

Chapter 8

Education and Knowledge Under the Impact of Economic Stress: Rhodesia 1965–1979 vis-a- vis Zimbabwe Since 2002


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ABSTRACT

This chapter intends to have answer the questions: How did Ian Smith structure his government and economy and survive sanctions for sixteen years (1965-1979) and become innovative? Why, under almost similar conditions, did Robert Mugabe fail to bring the economy do its toes? In cases, what was the role of knowledge societies and what role did they play to bridge the gap between society and them towards meaningful development? The study uses desktop review as the basis of getting data and information useful in building this theoretical case study of Zimbabwe in the period 1965 to 2018. The robustness of an economy under a stringent

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economic environment is a function of its ability to tap and harness the prowess of its knowledge societies. It is recommended that strong links between the private, public, and knowledge sectors are required and this must happen in an environment with trust, transparency, accountability, rule of law, and commitment translating into a powerful connubio for transformation.

INTRODUCTION

The Rhodesian Government under Ian Douglas Smith registered a lot of good results on the ground than the Robert Mugabe Government under economic sanctions. It is theorized that the reason why the Rhodesian Government thrived very well under stringent economic conditions was not so much because of the sympathy of the other white governments around it. Rather, it was the strict and full-of-direction endogenous arrangements that involved serious partnerships in knowledge creation and management involving universities, businesses, community workers and the public sector. Specifically, the technical, vocational education and training (TVET) system under the Rhodesian economic climate were so designed that psychomotor skills were much developed and the exchange of ideas into products was well crafted. The major mistake by the Robert Mugabe Government, under sanctions, was to emphasis higher and tertiary education at university with much theoretical emphasis and little channeling and discipline that produce tangible and saleable products on the market.

There was now much emphasis on imports rather than imports substitution. Although relief came with dollarizing in 2009, the honeymoon was too short, as the country fell prey to internal financial mismanagement and external poaching of the financial asset base of the United States of America dollars. Mugabe continued to blame his external 'foes' on 'illegal sanctions' against his government – the smart sanctions - for the challenges that his government has cause even within the economy. Confidence in both the public and private sector dropped. Knowledge involves putting emphases on practical solutions and experimentations based on creativity and readiness to package innovations into useful products and goods. Financial discipline within the private, public and the knowledge sectors is a major requisite for sustainability. It is even observed that Rhodesia came up with many useful products from the locally available resources. It was facing war within and sanctions without but still was able to thrive.

In this regard, a comparative analysis of the present and the Smith regime socio-economic policies is called for. Basing on the endogenous growth models, economic growth is a function of capital accumulation, employment and total factor productivity (TFP). In this case, TFP is positively influenced by such factors as institutions and

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