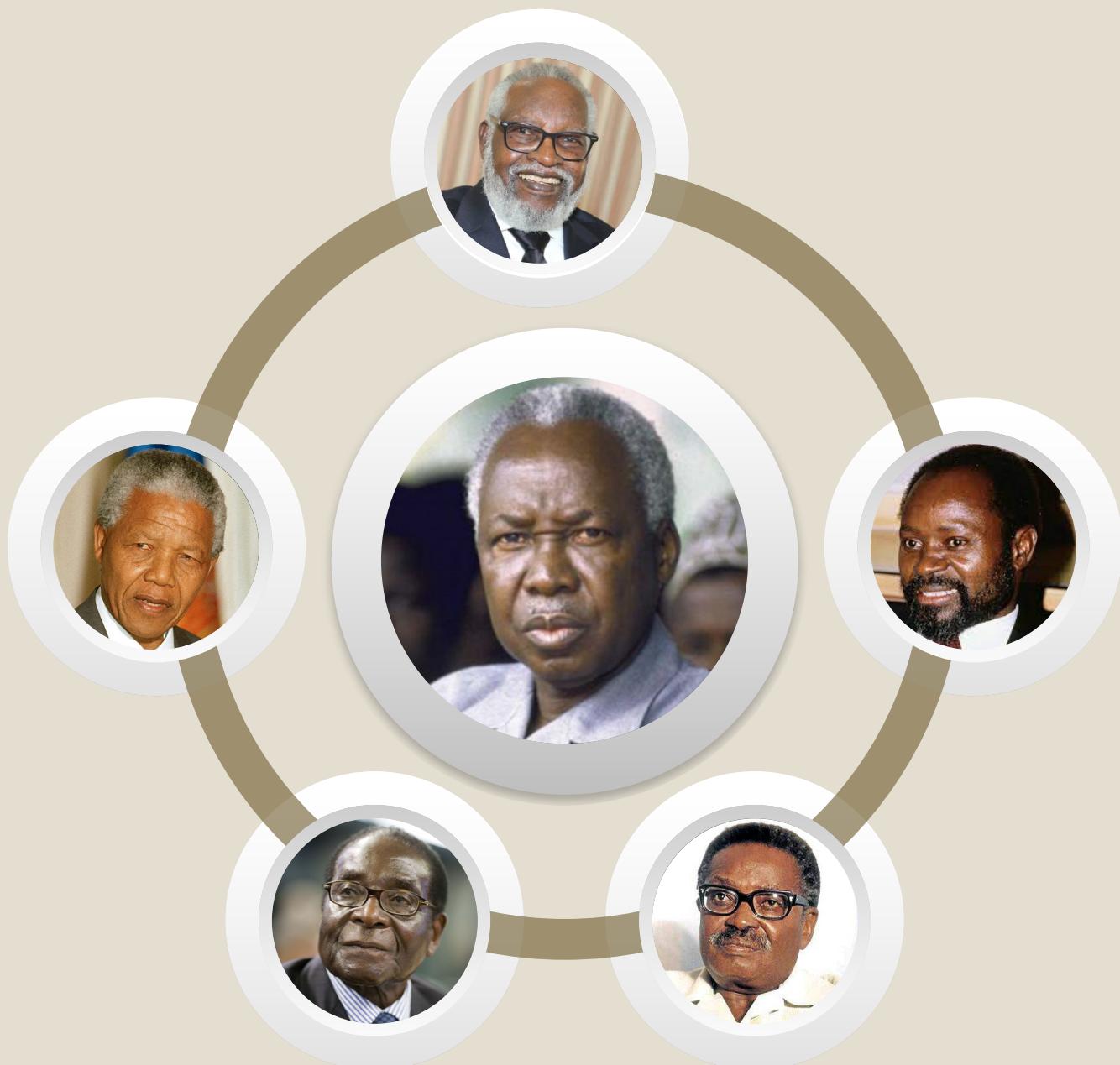


# THE LEADERSHIP

MWALIMU JULIUS NYERERE LEADERSHIP SCHOOL MAGAZINE

2024  
No. 03

## THE FOUNDING FATHERS



## Unveiling Africa regional integration potential



## Esteemed Readers,

Welcome to the third edition of *Leadership Magazine*. Our inaugural issue shed light on the establishment of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School—a symbol of transformative leadership and Pan-African unity. We highlighted Africa's, particularly Southern Africa's liberation movements, historic and mutually beneficial relations with China.

In our second edition, we explored the deepening relationship between Africa and China, delving into political, social, and economic ties that trace back to our founding fathers. Now, in this third edition, we shift our focus to the pivotal issue of regional integration—its significance, the challenges it faces, and the collective efforts required to build a stronger Africa.

Across the region, opinions diverge regarding Africa's integration efforts, with many contending that these initiatives have yet to produce satisfactory outcomes. While other regions have adeptly leveraged their integration mechanisms to bolster economic welfare, Africa remains behind in GDP growth, per capita income, capital inflows, and general living standards. This persistent issue affects much of the continent, despite an array of policy plans and ambitious visions.

Our esteemed contributors have rigorously examined the concept of regional integration, considering it both as a process and a state of affairs.

Integration as a state of affairs signifies the elimination of economic discrimination between nations, while as a process, it involves measures designed to eradicate disparities among different national states. This concept spans economic, political, cultural, social, and institutional dimensions.

Our authors provide diverse perspectives on Africa's regional integration efforts under the auspices of the African Union (AU), focusing on the formation of large markets, the benefits of economies of scale, and the pursuit of coherent political cooperation. They also explore the relationships between African countries and Asia, especially China, tracing historical ties from both economic and socio-political angles.

On a global scale, contributors examine the foundations of the Global South and the New International Economic Order, analyzing how continents can collaborate to eliminate extreme poverty and the importance of inclusive global economic participation.

This edition has garnered contributions from across the region, and I am confident it will offer you an intellectually stimulating and insightful read.

Ahsante sana!

Regards,

**Prof. Marcellina Chijoriga**  
Editor-in-Chief

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# Synthesizing Historical, Emerging Trends in Global South and New International Economic Order

*This article synthesises historical and emerging trends in the global South and the New International Economic Order (NIEO), contextualising insights from Prof. Wang Heng as presented in the Leadership Magazine's issue of April, 2024 under the article titled 'Advancing Modernisation Drive of the Global South, Working Together to Build a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind.'*

*Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, China's President Xi Jinping, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov pose for a BRICS group photo during the 2023 BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, Aug. 23, 2023. Current chair South Africa declared that the grouping's goal was to advance the agenda of the Global South."*



By Dr. Adam M. Mnyavanu,  
Faculty of governance and Security studies, Institute of Accountancy Arusha, Tanzania

**R**eference is made to the proceedings of the 13th China-Africa Think Tanks Forum, held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on March 8, 2024, focused on "China-Africa Practice: Building a Community with a Shared Future."

The forum emphasised strategic cooperation and advanced China-Africa initiatives, culminating in the "China-Africa Dar es Salaam Consensus," which advocated for international cooperation based on mutual respect and prosperity.

The New International Economic Order (NIEO) emerged after World War II to address economic disparities between developed and developing countries, advocating for sovereign equality, fair trade practice, and industrialisation support. Key reforms included overhauling trade rules, re-

forming the monetary system, providing financial and technological support for industrial projects, and encouraging Global South cooperation. Because of challenges from the United States (US) and the 1980s debt crisis, the NIEO's vision remains largely unfulfilled. However, its influence endures, inspiring

frameworks like the "Right to Development" and continuing to shape modern initiatives and resolutions that promote equity and cooperation among states. This legacy aligns with the themes discussed at the China-Africa Think Tanks Forum and reinforces the ongoing relevance of these principles in fostering a more balanced global economic order.

## Issues

### Development Priority and Economic Sovereignty

The consensus highlights the significance of people-centred development, mutual learning, and the Global Development Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa. This approach is crucial for harnessing the region's resources and strategic geopolitical position. By aligning with the principles of sovereignty and economic sovereignty of NIEO, Sub-Saharan African countries can assert control over their resources and economic activities. This aligns with China's emphasis on people-centred development and mutual learning. The partnership promotes sustainable development and economic independence for sub-Saharan African countries.

### Multipolar World Trade and Fair-Trade Practices

The forum created an equal, multipolar world, enhance the representation of developing countries, and rectify historical injustices. This aligns with the National Innovation Ecosystem (NIE)'s call for fair trade practices and a balanced global economic order. Sub-Saharan Africa, rich in natural resources, has historically faced unfair trade terms, hindering its economic growth. China's support for a multipolar world aligns with the NIEO's goal of establishing fair trade practices, ensuring equitable prices for raw materials. These mutual

benefits strengthen economic ties, promote sustainable development and contribute to a more balanced and inclusive global economic order.

#### Inclusive Globalisation and South-South Cooperation

The consensus calls for inclusive economic globalisation, eliminating trade barriers, and the promotion of resilient global supply chains. This aligns with the NIEO's advocacy for revised international trade rules and Global South cooperation. Sub-Saharan Africa can benefit from inclusive globalisation, overcoming challenges due to restrictive trade policies and inadequate infrastructure. China's role in Global South cooperation is pivotal, providing investment and technological support to help build infrastructure for robust supply chains. This cooperation fosters economic autonomy and reduces dependency on Western markets, aligning with the NIEO's vision.

#### International Financial and Monetary System Reforms

The forum called for international financial system reforms, increased support for multilateral development banks, and fair representation of developing countries. These reforms align with the New International Economic Order's objectives of aligning the international monetary system with the development needs of poorer countries and supporting industrial projects through financial resources and technology transfer. Key institutions like the World Bank, IMF, and New Development Bank play critical roles in these reforms.

For Sub-Saharan Africa, these institutions should enhance financial support, facilitate technology transfer, and promote fair representation to drive development. Multilateral development banks should provide increased funding and favourable loan terms to support sustainable development projects and assist in the transfer of advanced technologies. China's advocacy aims to strengthen the financial standing of these banks, which fund development projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, enabling countries to build robust econo-



mies based on internal growth.

#### Sustainable Development and Industrialisation Support

The consensus on high-quality development bonds, infrastructure connectivity, and green development aligns with the NIEO's promotion of international assistance for industrialisation in developing nations. Sub-Saharan Africa's economies, often dependent on exporting raw materials, can benefit from these principles to diversify their economic activities and foster stable growth. China's commitment to sustainable development, including clean energy and high-tech industries, is crucial for Sub-Saharan Africa, where many face energy deficits and lack advanced technological infrastructure. Infrastructure connectivity can facilitate trade, reduce transportation costs, and connect remote areas to economic centres. Green development practices address environmental sustainability because many countries in the region are already experiencing adverse effects from climate change.

#### Effective Governance and Enhancing Multilateral Cooperation

The forum emphasised the importance of efficient governance, market dynamism, and regulatory harmonisation for industrialisation and modernisation

in Sub-Saharan Africa. This aligns with the National Innovation and Economic Outlook (NIEO)'s objectives of promoting good governance practice and regulatory frameworks for economic growth and stability. Effective governance reduces corruption, enhances the rule of law, and ensures resource utilisation, attracting foreign direct investment, and stimulating economic activities. China's approach to governance, emphasising transparency and the rule of law, can provide valuable lessons for Sub-Saharan Africa. China's involvement in global trade organisations and push for a more inclusive international trade system can help Sub-Saharan Africa engage more effectively in international trade, negotiate better trade agreements, and participate in global value chains. Market dynamism and regulatory harmonisation can support industrialisation and modernisation by encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship, and the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are crucial for job creation and economic diversification.

#### Security Environment and Promoting Global Security Initiatives

Consensus on global security initiatives and conflict resolution is crucial for peace and stability in Sub-Saharan Africa, where challenges such as armed conflicts, terrorism, and political insta-

bility hinder economic growth and development. China's advocacy for these initiatives can enhance security in the region, as it focuses on peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms and its experience in maintaining domestic stability. China's involvement in peacekeeping missions and support for African Union initiatives aligns with the NIEO's goals of fostering stability.

Collaboration with China on security initiatives can strengthen Sub-Saharan African countries' capacity to address both traditional and non-traditional security threats. In addition, addressing non-traditional threats like cyber security, climate change, and pandemics can help build resilient systems. Ensuring security and stability can attract foreign investment, making sub-Saharan African countries more attractive investment destinations, leading to increased economic activities and job creation.

#### Knowledge Sharing and Building Think Tank Alliances

The consensus on knowledge sharing and mutual learning in Sub-Saharan Africa highlights the importance of fostering intellectual and cultural exchanges for mutual understanding and development. This can be achieved through the establishment of think tank alliances, which can inform policymaking and drive socioeconomic progress. China's efforts in promoting the Global Civilisation Initiative and deepening exchanges with Africa can provide valuable insights that can be adapted to sub-Saharan African countries.

Knowledge sharing can also enhance educational systems in the region, address the skills gap and prepare the workforce for modern economies. Think tank alliances can also help address common challenges like climate change, health crises, and infrastructure development. Media exchanges can shape perceptions and promote mutual understanding by accurately representing each other's narratives and experiences on the global stage. China's focus on knowledge sharing is exemplified by initiatives like the Confucius Institutes, which promote the Chinese language

and culture globally.

#### POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Implementing the recommendations, Sub-Saharan African countries can better leverage their partnership with China to achieve sustainable economic growth, enhanced security, and a more balanced position in global economic governance.

##### Enhance Collective Bargaining Power

**Policy Implications:** Strengthening alliances under Global South cooperation can improve the negotiating position of Sub-Saharan African countries in global trade.

**Action:** Collaborate with China to leverage collective bargaining power in international trade negotiations.

##### Facilitate Knowledge Transfer and Technological Exchange

**Policy Implications:** Access to advanced technology and knowledge from China can spur economic diversification and growth.

**Action:** Implement policies that promote knowledge transfer and technological exchange to enable economies to move up the value chain.

##### Strengthen Economic Resilience and Solidarity

**Policy Implications:** Mutual support within Global South cooperation can enhance economic stability and growth.

**Action:** Foster solidarity among developing nations to create a more inclusive and balanced global economic order by leveraging China's support.

##### Ensuring Fair Representation in Global Financial Institutions

**Policy Implications:** Fair representation in financial institutions ensures that the unique challenges of Sub-Saharan Africa are addressed.

**Action:** Advocate for reforms that provide fair representation in global finan-

cial institutions and ensure the voices of African nations are heard.

#### Support a Democratic International Financial System

**Policy Implications:** A more democratic financial system can better cater to sub-Saharan African development needs.

**Action:** Align with China's financial system reform efforts to promote a more equitable international financial environment.

#### Promote sustainable development and industrialisation

**Policy Implications:** Sustainable industrial growth is crucial for long-term economic stability.

**Action:** Develop policies that support sustainable development and industrialisation, using China's expertise in clean energy and high-tech industries.

#### Effective Governance and Multilateral Cooperation

**Policy Implications:** Efficient and transparent governance enhances economic dynamism and resilience.

**Action:** Adopt transparent, law-based governance practices and actively participate in multilateral trade systems to create a dynamic economic landscape.

#### Address Security Threats

**Policy Implications:** A stable security environment is essential for economic development.

**Action:** Collaborate with China to adopt effective security measures and create a stable environment conducive to growth.

#### Encourage Knowledge-sharing and Think Tank Alliances:

**Policy Implications:** Intellectual exchanges can lead to better policymaking and collaborative problem-solving.

**Action:** Promote intellectual exchanges and build think tank alliances with China to enhance policymaking, education systems, and collaborative efforts.

# President Xi Jinping's Visionary Leadership: A Beacon of Modernisation for the World

*This piece recounts a life-changing journey that etched unforgettable impressions of a nation driven by a bold vision - a dream of transformative progress and innovative excellence. Over the course of ten days, the author immersed themselves in China's remarkable modernisation journey, uncovering the secrets of the country's cultural heritage preservation, the historic significance of the revolutionary Jinggangshan, and the impact of rural revitalisation initiatives. This article will ventilate the lessons learned from this experience, offering valuable insights for Africa and developing nations navigating their own paths to modernisation and growth.*



President of China  
Xi Jinping

By Munashe Mtutsa,  
ZANU-PF Central Committee Member, ZANU-PF Youth League Secretary for Science and Technology

China's metamorphosis from a nascent nation to a global powerhouse is a testament to the country's unwavering commitment to progress. Since its inception in 1949, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has spearheaded a transformative journey, navigating the country through unprecedented growth, development, and innovation. Today, China stands as a shining example of modernisation, its remarkable trajectory serving as a blueprint for nations worldwide.

## Tracing the Modernisation Story

China's modernisation journey was not a sudden or effortless feat. Instead, it was a long and arduous pro-

cess, punctuated by significant landmarks and accomplishments. The CPC visionary leadership has been the propelling force behind these achievements. From the early days of Chairman Mao's revolutionary zeal to the transformative reforms of Deng Xiaoping's era, the groundwork for China's development and modernisation was laid. However, it was under General Secretary Xi Jinping's leadership that the country's progress truly gained momentum, propelling China towards unprecedented heights of growth and modernisation.

President Xi Jinping has unequivocally stated that China's path forward lies in embracing Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, a philosophy that seamless-

ly integrates the country's rich cultural heritage and historical experiences. The hallmark of Xi Jinping's ideology is its unwavering commitment to revitalizing China's global stature, as enshrined in his vision for national rebirth. This collective aspiration has resonated deeply with the Chinese people, inspiring a nation-wide quest for greatness.

