer to seek clarifications and further explanations from the interviewee based on the nature of the information provided. Such

capabilities are crucial in ensuring the information gathered is factual and relevant to the study. Also, the ability to check and authenticate the information provided promptly contributes positively in enhancing the validity of the research.

The interviews are pre-arranged and convenient times agreed between the researcher and each of the interviewees (Berg & Lune, 2017). Such convenience contributes positively towards higher response rates as the researcher is in continuous engagement with each of the interviewees to ensure they honor their interview appointments, and each party is adequately prepared for the exercise. The higher response rates increase the comprehensiveness of the data available to the researcher and ensure higher levels of validity and reliability of the study.

3.4 Interview Questions

Interview questions are bound to be related to the topic itself in order to achieve realistic research results and to come to reliable conclusions. What you get out of an interview relies on how competent the interviewer is and how strong the interview questions are. For this reason, beginner researchers should ensure that the interview questions they utilize are acceptable and capable of supporting their attempts to get a thorough response to the research issue. The questions that will be asked by the researcher are derived from the literature review. General points and important facts are taken and formulated in question format.

A total of 15 questions will be asked during the research. These questions can be categorized into three main points which are directly related to the theme of the topic title and the literature review.

- Tanzania's and Africa's economic system and its functionality.
Few questions will be asked related to Tanzania's economy.
These questions are created so that the interviewee will be

allowed to describe how the African economy works and what they think about China's involvement in Tanzania's economy. Economic related questions are fundamental in this research topic because they provide a strong understanding of why China is interested in Tanzania and the EAC in general.

- The debt trap philosophy.

Questions that are directly or indirectly related to the debt trap will be asked to explore what the locals think of it. Directly asking for example, "What are your thoughts on the debt trap?" Such a question will give the researcher an understanding of the authenticity of debt trap from the local's perspective and whether they accept being trapped in debts for the economy's good. Indirect debt trap questions are derived from a series of economic events.

- China's political moves on Tanzania and Africa

In essence, to understand how and why economic ties and debt traps happen, it is essential to explore the series of political actions China has made in Tanzania over the years. Questioning the ethicality of these political moves and what was the end results gives a glimpse of what the East African region would be if it escaped the Chinese economic shadow.

The questions are suitable for the study as their choice is informed on the need to understand the levels and nature of involvement of the Chinese government and entities in Tanzania. The questions focus on the nature of China's contractual obligations on Tanzania and whether they point to an honest partner or a country that intends to put Tanzania into a debt trap in the name of economic development.

4 Data Analysis and Interpretation

Thirteen interviews were done to assess with the research findings. The interviewee involved were a mix of both genders across a wide age gap. Having a broad age group, participants engaged in the interviews were also diverse when it comes to their professional experience. From the total of 13 participants, 4 were female, of whom 2 are managers in a commercial bank and in a fuel and gas company, and 2 of them identified themselves as professors in economics and history. The remaining participants were all male; 5 of them identified themselves as blue collar workers, 1 of the male participants was a chief accountant in the oil and gas field, 3 of the male interviewees identified themselves as entrepreneurs.

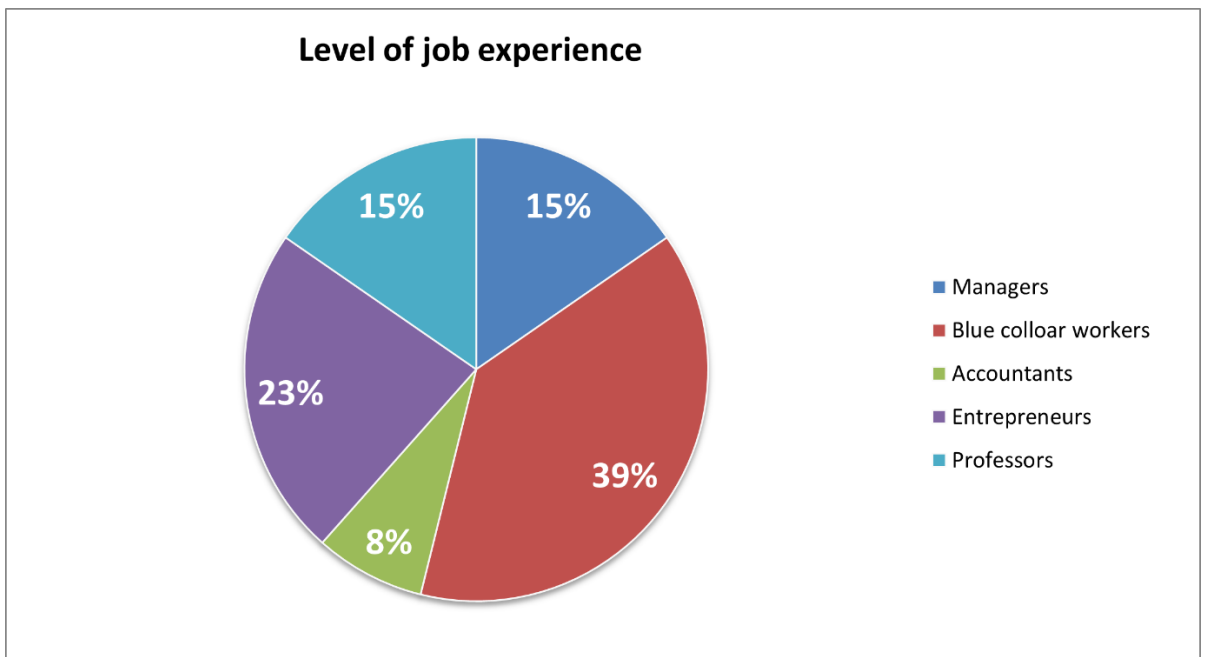


Figure 1 – Level of job experience

Source: Author's own 2022

The need to better comprehend the experiences of different age groups in this topic is important, particularly through obtaining their thoughts, ideas and viewpoints on many subjects related to this topic. Through their long experience on different economic and political events, older people might better understand the current situation based on their past experiences. In order to obtain the best commentary from the interviews, the researcher strived for a broad age group from 21 years old, which is the youngest interviewee and 56 years being the oldest.

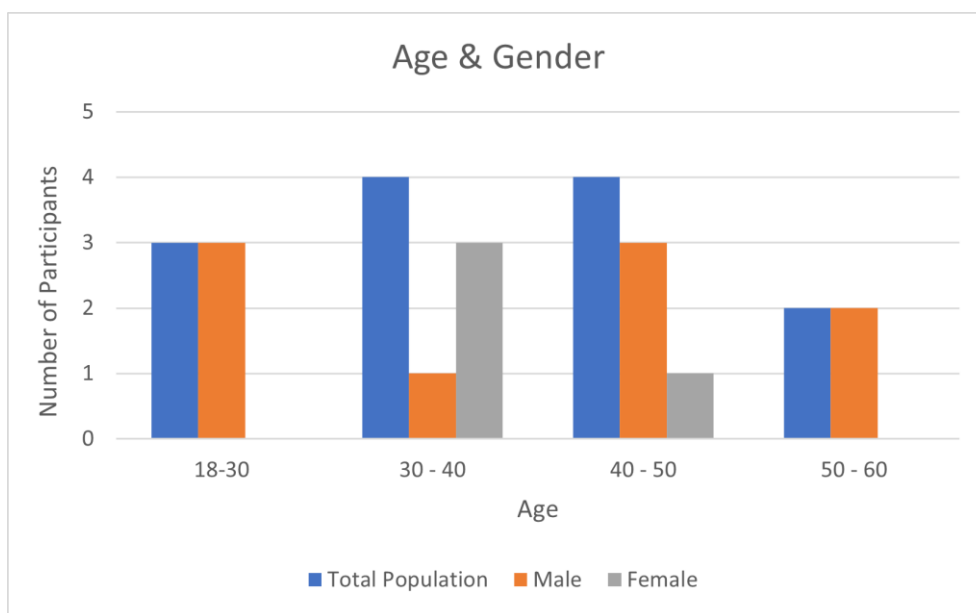


Figure 2 – Age and gender of interviewees

Source: Author's own 2022

To begin unfolding the topic in a direction that leads to a better understanding of the whole concept of this topic, the researcher gradually asked the interviewee that initially, starts with a broad question that gives

the interviewee enough room for a comprehensive elaboration based on their own opinions. The questions asked will then slowly dive deeper into the topic's core. The first question asked, was to give an overall sentiment for the economic system of East Africa.

“According to myself, I think East Africa is still at the developing stage economically, and if you look at Tanzania’s history as well as our neighbouring countries, we depend so much on financial help from other economies. However, in the last decade, our economies seem to have picked up and I think currently we are on the right path to be more independent.” – Interviewee 1 (Male)

“I think the economy here and in the East Africa in general is getting better with time. I also think the main reason for this is because the east Africa has opened its doors for outside investors, and it became easier for them to invest in our economies compared to the past 10 years.” – Interviewee 2 (Male)

One of the interviewees went further and explained which sector in East Africa have the potential to lift up the region’s economic value

“I believe tourism plays a big role when it comes to economic development in our region. Our governments are doing the best they can to attract tourism, and that is mainly by encouraging not only external tourism but also the local touristy. Look at our country, for example, we have Serengeti which is something that is very unique and can only be found here in Tanzania. It also highly contributes to our economy’s GDP. Rwanda is another example, they have shifted the focus entirely on tourism, and that is going well for them so far.” – Interviewee 5 (Female)

One of the interviewees gave a very simple and straightforward opinion when they were asked what their take on the economic system in the region.

“It is a complicated matter, and I cannot say much about this, but I believe our economic system has room for improvement and as long as fraud and corruption are under control, our economic system will also be under control”
– Interviewee 8 (Male)

When asked about their general thoughts on the so-called “debt trap” in Africa, many of the interview participants gave rather similar opinions.

“I think debt trap is not an appropriate term, because countries in Africa are benefiting from these loans given to them. It is important, however that these loans are deployed in the right sector such as infrastructure and education.” – Interviewee 6 (Male)

“I don’t believe a country would be trapped in debt unaware. If one economy decides to accept a loan, they of course should be aware that they will have to pay back at some point. If an economy falls in debt that they cannot pay back, its primarily because their decision making was bad” – Interviewee 3 (Female)

However, four of the participants claimed that the debt trap still persists in Africa.

“Debt trap is clearly visible in the African economy. A country like China keeps giving out loans to poor countries with a very low-interest rate to attract these developing economies. These loans are so attractive that they absurd loan agreements are often overlooked.” – Interviewee 12 (Male)

“ It is an issue that needs to be addressed here in Africa. And the problem is the events taking place in African region are not well known in industrialized countries, yet poorer countries are being colonized in a civilized manner by richer countries.” – Interviewee 10 (Male)

Having heard the responses and opinions from the interview participants regarding the debt rap in Africa, the researcher recognizes that over 60

percent of the participants say that debt trap is something that happens but not intentionally.

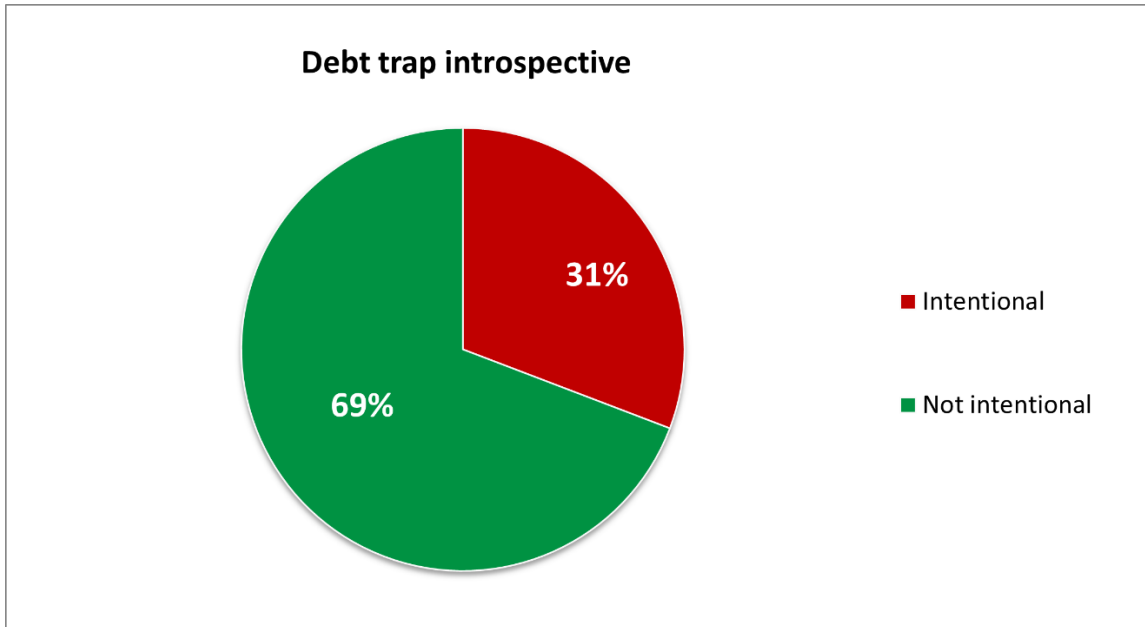


Figure 3 – Debt trap introspective

Source: Author’s own 2022

When asked to give a general description of China’s presence in Tanzania in the past 5 years, participants gave an elaborative opinion based on their own experiences, however all of them seems to have a similar theme and that is an overall pleasant experience of China’s presence in Tanzania.

“We have got so much help from China in the last 5 years, especially in the infrastructure sector, which hugely impacted our trading efficiency. I do not think there is a country that can compete with China when it comes to lifting up underdeveloped countries.” – interviewee 9 (Female)

“China’s impact in our economy is very obvious and I can say a lot about this particular topic but to keep it straight to the point, China is basically the

backbone of many of our sectors and I believe it is the primary job provider for our people.” – interview 2 (Male)

“We all know how powerful China is economically and our government’s ties with the Chinese government has impacted our growth very much, and I believe Tanzania as a third world country can has learned and gained a lot from China’s presence” – interviewee 13 (Male)

“Imagine how our roads and the infrastructure, in general, would be without China’s involvement here in Tanzania. No other country in the last 20 years has done what China has accomplished in the past five years” - Interviewee 4 (Female)

“I started my career as a field manager at a construction site back in the early 2000s which the Chinese engineered, gained a lot of experience as a manager. Of course, many things have changed since then, but regardless China is still helpful to our people and economy.” – Interviewee 7 (Male)

Two of the participants took a slightly different approach to the second question regarding China’s presence in Tanzania. Their response seems to admire the Chinese involvement in Tanzania, but concurrently, they think China is too harsh when it comes to economic agreements with Tanzania.

“Overall our history with China is great and has always been evolving to the best of both parties, but in some cases like lending out loans, their agreements are absurd and we might not be able to see the effects of them now by it might have a negative impact in the future.” – Interviewee 12 (Male)

The third question asked to the participants was a profound one that directly questioned them if they believed China is strategizing militarily by having their own telecommunication companies deployed in Tanzania.

“That is not true. China’s telecommunication here is very beneficial for us. They offer lower prices compared to other companies. Most people living in rural places cannot afford Tigo or Vodacom.” – Interviewee 4 (Female)

“I do not believe so and even if that is their real motive, I do not see how that would affect the people of Tanzania. Most people use mobile services because they are cheap and accessible almost in every region here” – Interviewee 7 (Male)

“Our government would have speculated something is wrong by now if that is really their intentions. Telecommunication is just one of many sectors China has invested in and has nothing to do militarily.” – Interviewee 1 (Male)

The next question addressed was whether China is only present in Tanzania and East Africa to get a hold and exploit natural resources reserves. Participants provided their answer with the majority believing that is not all true.

“We have an abundant natural resource but also an increasing need for money, So I think Tanzania is well-positioned to meet China's expanding demand for natural resources. Regarding Uranium, we are still not mining it and I am sure no foreign company will be allowed to mine except one that the Tanzanian government owns.” – Interviewee 6 (Male)

“Of course they need natural resources but I don’t think they are trying to exploit it. It is just a matter of economic agreements. Not every country has all the resources they need, and so they seek resources from other countries in return they provide what the other party needs” – Interviewee 13 (Male)

On the other hand, two of the participants totally agree that China is exploiting natural resources in Tanzania for their own good.

“China wants to have the upper hand economically over all other economies and to do so I believe they need as many natural resources for the production

of goods which are then exported and of course, this highly contributes to their GDP.” – Interviewee 12 (Male)

When asked what can be done to stop China from exploiting natural reserves, an interviewee said

“We cannot completely prevent them from getting natural resources because that is, of course, going to have a negative effect on us, however I think we can restrict the amount of resources we provide to them by having better mutual agreements” – Interviewee 2 (Male)

Regarding the Belt and Road Initiative, the researcher questioned whether the participants believe that China is using its infrastructure contracts to take advantage of the developing countries.

