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Impact of Immigration in Zambia

Sarah Banda

Dr Naison

Introduction

The main focus of this paper will predominantly be on African immigrants and the impact of their immigration on the African continent specifically in the country of Zambia. I strongly believe that due to 675,665 immigrants from 57 countries receiving permanent resident status in the United States, among them Nigerian immigrants constituting the top 30 sending nations the economic prospects of many African nations is being compromised. There is no doubt that Africa is in fact losing many highly skilled people because of this immigration influx. As one of the many African immigrants in the United States, I can't help but wonder if this huge immigration of Africans adds to one of the poverty traps that the continent faces. By poverty trap I mean a distinct feature that has managed to cripple many African countries economies, education, health and military sectors. Or has this huge immigration done the opposite and instead become one of the solutions to the many problems Africa is facing today? By solution I mean has the immigration experience helped with the problems relating to infrastructure development and larger pool of highly educated people on the African continent. Throughout this paper I will be using Zambia as a case study because, I believe that Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) is among the areas worst hit in terms of education and health care by the depart^{ure} of ~~the~~ highly skilled Africans to western countries. In addition to using secondary resources such as government reports, books, and articles, the paper will also include primary sources such as personal interviews with 10 Zambians. The main point of the personal interviews is to get a real life feel of the impact of immigration in Zambia.

One of the most important positive results of immigration are remittances; “remittances are a form of showing the attachment immigrants have with their respective country of origin” (Sikod, Tchouassi, 42). This monetary relief is a beneficial aspect of how international immigration can reshape life in the countries of origin. Moreover, remittances are also contributing to globalization, disseminating technologies of information and communication. In Africa mobile phone handsets are becoming very popular as the phone is an important way immigrating families keep in contact with families in the country of origin. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) report of 2001, has indicated that “immigrant remittances are increasingly becoming a more constant source of income to most developing countries with a doubling of annual remittances between 1988 and 1999” (Sikod, Tchouassi, 42). Remittances can play an important part in Africa’s solutions to problems because, it is found that remittances “contribute to savings and investment, thereby leading to growth and development of any economy” (Sikod, Tchouassi, 53).

However, a very distinct negative impact of immigration is the brain drain effect. The term brain drain in this context is used to describe the void that highly skilled immigrants leave in their country of origin. As a result of the brain drain, the health and education sectors are often the hardest hit, “leaving home governments with the onerous task of either replacing lost skill or grappling with massive declines in the quality of service delivery in the affected sectors” (Akokpari, 77). Examples of this which will be peppered throughout this paper are in Zambia, where the influx of immigration has led to a drastic reduction in the number of doctors and nurses from 1,600 to just 400 in the last 20 years. As a result of this, the implications left on the Zambian healthcare system have been dire, as the vacuum in doctors has made it very difficult

to meet the needs of the population. In this paper, the health issues in Zambia will be discussed in detail.

In addition to healthcare, the education sector has simultaneously been affected as University lecturers are leaving their countries of origin in large numbers. Consequently there has been a massive shortage of academic staff in institutions of higher learning. Zambia "is said to have lost 200 lecturers during the 10 year period between 1985 and 1995" (Akopari, 78). The results of this loss of professionals are massive shortages of academic staff as well as the closure of some academic departments. Thus, I ask the question who is educating our youth? And what type of higher education are our youth getting if departments have to be closed due to a shortage of lecturers? All these questions lead to one answer, which is poverty. The lack of higher education is one of the fundamental reasons why Zambia is still a developing country. Without good education a country cannot experience economic growth.

To understand the impact immigration has had on Zambia one has to ask the question, why do we immigrants leave our country in the first place? There are many reasons to why we decide to leave, the main reason being the simple fact that Zambia lacks good universities. This paper will discuss problems in higher education in detail as a lack of infrastructure at both basic and higher levels of education. This paper will also give a case study of my family and their immigration/study abroad experience. This case study will focus on how my family's positive transnational experience has actually helped with the development of Zambia, therefore acting as a catalyst for economic prosperity. I will also discuss problems that Zambian immigrants will probably face when dealing with the second generation immigrant youth [we may be focusing

on identity crisis; which could lead to the loss of one's culture, tradition, and ethnic identity as one assimilates with the host countries culture. Remittances solely acting as a solution to Africa's specifically Zambia's many problems will further be discussed in detail as it is a theme that will be widely used throughout the paper. Finally I will give a personal conclusion/perspective on Africa's future and my long term plans and how I hope they will lead to the economic prosperity of my country Zambia and my continent Africa.

Why do we leave?