China's modernisation journey is a dynamic and continuous process, carefully calibrated to harmonise the nation's growth with its far-reaching aspirations. Under the steadfast guidance of General Secretary Xi Jinping, a visionary leader, China is poised to make strides towards realising his five-pronged vision: harnessing innovation, fostering inclusive prosperity, nurturing ecological balance, embracing openness, and optimising the country's vast human potential. Today China is a beacon of hope, an example of progress, a buffet of opportunities and a cocktail of innovation.

**China's Model of Culture Preservation**  
China's modernisation journey has been marked by a profound respect for its cultural legacy, with the nation successfully preserving its rich historical and cultural heritage. This impressive feat is evident in the meticulous protection of ancient artefacts, historical sites, arts, and festivals, which continue to thrive despite the country's rapid modernisation. The Forbidden City, a revered World Heritage Site, stands as a testament to China's commitment to safeguarding its cultural treasures. Every city and town in China boast memorabilia and monuments that tenderly preserve the nation's historical artefacts and vestiges, serving as a poignant reminder of the country's enduring cultural identity. This is important as it shapes and guides the national memory.

During the esteemed Shaping the Shared Future Young African Leaders Program, delegates were treated to a unique experience, exploring the iconic Great Wall and Forbidden City. These tours revealed the CPC thoughtful initiatives to preserve and promote China's cultural heritage. This delicate balance between progress and preservation has ensured that China's modernisation is

firmly anchored in its rich cultural legacy, providing a solid foundation for socialism with Chinese characteristics to flourish. By harmoniously blending advancement and tradition, China has created a distinctive path that honours its past while embracing its future.

## The Revolutionary Jinggangshan

The Jinggangshan in Jiangxi Province hold a revered place in China's history, serving as the cradle of the Chinese revolution. It was within these mountains that Chairman Mao Zedong laid the foundations of the CPC and fostered the symbiotic relationship between the people and the party, a bond that continues to shape modern China. The sacrifices made here were immense, with countless lives lost, limbs broken, and unimaginable hardships endured. Yet, it is this sacred land that now inspires millions of tourists who walk in Chairman Mao's footsteps, sit on the iconic reading rock, and gaze upon the Sacred Tree. As they retrace the steps of history, they are revitalized, energized, and filled with a newfound sense of purpose, driven to pursue the Chinese Dream with unwavering dedication.

**From Poverty Alleviation to Rural Revitalisation**  
China has made history by becoming the first nation to successfully eliminate extreme poverty, and has now embarked on an ambitious initiative to revitalise its rural areas. This ground-breaking endeavour has led to significant investments in rural infrastructure, education, and healthcare, with a focus on transforming each village into a thriving entrepreneurial hub with its own sustainable economy. A shining example of this vision is Shenshan Village, which had the honour of hosting General Secretary Xi Jinping during his visit. Shenshan Village serves as a beacon of success, showcasing the transformative power of rural revitalisation and inspiring other villages to follow in its footsteps. The CPC government has created programmes to support rural development, improving living standards, enhancing education and healthcare, and promoting rural entrepreneurship. The revitalised villages

are now tourism centres where urbanites come to experience rural life and its unique culture and friendly atmosphere.

## The Future and Lessons for Africa

China stands on the threshold of realising its national dreams, fuelled by the unwavering dedication of its people, the innovative spirit of its youth, and the wise guidance of its elders. China's modernization blueprint serves as a global paradigm, prioritizing inclusive prosperity that extends beyond its borders to encompass the world at large. The landmark Belt and Road Initiative, a visionary endeavour promoting global connectivity and progress, testifies to China's unshakable commitment to crafting a brighter future for all humanity. By sharing its development expertise and resources, China is redrawing the contours of global cooperation and solidarity.

Africa can draw valuable lessons from China's development trajectory, where reforms, rule of law, robust party systems, and strategic planning have paved the way for prosperity. To leapfrog its development, Africa must prioritize deepening reforms, entrenching governance anchored in the rule of law, and building resilient party systems. By adopting a multidimensional approach that encompasses economic diversification, infrastructure development, human capital investment, and South-South cooperation, Africa can turbocharge its growth and transformation, unlocking a brighter future for its citizens.

In concluding this piece, it is important to say that China's modernization journey has scripted a universal success story, offering a compelling template for global development. Its remarkable trajectory, guided by the visionary leadership of the CPC, has been marked by discipline, commitment, progress, and prosperity. China's achievements serve as a beacon of inspiration, illuminating the path for nations to dream, strive, and achieve. The world can draw valuable lessons from China's transformative journey, emulating its model to craft their own success stories and shape a brighter future for all.

# Africa's Place in the World: a Case of Natural Resources and Labour in the Past to Present

The Institute for African Studies of Russian Academy of Sciences organised the conference in March 2024 with a theme of this piece of writing. As the Author was conceptualising, he found this is a critical question of our time. This is a reason why he has decided to undertake a short reflection on the same matter.



Mining-in-Africa

By Dr. Evaristo Haule,  
Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, Tanzania

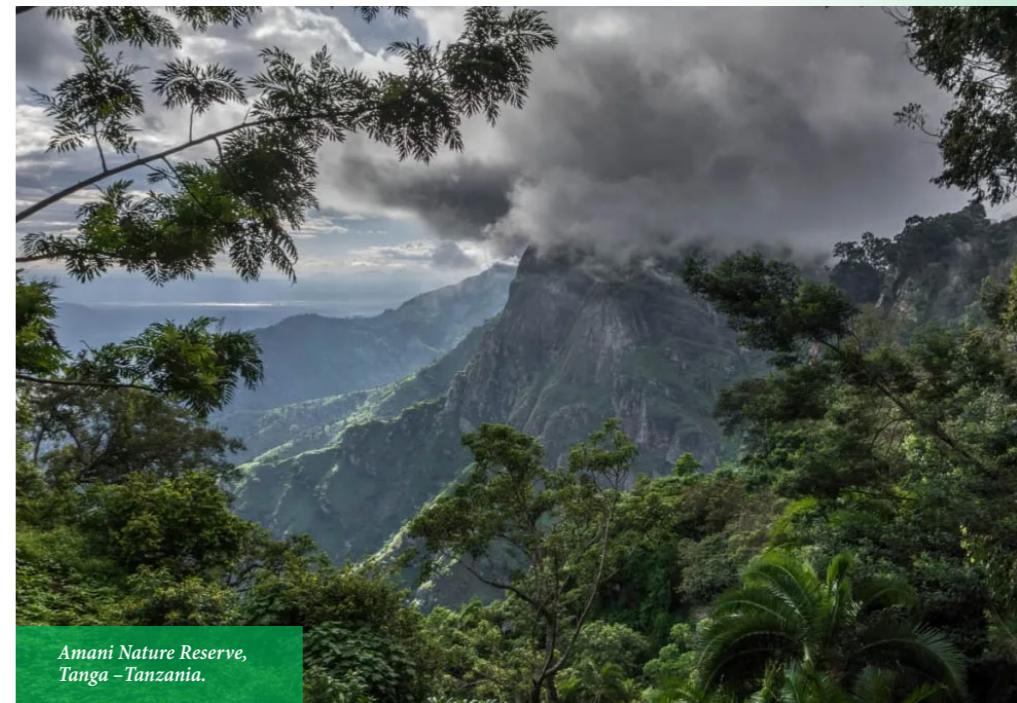
One question popped into my mind, why are we asking ourselves today about the place of Africa? And in fact this is a frequently asked question. The answer is that every community is in a constant struggle for development. In most cases the struggle has been to find a path towards development in this case how can we realise the human needs. In realising human needs we are looking on the mode of production to sustain human needs and sometimes to satisfy human greed. In either cases, the production is key; be it in primary extraction level; secondary or tertiary production.

In relation to human nature, the historical fact reminds us that, Africa is the cradle of mankind as evidenced in Olduvai Gorge and Ethiopia where Zinjanthropus and Rusi lived respectively. The history has proved to us that, as long as Africa has been the cradle of mankind, Africa through history has remained to be the source of labour for the entire world. Think of the labourers obtained through trans-Atlantic slave trade to service America, think of the slaves transferred to Reunion to serve in sugarcane plantations, think of long-distance slave trade for labourers in Arab. This history has shown how the then European scrambled and partition of

Africa demanded to effectively utilise the human resource for production to build the West. This trajectory didn't end with colonialism rather it was extended through neo-colonialism and neo-liberalism whereby the population in Africa continued to produce and feed the industries in particular and the population in general.

In the global village, the place of Africa is evident as the market place where skilled labour was drained to nourish and nurture the West. It should be borne in our mind that, the West is experiencing the population decay to the extent the only hope remains in Africa where majority more than 60 percent is labour force which is expectedly to serve Africa and the world. Revisit the softening of migration rules in Europe in the name of improving labour mobility has been a critical strategy which is in fact a modernisation of cheap labour. The shortage of labour is huge for instance Austria 78 percent, Sweden 77 percent, Belgium, 74 percent, Switzerland 73 percent, and Hungary 73 percent. Foreign Direct Investment is partly responding to it where the win-win situation is highly invisible.

In the scramble and partition of Africa in addition to search for labour, the land was the centre of it. Africa has been endowed with minerals such as gold, diamond, copper, tanzanite, graphite, uranium, titanium, iron, and hydrocarbons. Africa is blessed with very rich soil and favourable climate for agriculture. Natural forests, water bodies and wildlife have beautified Africa to create the national park in global village. The land was key not only for the natural resources and agriculture acquisition, but also for building the mighty of the nations. In this case, misrepresentation of African was key for psychological dominance. It is the naked truth that the size of African continent is equal to the size of Europe, North America, China and India combined together. This geographical fact cannot be conceived easily through maps and pictorial representation of Africa. The conceived truth has a strong bearing in understanding the spatial coverage and hence place of Africa. In fact, what is presented may mean, "you cannot take a child to the elders'



meeting".

The scramble for the land and natural resources in Africa has been intensified during the post-independent era. The former colonialists continued to siphon the minerals and other resources through unfavourable treaties that continued the colonial ties in Africa. The rampant coup de tat in the newly independent states were the testimony. Land alienation in the colonial era to establish plantations has been revamped in the name of attraction of foreign investment in Africa. Given the climate change crisis, land alienation has been justified in the name of environmental conversation. It is what we call green grab.

The past cannot be changed, we may change the present and influence the future. The question here is how are we at present? Currently in the globalised world where the world is becoming the village; we ask ourselves the place of Africa; the answer may be a kitchen, bedroom, playground or farm, market, or a prayer house. What is it exactly? We need to reflect!

In the 21st C, the scramble has been intensified through economic and political interactions. After the end of the cold war, the hegemony of America has been put to trial with the rise of China and the re-emergence of Russia. Africa has

remained at the crossroad as the scramble for influence has been deepened. It is important for African states to understand the current struggles and decide the nature and type of co-operatives in the entire world. It is obvious that interaction is inevitable however, the kind of interactions need to be decided based on the history that Africans went through and the current demands. It should be borne in our mind that those who were with us during the time of struggle are true friends of Africa. The friend in need is the friend in deed. Africa should reject to be chosen a friend on behalf.

Through understanding of the historical trajectory, Africa undoubtedly continues to be rich and potential source of human and natural resources. It is the duty of African elites to forge a way through the global south initiatives and regional integrations to negotiate and bargain on the ways of interactions for the purpose of winning the game for the development of humankind. The place of Africa should be defined right from the beginning before the establishment of the cooperation with states. It should be clearly understood the place of African countries in the global village by underscoring the nature of cooperations which are beneficial to African states. Aluta Continua

# Catalysts of Growth: Africa-China Relationship in the 21st Century

In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, China's economic transformation propelled it into a prominent role in Africa. The relationship evolved into a significant economic partnership, with China becoming a major investor in African infrastructure, industries, and natural resources. This phase has been marked by large-scale construction projects, resource extraction agreements, and expanding trade volumes, shaping the contemporary landscape of Africa-China relations. This article highlights several key areas where the partnership between Africa and China has shown significant potential for mutual benefit.

By Kihaka Adam,  
Assistant Lecturer, Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, Tanzania

The historical relationship between Africa and China spans centuries of intermittent contact and exchange, primarily through ancient trade routes like the Silk Road. Formal diplomatic ties began gaining momentum in the mid-20th century, as Africa underwent decolonization. China supported newly independent African nations through infrastructure projects and aid, fostering political solidarity during the Cold War era. This laid the groundwork for deeper engagement in the following decades.

The relationship between Africa and China has therefore continued to evolve significantly, marked by a shift towards broader economic cooperation, infrastructure development, and mutual strategic interests. As of recent years, both regions have intensified their collaboration across various sectors, reflecting a deepening engagement that goes beyond traditional resource extraction. Several key areas where the partnership between Africa and China has shown significant potential for mutual benefit are such as;

## Improving E-commerce Platforms

African countries stand at a pivotal juncture in their economic relations with China, particularly in leveraging e-commerce and digital innovation to promote their high-quality products.



The recent initiatives such as the "African Products Online Promoting Season" and the "Online Shopping Festival for High-quality African Commodities" underscore the potential of platforms like Douyin, Kuaishou, Taobao, and Tmall to showcase African goods effectively to Chinese consumers. These efforts not only boost visibility but also create direct channels for trade and cultural exchange.

However, to fully capitalize on these opportunities, it is crucial for African nations to prioritize the development of robust cross-border trade infrastructure, including enhancing logistics and establishing more overseas warehouses.

Collaborating with Chinese enterprises to build these essential frameworks will not only facilitate smoother trade operations but also foster long-term economic partnerships. Moreover, embracing Chinese expertise in digital connectivity, as seen in initiatives like mobile payment networks and smart government solutions, could further accelerate Africa's digital transformation journey. By strategically aligning with China on these fronts, African countries can not only enhance their export capabilities but also stimulate economic growth and technological advancement domestically. Embracing these opportunities could pave the way for a more prosperous and

interconnected future between Africa and China.

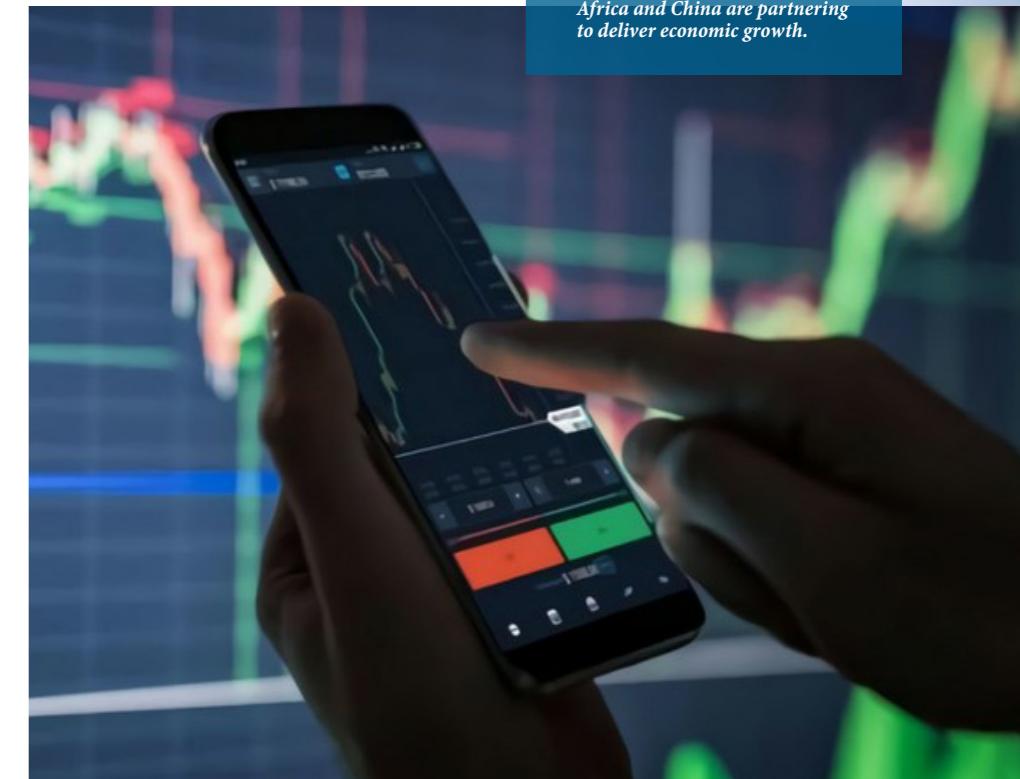
## Sustainable Natural Resources Management

African countries are endowed with abundant energy and mineral resources, offering significant opportunities for development and economic growth. Strategic partnerships with China in mining, smelting, and energy sectors can unlock substantial benefits for both regions. China's considerable investments in Africa's mining industry, amounting to US\$9.99 billion by 2021, underscore the mutual interest in harnessing and processing these resources to their fullest potential. To maximize these opportunities, African nations should prioritize fostering partnerships that not only attract investment but also ensure sustainable resource management and empower local economies. Projects like the Lake Albert Oil Development in Uganda and Coral Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) in Mozambique exemplify how strategic investments can enhance infrastructure, generate employment, and increase exports. Initiatives such as the Dinson Iron and Steel project in Zimbabwe contribute to industrialization, economic diversification, and the transfer of technology.

