



**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT**

**The Impact Sino-Zimbabwe Bilateral Diplomatic Relations on Economic and Political  
development from 2008-2016**

**By**

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## **DECLARATION**

I, **Chipo Mellisa Guse** do hereby declare that I personally carried out the research on this study from Faculty of Social Sciences, the Department of Politics and Public Management, Midlands State University under the supervision of Mr Chilunjika. I solemnly declare that this research paper has never been published elsewhere, this is the first of its kind and it is the product of my hard work. All the work included from other scholars has been carefully referenced, the work include books, journals, newspapers, published manuscripts and even respondents from the field. I therefore guarantee the originality of this work.

**Signature** .....

**Date** / /

## **ABSTRACT**

The bilateral diplomatic relations of Zimbabwe and China re surfaced in a crucial time of economic and international politics hardship for Zimbabwe. This has caused too much expectation from the Zimbabweans and serious bargain allegations on China from these relations. This has led to a number of people including the international arena questioning the relevance or rather importance of these bilateral relations. Therefore, the focus of the study is on the impact of bilateral diplomatic relations between China and Zimbabwe from 2008 to 2016. The problem surrounding these relations include misunderstanding by the public on what really the relationship nature is like, most people would take it as China trying to aiding Zimbabwe when in actual fact the relations are designed to mutually benefit both parties business wise, the damage that China is trying to heal on Zimbabwe is kind of underrated and also the media exaggerates what really the relations are yielding positively or negatively. A literature/document review was done to find what other scholars say concerning the relations between China and Zimbabwe with the aim of identifying some literature gaps and areas that need contribution. Other countries like Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa were observed to have the same bilateral relations with China though their results are not entirely identical to those of Zimbabwe. The objective of the study is to find what inspired the Sino-Zimbabwe relations, the rationale of the relations, to analyse the development that has taken place and assessing the impact of the relations with the aim of proffering some recommendations. To satisfy the objectives, focus group discussions from the ordinary citizens on whom the impact of the relations reflects vividly was conducted and questionnaires distributed. The respondents raised issues such as corruption, monopolisation of deals, lack of grass root support to be the reasons for negative impact the Sino-Zimbabwe relations have. Much appreciation was to the positive impact where the respondents acknowledged how even the poorest of the people can afford life through cheaper goods, how these relations have blocked further sanctions to be imposed and foreign direct investment from China is somehow sustaining the economy. The researcher then concluded that bilateral relations can impact more positively given that the government of Zimbabwe amends its economic and political development policies as well as manage the funds efficiently. Recommendations prior to the improvement of how the relations are done were given and these were: involvement of the ordinary citizens in developmental policy making because they know exactly what happens on the ground so that the relations gain grass root support, to have public reports on financial audit especially for the loans and investment from these relations for the sake of transparency, policy review and adjustments and effectively dealing with corruption so as to assure the public that compliance with law is also their main concern. The research paper is in five chapters which are: chapter one Introduction (background of the study, justification of the study, statement of the problem, limitation and delimitations, chapter two Literature review and other country experience, chapter three Methodology (methods of data collection), chapter four Presentation and analysis of findings and chapter five Conclusion and recommendations.

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## **DEDICATIONS**

I dedicate this research to someone I can no longer see but his wise counsel stays with me forever my late grandfather, Smart Kanusawu Chasweka will always love you. Of course my hilarious family and ever encouraging Pastor V. Sandamu, this is for you, always in my heart.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

EU	European Union
FOCAC	Forum on China-Africa Cooperation
FTLP	Fast Track Land Programme
IMF	International Monetary Institution
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
SINO-ZIM	China and Zimbabwe
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Kingdom
US	United States
WB	World Bank
ZANLA	Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African People's Union
ZIDERA	Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act
ZIMTRADE	Zimbabwe Trade

# **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

Zimbabwe has been involved in various struggles since before the time of independence and after independence. The struggle has persisted and saw Zimbabwe experiencing isolation in the International Politics because of the direction it took on land restoration issue to its black natives which was greatly opposed by the western powers because for the process was neither representing the interests of the west nor those of the former coloniser. The unfavourable events especially from the year 2000 saw Zimbabwe adopting Look East Policy that was declared in 2003. The Look East Policy subsequently led to the renewal and formalisation of the bilateral diplomatic relations between Zimbabwe and China. The focus of the research is on the impact of the bilateral relations on economic and political development as that is the fundamental goal of the whole amicability between the two nations, China and Zimbabwe. This chapter is therefore going to give a general detailed overview of the study through providing background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, justification of the study, limitations and delimitations. The areas to be covered in this chapter are the essentials of the whole study because they are there to make the reader have an understanding of the research paper and an appreciation of the study. For China and Zimbabwe to get to where they are currently, there are a lot of issues known and unknown and this has a huge impact on how the general public contribution to the development of these relations.

## **1.2 BACKGROUND**

Back in the time of Munhumutapa empire which existed more than 600years ago is when Zimbabwe and China initiated their relations and at this time China was under the Ming and Qing dynasty (Manyeruke and Mhandara 2011). The relations stayed recognised discreetly and it was only during the liberation struggle of Zimbabwe against the colonial oppression in the early 1960s according to Taylor (2006) that the relations resurfaced. China proffered help to Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) which was being led by Robert Mugabe in the early 1960s and this supposedly laid the foundation of the current relations between China and Robert Mugabe government (Chun 2014). China was giving unconditional support militarily through training guerrillas from ZANU military wing as noted by Martin and Johnson (1982) which was known as Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army

(ZANLA). Precisely the year 1965 witnessed a war breaking out which was three sided, it was two political parties of Zimbabwe against Ian Smith government. The two parties were ZANU being led by Mugabe and Zimbabwe's African Peoples Union (ZAPU) being led by Joshua Nkomo and these two were rivals though fighting for the same cause. ZANU as usual got a strong military back up from China and its army fought for independence and later united with ZAPU. The war went on until 1978 when all the parties called for a cease fire which led to the negotiation of independence in 1980.

Following the cease fire on the war, Zimbabwe and Britain needed to come to terms and Lanchester House Agreement was signed in 1979 and the main purpose was restoration of land to the black Zimbabweans among other things as a way of promoting equality between the blacks and the whites. The reason for this arrangement as revealed by Peter (2000) was poverty was rampant among black subsistence farmers and much of their population was based in over utilised poor land and this is made it relatively difficult for them to sustain a life except for the minority who worked for white commercial farmers and were on salary though it was very little. Taylor (2000) has it that, the good farming land that belonged to the white minority rule was being underutilized and this continued to grieve the black Zimbabweans who had greater need of the land. Of the total population in the country that had just gained independence, 30% was living off the pockets of the whites who employed them and with all that freedom in their hands, Zimbabweans were still being underpaid. Although the economy was staggering, the white commercial farmers were exporting 40% of their crops which included maize, tobacco and cotton (Peter 2000). In addition to the terms of the agreement on economic recovery of Zimbabwe, Wafawarova (2015) postulated that Britain was to finance land reforms by donating half the amount of money that was needed to have the land restoration take place. With the tenets of the rule of law that recognised property ownership of any individual who was a citizen of a certain country, Britain had the condition that, while land restoration happens, acquisition from the white settlers was to be based on the principle of the willing buyer and willing seller.

The then Prime Minister of British government Tony Blair terminated the Lanchester House Agreement as shown by Chun (2014) and not much development was realised from it. He announced that the Margret Thatcher administration that was responsible for paying Zimbabwe towards the land reform programme had exhausted the funds set aside for the Land Reform Programme. The news outraged Zimbabwe under the rule of Robert Mugabe that it even resorted to the Fast Track Land Programme (FTLP) in the year 2000 which

forcefully took away land from the white owners. Upon taking land, violence took place for the ones who led the operation were the war veterans (Abiodun 2012). The violence was so much that a majority of the white farm owners were killed, their property was vandalized as well as their legitimacy to the Zimbabwean citizenship disregarded. The incident sparked a lot of political issues for Zimbabwean systems of governance and politics in the international system.

According to the Human Rights Watch (2002), the FTLP quickly caught the attention of the international big players such as United Kingdom (UK), European Union (EU), United States (US ) as well as the United Nations (UN) as the global governing board. Zimbabwe's political, economic and social events were brought under a microscope. Britain and the western coalition that claimed to have been trying to rectify the situation Zimbabwe and restore its people, seemed to have been serving the interests of white colonial rule (Peter 2000). As the international players came into play, they used their political and economic influence to condemn Zimbabwean nationals for the FTLP action without regarding that what the Zimbabwe had done was a mere reaction to the broken promise by their friend Britain on Lancaster House Agreement. Their subsequent actions were not aimed at fixing the breach of the contract but restoring the unpopular white minority to the possession of land at the expense of the black majority. After the chaos and violence of the FTLP, Britain appeared so ignorant to the mistake it had made, and let its superiority supersede its judgement on the whole scenario in Zimbabwe. Britain confirmed its ignorance by saying that it did not believe it was abject poverty conditions that had caused FTLP and Zimbabwe was trying to help itself out (Chun 2014). In support of the condemnation, European Union opened consultation dialogue with Zimbabwe in question of its actions on the FTLP. This was done under article 96 of Contour Agreement which brings together European Union and Africa Caribbean Pacific nations on the issues of human rights and good governance (Chogugudza 2009). EU ordered that Zimbabwe had to fix the situation in not more than seventy-five days and if no progress is made by then appropriate measures were going to be undertaken and this alluded to "sanctions". The EU went on interfere with the domestic issues of Zimbabwe, eagerly anticipated elections of 2002 hoping the results will curb the unjust measures that had taken place on land in Zimbabwe (Braughtigam 2011). EU chose election observers that were to observe the elections, with the ill feelings that had already grown between EU and Zimbabwe, the later did not buy the idea and firmly denied that EU continues to send these observers. This led the EU to confidently impose targeted sanctions

on Zimbabwean key positioned people especially Mugabe supporters the sanctions included the freezing of property and visas (Braughtigam 2011).

In addition, US followed suit in sanctioning Zimbabwe. The former accused Zimbabwe for breaking the rule of law and political violence in 2000 and 2001. This led to the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Bill being officially signed by George W Bush the then president of US in January 2001 (Abiodun 2012). This was to oppose any loan extension to Zimbabwe by any International financial institution, the bill also included that the president had absolute right to take action against any individual who would instigate political violence as published by Human Rights Watch. The whole point in frustrating Zimbabwe was to demand restoration of property ownership to the white farmers, and also the implementation of a legal, equitable and transparent land reform which was quite impossible considering that Britain which was the biggest player in the process had pulled out. In February, after EU sanctions, US imposed similar sanctions under the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act (ZDERA). Already the dictates of the international arena on how Zimbabwe should have been going on restoring itself and recovering had failed. This is evidenced by the Structural Adjustment Plan of 1991 which failed ultimately and escalated poverty from 40% to 60% in the year 1994 to 1996 according to (Human Rights Watch 2002). The FTLP made Zimbabwe to be blacklisted by the economic messiahs of the 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries and plainly, Zimbabwe suffered the consequences but could not give up its sovereignty and let other nations interfere with its domestic issues benefiting one race over the other.

The perpetuation of Zimbabwe's condemnation and sanctions really squeezed the nation and grounded it. The sanctions were used as a tool to suffer the country that it may end up playing to the tune of the west. The Conventional theory according to Chogugudza (2009) being the one used to impose sanctions believes that, the greater the economic hardship, the higher the probability of political compliance by government authorities in the targeted regime. Unpredictably, Zimbabwe with all the suffering did not buy into this naive theory, it then adopted the Look East Policy which was announced in 2004. The Look East policy constituted Asian economically developed countries such as China, Singapore and Malaysia as helping friends to Zimbabwe under Mugabe (Chun 2014). This gave birth to the perfect and official bilateral relations between Zimbabwe and China following a good relationship history which dated back to 600years old the two countries had from the time of Munhumutapa empire and Ming and Qing dynasty as postulated by (Manyeruke and Mhandara 2006). The Chinese established trade relations as well as cultural exchange with

Zimbabwe. The relationship survived the liberation struggle movement in Zimbabwe but was officialised and perfect as it is today.

According to Chun (2014) it was because of these challenges that Zimbabwe turned to the east and adopted the Look East Policy. The policy is the one the rebirth of the strengthened bilateral relations between Zimbabwe and China. The Look East policy seem to be somehow a survival strategy that Zimbabwe employed for it was not ready to give into the unjust way of rectifying issues that the west intended through the perpetuation of the white interests without considering the implication it had on the sovereignty of the newly birthed country Zimbabwe. China is an equally powerful nation militarily, economically, socially and politically, it reserved a seat in the Security council and Russia is a good friend of China which meant the power to impose further sanctions on Zimbabwe was no longer guaranteed on Britain, France and US. This was demonstrated by event that took place in 2008 when the United Nations Security Council drafted Statutory 447 of 2008 to further sanction Zimbabwe. China used its permanent seat to veto and Russia supported this idea arguing that the domestic issues of Zimbabwe had no reason to be the basis o sanctions maintaining the non intervention rule. Clearly this reduced the Hegemony of the other three powerful states and gave way to the realisation of the importance of bilateral relations in relation of economic and political development.

### **1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The bilateral relations between Zimbabwe and China have failed to grasp all the support it needs from the natives of Zimbabwean population. This has been caused by the discontentment among the ordinary citizens for there are some alleged discrepancies that remain unaddressed by the government of Zimbabwe in its relations with China. One of these discrepancies is imbalanced trade relations yet trade is at the core of economic development which is one of the fundamental goals in the relations. Zimbabwe imports products like technology, plastics, clothes, shoes just to mention but a few. In exchange China gets gold, platinum, diamonds and other valuable natural resources of the nation. The problem gets worse now with the reaction of the ordinary citizens who are directly affected by these challenges they believe the government of Zimbabwe is ignorant to such issues and at the end they discredit the entire relationship including the good that comes with it. Zimbabwe as a developing nation does not have policies that support the effective utilisation of the loans extended to it by China. Given the declining economy of Zimbabwe, securing a loan should be highly emulated and the nation has to do all it takes for it to benefit the best results for the



citizens. For a fact the relations between Zimbabwe and China are hailed at and are being fashioned with big grants to Zimbabwe despite the imbalance of trade that is being said to be the reason for the failure of this bilateral relation to yield expected results but the utility of these grants is unknown. It is important to note that the impact of bilateral relations of Zimbabwe and China is also being perpetuated domestic corruption and lack of sound policy implementation and management.