“Yes, I believe their contract are not the best. And the reason being is that they keep these contracts a secret between the two governments without exposing them to the public. One will only hide the contact if it includes something not favored by the general public.” – Interviewee 1 (Male)

“We do benefit from this infrastructure development from China no doubt about it but if you look deep into these infrastructure agreements, it always in favor of China in some way. Also to be clear, a country like China would not just go and develop other countries if it was not for the good of their own economy.” – Interviewee 11 (Male)

“I do not believe that is true at all. Our government will not enter into agreements and sign contracts that are not acceptable and ethical in the first place. The belt and road initiative is one of many infrastructure programs out there. The government had entered into agreement specifically for infrastructure with other countries as well like Turkey who are still very active here in Tanzania” – Interviewee 8 (Male)

“We do not have the technology to develop proper roads and railways which is so important because of how fast our trade is developing. So we need countries like China to develop these important elements of trading because they have the right technology and experience to do so. I also believe contracts are always negotiable especially if you consider our long friendly history with China.” – Interviewee 13 (Male)

According to all 13 participants, there are those who believe that the BRI only exists to exploit developing countries and favor mostly China, and some do not believe that is the case. The researcher puts together a clustered column chart to better visualize their response regarding the BRI matter.

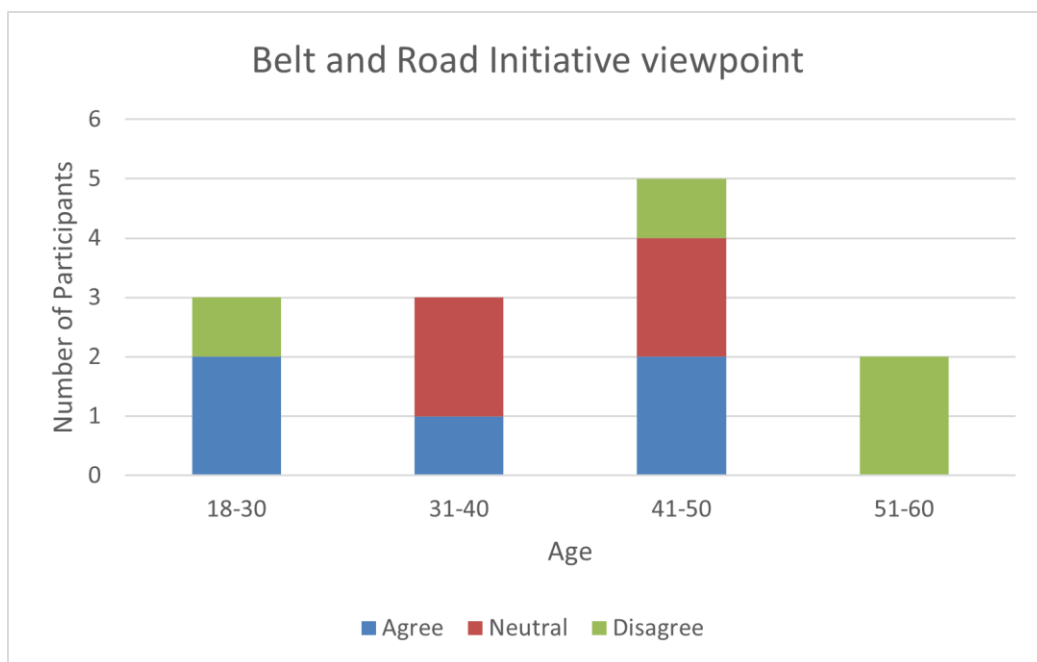


Figure 4 – Belt and Road Initiative viewpoint

Source: Author’s own 2022

A question that has not received adequate answer for the participant was asked regarding the claims that the interest rates on loans given to Tanzania

by the Chinese government are doubtful and suspicious as they could be one of the reasons the economy crumbles.

“I do not have the knowledge to really know what the interest rate status of loans provided by the Chinese government, but if I would to guess, I do not think their interest rates are high at all because then that would push the Tanzanian government away from China and that is not the case as of now.” -

Interviewee 4 (Female)

“Those claims are false because China repeatedly gave free interest loans to many African countries, including Tanzania. In some cases, China also completely pardons the least developed countries from loans they cannot pay back to China.” – Interviewee 11 (Male)

“I am not entirely sure if those claims are true, but I also think they might be. As I mentioned before, the two governments do not publicize the contracts and we as citizens cannot really know the terms and the interest rates. The fact these agreements are hidden hints that the signed terms and conditions including interest rate are not acceptable but sometimes our government could be in a position where they have to take whatever China offers.”-

Interviewee 1 (Male)

The research proceeds to accumulate information concerning the labour force of Tanzania, specifically those connected with Chinese companies, by asking the participants what they think of the allegation that Chinese companies have poor labour standards and a high job displacement.

“That is not true. Tanzanian people are known to be hard workers and are dedicated to whatever they do, but the only problem with many Chinese companies here is that they tend to push the employees into long hours of work.” – Interviewee 9 (Female)

“I have not worked in any Chinese company but from what I have heard throughout the years, the work environment is not too good and needs to be improved by them as well as staying in line with the human right norms. Our government has to monitor and keep these workplace factors in check.” – Interviewee 6 (Male)

“Many companies here in Tanzania, not just the Chinese ones, do not follow employment and workplace laws. This is a problem that has been unsolved for years. Some organizations do not even provide employment contract and surprisingly employees themselves do not ask for it. The government must educate the citizens about the importance of signing an employment contract and the consequences if one does not sign.” - Interviewee 2 (Male)

When questioned about the economic relationship between China and Tanzania, and whether or not they believe corruption and bribery play a part in the process of negotiating transactions between the two countries' economies, respondents seem to have the same point of view on the subject.

“I believe corruption is what hold us and most African economies from developing. It is very obvious and can be seen everyday within our own organizations. So if bribery is involved in making agreements happen between China and Tanzania, that is not a surprise for most people” - Interviewee 10 (Male)

“Yes, definitely corruption is our weakness and it is very important for our leaders to make sure things like accepting bribery do not happen and have severe punishment to those who accept bribery. I do not think you can blame China either for exploiting our weakness because corruption is an internal problem that needs to be solved.” – Interviewee 7 (Male)

“We are struggling with bribery and China can take advantage of that weakness to get whatever they want. However I also feel bribery has been reduced significantly compared to the previous years and we hope it will

continue to be reduced with time, it is not an easy task and I do not think we can completely eliminate corruption but it can be reduced.” – Interviewee 9 (Female)

The researcher proceeds to ask the participants about the extraction of raw materials by China in Tanzania in exchange for imports that are not worth compared to the value of the raw materials obtained by China. Interviewee differed in their opinions but the majority claimed that this is not true.

“Most people here in Tanzania cannot afford luxury items and we know China offers cheap goods which are suitable for our people. That is not to say that luxury items are not available here but they are limited to those who can afford them” - Interviewee 3 (Female)

“If we are going to ask for goods that are high quality and expensive from China as a trade for the raw materials they get, then people would not really buy these expensive imports from China and that simply because the majority of our population still do not have the financial power to purchase expensive goods and services.”- Interviewee 1 (Male)

“China’s imports of goods here in Tanzania helps a lot of the lower-class people to establish their own small businesses which are the source of distribution for these goods. But recently, especially in Dar es Salaam, more luxury and popular brands are starting to pop out, which means more people are improving financially. Trading of raw materials is predetermined because that is what East Africa and Tanzania are known for and so countries seek out trading agreements with us.” – Interviewee 12 (Male)

Out of all the interviewee only one participant said that the claims are true and agrees that China is undermining the local economy by importing cheap goods.

“Not just goods even services can be seen as a threat to the local economy. We cannot compete against the imported goods and services which equally prevents the local entrepreneurs to set up manufactures of Tanzanian made goods because once these goods and services are on the market, they cannot keep up with the production expenses that are a result of already having cheap Chinese products on the market.” – Interviewee 11 (Male)

A question was asked to give an opinion for which sectors the participants think the Chinese is mostly involved in Tanzania. 90% percent of the interviewees said that infrastructure was the main sector comprising of many Chinese organizations.

“They are in most sectors if not all but It is very clear the infrastructure is where they are primarily settled in. Job opportunities are widely available because of their activities in the infrastructure sector. These infrastructure activities can be in the form of loans from China or a direct investment from the Tanzanian government.” – Interviewee 2 (Male)

“Without a doubt It is the infrastructure sector and this because we simply have poor infrastructure which is seen as an opportunity by China to give out loans specifically packaged as loans for infrastructure. We get proper roads and railways and that is of course beneficial to us in many ways but mostly it improves our trading.” – Interviewee 13 (Male)

5.1 Findings from economic related questions

Interview participants had an extensive explanation and opinions on the overall economic system of East Africa. Interviewees had a similar theme in their answers and acknowledge that over the last couple of years, the economies of the EAC have grown at a remarkable rate. This is a result of an increase in local trading of raw materials and the increase in transportation across the EAC. Some of the participants claimed that according to their own experience and throughout the years, agricultural production and exports of raw materials have decreased significantly. There is a shift into local production of homemade products that are traded within East Africa and outside of the region. However, participants also believe that the EAC economy is in the process of development and has the potential to become a powerhouse in the future.

Respondents' opinions regarding China's potential allegations of being a mole in Tanzania economy seems to be false or at least not agreed by the respondents. They believe the Chinese telecommunication companies play a big role in developing the Tanzanian economy as they offer affordable services and are easily accessible by general population. They also believe technology brought into Tanzania will cause a spillover and eventually lead to having advanced locally owned communication technology.

Participants appreciate the Chinese involvement in Tanzania, especially because they offer many jobs for the locals. However, there is also a despise when it comes to employee rights and the work environment. The majority admit that the work environment is not up to the required standard, which also breaches Tanzania's human rights law. On the other hand they also seem to disagree specifically regarding the job displacement caused by Chinese owned organizations. Dismissal in the workplace is concluded as not true or is at the very minimum levels, and the opposite, meaning job placements is widely available thanks to the Chinese organizations.

5.2 Findings from China-Africa political questions

The respondent described China's existence in Tanzania with a scattered opinion according to their own experiences and different view of the economy. The greater part of the description was related to the development of infrastructure in Tanzania and receiving financial aids for the Chinese government. Overall their response was a positive experience with China's presence in Tanzania in the past few years.

There was an inconsistent answer from the respondents concerning China's motive of the exploitation of natural resources in Tanzania and whether their relationship with East Africa is mainly to extract as much resources as possible. The outcome from this discussion with the respondents shows that not everyone is on the same page. Some believe China has the right to seek agreements for extraction of raw materials because they need the resources for their own production. From Tanzania's government perspective, they should seek something in return of the same value such as import from China. Because the natural reserves are in the hand of the Tanzanian government, respondents also argue that it is not possible to over-extract natural resources because the government has limitations and regulations on the raw material production. Nevertheless, some respondents revealed that China is competing with other economies. For them to be better economically than their competitors, they have to exploit resources from other economies; respondents urge the government to be aware of this and strengthen their policies surrounding natural resources.

According to the respondents, corruption has always been associated with East Africa, and it does not have much to do with China. Participants gave various reasons why corruption is still a concern in the community. They believe politicians hardly have the desire to tackle corruption and the absence of democratic accountability in the administrations they lead. As

stated in their interview, the respondent assumed the involvement of bribery in concluding agreements between China and Tanzania happens frequently and it is an inner problem which other people and entities are taking advantage.

5.3 Findings from debt trap questions

More than half of the respondents believe that debt trap is not real. They believe that an economy can fall into debts, but that is due to an economy not properly managing its loans and as result, actions are taken to repay for those loans. Findings from the interviews reveal while several nations participating in China's BRI are struggling to pay back their loans owed to China, according to one participant, the BRI projects have been put on hold. As part of its debt restructuring assistance, apparently, China is forgiving a portion of these nations' existing debt obligations. The remaining participants who agree debt trap is an actual move by China and strike them as a ruthlessly self-serving action. In reality, China's goal is to annex the nation rather than assist in its economic growth. Apart from agreeing that the debt trap is real, this group of participants lacked proper reasoning for why they think China is putting economies in debt. Respondents who had enough knowledge to speak about the interest rate on the Chinese loans said that the loans are the most attractive to African countries and Tanzania mainly because they offer very low to no interest rates.

6 Conclusion

Tanzania is the focus of this research, which tries to determine the extent to which China has influenced development in East Africa. There were claims that the interests of China in East Africa are not exclusively beneficial to the countries of the EAC. Also, it is the goal of this study to gain a general understanding of Tanzania's relationship with China, specifically in terms of its history with the government of China. Tanzania's business partnerships

with China in many areas of the Tanzanian economy, as well as the role of loans in such deals, were being investigated by the researcher.

As a secondary source, the literature review provided a solid foundation that captures the critical economic and political elements surrounding China and East Africa and the relationship between them. The topics covered in the literature review were meant to help the researcher form interview questions for further and more extensive research from primary sources.

The qualitative research conducted by the researcher consisted of 13 respondents from different age groups, professional experiences, and gender. This allows the researcher to obtain findings from different perspectives. The interview aimed to get the respondents' thoughts and opinions from questions formed according to the literature review. The findings from the literature review and the interviews are predetermined to interpret and justify the main research question: 'What are China's motivations for making Foreign Direct Investment, and how has this benefited Tanzania?'. The main research question had two sub-questions: 'How do the people and the government feel about China's involvement in Tanzania's economic development?' and 'To what extent has China's foreign direct investment benefited Tanzania?' A total of 15 interview questions were asked, divided into three groups: questions related to the economy of Tanzania and East Africa, questions related to China's relation with Tanzania, and questions regarding the debt trap. These three groups of questions are interdependent, and often an answer to one question leads to a better understanding of the next one.

East African nations, including Tanzania are allegedly duped into taking out loan after loan to create costly infrastructure that they cannot pay and would provide little value, with the ultimate objective of China acquiring control of these assets from their suffering debtors, according to reports. However, the findings from this research suggest otherwise. The researcher

observes that the people of Tanzania are supporting China in most cases. Infrastructure being developed by China in Tanzania and east Africa is seen as an achievement of economic development. The loans involved in developing the infrastructure are not portrayed as threats or as a potential debt trap. On the contrary, they are seen by most people as a necessity to make things happen within an economy that needs financial power. Those who believe China intentionally puts economies in a debt trap, still think that Tanzania should not completely abandon taking loans from China but rather to be heedful when it comes to the terms and conditions included in the contract. Apart from being an infrastructure powerhouse in the EAC, China's foreign investment in Tanzania is also seen as a job provider for many lower-class citizens. In general, the findings suggest the relationship between China and Tanzania is a situation that benefits both sides. Tanzania and its neighbouring countries are desperate for proper infrastructure and affordable goods while on the other hand, China is in need of mostly raw materials. The respondents widely outlined corruption and bribery as a national dilemma in Tanzania and East Africa, which is not influenced by China but rather taken advantage of. Nevertheless, participants place confidence in their government and believe the EAC is rising economically.

7 Limitations, Recommendations, and Implications

7.1 Limitations

A large part of qualitative research is collecting the diverse and sometimes contradictory viewpoints of a wide range of individuals. With any research paper, there are certain limitations that exist especially in a qualitative approach where the author gathers the primary information from people who agree to participate in the research interviews. As a result of the variety of viewpoints, sentiments, and answers that qualitative data may elicit from people, it lacks replication. One person's response to a topic may be radically

different from another's, making it impossible to classify the respondents into groups of same viewpoints.

One of the earliest limitations of this research is the sample size of the interview participants. A good rule of thumb is that groups should be neither tiny nor too large. In this research, a total of 13 people participated in the study, which is a small size group considering the fact that the topic itself is based on opinions and viewpoints. Consider this scenario: In politics and economics, events happen in one's country where the outcome of those specific events can be seen differently among people. Some might value the benefits of those events over the obstruction and others might stress more on the cost of the obstruction those events have caused to the country rather than valuing the benefits. So in the case of China and Tanzania, to categorize two groups into either side of an event outcome, bigger sample size is needed to see a solid pattern of similar viewpoints in one group and similar opinions in their counterpart group. The group size of 13 people, being an odd number, cannot be equally distributed into two or three groups; if the research was to compare viewpoints of different groups, there would be bias in collecting data.

Incentive caused bias is another limitation of this research paper. While incentives may be beneficial, they can sometimes have negative consequences, especially when the incentives are based on giving information. It is often seen in movies where someone would have to pay a certain amount of money to receive information equivalent to the value of money received by the informant. Once the informant or whoever is giving the information realises that they are getting more incentive in return for more information, they would be stirred up to give irrelevant or wrong data to receive more incentives. In this study, the research had to give out money in order to secure interviews. As a result of the incentives, the researcher received a few additional individuals who wished to participate in the

interview to collect the incentive. It is uncertain to the researcher whether these individuals would give their realistic opinions on the topic or they would be deceptive.

The carry-out and the management of the interviews were not optimal. Many participants did not seem to understand basic economic terms during the questioning phase. This can limit the amount and the integrity of the interviewee's viewpoints. Additionally, some of the participants showed nervousness prior to the questions being asked. This is mainly because the participants were uncertain if they would give the right or realistic opinion on the topic. However, the participants seemed more comfortable when the researcher told them they did not have to provide full justification on a topic they were not too familiar with. For example, many of the interviewee's did not know what the belt and road initiative program was before the interview.