There are many reasons why African immigrants leave their country of origin. For example, "civil wars, political instability, and insecurity in many African countries in the 1980s to late 1990s forced many Africans to seek refuge and safety in the United States" (Edward, 9). However, Zambian immigrants and their motives for leaving Zambia are very different compared to the motives of Sudanese, Ugandan, and Ethiopian immigrants. This is because; Zambia is a very peaceful nation. During the 46 years that Zambia has been independent there has never been a civil war or any type of war in general. Instead in Zambia's 46 years of independence she has enjoyed 4 peaceful general elections.

However, "peace" itself does not guarantee economic prosperity, better education, and better infrastructure. In fact, many Zambians have fled the country in search of greener pastures and both higher and basic education abroad. The lack of higher and even basic education led to my parents deciding to send me off to boarding school at the tender age of 11. Their decision was based on their belief that education was the key to success, however; the overcrowded government schools and lack of qualified teachers in these schools did not sit well with my parents who felt academic achievement was the key to success. Instead institutions like New Hall School in England and Fordham University in New York did. The same ideology of success and the pursuit of higher education that motivated parents in sending me abroad are the very reasons why some of my interviewees left home. For one interviewee, the great disparities between education in the West and education at home led to his decision to leave. This is because, studying abroad gave him a better understanding of exposure to advanced technology, far beyond what Zambia could provide. Another interviewee said that in addition to

being exposed to traditional subjects such as math and science, she was also exposed to nontraditional subjects such as dance and drama which allow all children to explore their artistic talents. The nontraditional subjects such as drama fused with the traditional subjects such as math, are the very skills that give students in the West that extra competitive edge compared to students in Zambia.

The main problem with higher education in Zambia is the lack of infrastructure. Many of the Zambians I interviewed believe that the Zambian government has not prioritized education for a very long time. The unfortunate results of this are the few libraries at both basic and higher education levels. In my opinion, without up to date libraries, one is not only losing out on the fundamentals in education but also on opportunities for innovation as books are the instruments of knowledge, and knowledge is power. More importantly however, is that without libraries students are unable to develop both their reading and writing skills, that are the very foundations of basic education and without them the standard skills that children need for learning are not being provided; the result of this is a domino effect of underperformance going forward. The underperformance in education could also lead to the decline in the economic growth of Zambia because, there is a direct correlation between education and economic development, growth, and productivity. This direct correlation of education with economic growth is called the neoclassical growth model which was developed by economists Paul Romer and Robert Lucas. In this model, investment in education, research, and innovation leads to dynamic efficiency, which refers to the ability to adopt quickly at low costs in order to change economic conditions. Subsequently, the new growth model works like this: an increased number of educated workers would lead to more advanced products. These new

technologically advanced goods would first lead to static efficiency and then turn into dynamic efficiency through accelerated growth. Dynamic efficiency would lead to even newer technological advances and as a result our economy would be taken to the next level and become even more efficient. Evidence of the success of this model is the United States where it has been found that “between ten and fifteen percent of the growth in the real national income of the United States can be attributed to education” (Jamison and Lau, 1982). Now imagine if Zambia capitalized on this new growth model by investing more on education; her youth ^{would} be empowered through knowledge and her economy through efficiency.

The lack of funds on the part of the Zambian Government is one of the reasons why people are leaving the country. When the Zambian Ambassador to the United Nations was asked what the basic issues with education were, he answered by emphasizing on the lack of funds for books and classrooms. He furthered this statement by noting the isolated nature of rural settlements amongst the Zambian people and saying that these isolated settlements result in rural areas being very remote and economically deserted. Leading to the people not being able to attend school because, of a) the long and sometimes unsafe walking distance to school that young children face and b) the lack of money on behalf of the government to train more teachers. Also the lack of money on behalf of the parents definitely adds to the problem because, parents are faced with a tradeoff “between household consumption now and children’s expected future income” (Chimombo, 131). This therefore results in parents keeping their children at home where the children learn how to work in the family business or on the family farm. These issues not only lead to a lack of trained teachers but also less children attending schools. His other issue with both higher and basic education in Zambia was the fact

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 that the Zambian government not only lacked financial resources to institutions of higher learning, but also being able to adequately equip schools with basic equipment such as science and math labs. Sooner or later the lack of financial stability on the part of the government needs to be addressed, because in order to get back the lost lecturers, conditions relating to equipment such as science labs, technology labs, math labs, improved modern lecture halls, up to date libraries and books, and even better living conditions for the teachers need to be addressed. If 10,000 of the University of Zambia's students get a great education, that instills in them first class communicative and technological skills, Zambia would not only see economic growth but her citizens would be equipped with the necessary skills to globally compete with the educated youths of the west.