Furthermore, generally there seem to be ignorance to the fact that the in terms of international relations, the problem that Zimbabwe is facing has been imposed by big monetary institutions, countries like Britain and even the United Nations itself. Therefore for one country to come and wipe out the problems or make the scars disappear may be too much of a dream. So when judging the bilateral relations, China is somehow not appreciated because it is failing to restore Zimbabwe to the way it was before the sanctions from the west. Among other reasons, China is one if not the only single world giant player in the affairs of Zimbabwe positively and this limits the impact the country experiences from it. So, when relations of this kind are in existence there is need for the citizens to play a part in making use of the opportunity to their advantage. It is one thing to have the government role out the possible economic growing avenues and it is another thing to see these avenues bringing out results. It seems the impact of the bilateral relations is being ignored because of the weaknesses that people have seen or experienced only the negative side is what is receiving much attention.

#### **1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

This study seeks to satisfy the following research questions:

1. To explore the factors that led to the union of Sino-Zimbabwe from 2008-2016
2. To explore the utility of diplomatic bilateral relations between the first world countries and third world countries.
3. To analyse the indicators of development in Zimbabwe and China.
4. To critically analyse the importance of Sino-Zimbabwe diplomatic bilateral relations on development from 2008 to 2016.
5. To examine the challenges against sound bilateral relations between China and Zimbabwe.
6. To proffer recommendations on strengthening diplomatic bilateral relations between China and Zimbabwe.

## **1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The study seeks to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the factors that led to the Sino-Zimbabwe union from 2008 – 2016?
2. Is there utility in bilateral diplomatic relations between the first world countries and the third world countries?
3. What are the indicators of development in Zimbabwe and China?
4. What is the importance of Sino-Zimbabwe diplomatic bilateral relations on development from 2008-2016?
5. What challenges are militating against sound bilateral diplomatic relations between China and Zimbabwe?
6. What recommendations can be proffered on strengthening diplomatic bilateral relations between China and Zimbabwe?

## **1.6 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY**

The relationship of Zimbabwe and China has been spoken about in two different and a bit extreme ways of both the negative and positive way. For the extreme negativists, the literature that has been published on how the relations have milked Zimbabwe of its resources and only enriched China. This has come in terms of trade that has been going on between the two nations. It has been portrayed that China has been getting gold, diamond and even establishing their own diamond companies in Mutare, platinum and chrome. After getting the raw materials the Chinese then bring some finished products and this can be rested on the argument that there are no manufacturing industries in Zimbabwe. In direct exchange of the raw materials Zimbabwe gets, technology, shoes, plastics, fabric and utensils. And this has been portrayed as the only closed end of the deals that the two countries have. It is true there is no smoke without fire but this analysis is based on the truth of trade that is going on but whenever a problem is discovered there has to be a solution rather than dismissing the whole relations.

The available literature on this particular side concentrates mainly on the weaknesses and weaknesses of the bilateral relations. With the availability of such information there has not been room for recommendations except that Zimbabwe gets rid of China as a friend. The truth of the matter however is, the small shadow that Zimbabwe is getting from walking beside China currently consideration that Zimbabwe is still isolated in the international system has made a huge positive impact. The big powers meaning Britain, the US, United Nations and international monetary institutions are unwilling to waver their sanctions. This is

a huge problem because after Zimbabwe gets rid of China it would technically mean that it will be alone and in the international arena yet no man is an island lest they become prey for the hegemonic powers. The times are bad trade wise in the bilateral relations but giving up on the whole relationship may not be the solution given the current circumstance of Zimbabwe.

Moreover, the positivists who report on the success of the relations portray the extremely good side as though the job is being done greatly and people should be satisfied and hail the relations as well because of this exaggerated impact. For a fact, Chinese investors and their government are giving loans at zero interest and Zimbabwe was recorded in 2013 as one of the countries to receive the best Foreign Direct Investment from one of the world's largest economy. This is great news for the ongoing of the relations but the details are incomplete because they end only at what has been invested and not the change the investments and loans would have brought for the good of the general populace and not the authorities but somehow biased. Both sides of the literatures of the relations of Zimbabwe and China give incomplete information that does not help the present circumstances. There is need to take the bull by the horns thus looking at the relationship and deduce the impact without exaggerating either the strengths or the weakness because doing either of the two is not good for the economic and political development of the nation. There is need to take advantage of the bilateral relations where Zimbabwe can intensely negotiate its need to grow the economy as much as it was of a greater importance that it should get assistance to be cushioned from international political turmoil. With the isolation which is perpetuating for Zimbabwe having China around should be appreciated at the same time not tolerating another form of oppression so that the whole populace can benefit from the relations. Considering the gap that was left from the year 2000 when sanctions began to be imposed on Zimbabwe, there was witnessed extreme levels of poverty, war and death rates like what keeps on being witnessed in some parts of Somalia.

For every economic agenda there has to be a supporting structure and in the case of the bilateral relations of Zimbabwe and China, the supporting structure is the bilateral relations. Apart from the economic development, political security and recognition in the International Arena it is quite important because no country can survive on its own. Zimbabwe as a very small and attractive piece of land in resources it cannot survive the ruthlessness of the powerful states without getting shield or covering from an equally important economical and political country like China. The west took a tour on the Zimbabwean economy and politics disregarding the tenets of democracy and sovereignty in the name of protecting human rights.

The question of protecting human beings now gets to a question sprouting that how can international community argue that they need to protect human beings from their government by taking away every aspect of the provisions that sae government has to provide for its people. There has been an argument that only government to government support has been withdrawn between Zimbabwe and the United State but America still provides humanitarian aid. In the aspect developing a nation for the benefit of generations, aid is not what is required but vibrant economic initiatives and relations are required. Aid is there to promote poverty because will be living from hand to mouth not out of making their time useful but of idleness and expectation that someone will show up with a solution to their hunger. Many a time, aid given only lasts for a short while and keeps someone in a position of wanting more of it so that they can earn a living. This a form of dependency syndrome being created by the big powers in Zimbabwe yet the focus should be on how the country can develop and sustain itself. It is therefore of paramount importance for the impact of bilateral diplomatic relations be analysed so as to identify areas that need improvement so that the relations can obtain the results that the mass expect to see. The partnership is a strategic move that enables the country to stand on its two feet and face its giant which is poverty and therefore find ways to end it.

As the ruling government is at the fore front of making relations and alliances, some citizens find no reason to support developmental policies that are drafted through the efforts of the government. Every step taken is politicised, the hunger for power is what only rings in the heads of the mass. One thing for sure is, the more disintegrated the people of a blacklisted country like Zimbabwe are, the more the West finds reason to keep fuelling its hatred towards the nation and the ordinary citizens are victimized. It is true that power is at the centre, but what is more important to the situation currently is to ensure the survival mechanisms such as bilateral relations are cherished and supported entirely and new opportunities are secured. As it stands, those who claim have better approaches to the country are withholding it struggling to have power in their hands first so that they can show how their ideologies are good for the country.

## **1.7 DELIMITATIONS**

Delimitations are defined by Your Dictionary as a boundary line or an outer limit. In this study the researcher has identified the following delimitations:

Geography- the researcher is doing a study on the importance of the bilateral relations using Zimbabwe and China as case studies. However, the research shall be limited to Zimbabwe geographically in terms of acquiring data.

Time- period is another important factor, due to the vastness of the longevity of the relations that dated back to 600 years ago as noted by other scholars, the researcher has a specified period of studying the relations between Zimbabwe and China and the evolution of the nature of their diplomacy. The time period shall be from the year 2008 to 2016 which makes it a period of ten years where the relationship was its best to define the importance of bilateral relations.

Content- a lot of publications have been made in regards to the relationship in question, there shall be delimitation to the type of content that is to be used in the research. The researcher has decided to mostly work with the content that has been published from the year 2000 when Zimbabwe was sanctioned by the West.

### **1.8 LIMITATIONS**

Limitations are the potential weaknesses of the study which beyond the control of the researcher as explained by Leedy and Omrod (2010). The results of the study are likely to be limited by the following limitations:

The research is based on hard core politics, which means that to have raw information that is not propagandised to help with a fair assessment of the study may be a problem. Politicians as part of the sources of data that is to be use, always give information that serves their best interest so the researcher will not entirely depend on the interviews but surely approach individuals with a different political background.

Setting appointments may also be a big challenge, as the schedule of the relevant authorities both in Zimbabwean and Chinese organisations is always tight, buying time for interviews may be impossible. This problem is intended to be solved by using some of the already available information from online sources.

Among the population that has first hand information, with the political turmoil that is prevailing in the nation currently, there are mixed feelings towards the government which distort the input of the discussions that are intended to be held towards this discussion. In order to overcome this problem, there is need to have several discussions with people so as to assess various views and deduce unbiased information.

## **1.9 STRUCTURE OF THE STUDY**

### **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

The introduction gives a brief background of the topic and what it really constitutes. The important factors that are included in the research are highlighted so as to let the reader be guided. The background of the research study is explored showing its relevance to the research study being conducted. The researcher then portrays the reasons why the topic is being researched and how will it contribute to the already existing knowledge written about the topic.

### **CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW**

The literature review acknowledges the opinions of other scholars and what they had to say about the related issues they published. In company to their literature are the main points that portray the impact of the bilateral relations in political and economic development as well as gaps being shown in this type of diplomacy. It is also in this chapter that some other countries' similar experiences to Zimbabwe are recorded as well as the theoretical framework that will contribute to the understanding of the matter.

### **CHAPTER III: METHODOLOGY**

This chapter mainly focuses on the means by which the researcher accumulated data to establish the research. It elaborates on the research design, sample selection, data collection, data analysis and ethical issues to be considered in the study. These methods used are there to support and show the authenticity of the information that the researcher shall be using. There is always need to match the methods of data collection and the quality of information being presented . the methods employed have a greater contribution o the accumulation of data.

### **CHAPTER IV: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

The researcher presents data that has been acquired through the research that was conducted in the field of the study. The data is condensed from the information obtained through interviews and focus group discussions so as to authenticate the study with some firsthand information.

### **CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

This chapter concludes the research and the study of the topic but does not establish that the research is the ultimate one in regards to the topic in question. The recommendations are given so that they may be of use towards policy making and they are suitable for the enhancement of the bilateral relations.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1.INTRODUCTION**

This Chapter looks at the issues surrounding bilateral relations in developing countries using Zimbabwe and China as the case study portraying the impact of these relations on economic and political development from 2008 to 2016. Literature based on the related issue is reviewed with the aim of showing the thoughts of other scholars and identifying gaps in the existing literature so that the researcher can close the identified gaps through this research. To authenticate the data gathered prior to the research and case studies, the researcher shall be looking at other countries' experiences that are in more or less the same position as Zimbabwe. The impact of bilateral relations therefore becomes easier to understand as data on statistics and the extent to which the two parties involved are conducting themselves and how other scholars appreciate this work. Theories that better explain how things are done in bilateral relations are shown by the researcher.

### **2.2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.2.1 Definition of bilateral relations**

Bilateral diplomacy is defined by Klavins (2011) as a process of communication between two countries or one country and any international organisation as they are now part of actors in International politics and diplomacy. Bilateral relations are based on crafting ways to enhance relations and development rate between nations. Bilateral relations involve discussions, negotiations and signing of treaties between two sovereign states that recognise each other's independence and upholds respect for each other's sovereignty. According to Chun (2014), bilateral relations of China and Zimbabwe have on different occasions demonstrated strong respect and support for each other's sovereignty with China using its permanent seat to defend Zimbabwe and block political threats such as sanctions and Zimbabwe openly declaring its unwavering support on the One China policy that was initiated. One of the recent cases following the sanctions on Zimbabwe is adoption of Look East policy and China becoming the most active partner that Zimbabwe engaged from the Asian countries from 2003 through to 2008 elections and beyond.

#### **2.2.2. Reasons for furthering sanctions**

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) drafted a statutory instrument 447 of 2008 (S/2008/447) which was to further sanction Zimbabwe based on the validated assumption of



electoral fraud. Electoral fraud was interpreted by the western countries as abuse of democracy and people were deprived of the fair opportunity to choose a leader they want, thus hacking democracy ( Harri Hursti 2013). China used its veto to block further sanctions on Zimbabwe. Brautigam (2011) notes that China's vote was motivated by humanitarian concerns of those who would innocently suffer under those sanctions. Chun (2014) postulates that China maintained such a position because it was pushing the fact that Zimbabwean domestic issues did not pose any international threat on security therefore respect for its sovereignty should be observed.

### **2.2.3. Functions of bilateral relations**

According to Vienna Convention 1961 on diplomatic relations and its 1979 decree on ambassador's powers, the promotion of friendly relations in particular economic relations is one of the purposes of diplomatic missions. This decree has taken a full swing in the bilateral relations of Zimbabwe and China in that from the official declaration of the Look East Policy in 2003, China emerged as the most friendly partner of Zimbabwe and has been seen trying to work with Zimbabwe economically despite the conditions in Zimbabwe (Chun 2014). This brings out the theme of tactfulness found in diplomacy. Countries carefully examine each other to see how the other party will contribute to the fulfilment of their best interests. Peter (1997) outlines aspects that surround tactfulness and well thought out diplomatic strategies such as developing relations, making of agreements and full cooperation. In developing relations Peter (2017) has it that each visit is preceded by careful assessment of the benefits to be accrued and objectives to be realised, agreements are the end product of expanding relations and agreements are also used to decorate visits. Chisoko (2017) highlights how the visit of President Robert Mugabe to Beijing to meet his counterpart was decorated with a series of agreements that entailed a re-affirmation of the relations between Zimbabwe and China. Full cooperation is explained by Peter (1997) to constitute exchange programmes between the two countries in bilateral relations, these exchanges take place among grass root organisations such as media and education and the impact goes really a long way.

In the military department of Zimbabwe, exchanges of the Zimbabwean forces and those of China have been going on openly and they are trained in various fields of security based on the specialty of an individual so as to improve security methods and personnel of both countries. Eleen (1998) notes that in development, the potential offered by different states for fruitful partnership in quality, breadth, depth and mutual advantage varies from country to country depending in the specifics of the situation. This shows the results may always be

different from the expectations of the mass because in a situation like that of Zimbabwe, what a government may choose to prioritize may be different from what the mass will be expecting hence the impact may be seen in a different way. In addition, mutual benefit is a description used to show what bilateral relations are based on. What the nation gets to benefit from these relations is not automatic it is entirely depended on the negotiation skill employed by a party and mainly what a country gets is what it works hard to get.

#### **2.2.4. What countries usually consider when engaging to bilateral relations**

A country will always pursue what relatively appeals to it at that particular moment, two parties involved have areas that they are stronger on, what one country needs to complement itself may not necessarily be the need of the other. What usually binds countries together is the observed mutual ability on getting the goals of each other fulfilled. Zimbabwe as a developing country that was economically squashed and politically isolated in the international arena by the powerful western states and was sanctioned, had a stronger need for political visibility and recovery internationally. Wafawarova (2015) notes that sanctions are a channel which the intensions of the key political actors are expressed. This is supported by Woodrow Wilson (1919) who openly said that sanctions are a non violent way to force the intended victims to act in a way expected of them by the one who sanctions because after suffering they have no choice than to comply with the regulations as required. Indeed, this was the case with Zimbabwe because economic sanctions were imposed on the nation by EU, US and IMF. This promptly made Zimbabwe want to insulate itself against political isolation by East “where the sun rises from and turn its back where the sun sets” said President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe in one of his triumph speeches in on the bilateral relations he managed to secure after being sanctioned by the West (Meldrium 2005).