7.2 Recommendations for further research

This research paper has the potential to further develop and expand its core topic theme. The economic and political relation between Tanzania and China is still ongoing and the current findings from this paper are based on the past and current events between the two economies. Even though as concluded, most people of Tanzania do not agree with the so called 'debt trap', as time goes by these results can be different according to future relations between China and Tanzania or the whole East African community in general. As one of the interviewees said, *"Overall our history with China is great and has always been evolving to the best of both parties."* Despite that being said, the same participant also made a point saying, *"agreements are absurd and we might not be able to see the effects of them now by it might have a negative impact in the future."*

This study was done for Tanzania, which is just one of the six members of East African Community. It would also be compelling to see the same study

on alleged Chinese debt trap being done on other members of the EAC individually. Having data collected from viewpoints firsthand experiences from people all over the EAC would give this study, specifically done on Tanzania, more credibility. It would also be optimal for this research to be done but from China's perspective; Interviews to be done on the Chinese people and getting their opinions as well on this matter. Having viewpoints from both sides would verify or refute the findings of this study.

7.3 Implications

This study was done in Tanzania, a country in the east of Africa. The topic of this study is around the economic, political, and ethicality of the relationship between two economies, in this case, Tanzania and China. Any individual or organization that studies economics or is interested in general politics can benefit from the findings of this case study. These findings do not limit access to the people in Tanzania and East Africa only but can be helpful to anyone outside the EAC region. The topic of the Debt trap is very controversial, and at the time author concluded this research paper, very few studies were done on the subject. Some aspects of the debt trap can be referenced from this study to expand further the research that is being done, exposing and extending the knowledge surrounding the debt trap beyond what it is now. It would be appropriate for this research to be published in East African journal databases because that is more likely to expose it to Tanzanian and East African economists and politicians who can use this information to make decisions or pass the knowledge to other people.

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Appendices

Appendix 1

Interviews

The researcher translated the following interviews to English from Swahili according to their English linguistic competence.

(A) represents the Author

(P) represents the Participant

Interview 1 (Male)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P1: According to myself, I think East Africa is still at the developing stage economically, and if you look at Tanzania's history as well as our neighbouring countries, we depend so much on financial help from other economies. However, in the last decade, our economies seem to have picked up and I think currently we are on the right path to be more independent.

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P1: It is not what most people think it is. I believe using the term 'trap' is straight accusing someone or in our case its China, of being unethical in treating other economies. We do not for sure if China is actually doing that but it is true that many African countries owe China money.

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P1: We have been doing business with China for a long time. Specifically in the last 5 years, not much can be said. However I remember when president Magufuli had some discrepancies with the Chinese government on many occasions. One of those well-known incidents was when he cancelled a 10 billion USD loan for China because the terms on the loan agreements were harsh.

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P1: No I do not think that China's strategies. It is just a natural investment by China in our community to develop what we have been lacking for a while.

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P1: That is true because obviously China would want to extract the resources it needs. It would be inappropriate to not target certain natural resources. They target the resources they need and for their own benefit. We also get to benefit from their extractions as mining sites here in Tanzania are shared with the government and so is the profit.

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to-government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favoring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P1: No I disagree. Our government will not agree to anything that is not as beneficial to them too. Just like our previous president Magufuli did when he refused the infrastructure loan from China, it was because the terms in the contract were not worth the loan.

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P1: I am not sure about the interest rate China issues with the loans and also, I do not think there are any hidden charges when loans are being issued. Everything including the interest rate is known prior to accepting the loans.

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P1: That is entirely true. Regarding the jobs Chinese organization provide are many and I am not sure about the rate of job displacement but I think if there is then it is very minimal. They can however improve the working condition specifically in the infrastructure workplace.

A: There are also claims from governance watchdogs that the Chinese government takes advantage of the weaknesses of African governments to enter into unfair deals where corruption and wasteful decision-making are notable. Based on Chinese involvement in this country, are these claims accurate?

P1: Absolutely. Even though I myself cannot tell you what is happening exactly because events like these happen inside the government and are very secretive but in general, I think that happens and mainly due to extortion. We see this also not only in politics but also in my everyday life, people accept bribery for to get simple things done.

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to

their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P1: I do not agree with those claims and I am also positive that they import from China are not all cheap. But even though, China would not export goods that are not going to be bought here in Tanzania. If they export very expensive high-quality goods or even services, not many people would be able to access those products because Tanzania is still a developing country with the majority of the population in the lower-class spectrum.

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P1: Mostly in the infrastructure sector and yes, it is beneficial to us. We need proper infrastructure to develop faster and more efficiently.

A: How do you think the government of Tanzania could develop a model like the UAE to bring about innovation and economic development in order to get away from the so-called debt trap syndrom?

P1: We need to keep developing the way we are right now. Loans are vital and a part of this process. Education should be the main focus as well, we lack the proper knowledge to innovate and create things on our own and that is why we seek other countries for help.

Interview 2 (Male)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P2: It is doing great compared to where it used to be obviously. I guess withing the next ten to fifteen years most of the East African population would be classified as middle class.

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P2: Many African countries are deep in debts especially from China but they are not trapped in it. Statistically countries here in Africa do pay their loans but they take decades to complete paying what they owe. I understand why one would think an economy is being debt trapped especially from someone's perspective who is not from Africa. That is because the media makes it seem that we struggle to the point of collapsing the economy but that is simply not true.

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P2: Not much has happened with China in past five years especially if you consider the three years affected by covid which halted the global economy.

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P2: No, China is investing in telecommunication because first, our government has allowed them to do so and secondly it is because they produce affordable services. For example Halotel is probably the most used mobile service provider because how cheap it is. Also many other foreign telecommunication companies have invested here such as Vodacom, Tigo, Zantel, and even Airtel. I believe this has nothing to do with the military but even so we would not be able to accurately tell.

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P2: I have no information about the extraction of Uranium but we cannot completely prevent them from getting natural resources because that is, of

course, going to have a negative effect on us, however I think we can restrict the amount of resources we provide to them by having better mutual agreements

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favouring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P2: I disagree because if they were actually unfavorable then we would not have been signing infrastructure agreements with China for more than two decades. The only reason we deal with China up until this point is because they have been doing what they promise to do. Of course there are disagreements that happen between the two government one in a while but those are bound to happen when you deal with an economy like China for a long time. Both parties want what is good for them.

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P2: I cannot comment on this because I am not familiar with that topic.

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P2: Many companies here in Tanzania, not just the Chinese ones, do not follow employment and workplace laws. This is a problem that has been unsolved for years. Some organizations do not even provide employment contract and surprisingly employees themselves do not ask for it. The

government must educate the citizens about the importance of signing an employment contract and the consequences if one does not sign.

A: There are also claims from governance watchdogs that the Chinese government takes advantage of the weaknesses of African governments to enter into unfair deals where corruption and wasteful decision-making are notable. Based on Chinese involvement in this country, are these claims accurate?

P2: Whether it is China or other country, Incidents like this happen all the time and they are even broadcasted in the news when the person who participated in corruption gets caught. There is a severe punishment on those who accept bribery here in Tanzania but I do not think that is doing enough to stop corruption in general and that is mainly because the wages and salaries are low in our country which encourages people to seek other methods of income and unfortunate accepting bribery is one of them.

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P2: I agree that could be the case but keep in mind China is not extracting anything for free. They pay what we require from them however China is very powerful economically so there strategies can exactly be the case of exploiting raw materials in return for cheap imports without us, being weak economically, seeing the effects of it.

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P2: *They are in most sectors if not all but It is very clear the infrastructure is where they are primarily settled in. Job opportunities are widely available because of their activities in the infrastructure sector. These infrastructure activities can be in the form of loans from China or a direct investment from the Tanzanian government.*

Interview 3 (Female)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P1: I am not familiar with how other countries within East Africa are doing economically but generally if I were to just predict then I think they are not doing bad considering COVID in effect.

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P3: *I have read somewhere about this topic but I don't believe a country would be trapped in debt unaware. If one economy decides to accept a loan, they of course should be aware that they will have to pay back at some point. If an economy falls in debt that they cannot pay back, its primarily because their decision making was bad.*

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P3: *I would say they are almost not present besides what they have already established before.*

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P3: *I have heard in the news of the accusation that China is spying on the African Union headquarters in Ethiopia and surprisingly the headquarter itself was built by China. So it could mean that they have built it to spy on all the*

meetings that happens with that building. Same could be said with the Chinese telecommunication here in Tanzania but I highly doubt it that is the case.

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P3: Not familiar with the subject.

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favoring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P3: Yes, I agree but it does not happen often with Tanzania. Last time I heard of such incident in Uganda was when China wanted to seize the Entebbe airport because Uganda did not keep their end of an agreement.

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P3: Not familiar with the subject.

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P3: It is very easy to replace someone here if they are not doing their job properly but unfortunately organization do take advantage of this and

sometimes even if the employee has done something that does not deserve a job displacement, it would still happen.

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P3: *Most people here in Tanzania cannot afford luxury items and we know China offers cheap goods which are suitable for our people. That is not to say that luxury items are not available here but they are limited to those who can afford them.*

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P3: *It is definitely the infrastructure sector. We get good roads and railways in return so yes; I think it is beneficial to us.*

A: How do you think the government of Tanzania could develop a model like the UAE to bring about innovation and economic development in order to get away from the so-called debt trap syndrom?

P3: *It is unfair to compare Tanzania to UAE because first of all both countries not in the same region to be compared and secondly the UAE is rich in oil unlike us. The difference is that we have many sources of income but are slow and need development, on the other hand the UAE does not have many sources of income but their oil reserve is bringing them fast income.*

Interview 4 (Female)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P4: *Each country in East Africa has their own economic system different from one another but they have their similarities like they very much depend on agriculture sector as a source of income.*

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P4: *I think debt trap does not exist. It is just another term for 'not being able to pay your loans' you first agreed to. And if an economy cannot pay their loans, there are consequences.*

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P4: *They have done a lot especially in the infrastructure sector. Recently Tanzania and Burundi agreed to construct a railway connecting the two countries which, with the agreement of both countries, the project was handed to China. Imagine how our roads and the infrastructure, in general, would be without China's involvement here in Tanzania. No other country in the last 20 years has done what China has accomplished in the past five years*

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P4: *That is not true. China's telecommunication here is very beneficial for us. They offer lower prices compared to other companies. Most people living in rural places cannot afford Tigo or Vodacom. Our government would be able to at least speculate if China is spying on Tanzania using their telecom services but I also cannot rule it all out; I think China is capable of doing such thing.*

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P4: That is true but I am not familiar with uranium. China is mostly extracting metal resources such as cobalt and iron and they extract them because they need those resources to make products and other things. We of course get a share from these mining outposts because the government has signed a joint venture with most if not all mining companies.

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to-government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favouring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P4: Not familiar with the subject.

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P4: I do not have the knowledge to really know what the interest rate status of loans provided by the Chinese government, but if I would guess, I do not think their interest rates are high at all because then that would push the Tanzanian government away from China and that is not the case as of now.

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P4: Job displacement happens a lot but I am not sure of how often it happens within Chinese companies specifically.

A: There are also claims from governance watchdogs that the Chinese government takes advantage of the weaknesses of African governments to enter into unfair deals where corruption and wasteful decision-making are

notable. Based on Chinese involvement in this country, are these claims accurate?

P4: Whether those claims are true or not I would not be able to know but yes, I think that can possibly happen.

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P4: We need imported goods just like any other country. We are not capable of producing everything on our own, especially things like clothing and everyday necessity items. I do not see how importing goods from China hinders our economy but I can see it being very beneficial to China obviously.

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P4: China are actively constructing roads and other infrastructure related projects which we benefit from them but they agreements between China and Tanzania is not always stable, we still owe them a lot of money, however I also think that is normal considering the two economies are not on the same level.

Interview 5 (Female)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P5: I believe tourism plays a big role when it comes to economic development in our region. Our governments are doing the best they can to attract tourism, and that is mainly by encouraging not only external tourism but also the local touristy. Look at our country, for example, we have Serengeti which is

something that is very unique and can only be found here in Tanzania. It also highly contributes to our economy's GDP. Rwanda is another example, they have shifted the focus entirely on tourism, and that is going well for them so far.

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P5: I believe being in debt is part of our economic development process. Most of the debt in Africa are connected to the infrastructure. For example here in Tanzania, we have been taking loans from China for a long time but we are not trapped in their debts, considering our GDP has been consistently rising. There is no information out there that specifically says China has seized some asset as a result of not being paid back.

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P5: China has been involved in the construction of roads and rail lines in Tanzania. Independent Chinese business owners abound in the recent years, especially that now the Air Tanzania flies directly to China.

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P5: I do not believe so. Chinese companies are increasingly investing in things like telecommunication outside their country in order to obtain a favorable return on investment. They are aware we need better telecom services so they decided to invest in it.

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P5: *They are targeting sectors that will bring them some sort of value to their own economy. Natural resources are being target by many other countries in Tanzania and not just China.*

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to-government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favouring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P5: *I disagree. I can only speak from our perspective and that is all the infrastructure being developed by China here is favorable to us. But from the China's perspective, it is without a doubt more favorable to them, otherwise they would not risk developing a program for infrastructure in Africa if it was not going to benefit them one way or the other.*

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P5: I am unfamiliar the subject.

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P5: *That could be true or not. I have not worked in any Chinese company to admit those claims. However in general, the work environment here in Tanzania needs improvement in all companies and not just the ones owned by China.*

A: There are also claims from governance watchdogs that the Chinese government takes advantage of the weaknesses of African governments to

enter into unfair deals where corruption and wasteful decision-making are notable. Based on Chinese involvement in this country, are these claims accurate?

P5: Bribery is a big deal here that needs to be handled. And yes, I do believe many countries are involved in bribing government officials.

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P5: I disagree but not entirely. I agree that they import Cheap products in return they get something of more value which is unfair but it does not undermine our economy because imagine we just keep mining without trading the resources, we wont be able to do much with those resources or we have not reached the level where we need every single natural resource to develop economically.

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P5: As previously stated, they are actively involved in infrastructure and also the agriculture sector. They have been bringing in new technologies to our agriculture which makes the sector so efficient now compared to the previous years.

A: How do you think the government of Tanzania could develop a model like the UAE to bring about innovation and economic development in order to get away from the so-called debt trap syndrom?

P5: We just have to keep developing the way we are right now. It is going to take time and it is important our leaders make the right decisions and

investments internally. I believe we have so many talented young individuals that need reorganization to expose their full potential. Corruption should be eliminated as well if we are to develop like the UAE.

Interview 6 (Male)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P6: The East African economy have progressed very well in the recent year and that is due to the progress in education and knowledge we have possessed. Its economic system is influenced largely by the trade between its own members of the community.

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P6: I think debt trap is not an appropriate term, because countries in Africa are benefiting from these loans given to them. It is important, however that these loans are deployed in the right sector such as infrastructure and education.

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P6: Nothing new. Five years is not a long time. However we are seeing a decline in our interaction with China including their investments in our country.

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P6: China are capable of doing many other things if their goal was to develop in the region militarily. Note that they Chinese owned companies like Halotel

are struggling to compete with other telecom companies here so if they want to develop some sort of espionage here using telecom services, it would be very difficult.

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P6: We have an abundant natural resource but also an increasing need for money, So I think Tanzania is well-positioned to meet China's expanding demand for natural resources. Regarding Uranium, we are still not mining it and I am sure no foreign company will be allowed to mine except one that the Tanzanian government owns.

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favouring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P6: I have no idea the exact terms of the contracts between the two government. However I do remember on few occasions when the Tanzanian government declined loans for infrastructure because the terms and conditions enclosed in the contract were not favorable to Tanzania

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P6: There are not any hidden charges and whatever burden they economy it is always the decisions made and the reasoning behind taking a loan.

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound

Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P6: I have not worked in any Chinese company but from what I have heard throughout the years, the work environment is not too good and needs to be improved by them as well as staying in line with the human right norms. Our government has to monitor and keep these workplace factors in check

A: There are also claims from governance watchdogs that the Chinese government takes advantage of the weaknesses of African governments to enter into unfair deals where corruption and wasteful decision-making are notable. Based on Chinese involvement in this country, are these claims accurate?

P6: I would not know if that were the case. There are corrupted agreements probably out there that have been concluded behind the scenes.

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P6: I agree. Our local producers cannot keep up with the Chinese imports and so they are discouraged to produce knowing their products will not make it far into the market. If were to assess the benefits China is getting from as a result of our natural resources, you would see that it's in unfair but nonetheless we also still need their imports.

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P6: Infrastructure sector is actively being developed by China. And without a doubt they are beneficial to us because infrastructure is the foundation of our economic development and it still needs improvement.

A: How do you think the government of Tanzania could develop a model like the UAE to bring about innovation and economic development in order to get away from the so-called debt trap syndrom?