Another problem that affects basic education in Zambia, which could also lead to a huge influx of Zambians immigrating to the west if not contained, is the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Today AIDS has become the number one disease killer of men and women in Africa. "In 2000 it was estimated that 40 million adults and children were living with HIV or AIDS and 28.1 million (70%) of those were in sub Saharan Africa" (Oulai, 7). In Zambia, it was estimated in 2009 that 83,000 adults were newly infected with HIV, that's about 200 new infections a day. Shockingly out of the 13 million Zambians, a reported 54% of women are HIV infected, due to the fact that women and children are easily exposed to inequality and abuse. This results in a changed social fabric in the Zambian community because; the death of women could result in a deficit in food supply as women are the primary growers and sellers when it comes to subsistence farming and crops, whilst the child would have to replace the parent in the labor market and household.

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Consequently, the child loses out on education, and in turn the nation loses out on economic growth.

Since independence, Zambia has tried to prioritize education. However, due to the unprecedented growth of the HIV virus, Zambia's education has suffered. The virus has affected the education sector both economically and technically. Economically, HIV has negatively impacted education because a lot of the government's money that could be spent on improving schools, supplying schools with books, pencils, desks, classrooms, and libraries has instead been used to stop the spread of this deadly virus. Technically, the education sector has been affected by the disease because teacher posting becomes increasingly difficult. In Zambia, HIV/AIDS requires trained teachers to be concentrated in the urban areas because, teachers that are infected must be "posted near hospitals, properly staffed clinics or medical centers" (Hill et al, 23); therefore, creating a void in qualified teachers in the rural areas. Moreover, because of this pandemic there has been a loss of trained and experienced teachers and setbacks in teaching programs because, it is estimated that "more than 2,000 teachers have died in 2002" (Chigaga, 21) whilst only a thousand graduates had been produced from teaching colleges. A decline in qualified teachers particularly in government schools does sometimes lead to a huge influx of teenagers leaving the country at a young age for better basic education and eventually higher education, as in my case. In addition, the low number of teachers is an indication that the HIV/AIDS virus will wipe out the education sector, if the government does not tackle this virus firmly and effectively.

Similar to the case of teaching and professors, are the nurses and doctors Zambia is losing to immigration. In Zambia, the ^{growth} ~~influx~~ of immigration has led to a drastic reduction in the number of doctors and nurses from 1,600 to just 400 in the last 20 years. Thus, it is safe to say that there is a direct correlation between the lack of doctors and nurses in Zambia and the degradation of the health care system because; fewer nurses and doctors cannot give good quality care to the nation as a whole. In fact many of the Zambians that I interviewed are parents who say that the lack of good health care in Zambia was one of the main reasons for them leaving home. This is because, "when one considers that we live for our children not just ourselves, it becomes a major consideration to have the sort of health structures that will support not just our own quality of life, but that of future generations to come" (Questionnaire, 2). Another interviewee replied "it definitely does play a part, especially as a mother. It makes things easier when you know that you are in a place where you can find doctors who have the necessary medical equipment" (Questionnaire, 2). Consequently, for government to bring back the "1,198 Zambian nurses working in seven European countries" (Schweiz, 2007), they have to make better working conditions for doctors and nurses through adequate diagnostic equipment available, give better pay, and reduce working hours.

It is without a doubt that education for the Zambian immigrants is of vital importance, hence their immigration to the west. It is also obvious that both the education and health sectors in Zambia are not fully equipped and developed enough to compete with the rest of the world. However, the Zambian government is doing the best it can to improve these conditions. In the health sector President Banda's administration has moved quickly to improve infrastructure by: building 323 health posts which are ready for commissioning throughout the

nine provinces. It is said that these health centers/posts will cater to 6.4 million Zambians in these districts. Another 12 more hospitals will be commissioned with each of them serving at least 200,000 people. In addition to this, government has procured nine mobile hospitals to increase access to health services in rural areas. Not only do these new hospitals provide better health care for Zambian citizens, but it also eliminates the prospects of immigrants moving away from home to get better health care. To tackle the low pay doctor's face, government included "the reintroduction of a home-ownership scheme giving academic staff a loan for home buying dependant on their salaries, repayable over five years and adjustment of salaries to make them competitive with other scientists in the sub region (Ngandwe, 2007).