The events at this particular time demonstrate that political status of a country determines its economic survival. Human Rights Watch (2002) recorded that George W. Bush in 2001 signed a decree that opposed any extension of loans to Zimbabwe by any International Monetary Institutions unless they restore the white farm owners to their farms. It is important to note that this decree came as a result of political instability in Zimbabwe. Without protection from such harsh political and economic measures, further threats on political and economic security could erupt, Zimbabwe’s fears refocused it on China in particular who possesses as much influence and power in the International Politics as the west. Clearly the scholars with thus information are portraying how much the relations between Zimbabwe and

China are a result of political differences with the West and are aimed at defending and protecting each other.

### **2.2.5 Reasons for China and Zimbabwe engagement**

China as a stronger power politically obviously had different interests to pursue in Zimbabwe and these interests were nothing else but economic ones. Tracing back the fight of China to be economically stronger, its need were the avenues that could open up and assist in securing the desired position. The turning East of Zimbabwe for political protection stirred the hunger for economic growth and China was upfront in its deals with Zimbabwe that it needed natural resources. The relationship of China and Zimbabwe does not only have benefits economically therefore what is not mentioned are the primary goals of each of the players in this bilateral relationship. China gives Zimbabwe political significance and reinforces respect of its sovereignty in the international politics and Zimbabwe opens up to China that it may get raw materials and grow its economy. Indeed the economic relations are what is spoken more about but what happens in the decision making box is way more than just the exchange of raw materials and finished products there are other intellectual properties that is exchanged between the two countries. China's benefits would never equate to those of Zimbabwe because these countries have different primary goals hence the impact is felt differently. Zimbabwe needs political insulation while China needs economic growth, this brings out the theme of the need to understand bilateral actors' primary goals in their bilateral relations.

### **2.2.6 Changes in diplomacy**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has witnessed an expanded foreign policy agenda and a rapid change on social demands and this has caused such a turmoil in diplomacy therefore according to Edinger and Burke (2013) no other form of diplomacy capture these changes more than the increasing rate of bilateral relations especially among the developed and developing nations. Chun (2014) has it that the relationship of China and Zimbabwe has 3 pillars which are strategic and diplomatic relations, economic relations and social and cultural relations. In a multilateral set up the mutual understanding between Zimbabwe and China could have been impossible given that decision making does not rest on the country in question but on all the players involved. Heydon and Woodcock (2009) acknowledges that such opportunities would occur simultaneously in a multilateral context. The bilateral relations of China and Zimbabwe has accelerated the rate in which development can be realised.

### **2.2.7 Reasons why bilateral relations partners maintain relations**

Although there are primary goals in the bilateral relations, Pan (2015) has it that bilateral partners would continue looking for opportunities that will assist in sustaining the relations. Having gone through a process of not being afforded a chance to get assistance on its financial budget, Zimbabwe took advantage of the ties it made with China to improve its economy. After such an incredible decline in Zimbabwe's economy, China continued to trade with Zimbabwe as stated by Chun (2014). Recently this relationship has been said to be influenced by China's appetite for Zimbabwe's minerals Edinger and Burke (2008). The given scenarios validates the observation by Pan (2015) because both China and Zimbabwe are motivated by their interests despite how small or imbalanced the results of each are. However, Maodza (2013) argues that China is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest trading partner of Zimbabwe following United States of America and European Union. The bilateral trade relations have grown from the year 1996 they were \$52.2 million, 2006 they were \$275.25 and in 2011 they were recorded to be \$874.37 million. The Government of National Unit witnessed a peak in 2013 where the revenue grew to \$1 billion, Edinger and Burke (2013) describe the nature of trade as characterised by Zimbabwe exporting raw materials and importing manufactured products. After the Land Reform programme tobacco industry was affected and China in 2004 agreed to have trade relations with Zimbabwe in that area and since then tobacco has been one of the main exports of Zimbabwe to China according to Manyeruke and Mangwanya (2014). The bilateral relations have played a greater role in economic development as shown by the business statistics above.

### **2.2.8 Other areas that have been impacted by bilateral relations**

Apart from economic impact, Chun (2014) highlights that militarily there has been some development witnessed through personnel exchanges that take place between Zimbabwe and China. According to the realist theory, every country in the realist world has to be primarily concerned about its security, there is need to have necessary weapons to ensure the need for security is met and the bilateral relations of Zimbabwe and China have not been ignorant to that fact. Dating back to the Liberation struggle, Zimbabwe acquired much of its assistance from China. China trained its guerrillas and donated weapons that contributed to the achievement of independence. Following the sanctions, Zimbabwe started facing western embargoes but China continues to sell arms to Zimbabwe to this day, (Robinson 2009). Zimbabwe according to Guma (2008) bought 12 fighter jets and 100 military vehicles worth \$240 million in 2004, six combat aircraft in 2005 as well as guns and round of ammunition from China although this is not backed by valid evidence, it remains possible. China also has

regulations on the military equipment it sells to Zimbabwe because after there was violence in Zimbabwe due to political instability, China assumed that Zimbabwe was misusing the weapons it was securing from them and black listed Zimbabwe (Chun 2014). By black listing Zimbabwe, China was expressing its concern on the domestic security that should be administered by the ruling government. This dismisses the notion that has been established by western centric views that China supports a regime that violates human rights Taylor (2009).

### **2.2.9 The flexibility of bilateral relations**

Berridge (2005) states that there is not necessarily a proportional size of investment and magnitude of results in bilateral relations, there is always room for exploring other avenues and expand the already existing relations. This aspect of bilateral relations has seen Zimbabwe getting medical assistance in form of personnel from China. From 1985 to 2013 13 teams have been sent to Zimbabwe to assist in the health sector department (Chun 2014). The strengthening of the ties between Zimbabwe and China were a direct response to the isolation that the country faced in the International arena because it had refused to give up its sovereignty and let western hegemony take over. These relations restored political visibility of Zimbabwe in the International system in that one cannot begin to threaten the peace, security and humanity of Zimbabwe without worrying about China as a friend who will protect its interests through protecting Zimbabwe. In the recent news , China has been reported as an emerging world economic giant meaning the position that Zimbabwe is securing for itself through these bilateral relations have long term benefits .

## **2.3 THEORITICAL FRAMWORK**

The impact of bilateral relations in developing economic and political relations is better understood through theories that better explain the events that take place and substantiate the reports that are put forward. In the case of Zimbabwe and China bilateral relations interdependence theory and realism theory are the basic theories that can easily explain the events and make it easy to understand. Examining the relations of Zimbabwe and China need a thorough understanding of the two theories.

### **2.3.1 Interdependence theory**

According to Lange and Balliet (2014) interdependence theory is one of the classic theories in social and behavioural sciences. The theory was originally propounded by Thibaut and Kelley in the year 1959. The full comprehension of the theory did not take place in the very

same year of 1959, it evolved to the year 1978 and finally 2003. The theory has a number of features which best explain how it works and various situations it can be applied a) the principle of structure thus the situation b) the principle of transformation or what people make of the situation c) the principle of interaction being determined by the people who are interacting thus objective features of the situation and lastly the principle of adaptation showing that repeated interaction yields that are reflected in relatively stable orientations to adopt particular transformations in similar situations. Lewin (1948) goes on to say the essence of a group is not in the similarity or dissimilarity of its members but in their interdependence. This theory brings out one aspect which answers a lot of questions that come into play due to discontentment among people who are mostly in developing countries. In Zimbabwe the speculation has been that China is milking resources for no benefit. Probably this assumption is supported by the comparison of the two countries' economy with China seeming enriched. This assumption ignores the fact that China has a lot of partnerships who provide raw materials as well. Interdependence on the aspect of Zimbabwe and China is therefore best explained by their ability to interact.

Interdependence theory is rooted in game theory of Schelling (1960) and exchange theory and these two are very innovative and important frameworks in understanding interpersonal relations and group dynamics as propounded by Lange and Balliet (2014). The sentiments of game theory is seen at play in the relations of Zimbabwe and China in that Zimbabwe is using its bilateral relations in playing one country against another. Game theory is the formal study of decision-making where several players must make choices that potentially affect the interests of the other players according to Turocy and Stengel (2001). After Zimbabwe realised that its position in the International arena was now compromised and gaining its position back and support from the west would mean giving up some of its sovereignty to the hegemonic powers and of course, Zimbabwe was not ready to do so. This isolated country did a strategic homework so as to identify the possible avenues on which it could cultivate without giving away its hard earned independence and yield equally the same support. On identifying that the west was not the only supreme power in the world and Asia has some big players who are equally influential. Zimbabwe observed the fight of China on the west hegemony and realised it was the same interests except that China could resource herself in that battle. Zimbabwe turned East giving China access to its resources that the west were trying so hard to secure. The relations are being used as a shield against political suffering being imposed on Zimbabwe through sanctions. Chingono (2010) further explains that China

and Russia used their influence and permanent seats in United Nations Security Council to veto the decision of imposing stiffer sanctions on Zimbabwe. With all its power and influence, the West can hardly touch Zimbabwe because China is always going to be there to assist.

According to Kelley and Thibaut (1978), interdependence theory uses two formal tools to represent the outcomes of interactions and these are matrices and transition lists. They clearly describe how one can affect the outcome of interaction for another actor during their course of interaction this then calls for an examination on issues such as a) are the interests of the players at odds or one holds greater power than the other b) which traits, values and motives are activated thus what one actor feels about the other and c) thus what does the other end actor feel about the other Lange and Balliet(2014). In a situation like that of Zimbabwe and China, the latter holds more power economically and politically. Given the statistics of trade bilateral relations between the two, it has always been argued that China is benefiting more. Zimbabwe exports raw materials such as platinum, gold, asbestos, nickel and other expensive raw materials to China. In return Zimbabwe gets goods such as plastic material, electrical material, technology and fabric. This is due to unavailability of manufacturing industries of such commodities in Zimbabwe yet they sustain day to day living of the nation. Zimbabwe then is left with no much choice than to just continue. These issues then perpetuate to employment creation which is always expected to come out of these bilateral relations by ordinary jobless citizens of Zimbabwe. Upon getting construction contracts in Zimbabwe, China brings its resources for construction and labour. This has been witnessed on one of the mega deals China got to construct a power station in Kariba. The basis of these contracts are that, the government of Zimbabwe contract China on credit and gets long term payment plans this compels the government to agree to such terms because the China has all the power in terms of resources and the support that Zimbabwe needs.

In terms of the motives of each actor and how they feel towards each other as well as their motives it is crystal clear that both Zimbabwe and China have found a resting place in each others' possession. Zimbabwe has continued denunciation of the western manipulation on its domestic matters as evidenced by one of his signature statements when holding rallies even when giving speeches on multinational podiums in relation to its land issues and democracy where he says "*Blair keep your England and I will keep my Zimbabwe*". This statement is a strong assurance to the west by President of Zimbabwe that for any reason or pressure would he ever give away his power to the former colonisers despite the sanctions. The content

expressed in sanctions is due to the political and economic cushion provided by China. Has it that the sanctions have been operating in their totality may be by now Zimbabwe could have changed its mind. This shows that Zimbabwe feels well protected with China by its side. Same goes to China, it appears as though China feels like it now owns the African Territory when it comes to sources of raw materials and investment. Knowing the ongoing fights between Zimbabwe and the West, it capitalises on that by refraining to interfere with the domestic issues of the nation.

Interdependence theory has a structure which is best described by dimensions Lange and Balliet (2014). These dimensions look at aspects such as level of dependence, basis of dependence, mutuality of dependence and co variation of the interests. All these dimensions come out when analysing the relationship between Zimbabwe and China. The relations are fashioned with mutuality of dependence, although Zimbabwe is the one that cannot sustain itself if its relations with China are to be threatened China needs the support of Zimbabwe in ensuring that some of its policies yield results such as One China policy which has been highly contested by the west.

### **2.3.2 Realism theory**

Realism theory is at the centre of International Relations and one can only get to appreciate the concept of the interaction of the states when they have knowledge of realism. Realism rests on what actually the world faces and goes through not what the world ought to be. Due to various seasons and times ever since the world was experiencing wars e.g the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war, there was need to understand what really instigates perpetuates such situations as well as what can be done to prevent such. Realism brought up ways in which the wars can be avoided and it explicitly shows human behaviour which informs better on how one can get to understand when another person act as well as what to expect from that other person.

Realists argued that the focus of research in world politics should be on discovering the important forces that drive the relations between states according to Carr (1949). This brings out the notion of the interaction between Zimbabwe and China that it is purely politics which was brought about by another series of political events in the international politics. There has been a general misconstrue about the exchange of goods and services that happen between China and Zimbabwe. The general expectation on these relations is more empathy of China on Zimbabwe since it is a developing country but having China investing in relations through



partnerships is empathy enough in the world of politics. Brautigum (2011) tries to explain to the world that what happens between Zimbabwe and China is simply business not aid. The way the business is conducted is informed by the realist proponents whereby states would only give away what they know will return with maximised benefits.

Carr (1949) goes on to say that states like man are by nature self interested and aggressive and will pursue their interests to the detriment of others and without regards to the law and morality that comes in principles. Looking at Zimbabwe in particular, Chinese are very unpopular among people in that they have very harsh working conditions that threaten safety of the people. Times without a number, Chinese employees have expressed discontent in terms of wages, working hours and even conditions in comparison to the law that has been set up by the Zimbabwean government. This has made Zimbabweans to detest Chinese employment and make it the last option despite the agreement between the two governments to enhance each other. Rumour has it that Chinese investors are known for not banking with Zimbabwean reserves because they accumulate good returns in Zimbabwe and bank the money in their home country for the development of their native interests, this leaves the financial circulation in Zimbabwe depressed because it is faceted with creditors and no debtors. A huge vacuum is therefore left because when the Chinese are doing business, the cash they handle is in large volumes. This shows how self interested the partners can be in bilateral relations, so in the view of politics that kind of behaviour is what should be expected rather.