P6: We need to attract and give more freedom to outside investors to come and bring new technology and innovation to Tanzania. The first step to achieve that, is we have to present Tanzania as a safe country to invest and live in. No one would one to come here an spend millions if the country lacks security.

Interview 7 (Male)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P7: It could be better than what it is right now. Few adjustments are needed for example, having the same currency across the East African Community would keep us all on the same page which will ultimately strengthen the economy of the region as a whole and it would also make trade easier.

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P7: It is a problem. It is immoral for a government to use debt as a weapon in attempt to acquire the resources and assets of another country. China wants to compete with countries like the USA and so the used debts to size assets from other countries.

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P7: I started my career as a field manager at a construction site back in the early 2000s which the Chinese engineered, gained a lot of experience as a manager. Of course, many things have changed since then, but regardless China is still helpful to our people and economy.

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P7: I do not believe so and even if that is their real motive, I do not see how that would affect the people of Tanzania. Most people use mobile services because they are cheap and accessible almost in every region here.

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P7: I cannot be totally sure of which natural resources they are targeting. I know for a fact that they need a lot of resources, after all China is the top exporting economy and they need resources to keep their place at the top of the competition.

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to-government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favouring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P7: I agree. The conditions within their contracts are harsh sometimes. They are very autocratic and can easily lure a country into a debt trap for their own good.

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P7: On the contrary, Chinese loans are sometime interest free or very low interest rate. But as I mentioned before the real problem is in their contract terms and agreements and not the interest rate. They are probably using the low interest rate to attract countries.

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P7: I have not witnessed a job displacement during my work experience with the Chinese owned enterprise. I cannot speak about other companies that I have not witnessed workplace issues firsthand

A: There are also claims from governance watchdogs that the Chinese government takes advantage of the weaknesses of African governments to enter into unfair deals where corruption and wasteful decision-making are notable. Based on Chinese involvement in this country, are these claims accurate?

P7: Yes, definitely corruption is our weakness and it is very important for our leaders to make sure things like accepting bribery do not happen and have severe punishment to those who accept bribery. I do not think you can blame China either for exploiting our weakness because corruption is an internal problem that needs to be solved.

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to

their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P7: Yes, that is the case right now. The Tanzanian government has to increase the tariffs on the Chinese imported goods to give our manufactures space in market. Of course China would counteract this decision but I think it worth the turnover for the sake of our economy

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P7: They are tied to almost all sectors in Tanzania but the infrastructure and agriculture is where they are mostly active. Developed roads, railways and other transportations means are all positive things we need. In the agriculture, modern tools made in China are even accessible in rural areas which has definitely improved our cultivation methods.

A: How do you think the government of Tanzania could develop a model like the UAE to bring about innovation and economic development in order to get away from the so-called debt trap syndrom?

P7: That is not an easy model to develop. We simply need financial power to develop a system like the one in the UAE. But getting the financial freedom is not easy for a country like Tanzania considering we are behind in many things.

Interview 8 (Male)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P8: *It is a complicated matter, and I cannot say much about this, but I believe our economic system has room for improvement and as long as fraud and corruption are under control, our economic system will also be under control.*

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P8: *The debt trap is visible in Africa because most countries are not able pay back what they owe. I think it will take many years to cover the debt, if ever. Seeming like there are not many options, I think the only way to pay the debt is to provide something that the debtor does not have until the debt is covered. For example, provide cotton and cashew nuts free of charge for a period of time until the debt is covered. Which unfortunately puts them in debt traps.*

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P8: *The Chinese have participated in many activities in Tanzania in the few past years, mainly in the TAZARA but they are also involved in the coal mining industry, pharmaceutical and even sugarcane.*

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P8: *They are definitely benefiting from the economic development of Tanzania by expanding the telecom industry because it will be controlled or managed by them and will also be able to gain access to highly confidential data of which can be utilized militarily.*

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P8: I think that it is inappropriate for China to use Tanzania's resources for their own benefit especially if Tanzania is not getting back anything worth the resources they are giving to China. It is an unfair deal.

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favouring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P8: I do not believe that is true at all. Our government will not enter into agreements and sign contracts that are not acceptable and ethical in the first place. The belt and road initiative is one of many infrastructure programs out there. The government had entered into agreement specifically for infrastructure with other countries as well like Turkey who are still very active here in Tanzania.

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P8: China has been trading together with the Tanzanian government for decades now. I think it is unethical for China to charge high interest rates to underdeveloped country like Tanzania given their solid history of working together. However I doubt it do they are charging high interest rate because that will push away the Tanzanian government from taking loans from China.

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P8: I think if they are not able to adhere to corporate social responsibility and labor practices then they should be fined just like any other company. This should be taken seriously because it is all about sustainability and working ethically, Tanzania should take more initiative in protecting their labor force and giving them more rights

A: There are also claims from governance watchdogs that the Chinese government takes advantage of the weaknesses of African governments to enter into unfair deals where corruption and wasteful decision-making are notable. Based on Chinese involvement in this country, are these claims accurate?

P8: Having the Chinese around and involved in African countries has been beneficial as you can visibly see the development of them but of course they are also many downfalls of working with them such being trapped in debts or using the resources for their own good which may be permitted through corruption of some African leaders. therefore, I do believe that these claims are accurate to some extent

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P8: I highly agree. if the Chinese are going to use our highly valued raw materials like silver, copper, cobalt and iron, then then it is only acceptable that in return we must earn high quality manufactured products in order to boost the local economy by trading those imported products rather than supply it elsewhere. but as a condition, I think the products made from Tanzanians raw materials should be sold slightly cheaper to them than anywhere else.

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P8: *They are mainly involved in the sector of infrastructure, agriculture such as rice and sugar cane as well as pharmaceuticals. Because recently Tanzania has been one of the fastest growing economies in the world, I believe they are definitely beneficial.*

A: How do you think the government of Tanzania could develop a model like the UAE to bring about innovation and economic development in order to get away from the so-called debt trap syndrome?

P8: *I think Tanzania could center around tourism and agriculture even more than they already do to develop a model like UAE and get away from the debt trap because tourism is a rapidly growing industry that brings in lots of income but must be highly regulated. The capital generated could be used to free themselves from any debt. In times like these where tourism is discouraged (COVID), Tanzania could focus on agriculture and mining rare stones.*

Interview 9 (Female)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P9: *We have got so much help from China in the last 5 years, especially in the infrastructure sector, which hugely impacted our trading efficiency. I do not think there is a country that can compete with China when it comes to lifting up poorer countries.*

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P9: *Being trapped simply means you cannot pay your loans on time. The only way African countries can free themselves from the debts is to push their economy further and develop faster. This can be done by focusing on the strongest sources of income in the economy and improve it.*

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P9: *The past five years, China has been around in Tanzania for the development of roads and railways. There are also independent entrepreneurs from China, and recently more private companies related to architecture have been rising.*

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P9: *Yes, I do believe so but only to some extent. If the Chinese are to enter and develop in the telecom industry, they will be the ones who control the industry. However, whether they will use this as a means to develop their strategic interest militarily is unknown.*

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P9: *China is not taking the resources for free. The Tanzanian government has a solid protocol when it comes to natural resources. And yes, China is extracting for its own benefit because that is why they are in Tanzania in the first place. But we also benefit from it.*

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to-government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favouring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P9: I believe their aim is to benefit themselves, we get the rewards of their efforts as well. Tanzanian officials are well aware of the costs associated with completing projects but to do so loans are often required.

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P9: I think the interests and hidden charges if there is any, should be lowered given the fact that China is using the resources, invest in different sectors and doing other activities that are beneficial to them.

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P9: That is not true. Tanzanian people are known to be hard workers and are dedicated to whatever they do, but the only problem with many Chinese companies here is that they tend to push the employees into long hours of work.

A: There are also claims from governance watchdogs that the Chinese government takes advantage of the weaknesses of African governments to enter into unfair deals where corruption and wasteful decision-making are notable. Based on Chinese involvement in this country, are these claims accurate?

P9: We are struggling with bribery and China can take advantage of that weakness to get whatever they want. However I also feel bribery has been reduced significantly compared to the previous years and we hope it will continue to be reduced with time, it is not an easy task and I do not think we can completely eliminate corruption but it can be reduced.

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P9: I agree, I believe that the products brought to African nations are cheaply manufactured even though they get to have raw materials of great quality. They get something better in return we get something that is not as good which is a profit for China and a loss for us that hurts our local economy in the long run.

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P9: As mentioned already, they are involved in the mining, infrastructure, and agriculture sectors. China needs raw materials and the Tanzanians need to develop their nation.

A: How do you think the government of Tanzania could develop a model like the UAE to bring about innovation and economic development in order to get away from the so-called debt trap syndrome?

P9: Tanzania is already known for being a top tourism destination in Africa as well as having a diverse culture. They could use this fact to develop a model like the UAE and increase the country's GDP which will reduce the amount of loans they take.

Interview 10 (Male)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P10: *East Africa's economic system, in my opinion, is agrarian. A huge proportion of east Africans work as farmers, cultivating crops like wheat and most notably coffee. However tourism is currently rising rapidly in the region especially in Rwanda and Tanzania.*

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P10: *It is an issue that needs to be addressed here in Africa. And the problem is the events taking place in African region are not well known in industrialized countries, yet poorer countries are being colonized in a civilized manner by richer countries.*

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P10: *Nothing much has happened in the last five years. This applies to all economies in my opinion due to covid, no country has been investing outside their own economies.*

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P10: *No I do not believe that is the case. They have not developed very much in the telecommunication sector for them to be able to advance their military interest here in Tanzania.*

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P10: *Uranium is still in the discussion by the government and is not being extracted yet so I believe China is not getting Uranium from Tanzania at the moment. Regarding other natural resources such as coal, which I believe China are mostly extracting here, is needed to run certain productions in China. But we have seasonal coal extraction, so the government is very cautious of the coal reserve and other resources too.*

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favouring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P10: *Contracts are always negotiable, and initially China always encloses unfavorable terms and conditions with the contract but these get reduced with negotiations by the Tanzanian government until both countries mutually benefit from their own perspectives.*

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P10: *I am not familiar with the Export-Import Bank of China how they process loans but I know for a fact the Chinese loans are mostly if not all, interest free.*

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P10: *I cannot acknowledge those claims since I have no experience working in a Chinese company. It is safe to say job displacement does not happen often here.*

A: There are also claims from governance watchdogs that the Chinese government takes advantage of the weaknesses of African governments to enter into unfair deals where corruption and wasteful decision-making are notable. Based on Chinese involvement in this country, are these claims accurate?

P10: *Yes, those claims are true. I believe corruption is what hold us and most African economies from developing. It is very obvious and can be seen everyday within our own organizations. So if bribery is involved in making agreements happen between China and Tanzania, that is not a surprise for most people*

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P10: *Our local economy is not being restricted by China's imports in any way. I believe the opposite is true. China's imports, especially cheap products, are distributed to the machingas who then sell them for profits. This gives the lower-class people freedom to establish their own business and increase the sources of income.*

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P10: *Infrastructure without a doubt. They provide many jobs to nearby locals whenever they work on projects in certain region within Tanzania. The only*

downside is once these projects are completed, the hired local will lose their jobs.

A: How do you think the government of Tanzania could develop a model like the UAE to bring about innovation and economic development in order to get away from the so-called debt trap syndrome?

P10: *Stressing on the importance of education is vital to reach the level of development UAE has. I think that is the one single element we are missing and not just Tanzania but Africa in general.*

Interview 11 (Male)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P11: *The economic system in the region is not the best but is improving at a fast rate. I believe democracy has been sustained very well for years which prevents leaders from abusing their powers compared to decades ago. This point is important because our leaders are now listening to the needs and wants of citizens and then making decisions based on that. We have lacked that mentality for years but are now embracing it.*

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P11: *Its nonexistent. I have read an article on the debt trap not very long ago. I found out the IMF has been giving loans to underdeveloped countries and seizing assets for not being able to pay them back. Also China has been doing the same thing. But if you think about it, that is how conditions on loans have been since the concept of banking was first invented. Just because China and the USA are competing globally by stretching their economies outside of their own regions, does not mean their purposely putting other weaker economies in debt. No economy is forced to take loans, it is a matter of own choice.*

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P11: *Things have been quiet recently with China. Also statistics show that China's interaction with Africa as whole has been declining in the recent years including their foreign direct investment.*

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P11: *I do not think so, but I agree it is something we cannot rule out as impossible to happen.*

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P11: *It is a matter of economic agreements between two economies that both need what the other has. We desperately need development in the infrastructure sector and China has been doing that for years in return we give them a share of our natural resources at a cost.*

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favouring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P11: *We do benefit from this infrastructure development from China no doubt about it but if you look deep into these infrastructure agreements, it always in favor of China in some way. Also to be clear, a country like China would not just go and develop other countries if it was not for the good of their own economy.*

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P11: Those claims are false because China repeatedly gave free interest loans to many African country, including Tanzania. In some cases, China also completely pardons the least developed countries from loans they cannot pay back to China.

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P11: I have yet to confirm if that is the case. People get fired all the time here and that is because it is very easy to replace them. So those claims could be true.

A: There are also claims from governance watchdogs that the Chinese government takes advantage of the weaknesses of African governments to enter into unfair deals where corruption and wasteful decision-making are notable. Based on Chinese involvement in this country, are these claims accurate?

P11: Yes, I agree but I cannot tell specifically if China or other countries are involved in corruption. It is for sure however that corruption is involved in making decisions.

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P11: I agree. *Not just goods even services can be seen as a threat to the local economy. We cannot compete against the imported goods and services which equally prevents the local entrepreneurs to set up manufactures of Tanzanian made goods because once these goods and services are on the market, they cannot keep up with the production expenses that are a result of already having cheap Chinese products on the market.*

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P11: *They have been eying the agriculture sector more recently but they are still largely working on our infrastructure. It does benefit the Tanzanian; trade has been very efficient as a result of having proper railways across the east Africa and large ports connecting us to the Indian ocean.*

A: How do you think the government of Tanzania could develop a model like the UAE to bring about innovation and economic development in order to get away from the so-called debt trap syndrome?

P11: *Relaxing and having flexible policies that would encourage people to come here and innovate which will ultimately cause knowledge spillover in our own community. This leads to better economic growth and higher GDP to be a non-debt dependent economy. It takes time and making the right decisions.*

Interview 12 (Male)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P12: *The countries within the east Africa have formed their own community. Just like the Gulf community in the middle east, we are involved in joint*

decision making for the good of the whole community which helps the economy of the region to rise proportionally.

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P12: Debt trap is clearly visible in the African economy. A country like China keeps giving out loans to poor countries with a very low-interest rate to attract these developing economies. These loans are so attractive that they absurd loan agreements are often overlooked.

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P12: Overall our history with China is great and has always been evolving to the best of both parties, but in some cases like lending out loans, their agreements are absurd and we might not be able to see the effects of them now by it might have a negative impact in the future

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P12: I am not familiar with the telecom industry and how much of it is China involved in.

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P12: China wants to have the upper hand economically over all other economies and to do so I believe they need as many natural resources as possible for the production of goods which are then exported and of course, this highly contributes to their GDP.

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to-government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favouring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P12: Everything they do is in favor of them but we also benefit from their investments. The belt and road initiative has a fixed set of terms and conditions that can be even found on their website. So the Tanzanian government is always aware of the cost to complete certain projects before handing them to China.

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P12: Interest rates are low on their loans. The fact that we struggle to pay those loans is what overburden the economy and not the interest rate specifically.

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P12: Yes, I have heard of some harsh treatment of employees by China and it is important that they are investigated.

A: There are also claims from governance watchdogs that the Chinese government takes advantage of the weaknesses of African governments to enter into unfair deals where corruption and wasteful decision-making are notable. Based on Chinese involvement in this country, are these claims accurate?

P12: *Unfortunately that is true. And I think the media has also exposed corruption in Africa enough that the whole world knows Africa as a place where corruption takes place, which is true but that has also affected our international reputation and other economies will obviously take advantage of this.*

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P12: *China's imports of goods here in Tanzania helps a lot of the lower-class people to establish their own small businesses which are the source of distribution for these goods. But recently, especially in Dar es Salaam, more luxury and popular brands are starting to pop out, which means more people are improving financially. Trading of raw materials is predetermined because that is what East Africa and Tanzania are known for and so countries seek out trading agreements with us.*

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P12: *They are building roads, ports, railways and airports here in Tanzania. I believe these infrastructures are our gateway to the global economy stage. Without it, we will be restricted to trade within our own economy.*

A: How do you think the government of Tanzania could develop a model like the UAE to bring about innovation and economic development in order to get away from the so-called debt trap syndrome?

P12: *We already have developed a model similar to the UAE but it needs improvements and finance to reach a higher level. As I mentioned before,*

loans taken from China by African countries have been dropping and this is a good sign that hints future financial freedom

Interview 13 (Male)

A: In general, what are your thoughts on the economic system of East Africa?

P13: *The economic system here is run by the agriculture sector. It has been that way since the beginning of independence of east African countries. However it has been evolving and currently more sectors like the tourism, contribute to the regions economic growth.*

A: What are your thoughts on the debt trap in Africa?