By cultivating transparent and mutually beneficial partnerships with China, African countries can achieve sustainable development goals while safeguarding environmental and social interests. These collaborations are crucial for leveraging China's expertise and investment in responsible resource exploitation, thereby unlocking Africa's full economic potential and fostering long-term prosperity.

## Transport Development

In recent years, Chinese enterprises have significantly advanced Africa's transportation sector through ambitious projects spanning railways, terminals, airports, and road infrastructure. Different projects have been funded and constructed by China in Africa. Chinese involvement extends to vital airport projects across Africa, such as Mozambique's Xai-Xai Airport and the ongoing con-



Africa and China are partnering to deliver economic growth.

struction of M'banza-Kongo Airport in Angola. These initiatives demonstrate China's commitment to improving air transportation infrastructure, facilitating tourism, and stimulating economic activities in the region. Additionally, projects like the Magufuli Bridge in Tanzania, currently under construction by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, are set to become East Africa's longest bridge. This project aims to shorten travel times between Mwanza and Geita regions, thereby fostering economic development around Lake Victoria.

As Chinese enterprises continue to deploy their expertise in infrastructure development across Africa, these projects not only enhance connectivity but also contribute to sustainable economic growth and improved quality of life. By strengthening transportation networks, African countries are poised to capitalize on new economic opportunities, streamline trade routes, and achieve broader development objectives aligned with their national strategies.

## Industrialization and Skills Transfer

African countries are placing a growing emphasis on industrialization as a key

strategy to diversify their economies and generate employment opportunities. Central to this effort is the partnership with China, which has emerged as a crucial ally in advancing industrial development across the continent. China's investments in manufacturing facilities and its transfer of technology and skills are pivotal in bolstering Africa's production capabilities. By collaborating with China, African nations can enhance their manufacturing sectors, thereby reducing dependency on raw material exports and integrating more effectively into global value chains. This partnership not only boosts local economies but also promotes sustainable economic growth by fostering industrial diversification and job creation.

The transfer of technology and skills from China to Africa plays a critical role in building local capacity and nurturing a skilled workforce. This knowledge exchange equips African industries with the expertise needed to innovate, improve productivity, and compete globally. Ultimately, the collaboration between African countries and China in industrialization sets a foundation for long-term economic resilience and prosperity, positioning Africa as a



significant player in the global economy.

#### Market Diversification

African countries represent significant growth opportunities for Chinese goods and services, offering a path to economic diversification and expansion as per China Global Investment Tracker of 2023. China's substantial investments across African infrastructure, manufacturing, construction, and services sectors underscore its commitment to fostering stronger bilateral economic relationships. To capitalize on these prospects, African nations should prioritize strengthening trade ties with China through strategic collaborations and targeted investments. Facilitating Chinese investment in critical sectors like manufacturing and infrastructure not only stimulates local economies but also facilitates the transfer of technological expertise and skill development.

Furthermore, creating an enabling business environment with policies that attract and support foreign investments is crucial. This includes initiatives to improve infrastructure, streamline regulatory processes, and invest in education and training to enhance the capabilities of the workforce. By deepening economic cooperation with China, African countries can diversify their markets, lessen reliance on traditional trade part-

ners, and accelerate overall economic growth. This proactive approach not only enhances bilateral relations but also positions Africa as a dynamic global hub for trade and investment opportunities in the foreseeable future.

In conclusion, the partnership between Africa and China in the realm of infrastructure development and economic cooperation represents a cornerstone of mutual growth and prosperity in the 21st century. Through ambitious projects in transportation, industrialization, and resource management, China has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to supporting Africa's development aspirations. These initiatives not only bolster regional connectivity and

economic resilience but also pave the way for sustainable development across the continent.

Looking ahead, it is imperative for African countries to leverage these collaborative efforts to enhance infrastructure, expand manufacturing capabilities, and promote digital innovation. By fostering transparent and mutually beneficial partnerships with China, Africa can harness its abundant resources and strategic location to emerge as a global economic powerhouse. Embracing this strategic approach will not only strengthen bilateral ties but also contribute to shaping a prosperous and interconnected future for Africa and China.



## African Perspective on China's Path to Modernization

*Napoleon Bonaparte said and I quote, "Let China sleep, for when she wakes, she will shake the world." This quote resonates deeply with what I witnessed during my recent trip to China. Everywhere I went, even the villages, left me with my mouth agape and jaw dropped in awe. This piece tells the story.*

By Zandile Mazvita Nyamangodo, ZANU-PF Youth League Official

As Africans, we often view China as a beacon of modernization, a nation that has achieved unparalleled economic and technological advancements. From the airport at Beijing to Shenshan Village in Jinggangshan of Jiangxi Province in China is giving the rest of the world a run for their money. What is even more interesting to note is that the Chinese themselves have a different perspective. If ever I met a humble people in my life, the Chinese people they are. They are constantly explaining how their process of modernization is ongoing and that they haven't attained their goals. The premise of this article seeks to explore the paradox of China's modernization delving into the country's remarkable achievements and the African perspective.

From an African standpoint, Chinese modernization is a benchmark for our own development. We marvel at their futuristic cities, high-speed trains and technological innovations. I remember how impressed I was by the futuristic technology being used at the Museum of the Communist Party of China in Beijing. The cutting edge technology really helps a visitor get a full understanding of where China has been, where China is and where China is going. China's economic growth and global influence have made it a role model for many African nations. President Xi Jinping emphasizes that Chinese modernization is a continuous process: "We must recognize that our modernization is not a destination, but a journey... We must continue to strive for a better life for our people." (The Governance of China 2014) This sentiment reflects the Chinese government's commitment to sustaining development and addressing remaining challenges.



*This aerial photo taken on June 28, 2023 shows the Jinggangshan Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery in Jinggangshan, east China's Jiangxi Province. Jinggangshan, which boasts both pristine natural scenery and the cultural heritage of the revolution, has become a famous tourist destination for visitors from home and abroad.*

According to statistics, China has lifted over 700 million people out of poverty, with its GDP exceeding US\$14 trillion. By employing a comprehensive rural development strategy, China has lifted millions out of poverty, transforming once-impoverished villages into thriving communities. Shenshan and Mayuan villages exemplify this success. Shenshan Village leveraged e-commerce and digital technologies to connect farmers to global markets, increasing incomes and improving livelihoods. Mayuan Village embraced sustainable development, investing in renewable energy, organic farming, and eco-tourism.

XAG is a Chinese company that specializes in agricultural technology, including drones, precision agriculture, and digital farming solutions. Their innovations have transformed the agricultural industry, increasing efficiency and productivity for farmers across China and beyond. XAG's technologies have also been instrumental in China's efforts to address food security and sustainable agriculture. This model has worked so much so that for a village that now had a population of only twenty six in a space of 8 years, this number has more than doubled to over 200 permanent residents. Zimbabwe, introducing Village Business Units (VBUs), can draw valuable lessons from China's approach to rural development.

China's rural development model offers valuable lessons for Zimbabwe's Village Business Units. By adopting digital technologies, sustainable practices, and eco-tourism initiatives, Zimbabwe can transform its rural areas, improving livelihoods and driving economic growth. Shenshan and Mayuan villages serve as inspiration, demonstrating the potential of rural development in

Zimbabwe. For example, making use of solar-powered irrigation systems in districts like Gwanda and Beitbridge. These regions are very hot and would therefore suit such initiatives ensuring a constant supply of food to the villagers and a constant supply of clean sustainable energy. Organic farming practices in regions like Nyanga and Honde Valley. The climate of these regions is similar to that of Jinggangshang hence the same practices employed in those areas would work the same. Eco-tourism initiatives in areas like Victoria Falls and Gonarezhou National Park to mention a few places. In the Matabeleland region, Village Business Units can focus on livestock production and value addition, leveraging digital platforms for market access. In the Manicaland region, Village Business Units can prioritize sustainable forestry practices and eco-tourism initiatives, showcasing the region's natural beauty. This will go a long way in transforming the lives of the people in these regions and by extension, the whole country.

The Chinese people have stayed true to one of their features of China's Path to Modernization which is "Harmony between man and nature" from the countless solar panels mounted in and around the cities to the several windmill farms in the country. They have even introduced Electric Vehicles (EVs) which serve to ensure against carbon emission. The Guangzhou Automobile Group Company (GAC) in Guangzhou City is one of China's leading automobile manufacturers, known for its innovative designs and cutting-edge technology.

Their recent breakthrough in graphene-based fast-charging batteries is set to revolutionize the electric vehicle industry. With plans to enter the South African market, GAC Motors is poised to expand its global presence and bring its brand of modernization to new regions. The following quotes from The Governance of China illustrate the nation's dedication to modernization. "We must prioritize innovation and drive growth through innovation," and "We must build a modernized economy that is driven by innovation, coordinated, and sustainable."

China is a global leader in 5G tech-



*This aerial photo taken on June 28, 2023 shows tourists visiting the Jinggangshan Revolution Museum in Jinggangshan, east China's Jiangxi Province. Jinggangshan, which boasts both pristine natural scenery and the cultural heritage of the revolution, has become a famous tourist destination for visitors from home and abroad.*

nology, artificial intelligence (AI), and renewable energy. Guangzhou, a vibrant city in China, has been at the forefront of innovation in 5G technology, AI, and renewable energy. Guangzhou has invested heavily in 5G technology, leading to significant advancements in connectivity and digital infrastructure. With ultra-fast internet speeds and low latency, 5G has revolutionized sectors like manufacturing, healthcare, and transportation in the city. For example, Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport utilizes 5G to enhance security measures, improve passenger experience, and optimize op-

erational efficiency. For residents on Li-urong Street, in Guangzhou, technology has been utilized fully to make the lives of senior citizens better and safer. By providing them with medical chips that alert the healthcare officials of any critical health threats, this has significantly improved the quality of life. Zimbabwe can learn from this example and radicalize the lives of its senior citizenry especially those in the rural areas.

Guangzhou's AI industry has witnessed remarkable growth, with companies such as XAG leveraging AI applications to drive innovation and economic

development. One prominent example is the use of AI-powered facial recognition technology in public transportation systems. Guangzhou Metro employs facial recognition for ticketless entry and exit, streamlining the passenger experience and ensuring efficient crowd management. In line with China's commitment to sustainable development, Guangzhou has made significant strides in renewable energy adoption. The city has embraced solar power, wind energy, and other clean technologies to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change. For

instance, the Pearl River New Town in Guangzhou is known for its eco-friendly architecture that incorporates solar panels, green roofs, and energy-efficient designs to promote environmental sustainability. By harnessing the power of 5G technology, AI, and renewable energy, Guangzhou exemplifies China's dedication to building a smart, green, and interconnected future for its residents and businesses.

To conclude, China's modernization journey serves as a reminder that development is a continuous process. As the old adage goes, Rome was not

built in a day. As Africans, we must recognize that China's achievements are not solely a destination but a testament to their unwavering commitment to progress. China's example should inspire Africa to embrace modernization as a never-ending quest for growth, innovation, and progress. Let us draw inspiration from China's example, acknowledging that our own modernization journeys are unique and ongoing. As Napoleon's quote suggests, when Africa wakes, with the help of its good friend from the East, it also will shake the world.

## Thoughts on China's Path to Modernization

First and foremost, I would want to express my gratitude to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe Dr E. D. Mnangagwa for giving us young people from Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU PF) the opportunity to visit the People's Republic of China and participate in the Shaping the Shared Future (SSF) workshop. The visit was pregnant of transformative and emotional inspiration and the exchanges and experience we shared were enlightening. We appreciate the cooperation between Zimbabwe and China as well as China and the African countries that had its young people in the Young African Political Delegation to China. Much thanks go to the Communist Party of China for the warm welcome in China.



By Tendai Pinduka,  
Member of Zimbabwe Parliament, ZANU-PF Youth League Deputy Secretary for Security

The delegation of Young African Political Leaders from the ruling liberation parties of the three African countries ZANU PF of Zimbabwe, SWAPO of Namibia and CCM of Tanzania had an inspiring experience during the visit to Beijing, Jiangxi and Guangzhou Provinces. Lis-

tening to the history and seeing the documentaries and artefacts invoked the emotional challenge to us as African Young Political leaders that if Chairman Mao had left such an inter-generational legacy, what about myself, if Commander Judo had left such a great selfless contribution and sacrifice,

what about you, if the General Secretary Xi Jinping has set the record straight in accelerating Chinese Modernization and High-Quality Development through Research and Development, Innovation and accumulating and attracting knowledge base spearheaded by the Greater Bay area, if General Secretary Xi Jinping is doing such an amazing forward thinking, what about us as young people.

The invitation issued to us as Young

as alluded to in the Chinese modernization and High-Quality Development.

The emotional history that we experienced and entrenched in our minds as we visited the Museum of the Communist Party of China in Beijing and the Revolutionary Base Museum in Jinggangshan made us to understand why the Communist Party of China was formed in 1921, the struggle that the People's Liberation Army, the Red Army went through to attain the birth and independence of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

The leading role of the Communist Party of China in unifying and steering the people of China towards the common cause of forward thinking that include poverty alleviation, rejuvenation and revitalization of rural industries and setting the momentum for Chinese Modernization and High-Quality Development is quite impressive and motivating.

**The responses to the topics shared on the last discussion of the visit are as follows:**

What I think about the Communist Party of China

- Since the formation of the CPC in 1921, a century history has shown that CPC is a party of excellence as this is attested to its prowess in taking the lead in making sure that government implements the Central Committee resolutions religiously.

- Grass-root party building and support as well as responding to the needs of the people always have made the party membership so lucrative and attractive to citizens of China, however, for one to become a member has to apply and subjected to proper vetting that alone is a key pillar in ensuring that the party remains strong and vibrant from grass-root level.

- CPC structures from Central Committee level, regional level and grass-root levels are functional. During our visit we met Village Secretaries and Branch Secretaries manning Community Service Stations which are a one stop shop for resolving challenges facing community members and also the service centers provide opportunities for development for members in their

African Political Leaders by the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) to participate in the Shaping the Shared Future workshop totally and in principle attest that the future is in the hands of young people and the honours is on us to unite, exchange, share and build a common prosperity for all

respective areas. This was worth emulating and the lecture and three meetings strategy as well were witnessed during our visit. This attest to the commitment of the CPC in making sure that its members always tour the correct party line.

- CPC's strict self-governance model whereby members of the party evaluate each other performance makes sure that everyone in the party is doing his or her task to the word. The setting up of the Disciplinary and Inspectorate department within the rank and file of the CPC ensures enforcement and continuity and consistence in the discharge of duties among members.

- Village Business Enterprises that we visited in Shenshan Village is a clear testimony of rural revitalization and rejuvenation. In Zimbabwe, His Excellency President Dr E. D. Mnangagwa is spearheading the rural development agenda where Village Business Units are being set up across the country and witnessing such in China it was so interesting to share the experience and exchange notes.

- The Communist Party of China will rule forever, Socialism with Chinese characteristics will prevail and the common prosperity for all is achievable as enshrined in Chinese Modernization and High-Quality Development agenda.

**Take Away from the Shaping the Shared Future Workshop visit in China**

- The Communist Party of China is determined to give common prosperity to its citizens with no one and no place left behind. Grass-root party building and support attested to this phenomenon are the relationship between the CPC and its people. One can promptly conclude by giving an analogy of fish and water. The CPC (fish) is visible, responsive and stays within its people (water). This fish and water analogy is even reflected during the liberation struggle (Huangyangjie Defence Battle) where the community supported the Red Army at the battle in the Jinggangshan Mountains as documented at the Revolutionary Base Museum. CPC's commitment to the people of China is a great lesson to take upon us and make

sure that the people we serve are more important than ourselves.

- Chinese modernization and High-Quality Development we see today and envisage in the near and not so long future are built upon rather than erasing China's Ancient civilization. The modernization is being cultivated from within the rich history since the formation of the Communist Party of China, the struggle to Independence that brought up the People's Republic of China. This is quite evident and well-articulated at the Museum of the Communist Party of China and the Revolutionary Base Museum which we visited. As African Young Political Leaders we have learned to preserve our history and legacy and the development of our nations should be informed by such a rich history. Cooperation with other states must be informed by such a history and I am happy to share that the construction of the Museum of African Liberation is underway in Zimbabwe spearheaded by His Excellency President Dr E. D. Mnangagwa and this opportunity that we have been given to learn such an emotional history of the struggle that gave birth to People's Republic of China should unite us as African Young Political Leaders and deepen our understanding of ourselves, our struggles and those who were in support of our struggle for independence like the PRC and also know who were our enemies during the struggle for independence.

- We have learned that development is a process, Chinese modernization phases from its primitive, first wave of development (Agrarian to Industrial society) and second wave of development (Industrial to knowledge and innovation society) attest to the commitment of the CPC to transform the lives of its masses. This made us aware that as most African countries are still developing, they have to undergo such development phases like the path China went through. However, dual modernization challenges are likely to pounce upon most developing countries and we need to introspect and think through and come up with possible solutions to the dual modernization challenges ought to be faced by many of our African countries in the pursuit of

development of course learning from our brother the PRC.