In Realism, Waltz (1979) explains on assumptions that form the basis of the theory and among these assumptions are sovereignty and self-control being at the centre of characteristics of state and states being the actors of International Relations. Tracing back the history that prompted the relations of China and Zimbabwe to come as a blast on the western countries, China and Zimbabwe were simply retaliating against west hegemony. China being a holder of a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council it is not intimidated when it comes to acting contrary from other fellow members because it holds its supremacy in observing sovereignty and self control. This is evidenced by the fact that amidst pursuing sanctions on Zimbabwe by European Union and united States in 2005, China went ahead and signed a series of deals which counted up to 8 agreements with a total amount of 1.6 billion dollars in the attempt to assist Zimbabwe and strengthen its ties thus according to (Chun 2014). This would obviously cause division among the great powers but it is very legal given that decision making power rests on each and every state in the UNSC. Realism explains why

such decisions are easier to make when in general sense going against the west means declaring war. Zimbabwe also as a victim of circumstance advanced its intensions to China regardless of the fact that it was the same board members with China who were instigating a political outcry.

### **2.3.3 Country experiences**

Chinese bilateral relationship in Zimbabwe is not the first of its kind especially in Africa. Although it has a unique background that is influenced by political differences between Zimbabwe and the west, China has expanded itself in Africa. The expansion can be understood through the analysis of Forum of China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) which was established in the 21<sup>st</sup> century where China engaged most of Africa countries at large. The FOCAC of the year 2000 has been designed to cover a lot of areas which include financial cooperation, debt relief and cancellation, agriculture cooperation, natural resources and energy and education and may other areas that need development (Chun 2014). Outside the FOCAC China established bilateral treaties with various African States which are the ones who made FOCAC a success story. The bilateral relations were made on the basis of economic development and with some countries political development. Some of the countries that have relations with China that are a prototype to those of Zimbabwe and China include Nigeria, Uganda and South Africa. The progress and operations done in these countries exhibit further the importance of bilateral relations in supporting economic and political development in developing countries.

### **2.3.4 Uganda**

The bilateral relations between China and Uganda are based on what has been described by various scholars as soft power. Soft is then defined by Nye (2011) as the ability of a country to attract and cooperate rather than use of force, coercion or give money in order to manipulate or pursued. Uganda and China have demonstrated the ability to attract each other peacefully with the consent of each player in their bilateral relations. The agreements they have about development in any sector are based on mutual agreement. In 1962 after the independence, Uganda and China signed a Joint Communiqué to set up diplomatic relations and China became one of the 1<sup>st</sup> countries to open diplomatic relations with Uganda as shown by Apuuli(2014). Their relationship is under pinned by five principles of peaceful coexistence and these are: non interference, respecting sovereignty, friendship, equality and mutual benefit and these were established in 1955 as shown by Lammers (2007). This shows that Bilateral relations does not overshadow any partner in the agreement, the relations have clear

principles which by the success of these relations are being proved to have been effectively implemented. China engages with African states at the respect of their sovereignty, it does not seek their economic equitability of African countries to itself nor does it seek to inform their political strategies or even impose its values on them in order to engage with them financially. What gives their relationship much validation is the fact that it came after a long history of Uganda being colonised and having her resources under siege and foreign ownership through colonialism. Taylor (1998) further explains that China's attitude towards African countries have been shaped by the fact that both countries seem to be fighting the common enemy and that is western imperialism and neo-imperialism.

Just like the bilateral relations in Zimbabwe cover many aspects which are more than economic and political development, in Uganda there has been recorded history of China assisting in the training of military personnel. In the year 1964 the Ugandan army adopted a strategy of diversifying centres of training for the security forces as well as supply of arms and China agreed to offer training to military personnel as portrayed by Gakwandi (2013). The training of military personnel by a highly strategic almost super power like China guarantees improvement in the security matters of the country which in multilateral diplomacy may be highly contested based on the fact that enhancement of another country's power or security means decrease of the opportunities to manipulate by those of stronger muscles.

In synchronisation of the principle of one good turn deserves another, China also on several occasions gained political support from Uganda. Before the adoption of One China policy there were several standards to be met and one of them as voting system in the United Nations General Assembly under the resolution 2758. At this point every vote that China could get determined the success of its policy. Uganda confidently voted and this saw China into its new position in the year 1971 when the One China policy was finally adopted Marton and Matura (2011). To show that the efforts made by either side do not go unnoticed, chairman Mao Zedong acknowledged that it was the African brothers that carried China in the United Nations as quoted by Marton and Maruta (2011). Obwona(2007) goes further to show that in the year 2000 Uganda supported a draft resolution introduced by China on maintain and observing Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty in the United Nation..

Among other things, China has given free loans to Ugandan government statistics as shown by Marton and Matura (2011) record that from the year 2000 to the year 2011 China had

parted with \$4.6 billion in aiding Uganda. However, like Zimbabwean populace, some people in Uganda have expressed their discontent on the bilateral relations between China and Uganda arguing that China was making their country a dumping site for sub standard goods. And Chinese were overtaking ordinary hawkers in the streets because they are also making themselves part of that trading area. This information reached the Ugandan government from the Kampala City Traders Association.

### **2.3.5 Nigeria**

Following the Nigerian independence, bilateral relations were established in 1971 between China and Nigeria. Nigeria is well known in its region for oil reserves and energy sources, these raw materials are the biggest revenue generating mechanisms that the nation and most of its partners rely on. These features are what attract foreign investors and this does not exclude China, so upon signing the bilateral relations, both countries opened embassies in each others' capital and China described thus as a win-win situation after signing the supporting agreements according to Agubaman (2014). Examining the economic position of China, it is emerging as world's 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest economy. CNN (2011) concluded that the United States of America may be the strongest nation on the world stage but China is ruling the world economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and obviously this is in a position to attract a country like Nigeria. In the course of time and the events, both Nigeria and China have proved to be focusing on expanding their relations for the normal known diplomatic relations in the economic and technical fields of cooperation and in this creation of mutually beneficial relations is at the centre of their focus. This is a very clear objective in the bilateral relations and that is what exactly attracts more African countries to countries that have the potential of helping them to develop without having to manipulate and limit their level of making a choice.

The mutual benefits of the relations between China and Nigeria lie in the fact that, China needs Nigeria for its energy and a ready made market for cheap colourful goods and Nigeria needs China rich industrial cluster models, technology transfer, strategic partnership and cheaper credit loans for infrastructural development Agubaman (2014) said. To solidify the persuasion of these interests, there has been mutual diplomatic visits beginning 1977 were the Chinese Premier Li Pong visited Nigeria to boost China's renewed interests in Africa aimed at reversing the decline in China's trade with Africa. Slowly but surely the rebooting visit catalysed the growth in exchanges that were taking place, Richard (2013) stated that there was growth from \$35 million to \$97 million in 1993, in the year 1997 there was a boost once

more and the recorded trade was \$327 million and by the year 2013 the records were on \$1.79 billion on foreign direct investment of China to Nigeria , Nigerian Tribune (2014). In addition to that, President Jonathan completed a five day visit in China signing a \$1.5 billion dollar loan for the development of the infrastructure and the expansion of airports at Lagos, Kano, Abuja and Port Harcourt. This alone and other related supportive economic gestures by China in Africa countries have ranked its investment on 30% of the total foreign investment and this is way much more that what United States has invested in Nigeria (John 2012). With the return in the business deals between China and Nigeria and other countries, it has grown its economy to the extent that it is now larger than that of Japan and European Countries combined as reported by Agubaman (2014).

With all the big volumes of money being reported to be invested in Nigeria by the Chinese, the realisation of the impact or changes being brought about by the ordinary citizens can hardly be seen. Agubaman(2014) argued that unless the political situation is improved to represent everyone and to make public informed policies what Nigeria makes out of its relationship with China will not be fully realised. Corrupt leadership that seems incapacitated in effectively use the resources once they are availed is the biggest challenge that the nation is facing. On the other hand, Peter (2013) recorded that there is a trade gap between China and Nigeria of \$2 billion and this is in favour of China. Nigeria as well is said to be unimpressed with the coming of cheaper products from China, the fear is that Nigeria like any other China related country has become a dumping ground for cheaper sub standard goods. These products are flooding the market and the general fear is that it will continue widening the trade imbalance gap that is already unbearable. Due to the Chinese cheap imports into the country, Nigerian Trade Unions have a raised a concern over a number of employees who have lost jobs in the manufacturing industry and their total number is 350 000 when the report came out john (2012). The argument is fuelled more by Daniels (2013) who says that due to much gains going to China, the country has managed to uplift 3 million of its populace in a few decades from abject poverty yet in countries like Nigeria where it trades has poverty statistics daily.

### **2.3.6 South Africa**

January 1998 marked a bilateral political engagement between China and South Africa, thus fact is propounded by Grimm (2014). The deal came after South Africa had gained its independence because before then their resources were under the minority rule of the colonisers. The relationship between the two countries date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century when

there was a foreign wave and people were migrating to many parts of Africa in search of minerals that would enhance their native economies. This history only kept the two countries aware of each other's potential until they decided to engage on bilateral level which had each other's consent. These bilateral relations prompted frequent visits from the onset of the establishment of the relations. Alden and Wu recorded that Nelson Mandela, South African Leader made his first official visit to Beijing in the year 1999. His visit was then decorated with a series of bilateral agreements being signed between the two countries. As a reciprocal gesture, President Jiang Zemin of China also made an official visit to South Africa in the year 2000 thus according to Shelton (2014) and they signed a Pretoria Declaration. This declaration was focusing in a number of things, it was a bi-national commission with a generalised commitment to improve mutual economic benefit in the form of expanding trade and investment in the areas of natural resources, mining and manufacturing, Huajie (2000).

Beekson(2011) acknowledges that South Africa is boasts itself as the world's largest reserve of minerals that the world needs for its income generation. It has 33% reserves of chromium, 77% manganese and 88% platinum. It may not be the only country but its possessions are very important to Chinese investments. China has assessed and gathered that it can make good returns with a bilateral relation with South Africa because currently 70% of its exports to China are base metals, iron ore, manganese, nickel, platinum and potassium just to mention but a few. In return South Africa gets some of the manufactured products such as clothing textiles, plastics, technology, foot wear and electrical appliances. Even though South Africa is also one of the largest economies in Africa, it required relations with China for some of its growth to be realised. Like any other African country trading with China, it gets manufactured products. Furthermore, China is another source of foreign investment that as Beekson(2011) says desperately needs in order for it to successfully alleviate some of its social, economic and political problems thus in other words for its development.

Kaplinsky(2010) turns the coin and also portrays how South Africa also invests in the Chinese Industry. South Africa being more of a bread basket to most countries in Africa, it has diversified its economy by investing in Chinese industry as well since they are trading partners. Most of the Sub Saharan Investments come from South Africa, this include the SABMiller one of the largest world breweries and has more than \$400 million investments in China since 1994. South Africa also joined local investors in two very large coal to petroleum plants each at more than \$3 billion dollars. Kim(2015) also brought out the issue of Chinese investment in telecommunication where in the year 2013 China was held accountable for 50%

of the telecommunication companies in South Africa. Most of the deals that Chinese enterprises does is supply equipment and do collaborations with network operators such as ZTE's US\$ 378 million investment in Cell C 2010 and Huawei's US\$ 211 million investment in Telkom SA 2008.

International Trading Center (2009) says during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year 2009 in South Africa there was a 32.8% drop in imports from major import economies for example member states of the European Union and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, China during this time became the largest bilateral trading partner of South Africa overtaking countries like the United States. The common feature in the relations of South Africa and China that is found in that relationship of China and Zimbabwe is that of fighting against Western hegemony Alden(2013). The two countries are indeed developing each other because in 2005 negotiations began on signing a Free Trade Agreement and it was reportedly initiated by Beijing and the Department of Trade and Industry , Munemo (2013). The proponents of this FTA would help South Africa correct the trade imbalances, improve unemployment and draw new sources of investment in the mining sector according to Shelton and Kabemba (2012). Countries are very eager to be recognised through the lances of their independence, China chose a very attractive strategy of maintaining equality with the countries it deals with. Equality and non interference is a rare feature in a relationship that features the US especially if there are financial issues involved. Normally the manipulation happens in a multi-lateral set up were countries do not have a voice but decisions are made for them by the super powers who possess the decision making powers.

#### **2.4 CHAPTER SUMMARY**

For some scholars the relationship between Third world countries and First world countries is one sided because it allegedly helps the developed to get more developed and the developing will remain in hand out expectation mode. The relationship between China and Zimbabwe has been politically motivated, it is rather the flexibility of the nature of their relations which are bilateral based on mutual consent in order to gain mutual benefits that is allowing them to expand into other various fields, however, this does not mean that people should not expect much yield from these offshoots of a political relationship, they should. Some scholars are found dismissing these relations on the basis of imbalanced trade and various disappointments. Zimbabwe is shown to be operating under stiff sanctions from the world's greatest economies which entails that it needs a country like China to be able to stand because China has the capacity to assist. Other scholars portray the need to find ways to keep

deepening and enhancing these relations so as to realise maximised benefits because they are important to the growth and development of the nation given the state of International Politics which is at the core of the situation that Zimbabwe is facing currently. In order to show that Zimbabwe situation is not unique in any way, this chapter also explores other countries which are almost in the similar case of Zimbabwe and their relation to China, these countries are South Africa, Uganda and Nigeria. There are some theories which help understand the nature of these relations and these theories are Interdependence theory and Realism theory. These theories talk on the positive and the negative aspects of the relationship so as to help one understand why they see other dimensions in such relations that are not favourable.



## **CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY.**

### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

For the research study to be richly informed, there is need for a research technique to be employed that is proper for the type of information being sought. The techniques chosen by the researcher are quite interlinked because they inform each other. In this study, the researcher will be using mixed methods technique, for housing population both probability and non probability sampling techniques will be used. Methods of data collection are also explored such as interviews, focus group discussion, questionnaires and document analysis as well as data analysis to clearly guide the researcher on getting information.

### **3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN**

Research design is simply a framework or a plan or a study that is used to guide in collecting and overlaying the data. It is the blueprint for the collection of measurements and analysis of data, (Pandey and Mishra 2015). Research design could be understood as the master plan specifying the methods and procedures for collection and analyzing the needed information as propounded by (Zikumund 2013). The researcher has need for a well organised framework in order for the collection of data to be efficient and not cumbersome. The information to be collected is what gives substance to the research as well as comprehension which shows the results of the research carried out. (Hassey and Hussey 1997) indicate that there are many methodological approaches to research design. This leads to the discovery of 12 major types of research designs that are classified according to the sources of information that they focus on and the way data will be retrieved from various sources. Among these 12 major types of research designs is what is called case study design. Case study design is an in depth study of a particular research problem rather than a sweeping statistical survey or a comprehensive one.