P13: *Many countries have fallen deep into debts but that is because those loans are needed to run the economy. If there is debt trap at all, then it is not caused by another country, rather a country traps itself in debts as a result of taking too many loans.*

A: How would you describe China's presence in this country in the past 5 years?

P13: *There is a new railway mega project being developed by China right now here in Tanzania and that is probably the biggest project China has been involved for a long time here in Tanzania.*

A: Do you believe China wants to further its strategic interest militarily by using economic development like developing the telecom industry as a ploy to have a foothold in Tanzania and East Africa?

P13: *That is not possible. Our telecommunication sector is mostly owned by TTCL, a Tanzanian owned organization, which provides services to other telecom companies at a certain cost. So I do not think a small company like*

Halotel can be the source of China's espionage here in Tanzania without the government knowing.

A: There are perceptions that China is targeting key sectors in this country such as mining and other natural resources like uranium for extraction for its own benefit rather than the country. What are your observations?

P13: Yes, China is targeting specific resources it needs. Also there are not many Chinese mining companies here. Only recently some Chinese companies have been granted licenses to start mining gold. It is true, uranium has been found in large quantities here in Tanzania but currently, there is not a single company mining Uranium.

A: Regarding Belt and Road Initiative, there are claims that some of the government-to-government contracts between the Tanzanian government and the Chinese government have unreasonable conditions that are highly skewed towards favouring China. Do you agree or disagree?

P13: I disagree. China is using its foreign investments to develop economically, and I believe that any country would want to do the same thing as well. It is a natural political operation to achieve a higher return on investment. Their contracts can be stiff sometimes but it is the same case with contracts from the USA and other countries Tanzania have dealt with.

A: There are claims in Tanzania that the loans given by China to Tanzania through entities such as the Export-Import Bank of China have high rates of interest and other hidden charges that overburden the Tanzanian economy. What are your comments on this?

P13: The interest rates of loans are usually kept a secret by the government and so we have no clue what they are exactly but I can imagine they are not high because we have consistently taking loans from them. If the interest rate were high then yes, that can have negative effects on our economy.

A: There has been blame of Chinese entities in most African countries for poor labor practices, job displacement, and failure to adhere to sound Corporate Social Responsibility practices all in the name of economic development. What are your thoughts on this?

P13: People lose their jobs here all the time and it is not because of China. It is because we do not have a proper employment structure to start with. So companies can abuse this weakness by firing people whenever they like or underpaying them.

A: There are also claims from governance watchdogs that the Chinese government takes advantage of the weaknesses of African governments to enter into unfair deals where corruption and wasteful decision-making are notable. Based on Chinese involvement in this country, are these claims accurate?

P13: Yes that is true especially when we talk about bribery here in Tanzania. People get away with illegal businesses and these actions can be done at a higher level such a whole economy bribing to get their way into another economy.

A: The involvement of the Chinese in this country can be perceived as neocolonial by some as they support the export of raw materials from here to their countries and then dump cheap manufactured products here thereby undermining growth of the local economy. Do you agree or disagree?

P13: I disagree. I can admit however this use to be the case years ago, but now Tanzania has picked up economically. The value of Tanzanian currency has the highest value right now against the dollar in the whole East African Community region. This only suggests that imports became cheap and our exports have become expensive. So China's imports might seem cheap right because our currency's value is high at the moment.

A: In which sectors of the economy do you believe the Chinese are actively involved and what is the nature of contractual engagement? Are these beneficial to Tanzanians?

P13: They are all over Tanzanian but the infrastructure sector is mostly populated by China. Most of these infrastructure done by China are also financed by loans from China. I believe infrastructure is beneficial to Tanzanians in many ways.

A: How do you think the government of Tanzania could develop a model like the UAE to bring about innovation and economic development in order to get away from the so-called debt trap syndrom?

P13: UAE is one of the greatest country economically and also in terms of tourism. So we are no where near developing a model like the UAE. However that does not mean we are not developing. We are progressing in our own ways using our own models that have been working just fine.

Below is the native version of the interviews conducted in Swahili by the researcher.

(A) inawakilisha mhoji

(P) inamwakilisha mhojiwa

Mahojiano 1 (Mwanaume)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P1: *Kwa maoni yangu, nadhani Afrika Mashariki bado iko katika hatua ya maendeleo kiuchumi, na ukiangalia historia ya Tanzania na nchi jirani, tunategemea sana msaada wa kifedha kutoka kwa uchumi mwingine. Hata hivyo, katika muongo uliopita, uchumi wetu unaonekana kuimarika na nadhani kwa sasa tuko kwenye njia sahihi ya kujitegemea zaidi.*

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P1: *Sio kile ambacho watu wengi wanadhani. Ninaamini kutumia neno 'mtego' ni moja kwa moja kumshutumu mtu au kwa upande wetu China yake, kwa kutokuwa na maadili katika kutibu uchumi mwingine. Hatuna uhakika kama China inafanya hivyo lakini ni kweli kwamba nchi nyingi za Afrika zinaidai China pesa.*

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P1: Tumekuwa tukifanya biashara na China kwa muda mrefu. Hasa katika miaka 5 iliyopita, hakuna mengi yanaweza kusemwa. Hata hivyo nakumbuka rais Magufuli alipokuwa na tofauti fulani na serikali ya China mara nyingi. Moja ya matukio hayo yanayojulikana ni pale alipoghairi mkopo wa dola za Marekani bilioni 10 kwa China kwa sababu masharti ya mikataba ya mkopo yalikuwa magumu.

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P1: Hapana sidhani kama mikakati ya China. Ni uwekezaji wa asili wa China katika jumuiya yetu kuendeleza kile ambacho tumekuwa tukikosa kwa muda.

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P1: Hiyo ni kweli kwa sababu ni wazi China ingetaka kutoa rasilimali inazohitaji. Itakuwa haifai kutolenga rasilimali fulani za asili. Wanalenga rasilimali wanazohitaji na kwa manufaa yao wenyewe. Pia tunapata kufaidika na uchimbaji wao kwani maeneo ya uchimbaji madini hapa Tanzania yanashirikiwa na serikali na faida pia.

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P1: Hapana sikubaliani. Serikali yetu haitakubali chochote kisicho na manufaa kwao pia. Kama alivyofanya rais wetu aliyepita Magufuli alipokataa mkopo

wa miundombinu kutoka China, ni kwa sababu masharti ya mkataba hayakuwa na thamani ya mkopo huo.

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelekea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P1: Sina hakika kuhusu kiwango cha riba ambacho China inapeana na mikopo hiyo na pia, sidhani kama kuna malipo yaliyofichwa wakati mikopo inatolewa. Kila kitu pamoja na kiwango cha riba kinajulikana kabla ya kukubali mikopo.

A: Kume kuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P1: Hiyo ni kweli kabisa. Kuhusu nafasi za kazi zinazotolewa na shirika la China ni nyingi na sina uhakika kuhusu kiwango cha uhamishaji wa kazi lakini nadhani kama zipo basi ni chache sana. Wanaweza hata hivyo kuboresha hali ya kufanya kazi haswa katika sehemu ya kazi ya miundombinu.

A: Pia kuna madai kutoka kwa waangalizi wa utawala kwamba serikali ya China inachukua fursa ya udhaifu wa serikali za Afrika kuingia katika mikataba isiyo ya haki ambapo rushwa na maamuzi ya ubadhirifu ni muhimu. Kulingana na uhusika wa Wachina katika nchi hii, je, madai haya ni sahihi?

P1: Hiyo ni kweli kabisa. Kuhusu nafasi za kazi zinazotolewa na shirika la China ni nyingi na sina uhakika kuhusu kiwango cha uhamishaji wa kazi lakini nadhani kama zipo basi ni chache sana. Wanaweza hata hivyo kuboresha hali ya kufanya kazi haswa katika sehemu ya kazi ya miundombinu.

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa

kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo → Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P1: Sikubaliani na madai hayo na nina hakika kwamba yanaagizwa kutoka Uchina sio zote bei nafuu. Lakini ingawa, China isingeuza kutma bidhaa ambazo hazitanunuliwa hapa Tanzania. Iwapo watasafirisha bidhaa zenye ubora wa juu au hata huduma za bei ghali sana, si watu wengi wangeweza kupata bidhaa hizo kwa sababu Tanzania bado ni nchi inayoendelea na idadi kubwa ya watu katika wigo wa hali ya chini.

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu? Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watanzania?

P1: Mara nyingi katika sekta ya miundombinu na ndiyo, ni manufaa kwetu. Tunahitaji miundombinu ili kukuza haraka na kwa ufanisi zaidi.

A: Je, unafikiri serikali ya Tanzania inawezaje kutengeneza mfano kama UAE kuleta uvumbuzi na maendeleo ya kiuchumi ili kujiepusha na kile kinachoitwa mtego wa madeni?

P1: Tunahitaji kuendelea kukuza jinsi tulivyo hivi sasa. Mikopo ni muhimu na ni sehemu ya mchakato huu. Elimu inapaswa kuwa lengo kuu pia, tunakosa maarifa sahihi ya kuibua na kuunda vitu peke yetu na ndio maana tunatafuta msaada kwa nchi zingine.

Mahojiano 2 (Mwanaume)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P2: *Inafanya kazi nzuri ukilinganisha na hapo zamani ilikuwa dhahiri. Nadhani ndani ya miaka kumi hadi kumi na tano ijayo watu wengi wa Afrika Mashariki wangeainishwa kama tabaka la kati.*

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P2: *Nchi nyingi za Afrika ziko katika madeni makubwa hasa kutoka China lakini hazijanaswa humo. Kitakwimu nchi za hapa Afrika hulipa mikopo yao lakini huchukua miongo kadhaa kukamilisha kulipa kile wanachodaiwa. Ninaelewa kwa nini mtu angefikiri uchumi unanaswa na deni hasa kwa mtazamo wa mtu ambaye hatoki Afrika. Hiyo ni kwa sababu vyombo vya habari vinafanya ionekane kuwa tunahangaika hadi kuporomosha uchumi lakini si kweli.*

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P2: *Hakuna mengi ambayo yamefanyika na Uchina katika miaka mitano iliyopita haswa ukizingatia miaka mitatu iliyoathiriwa na covid ambayo ilisimamisha uchumi wa dunia.*

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P2: *Hapana, China inawekeza kwenye mawasiliano kwa sababu kwanza, Serikali yetu imewaruhusu kufanya hivyo na pili ni kwa sababu wanazalisha huduma kwa bei nafuu. Kwa mfano Halotel huenda ndiyo mtoa huduma wa*

simu inayotumika zaidi kwa sababu ni nafuu kiasi gani. Pia makampuni mengi ya kigeni ya mawasiliano yamewekeza hapa kama Vodacom, Tigo, Zantel, na hata Airtel. Ninaamini kuwa hii haina uhusiano wowote na jeshi lakini hata hivyo hatungeweza kusema kwa usahihi.

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P2: Sina taarifa za uchimbaji wa madini ya Uranium lakini hatuwezi kuwazuia kabisa kupata maliasili kwa sababu hiyo bila shaka italeti athari mbaya kwetu, hata hivyo nadhani tunaweza kuzuia kiasi cha rasilimali tunazowapatia kwa kuwa na makubaliano bora ya pande zote

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P2: Sikubaliani kwa sababu kama zingekuwa hazifai basi tusingekuwa tunasaini mikataba ya miundombinu na China kwa zaidi ya miongo miwili. Sababu pekee ya sisi kushughulika na China hadi wakati huu ni kwa sababu wamekuwa wakifanya kile wanachoahidi kufanya. Ni kweli kuna kutoelewana kunatokea kati ya serikali mbili moja baada ya muda fulani lakini ni lazima kutokea pale unaposhughulika na uchumi kama China kwa muda mrefu. Pande zote mbili zinawatakiya mema.

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelemea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P2: Siwezi kutoa maoni juu ya hili kwa sababu sijui mada hiyo.

A: Kume kuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P2: Makampuni mengi hapa Tanzania, sio tu ya Wachina, hayafuati sheria za ajira na mahali pa kazi. Hili ni tatizo ambalo halijatatuliwa kwa miaka mingi. Mashirika mengine hayatoi hata mkataba wa ajira na cha kushangaza wafanyikazi wenyewe hawaulizi. Serikali lazima iwaelimishe wananchi kuhusu umuhimu wa kusaini mkataba wa ajira na madhara yake iwapo mtu hatasaini

A: Pia kuna madai kutoka kwa waangalizi wa utawala kwamba serikali ya China inachukua fursa ya udhaifu wa serikali za Afrika kuingia katika mikataba isiyo ya haki ambapo rushwa na maamuzi ya ubadhirifu ni muhimu. Kulingana na uhusika wa Wachina katika nchi hii, je, madai haya ni sahihi?

P2: Iwe ni Uchina au nchi nyingine, Matukio ya namna hii hutokea kila mara na hata kurushwa kwenye habari pindi mtu aliyeshiriki ufiisadi anapopatikana. Kuna adhabu kali kwa wale wanaopokea rushwa hapa Tanzania lakini sidhani kama hiyo inatosha kukomesha rushwa kwa ujumla na hasa ni kwa sababu mishahara na mishahara ni midogo katika nchi yetu jambo ambalo linahamasisha watu kutafuta njia nyingine za kujipatia kipato. na bahati mbaya kupokea rushwa ni mojawapo.

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo → Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P2: *Ninakubali kwamba inaweza kuwa hivyo lakini kumbuka Uchina haitoi chochote bure. Wanalipa tunachohitaji kutoka kwao hata hivyo China ina nguvu sana kiuchumi kwa hiyo kuna mikakati inaweza kabisa kuwa kesi ya kunyonya malighafi kwa malipo ya bei nafuu bila sisi, kuwa dhaifu kiuchumi, kuona madhara yake.*

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu? Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watanzania?

P2: *Wako katika sekta nyingi kama si zote lakini Ni wazi kabisa miundombinu ni mahali ambapo kimsingi wamekaa. Nafasi za kazi zinapatikana kwa wingi kwa sababu ya shughuli zao katika sekta ya miundombinu. Shughuli hizi za miundombinu zinaweza kuwa katika mfumo wa mikopo kutoka China au uwekezaji wa moja kwa moja kutoka kwa serikali ya Tanzania.*

Mahojiano 3 (Mwanamke)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P3: *Sijui jinsi nchi zingine ndani ya Afrika Mashariki zinavyofanya kiuchumi lakini kwa ujumla kama ningetabiri tu basi nadhani hazifanyi vibaya ukizingatia COVID ina athari.*

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P3: *Nimesoma mahali fulani kuhusu mada hii lakini siamini kuwa nchi inaweza kunaswa na madeni bila kujua. Ikiwa uchumi mmoja utaamua kukubali mkopo, bila shaka wanapaswa kufahamu kwamba watalazimika kulipa wakati fulani. Ikiwa uchumi unaanguka katika deni ambalo hawawezi kulipa, kimsingi ni kwa sababu maamuzi yao yalikuwa mabaya.*

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P3: *Hawapo bahali yoyote kwa sasa zaidi ya yale ambayo tayari wameanzisha hapo awali.*

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P3: *Nimesikia kwenye habari ushutuma kwamba China inafanya ujasusi kwenye makao makuu ya Umoja wa Afrika nchini Ethiopia na cha kushangaza makao makuu yenyewe yalijengwa na China. Kwa hiyo inaweza kumaanisha kwamba wameijenga ili kupeleleza mikutano yote inayofanyika kwene jengo hilo. Inaweza kusemwa vile vile na mawasiliano ya simu ya China hapa Tanzania, lakini nina mashaka sana kwamba wanataka kufanya ujasusi.*

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P3: *Siwezi kujibu swali hili kwa sababu mimi sijui mada hii.*

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P3: *Ndiyo, nakubali lakini haitokei mara kwa mara hapa Tanzania. Mara ya mwisho niliposikia tukio kama hilo nchini Uganda ni wakati Uchina ilitaka kuteka uwanja wa ndege wa Entebbe kwa sababu Uganda haikutunza mwisho wao wa makubaliano.*

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelemea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

A: Kumekuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P3: Ni rahisi sana kuchukua nafasi ya mtu hapa ikiwa hafanyi kazi yake ipasavyo lakini kwa bahati mbaya shirika linachukua fursa hii na wakati mwingine hata kama mfanyakazi amefanya jambo ambalo halistahili kufukuzwa kazi, bado lingetokea.

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo → Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P3: Watu wengi hapa Tanzania hawawezi kumudu vitu vya anasa na tunajua China inatoa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazofaa kwa watu wetu. Hiyo haimaanishi kwamba vitu vya anasa havipatikani hapa lakini ni mdogo kwa wale wanaoweza kuvinunua.

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu? Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watanzania?

P3: *Hakika ni sekta ya miundombinu. Tunapata barabara nzuri na reli kwa kurudi hivyo ndiyo; Nadhani ni faida kwetu.*

A: Je, unafikiri serikali ya Tanzania inawezaje kutengeneza mfano kama UAE kuleta uvumbuzi na maendeleo ya kiuchumi ili kujiepusha na kile kinachoitwa mtego wa madeni?