Furthermore, in regards to education government has increased investment in the education sector over the past two years; "and a total of 2,543 new classrooms were constructed in 2009 while another 2,016 are being built (President Rupiah Banda's speech at the opening of 5th session of 10 National Assembly, 2010). The fight for better education is very important to President Banda because, his goal is to turn today's youth into tomorrow's educated workforce. As a result, 45 high schools and 42 basic schools are expected to be completed in 2010. Moreover, to tackle the lack of qualified teachers the government has enacted four bills to pave the way for the establishment of "the teaching council of Zambia, the national qualifications framework authority and the higher education authority" (President Rupiah Banda's speech at the opening of 5th session of 10 National Assembly, 2010). All these proactive policies will definitely encourage people like me to return home and feel appreciated because, not only will I feel needed but I will also feel that the skills that I acquired abroad will:

be used to their fullest ability; thanks to an educated energized population and proper infrastructure.

Brain Drain and Remittances

The term Brain Drain refers to the “the developing countries loss of human capital to more developed countries” (Dodoo, Takyi, Mann, 88), Thus this negative effect of immigration creates challenges to Zambia’s health care system; an example is in the critical loss of nurses and doctors. In the medical field Zambia has lost in total more than 1,198 nurses and 1,200 doctors to the West, these losses have not only crippled Zambia’s health care system but they have also had some sort of negative effect on her economic development. A physically healthy nation leads to a productive workforce because people are able to work harder and in turn produce more; the production of more goods and services therefore leads to an increase in economic growth. Not only will healthy citizens be more self sufficient, tougher, and productive but they would also be happier and better motivated to go to work and earn more money. More importantly however, would be the fact that a healthier Zambia would result in the country not losing her youth to unnecessary deaths and other preventable diseases. With less youth dying, a productive psyche would be created in which growth and motivation would be at the forefront of Zambia’s future. This vision of the future however, is contrary to what is really going on in the country today, as people of all ages are dying due to the lack of medical personal and adequately equipped hospitals.

Furthermore, other medical challenges created from the brain drain of doctors and nurses are the obvious low doctor to patient ratios, "WHO estimates that there are more than 200 physicians for each 100,000 people in the USA" (Tanner, 113) in Zambia however, there are only 6. These results not only put physical and sometimes mental strain on doctors but it also means that patients are not being properly attended to. Due to the fact that doctors are limited in supply and in the time that they have to spend with their patients, resulting from the lack of money that Government has; to spend on extra medical personnel in both rural and urban hospitals in Zambia. Doctors are also limited in the amount of medical equipment in terms of medicines that they can prescribe and in machines for dialysis that they can afford (it is reported that there are only 2 dialysis machines in the whole country). This results in overworked, frustrated and under paid doctors, as well as misdiagnoses as doctors cannot solely give a patient his/her full attention because they are low in supply. These issues are the very reasons why Zambian doctors and nurses tend to immigrate to the west because a) in the west they wouldn't work under such frustrating and unmanageable conditions and b) in the west they would feel like their skills would be more appreciated and not put to waste.

In 2005, Vice President Nevers Mumba reported that the country was losing 25 nurses per month due to the brain drain. In a country where there are 200 new cases of HIV/AIDS infections per day Zambia cannot afford to lose them. This is because a) who will then tend to the sick patients? and b) who will assist doctors when it comes to certain tasks such as child birth? In Zambia there are situations where the lack of medical personal has led to the poor seeking treatment from "traditional healers, while the elite fly to either London or South Africa for treatment" (Tanner, 50). This is a very serious matter because in most cases the traditional

healers do not use sterilized equipment as a result; the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases become even more prevalent. Furthermore, at times the lack of nurses helping doctors with child birth has led to over 729 women dying from pregnancy related causes a year. This number has been reduced in size to 449 per 100,000 live births thanks to certain Government policies, such as increased clinics and medical personal in rural areas, as well as the postings of mobile clinics throughout the country.

Furthermore, equally unfortunate figures are seen in education where the weak education sector may intensify the brain drain in Zambia. Since 1991 "over 300 lecturers have left the only two universities in Zambia owing to paltry salaries and pathetic working conditions" (Tanner, 112). Moreover, the AIDS pandemic in Zambia is said to further decrease the number of primary school teachers as in 2002, 2,000 teachers died this was up from the 640 teacher deaths in 1996. With these appalling results it's no wonder why "the net enrolment rates at primary schools have been falling and the number and quality of teachers continue to diminish due to the brain drain" (Tanner, 112). Not only are teachers leaving because of low pay and lack of infrastructure but also because, some are afraid of contracting the HIV/AIDS virus. The lack of teachers in places like the University of Zambia has led to the closure of some academic departments; imagine the consequences that these closed departments have had on the learning of the students. Not only are the students missing out on new knowledge but they are also missing out on that extra competitive edge that could set them apart from western students. The brain drain not only creates a billion dollar void that the Zambian government has to fill by ^{importing} exporting labor from abroad, but it also robs from Zambia the potential for economic growth that could make her a prosperous nation.