In addition, Case Study design is often used to narrow down a very broad field of research into one or few easily researchable examples. The researcher applies this research design because the study being carried out involves the interaction of nations. The research is focusing on the impact of bilateral diplomatic relations between nations using the particular example of Sino-Zimbabwe relations in promoting political and economic development. So, the case study is better informed with this design. According to an online article on 12 Major Types of Research Designs (2016), this case study design excels the researcher to the understanding of very complex issues through detailed contextual analysis of a limited

number of events and their relationship. Also, with this design a lot of methodologies can be applied on a variety of sources to investigate the research problem. This makes it easy for the research to be carried out because the researcher will be applying mixed methods research technique as a tool for conducting the research.

### **3.2.1 Mixed Methods research**

Leech and Onwuegbuzi (2008) alluded that mixed research methods represents research that involves collecting, analyzing and interpreting qualitative and quantitative data in a single or in a series of studies that investigate the same underlying phenomenon. Given the loopholes that can be left by using either qualitative or quantitative when conducting a research, mixed methods ensures that a thorough investigation is done by applying the strength of quantitative where qualitative becomes inapplicable and vice versa. Creswell and Clark (2007) further explain that, mixed methods has philosophical assumptions as well as methods of inquiry and the assumption guide of the direction of the collection and analysis of data and the mixture of qualitative and quantitative data in a single study. Mixed methods brings out a better understanding of the study which may not be the case with their qualitative alone and quantitative alone. Graham (1999) portrays the utility of mixed methods by stating that it adds breath to the study because it uses methods in ways that complement each other.

Furthermore, mixed methods answer questions that cannot be addressed by other methods. Also, it provides an opportunity for presenting a greater diversity of divergent of views. Given that quantitative method is objective on reality and it works with numeric and statistical data where as qualitative method is subjective on reality and focuses on verbal and pictorial data, study cases and generalise case findings, their information will not be the same. Based on this fact, mixed methods research therefore assigns each method to a distinct set of purposes within the study as a whole. it is important to note that, mixed methods does not replace either quantitative or qualitative research rather, it extract strengths and diminish weaknesses in both approaches within a single study (Andrew and Halcomb 2006). This is applicable to the research being carried out in the sense that, the relations between Zimbabwe and China is not only supported by the numeric shown in the trade exchanges on finances and the frequency of visits, it extends to the experiences that are being encountered by the mass involved with these two nations. This study shall be extended to other African countries in order to bring results.

### **3.3 POPULATION**

Meriam Webster dictionary defines Population is the whole number of people or inhabitants in a country or region, the total number of individuals occupying an area or making up a whole. Polit and Hungler (1999) defines population as an aggregate, totality of all the objects, subjects or members that conform to a set of specification. Population is a very critical part of the research because it encompasses information that is being sought from the documents as well as the direct interviews that will be held prior to research on the importance of bilateral diplomacy. The relations of Zimbabwe and China affect the population in these respective states, it has been done to enhance the wellness of the population by means of providing resources, carter for the basic needs such as employment and political security just to mention but a few. It is also the population that brought up the necessity of forming the bilateral ties for the growth of the two nations. The impact of these relations that shall be exhausted in this study are confined to the two nations that are parties.

The centrality of population to this study is confirmed by the need to do in depth interviews in organisations that directly deal these with matters for example ministry of foreign affairs, ZimTrade and ministry of economic and infrastructural development. Further to this formal sector interviews shall be interviews of the populace that is experiencing first hand impact of the relations of Zimbabwe and China so that they give their well informed and authenticated data to add on to the research being conducted. Also, focus group discussions shall be held so as to get various opinions other than interviews whereby people get to answer questions and not discuss and air out their views. Basically, the target population from which the selected respondents are to be derived from are those from government departments, private sector as well as ordinary citizens in whom the bilateral relations are meant to benefit and are having an impact on with no much control or contribution to give to give so as to improve the system.

#### **3.3.1 Sampling**

Fridah (2002) defines sampling as the act, process or technique of selecting a suitable sample or a representative part of a population for the purpose of determining parameters of characteristics of the whole population. As ample is defined by Meriam Webster dictionary (1985) as finite part of a statistical population whose properties are studied to gain information about the whole. When conducting a research that is as broad as that which comes into play when one is looking at the importance of bilateral relations among nations there is need to employ sampling. Studying relations of a nation is very broad because in

constitutes every aspect of a nation so all that information is relevant and empirical to the study. In order to shorten the time, distance and condense the data it is of paramount importance that one considers sampling. The study shall draw samples from various areas that have knowledge that is diversified on the bilateral relations of Zimbabwe and China. Sampling will be greatly informed by the techniques that are found in qualitative and quantitative research methods. The two mentioned research methods are the ones included in the Mixed methods research therefore the samples to be used cannot be derived anywhere else. The sampling techniques to be used are probability technique which encompasses random and stratified sampling. Non probability sampling shall be used as well and it includes convenient sampling.

### **3.3.2 Probability sampling**

According to William (2006), probability sampling is any method of sampling that utilizes some form of random selection, in order to have some random selection method one is to set up some process or procedure that assures that the different unity in a population have an equal chance of being selected. Within this method random sampling and stratified random sampling will be used.

#### **3.3.2.. *Random sampling***

According to Fidah (2002), every person or unit has a chance of being selected and become an actual sample. This is viable on interviews and group discussions because the bilateral relations are a national discourse especially in Zimbabwe. The researcher found it easy to use in the field because most people who were used were not from exclusive offices. With how the information is with every citizen who cares enough, some questions were asked in the streets openly. This was a time conscious way of doing research and less expensive for the sources were readily available. Also the information that was provided was based on experience not other peoples' reports meaning, there was a high degree of authenticity in the information that was gathered and this was used to represent the thoughts of the mass in Zimbabwe on bilateral diplomatic relations. Despite the unavailability of the high officials the researcher managed to find answers to the research questions because of this sampling method. The case is that widely known because basically the economy of Zimbabwe is shaped by its relations to China. The Foreign Direct Investment that Zimbabwe is relying on now seem to be mostly from China, therefore the impact of bilateral relations of Zimbabwe and China have become a common knowledge.

### ***3.3.2.2 Stratified random sampling***

Fidah (2002) notes that stratified random sampling is obtained by separating the population elements into overlapping groups called strata then selecting a simple random sample from within each stratum. On each question asked either through the questionnaire or group discussion there was no holistic approach used to answer. The respondents came up with different views and opinions and it was according to the similarities of the answers that the researcher grouped the respondents and quantified the findings in percentage form. This was very ideal because it did not confine respondents to one line of argument and all views were considered as relevant meaning the information provided was so broad and quite informing. It minimised generalisation of issues.

### **3.3.3 Non probability sampling**

Blakstad (2008) defines non probability as a sampling technique where the samples are gathered in a process that does not give all the individuals in the population a chance of being selected. Thus shows that it is very particular in whom it selects. Gathering sensitive information about the diplomatic relations of a country needs tact because the information is quite sensitive. This technique shall employ convenience sampling.

#### ***3.3.3.1 Convenience sampling***

Blakstad (2008) notes that it chooses the closest person as respondents, the components are selected probably because they are accessible to the researcher. This technique is the easiest, the cheapest and the least time consuming. With the assistance of random sampling, this method made the hawkers, people in social places and even formal sector to be regarded as respondents. So the research was carried out on any respondent that was seemingly related to the line of questions without worrying about the authorities.

## **3.4 METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION**

Data collection, according to online sources, is the process of gathering data and measuring information on variables on interest in an established systematic fashion that enables one to answer stated research questions, test hypotheses and evaluate outcomes (Whitney and Lind 1998). There are various methods that are used when collecting data in this type of research which relies on case study for the authentication of the information. These methods include document analysis, in depth interviews, focus group discussions, observations and questionnaires. Below shall be a detailed description of each of these methods and their relation to the study.

### **3.4.1 Observation**

Powell and Steele (1996) define observation as a way of gathering data by watching behaviour, events or noting physical characteristics in their natural setting. In this method, people are more likely to behave naturally especially not knowing that they are being observed therefore actual facts are portrayed. Observation happens on various distinct ways and some of these include direct observation and indirect observation. Direct observation is when one watches interaction, process and behaviours as they occur. Indirect observation is when watches the results of the interactions, process and behaviours. In this research study, both levels of observation. The researcher has been directly involved in the experiences of the nation Zimbabwe and its relations with China. The bilateral relations has had an impact on social, economic and political issues of Zimbabwe. Given the sad history of Zimbabwe falling sanctions, China came as the economic and political messiah for Zimbabwe especially in the international system. Indirect observation shall be carried out on the various mega deals that the nation has witnessed being published on media having been done by China and Zimbabwe.

Resources have been seen allocated to Zimbabwe same as China in bilateral trade exchanges, loans were allocated and military training to the officials for example in the year 2009 China signed 8 mega deals that were worth \$1.4 million with Zimbabwe during its time of isolation in the international political arena as this also affected the money loaning from the big institutions such as the World Bank. This method is viable in the sense that, as long as the researcher has time to observe and the goals are well written down information will be acquired because it does not rely on peoples' willingness to comply, rather their day to day actions is what is mainly needed. Observation is realistic in nature because the information is based on what is not what ought to be because it allows the researcher to see what people actually do not just rely on their words while explaining what they say they do. However the method has got inevitable limitations such as susceptible observer bias, it can be expensive and time consuming and it does not add knowledge as to why people behave the way they say they do therefore it is clear that observation needs complementation from other various methods as follow.

### **3.4.2 Interviews**

An interview is conversation whose purpose is to gather descriptions of the interviewee with respect to interpretation of the meanings of the described phenomena, this assertion is propounded by (Kvale 1996). Further to this assertion, (Schostak 2006) alludes that interview as extendable conversation between partners that aim at having an in depth information about

a certain topic or subject and through which a phenomenon could be interpreted in terms of meanings to bring to it. Given the definition of an interview it is clear that it compliments observation. Baxter (2006) alludes to the fact that it is worthwhile doing interviews because it offers researchers the opportunity to uncover information that is probably accessible using techniques such as questionnaires and observations. Dornyei (2007) goes on to say that with the presence of the interviewer, mutual understanding can be ensured as the interviewer may rephrase or simplify questions that were not understood by his or her interviewees. A dialogue that goes on in interview has a lot more information than the answers that the interviewee will be getting, it gives a chance to read body language which then informs the focus of the interviewee and provides the basis of rating the truthfulness in the answers. In the case of Zimbabwe and China, having the officials as part of the population that will be interviewed, it is highly unlikely that they will be truthful in answering all the questions as they are the ones who draft the foreign policy which guides or informs the events and the results that take place in the bilateral relations.

The relations of Zimbabwe and China have raised a lot of concerns on the ordinary citizens of Zimbabwe who have reported a lot of discrepancies at the expense of Zimbabwe so, given that the officials have greater and justified reasons of wanting to pursue and maintain these relations, they will provide all the persuasive information they believe can play a greater role in having the mass who have expressed their discontent subscribe and support the relations further more. However, on the other hand Brewton and Millword (2001) have noted a weakness that the researcher cannot afford to ignore and that is, interviews have poor reliability which is due to lack of truthfulness in the information that could be provided by the interviewee. This weakness then makes room for other methods to be considered.

### **3.4.3 Focus group discussion**

Another method of collecting data is conducting the focus group discussion. This method is defined by Krueger (1988) as a carefully planned discussion designed to obtain perceptions on a defined area of interests in a permissive, non-threatening environment. It is conducted with approximately seven to ten people being led by a skilled interviewer. The discussion is relaxed, comfortable and often enjoyable for participants as they share their ideas and perceptions. The group members therefore influence each other by responding to ideas and comments in the discussion. With this description of what it really means to have focus group discussions, it is clear that not only one opinion can be pursued, people will be contributing according to their knowledge which then broadens the areas of discussion in the research.

Responding to each other's comments is encouraged because different spaces entail different reception of the bilateral relation of Zimbabwe and China and this means the impact is felt differently. It reduces bias in data collection. Like any other method, focus group discussions has its own shortfalls that have to be outweighed by employing another method. These shortfalls include, shy people may find it hard to contribute their information which maybe the whole gist of the discussion, one person may end up dominating the whole discussion based on the personalities the group could have for others have stronger personalities than others and last but not least data may be more difficult to analyse as more and more opinions sometime not supporting each other may keep coming to the table.

#### **3.4.4 Document analysis**

Document analysis is a form of qualitative research in which documents are interpreted by the researcher to give voice and meaning around assessment and topic as explained by Bowen (2009). He further says that analyzing documents incorporates coding content into themes similar to how focus group or interview transcripts are analyzed. (O'Leary 2014) acknowledges that there are three types of documents to be used and these are public records, personal documents and physical evidence, all this can be utilised when using document analysis as a way of retrieving information. Bowen (2009) justifies this method saying that obtaining and analysing documents is far more cost efficient and time efficient than conducting a research from scratch and doing personal experiments. On the other hand documents are known as manageable and practical resources. Given the fact that some of the information is classified and can hardly be obtained from the officials, document analysis can help get to the depth of the research. There has been various commentaries on the impact of the bilateral relations of Zimbabwe and China, so in coming up with literature review at most, the researcher can rely more on the documents. The documents in which the researcher can have access to are not only limited to Zimbabwe and Chinese scholars, they can even come from other countries who have been observing these relations.

#### **3.4.5 Questionnaire**

A questionnaire according to Taylor (1998) is a set of questions for gathering information from individuals. Other scholars define it as data collection instrument consistent of a series of questions and other prompts for the purpose of gathering information from respondents. Questionnaires are every broad and they give the respondents time to think of their response before they give it out. However these cannot be entirely be depended on as they may be inefficiently answered. Questionnaires have leading questions which do not always give room



for other comments to be brought through. In the case of Zimbabwe and China and the impact it has already had on the populace it may not yield just information due to exhaustion and boredom that has already taken off.

### **3.5 DATA ANALYSIS**

According to Miles and Huberman (1994) data analysis is defined as deducing useful and relevant information from qualitative and quantitative research methods. Smeeton and Goda (2003) further postulates that data analysis is a process of systematically applying statistical or logical techniques to describe, illustrate, condense, recap and evaluate data from the research findings. In addition, it involves inspection, cleansing, transforming data with the aim of getting useful information suggesting conclusions and supporting decision making. Generally, this method is suitable for mixed methods research technique as it thoroughly inspects the data only to get the important information without neglecting any type of data gathered be it numerical or something else. The researcher uses thematic analysis to verify information and deduce the important one.

#### **3.5.1 Content Analysis**

Kringer (1986) has it that content analysis is a method of studying and analysing communication in a systematic, objective and quantitative manner for the purpose of measuring variables. Content Analysis is also understood by Stone (1966) as any procedure for assessing the relative extent to which specified references, attitudes or themes permeate a given message or document. It is also a quantifying phenomena that is systematic and objective (Elo and Kyngas 2008). In the research study, thematic analysis has been used to carefully select the views that the respondents give prior to answering questions in the field research. As the respondents give different views and opinions it is important for the researcher to which the basis of their opinions is supported by the actual surroundings or to some extent documents.