- On this visit to China, we have learned that the common prosperity for all is attainable as it is the essential requirement for Socialism. Socialism is taking over the world and the People's Republic of China through its reforms and opening up in 1978 led by the then leader Deng, the momentum and exploration of China's Path to Modernization was set up and what is encouraging to note is that China has considered its comparative advantages like the huge population base as its fundamental feature of its modernization as it brings in both ways market for goods and services and competitive labour force. Most African countries have resource endowments and we consider it as a comparative advantage. We need to deepen as well as widen our cooperation with like-minded states that believe in common prosperity for all like the PRC.

- Peaceful development is possible on the planet unlike other countries chief among them the United States of America that pursue their development through aggression. The People's Republic of China has demonstrated to the world that peaceful development is possible. Even though internal (changes in the way of doing business in line with High-Quality Development) or external (geopolitical conflicts, repeated epidemics, major countries competition) challenges and threats exist, China has remained resolute to its modernization and High-Quality Development trajectory peacefully.

A visit to Guangzhou Automobile Group and XAG Technology Company attest to the notion and commitment that China is leading in terms of latest, smart and environmentally friendly technologies. Great lessons were learned on upholding the green energy and smart technologies. How the government and the CPC is steering R&D and innovation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area was impressive as the hub driving the contemporary and future industries agenda.

#### Understanding of China and Involvement of Young People



Former Zimbabwean President the late Robert Mugabe (front) addresses the opening ceremony of the third Africa-China Young Leaders Forum in Arusha, Tanzania, March 28, 2015.

- The People's Republic of China has set the pace to centrally position young people on the trajectory and journey towards common prosperity for all through such programmes like Shaping the Shared Future workshop and common prosperity for all.

- The commitment by the IDCPC to tap into young people's mind is critical in determining the common future for all. I would suggest that such programmes like the SSF got some review workshops, annual conferences or alumnae gatherings refreshing or bringing in new thoughts be it virtual or physical to follow up on the exchanges

and experiences as we navigate the dynamic journey together towards a common future for all.

#### Share Expectations on Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

- On the coming FOCAC, we expect to see a more simplified understanding, deepening and widening of the China-Africa cooperation. The Chinese modernization and High-Quality Development strategy and its features are straight forward, African countries attending this forum must come with targeted and simplified cooperation strategies that accelerate, revitalize and

- rejuvenate our African economies in line with our national development agendas towards common prosperity for all. Value addition and beneficiation should be simplified and research and development, knowledge and innovation as well as expertise exchange should take the centre stage on the forum.

- Further expansion and cooperation on infrastructure development and harmonized economic zones in Africa so that the economic cake is not fragmented. China has the potential to cause for African like-minded economies to unite and build upon or consolidate the

efforts of individual fragmented economies into a united and more favourable trade partner for the shared future.

In Conclusion, I would want to thank the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China for organizing such a very successful Shaping the Shared Future workshop. Every visit and lecture we had were well coordinated and planned. The delegation members both ZANU PF, SWAPO and CCM, we appreciate the exchanges and experiences we had in China. Let's forge ahead together towards a common prosperity for all.

# China's Digital Silk Road and Tanzania's Economic Transformation

The Digital Silk Road (DSR) of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has become a significant digital transformation driver in many parts of the world. One such place where this is happening is Tanzania, which is an essential partner in China's big plan. This article discusses how DSR interacts with Tanzania's economic transformation, which is supported by empirical data, case studies, and analysis of socio-economic impacts.



By Fabian G. Mahundu,  
Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, Tanzania

The main aim of the Digital Silk Road (DSR) is to increase digital connection, improve technological infrastructure and promote innovation among partner countries. Developing internet infrastructure, deepening space cooperation, and establishing common technology standards are some of the initiatives under DSR. Through these projects, Tanzania can skip traditional stages of economic development and integrate directly

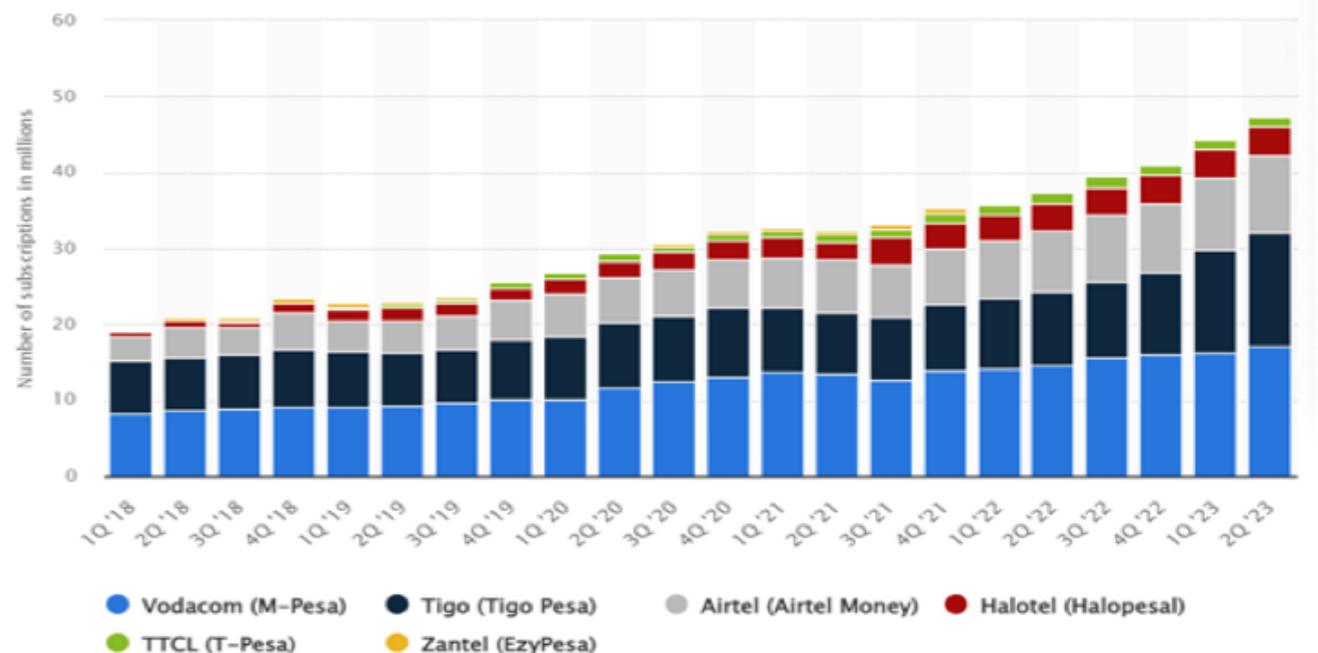
into the global digital economy.

#### Development of Digital Infrastructure (DI)

One key area that DSR focuses on is building robust digital infrastructure as they form the foundation for any digital economy. The government has partnered with Chinese technology companies in Tanzania to expand the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB). This project has helped

bring high-speed internet access to regions that had none before, thereby drastically reducing costs for internet connectivity while improving its quality. Huawei – a leading Chinese tech giant – played a significant role in establishing NICTBB in Tanzania. The project was implemented phase by phase from 2009 until its completion, when it covered all parts of mainland Tanzania, extending beyond Dar-es-Salaam city, to where most people live

Number of mobile subscriptions in Tanzania from 2018 to 2023, by operator and quarter (in millions).



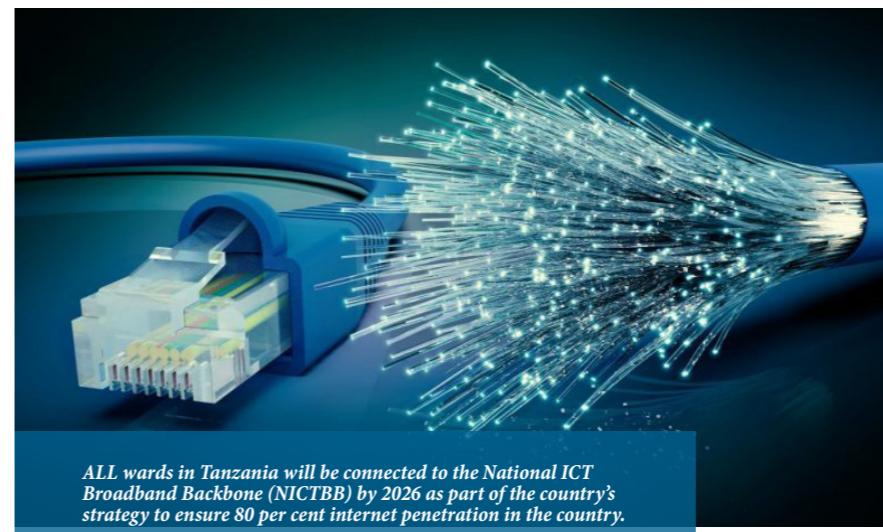
upcountry.

For reliable, affordable Internet access that supports e-commerce development, online education, telemedicine or any other digital service, there must be necessary infrastructure put in place, which can only be provided through DSRs investments into such areas as fibre optic cable installations. These should run across regions within countries signed up as partners along its route map towards achieving

worldwide connectivity goal. As more Tanzanians connect to high-speed Internet thanks to the NICTBB roll-out nationwide, more people will have access to these vital services, contributing towards general economic growth while uplifting living standards across different parts of Tanzania.

#### Impact of the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB)

The NICTBB has transformed the dig-



ital landscape in Tanzania. In 2010, internet penetration was estimated at only 12 percent, but by 2020, this figure had risen to over 45%. Such expansion has catalysed the growth of e-commerce, online education and digital financial services, significantly driving national income levels.

#### Technology Transfer and Capacity Building

Capacity building and technology transfer are vital components under DSR apart from infrastructure development alone. For instance, through their training programs, Huawei and ZTE Corporation could offer training for Tanzanian engineers on various skills necessary for managing or operating equipment used along the NICTBB network route within the country. These initiatives would ensure that the country gains applicable knowledge in using these technologies, thus promoting self-reliance and sustainability even after the completion of projects.

As a result of different training done locally, engineers would be



President Xi Jinping holds a welcoming ceremony for visiting Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

equipped with the ability not only handle but also maintain those parts comprising the entire system, making it operable effectively throughout its lifetime, without necessarily relying heavily on foreign expertise. In fact, such reliance is expensive in terms of both money spent paying wages of foreign expert and the time taken while waiting for someone from overseas to come and fix a particular problem; which consequently would delay the time needed to bring the service back.

#### Economic Impact

Tanzania's digital economy grew by 7.9 percent, contributing to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2022, compared to 4.5 percent recorded five years ago. This growth was attributed to increased accessibility, improved skills, knowledge and effective use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), and the proliferation of various types of digital services across the country. Such trend, has led to high uptake of digital services among the population, especially youths who are more tech-savvy than older generations.

The mobile money transactions alone reached TZS 54 trillion in 2022 which indicates vibrant financial ecosystem supported this new economy. Many different critical projects in Tanzania under the DSR demonstrate how much this initiative can change things:

#### E-commerce Development

Companies such as Alibaba have worked with local businesses to create platforms for cross-border e-commerce. Tanzanian products, especially those related to agriculture and crafts, have found new markets in China and other countries. Data from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) reveals that revenue generated by e-commerce activities increased by 30 percent between 2018 and 2022.

#### Telecommunications Infrastructure

Chinese firms like Huawei and ZTE have improved Internet penetration in Tanzania by expanding 4G and 5G networks. According to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), internet penetration rose from 45 percent in 2020 to 58 percent in 2022.

#### Smart Cities and E-Government

The Dar es Salaam Smart City initiative is one of several projects that have brought about modernisation in urban management and public services delivery systems. Using digital tools for traffic management, waste collection, and public safety has enhanced efficiency while reducing costs; municipal expenditure dropped by 20 percent since the project's inception by 2022, according to Dar es Salaam City Council.

#### Challenges and Considerations

While there are many opportunities offered by DSR in Tanzania, it does come with some risks. Tanzania like many other countries does experience the cybersecurity risks. As more people become digitally connected, the country is exposed to cyber threats. Therefore, there should be an improvement in cybersecurity frameworks and capacity development so that sensitive information can be safeguarded while still maintaining trust in digital systems.

On the other hand, the on-going digital divide cannot be ignored. Despite some progress made in this area, there is still a huge difference in access to the internet between residents residing in urban areas and those in rural areas. If everyone is to benefit from development equally, there must be continued investment in rural connectivity and digital literacy programmes. The last challenge is data sovereignty. Indeed, it isn't appropriate for people to lose control over their information while protecting national security and individual privacy rights. There is need to understand who controls it – especially given that most data comes from DSR projects themselves.

To address these challenges, coordinative work among the Chinese partners of Tanzania and other African nations like Kenya and other East African countries will be necessary. So far, what has been done is measured up with what was intended, which has not been enough; thus, the establishment of an excellent cybersecurity system, knowledge about digitalisation at large and putting down clear policies guiding DSR management are all essential aspects for sustainability towards digital transformation.

In conclusion, China's Digital Silk Road initiative stands out among many initiatives aimed at revolutionising economies globally, including in Tanzania. The DSRs have helped transform Tanzania by building better-wired connections, driving innovation hubs that produce scalable solutions, and creating employment opportunities while contributing towards sustainable development goals (SDGs). However, it should be noted that benefits cannot be shared fairly nor managed sustainably without first dealing with challenges associated with such programs during their implementation phases, since they can lead to growth disparities within countries or even regions. The impact of this program on digital infrastructure alone cannot be underestimated because the country has many changes taking place in terms of communication technology which were non-existent before, thus increasing the number of people accessing the internet daily coupled with the establishment of more telecommunication companies, thereby spurring growth within the sector but still, there is need for more investments to realise full potential brought about by these transformations.

# “Engagement and Re-engagement” – a Simple and Powerful Policy

The Second Republic of Zimbabwe under HE Dr Emerson D. Mnangagwa, has had an amazing journey which has witnessed unlocking valuable economic partnerships and deals cause of strategic diplomatic relations. Diplomacy is an art which must be commended to the Government of Zimbabwe that has been mastered and outlines a visionary, forward thinking and solution oriented that has been looking East and West. As such Zimbabwe has adopted the notion, “An enemy to none and a friend to all” which shows its openness and appreciative nature to the sovereign aspect by Zimbabwe.

By Gondai Ronald Bangidza,  
Head of development research for Ishwa Consultancy, Zimbabwe.

The “Engagement and re-engagement” has been focused on addressing the Zimbabwean socio-economic plight among the ordinary people while making strides towards an economic growth. Zimbabwe has made strong ties regionally and internationally that has resulted in various bi-lateral agreements that have made progress in Zimbabwe’s growth.

Zimbabwe is part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a 16-member grouping that seeks to enhance greater economic and trade cooperation as well as regional integration. On August 17 2024, Zimbabwe is assuming the chairmanship of the bloc which is rotated amongst the nations. This outlines the strength the country has amongst the southern region as this gives strength amongst the bloc and regional support.

The republic of Zimbabwe is also part of the 22-nation Preferential Trade Area (PTA) of Eastern and Southern Africa that allows a reduced duty on imports from member countries subject to the rules of origin. Zimbabwe officially joined the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in February 2020 which aims to create a single continental market for goods and services that did lead to the Customs Union. The nation of Zimbabwe has made strides bilaterally and has engaged many nations regionally and internationally and the following highlights some of these relations.

On a bilateral level Zimbabwe and Rwanda signed five cooperation agreements on 28 September 2021, in the



Zimbabwean President Dr. Emerson Mnangagwa.

areas of ICT and e-governance, environment and climate change, agriculture and livestock, tourism and business event. In years prior to the trade signing Zimbabwe exported goods worth US \$15.9 million to Rwanda, while the exports from Rwanda were projected to be at US \$113,607. One can note also that the agreements between the two nations are the teacher trade that has seen Zimbabwean teachers being sent to work in Rwanda that also shows the strength of the bilateral ties. President Mnangagwa in February 2023, was in Equatorial Guinea for high-level discussions covering various areas to help grow the two nations’ economies. The number of Memoranda of understanding (MOU) signed were six that include the reciprocity in visas, tourism, mining, agriculture and investor protection in the form of Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA).

The republics of Botswana, Zimba-

and socio-economic relations between the two nations. These agreements were done at the sideline of the 30th Annual African Development Bank and is described as a historic noting that the two countries have had relations that date back more than 60 years with no formal agreement existed to move cooperation forward. “This is a special day, it is the first time we are trying to formalise relations between Ghana and Zimbabwe,” described by a diplomat from Ghana. Relations with the nation of Angola saw in May 2024 11 signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in areas of agriculture, higher education, justice and housing which came at the Second Session of the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation (JPCC) which came 32 years after the last meeting. This outlines the diplomatic ability of the Zimbabwe Government under HE ED Mnangagwa showing the policy of engagement and re-engagement.

Globally the Australian energy firm known as Invictus Energy Limited which has a gas and exploration license that launched their operations in 2018 locally to explore oil and gas. The company obtained Special Grant (SG) 4571 and exclusive prospecting orders 1848/49 in the Muzarabani district located in the north-eastern part of Zimbabwe. This outlines how the global community relations are bearing fruits as the international community has confidence in the Zimbabwe Government under HE Dr E.D Mnangagwa. This investment by a foreign company outlines how good relations made by the Zimbabwe Government has led to the new investment opportunities.

In 2019 the Zimbabwean President travelled to the Eurasian country of Belarus and met with the President Aleksander Lukashenko where several agreements were clinched that resulted in Zimbabwe receiving several deals in mining, agriculture and infrastructure development. One of the most notable deals was the agriculture mechanization program known as the Belarus Farm Mechanization Programme that has benefited thousands of Zimbabwean farmers. Under this a total of 13,000 tractors of different models were taken



SADC Extraordinary  
Summit of Heads of State  
and Government held in  
Lusaka, Zambia in 2022.

babwe Business Council.