Despite the negatives that come with immigration, there is also a positive consequence — remittance. Even though the Zambian government has not done enough research both *Not a sentence* internally and externally regarding the positive effects of remittances in Zambia. It is evident that in places such as Ghana for example “immigrant remittances from abroad reached a record high of \$2 billion in 2004 exceeding the earnings from coca” (Akopari, 73). Thus I believe that if the Zambian government capitalized on remittances from the Zambians abroad, basic consumption needs such as “children’s education, healthcare, and even capital for small businesses and entrepreneurial activities —the heart of the economy” (Moyo, 135) would more easily be created. Remittances are said to play an important role in “financing a country’s external balances, by helping to pay for imports and repay external debt” (Moyo, 134). This is because remittances are more stable than other capital flows, and as a result, some countries banks have decided to “use them to securitize loans from the international capital markets” (Moyo, 134). ✓

Subsequently, remittances are also said to be an important factor in relieving poverty, according to a world bank paper evidence shows that “a 10 per cent increase in per capita remittances leads to a 3.5 per cent decline in the proportion of poor people” (Moyo, 135). ✓ Evidence of this is shown in the Philippines where a “10 per cent increase in remittances reduced the poverty rate by 2.8 per cent by increasing the income level of the receiving family but also via spillovers to the overall economy” (Moyo, 135). The same result could be possible for Zambia where most of my interviewees sent money home to help relatives pay off their basic needs such as: their education, medical expenses, rent, the foundations of new businesses, and even the taking care of the new homes of land that many immigrants are

building ~~for~~ when they return to Zambia. Thus, if expanded to the level of the Philippines, Zambia's remittances could also reduce the poverty rate by increasing the income level of the receiving family. Despite most of the interviewees not having an optimistic view that one day remittances could replace Aid; I personally believe that if the government constantly encouraged the Zambian Diaspora to invest and buy land in Zambia, this would mean that immigrants would always have a direct connection with Zambia as they would have ^a stakes in the health of Zambia. Consequently the sending of money would result in a form of social insurance for Zambian immigrants.

The developmental effects of remittances would also create a source of income from savings and investment as confirmed by Taylor (1996). "He found that remittances contribute to savings and investments, thereby leading to growth and development of any economy" (Sikod, Tchouassi, 53). Evidence of this was found in Mali by Findley and Saw (1998), who saw that remittances "not only covered basic food and cash needs but also allowed to pay for irrigation in agriculture" (Sikod, Tchouassi, 53). Zambia is not different from Mali in the sense that if Zambian immigrants were constantly being pushed and encouraged to send more money home by government, they too would see a countrywide macro impact; not only in agriculture but also in infrastructural development. Thus, remittances would not only help with the macro economics of Zambia, but it would also "improve the income distribution and living standards of beneficiaries" (Akokpari, 75). It would also help recipients set up small businesses even in difficult conditions which would then positively affect development. When it comes to doing business in Zambia, the World Bank recently marked Zambia as one of the top.10 countries that have made setting up businesses easy. In fact, the Investment act in Zambia is one of the best in

Africa as it is attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from China, Brazil, The Netherlands, France, South Africa, and The United Kingdom to name a few. It is said that FDI is attracted to Zambia thanks to the low taxes that the country ^{places on} ~~lends to~~ foreign investors, the ongoing peace that the country has experienced, and the very competitive process it takes to register a company in Zambia, ^{which} is said to be the best in Africa. With all these positives setting up small businesses would not only be easy but it would also act as a source of economic stability to the country.

However, ^{re} they are potential dangers to solely relying on remittances, despite them being "an important source of foreign exchange and income" (Akokpari, 75). They are highly unreliable and risky sources. Moreover, remittances are vulnerable to a number of factors: the first being economic recessions and restrictions in the host country which "may sharply reduce the volume of remittances and cause problems in the balance of payments of the labor sending countries" (Akokpari, 7). Secondly, remittances tend to create a sense of dependency on behalf of the recipients; this is not good for the country's labor force as more and more people will be discouraged from working and instead rely on the remittances sent out by families members abroad; under some circumstance remittances would therefore be a disincentive to find work.