#### **3.5.2 Thematic Analysis**

Thematic analysis is a method for identifying, analyzing and reporting patterns within data (Braun and Clarke 2006). The pattern of the data is therefore portrayed in the form of themes to help the reader trace the unveiling of the events in a given study. In the case of bilateral relations where the events are shaped by what the two parties involved chose to agree on and as a system that is externally controlled for its basic objectives, it is important that thematic analysis be applied because it makes it easier to follow.

### **3.6 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The word ethical is deduced from the word ethics which is defined by Kovacs (1985) as a branch of the philosophy that deals with the conduct of people and guides the norms or standards of behaviour of people and relations with each other. In the field some ethical considerations respondents have portrayed are that of respect of property ownership. Despite Chinese in Zimbabwe being foreigners who are enriching themselves at the expense of the native Zimbabweans as some believe there has not been an outrageous reaction like cessation of assets. Zimbabweans employed by Chinese employers respect their duties with all the grievances they do not boycott work. Mutual friendship as well and respect to one another in general is at play. In the research, there is the notion put forward by Frankena (2001) which says that there are considerations which make an action or rule right besides the goodness or the badness of its consequences. In research ethics there are two approaches that are used namely teleology and deontology according to Bluemberg (2005). Teleology implies that the ends justify its means and deontology implies that seems opposed to the teleology because it says the ends used by the research can never justify the use of the research which is unethical.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS**

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

The relations between Zimbabwe and China have a direct impact and relation with citizens of both countries. For the researcher to figure out the importance of bilateral diplomatic relations, a field research was conducted. This was done to engage the citizens of Zimbabwe so that they give their thoughts and views on a number of research questions that the researcher was looking at in the study carried out. There was much engagement of the ordinary people in the streets as the authorities and higher officials who could have substantiated information could not avail themselves adequately. So, the information gathered in the research was now substantiated by document review for it to be authenticated.

### **4.2 RESEARCH FINDINGS**

On a research that was conducted on the importance of bilateral diplomatic relations on economic and political development with a case of Zimbabwe and China, a lot of opinions were raised by the respondents. The field research was conducted through interviews, focus group discussion and questionnaires to allow different expressions and views to be aired out and below are the findings:

#### **4.2.1 Factors that led to the Sino-Zimbabwe union from 2008-2016**

The respondents raised a various number of issues that led to the bilateral diplomatic relations to be strengthened and in these issues were the views that are so diversified which leads one to a deeper understanding of the matter. The issues raised included absence of manufacturing companies in Zimbabwe constituted 45% of the answer on this theme, the relations came as a survival strategy with both positive and negatives and it constituted 18%, china's need to grow its economy had 17% support China's need to interact with Africa received 20% of response. None of the answers was 100% supported but the diversified answers brought up complemented each other and gave a wholesome answer to the question

##### ***4.2.1.1 Absence of manufacturing companies in Zimbabwe/ closing down of manufacturing companies in Zimbabwe.***

In a discussion held from the industrial positivist perspective, respondent A,B, and C which made up about 45% of the responses gathered strongly agreed that absence of manufacturing companies led to the strengthening of Sino-Zimbabwe relations from the year 2008. These respondents believe that the bilateral relations in case of Zimbabwe came as a

compensation for the loss of the backbone of the economy thus shutting down of industries because the nation could not sustain itself without functional industries and abruptly opening one would be a dream farfetched so engaging a country with ready to serve products was ideal. The manufacturing of sustainable goods or products in the nation had depleted in 2008 and acquiring items like garments, shoes, electrical appliances and so forth was somewhat a challenge although South Africa has been an alternative supplier and relying entirely on South Africa would cause pressure on the nation's resources. Some Zimbabweans were said to import the required products from "mzansi" as respondents would call it referring to South Africa and put margin prices that would allow them to make profits and at the same time allow them to have capital to continue in business. This saw a rise in prices therefore not everyone would afford. Zimbabwe needed to benefit Zimbabweans more as they have low levels of income and the Chinese products allowed them to procure the life necessities according to each person's class. In Zimbabwe there are some manufacturing companies who do garments and shoes but the prizes were and still are a bit higher for most of the ordinary citizens and therefore coming in of China was necessary. Given an in depth analysis of the respondents the researcher noted that the government saw the need to consider the low income earners and provide an alternative knowing so well that it had failed to stop industries from closing down, the only way was to ensure that they open avenues for China and open up markets for them.

In this discussion the respondents sounded quite appreciative to the fact that everyone can afford to buy were prizes are affordable for them but however on the other side, there was a discontentment that was expressed. "Just affording a life is what is important in this economy" respondent C in particular said, and this can only be done when one is able to acquire necessities of life clothing and other day to day appliances. Some products are so much of poor quality that it ends up being expensive as a person would buy the same item over and over again to replace the wearing out one. Basically the citizens are grateful for the part which China is playing in cheapening the cost of living but they would need an upgrade in the products provided in their market. This discontentment has been seen talked about in the anti Mugabe regime news papers like the Zimbabwean based in the United Kingdom which stated that Zimbabwe signed a contract that allowed China to dump products in Zimbabwe known as the Favourable Nations Status and another was published in 2009 with a headline which read China flooding the market. Unlike other trading potential trade partners there has to be an appreciation of the fact that China does not consider the political situation

in Zimbabwe when it comes to economic deals with Zimbabwe as shown by (Stiftung 2004). The contradictions of the two views are because the Zimbabwean published abroad is based on political differences while the testimony of the respondents is based on the reality of the situation.

#### ***4.2.1.2 Survival Strategy***

The document review showed that in the year 2000 Zimbabwe attracted sanctions from the international system. This was prompted by the fast track land reform programme. Upon conducting a survey of the research, approximately 18% meaning respondent D and partly E of the total research held on what led to the strengthening of bilateral relations saw the respondents bringing out the issue of sanctions to be the reason why Zimbabwe and China bonded bilaterally to diminish the effects and to foster survival strategy. The respondents had it that Zimbabwe was suffocated in the international system due to its domestic policy that seemed to ignore the western hegemony (forced democracy). The west could continue to proffer its support to Zimbabwe as highly profiled by the Bureau of African Affairs paper (2017) through U.S Agency of International Aid Development (USAID) and other related humanitarian aid programmes but it is not enough. The west wanted a policy document that was in favour of the former coloniser and Zimbabwe was in denial of such a dictated move which would undermine the sovereignty and restoration process of the black Zimbabwean natives.

In this matter, there were various suggestions surrounding it as well and these were positive and negative issues. About 10% of the total percentage saw this as a smart move of the government in trying to develop without betraying their liberation movement results. This was defended by the fact that China did not interfere with the domestic policy of Zimbabwe and while other countries saw this as a reason to sanction the poor developing country China saw it as an opportunity to promote sovereignty with an understanding of what it took Zimbabwe to be a liberated country. The understanding of China was pinned on the fact that it was a helping hand during the liberation struggle as postulated by Martin and Johnson (1982) that China was giving unconditional support militarily through training guerrillas from ZANU military wing as noted by which was known as ZANLA. On the other hand the remaining 8% of the total respondents on this matter discredited the survival strategy and opinionated that Zimbabwe had to turn to the East so that it keeps on undermining the human rights as it had drastically demonstrated this tendency when it confiscated the land from the legitimate white land owners. The respondents did not see the smart side of the move arguing

that, had the government thought of being smart in the first place it could have complied with the demands of the west in restoring the whites for the greater good of the economy of the country. One particular respondent who prefers to remain anonymous quoted a bible verse saying ‘obedience is better than sacrifice’. This was to express the point that knowing so well that it was still recovering from the war reparations and the economy was still entirely depended on the promises of the British Prime Minister, it could have avoided becoming emotional and negotiated the way around reconciling and avoids sanctions. With the different views on this matter the bottom line in the discussion was that Zimbabwe was looking for a survival strategy. Chun (2014) brings out the veto powers of China it used to block further sanctions on Zimbabwe with the help of Russia therefore showing support through the diplomatic relations. The argument of the respondents seem to be conforming to the literature around the reason why the two countries bonded.

#### ***4.2.1.3 China’s need to grow its economy.***

. According to an interview held with one of the economic gurus in the country whose name shall remain anonymous, 17% of the overall information showed that China wanted to secure raw materials from Zimbabwe such as minerals, labour and tobacco it had to quickly accept the proposal that was initiated by Zimbabwe and provide international political security to this internationally isolated country. Respondent X was quoted saying ‘in accepting Zimbabwe despite the economic and political challenges that scared other foreign investors away, China must have felt lucky to be in a place which with raw materials such as Zimbabwe without having to scramble with the west’ and that is clearly a bargaining moment for China.

Looking at the equilibrium in the trade of Zimbabwe and China which seem to be attracting negativity from most Zimbabweans it is clear that China is benefiting. In exchange of the raw materials that China is at liberty to get, Zimbabwe receives manufactured products such as clothes, shoes, technology and electrical appliances at times loan that are then abused by corrupt authorities. In a document review Edinger and Burke (2008) concluded that China is driven by its appetite for the Zimbabwean raw materials which is what is fostering the imbalance. Looking at the position currently where it is always recorded to be a world economic giant it is clear that its intention in being united with Zimbabwe in this time of crisis is really working as observed by another respondent. The reason why the opinion came out as Chinas intention to grow its economy is because Zimbabwean economy has hardly experienced a major shift that could make the citizens safely agree that it has grown. The

coming of China has helped normalise the poverty in Zimbabwe by just providing hand to mouth goods and services which the government is failing to do on its own. This view constitutes about 10% of the reasons of the bilateral relation.

The rate at which China is eager to grow and fight the western hegemony came out as one of the reasons why the bilateral relations were strengthened with Zimbabwe. In order for an economy to grow there is need to bargain, minimise costs and maximise profits. With the argument that in bilateral relations there has to be mutual benefits, China saw a chance to capitalise on this and gain from its relations with Zimbabwe.

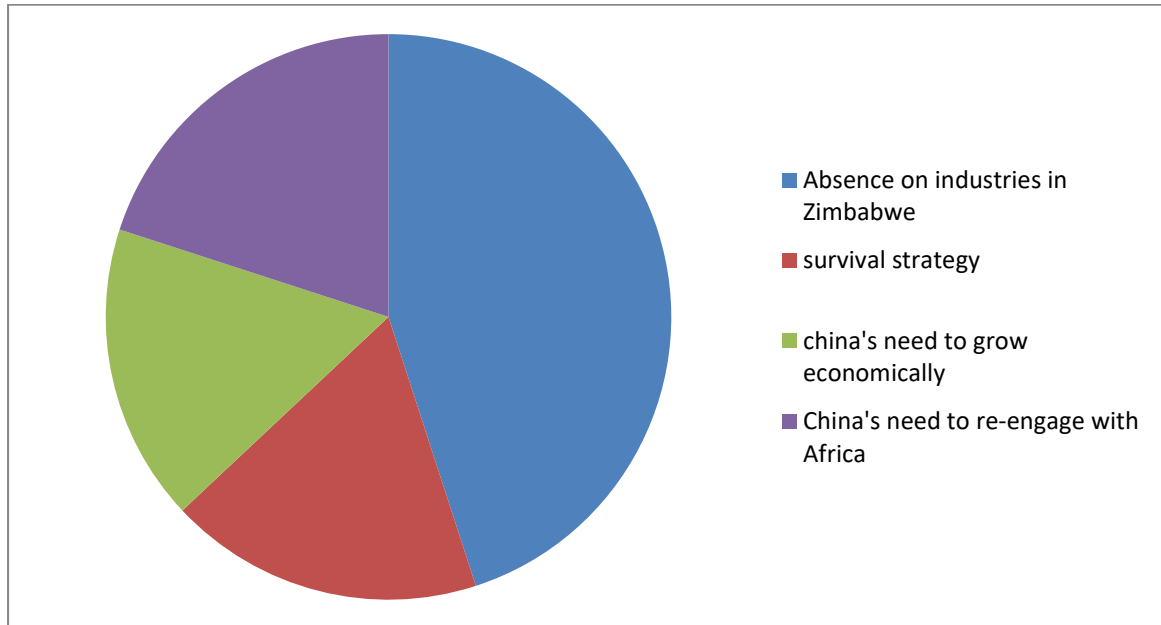
#### ***4.2.1.4 China's need to re-interact with African Countries***

One factor that seem to have been hard to ignore by the respondents is the fact that China need to gain a foot in Africa and it strategically has to do so, approximately 20% from respondent A and E in the discussion held. The argument was that China is part of the big five in the United Nations Security Council and knows all the decisions and plans that other countries such as Britain and America have on Africa, China had to strategically position itself to gain the support and advantage in the African continent so as to attract other nations. This view was rested on the fact that there is China's Forum of Africa China Cooperation (FOCAC) was initiated in 2000 and the idea is to grow this initiative. Brown and Chun (2009) emphasized on this initiative as a strategy for China to cement relations with African countries so as to further its economic and political ambitions. Standing by Zimbabwe was not just out of generosity but it served as a demonstration to other countries that they can still get aid and foreign direct investment without compromising its sovereignty. Respondents argued that China observed that sovereignty and total self rule is of paramount importance to the African countries and they lose anything for it. China decided to use a different approach in working with these countries and wanted to demonstrate this fact therefore it stood by Zimbabwe to attract other countries into engaging with it.

Several examples were given on the countries that now emulate China's economy and currency such as Ghana and Nigeria who have been in various talks on making Yen Chinese currency their international currency. On this aspect the respondents simply took the whole bilateral diplomatic relations as a long term business strategy for China and in this mission it was said that it has nothing to do with the development of Zimbabwe. Further to this the respondents clearly show their lack of support to this selfish move by China as they described it is a greedy one. They derived how China does not follow labour regulations on the

Zimbabwe employees who work for them on wages, safety working conditions as well as hours. There is abuse that is always reported to be going on.

**Figure 4. 1** Factors which led to the Sino-Zimbabwe union from 2008-2016.



#### **4.2.2. The rationale of bilateral diplomatic relations between First World countries and Third World countries**

The rationale of the bilateral relations between the third world countries and first world countries was said to be dependent on other factors in each and every country not just the union of nations. The factors that were said to determine the rationale of the relations include strong economic policies, political stability and sound use of the funds accessed through the bilateral diplomatic relations from the questionnaires. These variables on which the utility of the relations is measured by are what have been described to be at the centre of the relations between Zimbabwe and China.