P3: *Si haki kuifananisha Tanzania na UAE kwa sababu kwanza nchi zote mbili haziko katika ukanda mmoja wa kufananishwa na pili UAE ina utajiri mkubwa wa mafuta tofauti na sisi. Tofauti ni kwamba tuna vyanzo vingi vya mapato lakini ni polepole na tunahitaji maendeleo, kwa upande mwingine UAE haina vyanzo vingi vya mapato lakini hifadhi yao ya mafuta inawaleta mapato ya haraka.*

Mahojiano 4 (Mwanamke)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P4: *Kila nchi katika Afrika Mashariki ina mfumo wake wa kiuchumi tofauti na nchi nyingine lakini wana mfanano wao kama wanategemea sana sekta ya kilimo kama chanzo cha mapato.*

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P4: *Nadhani mtego wa madeni haupo. Ni neno lingine tu la 'kutoweza kulipa mikopo yako' uliyokubali kwanza. Na kama uchumi hauwezi kulipa mikopo yao, kuna madhara.*

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P4: Wamefanya mengi hasa katika sekta ya miundombinu. Hivi karibuni Tanzania na Burundi zilikubaliana kujenga reli inayounganisha nchi hizo mbili ambayo kwa makubaliano ya nchi zote mbili mradi huo ulikabidhiwa kwa China. Hebu fikiria jinsi barabara zetu na miundombinu, kwa ujumla, ingekuwa bila ushiriki wa China hapa Tanzania. Hakuna nchi nyingine katika miaka 20 iliyopita iliyofanya kile ambacho China imetimiza katika miaka mitano iliyopita

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P4: Hiyo si kweli. Sekta ya mawasiliano ya China hapa ni ya manufaa sana kwetu. Wanatoa bei ya chini ikilinganishwa na makampuni mengine. Watu wengi wanaoishi vijijini hawawezi kumudu Tigo au Vodacom. Serikali yetu ingeweza angalau kubashiri iwapo China inaipeleleza Tanzania kwa kutumia huduma zao za mawasiliano lakini pia siwezi kukataa; Nadhani China ina uwezo wa kufanya hivyo.

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P4: Hiyo ni kweli lakini siifahamu uranium. Uchina mara nyingi huchimba rasilimali za chuma kama vile kobalti kwa sababu Uchina inahitaji rasilimali hizo kutengeneza bidhaa na vitu vingine. Bila shaka tunapata share kutoka uchimbaji ya madini kwa sababu serikali imetia saina ubia na kampuni nyingi za madini ikiwa sio zote.

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina

masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P4: Siwezi kutoa maoni juu ya hili kwa sababu sijui mada hiyo.

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelemea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P4: Sijui kiwango gani cha riba ya mikopo inayotolewa na serikali ya China, lakini kama ningekisia, sidhani kama riba yao iko juu kabisa kwa sababu hiyo ingeifanya serikali ya Tanzania ijitenge na China. na sivyo ilivyo hadi sasa.

A: Kumekuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P4: Inatokea sana lakini sina uhakika ni mara ngapi hufanyika ndani ya kampuni za Uchina haswa.

A: Pia kuna madai kutoka kwa waangalizi wa utawala kwamba serikali ya China inachukua fursa ya udhaifu wa serikali za Afrika kuingia katika mikataba isiyo ya haki ambapo rushwa na maamuzi ya ubadhirifu ni muhimu. Kulingana na uhusika wa Wachina katika nchi hii, je, madai haya ni sahihi?

P4: Ikiwa madai hayo ni ya kweli au sio, singeweza kujua lakini ndio, nadhani hilo linaweza kutokea.

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo → Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P4: *Tunahitaji bidhaa kutoka nje kama nchi nyingine yoyote. Hatuna uwezo wa kutengeneza kila kitu peke yetu, haswa vitu kama mavazi na vitu vya lazima vya kila siku. Sioni kwanini kuagiza bidhaa kutoka China itakwamisha uchumi wetu lakini naona lazima kuna manufaa makubwa kwa China.*

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu? Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watazania?

P4: *China wanajenga barabara na miradi mingine inayohusiana na miundombinu ambayo sisi tunanufaika nayo lakini mikataba kati ya China na Tanzania sio kila mara ni shwari, bado tunadaiwa pesa nyingi sana, hata hivyo nadhani hilo ni jambo la kawaida ukizingatia uchumi wa nchi hizo mbili hauko kwenye kiwango kimoja.*

Mahojiano 5 (Mwanamke)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P5: *Ninaamini utalii una mchango mkubwa kwyene suala la maendeleo ya kiuchumi katika ukanda wetu. Serikali zetu zinafanya kila ziwezalo kuvutia utalii, na hiyo ni hasa kwa kuhimiza sio tu utalii wa nje bali pia watalii wa ndani. Angalia nchi yetu kwa mfano tuna Serengeti kitu ambacho ni cha kipekee na kinapatikana hapa Tanzania pekee. Pia inachangia kwa kiasi kikubwa katika Pato la Taifa la uchumi wetu. Rwanda ni mfano mwingine, wamehamisha mwelekeo kabisa kwenye utalii, na hilo linawaendea vyema hadi sasa.*

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P5: *Ninaamini kuwa katika deni ni sehemu ya mchakato wetu wa kukuza uchumi. Madeni mengi barani Afrika ni ya miundombinu. Kwa mfano hapa Tanzania, tumekuwa tukichukua mikopo kutoka China kwa muda mrefu lakini hatujabanwa na madeni yao, ukizingatia pato letu la Taifa limekuwa likipanda mara kwa mara. Hakuna habari huko nje ambayo inasema haswa China imechukua mali fulani kwa sababu ya kutolipwa tena.*

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P5: *China imeshiriki katika ujenzi wa barabara na njia za reli nchini Tanzania. Wafanyabiashara wa kujitegemea wa China wameongezeka katika miaka ya hivi karibuni, hasa ambayo sasa Air Tanzania inaruka moja kwa moja hadi China.*

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P5: *Siamini hivyo. Kampuni za China zinazidi kuwekeza katika mawazo kama mawasiliano ya simu nje ya nchi yao ili kupata faida nzuri kwenye uwekezaji. Wanafahamu tunahitaji huduma bora za mawasiliano kwa hivyo waliamua kuwekeza humo Tanzania.*

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P5: *Wanalenga sekta ambazo zitawaletea aina fulani ya thamani kwa uchumi wao wenyewe. Maliasili zinalengwa na nchi nyingi hapa Tanzania na si Uchina pekee.*

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P5: *Nakataa. Naweza kusema tu kwa mtazamo wetu na hiyo ni miundombinu yote inayotengenezwa na China hapa inatufaa sisi. Lakini kwa mtazamo wa China, bila shaka injipendelea zaidi, vinginevyo hawangeweza kuhatarisha kuendeleza mpango wa miundombinu barani Afrika ikiwa hautawanufaisha uchumi wao.*

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelemea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P5: *Siwezi kutoa maoni juu ya hili kwa sababu sijui mada hiyo.*

A: Kumekuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P5: *Hiyo inaweza kuwa kweli au la. Sijafanya kazi katika kampuni yoyote ya Kichina kukubali madai hayo. Hata hivyo kwa ujumla mazingira ya kazi hapa Tanzania yanahitaji kuboreshwa kwa makampuni yote na si yale yanayomilikiwa na China pekee.*

A: Pia kuna madai kutoka kwa waangalizi wa utawala kwamba serikali ya China inachukua fursa ya udhaifu wa serikali za Afrika kuingia katika mikataba isiyo ya haki ambapo rushwa na maamuzi ya ubadhirifu ni muhimu. Kulingana na uhusika wa Wachina katika nchi hii, je, madai haya ni sahihi?

P5: Rushwa ni jambo kubwa hapa ambalo linahitaji kushughulikiwa. Na ndio, naamini nchi nyingi zinahusika katika kuwahonga.

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo → Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P5: Sikubaliani. Nakubali kwamba wanaagiza bidhaa kutoka nje ya nchi kwa bei nafuu halafu wa China wanapata kitu cha thamani zaidi jambo ambalo si la haki lakini halihujumu uchumi wetu kwa sababu fikiria tuendeleo kuchimba madini bila kufanya biashara ya rasilimali, hatutaweza kufanya mengi na rasilimali hizo au hatujafanya hivyo. ilifikia kiwango ambacho tunahitaji kila maliasili ili kujiendeleza kiuchumi.

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu? Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watanzania?

P5: Kama nilivyoeleza awali, wanashiriki kikamilifu katika miundombinu na pia sekta ya kilimo. Wamekuwa wakileta teknolojia mpya katika kilimo chetu jambo ambalo linafanya sekta hii kuwa na ufanisi mkubwa hivi sasa ikilinganishwa na miaka ya nyuma.

A: Je, unafikiri serikali ya Tanzania inawezaje kutengeneza mfano kama UAE kuleta uvumbuzi na maendeleo ya kiuchumi ili kujiepusha na kile kinachoitwa mtego wa madeni?

P5: Inabidi tu tuendeleo kujikuza jinsi tulivyo sasa hivi. Itachukua muda na ni muhimu viongozi wetu kufanya maamuzi sahihi na uwekezaji wa ndani.

Ninaamini tuna vijana wengi wenye vipaji ambao wanahitaji kuelimishwa Zaidi ili kuimarisha vipaji vyao. Ufisadi unapaswa kuondolewa pia ikiwa tunataka kujiendeleza kama UAE.

Mahojiano 6 (Mwanaume)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P6: *Uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki umeendelea vizuri sana katika miaka ya hivi karibuni na hiyo ni kutokana na maendeleo ya elimu na maarifa tuliyonayo. Mfumo wake wa kiuchumi huathiriwa zaidi na biashara kati ya wanajamii wake.*

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P6: *Nadhani mtego wa madeni sio neno zuri. kwa sababu nchi za Afrika zinafaidika na mikopo hii waliyopewa. Ni muhimu, hata hivyo kwamba mikopo hii kupelekwa katika sekta sahihi kama vile miundombinu na elimu.*

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P6: *Hakuna jipya. Miaka mitano si muda mrefu. Hata hivyo tunaona kupungua kwa mwingiliano wetu na China ikiwa ni pamoja na uwekezaji wao katika nchi yetu.*

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P6: *China ina uwezo wa kufanya mambo mengine mengi ikiwa lengo lao lilikuwa kujiendeleza kijeshi katika eneo hilo. Kumbuka kampuni zinazomilikiwa na Wachina kama Halotel zinatatizika kushindana na kampuni*

zingine za mawasiliano hapa kwa hivyo kama wanataka kutengeneza ujasusi wa aina fulani hapa kwa kutumia huduma za mawasiliano, itakuwa ngumu sana.

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P6: Tuna maliasili nyingi lakini pia hitaji la pesa linaongezeka, Kwa hivyo nadhani Tanzania iko katika nafasi nzuri ya kukidhi mahitaji ya China ya rasilimali asilia. Kuhusu Uranium bado hatuichimbi na nina uhakika hakuna kampuni ya kigeni itakayoruhusiwa kuchimba isipokuwa moja ambayo serikali ya Tanzania inamiliki.

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P6: Sijui masharti kamili ya mikataba kati ya serikali mbili. Hata hivyo nakumbuka mara chache serikali ya Tanzania ilikataa mikopo ya miundombinu kwa sababu masharti na masharti yaliyoainishwa kwenye mkataba hayakuwa mazuri kwa Tanzania.

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelekea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P6: Hakuna malipo au riba zozote ziliyofichwa kuchukua mkopo.

A: Kume kuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea

mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P6: Sijafanya kazi katika kampuni yoyote ya Kichina lakini kutokana na kile nilichosikia kwa miaka mingi, mazingira ya kazi sio mazuri sana na yanahitaji kuboreshwa na wao pamoja na kukaa kulingana na kanuni za haki za binadamu. Serikali yetu inapaswa kufuatilia na kuweka mambo haya mahali pa kazi katika udhibiti.

A: Pia kuna madai kutoka kwa waangalizi wa utawala kwamba serikali ya China inachukua fursa ya udhaifu wa serikali za Afrika kuingia katika mikataba isiyo ya haki ambapo rushwa na maamuzi ya ubadhirifu ni muhimu. Kulingana na uhusika wa Wachina katika nchi hii, je, madai haya ni sahihi?

P6: Nisingejua kama ndivyo ilivyokuwa. Kuna makubaliano mabaya pengine huko nje ambayo yamehitimishwa nyuma ya migongo yetu. Lakini hatuwezi kujua kwa urahisi.

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo → Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P6: Nakubali. Wazalishaji wetu wa ndani hawawezi kuendana na uagizaji wa bidhaa kutoka China na hivyo wanakata tamaa ya kuzalisha wakijua bidhaa zao hazitafika mbali sokoni. Iwapo ungetathmini manufaa ambayo China inapata kutokana na maliasili zetu, ungeona kwamba haina haki lakini bado tunahitaji uagizaji wao kutoka nje.

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu?
Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watazania?

P6: Sekta ya miundombinu inaendelezwa kikamilifu na China. Na bila shaka zina manufaa kwetu kwa sababu miundombinu ndio msingi wa maendeleo yetu ya kiuchumi na bado inahitaji kuboreshwa.

A: Je, unafikiri serikali ya Tanzania inawezaje kutengeneza mfano kama UAE kuleta uvumbuzi na maendeleo ya kiuchumi ili kujiepusha na kile kinachoitwa mtego wa madeni?

P6: Tunahitaji kuvutia na kutoa uhuru zaidi kwa wawekezaji wa nje kuja na kuleta teknolojia mpya na ubunifu nchini Tanzania. Hatua ya kwanza ya kufikia hilo, ni lazima tuiwasilishe Tanzania kama nchi salama ya kuwekeza na kuishi. Hakuna mtu ambaye angekuja hapa na kutumia mamilioni ikiwa nchi haina usalama.

Mahojiano 7 (Mwanaume)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P7: Inaweza kuwa bora kuliko ilivyo sasa hivi. Marekebisho machache yanahitajika kwa mfano, kuwa na sarafu moja katika Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki kutatuweka sote kwenye ukurasa mmoja ambao hatimaye utaimarisha uchumi wa kanda kwa ujumla na pia itarahisisha biashara.

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P7: Ni tatizo. Ni kinyume cha maadili kwa serikali kutumia deni kama silaha katika kujaribu kupata rasilimali na mali ya nchi nyingine. China inataka kushindana na nchi kama Marekani na hivyo madeni yaliyotumika kwa ukubwa wa mali kutoka nchi nyingine.

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P7: Nilianza kazi yangu kama meneja wa uwanja katika ujenzi miaka ya nyuma ambayo Wachina waliuunda, nilipata uzoefu mwingi kama meneja. Bila shaka, mambo mengi yamebadilika tangu wakati huo, lakini bila shaka China bado ni msaada kwa watu wetu na uchumi.

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P7: Siamini hivyo na hata ikiwa hiyo ndiyo dhamira yao halisi, sioni ni kwa namna gani hilo litawaathiri wananchi wa Tanzania. Watu wengi hutumia huduma za simu kwa sababu ni nafuu na zinapatikana kila mkoa hapa.

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P7: Siwezi kuwa na uhakika kabisa ni maliasili gani wanalenga. Najua kwa hakika wanahitaji rasilimali nyingi, .China ndio nchi inayoongoza kwa kusafirisha bidhaa nje ya nchi na wanahitaji rasilimali ili kuweza kubaki kuwa nchi yenye uchumi mkubwa duniani.

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P7: Nakubali. Masharti ndani ya mikataba yao ni magumu wakati mwingine. Wao ni wa kiimla sana na wanaweza kuingiza nchi kwa urahisi katika mtego wa madeni kwa manufaa yao wenyewe.

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelemea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P7: Hiyo si kweli, mikopo ya Wachina wakati fulani haina riba au kiwango cha riba cha chini sana. Lakini kama nilivyoeleza hapo awali tatizo halisi liko kwenye masharti ya mikataba na makubaliano yao na sio riba. Pengine wanatumia riba ndogo kuvutia nchi.

A: Kumekuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P7: Sijashuhudia mtu akifukuzwa kazi nilipokuwa nikifanya kazi na kampuni inayomilikiwa na Wachina. Siwezi kuzungumzia makampuni mengine ambayo sijashuhudia maswala ya mahali pa kazi moja kwa moja

A: Pia kuna madai kutoka kwa waangalizi wa utawala kwamba serikali ya China inachukua fursa ya udhaifu wa serikali za Afrika kuingia katika mikataba isiyo ya haki ambapo rushwa na maamuzi ya ubadhirifu ni muhimu. Kulingana na uhusika wa Wachina katika nchi hii, je, madai haya ni sahihi?

P7: Ndiyo, hakika rushwa ni udhaifu wetu na ni muhimu sana kwa viongozi wetu kuhakikisha mambo kama kupokea rushwa hayatokei na kuwatoza faini kali wanaopokea rushwa. Sidhani kama unaweza kuilaumu China kwa kutumia udhaifu wetu kwa sababu rushwa ni tatizo la ndani linalohitaji kutatuliwa.

