THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE LOOK EAST POLICY IN REDUCING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN ZIMBABWE: THE CASE OF CHITUNGWIZA URBAN

BY

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ABSTRACT

The Look East Policy is part of Zimbabwe’s foreign policy which was adopted in 2003. There are many factors which led to the adoption of the Look East Policy among them the imposition of Sanctions by Western Countries after the fast track land reform to deterioration standards of living due to the poor economic performance mainly attributed to capital flight, closure of industries and lack of access to western markets. The Look East Policy was seen by the Zimbabwean government as an immediate substitute for Western countries but the relationship has seen continued collapse of industries leading to high unemployment rate. There have also been alleged cases of employee abuse by Asians in Zimbabwe. The research achieved the desired objectives of the study through the use of both primary and secondary data. It was noted from the findings that trade patterns are favouring China at the expense of Zimbabwe leading to loss of employment opportunities for youths. The government lack of policy consistence has also affected employment creation in Zimbabwe. There is a growing gap between the rich and the poor and the possible elimination of the middle class in the future as the rich become richer and the poor become poorer due to an uneven playing field whereby the rich have more employment opportunities than the poor. From the research it can be noted that there is no real foreign direct investment coming from China and China is one of the major beneficiaries of the collapse of Zimbabwean industries as that has given her a ready market for her finished products. China is pursuing her national interests in Zimbabwe to cater for her ever growing population and is not concerned about the implications that may have on Zimbabwe. From the findings China represent neo imperialism and is not different from the Western Countries.