##### **4.2.2.1. Politics as a determinant**

Upon the overall 20 questionnaires distributed to give opinions on the rationale of diplomatic relations of China and Zimbabwe the fact that diplomacy is a political strategy to enhance the foreign policy and a great influence on how respondents answered. 22% of the respondents argued that the Sino-Zimbabwe relations were a product of a political upheaval that started domestically in Zimbabwe and spilled into the international system. ZANU-PF the ruling party has an upper hand on deciding the policies that the government implements has been at the centre of determining the utility of the relations. The respondents got to this conclusion



after arguing that there is politicisation of the relations made because the benefits are distributed not to any ordinary citizen but on a partisan basis. They quoted the 2008 election scenario when China sponsored ZANU PF on election budget and only associated with the opposition party leader Morgan Tsvangirai in 2009 after he became the prime minister working closely to the ruling government. This is somehow mentioned by Chun (2014) when he says that China demonstrated neutrality during the Government of National Unit where China only worked with Movement For Democratic Change an opposition political party to ZANU P during the time it was associated with the ruling party ZANU PF. Rumour has it that recently China has stuck with ZANU PF because they are secretly supporting Vice President Emmerson Mnangangwa. After the breakup of the two political parties again, there has never been engagement of the Chinese with any other opposition party except for ZANU-PF.

Still on the political discourse, the respondents argued that it is hard for the Zimbabwean populace to clearly see the vision of the nation in the bilateral relations without perceiving it is somewhat a manifesto for ZANU PF. This is evidenced by what Muleya and Mugari (2004) notes that the Look East policy is a slogan rather than a foreign policy because it is not backed by any sort of public policy document. The respondents then said it is hard to totally support the initiatives that come through the bilateral relations of China and Zimbabwe. The issue of Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) where China has a cluster where it volunteered to invest in the country through infrastructural development, employment creation and trade investment. Considering the political situation in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries especially Zimbabwe, the utility is compromised because citizens who are supposed to be the beneficiaries of the bilateral relations are given different value tags based on their political affiliation.

#### ***4.2.2.2 Imbalanced dependency on trade system***

25% of the questionnaires reported imbalanced dependency system as a factor that compromises the utility of the bilateral diplomatic relations. It was shown that third world countries like Zimbabwe suffer lack of market for their raw materials that when they engage with any party interested in engaging into trade with them they have no much choice on the negotiation table when it comes to commerce. Right in the possession of the raw materials, 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries are depended on the acquisition of the finished products, often times the material used to manufacture the finished products is extracted from the same third world country. China has vast number of nations in Africa it has access to raw materials meaning

the extent to which Zimbabwe depends on China on trade issues as far more than the extent China depends on Zimbabwe. In other words the respondents meant that China can do without Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe cannot do without China. This imbalance is unfavourable to the benefits each country attains at the end of the day and Bloch (2004) strongly speaks against this noting that Zimbabwean market is being flooded by cheaper priced goods from China and this is standing in the way of Zimbabwean local industries in expanding.

China has a bigger influence on the exchange that takes place because it is not desperate for the resources rather Zimbabwe is desperate for the benefits of the bilateral diplomatic relation. , Chun (2014) postulates that these cheap quality products are not coming entirely from China that some of those products are coming from other neighbouring countries. The respondents defended their argument quoting the scenario that took place in March 2016 when the indigenisation policy was affected on the diamond companies in Chiyadzwa where most of them were Chinese owned. The policy demanded that all foreign owned companies with over \$500 000 capital allocate 51% shares to the government. Chinese ambassador is said to have faced the government ordering them to give freedom to the Chinese diamond companies, thus exempting them from a national policy that was binding all foreign investors. The exemption was immediately applied not any other basis but that of China being the economic messiah to Zimbabwe.

#### ***4.2.2.3 Lack of sound policy documents to back up the investments***

The other 20% of the responses on the matter disagreed with the way investments are spent in Zimbabwe. The respondents acknowledged that news on how much China is investing in the country despite how little the investments could be compared to the minerals China is getting from Zimbabwe are not accounted for. Third world countries are known for corrupt authorities, and the case has been confirmed to be no different in the case of Zimbabwe by various sources. This brought up the issue of corruption and abuse of funds which no ordinary citizen can stand up to despite clear precision on the matter. Zimbabwe clearly has a need in development but there is no clear cutting plan on how this can be achieved. This is causing discrepancies in the spending of money that is brought into the country by the Chinese.

For the backing up policies to be absent in crucial moments like that of Zimbabwe, it is because the government does not engage the general populace in drafting policies that enhance the growth of the nation. Now the utility of the bilateral relations despite how good

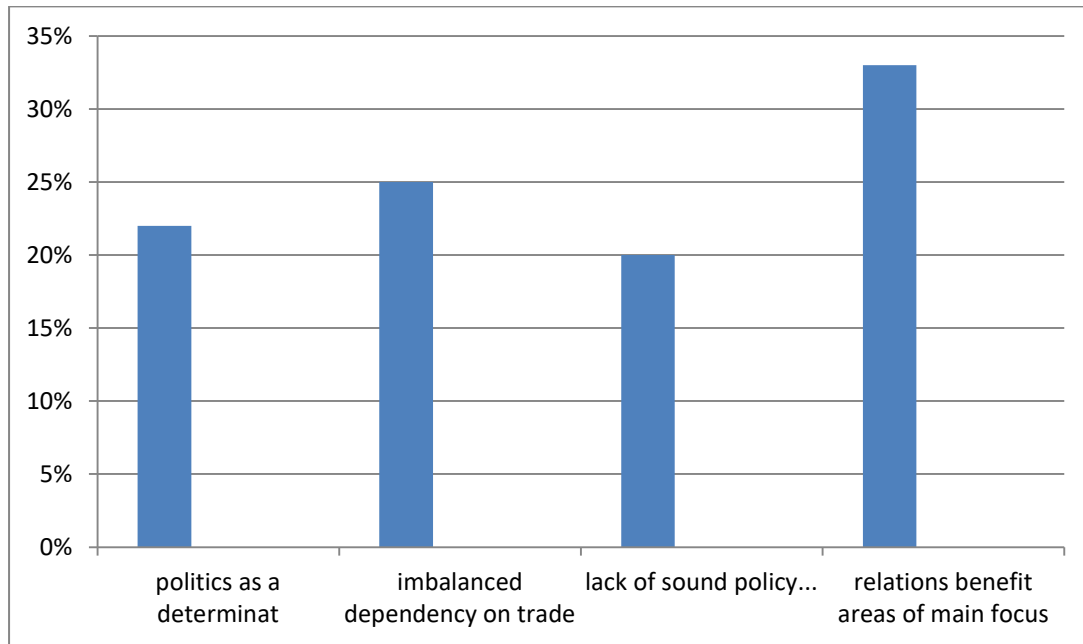
the tenets of the relations sound has been said to be hard to interpret and define in the case of Zimbabwe and China because the life of an ordinary Zimbabwean has not changed a bit rather the economy of China is growing to the extent that one of the sources reported that China has been able to eradicate poverty for more than 2 million citizens.

#### ***4.2.2.4 Bilateral relations benefit areas of main focus***

The remaining 33% on answering the above question analysed the utility of the bilateral relations and concluded that they only benefit the areas of focus. This suggestion came out showing a trace on the particular areas which the bilateral relations were applied and also looking at the amount of effort and strategies that were employed. Zimbabwe after having been isolated by the west went back to the drawing board and quickly adopted the look east policy which seemed attractive enough to China. This was to assist Zimbabwe regain its political significance and security from the west which seemed to have been taking steps to overtake the sovereignty of the nation. The record on how much China has assisted in repositioning Zimbabwe by using its veto power to block the proposed sanctions seem to have convinced the citizens that bilateral relations are important. This is strongly opposed by Saungweme (2014) dismisses the friendship of China and Zimbabwe saying they are not friends and they will never be basing it on the fact that it was Zimbabwe which sought China involvement in the first place. Furthermore, it was argued that the amount of effort and time invested into making this happen is what is required in each and every area that these bilateral relations are to benefit so as to realise the full utility of the relations and gain support from the mass. However, Stiftung (2014) clarifies that the relations of China and Zimbabwe are not any different from any typical relationship between developing and developed countries.

With the above information, it is crystal clear that the utility of third and first world countries depends on how the third world positions itself because there is no generosity from first world countries, their self interest can still be served while the third world country is stuck on one place.

**Figure 4. 2** Variables which determine the utility of Third world countries and First world countries bilateral relations.



The table above shows different thoughts given by the respondents on answering the question of the rationale in bilateral diplomatic relations between third world countries and the first world countries. The four answers brought up have been quantified into percentages showing what the respondents think concerning this particular issue. The four points brought up were all answering one question, combining their numeric interpretation would give a total answer to the theme.

#### **4.2.3 Has the relation yield any results prior to economic and political development from 2008-2016.**

##### ***4.2.3.1 Militarily***

15 out of 25 questionnaires showed that the respondents are certain that there has been tremendous results on the economic and political development through the Sino-Zimbabwe relations. In the responses it was vaguely noted that the Zimbabwean military personnel is seen all the year round making trips to lean in China of not less than 6 months. This information was given on the family bases by those who have their relatives serving in the army. In the training it has been said that there if professional and economic enhancement through the government of China. This has been strongly supported by Chun (2014) who stated that People’s Liberation Army National Defence University in China receives students

from Zimbabwe through the army and in return Zimbabwe trains Chinese students at the National Defence College. Militarily the relationship is building up strong forces for the security of both nations.

#### ***4.2.3.2 Trade and Investment***

The remaining 10 questionnaires put much emphasis on trade, the respondents particularly at the ZimTrade are confident in the growth of trade deals between Zimbabwe and China as well as investments because of the growth in the business marketing industry. Statistics have been seen to be at their peak around 2008 to 2011 and this has been accredited to the unwavering support of China during political turmoil in the land of Zimbabwe, on a documentary review conducted Chun (2014) said during 2012 to 2013 the trade figure rose up to \$1.1 billion dollars and between 2011 to 2014, 62 Chinese companies were operating in Zimbabwe on the basis of China investment to Zimbabwe. The Herald Zimbabwe 2014 reported that Zimbabwe was stated to be among the Africa's largest foreign direct investments recipients from the world's largest economy because it had lapsed over \$3.5 billion dollars.

#### **4.2.4 Challenges militating against achieving maximum results on economic and political development in the two countries involved in the bilateral diplomatic relations**

The research conducted on this theme showed that the question could not be answered on a mono based approach for both countries as there seem to be huge differences in the results experienced by both countries. China seems to be developing while Zimbabwe seem to be stagnant in the same old situation of economic hardship. This meant that the information could only be adequately provided on Zimbabwe. Another factor why the information could only be given on Zimbabwe is because the respondents have first hand experiences in the country other than in China. So, Zimbabwe the issues that were raised to be militating against the achievement of the results in this bilateral relation according to the research include corruption, monopolisation of deals, diversion of funds, politicisation of relations and lack of grass root support just to mention but a few.

##### ***4.2.4.1 Monopolisation of deals***

A questionnaire based research on the theme of factors militating against achieving maximum results on political and economic development in Zimbabwe had 38% of 15 questionnaires distributed talking about monopolisation of deals. Most of the infrastructural investment of Zimbabwe come from China on a loan basis payable in a number of ways with some not having interest charged the respondents argued quoting news in Zimbabwe on several

occasions. This idea is quite blind folding the system of conducting business in the country. The respondents argued that when China gets a tender it seem to have no native Zimbabweans at heart as evidenced by the dam construction activity in Kariba for a new power station. Respondents bitterly complained that China did not consider employing Zimbabweans neither did it consider getting equipment from the local companies, rather imported every single resource that is to be used. This is indirectly benefiting twice from a onetime loan in the sense that China is not promoting the local businesses it is rather promoting the ones from home and sending all the benefits there leaving Zimbabwe void. The respondents argued that the Chinese could be pretending not to have enough capital to inject in the Zimbabwean industries since the job is being done on a credit basis so the excuse would be there is no money to purchase products. Basically, the respondents have no issues with construction deals going to Chinese but they need to see employment creation.

#### ***4.2.4.2 Corruption***

Of the remaining 62% of the respondents, the 40% has it that corruption is a huge stumbling block on the efforts being made to develop the nation through the bilateral relations of Zimbabwe and China. It was argued that there has never been a public audit conducted on the large volumes of investment that Chinese government has been hailed on bringing to Zimbabwe. All the people know is how much has been invested in a certain department year in and year out with no much development being realised. Given the history of the Zimbabwean authorities wanting to benefit more than the people they lead respondent F quoted the Cathbert Dube scandal of 2014 who grossed \$6.4 million per year and the case is still said to have no sufficient evidence to nail a charge on any of the board members by the year 2017. These are signs of gross incompetence on dealing with corruption, respondent H said and the issues of corruption keep on surfacing but the authorities seem to take it easy forgetting that there are innocent victims who are poor ordinary citizens of Zimbabwe being made to suffer. The disappearance of \$15 billion from the national coffers came as a good example of gross negligence on the part of state security, the respondents concluded that the funds are being diverted for personal use by authorities. Upon document review the allegations of corruption have been validated by the report from the Herald Zimbabwe 2014 which reported the Cathbert Dube scandal that went unsettled.

In as much as there has not been tangible evidence provided to support these allegations, lack of development in certain areas where capital has been injected has been said to be proof enough that corruption is standing in the way of bilateral diplomatic relations realising their

full potential. Partly, diversion of funds and even mismanagement of funds that is swept under the carpet. The detailed discontentment of the respondents based on the tough experiences they had in the hands of authorities seem to have clouded their judgement leaving the respondents with no other conviction on why Zimbabwe is failing to see the expected outcome than corruption. The unsupported suspicion really appears to be the truth of the matter based on the fact that there has not been any public audit that had been conducted to defend the suspicions.

This contribution showed that lack of transparency can lead to loss of confidence in leadership and accusations on some of the issues that are not even true. The people want to feel involved in every aspect of the matter which involves them regardless of how tiresome it looks so that they may feel secured and considered.

#### ***4.2.4.3 Lack of grass root support***

20 % of the 15 respondents on the questionnaire seem to have been talking more on the issue of lack of grass root support on the policies that the Zimbabwean government on how it reaches certain decisions of what happens in the country without any endorsement from the people they govern. This point was accompanied by bitterness with the respondents believing that there is a lot of input by the government rather than of people who live the reality of lack, poverty, unemployment and under development but none of the authorities gives heed to that. Given that the relations of China and Zimbabwe are part of the foreign policy but the citizens are hardly ever aware of what the intentions of the policy are.

For that reason, the respondents concluded that citizens are reluctant on making use of the relations with China in taking part in the development of the nation because they do not feel belonging to the process. Because of the lack of grass root support the policies that the government then implement to supplement their work are regarded as weak and ineffective because they remain blue prints with no action behind them. From this information, what the government fails to realise is the fact that they may have good ideas but when it comes to field work on achieving the goals of the policy it is the citizens who put action behind their words. As long as there is no consensus between the governor and the governed it is hard for the nation to pursue one goal and achieve it. The argument is also inclusive of the politicisation of the relation where they seem to be working for the revolutionary party and not all the citizens.