In conclusion, despite the lack of research done on remittances in Zambia, evidence from other parts of the African continent and the world suggests that "money from the Diaspora today constitutes a privileged resource of financing African development" (Sikod, Tchouassi, 54). Furthermore, it is also proven that remittances provide incentives for the local production of goods and services as, those that receive the money use it for irrigation and

farming proposes as shown in the case of Mali. In relation to the brain drain, it is clear that the health and education sectors are often the hardest hit as seen in Zambia losing crucial amounts of nurses and doctors per year. As a result of this the Zambian government is left to either replace the lost skill which costs billion of dollars, or left to struggle with the massive declines in the quality of service delivery in the affected sectors. In my opinion, the resources used to train the immigrated citizens could be used on other equally pressing needs of Zambian society. Consequently the loss of skilled immigrants means Zambia is getting little or no "returns from its investments in the training of skilled emigrants" (Akokpari, 79). It is clear that the cost of losing skilled immigrants to Zambia is enormous in terms of the financial, human, and developmental sectors. Therefore the main plan is to "devise ways of halting, even reversing the brain drain in order to retain the vital expertise for development" (Akokpari, 80).

Race relations and Ethnic Identity

The institution of the Zambian family is similar to that of other African families in the sense that it is highly revered; the family is viewed as a group whose main duties are of social, cultural, and economic nature. Zambians "tend to emphasize the extended kin group who are related by blood, marriage, and or adoption" (Arthur, 45). In fact, in Zambia's second largest city Kitwe, it was found that about 14 percent of all children aged fourteen and younger and nearly 18 percent of children aged ten to fourteen years were not living with their parents" (<http://family.jrank.org/pages/1781/Zambia-Family>). Instead these children were ~~fostered~~ ^{brought} by extended family members like aunts, uncles, cousins etc, this is because "socialization and social control are exercised by an extended network of relatives" (Arthur, 45). The tradition of a nuclear family embracing its extended family is very common in the Zambian family structure and is still practiced by Zambian immigrants when they go abroad. What will sometimes happen is that the family abroad will always help out other family members by either sending money to help with their school fees, or by actually buying a one way ticket for that family member to join them abroad.

In Zambian immigrant households, the family is centered around the children and the women are normally the nurturers. In this tight family structure, matriarchs in the form of aunties, grandmothers, and mothers are a very important ingredient because, they not only keep the family together but they are also vital in the economic production of goods and services. Zambian immigrant families stress interdependence and cooperation from the children, as they are expected to do their part in terms of cleaning and taking care of their

siblings; whilst simultaneously being respectful and not questioning nor challenging their parental authority. Children are hardly consulted in matters affecting the family moreover; they are also expected to remain grounded in societal norms and regulations. When boys hit puberty they take on larger roles and responsibilities at home e.g. taking care of their younger siblings and being a role model to the family. Girls are expected to fill in the roles of the nurturer by learning how to cook or by helping mothers with doing household chores. These very rigid gender roles can sometimes conflict with the host countries traditions and ideologies. Thus, for second generation Zambians it could lead to an identity crisis as they are not sure what is expected of them in terms of behavior, dress codes, respect codes and traditional norms when it comes to gender such as girls being the nurturers and boys being the providers.

Personally I found it very hard to balance the liberal west with conservative Zambia. This is because being educated in both England and the United States has instilled in me a sky is the limit attitude. ~~Where~~ I know as a female and as an individual that there is nothing that I cannot do nor achieve, thus a confident persona is created with academic skills that are usable in all fields making me an academically well balanced individual. However, when I ~~always~~ return home I always get a claustrophobic conservative feeling of how a woman should act, how a woman should treat her husband, how a woman should take care of her house, and how a woman should dress. This sometimes makes me feel that the very society/tradition that gives me a sense of identity abroad is the very thing that I fight and struggle with when I wear my above the knee black cocktail dresses, or when I don't act too lady like amongst my female family members, or even when I refuse to cook. Not only is my autonomy put to test by my conservative tradition but also my being too liberal on certain issues such as women not

needing to learn how to cook is also challenged. So what do we do as immigrants, is the million dollar question? ^A How about just learning to balance our new found ways with our beautiful old customs. Being an immigrant doesn't mean that we have to completely lose our identity and follow that of the West's', instead let us not forget who we are and where we come from whenever we are ever put to the test. Let us simply blend the two cultures together to create a healthy balance whilst never forgetting that Zambia is our main home, and we as her children should act as role models for our beloved nation.