The Second Iran-Africa International Economic Conference that saw nearly forty nations that were represented including Zimbabwe which was represented by the Vice-President Chivenga had topics under discussion that included commerce, looking into investment opportunities and encouraging cooperation across industries. In 2023 the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi’s made a state visit to Zimbabwe that saw twelve Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in agriculture and health, were signed. This also saw the Vice-President attend the Dushanbe Water Process in Tajikistan in June 2024 where the bilateral relations between the two nations were enhanced. During the conference, that occurred the President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan directed that economic relations between the two nations be stronger.

As a conclusion the nation of Zimbabwe under the Second Republic has made strides in gaining International relations strides from the regional and international stage which include signing of MOUs, the opening of official embassies as well as attending various conferences on a global platform. Since the coming of the Second Republic many foreign relations have grown and improved between nations as well as a rise in international trade for Zimbabwe.



## Refugees and African Future: Unthinking Parochial Economic Development Approaches in Africa

*Contemporary Africa is under a global spotlight for the substantial enigmas that saddle it, its myriad accomplishments and potentials, including the need to reposition itself globally. The demand for economic evolution has remained the primary focus of attention over the last fifty years, though.*

By Norman Pinduka,  
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Despite some states on the continent suffering from post-independence intra-state disputes, political unrest, and economic stagnation, the demand for economic structural reforms has persisted in the direction of Agenda 2063—the Africa We Want. The unifying objective of Africa is to attain inclusive and sustainable development, propelled by the African Renaissance and Pan-Africanist ideals of unity, self-determination, indepen-

dence, progress, and collective prosperity.

This essentially has called for an all-encompassing, inclusive, and flexible development plan that considers the present configurations that infuse

the continent. While the presence of the youth, human resources, the need for technology and even regional integration among others remain fundamental, the current migratory patterns are also too important to ignore. Given the many patterns of migration that occur across the continent, Africa has been referred to as a continent on the move. While regular migration has been seen to have favourable effects on the economic growth of some African states, forced migration has been a source of worry.

As of June 2024, 120 million people had been forcibly displaced worldwide, up from 35.8 million in 2012 (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Annual Global Trends Report, 2024). While most (75.9 million) are in-

ternally displaced persons (IDPs) within their own countries, an estimated 37 percent (45.9 million) of those forcibly displaced are in Africa, comprising around 8.9 million refugees, 1.1 million asylum seekers, 35 million IDPs, and one million stateless persons. Given the number of the forcibly displaced people in Africa, which has an agenda of inclusive development and collective prosperity, the fundamental question requiring responses is: how can the utility of these people of concern be harnessed in Africa's development agenda?

### The Status-Quo: Non-Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced Persons (Refugees) in Africa's Development

While all the forced displacement clusters are key in Africa's development, the goal of this short piece is repositioning refugees in Africa's development agenda. The time to rethink the current parochial approaches to development that have placed refugees in non-contributing positions is now. The portrayal of a refugee tainted by prejudice and stereotypes resulting from Eurocentric models of refugee protection has given rise to exclusive approaches that not only legitimize the restructuring of coexistence across the continent but also order other Africans based on nationality.

Ironically, despite the occasional antagonism they face, history and empirical data from several African states indicate that host states benefit from refugee populations. Through the concept of refugee economies, evidence demystify popular assumptions on the refugees and economic growth/development in host states. The assumptions that refugees are economically isolated, or a burden to host countries, or the popular perceptions of the economic life of refugees that tend to portray rural refugees as largely technologically illiterate and predominantly involved with agriculture, and urban refugees with small-scale 'petty trade' are only misconceptions that have been disproved by realities in a number of African countries, including Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Uganda.

As the number of refugees surges at unsustainable levels and as durable

solutions continue to be less relevant to refugees, it is imperative that an inclusive plan be established to harness this cluster of forced migration in Africa's development. This is not to argue that African nations have not made an effort to incorporate refugee into their development agendas. At best, though, the attempts have been incidental and sporadic. It takes a comprehensive and collaborative strategy of many stakeholders, including refugee groups, to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth for African states.

### Refugees as Key Stakeholders in African Futures

Future developments in Africa are contingent upon the existing course of events. Unthinking parochial economic development practices is critical. Inclusivity and collective prosperity, a core African principle, entail acknowledging that all social groups bear responsibilities for contributing to the development goal. Refugees are therefore an important stakeholder, and their value in development is dependent on government actions.

The first step in integrating and harnessing the benefits of refugees in African development is to accept and welcome them in host communities and states. To welcome refugees is to take pleasure in hosting them. This comprises governments and local communities acknowledging refugees' plight and creating a welcoming environment marked by warmth and friendliness. This is vital for their integration, which affects how they settle and the value they can add to host communities, which in turn is important for their development. African states can therefore establish inclusive policies that welcome and integrate refugees through social and psychological support, including language-related training and cultural orientation. This will lessen communication barriers and help refugees integrate, settle, and contribute to the workforce of host states.

Capacitating refugees is also instrumental in the process. Short and long term objectives need to be set in Africa to embrace and take advantage of the presence of refugees. Providing

refugees with chances to acquire skills and qualifications that are in demand in the local labour market can help them find meaningful work and contribute to the cross-border economic growth of host nations. The key is to identify and make use of the capabilities that refugees possess in order to maximize their knowledge, experience, and abilities. This guarantees their smooth assimilation and contribution to the local economy, which is crucial for the long-term growth of both the host communities and the refugees.

Evidently, throughout the global south, particularly in African states, the informal economy has become the new norm. States with well-policed informal economies gain from such approaches. It should be at the centre of African governments' efforts to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment in the informal economy. Many African governments have implemented initiatives for youth, women, and other citizens that are accessible depending on nationality and citizenship. It is past time to abandon such attitudes and finance an idea regardless of one's background. In this regard, African states and leaders who drive the development agenda should offer refugees access to financial services, business development help, and mentorship so that they may establish their own enterprises. This is important for self-sufficiency and for the state, including the continent's development.

In an effort to survive, refugees from all across the continent have started their own modest businesses. African states could take advantage of these initiatives and finance enterprises run by refugees. Regionally, trade facilitation is seen as significant, but it must begin locally. Curfews and movement restrictions impose significant restrictions on the economic lives of refugees. The moment has come for African cultures to allow refugees access to capital,



markets, and business support services. This can aid in their expansion and contribution to Africa's development at the local level.

It is essential to note that economic contributions are possible if health security is guaranteed. At the centre of health security are two notions viz.

1. The protection against diseases or any related ailments, and

2. The ability to recover and bounce back from illness since sickness is inevitable in a human being.

As such, the economic contribution of refugees is quite feasible if they have access to essential public services, such

as healthcare, that can help them meet their basic needs and integrate into the community. In addition to this, fostering social cohesion and inclusion can immensely help reduce social tensions and promote mutual understanding between refugees and local communities. This can be critical for the ex-

change of goods and services.

As concluding remarks, Africa's progression is hinged on a variety of stakeholders. The time to unthink parochialism and restrictiveness in the need to for development is now. Embracing various stakeholders is vital for inclusivity and collective prosperi-

ty. The time has come for the African continent to harness the presence of refugees in the continent. The number of this migration cluster is likely to increase and harnessing their value is central for host states, local communities and in Africa's development agenda.

# Theories and Practices of China's Modernization Path: Insights from the Communist Party of China

On June 6, 2024, the world gathered in Beijing, China, for the inaugural Conference of the World Political Party Think Tanks Cooperation Association and the academic seminar on party politics, themed 'Party Politics in a World of Once-in-a-Century Changes'. The event was organized by the Institute of World Political Parties under the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee. This inaugural conference followed a council meeting of the association held on June 5, 2024. Nearly fifty countries were represented in Beijing, making it a truly global gathering.

By Dr. Petro Sauti Magai,  
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I was fortunate to be a special delegate as a member of the think tank at the Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership School (MJNLS), and our delegation, which included representatives from 23 Global South countries, was led by Prof. Palamagamba J. A. M. Kabudi. While various speeches were delivered at the conference, the central discussion focused on the theories and practices of China's path to modernization. The head of Tanzanians' delegation delivered a speech acknowledging China's struggle towards modernization while also recognizing the support and contributions from the Global South, particularly highlighting Tanzania's role. He emphasized the significant efforts of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere in supporting China during those early days.

Attending the inaugural conference was just one of many activities planned for our itinerary. Our schedule began on the morning of Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at around 8:00 am. We spent nearly an hour traveling from the Wanshou Hotel to the Museum of the Communist Party of China (CPC), where we explored China's transformation from primitive production methods to a high-tech nation, all under the CPC's guidance. During our Museum visit, we virtually toured major cities like Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Chongqing, as well as Macau and Hong Kong. We also navigated through various palaces and experienced virtual journeys to the Moon and Mars. Mars, the fourth planet from the Sun, is one of the most extensively



explored bodies in our solar system. Our virtual visit allowed us to experience its dusty, cold, and occasionally warmer environment with a very thin atmosphere, providing a unique perspective on its climatic conditions and ecosystems.

Returning from the Moon, we ventured deep underwater, reaching depths of over 10,000 meters, where we encountered submarines and various fish species. Despite occasional bad weather, the deep-sea experience was highly enjoyable. We then observed technological advancements across different construction projects, travelled on the fastest trains, and saw aircraft and large boats prepared for any potential global threats.

The advanced level of technology clearly indicated that China is well-pre-

pared for any situation. This virtual journey was a remarkable experience, encompassing all the special delegates from around the world. As a friend from Namibia, Mr. Felix Zingolo Musukubili, aptly described, this trip to China was indeed an experimental tour.

## Theories and Approaches to Modernization in China

The past ten years have witnessed an enormous transition under the CPC's leadership, marking a critical turning point in the Party's and the overall advancement of the Chinese people. The Party has improved its capacity to organize the people, inspire society, provide theoretical leadership, and lead politics—all the while keeping a close relationship

with the people, who now possess a greater sense of history and initiative. On October 16, 2022, President Xi Jinping addressed the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, emphasizing the need of holding high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics and striving in unity to build a modern socialist country in all respects. This topic encompasses the complete application of the idea of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a New Era, the preservation of the Party's original spirit, boosting self-assurance, and having the guts to innovate while adhering to core values. It emphasizes the resolve to move forward with bravery and entrepreneurship in order to complete the construction of a modern socialist nation and further the great rejuvenation of the Chinese people. China has made progress in socialist modernization, reform, and opening up thanks to the CPC's efforts, ushering in a new era of swift economic expansion and enduring social stability.

The fundamental Marxist philosophy that underpins the CPC and the nation has played a significant role in shaping China's evolution and progress. The CPC's strong belief and conviction stem from Marxism's excellent theoretical leadership, which allows the Party to take advantage of historic possibilities. Marxism needed to be adjusted to the unique local realities of China;

- Using the Marxist approach to solve issues in China; no need to compromise; instead, keep empowering people, look for the truth in the data, and adopt a practical and realistic stance.

- China must focus on real-world conditions and concentrate on finding solutions to the pressing issues arising in the new era of reform, opening up, and socialist modernization.

- Continue answering the queries that the public has. Appropriate responses that take into account the facts must be provided, and the conclusions drawn must be consistent with the advancement of new theories as well as objectivity.

- To maintain and advance Marxism, China must incorporate its exquisite traditional culture by drawing on the nation's rich historical and cultural foundation. Traditional culture upholds many

significant ideas and ideals, such as the pursuit of the common good for all, the belief that people are the basis of the state, the rejection of the antiquated in favour of the modern, the appointment of officials based solely on merit, the encouragement of harmony between humanity and the natural world, and acting honestly and amicably toward others, to name a few.

- By maintaining faith in history and culture, we can use the past to inform the present and create the new by drawing on the old. Marxism's core ideas must be integrated with the finest aspects of traditional Chinese culture and the universal principles that people innately uphold daily. With this approach, there is an assurance that Marxism will take hold not just in China but also throughout the world, particularly in the Global South.

It should be noted that China has fully implemented the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era as well as the Party's basic line and basic policy over the past 10 years. China has also remained committed to Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong thought, Deng Xiaoping theory, the theory of three represents, and the scientific outlook on development. A multitude of revolutionary techniques, a number of strategic measures, and several breakthroughs and historic advancements have all been made. However, under the CPC's direction, China's modernization process picked up speed. While many aspects of modernity are shared by all nations, China chose to embrace those aspects specific to its own setting. These might be referred to as the prerequisites.

- i. Population Growth: We must value the people we have now. China has made it clear that people must come first. Given the population of over 1.4 billion, it is inevitable that the development strategies and pathways will be unique. China won't follow conventional rules or aim for lofty, unattainable objectives. Instead, we will be patient and take small, consistent steps to change the course of history.

- ii. Prosperity for all in common: One of the main characteristics of Chinese socialism is the pursuit of common prosperity, which is the result of a protracted historical process. It's important to remember that sharing is caring. As a result, we must fulfil the hopes of the populace for a better living. We shall make an effort to uphold and advance social justice and fairness, provide prosperity to all, and avoid divisiveness.

- iii. Advancement of materials and culture-ethics: The main objectives of communist modernization are material affluence and cultural-ethical enrichment. Neither material want nor cultural deprivation constitute socialism. Thus, China shall support both the overall material prosperity and the holistic development of individuals.

- iv. Harmony between humanity and nature: Nature and humanity comprise a community of existence. China is dedicated to the ideals of sustainable development, which include letting nature heal itself, protecting the environment, and conserving resources. Like we defend our own life, so too will we protect the environment and nature. To secure the sustainable development of the Chinese people, we will keep pursuing a model of sound development that includes increased productivity, greater living standards, and healthy ecosystems.

- v. Harmonious development: China will not follow certain other countries' ancient route of war, colonization, and pillage in its pursuit of development. China is determined to remain on the correct side of history and the advancement of humanity. Committed to world peace and development, as well as to collaboration, peace, and mutual gain, we will work to protect these ideals while pursuing our own goals, and we will increase our own contributions to global peace and development.

China has developed essential requirements for achieving modernization through a multifaceted approach that integrates economic, social, political, environmental, educational, cultural, and technological dimensions. By addressing these requirements comprehensively, China aims to build a modern, prosperous, and sustainable society that can serve as a model for other developing nations, ensuring long-term stability and prosperity while maintaining its cultural and political integrity. These requirements include:

- I. Upholding the leadership of the

CPC and socialism with Chinese characteristics, this is a fundamental to China's strategic vision, ensuring cohesive governance and adaptive policies that drive national development and stability.

II. Pursuing high-quality development, focuses on enhancing economic growth through innovation, sustainability, and efficiency, ensuring that progress translates into tangible improvements in living standards and long-term prosperity.

III. Developing whole-process people's democracy, this ensures that citizens are actively involved in every stage of governance, from decision-making to implementation, thereby enhancing transparency, accountability, and public participation in the democratic process.

IV. Enriching the people's cultural lives, this involves expanding access to diverse and meaningful cultural experiences, promoting artistic expression, and preserving cultural heritage to enhance overall well-being and foster a vibrant, inclusive society.

V. Achieving common prosperity for all, involves creating an equitable economic environment where wealth and opportunities are distributed fairly, ensuring that every individual benefits from economic growth and has access to improved living standards.

VI. Promoting harmony between humanity and nature, entails fostering sustainable practices and environmental stewardship that balance human development with the preservation of natural ecosystems, ensuring a healthy planet for future generations.

VII. Building a human community with a shared future, focuses on fostering global cooperation and mutual respect to address common challenges, promote peace, and create a sustainable and inclusive world for all.

VIII. Creating a new form of human advancement, involves pioneering innovative approaches that integrate technological progress, ethical values, and social equity to drive comprehensive and sustainable improvements in the quality of life for all.

#### Lesson learned

Chinese history under the CPC has been

significantly restored, and the following are some of the lessons that countries from both the Global South and beyond can learn.

1. Leveraging virtual technology for national development: Countries, including Tanzania, can benefit from embracing innovative approaches and technologies, such as virtual tours and simulations, to gain a comprehensive and engaging understanding of a nation's progress and capabilities. This is exemplified by China's advanced integration of historical education, technological advancements, and global preparedness. Questions that arise: if the CPC can provide a complete view of China's history, why can't Tanzania achieve the same? What is preventing Tanzania from developing virtual memory that showcase the entire country and its tourist attractions?

2. Adaptation of core ideologies: Marxist philosophy has been effectively adapted to meet China's unique historical, cultural, and socio-economic contexts, demonstrating its flexibility and relevance for national development. This adaptation has allowed China to align Marxist principles with its specific needs, resulting in a development model that integrates core ideological beliefs with practical realities. By tailoring Marxism to address local conditions, China has achieved significant progress in modernization, economic growth, and social stability. In light of this, it is important to ask: What developmental philosophy anchors Tanzania's approach to progress and modernization? Understanding Tanzania's developmental philosophy is crucial for assessing how it addresses its own unique challenges and opportunities. This involves exploring how Tanzania integrates its historical and cultural contexts with contemporary development strategies. By identifying and implementing a coherent developmental philosophy, Tanzania can tailor its approach to foster sustainable growth, improve living standards, and achieve its long-term goals, similar to how China has successfully adapted Marxist principles to its national context.