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa

kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo → Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P7: Ndiyo, ndivyo ilivyo sasa hivi. Serikali ya Tanzania inapaswa kuongeza ushuru kwa bidhaa zinazoagizwa kutoka China ili kuwapa wazalishaji wetu nafasi katika soko. Bila shaka China ingepinga uamuzi huu lakini nadhani utatunufaisha baada ya muda mrefu.

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu? Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watanzania?

P7: Wako karibu sekta zote nchini Tanzania lakini miundombinu na kilimo ndiko wanafanya kazi zaidi. Barabara zilizotengenezwa, reli na njia zingine za usafirishaji ni vitu vizuri tunachohitaji. Katika kilimo, zana za kisasa zinazotengenezwa nchini China zinapatikana hata katika maeneo ya vijijini ambayo kwa hakika yameboresha mbinu zetu za kilimo.

A: Je, unafikiri serikali ya Tanzania inawezaje kutengeneza mfano kama UAE kuleta uvumbuzi na maendeleo ya kiuchumi ili kujiepusha na kile kinachoitwa mtego wa madeni?

P7: Si rahisi kutengeneza mfumo kama huo. Tunahitaji tu uwezo wa kifedha ili kuunda mfumo kama ule wa UAE. Lakini kupata uhuru wa kifedha sio rahisi kwa nchi kama Tanzania ukizingatia tuko nyuma kwa mambo mengi.

Mahojiano 8 (Mwanaume)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P8: *Ni jambo gumu, na siwezi kusema mengi juu ya hili, lakini ninaamini mfumo wetu wa uchumi una nafasi ya kuboreshwa na maadamu utapeli na ufisadi vinadhibitiwa, mfumo wetu wa uchumi pia utadhibitiwa.*

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P8: *Mtego wa madeni unaonekana barani Afrika kwa sababu nchi nyingi hazina uwezo wa kulipa kile wanachodaiwa. Nadhani itachukua miaka mingi kulipia deni, ikiwa itawahi. Inaonekana kama hakuna chaguzi nyingi, nadhani njia pekee ya kulipa deni ni kutoa kitu ambacho mdaiwa hana mpaka deni limefunikwa. Kwa mfano, toa pamba na korosho bila malipo kwa muda hadi deni litakapomalizika.*

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P8: *Wachina wameshiriki katika shughuli nyingi nchini Tanzania katika miaka michache iliyopita, hasa TAZARA lakini pia wanajihusisha na sekta ya madini ya makaa ya mawe, dawa na hata miwa.*

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P8: *Hakika wananufaika na maendeleo ya uchumi wa Tanzania kwa kupanua tasnia ya mawasiliano kwa sababu itadhibitiwa au kusimamiwa na wao na pia wataweza kupata data za siri sana ambazo zinaweza kutumika kijeshi.*

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P8: *Nadhani ni jambo lisilofaa kwa China kutumia rasilimali za Tanzania kwa manufaa yao wenyewe hasa ikiwa Tanzania hairejeshi chochote chenye thamani ya rasilimali wanazoipa China. Ni mpango usio wa haki.*

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P8: *Siamini kuwa hiyo ni kweli hata kidogo. Serikali yetu haitaingia mikataba na kusaini mikataba isiyokubalika na yenye maadili. Mpango wa ukanda na barabara ni mojawapo ya programu nyingi za miundombinu huko nje. Serikali ilikuwa imeingia makubaliano mahsusi kwa ajili ya miundombinu na mataifa mengine kama vile Uturuki ambao bado wanafanya kazi sana hapa Tanzania.*

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelemea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P8: *China imekuwa ikifanya biashara pamoja na serikali ya Tanzania kwa miongo kadhaa sasa. Nadhani ni kinyume cha maadili kwa China kutoza riba kubwa kwa nchi ambazo hazijaendelea kama Tanzania kutokana na historia yao thabiti ya kufanya kazi pamoja. Hata hivyo nina shaka wanatoza riba kubwa kwa sababu hiyo itaifanya serikali ya Tanzania kuacha kuchukua mikopo kutoka China.*

A: Kumekuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea

mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P8: Nadhani ikiwa hawawezi kuzingatia uwajibikaji wa kijamii na mazoea ya kazi basi wanapaswa kutozwa faini kama kampuni nyingine yoyote. Hili linapaswa kuchukuliwa kwa uzito kwa sababu linahusu uendeleu na kufanya kazi kwa maadili, Tanzania inapaswa kuchukua hatua zaidi katika kulinda nguvu za kazi zetu na kupewa haki zaidi.

A: Pia kuna madai kutoka kwa waangalizi wa utawala kwamba serikali ya China inachukua fursa ya udhaifu wa serikali za Afrika kuingia katika mikataba isiyo ya haki ambapo rushwa na maamuzi ya ubadhirifu ni muhimu. Kulingana na uhusika wa Wachina katika nchi hii, je, madai haya ni sahihi?

P8: Kuwa na Wachina kuzunguka na kushiriki katika nchi za Kiafrika kumekuwa na faida kwani unaweza kuona maendeleo yao lakini bila shaka pia ni makosa mengi ya kufanya nao kazi kama vile kunaswa na madeni au kutumia rasilimali kwa faida yao ambayo inaweza kuruhusiwa. kupitia uufisadi wa baadhi ya viongozi wa Afrika. kwa hivyo, ninaamini kwamba madai haya ni sahihi kwa kiasi fulani.

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo → Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P8: Nakubali sana. ikiwa wachina watatumia malighafi zetu zenye thamani kubwa kama vile fedha, shaba, kobalti na chuma, basi ni jambo linalokubalika kwa sharti ni lazima tupate bidhaa za viwandani zenye ubora wa hali ya juu ili

kukuza uchumi wa ndani kwa kufanya biashara ya bidhaa hizo kutoka nje ya China badala ya ugavi mahali pengine. lakini kama sharti, nadhani bidhaa zinazotengenezwa kutoka kwa malighafi za Watanzania ziuzwe kwa bei nafuu kidogo China kuliko sehemu nyingine.

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu? Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watanzania?

P8: *Wanajihusisha zaidi na sekta ya miundombinu, kilimo kama mpunga na miwa pamoja na dawa. Kwa sababu hivi karibuni Tanzania imekuwa miongoni mwa nchi zenye uchumi unaokua kwa kasi duniani, naamini hakika zina manufaa.*

A: Je, unafikiri serikali ya Tanzania inawezaje kutengeneza mfano kama UAE kuleta uvumbuzi na maendeleo ya kiuchumi ili kujiepusha na kile kinachoitwa mtego wa madeni?

P8: *Nadhani Tanzania inaweza kujiendeleza katika masuala ya utalii na kilimo kwa kasi ya kuendeleza mtindo kama UAE na kujiepusha na mtego wa madeni kwa sababu utalii ni sekta inayokua kwa kasi ambayo inaleta mapato mengi lakini lazima idhibitiwe sana. Mtaji unaopatikana unaweza kutumika kujikomboa kutoka kwa deni lolote. Katika nyakati kama hizi ambapo utalii umekatishwa na COVID, Tanzania inaweza kuzingatia kilimo na uchimbaji madini adimu.*

Mahojiano 9 (Mwanamke)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P9: *Tumepata usaidizi mwingi kutoka kwa Uchina katika miaka 5 iliyopita, haswa katika sekta ya miundombinu, ambayo iliathiri sana ufanisi wetu wa*

biashara. Sidhani kama kuna nchi ambayo inaweza kushindana na China linapokuja suala la kuinua nchi masikini.

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P9: Kutegwa kunamaanisha kuwa huwezi kulipa mikopo yako kwa wakati. Njia pekee ambayo nchi za Kiafrika zinaweza kujikomboa kutoka kwa madeni ni kusukuma uchumi wao zaidi na kujiendeleza haraka. Hili linaweza kufanywa kwa kuzingatia vyanzo vikali vya mapato katika uchumi na kuuboresha.

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P9: Miaka mitano iliyopita, China imekuwepo nchini Tanzania kwenye maendeleo ya barabara na reli. Pia kuna wajasiriamali wa kujitegemea kutoka China, na hivi karibuni makampuni ya kibinafsi zaidi yanayohusiana na usanifu yamekuwa yakiongezeka.

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P9: Ndiyo, naamini hivyo lakini kwa kiasi fulani tu. Ikiwa Wachina wataingia na kujiendeleza katika tasnia ya mawasiliano, wao ndio watakaodhibiti tasnia hiyo. Walakini, ikiwa watatumia hii kama njia ya kukuza masilahi yao ya kijeshi haijulikani.

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P9: China haichukui rasilimali bure. Serikali ya Tanzania ina itifaki thabiti linapokuja suala la maliasili. Na ndio, China inachimba kwa manufaa yake na ndiyo maana wapo Tanzania. Lakini hata pia Tanzania tunafaidika.

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P9: Ninaamini lengo lao ni kujinufaisha wenyewe, tunapata malipo ya juhudi zao pia. Viongozi wa Tanzania wanafahamu vyema gharama zinazohusiana na kukamilisha miradi hapa Tanzania, lakini kukamilihsa hiyo miradi, mikopo mara nyingi inahitajika.

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelemea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P9: Nadhani riba na tozo zilizofichwa zikiwepo lazima zipunguzwe kutokana na ukweli kwamba China inatumia rasilimali za Tanzania kuwekeza kwenye sekta mbalimbali na kufanya shughuli nyingine zenye manufaa kwa China.

A: Kume kuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P9: Hiyo si kweli. Watu wa Tanzania wanajulikana kuwa wachapakazi na wanajituma kwa lolote wanalofanya, lakini tatizo pekee la makampuni mengi ya China hapa ni kwamba yanatabia ya kuwasukuma wafanyakazi kufanya kazi kwa muda mrefu.

A: Pia kuna madai kutoka kwa waangalizi wa utawala kwamba serikali ya China inachukua fursa ya udhaifu wa serikali za Afrika kuingia katika mikataba isiyo ya haki ambapo rushwa na maamuzi ya ubadhirifu ni muhimu. Kulingana na uhusika wa Wachina katika nchi hii, je, madai haya ni sahihi?

P9: Tunahangaika na rushwa na China inaweza kuchukua fursa ya udhaifu huo kupata chochote wanachotaka. Hata hivyo pia nahisi rushwa imepungua kwa kiasi kikubwa ukilinganisha na miaka ya nyuma na tunatarajia itaendelea kupungua kadri muda unavyokwenda, si kazi rahisi na sidhani kama tunaweza kumaliza kabisa rushwa lakini inaweza kupungua.

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo → Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P9: Nakubali, ninaamini kuwa bidhaa zinazoletwa katika mataifa ya Afrika zinatengenezwa kwa bei nafuu ingawa zinapata kuwa na malighafi za ubora mkubwa. China inapata kitu bora zaidi na Tanzania tunapata kitu ambacho sio kizuri ambacho ni faida kwa China na hasara kwetu ambayo inaumiza uchumi wetu wa ndani kwa muda mrefu.

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu? Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watanzania?

P9: Kama ilivyoelezwa tayari, wanahusika katika sekta ya madini, miundombinu na kilimo. Ndiyo ina faida kwetu kwa sababu China inahitaji malighafi na Watanzania wanahitaji kuendeleza taifa lao.

A: Je, unafikiri serikali ya Tanzania inawezaje kutengeneza mfano kama UAE kuleta uvumbuzi na maendeleo ya kiuchumi ili kujiepusha na kile kinachoitwa mtego wa madeni?

P9: *Tanzania tayari inajulikana kwa kuwa kivutio cha juu cha utalii barani Afrika na vile vile kuwa na tamaduni tofauti. Wanaweza kutumia ukweli huu kukuza muundo kama UAE na kuongeza pato la taifa ambalo litapunguza kiwango cha mikopo wanachochukua.*

Mahojiano 10 (Mwanaume)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P10: *Mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki, kwa maoni yangu, ni wa kilimo. Sehemu kubwa ya Waafrika mashariki wanafanya kazi kama wakulima, wakulima mazao kama ngano na hasa kahawa. Hata hivyo utalii kwa sasa unaongezeka kwa kasi katika ukanda huu hasa nchini Rwanda na Tanzania.*

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P10: *Ni suala linalohitaji kushughulikiwa hapa Afrika. Na tatizo ni kwamba matukio yanayotokea katika ukanda wa Afrika hayafahamiki vyema katika nchi za nje na zilizoendelea, bado nchi zile maskini zinatawaliwa kistaarabu na nchi za kitajiri .*

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P10: *Hakuna mengi ambayo yamefanyika katika miaka mitano iliyopita. Hii ni kwa sababu uchumi wote kwa maoni yangu umeathirika kutokana na covid, hakuna nchi ambayo imekuwa ikiwekeza nje ya uchumi yao.*

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya

mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P10: Hapana siamini. Hawajaendelea sana katika sekta ya mawasiliano ili kuweza kuendeleza maslahi yao ya kijeshi hapa Tanzania.

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P10: Uranium bado ipo kwenye mjadala wa serikali na haijachimbwa bado naamini China haipati Uranium kutoka Tanzania kwa sasa. Kuhusu maliasili nyingine kama vile makaa, ambayo naamini China inapata zaidi kutoka hapa, inahitajika ili kuendesha uzalishaji fulani nchini China. Lakini tuna uchimbaji wa makaa ya mawe kwa msimu, kwa hiyo serikali iko makini sana na hifadhi ya makaa ya mawe na rasilimali nyingine pia.

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P10: Mikataba huwa inajadiliwa, na mwanzoni China kila mara hujumuisha masharti yasiyopendeza kwenye mkataba lakini haya hupunguzwa kwa mazungumzo na serikali ya Tanzania hadi nchi zote mbili zifaidike kwa mitazamo yao wenyewe.

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelemea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P10: Sifahamu Benki ya Export-Import ya China jinsi wanavyochakata mikopo lakini najua kwa hakika mikopo ya Wachina mara nyingi haina riba au ina riba ndogo sana.

A: Kumekuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P10: Siwezi kukiri madai hayo kwa sababu sijawahi kufanya kazi katika kampuni ya Kichina. Lakini kufukuzwa kazi wafanyakazi haitokei mara nyingi hapa.

A: Pia kuna madai kutoka kwa waangalizi wa utawala kwamba serikali ya China inachukua fursa ya udhaifu wa serikali za Afrika kuingia katika mikataba isiyo ya haki ambapo rushwa na maamuzi ya ubadhirifu ni muhimu. Kulingana na uhusika wa Wachina katika nchi hii, je, madai haya ni sahihi?

P10: Ndiyo, madai hayo ni ya kweli. Ninaamini ufisadi ndio unaotufanya sisi na nchi nyingi za Kiafrika tusiendeleo. Ni dhahiri sana na inaweza kuonekana kila siku ndani ya mashirika yetu wenyewe. Kwa hiyo ikiwa rushwa inahusika katika kufanya makubaliano kati ya China na Tanzania, hilo si jambo la kushangaza kwa watu wengi.

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo → Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P10: *Uchumi wetu wa ndani hauzuiliwi na uagizaji wa bidhaa za China kwa njia yoyote. Naamini kinyume chake ni kweli. Uagizaji wa bidhaa za China, hasa bidhaa za bei nafuu, zina sambazwa kwa machinga ambao wanauza kwa faida. Hii inawapa watu wa tabaka la chini uhuru wa kuanzisha biashara zao na kuongeza vyanzo vya mapato.*

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu? Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watazania?

P10: *Miundombinu bila shaka. Wanatoa kazi nyingi kwa wenyeji wa karibu wakati wanapoanzisha miradi. Ubaya pekee ni pale miradi hii ikikamilika, wenyeji walioajiriwa watapoteza kazi.*

A: Je, unafikiri serikali ya Tanzania inawezaje kutengeneza mfano kama UAE kuleta uvumbuzi na maendeleo ya kiuchumi ili kujiepusha na kile kinachoitwa mtego wa madeni?

P10: *Kusisitiza elimu ya juu ni muhimu ili kufikia kiwango cha maendeleo ambacho UAE inayo. Nafikiri hicho ndicho kipengele kimoja tunachokikosa na si Tanzania pekee, bali Afrika kwa ujumla.*

Mahojiano 11 (Mwanaume)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P11: *Mfumo wa uchumi katika kanda ya Afrika Mashariki sio bora lakini unaboreka kwa kasi. Ninaamini demokrasia imedumishwa vyema kwa miaka mingi ambayo inazuia viongozi kutumia vibaya madaraka yao ikilinganishwa na miongo iliyopita. Jambo hili ni muhimu kwa sababu viongozi wetu sasa wanaorodhesha mahitaji ya wananchi kisha wanafanya maamuzi kwa*

kuzingatia hilo. Tumekosa mawazo hayo kwa miaka mingi lakini sasa tunayafanya kazi.