Another dilemma that both second and first generation Zambians may face is that of racial identity. According to Arthur there are two interrelated factors that construct racial and ethnic identity. The first is the immigrant's "own assumptions about black Americans that they brought with them from Zambia upon their arrival in the host country" (Arthur, 66). The second is how African Americans as a group with unequal power and status in the United States, express both their ethnic and racial identity. Zambians through the media have some pretty vivid cultural images of African Americans. ^G Growing up in Zambia I watched a lot of movies with African Americans in them. However they were always negatively stereotyped. ^F For example, in my favorite hip hop film *Boyz n' the Hood*, the black women were portrayed as the stereotypical "ghetto girls" and the men your average "ghetto boys" who were addicted to street life. Moreover, when it came to music videos, black women were always hyper sexualized and naked whilst black men sang rap songs around them. As a result this, [✓] false representation directly influences the identity formation of African immigrants and the children of African immigrants. Thus, the Zambian youth are careful not to get affiliated with the

lifestyles of the African American male gangster and the hyper sexual African American female stereotypes.

Zambians are definitely aware of the struggle that African Americans faced in achieving their freedom and finding their place in society. In fact, the image that is etched in the minds of Zambian immigrants "is that black Americans have to fight the white establishment for everything that many white Americans take for granted: equal opportunity, access to education, employment, and quality housing" (Arthur, 66). Thus, when Zambians go to developed countries like the United States they take full advantage of the education opportunities. Furthermore, they use education as a tool of self motivation to get new improved lives that Zambia was not able to offer them. In most cases, the unequal treatment of African Americans acts as an incentive for Zambians to work even harder and achieve more than their African American counterparts, resulting in African immigrants frequently being associated with discipline and a strong work ethic. ✓

From the perspective of Zambian immigrants, Zambia is still home and their migration to the West has only heightened their self image and character. The Zambian immigrant identity is therefore based on the acknowledgement and celebration of Zambia's rich traditions and morals, as well as its positive portrayals of black self worth. More importantly however, is the fact that Zambian identity is carried with these immigrants to the west, where it is used to shield off the anti black sentiments that the host country has to offer. Furthermore, coupled with a rich Pan African identity Zambians abroad are able to ideologically center and base their African values within a larger continental spectrum. This not only brings other African cultures

together but it also creates a certain camaraderie with our fellow Africans, who may be abroad for similar reasons and experience similar sentiments. For Zambians, identity not only means a connection with home through food, song and dance but it also creates a sense of belongingness, commitment, and membership in a foreign land. Zambian immigrants "perceive that identity finds expression and is illuminated by one's role and contribution to community goods" (Arthur, 69). Consequently, Zambian immigrants have formed communities away from home such as Zambians in America, Zambians in Atlanta, The Zambians abroad skills network, and Zampeople.com to name a few. These websites not only connect the Zambian Diaspora, but they also create a little home away from home where one can meet up with other Zambians as well as catch up on news from the mainland. In addition, these communities are also very important and responsible for bringing together the Zambian community especially when there are special occasions such as Independence Day or even when the Zambian president is visiting a Western country. When the United Nations General Assembly was opened in 2009, President Rupiah Banda came to the Zambian Mission where hundreds of Zambians flocked to see him. His coming to New York was greeted with a *mélange* of Zambian food and dance. At the end of the event the President spoke for an hour about the developments that were going on in the country, as well as what was being done on behalf of government to ensure that the Diaspora was able to invest in the Zambian economy. Events like this not only bring Zambians together but they also serve as a reminder that despite us being thousands of miles away from home, we are still an organized people who are guided by our strong identity and tradition.

In conclusion, second generation Zambians do face a dilemma in the sense that they not only have to adhere to the host countries culture and views, but they also have to recognize and celebrate their Zambian roots and identity. Balancing the two can be very hard, because the ideologies of the west seem more appealing and easy to latch onto. However, as mentioned earlier identity is very important as it creates a sense of belongingness and membership. When one has a sense of identity one can never be a lost sheep because ones identity acts as the sheep herder. Identity also helps us immigrants stay on the right path, as reminds us that our main goal is to know who we are and to proudly represent our family and country wherever we go. I also believe that with immigration comes a shared heritage with our other African Diaspora cultures like the Latinos, Caribbean's, and the African Americans. This shared identity not only creates a rich mélange of cultures but it also is an important component of identity, as all these cultures can learn from each other. However, this has to be done in an intelligent and open minded manner.