3. Preserving historical legacy: The history of China has been exten-

sively restored for various reasons. For example, during our visit to Zhenjiang city in Jiangsu province, we learned about the contributions of three prominent figures: the father of mathematics who calculated pi, the encyclopaedist, and the architect who built China's first crossroad. This rich history has been preserved for many years. Similarly, why can't the Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) preserve and showcase the history of Africa's liberation struggles, where Tanzania played a leading role? Tanzania was once a hub for freedom fighters—where can we find and celebrate this significant history? Let's take a lesson from the CPC's approach and work towards preserving and promoting our own historical legacy.

4. Ecological protection: China's commitment to ecological protection is evident in its cities. The lush greenery and sustainable urban planning we observed in cities like Nanjing, Zhenjiang, Xiamen, Quanzhou, and Fuzhou highlight China's dedication to creating a greener environment. These cities are a testament to China's efforts in environmental conservation and urban sustainability, contributing to its status as a truly green country. China has successfully embraced ecological protection to ensure a sustainable future. What is preventing Tanzania from achieving similar green city developments? It is high time for the Tanzanian government to prioritize and initiate ecological protection efforts to enhance inclusive development and contribute to a sustainable future.

5. Following the principles that significantly assisted China's modernization, the Tanzanian government, led by the ruling party Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM), should not only embrace similar modernization principles to drive growth but also develop its own distinctive development philosophy to further the country's progress. By studying and adapting the successful strategies employed by the CPC, Tanzania can tailor these principles to fit its unique socio-economic context, fostering sustainable development. This approach will enable Tanzania to achieve long-term stability and prosperity while maintaining its cultural and political integrity.

## African Continental Free Trade Area: A Game Changer or New Wine in Old Bottle?

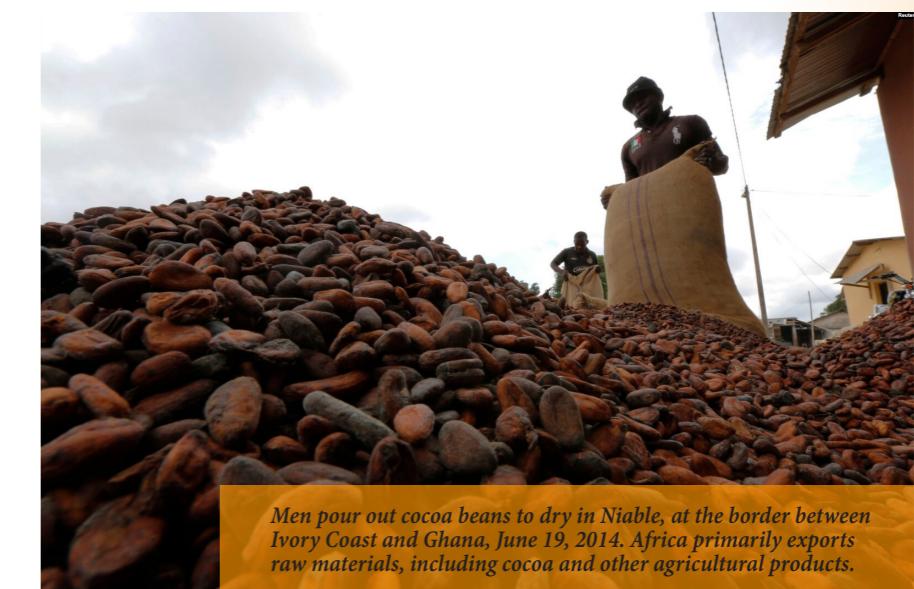
*The adoption of the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on the 21st of March 2018, the largest in the world by membership, has brought renewed hope for enhanced socio-economic integration through increased trade flows of African products and services within the continent by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers. This article seeks to examine if the hype about the AfCFTA as a game changer by global financial institutions like the IMF, WB and World Trade Organisation (WTO) is plausible or like all other African economic initiatives, it is new wine in old bottles. Does AfCFTA present substantive opportunities and prospects for Africa to increase its share of global trade, transform African economies and become a world power in the twenty-first century?*

By Eve, Zvichanzi Nyemba,

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Africa has a rich history of promising economic initiatives including the Lagos Plan of Action of 1981, Africa's Priority Program for Economic Recovery of 1985 and the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) of 1991 under the auspices of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The African Union (AU) was formed in 2002 to succeed the OAU with the main goal of accelerating the political and socio-economic integration of the continent as enshrined in the AU Constitutive Act of 2000. The AU has four financial institutions modelled after the European Union (EU) and the Bretton Woods institutions, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB). These institutions are inter alia, the African Central Bank (ACB), African Monetary Fund (AMF), African Investment Bank (AIB) and African Development Bank, all created to foster investment and economic growth. Despite the existence of these robust institutions and blueprints, Africa still lags behind in economic development.

The AfCFTA entered into force on May 30, 2019, after 24 member states deposited their instruments of ratification following a series of continuous continental engagements spanning since 2012 (AfCFTA, 2024). It was launched at the 12th extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Niamey – Ni-



Men pour out cocoa beans to dry in Niable, at the border between Ivory Coast and Ghana, June 19, 2014. Africa primarily exports raw materials, including cocoa and other agricultural products.

ger, in July 2019. The commencement of trading under the AfCFTA was set for January 1, 2021. Commercially meaningful trade, thereafter, commenced in October 2022 using AfCFTA preferential tariff regime and trading documents (AfCFTA, 2024). The AfCFTA Secretariat is hosted in Accra, Ghana.

It has been ratified by 47 state parties as of February 2024 with seven countries expected to ratify the Agreement, namely, Benin, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. AfCFTA has an ambitious goal of lifting an estimated 30 million people out of extreme poverty. The AfCFTA agreement was signed by 54 AU mem-

ber states as of April 2023. According to the AfCFTA Report of February 2024, approximately 450 billion dollars income boost is anticipated in Africa by 2035 in the wake of the implementation of the progressive initiative.

The General Objectives of the agreement are multi-faceted, including to create a single market for goods and services, a liberalized market for goods and services through successive rounds of negotiations, contribute to the movement of capital and natural persons and facilitate investments building on the initiatives and developments in African countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The agreement

seeks to lay the foundation for the establishment of a continental customs union, promote and attain sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development, gender equality, and structural transformation of Africa. AfCFTA aims to intensify capacity building and dissemination of AfCFTA information to all Africans, including marginalized groups. AfCFTA seeks to intensify capacity building and dissemination of information to all Africans including marginalized groups and enhance the competitiveness of the economies of states within the continent and the global market. The agreement will promote industrial development through diversification and regional value chain development, agricultural development, and food security and resolve the challenges of multiple and overlapping memberships as well as expedite the regional and continental integration processes.

#### Is AfCFTA a Game Changer?

The AfCFTA is an exciting game changer. Currently, Africa accounts for just 2 percent of global trade and only 17 percent of African exports are intra-continental, compared with 59 percent for Asia and 68 percent for Europe. The potential for transformation across Africa is therefore, significant according to the World Economic Forum (WEF) of 2024. According to a report by the World Bank on AfCFTA: Economic and Distributional Effects, wages for both skilled and unskilled workers will be boosted by 10.3 percent for unskilled workers, and 9.8 percent for skilled workers if the AfCFTA achieves its extraordinary goals. It is estimated that the agreement will increase Africa's exports by US \$560 billion, mostly in manufacturing says the WEF, 2024.

AfCFTA is new wine in new bottles because its effective implementation will result in the rise of intra-continental exports by 81 percent, while the increase to non-African countries would be 19 percent (WEF, 2024). According to Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2024), if successfully implemented, AfCFTA could generate a combined consumer and business spending of US \$6.7 trillion by 2030. The Economic Commission



for Africa (2024) notes that AfCFTA is a game changer as women who account for around 70% of informal cross-border traders in Africa will benefit from the agreement. Tariff reductions under the AfCFTA will enable informal women traders to operate through formal channels, bringing better protection (WEF, 2024).

#### AfCFTA Successes

AfCFTA is new wine in new bottles as it has some notable successes since its implementation. Key noteworthy achievements include the commissioning and operationalisation of the AfCFTA Secretariat, launch of trade under the AfCFTA, signing of the AfCFTA Agreement by 54 AU Member States and launch of the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) in collabora-

tion with the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank). The signing of the AfCFTA Adjustment Fund Management Agreement with Afreximbank and US \$11 Million Grant Agreement with African Development Bank (AfCFTA Report, 2024) indicates that AfCFTA presents substantive opportunities and prospects for Africa to increase its share of global trade, transform African economies and become a world power in the twenty-first century. The agreement is new wine in new bottles as they are on-going efforts to form a private sector fund structure that will support African countries to effectively participate in the new trading environment established under the AfCFTA.

Another notable achievement of the agreement is the establishment of the AfCFTA Hub which was launched

on 29th August 2023 which serves as a one-stop platform for regulators, traders, customs authorities, logistics, and retail operators to collaborate and work together. It aims to eliminate obstacles to cross-border trade, investment, and institutional integration, while accelerating the continent towards the desired Africa using AfCFTA as the engine of transformation (AfCFTA Report, 2024). The continental agreement is indeed new wine in new bottles as the number of adopted Provisional Schedules of Tariff Concessions for market access regarding trade in goods, has risen to 45 from 42 with Malawi, Comoros, and Ethiopia submitting their respective offers (AfCFTA Report, 2024). AfCFTA is not just a dormant agreement as its Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) has been established with the first members of

the Appellate Body being sworn in on 24 March 2023.

#### Challenges

Whilst AfCFTA has had substantive successes since its implementation, it is already facing a plethora of challenges that need to be addressed if it is to achieve its grandiose objectives. The most daunting challenge AfCFTA faces is that presently, intra-Africa trade stands low at just 14.4 percent of total African exports. Moreover, despite some regions having relaxed some tariffs on regional goods (SADC for example), not all goods flowing between regions have been exempted. Removal of tariffs remains key to the success of the grand agreement. Analogously, Africa is still grappling with political and governance instability, terrorism, a break-down in

transparency and accountability, poverty, inequality, and unemployment that have made it difficult for the AfCFTA to effectively achieve its objectives. In addition to the above, high tariffs and colonial-era infrastructure make it easier for African countries to export to Europe or the United States than to each other. Furthermore, the perilous issue of overlapping membership in Africa's eight RECs will hinder trade standardisation and enforcement if not resolved.

#### Conclusion and Recommendations

The study established that the hype about the AfCFTA as a game changer by global financial institutions like the IMF, WB and World Trade Organisation (WTO) is indeed warranted. AfCFTA unlike all other African economic initiatives is new wine in new bottles. Since its implementation, it has depicted considerable successes unlike previous African initiatives. AfCFTA indeed presents substantive opportunities and prospects for Africa to increase its share of global trade, transform African economies and become a world power in the twenty-first century. It is however, important to reiterate that the ambitious objectives of AfCFTA cannot be implemented without unity, political will and concerted efforts by the 55 African governments. Africa must take ownership and fund AfCFTA. It must not rely exclusively on funding initiatives outside of Africa.

Correspondingly, there is need to accelerate economic diversification, value addition, and structural transformation, which are prerequisites for trade. Africa must adopt a bottom – up approach instead of a top-down approach to ensure that it has buy in from grassroots constituencies. Further, African States must intensify and prioritize African integration over competing interests in other multilateral trade organizations. They need to expedite the establishment of their National Implementation Committees and intensify capacity building and dissemination of AfCFTA information to all Africans including marginalized groups if the initiative is to continue of the wavelength of unprecedented success.

# Embracing Nyerere's Education for Self-Reliance: A Living Philosophy in the Tanzanian Socio-Economic Development Plans

I recall the slogan for the 2023 Nyerere Day reading "Mwalimu Nyerere: Leader of National Development and Prosperity." The 2023 commemoration slogan implies that Nyerere's visions are still a green light to the Tanzanian national development and prosperity. The 2023 slogan made me reflect of Nyerere's philosophies which centred on Ujamaa (African Socialism), Self-Reliance, and Unity. The thesis of this article is grounded on this argument, specifically on Education for Self-reliance (ESR). ESR put forth by Nyerere in 1967 aimed at designing education that would empower individuals become self-sufficient and contribute to national development by fostering practical skills, critical thinking, and a sense of community responsibility. This article intends to unfold how ESR is still echoed in both local and international policies and demanded skills for fostering economic development even after more than 50 years of its establishment.

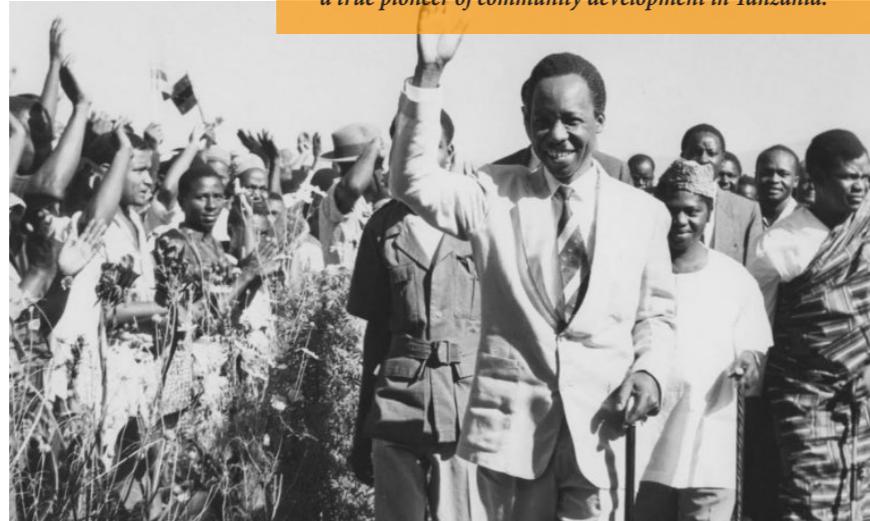
By Tanasha Kitalima

Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, Tanzania

The Education for Self-Reliance (ESR) criticized colonial education's shortcomings (designed to transmit colonialist and capitalist values), and suggested the kind of education that is relevant to Tanzanian society. Despite its success ESR faced resource constraints and a shift towards individualistic and capitalist conceptions. However, ESR has remained the popular educational philosophy in Africa and a blueprint for all educational policies in Tanzania.

The objectives of ESR are reflected in both local and international development policies and plans (e.g. The 2023 Education and Training Policy (ETP), The International Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Framework of 2030, and UN SDGs). For instance, the IOECDF 2030 promotes skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem-solving as essential for navigating a rapidly changing world.

First, ESR promoted self-sufficiency and innovation by encouraging students to be self-reliant and innovative and foster a mind-set of problem-solving and entrepreneurship. It recommended the kind of education that would transform individuals who can use skills gained to create economic opportunities. Currently, this vision is reflected in both



*Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, was described as a true pioneer of community development in Tanzania.*

local and international policies (e.g. United Nation's SDG 8, Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) Strategic Plan 2021-2026 and the ETP 2023) which aim to foster entrepreneurial culture by incorporating entrepreneurship education into curriculums, providing mentorship, access to capital, and business incubation centres. This encourages the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that drive economic growth and job creation.

Moreover, curriculum reforms in Tanzania focus on practical relevance, integrating academics with economic activities. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) has

been working on the 2023 ETP, focusing on skills relevant to the changing job market. Also, the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 emphasizes holistic education with quality and relevant skills including agriculture, technology, engineering, healthcare, and environmental management. All these plans echoes the importance of practical skills in education as pioneered by ESR.

Second, ESR emphasized practical skills over theoretical knowledge (vocational training to equip students with hands-on skills) which align with the Tanzanian MoESTs 2023 curriculum reforms to emphasize vocational skills, starting from Form One, in line

Community engage in collective farming in Ujamaa villages



with the country's economic demands. This is also reflected in other policies like the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), National Skills Development Strategy III, and the World Bank's Skills Development for Employability, aiming to improve Tanzanians' skills and competencies to meet labour market demands and support economic growth.

Third, ESR placed a strong emphasis on teamwork and community involvement. The policy contributed to the development of a sense of communal responsibility and teamwork that is crucial for economic development by instructing students on how to collaborate on community projects. Currently, there are local and international policies and frameworks emphasizing community involvement in planning and implementing development projects, aiming to foster a collaborative approach to economic growth and national development (e.g. National Development Vision 2025, The African Union's Agenda 2063(2013) and UN SDG 17). For instance, The African Union's Agenda 2063 reflect ESR's essence of community involvement by emphasizing the importance of community participation and regional cooperation to drive economic development and address common challenges across the continent.

Fourth, ESR promoted a common educational experience across many areas and backgrounds, hence fostering social cohesion and national unity. The belief was that a unified country would be more capable of addressing economic issues as a group. For example, by creating a more unified and cooperative society that can tackle national economic difficulties, the strategy integrated students from many regions into the same educational programs, with the goal of bridging ethnic and regional barriers. This idea has always been upheld by different national and international policies/programs/ frameworks/plans that involve policies and projects that seek to reduce disparities and promote national unity (e.g. The National Curriculum for Primary and Secondary Schools Framework of 2023, UN SDG 16, Tanzania Development Vision (2018) by 2025). For instance, the NCPSSF of 2023 aims to foster social cohesion, national unity, and economic development through a structured educational approach.