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P11: Sidhani kama ipo. Nimesoma makala kuhusu mtego wa madeni si muda mrefu uliopita. Niligundua IMF imekuwa ikitoa mikopo kwa nchi ambazo hazijaendelea na kukamata mali kwa kushindwa kuzilipa. Pia China imekuwa ikifanya vivyo hivyo. Lakini ukifikiria juu yake, ndivyo hali ya mikopo imekuwa tangu dhana ya benki ilipovumbuliwa kwa mara ya kwanza. Kwa sababu tu Uchina na Marekani zinashindana duniani kote kwa kunyoosha uchumi wao nje ya maeneo yao wenyewe, haimaanishi kuwa zinaweka kwa makusudi mataifa mengine yenye uchumi dhaifu katika madeni. Hakuna uchumi unaolazimishwa kuchukua mikopo, ni suala la hiari la nchi peke.

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P11: Mambo yamekuwa kimya na China. Pia takwimu zinaonyesha kuwa mwingiliano wa China na Afrika kwa ujumla umekuwa ukipungua katika miaka ya hivi karibuni ikiwa ni pamoja na uwekezaji wao wa moja kwa moja kutoka nje umekuwa ukipungua.

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P11: Sidhani, lakini nakubali ni jambo ambalo hatuwezi kulitenga kuwa haliwezekani kutokea. Inaweza kutokea tusipokuwa makini.

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P11: Ni suala la mikataba ya kiuchumi kati ya nchi mbili ambazo zote zinahitaji kile ambacho kingine kinacho. Tunahitaji sana maendeleo katika sekta ya miundombinu na China imekuwa ikifanya hivyo kwa miaka mingi, na Tanzania inawapa sehemu ya maliasili kwa gharama flani.

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P11: Tunafaidika na maendeleo haya ya miundombinu kutoka kwa Uchina bila shaka lakini ukiangalia kwa mikataba hii ya miundombinu, kila wakati inapendelea Uchina kwa njia fulani. Pia niseme wazi, nchi kama China isingenda tu kuendeleza nchi nyingine ikiwa si kwa manufaa ya uchumi wao wenyewe.

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelekea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P11: Madai hayo ni ya uongo kwa sababu China mara kadhaa ilitoa mikopo ya riba kwa nchi nyingi za Kiafrika, ikiwa ni pamoja na Tanzania. Katika baadhi ya matukio, China pia inasamehe kabisa nchi kutokana na mikopo ambayo haziwezi kulipa.

A: Kumekuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P11: *Watu hufukuzwa kazi kila wakati hapa na hiyo ni kwa sababu ni rahisi sana kuwabadilisha wafanyakazi. Kwa hivyo madai hayo yanaweza kuwa ya kweli.*

A: Pia kuna madai kutoka kwa waangalizi wa utawala kwamba serikali ya China inachukua fursa ya udhaifu wa serikali za Afrika kuingia katika mikataba isiyo ya haki ambapo rushwa na maamuzi ya ubadhirifu ni muhimu. Kulingana na uhusika wa Wachina katika nchi hii, je, madai haya ni sahihi?

P11: *Ndiyo, ninakubali lakini siwezi kusema haswa ikiwa China au nchi nyingine zinahusika katika ufnisadi. Ni hakika hata hivyo kwamba rushwa inahusika katika kufanya maamuzi nyingi tu.*

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo → Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P11: *Nakubali. Sio bidhaa tu hata huduma zinaweza kuonekana kama tishio kwa uchumi wa ndani. Hatuwezi kushindana dhidi ya bidhaa na huduma zinazoagizwa kutoka nje hali ambayo inawazuia wajasiriamali wa ndani kutengeneza bidhaa za Kitanzania kwa sababu bidhaa na huduma hizi zikishaingia sokoni hawawezi kumudu gharama za uzalishaji ambazo ni matokeo ya kuwa na bidhaa za bei nafuu za Kichina kwenye soko.*

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu? Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watanzania?

P11: *Wamekuwa katika sekta ya kilimo zaidi lakini bado kwa kiasi kikubwa wanafanyia kazi kweyne sekta ya miundombinu hapa Tanzania. Inamnufaisha Mtanzania; biashara imekuwa na ufanisi mkubwa kutokana na kuwa na reli kote Afrika mashariki na bandari kubwa zinazotuunganisha na Indian ocean.*

A: Je, unafikiri serikali ya Tanzania inawezaje kutengeneza mfano kama UAE kuleta uvumbuzi na maendeleo ya kiuchumi ili kujiepusha na kile kinachoitwa mtego wa madeni?

P11: *Kuwa na sera zinazonyumbulika ambazo zinaweza kuhimiza watu kuja hapa na kuvumbua jambo ambalo litaleta ujuzi katika jumuiya yetu wenyewe. Hii inasababisha ukuaji bora wa uchumi na Pato la Taifa la Tanzania, usiotegemea madeni. Itachukua muda na kufanya maamuzi sahihi kufikia kiwango cha UAE.*

Mahojiano 12 (Mwanaume)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P12: *Nchi za Afrika mashariki zimeunda jumuiya yao wenyewe. Kama vile jumuiya ya Gulf ya kiarabu, tunahusika katika kufanya maamuzi ya pamoja kwa manufaa ya jumuiya nzima ambayo husaidia uchumi wa Afrika masharika kupanda sawia.*

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P12: *Mtego wa madeni unaonekana wazi katika uchumi wa Afrika. Nchi kama China inaendelea kutoa mikopo kwa nchi maskini zenye kiwango cha chini cha riba ili kuvutia nchi maskini kiuchumi. Mikopo hii inavutia sana mpaka zile mikataba ya mkopo ya kipuuzi mara nyingi hupuuzwa serikalini.*

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P12: *Kwa ujumla historia yetu na Uchina ni nzuri na imekuwa ikibadilika kila wakati, lakini katika hali zingine kama kukopesha mikopo, makubaliano yao ni sio mazuri na labda hatuwezi kuona athari zao kwa sasa lakini athari hizi mbaya tunaweza kuziona baadaye.*

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P12: *Siwezi kutoa maoni juu ya hili kwa sababu sijui mada hiyo.*

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P12: *China inataka kuwa na uwezo wa juu kiuchumi juu ya uchumi mwingine wote na kufanya hivyo naamini wanahitaji maliasili nyingi iwezekanavyo kwa ajili ya uzalishaji wa bidhaa ambazo zinasafirishwa nje ya China, na bila shaka hii inachangia sana pato lao la taifa.*

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P12: *Kila kitu wanachofanya ni kwa ajili yao lakini sisi pia tunafaidika na uwekezaji wao. Mpango wa ukanda na barabara una seti ya masharti na masharti ambayo yanaweza kupatikana hata kwenye website yao. Kwa hiyo serikali ya Tanzania huwa inafahamu gharama za kukamilisha miradi fulani kabla ya kuikabidhi China.*

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba

kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelemea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P12: Viwango vya riba ya mikopo kutoka China ni vya chini. Ukweli kwamba tunahangaika kulipa mikopo hiyo ndiyo inayoelemea uchumi wetu na sio kwa sababu ya kiwango cha riba haswa.

A: Kumekuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P12: Ndio, kuna unyanyasaji wa wafanyakazi kwenye kamponi nyingi tu, na ni muhimu wachunguzwe.

A: Pia kuna madai kutoka kwa waangalizi wa utawala kwamba serikali ya China inachukua fursa ya udhaifu wa serikali za Afrika kuingia katika mikataba isiyo ya haki ambapo rushwa na maamuzi ya ubadhirifu ni muhimu. Kulingana na uhusika wa Wachina katika nchi hii, je, madai haya ni sahihi?

P12: Kwa bahati mbaya hiyo ni kweli. Na nadhani vyombo vya habari navyo vimefichua ufisadi barani Afrika kiasi kwamba dunia nzima inaifahamu Afrika kuwa ni sehemu ambayo rushwa inafanyika, jambo ambalo ni la kweli lakini hilo pia limeathiri sifa zetu kimataifa na ni wazi mataifa mengine ya kiuchumi yatatumia fursa hii.

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo→ Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P12: Uagizaji wa bidhaa wa China hapa Tanzania unasaidia watu wengi wa hali ya chini kuanzisha biashara zao ndogo ndogo ambazo ndizo chanzo cha usambazaji wa bidhaa hizo. Lakini haswa jijini Dar es Salaam, bidhaa nyingi za kifahari na maarufu zimeanza kujitokeza, ambayo ina maana kwamba watu wengi wanaimarika kiuchumi. Uzaji wa malighafi hupangwa kimbelebele kwa sababu ndivyo nchi za Afrika Mashariki na Tanzania zinavyojulikana na hivyo nchi nyingi kutafuta mikataba ya kibiashara nasi.

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu? Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watanzania?

P12: Wanajenga barabara, bandari, reli na viwanja vya ndege hapa Tanzania. Ninaamini miundombinu hii ndiyo lango letu la hatua ya uchumi wa dunia. Bila hivyo, tutazuiliwa kufanya biashara ndani ya uchumi wetu wenyewe peke.

A: Je, unafikiri serikali ya Tanzania inawezaje kutengeneza mfano kama UAE kuleta uvumbuzi na maendeleo ya kiuchumi ili kujiepusha na kile kinachoitwa mtego wa madeni?

P12: Tayari tumeunda muundo unaofanana na UAE lakini unahitaji uboreshaji na fedha ili kufikia kiwango cha juu zaidi. Kama nilivyoeleza hapo awali, mikopo inayochukuliwa kutoka China na nchi za Afrika imekuwa ikishuka na hii ni ishara nzuri inayoashiria uhuru wa kifedha katika siku zijazo.

Mahojiano 13 (Mwanaume)

A: Kwa ujumla, nini maoni yako kuhusu mfumo wa uchumi wa Afrika Mashariki?

P13: *Mfumo wa uchumi hapa unaendeshwa na sekta ya kilimo. Imekuwa hivyo tangu mwanzo wa uhuru wa nchi za Afrika mashariki. Lakini imekuwa ikibadilika na kwa sasa sekta nyingi zaidi kama utalii, zinaendana na ukuaji wa uchumi wa kanda.*

A: Je, una maoni gani kuhusu mtego wa madeni barani Afrika?

P13: *Nchi nyingi zimetumbukia kwenye madeni lakini hiyo ni kwa sababu mikopo hiyo inahitajika ili kuendesha uchumi. Ikiwa kuna mtego wa madeni kabisa, basi hausababishwi na nchi nyingine, badala yake nchi inajiingiza kwenye madeni peke yake kutokana na kuchukua mikopo mingi.*

A: Je, unaweza kuelezeaje uwepo wa China katika nchi hii katika miaka 5 iliyopita?

P13: *Kuna mradi mkubwa wa reli mpya unaoendelezwa na China sasa hivi hapa Tanzania na pengine huo ndio mradi mkubwa ambao China imekuwa ikihusika kwa muda mrefu hapa Tanzania.*

A: Je, unaamini China inataka kuendeleza maslahi yake ya kimkakati kijeshi kwa kutumia maendeleo ya kiuchumi kama vile kuendeleza sekta ya mawasiliano ya simu kama mbinu ya kuwa na mkondo Tanzania na Afrika Mashariki?

P13: *Hilo haliwezekani. Sekta yetu ya mawasiliano inamilikiwa zaidi na TTCL, shirika linalomilikiwa na Tanzania, ambalo hutoa huduma kwa makampuni mengine ya mawasiliano kwa gharama fulani. Kwa hiyo sidhani kama kampuni ndogo kama Halotel inaweza kuwa chanzo cha ujasusi wa China hapa Tanzania bila serikali kujua.*

A: Kuna maoni kwamba China inalenga sekta muhimu katika nchi hii kama vile madini na maliasili nyingine kama uranium kwa uchimbaji kwa manufaa yake badala ya nchi. Nini maoni yako juu ya jambo hili?

P13: *Ndiyo, China inalenga rasilimali mahususi inazohitaji. Pia hakuna makampuni mengi ya uchimbaji madini ya Kichina hapa. Hivi majuzi tu baadhi ya makampuni ya China yamepewa leseni ya kuanza kuchimba dhahabu. Ni kweli uranium imepatikana kwa wingi hapa Tanzania lakini kwa sasa hakuna hata kampuni moja inayochimba madini ya Uranium.*

A: Kuhusu Belt and Road Initiative, kuna madai kuwa baadhi ya mikataba ya serikali hadi serikali kati ya serikali ya Tanzania na serikali ya China ina masharti yasiyo na msingi ambayo yana mwelekeo mkubwa wa kuipendelea China. Unakubali au unakataa?

P13: *Nakataa. China inatumia vitega uchumi vyake vya nje kujiendeleza kiuchumi, na ninaamini kuwa nchi yoyote ingetaka kufanya hivyo pia. Ni operesheni ya asili ya kisiasa kufikia faida kubwa kwenye uwekezaji. Mikataba yao inaweza kuwa migumu wakati mwingine lakini ni sawa sawa na mikataba kutoka USA na nchi zengine.*

A: Yapo madai nchini Tanzania kuwa mikopo inayotolewa na China kwa Tanzania kupitia mashirika kama vile Export-Import Bank of China ina riba kubwa na tozo nyingine zilizofichwa zinazoelekea uchumi wa Tanzania. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P13: *Kiwango cha riba cha mikopo huwa kinafanywa kuwa siri na serikali na hivyo hatujui ni nini hasa lakini nadhani riba sio kubwa kwa sababu tumekuwa tukichukua mikopo kutoka kwao. Ikiwa kiwango cha riba kilikuwa cha juu basi ndio, hiyo inaweza kuwa na athari mbaya kwa uchumi wetu*

A: Kumekuwa na lawama za mashirika ya Uchina katika nchi nyingi za Afrika kwa mazoea duni ya kazi, kufukuzwa kazi, na kushindwa kuzingatia mazoea mazuri ya Uwajibikaji wa Kijamii kwa Jamii yote kwa jina la maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Nini maoni yako kuhusu hili?

P13: *Watu wanapoteza kazi hapa kila wakati na sio kwa sababu ya Uchina. Ni kwa sababu hatuna muundo mzuri wa ajira kuanza nao. Kwa hivyo makampuni yanaweza kutumia vibaya udhaifu huu kuwafukuza kazi watu wakati wowote wanapopenda au kuwalipa mishahara mdogo kupita kiasi.*

A: Pia kuna madai kutoka kwa waangalizi wa utawala kwamba serikali ya China inachukua fursa ya udhaifu wa serikali za Afrika kuingia katika mikataba isiyo ya haki ambapo rushwa na maamuzi ya ubadhirifu ni muhimu. Kulingana na uhusika wa Wachina katika nchi hii, je, madai haya ni sahihi?

P13: *Ndiyo ni kweli hasa tunapozungumzia rushwa hapa Tanzania. Watu huachana na biashara haramu, na vitendo hivi vinaweza kufanywa kwa kiwango cha juu kama kuhonga serekalini ili kuingia katika uchumi.*

A: Ushiriki wa Wachina katika nchi hii unaweza kuonekana kama ukoloni kwa baadhi ya watu kwani wanaunga mkono usafirishaji wa malighafi kutoka hapa kwenda nchi zao na kisha kutupa bidhaa za bei nafuu zinazotengenezwa hapa na hivyo kudhoofisha ukuaji wa uchumi wa ndani. Unakubali au unakataa?

Kama ndiyo → Tafadhali eleza kwa nini hii bado inaendelea?

ikiwa hapana → Tafadhali eleza ni kwa nini soko la ndani hujazwa zaidi na bidhaa za Kichina?

P13: *Nakataa. Haya yalikuwepo miaka ya nyuma, lakini sasa Tanzania imepanda kiuchumi. Thamani ya fedha ya Tanzania ndiyo yenye thamani ya juu zaidi hivi sasa dhidi ya dola katika ukanda wote wa Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki. Hii inaonyesha tu kwamba uagizaji wa bidhaa kutoka nje ukawa wa bei nafuu na mauzo yetu yamekuwa ghali. Kwa hivyo uagizaji wa China unaweza kuonekana kuwa nafuu kwa sababu thamani ya sarafu yetu iko juu kwa sasa.*

A: Je, ni sekta gani za uchumi unaamini kuwa Wachina wanashiriki kikamilifu? Je, ushiriki huu una manufaa kwa watanzania?

P13: *Wapo Tanzania kote lakini sekta ya miundombinu ni sehemu kubwa ilipo China. Miundombinu hii mingi inayofanywa na China pia inafadhiliwa na mikopo kutoka China. Naamini miundombinu ina manufaa kwa Watanzania kwa mambo mengi.*

A: Je, unafikiri serikali ya Tanzania inawezaje kutengeneza mfano kama UAE kuleta uvumbuzi na maendeleo ya kiuchumi ili kujiepusha na kile kinachoitwa mtego wa madeni?

P13: *UAE ni mojawapo ya nchi kubwa kiuchumi na pia katika masuala ya utalii. Kwa hivyo hatuko popote karibu na kutengeneza mtindo kama UAE. Lakini hiyo haimaanishi kuwa hatuendelei. Tunasonga mbele kwa njia zetu wenyewe kwa kutumia vielelezo vyetu ambavyo vimekuwa vikifanya kazi vizuri.*