#### **4.2.5 Is it feasible to deduce the importance of bilateral diplomatic relations of China and Zimbabwe from what has transpired from the 2008-2016.**

The respondents could not give a clear answer on the importance of the bilateral relations based on the 10 year experience studied in the research. The answer was luke warm putting the response in figure terms the researcher can safely say the ratio was 51% to 49%. The 51 % agreed that the importance has been seen and can be deduced from the events that took place in the period of 10 years. The events that were quoted to have validated the importance is how China kept protecting Zimbabwe in the international politics, giving Zimbabwe a chance to shape its own future without much interference because the respondents seemed to appreciate the fact that they can distinguish the role of China. There seem to be strong demarcations on how far China can go either on assisting Zimbabwe politically or promoting democracy. Furthermore, the economy of Zimbabwe has kind of stabilised though not improving, any amount of money an individual has can afford to a basic life on commodities.

The 49% was frank in saying that the importance is not so clear but did not dismiss the fact that bilateral relations are of paramount importance. The respondents laid their hope in the future recommendations they gave on how the future bilateral relations can be conducted.

The importance was confirmed through the stabilisation of the economic situation in Zimbabwe and continuation of the industries that were revived.

#### **4.2 CHAPTER SUMMARY**

The field research conducted prior to the research on the importance of Bilateral diplomatic relations and their importance to the economic and political development in Zimbabwe, a case study of China and Zimbabwe relations. The research has shown various inputs from the people in different spheres economically. The respondents were quite engaged in the discussion and interviews held and this has been an informative experience for the researcher. Quite a number of issues were raised such as how the domestic political differences interference in the economic issues especially on the relations build to empower the nation are standing in the way of realising maximum benefits of the relations.

The relations were to a greater extent appreciated to be what the nation needs for it to move forward but things like corruption and lack of civic engagement are to be rectified if the nation is to move in one direction. The respondents were not ignorant to the fact that China has really gone a long way in shielding Zimbabwe from the western hegemony which is the reason why Zimbabwe is in the economic and political turmoil at the moment. Just like any



other nation, the citizens of Zimbabwe desire to live independently observing their sovereignty but being caught up in a situation where they have to choose between their self rule and economic assistance is something they could not deal with easily. So, given the phrase ‘half a loaf is better than nothing’ the respondents are quite hopeful in the bilateral relations with China that they can provide what they are desiring to get.

# **CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

## **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter focuses on the summary findings and conclusions on what the researcher found in the field research. The conclusions are there to wrap up the thoughts and contributions of the respondents and to add to the already existing knowledge on the issues related to the bilateral relations of Zimbabwe and China. Upon giving the conclusions to the findings, the researcher gives a few but helpful recommendations on how the relations can be improved and be furthered while adequately benefiting both parties involved.

## **5.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

### **5.2.1 Factors that led to the Sino-Zimbabwe union from 2008 to 2016**

The bilateral diplomatic relations were rooted in the interests of both nations. For Zimbabwe the respondents argued that following the threats on the economic and political stability that were posed by the declared and undeclared sanctions, Zimbabwe wanted to secure itself politically and economically. China is that country that Zimbabwe found because the two countries seem to have mutual dislike on the western hegemony. On the other hand, respondents deduced that China had over ambitious economic goals that would only be attainable if they could find a bargaining ground. China needed to grow its economy and re-engage with other African countries like Uganda, Malawi and Nigeria and so on.

### **5.2.2. The rationale of bilateral diplomatic relations between the 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries and 1<sup>st</sup> world countries.**

The respondents were quick to show that the economic and political discrepancies in the third world countries usually stand in the way of the utility of these relations. The benefits of the relations of the bilateral diplomatic relations were shown to be very important but at the same time for them to bring a change in a country it would depend on the management of the affairs by the domestic policy and authorities. Issues such as politics as a determinant factor, lack of sound policy that has grass root support in enacting the benefits of the bilateral relations in the third world countries was brought up. Also, generally there is issue of imbalanced trade and most of all, bilateral relations benefit the main areas of focus, e.g the political situation of Zimbabwe internationally has changed.

### **5.2.3 Have the relation yield any results prior to economic and political development from 2008-2016.**

Linking to the famous example of how China has been using its veto power to defend Zimbabwe in the United Nations Security Council on furthering sanctions, the respondents safely said there has been some development. Taking into consideration the fact Zimbabwe was able to identify the weakness of the west and protect itself was seemingly impressive. On the economic aspect, the respondents were quite impressed by the fact that China relations to Zimbabwe has made possible the opening of cheaper markets that even the poorest of the citizens can afford to buy from. On the part of China, respondents acknowledged that China has managed to sustain businesses in Zimbabwe from the diamond mining companies and the clothing stores and cheap labour it is a clear indication of bargain.

### **5.2.4 Challenges militating against economic and political development through bilateral diplomatic relations.**

The main challenges that the researcher got from respondents were weak political structures that are in charge of monitoring and managing the funds and projects that are engaged into on the basis the bilateral relations. Issues include monopolisation of deals, lack of grass root support and corruption. Chinese companies that get tenders from the government have been reported to promote their home industries in that, when purchasing equipment they do not get from Zimbabwean industries. Higher level staff like engineers are employed from China which does not benefit Zimbabwean citizens and Corruption was brought as the major concern.

### **5.2.5 The importance of bilateral diplomatic relations between China and Zimbabwe (2008-2016).**

The respondents had quite a number of experiences to allude to which made them to applaud the bilateral relations agreeing that with the 10 year experience of the relationship from when the situation was on its lowest point to 2016 the importance can be seen. However the respondents recommended a lot of changes to be made so that the full potential of these relations can be realised and benefit quite a number of the people especially those in Zimbabwe. The researcher was led to the belief that the respondents agree to the importance of the results but however the results are not the best that can be expected.

## **5.3 CONCLUSIONS**

From the insight that the researcher got from the contribution of the various respondents, conclusions can be drawn from the findings of the field research.

### **5.3.1 Factors that led to the Sino-Zimbabwe union from 2008 to 2016**

China and Zimbabwe engagement on the bilateral diplomatic relations was inspired by self interests after having found a common interest which was fighting western dominance. The fact that the two countries can engage on personal level allows smooth negotiations and being audible on where exactly they need assistance of each other without the economic assistance jeopardising self rule. Clearly, what a country is most concerned about is what it gets from these relations, although the results are not pleasing in Zimbabwe the economy is benefiting somehow.

### **5.3.2 The rationale of bilateral diplomatic relations between the 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries and 1<sup>st</sup> world countries.**

The results obtained by the 1<sup>st</sup> world countries and the 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries in the bilateral diplomatic relations could never be the same. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries there are a lot of disturbances and political instability that hinder the progress of the development that could be taking place. 1<sup>st</sup> world countries are more concerned on investing into their future therefore they make everything work to their advantage. It is up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries to focus on what benefits the future generation so that the relations may assist in ensuring they provide avenues that enable that not just the current situation.

### **5.3.3 Have the relation yield any results prior to economic and political development from 2008-2016.**

The relations have brought about a slight but yet important change to the economy of Zimbabwe that the respondents commended the relations. However the results are not as satisfactory as would have been hoped for, the rays of hope that are showing in these relations are what the citizens are hoping can improve of the quality of results produced provided the government of Zimbabwe works on its weaknesses. China has to fairly engage in the trade system and observe the labour regulations of Zimbabwe so that the Zimbabwean nationals may feel free to work for them.

### **5.3.4 Challenges militating against economic and political development through bilateral diplomatic relations.**

For the bilateral diplomatic relations to yield quality results they depend on competence and transparency of the countries' involved. As long as the internal challenges are not addressed it is difficult to see an escalation of the results, it is important for a nation to consider the views of its people so that it delivers what the people need.

### **5.3.5. The importance of bilateral diplomatic relations between China and Zimbabwe (2008-2016).**

Using the provided statistics in news papers and various documents and input of the respondents on various levels it is possible to deduce the importance of bilateral diplomatic relations. The activities that have been taking place for the past 10 years have content in them that speaks out on the importance of these relations because Zimbabwe has benefited in areas of interest that have been prioritised by the government.

## **5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The research has portrayed a number of weaknesses that if not addressed the relations between Zimbabwe and China may suffer deficiency and lack of subscription from the population of Zimbabwe. For the people to engage in maximising results from these relations they need to see errors being corrected. Below are a few recommendations that may be put into considerations on how best the situation can be addressed.

### **5.4.1 Involvement of the Public in issues to do with development.**

There is need for the government to intensely engage the population in Zimbabwe and hear their input on the issues of Zimbabwe's relations with China. This is of paramount importance because the ordinary citizens are the ones who experience the reality of the effects of this relationship and their judgement is not biased it is rather well informed.

### **5.4.2 Trade Policy Review and Adjustments.**

Policy review for Zimbabwe is very crucial so that it can emphasize on the crucial areas of development. Upon giving raw materials to China, there is need for a balanced requisition of equally important imports from China and avoid the imbalanced trade. Still on policy adjustment, labour regulations are to be enforced with equal penalties as they have on native Zimbabweans. The bilateral diplomatic relations are meant to cover a gap that is always left by multilateral relations.

### **5.4.3 Public Audit Reports.**

On the loans and investments that China brings to Zimbabwean government some public reports should be given to the people so that they appreciate better the utility of funds. This promotes transparency and lessens corruption levels, even when there would be diversion of funds, it will be easy for the people to understand and credit the government. As long there is

ambiguity on what the finances coming from China are being used for discontent will create resentment of the relations between China and Zimbabwe from the whole populace.

#### **5.4.4 Legal Framework to protect Chinese Employees**

Due to the strong relations between China and Zimbabwe, the people are beginning to believe that the Zimbabwean labour law is somewhat lenient to Chinese investors. Abuse that goes on in Chinese companies from the long working hours to the minimum wages has to be addressed. If the government cannot control the wages its people get the least is to ensure that the employees are working in good environment. The same strictness they have on Zimbabwean companies should be the same on Chinese, at the same time, for the Chinese who run away when convicted the government should find coordination with China so that it assist with its government if this is to happen.

#### **5.4.5 Reduction of political interference**

In the circumstances like those of Zimbabwe of economic hardships, there is need equal distribution of opportunities and ignore political differences. As long one political party seem to be at the centre of development, it will cause confusion and lack total involvement of the whole population because both parties will be competing. There is need to have everyone feel responsible for bringing results and development of the nation, for such to happen the ruling party has to distance itself and let the government clearly have influence and equally have results.

### **5.5 CONCLUSION**

There is a lot of potential in the bilateral diplomatic relations between Zimbabwe and China prior to the importance of these relations. In the little that has been achieved in a long period of time, there is need to fix some discrepancies so that the results especially for the nation of Zimbabwe. The importance of these relations have come out on how they have mutually benefited both countries though on different levels and in different areas due to where exactly either of the parties involved put much emphasis and focus.

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## ANNEXURE A: QUESTIONNAIRE

My name is **Chipo Mellisa Guse** a Politics and Public Management student at Midlands State University. I am carrying out a research for my dissertation that is focusing on **the impact of the bilateral diplomatic relations on economic and political development with Zimbabwe and China as case study from 2008-2016**. The questionnaire is designed to collect data on the events that have happened during the period of ten years and the mark they left prior to economic and economic development. The information will help me understand what the general populace think of the relations and what they have personally experienced due to these relations.

I am therefore kindly requesting you to complete the questionnaire anonymously in the spaces provided. Be assured that the information you are to share answering the questions shall be used in absolute confidence and for academic purposes only.

**What is your occupation?** .....

**Name of the city you operate from?** .....

**Date** .....

**Sex** female..... male.....

1) Are you well aware of the bilateral relations between Zimbabwe and China?

Very well	Moderately	Vaguely	No idea at all
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2) Would you consider yourself as someone who has direct experience on the impact of the relations?

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.....  
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.....

3) What factors do you think led to Sino-Zimbabwe relations?

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.....  
.....  
.....

4) In your own view do you see the rationale of a relationship between Third world country and a First world country? Please explain your answer.

.....  
.....  
.....

5) Are there any indicators of economic and political development from these relations?

.....  
.....  
.....

6) What do you think are the challenges militating against sound bilateral relations between Zimbabwe and China?

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.....  
.....

7) Given a chance to contribute to the economic and political development policy document, what would you proffer and why?

.....  
.....  
.....

8) In your personal capacity, do you see any hope for better results in the business conducted in these bilateral relations?

.....  
.....  
.....

9) In the present circumstances, do you have any recommendations on how issues can be handled better?

.....  
.....  
.....

10) Do you have any other comments concerning this issue?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

## **ANNEXURE B: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

My name is **Chipo Mellisa Guse** a Politics and Public Management student at Midlands State University. I am carrying out a research for my dissertation that is focusing **on the impact of the bilateral diplomatic relations on economic and political development with Zimbabwe and China as case study from 2008-2016**. This focus group discussion is designed to collect data on the events that have happened during the period of ten years and the mark they left prior to economic and economic development. The information will help me understand what the general populace think of the relations and what they have personally experienced due to these relations.

I am therefore requesting you to kindly participate in this discussion anonymously being guided by the following questions. Be assured that the information you are to share answering the questions shall be used in absolute confidence and for academic purposes only.

### **Names**

**Participant 1** : .....

**Participant 2** : .....

**Participant 3** : .....

**Participant 4** : .....

**Participant 5** : .....

### **Occupation(s)**

**Participant 1** : .....

**Participant 2** : .....

**Participant 3** : .....

**Participant 4** : .....

**Participant 5** : .....

### **Age group of the participants**

**18-25 years .....**

**26 years and above .....**

NB: please tick where appropriate.

### **Welcome remarks**

### **Guide lines**

- There is no wrong or right answer, please feel free to share your thoughts.
- For the purpose of getting each other much clearer, let us speak one person at a time.
- The discussion has the maximum of 40 minutes to be done so let us be timely in speaking.
- It is allowed to disagree with someone but let us do respectfully while respecting other people's opinions.
- As the moderator, I will only be guiding the discussion.

### **Questions**

1. First and foremost, are we all aware of the Sino Zimbabwe relations? If so, kindly tell us what you understand and how much you know in brief.
2. What do you think are the factors that led to Sino-Zimbabwe relations?
3. In your own view do you see the rationale of a relationship between Third world country and a First world country?
4. Do you see any economic and political development indicators through these bilateral relations?
5. In your own view do you see the rationale of a relationship between Third world country and a First world country?
6. What do you think are the challenges militating against sound bilateral relations between Zimbabwe and China?
7. What recommendations would you give on strengthening these bilateral relations?