Fifth, ESR sought to lessen Tanzania's reliance on foreign aid and create a more sustainable economy based on local resources and efforts by emphasizing self-reliance and the usage of local resources. As an illustration, the focus on local resource management and self-sufficiency promoted the creation of indigenous solutions to economic problems while reducing the need for

outside financial aid. This vision has always been a proper path of many other policies and plans that promote economic growth, enhance local means of production, and reduce dependency on foreign imports and aid. (E.g. The Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2021), National Investment Policy (2010), UN SDG 16). For instance, The Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2021) aimed at enhancing economic growth through diversification of the economy, reducing dependence on foreign aid by fostering domestic industries and innovations.

By establishing the educational foundation that focused on local empowerment and economic independence, there is no doubt that Nyerere's ESR significantly reflects and informs both local and international plans in Tanzania's economic policies and frameworks that emphasize industrialization, poverty alleviation, and sustainable economic growth via local and international resource mobilization and capacity building to emphasize economic diversification, regional integration, and self-sufficiency. Thus, Nyerere's ESR has grown to be a pillar of Tanzania's aspirations to establish long-term economic resilience and lessen reliance on foreign aid aiming at producing a generation of Tanzanians capable of making substantial contributions to the country's growth.



*About 25 percent of Namibians lived in shacks or kambashus, according to the 2019/2021 Census Mapping Report.*

## How to Eliminate Poverty in Namibia Based on China's Path to Modernization Experience

*Poverty robs people of their freedom, mental health, physical well-being and security. Everyone must strive to eradicate poverty from their country and world, ensuring appropriate physical and mental health, full literacy, a home for all and other necessities for living a simple life.*

**Junias Haiping,**  
SWAPO Party Youth League District Treasurer for Ongwediva District

China under the capable leadership of Communist Party of China (CPC) lifted people out of poverty first and foremost by identifying and reducing the barriers preventing people from enriching themselves, rather than merely giving handouts.

The eradication of poverty has always been a wish to be fulfilled in Namibia. Introduction of national agricultural development program in China's Path to Modernization specified that agricultural cooperative should give proper care to community members who could not work and had no family to support them by providing them with proper food, clothing, fuel and education for the children and teenagers, by paying burial expenses and relief for

people in extreme poverty as the core.

The Chinese people including the farmers who made up nearly one quarter of the world population saw their basic living needs met. Their living standard and educational level improved. By increasing per capital GNP level to that of developing countries like Namibia, this will help to ensure that the people will have a relatively affluent life and realizing basic modernization.

Providing a massive, planned, well-organized poverty alleviation effort at the national level, by introducing major reforms involving agriculture and rural areas, is China's successful experience.

Like the Chinese saying: Empty talk will do nothing for the country

only solid work will make it flourish.

We believe that learning from the China's Path to Modernization we should establish a strong modern industry, modern agriculture, modern communications, transport and modern National defence.

Educating children, providing clean water, ensuring basic health care, empowering girls, boys and women, improving children nutrition, supporting environment programs, reaching for the children in conflict and preventing early marriage will help to eliminate poverty in Namibia.

Achieving modernization has been the dream of the Chinese people since modern time. The history of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is unifying and leading the Chinese peo-

ple toward national rejuvenation for over a century is synonymous with the continuous exploration of the road to modernization.

"Namibia would like to draw lessons from China in the fight against poverty, through closer bilateral cooperation and support," said the late President Hage Geingob. Geingob said the eradication of poverty and hunger in Namibia is a key policy objective of the Namibian government.

"The Namibian economy has been severely affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19, which threatens our socio-economic stability, and the gains we have made to reverse poverty", Geingob added.

He said that the Chinese investment and financial assistance were welcomed in order for the country to realize the goal to eradicate pov-

ty. According to him the government would step up efforts to build a sound economic structure that facilitates green, low-carbon and circular development, and promote a transition to green economic and social development across the board.

Following the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the country will actively participate in international cooperation in climate response, ocean governance, global biodiversity protection and other areas, and promote a fair and equitable global environmental governance system of win-win cooperation, so as to contribute to addressing global challenges such as climate and environment and building a clean and beautiful world.

As a Chinese saying goes, with thousands of mountains already behind, the road ahead is full of promises of a budding spring. While China's Path to Modernization is conceived in China, the opportunities it brings belong to the world. We are ready to work together with all parties to promote diverse ways of modernization and create an even brighter future for our planet.

Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed to build a community with a shared future for mankind which is vividly reflected in China-Africa relations. President Xi also said that when China was still struggling in poverty, we chose to tighten our belts to support our African brothers' independence and liberation movement, and as a return we were carried into the UN by African brothers.

As a continent where developing countries are most concentrated, Africa is the "foundation of the foundation" of China's diplomacy. In March 2013, Xi chose Africa as his first ever state visit destination after his inauguration as the President of China, which shows a great importance attached to China-Africa relations.

Since 1991, the Chinese Foreign Ministers have adopted a practice which called "annual first visit must be Africa".

Poverty is the root cause of all problem of Africa, China is committed to helping African countries to develop

their economies, increase employment, improve people's livelihood, achieve independent and sustainable development and finally eliminate the soil that breeds conflicts and chaos.

President Xi once said that China will actively promote the implementation of Belt and Road Initiative in Africa, and continue to implement the outcome of the Johannesburg Summit of FOCAC, to make sure that Africa can get a ride onto the "express train" of China's development and unremitting efforts shall be made to improve the living of African people.

The world is facing great instability and uncertainty. The polarization between the rich and the poor is becoming more and more serious, while major infectious diseases, climate change and other non-traditional security threats continue to spread.

Those are common challenges that people of the world, including Chinese and African people, face today. China and Africa will forever remain good friends by developing together, good partners with equal cooperation and good brothers through thick and thin.

China will put itself into Africa's shoes, provide financial, technical and personnel support to Africa's industrialization process. Not only by achieving poverty reduction and improving people's livelihood, China will also help to improve Africa's self-development capacity and enhance Africa's own "hematopoietic" function.

China's and Africa's development strategies highly fit each other, and both sides have mutual advantages and meet mutual needs. Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era proposed by the 19th National Congress of CPC has definitely become a new era of China-Africa relations. It is believed, with the joint efforts of both sides, China-Africa cooperation will climb the peak and bear fruitful results for a greater welfare of the 2.4 billion people of China and Africa.

Poverty is not predestined, nor is it unconquerable. China's experience in poverty alleviation indicates that courage, vision, sense of responsibility, and the eagerness to take on challenges

are the most essential. With strong will and determination, as well as practical action, one can make steady progress towards overcoming poverty and realizing common prosperity.

Poverty in Namibia is a complex and wide ranging issue that impacts millions of lives every day. The following are challenges that Namibia faces in eliminating poverty.

#### Economic challenges and Unemployment

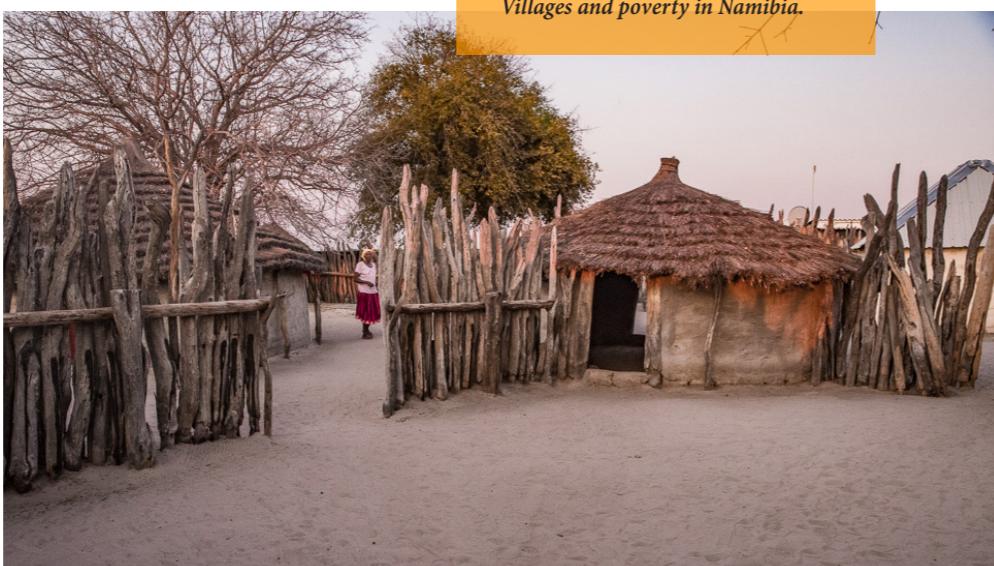
One of the key factors contributing to poverty in Africa is economic instability. High rates of unemployment, income inequality, and economic policies that sometimes fail to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable citizens of an African nation all play a role. For instance, in sub-Saharan Africa, youth unemployment rates are staggeringly high. This makes it difficult for young people to secure a stable livelihood. Income inequality adds to the issue, with an extremely uneven distribution of wealth leaving many struggling to meet even their most basic household needs. This issue of economic disparity not only affects individual families but spreads through entire communities, preventing progress and development.

#### Health Issues and Access to Medical Care

A person's physical health is central to their overall well-being. But many communities within several African nations lack access to adequate healthcare. This puts them at unusually high risk of preventable illness and a lack of injury treatment. These issues not only result in a lower day-to-day quality of life but also have wider-ranging implications for stifling economic growth and development. This is especially true for communities in rural and remote areas.

#### Impact on Education

Education is the surest way to escape poverty. But in Africa, it's not uncommon for children to face barriers to accessing quality education. Geographic distance from adequate schools and inadequate resources in existing schools



create significant hurdles for students. Also, children in impoverished families must often contribute to the necessary work of subsistence living, such as fetching water from a distant source and irrigating crops by hand. These time-consuming tasks can prevent a child from finding the time to attend school. This perpetuates the cycle of poverty into the next generation.

Also, the role of education in empowering adults cannot be overstated. Job skills training, literacy, and community development project competency all equip people with the skills and knowledge they need to improve their lives. But the lack of educational opportunities in impoverished areas hinders progress even for adults.

#### Environmental Factors and Resource Scarcity

Africa's current environmental challenges also create poverty-related issues. Drought, deforestation, and resource scarcity are all contributing factors. And there's abundant evidence that climate change is exacerbating these problems. These environmental factors often lead to serious poverty-related issues, including food insecurity, the hardship of displacement, and increased competition for limited resources.

Access to clean water, arable land, and other natural resources is essential for sustainable development. When these resources are scarce or misman-

aged, it perpetuates extreme poverty in vulnerable communities. Addressing these environmental issues is not only a matter of ecological stability but also a pathway to economic growth and sustainable development.

#### Unequal Distribution of Wealth and Resources

Wealth and resources in Africa are often not evenly distributed in a way that includes remote areas. Some regions and communities have abundant access to natural and government resources and the opportunities they provide, while others do not. This unequal distribution perpetuates disparities in living standards and equal access to essential services.

For instance, in some African countries, like many places in the world, a small percentage of the population controls a significant portion of the nation's wealth. This leaves the majority of people struggling to meet their needs. According to the United Nations, the poverty rate in rural areas in Africa is 17.2 percent, which is more than three times higher than in urban areas, at 5.3 percent. This unequal distribution of wealth in Africa can lead to social unrest and instability, making poverty alleviation even more challenging.

In conclusion Namibia will continue to learn and adopt the China's Path to Modernization style of eliminating poverty.

# China's Influence in Africa: A Balancing Act between Development and Dependency

*The purpose of this article is to provide analysis and recommendations to national, regional and continental decision makers in the implementation of conflict resolution, peace and security-related instruments. This article explores the complex nature of China's influence in Africa, examining both its developmental benefits and the risks of dependency.*

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China's growing presence in Africa has sparked widespread discussion and debate among policymakers, scholars, and the public. This relationship, characterized by extensive investments, aid, and trade agreements, has been seen by some as a harbinger of economic growth and development, while others view it as a new form of dependency or even neo-colonialism. The relationship between China and Africa dates back to the 1950s and 1960s when both regions were emerging from the shadows of colonialism. During this period, China supported African nations in their struggle for independence, establishing a foundation of goodwill.

This historical solidarity has evolved into a complex web of economic and political ties, particularly since the launch of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2000. FOCAC has been instrumental in structuring the bilateral engagements, with summits that have led to numerous trade and investment deals. The 2018 FOCAC summit in Beijing, for instance, resulted in China pledging \$60 billion in financing for African development over three years, underscoring the scale and seriousness of its commitments.

One of the most visible aspects of China's influence in Africa is its investment in infrastructure. Chinese companies have been involved in the construction of roads, railways, ports, and airports across the continent. For instance, the Standard Gauge Railway in Kenya, connecting Mombasa to Nairobi, is a flagship project financed



and built by Chinese entities. This railway, costing approximately US \$3.6 billion, has significantly reduced travel time and is expected to spur economic growth by enhancing trade and reducing transportation costs. Similarly, the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, built as a US \$200 million gift from China, stands as a symbol of Chinese commitment to Africa.

Moreover, China has become Africa's largest trading partner. In 2021, trade between China and Africa reached US \$254 billion, with African exports to China consisting mainly of raw materials such as oil, minerals, and agricultural products, while imports from China include machinery, electronics, and textiles. This trade relationship has contributed to economic growth in many African countries by providing them with access to new

markets and technology. For example, Angola's economy has benefited from Chinese investments in its oil sector, making China one of its largest oil importers.

China has also extended significant development aid and financial assistance to African countries. Unlike Western aid, which often comes with stringent conditions related to governance and human rights, Chinese aid is typically offered with fewer political strings attached. This approach has made Chinese aid attractive to African leaders, allowing them to pursue development projects that align with their national priorities.

Examples of Chinese Aid in Africa include the construction of the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and various healthcare and education projects. As well,



Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni (centre) accompanied by workers from China Oilfield Services Limited (COSL) and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), inaugurates the start of drilling at the Kingfisher oil field on the shores of Lake Albert in the Kikuube district of western Uganda Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023. China's influence is deeply felt in African countries, including Uganda, in recent years.

China has provided loans and grants for the development of critical infrastructure, contributing to improved living standards and economic prospects in recipient countries. In Zambia, for instance, Chinese investments have funded the construction of hospitals and schools, improving access to healthcare and education for the local population.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has further cemented its influence in Africa. Launched in 2013, the BRI aims to enhance global trade and stimulate economic growth by developing trade routes and investing in infrastructure projects across Asia, Europe, and Africa. In Africa, the BRI has led to significant investments in transport, energy, and telecommunications infrastructure.

For instance, the Addis Aba-

ba-Djibouti Railway, funded and constructed by Chinese entities, has significantly reduced travel time between the Ethiopian capital and the port city of Djibouti, boosting trade and economic integration in the region. This 752 km railway, which cost around \$4 billion, is a key component of Ethiopia's industrialization strategy, facilitating access to the sea for the landlocked nation and enhancing export capabilities. The BRI's emphasis on infrastructure development aligns with Africa's own priorities, creating a mutually beneficial partnership.

Despite the apparent benefits, there are growing concerns about the risks of dependency associated with China's influence in Africa. One major issue is the increasing debt burden on African countries. Chinese loans,

still need to be repaid. Many African nations have accumulated significant debt to finance infrastructure projects, raising concerns about their ability to service these debts in the long term.

Another concern is the economic imbalance in trade relations between China and Africa. While African countries export raw materials to China, they import finished goods. This trade pattern reinforces Africa's role as a supplier of raw materials and limits its ability to develop a diversified and industrialized economy. The influx of cheap Chinese goods has also been criticized for undermining local industries, leading to job losses and economic dislocation.

For example, in Nigeria, the textile industry has suffered due to the import of inexpensive Chinese textiles, which local manufacturers find difficult to

compete with. This has led to factory closures and job losses, worsening economic challenges in the country. The Nigerian textile sector, once a vibrant industry employing hundreds of thousands, has seen significant declines, with Chinese imports cited as a major contributing factor.

Politically, China has been actively involved in peacekeeping operations on the continent and has established a military base in Djibouti, its first overseas military facility. This presence has strategic implications, as it enhances China's ability to project power and protect its interests in the region.

Furthermore, China's political influence is evident in its diplomatic engagements and support for African countries in international forums. For instance, China has used its position on the United Nations Security Coun-



New data reveals China continues to be the primary destination for oil from the southern African nation.

cil to advocate for African interests and has supported various African leaders in their bids for international positions. This political support can translate into influence over African countries. For example, in Zimbabwe, China's support has been pivotal in propping up the government during times of international isolation, providing economic lifelines and political backing.

The relationship between Africa and China presents both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, Chinese investments and aid have contributed to much-needed infrastructure development, economic growth, and improved living standards. On the other hand, the risks of dependency, debt, and economic imbalance cannot be ignored.

African leaders and policymakers must navigate this complex relationship carefully, seeking to maximize the benefits while mitigating the risks.

This requires a strategic approach to engaging with China, including negotiating favourable terms for loans and investments, promoting local industries, and ensuring that development projects align with national and regional priorities.

Additionally, African countries should diversify their economic and diplomatic partnerships to avoid over-reliance on any single partner.

By engaging with a broader range of international actors, African nations can enhance their bargaining power and reduce the risks associated with dependency. For instance, countries like Rwanda have sought to diversify their economic partnerships by engaging with other Asian and Western nations, balancing their economic ties and mitigating risks associated with over-dependence on China.

China's influence in Africa is a balancing act between development and dependency. While Chinese investments, aid, and trade have brought significant benefits to the continent, there are also substantial risks that need to be managed. The future of Africa-China relations will depend on the ability of African leaders to navigate this complex landscape, ensuring that the partnership remains mutually beneficial and sustainable in the long term.

By adopting a strategic and diversified approach, African countries can harness the potential of their relationship with China to drive development while safeguarding their sovereignty and economic independence. The success of this relationship hinges on a careful balancing of interests, where development goals are pursued without compromising the long-term economic and political stability of African nations.

# Is Regional Integration Beneficial Among Member States in Africa?

This article elaborates about the benefits of regional integration in Africa. This is based on the fact that regional integration is not a new phenomenon in Africa as it can be traced back during colonial period. African Diaspora such as Kwame Nkrumah, Jomo Kenyatta and Marcus Garvey were promoting this idea through a series of Pan African congresses. The idea reaches African continent hence leaders regarded it as unification of all African people, particularly in fighting against colonialism. It was in 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia two third of the government in Africa signed agreement to form OAU, later was transformed to AU in 2002, which impacted significantly the move towards the goal of Pan-African political and economic union.

By Rose Irene Mbete,  
Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, Tanzania

The vision and agenda 2063 states that: The vision of the African Union is to become an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena. This emphasized that African states were intending to maximize their gains from the liberally globalized world and to minimize marginalization from the international economic system.

## Meaning of regional integration

In this article the meaning of the concept regional integration has been adopted from Ballasa (1961) whereas the concept regional integration is both a process and a state of affairs. Being a state of affairs entails the absence of any form of discrimination between national economies while being a process encompasses measures designed to abolish discrimination between units belonging to different national states. Being a process and state of affairs goes further to include economic, political, cultural, social and institutional.

The achievement of a political union features is the ultimate objective of many African regional integration Agreements. The intention of Africa's regional integration under the patronages of the (AU) has been the coming together of countries to achieve large markets for themselves, gain the benefits of economies of scale and attain a coherent political cooperation. In that, examples of regional integration in Africa include

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), African Union (AU), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Economic Community of Central African States (ENCASE). The African regional integration is based on voluntary agreement by nature, collectively undertaken and geographically related among member states. However, the following are the benefits and challenges of regional integration in Africa.

**Benefits and challenges of regional integration.**

as lower transaction costs, removal of national barriers to trade, capital movement, lower risks associated with investments, expansion of internal market, pooling of regional resources, better utilization economies of scale in production, more efficient allocation of resources, conducive environment for the export of goods and services, and exchange of information such as tariffs and visa.

In social point of view benefits of regional integration include promotion of cultural ties and heritage, eliminating social and cultural exclusiveness and enhancing equal opportunities irrespective of cultural differences and



social cultural interactions. In political point of view, the benefit of regional integration includes promotion of unity, peace and security, infrastructure development, political contact among members, policy formulation which enhance success in the whole process of integration. Regional integration further contributed to provision of a frame work for policy coordination in policies and regulations and a means of preventing and resolving conflict in African countries by strengthening economic ties. Regional integration further fosters domestic reforms and is the means of increasing welfare of the integrated group, some countries and the group.

African regional integration is imperative as it is emanated in the combination of external and internal factors such as the acceleration of the globalization process, and Africa's risk of being marginalized in a multi polar world in that is dominated by trading blocs in North America, Europe, South-East Asia and China. Therefore, there are plethora of challenges in Africa which add to the external pressure. These challenges vary within African countries among them include dependency on agriculture exports to most African countries, inefficient industrial bases, vulnerability and fluctuations in the world market, external debt, poor human capital development among African countries, human trafficking, small arms proliferation and armed robbery and poor infrastructure.

Infrastructure linkages such as railways, roads, air travel facilities, ports are the very key for integration as it facilitates economic growth in terms of mobility for not only intermediate but also final products or goods. Availability of good infrastructure resulted into improving productivity and reducing cost which are crucial factors in the world of competitiveness. Additionally, there is health pandemic such as Covid-19, Ebola, HIV/AIDS, remain to be a major public health issue because of continued mutation of the viruses. Moreover, overlapping membership of regional economic communities' union among African countries is another challenge of regional integration.

## Conclusion

African countries are part and parcel of the global world therefore integration is mandatory for the successfully participation in the globalization process. In that, regional integration is regarded as a tool for development hence effectiveness strategies should be established. In that, for the African countries to integrate requires them to formulate, coordinate and integrate regional policies such as economic policy and to establish good strategies which may foster the entire process of integration. Again, to overcome considerable political situations in Africa and improving con-

tinental economic environment such as improving infrastructure, human capita development, good flow of information and advancement in technology among others, meaning counterpart funding on education, health and informal economy should be encouraged among nation-states of African union. This will help in developing human capital in terms of quality education, quality health systems and good standard of living.

On the basis of the above explanation, this article concludes that regional integration in Africa is beneficial as it serves as a vehicle for Africa's socio-economic development despite the stipulated challenges. Therefore, African regional integration requires appropriate economic policies specifically macroeconomic stability among integrating members, openness of trade and monetary, fiscal and financial integration. Also, harmonious political environment and peaceful and secured environment for the member states to benefit from globalization process.

Through integration member countries can overcome constraints associated with tariffs such as to abolish all tariff restriction among African countries and establish common tariff policy. Also, creation of large markets by the movement to free trade and to obtain benefits which can raise productivity and assist in diversifying production and exports. For sustainable regional integration in African countries technological spillover is crucial with further transfer of technology and knowledge across borders hence technological spillover increase among member states. African regional integration will have multiplier effects among African countries, such as growth and poverty reduction among African countries among others. Additionally, regional integration has an implication on income convergence across countries. More importantly, member states of the regional integration in Africa need to maintain their relations with states in Africa and others. This will eventually allow synergy in terms of policies for the common development of the African states.

# Fostering Regional Integration: A Chinese Perspective on Promoting Shared Prosperity

*Regional integration has emerged as a vital strategy for achieving sustainable development, enhancing economic growth, and maintaining peace and stability. From a Chinese perspective, regional integration is not only about economic benefits but also about building stronger political and cultural ties among neighbouring countries. China advocates for inclusive and cooperative regional frameworks that respect the sovereignty of all nations involved. This article explores China's approach to regional integration, highlighting its role in various regional initiatives and the underlying principles guiding its participation.*

By Fortune Chasi,  
Deputy Secretary for Legal Affairs, ZANU PF

## The Strategic Importance of Regional Integration

For China, regional integration serves several strategic purposes. Economically, it facilitates trade and investment, enhances market access, and allows for better coordination of policies among neighbouring countries. Politically, it strengthens regional stability by fostering dialogue and cooperation on security issues. Culturally, it promotes understanding and friendship among peoples of different nations, contributing to a more harmonious regional environment.

China views regional integration as a means to achieve shared prosperity and address common challenges. This perspective aligns with the broader goals of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which seeks to connect Asia, Europe, and Africa through infrastructure development and trade networks. By promoting regional connectivity, China aims to create a win-win situation where all participating countries benefit from improved economic opportunities and stronger ties. Some economists estimate that the RCEP agreement could benefit the global economy by US \$200 billion per year by 2023 which is equivalent to 1.3 percent of China's GDP in 2019. The signing of the RCEP has also demonstrated China's commitment to opening up to the outside world and pursuing globalization.



25th ASEAN Regional Forum Retreat in August 2018, Singapore.

## China's Role in African Regional Integration

The cooperation plan prioritizes improving infrastructure connectivity across Africa to facilitate trade and economic integration. It also aims to enhance trade facilitation, financial integration and policy coordination between China and African countries. The new commitments signify a shift away from direct infrastructure financing towards trade credit for regional exports while promoting an increase in private investments. China is also buying less crude oil from Africa, leaving major African oil producers earning significantly less than they did before the pandemic.

African economies have certainly benefited from China's unprecedented growth, but they must now adapt to a deceleration of export volumes, in-

vestments and loans. According to the IMF, every 1 percentage point decline in China's real GDP growth rate leads to about a 0.25 percentage point decline in sub-Saharan Africa's total GDP growth within a year.

## China's Role in Asian Regional Integration

China's involvement in Asian regional integration is multifaceted, encompassing economic, political, and cultural dimensions. Economically, China has been a key driver of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the largest free trade agreement in the world, which includes 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. RCEP aims to reduce tariffs, streamline trade regulations, and create a more predictable trading environment, benefiting

all member countries. China is actively deepening integration into economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The RCEP has come into force and China is one of its members.

The form of regional integration pursued by China allows countries to improve market efficiency, share the costs of public goods or large infrastructure projects, decide policy cooperatively and have an anchor to reform, have a building block for global integration reap other non-economic benefits, such as peace and security. But China is not the only beneficiary of this process. It is a mutually beneficial endeavour for all participants. China's growing economy is also an important source of global demand. Its economic rebalancing will create new opportunities for manufacturing exporters, though it may reduce demand for commodities over the medium term.

China is a growing influence on other developing economies through trade, investment as well as ideas. According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) data for 2021, China was the largest foreign investor in Niger, Cambodia and Tajikistan, and one of the five largest in Kazakhstan, Zambia, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. In 2022, the largest exporter to China from Africa was Angola, followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa. In 2022, South Africa was the largest buyer of Chinese goods, followed by Nigeria and Egypt.

Politically, China has actively participated in regional forums such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Through these platforms, China engages in dialogue on security issues, economic cooperation, and cultural exchanges. For instance, China's participation in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) highlights its commitment to addressing regional security challenges through multilateral cooperation and dialogue.

Culturally, China promotes people-to-people exchanges and educational cooperation within the region. The establishment of Confucius Institutes and scholarships for Asian students are examples of initiatives aimed at foster-

ing cultural understanding and educational collaboration. These efforts are part of China's broader strategy to build a "community of shared future" in Asia, characterized by mutual respect and shared development.

## Challenges in Regional Integration

Despite its active role, China faces challenges in promoting regional integration. One significant challenge is managing the complexities of regional politics and historical disputes. For example, territorial disputes in the South China Sea have strained relations between China and some ASEAN countries. These disputes highlight the difficulties in balancing national interests with the broader goal of regional cooperation.

China addresses these challenges by advocating for peaceful dialogue and negotiation. The Chinese government emphasizes that regional disputes should be resolved through bilateral negotiations and that external interference should be avoided. China also supports the development of regional norms and codes of conduct, such as the ASEAN-China Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, to manage disputes peacefully.

Another challenge is ensuring that regional integration benefits all participating countries, particularly smaller and less developed economies. China acknowledges the need for inclusive development and has pledged to provide support through initiatives like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The AIIB aims to finance infrastructure projects that enhance regional connectivity and development, particularly in underdeveloped areas.

**Conclusion**

From a Chinese perspective, regional integration is a crucial pathway to achieving shared prosperity, stability, and cultural understanding. China's active participation in regional initiatives reflects its commitment to building a more connected and cooperative regional environment. As regional integration efforts continue to evolve, China remains dedicated to promoting inclusive development and peaceful cooperation in the region.

tral Asia Gas Pipeline, which enhances energy cooperation and security in the region. The pipeline supplies natural gas from Central Asia to China, benefiting both regions through energy security and economic growth. This project is part of the broader vision of the Silk Road Economic Belt, which seeks to improve connectivity and economic integration across Eurasia.

## Future Directions and Recommendations

Looking ahead, China envisions deeper regional integration that goes beyond economic ties to include political and cultural dimensions. To achieve this, China advocates for:

- **Multilateral Frameworks:** Enhancing the role of regional organizations like ASEAN, SCO, and the East Asia Summit in addressing regional issues and promoting cooperation.
- **Inclusive Development:** Ensuring that regional integration initiatives benefit all countries, particularly smaller and less developed economies. This includes providing technical assistance, capacity building, and financial support.
- **Peaceful Resolution of Disputes:** Promoting dialogue and negotiation as the primary means of resolving regional disputes. China supports the development of regional norms and codes of conduct to manage conflicts peacefully.
- **Cultural and Educational Exchanges:** Expanding people-to-people exchanges and educational cooperation to foster mutual understanding and friendship among regional countries.

## Tanzania's Economic Growth: What Is Our Achievement So Far?

*It is beyond dispute that Tanzania is the second largest country in East Africa, situated just behind Ethiopia. With a population of approximately 62 million people and a vast expanse of arable land, Tanzania boasts a strategic location at the entrance to the Indian Ocean, facilitating trade links with Asia and the Middle East. Additionally, it is situated between six landlocked countries that rely on Tanzania as the most efficient point for the passage of goods.*

By Mike Henry Ruhinguka,  
Operation Manager- MULTIVET Farm Limited, Tanzania

President Samia Suluhu Hassan speaks during the official inauguration of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line from Dar es Salaam to the capital city Dodoma recently.

neighbouring countries.

President Samia's slogan, 'Kazi iendelee,' literally translated as 'Let the Work Continue' has been instrumental in maintaining a sense of purpose and direction, which has been evident in the uninterrupted progress of major projects initiated during her tenure.

As University of Dar es Salaam's Prof. Abel Kinyondo observed in the Citizen Newspaper of May, 2021, this is a distinctive feature of African politics, whereby the majority of new leaders seek to initiate their own projects immediately upon assuming office. However, in the case of President Samia, this is not the case.

This can be observed in the continuity of the mega projects initiated during her tenure. One such project is the East African Crude Oil Pipeline. The pipeline has been under consideration since 2013.

It is estimated that the pipeline will transport approximately 200,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Kabale, Uganda, to the Tanga port in Tanzania. The



previously, individuals would spend the entire day traversing the distance from Sumbawanga town to the port. However, the newly launched road has reduced this journey to a mere two hours. This road will facilitate economic growth in Rukwa by fostering trade with neighbouring countries and is anticipated to significantly boost trade, particularly in the agriculturally focused region.

Tanzania has also invested Tshs.23 trillion in the construction of a Standard-Gauge Railway (SGR), with the objective of establishing the country's rail infrastructure as a regional hub. The completion of the inaugural phase, which traverses the route from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro and is already facilitating passenger transportation, exemplifies Tanzania's aspiration to serve as the logistics hub of East Africa. Additionally, the completion of the SGR will result in reduced fuel costs compared to road transportation, which will subsequently lead to a decrease in product prices. As stated by Masanja Kadogosa, Chief Executive Officer for Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) the SGR

will facilitate connectivity between Tanzania and its neighbouring countries, namely Rwanda, Burundi, and the DRC. This will be achieved by connecting the port of Dar es Salaam on the Indian Ocean to Mwanza port on the shores of Lake Victoria in Northern Tanzania.

At last, President Samia has come to recognise the vital role that electricity plays in the economy. She is committed to resolving the country's power shortage and to establishing a reliable and positive power supply, with the ultimate goal of becoming a net exporter of electricity. The Julius Nyerere Hydro-Power Project (JNHP) is a US \$2.9bn project currently under construction across the Rufiji River. Upon completion, the station will have an installed capacity of 2,115MW and will produce 5,920GWH of power annually. It is expected that the project will enhance access to affordable electricity, which will in turn propel economic growth and attract investment in the region.

It would be inaccurate to deny the efforts made by the President to increase revenue from tourism, as evidenced by her production of a film entitled 'The Royal Tour,' which showcased the beauty of Tanzania, and her subsequent victory in the bidding to host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations. These initiatives are designed to boost foreign currency, which is currently in short supply, and to stimulate job creation. Furthermore, President Samia has consistently demonstrated a high level of confidence in the private sector, which she believes will create employment opportunity, price stability, and self-sufficiency and GDP growth.

Speaking of tourism, President Samia perceives a promising future for Tanzania's aviation sector, emphasizing its potential to markedly enhance the country's GDP and stimulate the tourism industry. To attain this objective, President Samia has outlined plans to expand the civil aviation training centre in Tanzania, with the aim of augmenting training capacity and infrastructure. Additionally, she has proposed a review of the civil aviation master plan to provide strategic direction for the sector's comprehensive and sustainable development.

In July 2021, the government, under the presidency of Samia, made the decision to purchase four additional aircraft for the ATCL. These included two Boeing 737MAX 9, one Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, and one Boeing 767 freighter, which arrived in June. This marked the country's inaugural acquisition of a cargo aircraft. It is anticipated that the new Boeing 767 freighter will enable Air Tanzania to exceed its projected cargo capacity of 4,800 tonnes by June 2024.

Moreover, Tanzania initiated the construction of Msalato Airport in October 2022, with President Samia Suluhu Hassan presiding over the laying of the foundation stone. The initial phase of the Msalato airport project, with an estimated cost of US \$272 million, is scheduled to span four years and encompasses the construction of a passenger terminal, a runway measuring 3.6 km in length, and the installation of air navigation equipment.

The implementation of extensive infrastructural projects has contributed to an increase in Tanzania's gross domestic product (GDP), from 4.7 percent in 2022 to 5.2 percent in 2023. Furthermore, the welcoming business environment, as espoused by President Samia, has attracted more foreign direct investment (FDI) to the country. The country has experienced a notable increase in foreign direct investment (FDI), from US \$2 billion in 2020 to US \$5 billion by year ending June 2023. However, the government has set a more ambitious target of US \$15 billion in annual FDI by 2025, as stated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan. President Samia's objective is to



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