Long Term Plans

The future plans of many immigrants abroad is to eventually return home, as home is where one feels more at ease, home is where one hopes to develop by utilizing the skills obtained in foreign lands, and finally home is where we immigrants dream big in terms of building and creating our dream homes and lives. In China, 1991 was the year immigrants who left for a better education and life returned home and helped develop their country of origin. In China's case "a group of remarkable young Chinese economists, mostly educated in the west" (Sachs, 155) returned home and formed the Chinese Economists Society (CES). These economists main goal was to find better choices for their country's economic reform and institutional change; as a result this talented group of people devoted their lives and careers "to building China's economic take off and expanding the space for personal freedom in the 1990s" (Sachs, 156). With an influx of returned educated Chinese citizens, China has become one of the world's best and fastest growing economies almost threatening the United States super power position, by becoming the second largest economy in the world. Thus, I believe that if Zambia adopted the same policies in regards to her highly skilled immigrants, we too can become an economic giant like China.

Personally, I have seen the positive developments that immigrants have contributed to the Zambian economy in my own family. On my mother's side for example I had a grandfather named Patrick James Chisanga who passed away 10 years ago but was an only child and born into a very humble family, who believed that education was the key to success. My grandfather carried on with this incredible vision throughout his life and invested heavily in his children's education. He sacrificed to send his children to reputable institutions abroad where they

a Master's
essay is
attached


achieved higher qualifications including higher Diploma's, Degree's, and Master's. My grandfather was born in 1936 and attended primary school in Kasama, however, his parents moved to the capital city in search of work. As a result, my grandfather attended Munali secondary school which was one of the most prestigious schools at the time. Fatefully the future President of Zambia Mr. Rupiah Bwezani Banda (my paternal grandfather) also attended this school. Munali secondary school was a very competitive school to get into, and coming from a rural area my grandfather had to work exceptionally hard to secure a place in this highly esteemed school. After joining the Civil Service of the federal government, Zambia which was still commonly known as Northern Rhodesia, at the time was going through some positive changes, as a newly all black Zambian government led by Dr Kenneth Kaunda was in the process of being born. This newly created government would be run by a new energized wave of young Zambian thinkers like my grandfather. As a result, talented young men like him were sent to England where most earned diplomas in Public Administration from 1961-1963. This degree gave him invaluable experience in his field as well as developed in him an acute business sense that later led to him owning one of the most successful black owned businesses in Zambia. When he returned home after almost 2 years away he worked largely in the civil sector where he held several Permanent Secretary Positions in various ministries; including transport and communications, works and supply; in this sector he was in charge of building Muungushi Village (the complex built to house heads of states, that attended the Commonwealth Heads of State and Government Summit which Zambia hosted). Eventually he held his highest position in the Civil Service as Secretary to the Cabinet between 1994-1995. Other positions he held were in the industrial and Mining Corporation's where he became the executive director dealing with

the transport and communication portfolio. He also chaired several companies in this sector including Zambia Airways where he was involved in a number of dealings which introduced the first DC 10 to the Zambian Airways air fleet. He chaired on the ZESCO (Zambia Electricity Supply Cooperation Limited), TAZARA (Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority), and the INDENI oil refinery boards. In his private life he was a share holder and director of a very successful company called Shonga Steel. This company was involved in the manufacturing of office, kitchen, and school furniture.

On my father's side I also have a successful grandfather called Rupiah Bwezani Banda who is still living and has been the fourth President of Zambia since 2008. Similar to my maternal grandfather were his very humble beginnings. My grandfather was born in 1936 in the town of Gwenda modern day Zimbabwe to Zambian farmers, who went to Zimbabwe to find employment. He was educated in Zambia at schools in the eastern province; in Lusaka he attended Munalu School for his secondary education. He earned a BA in economic history from Lund University in Sweden and became one of the few Zambians to have a University degree at the time of independence. My paternal grandfather just like my maternal grandfather spent most of his life in Public Service, working for the interests of his country in Zambia and around the world. At 27 years old he became Zambia's first Ambassador to the USA, from 1967-1970 he became the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the UN. In 1978 he became Member of Parliament and from then till now he has always been deeply dedicated to improving industry and employment in Zambia, having worked for four years as the General Manager for Namboard (the National Agricultural Marketing Board). In 2006 he was appointed Vice President in Dr. Levy Mwanawasa's government after the President's demise Vice President

Banda became the fourth President of Zambia in 2008 after peaceful elections. As President, my grandfather has dedicated himself to improving Zambia's economy ensuring security, stability, and prosperity for all Zambians. Thus, both my grandfather's positive influences on the political, economic, agricultural and social sectors in Zambia is the reason why I feel that my decision to go back home will not only benefit me, but also benefit my country.

When I return home I want to follow the footsteps of my grandfathers where I hope that my myriad of skills will make the connections that inspire understanding and transform hope into belief. Moreover, I hope that my personal and academic perspectives that I am passionate about cultivating will not only help to identify solutions to the challenges that confront Zambia and Africa; but that would also inspire talented youth such as myself to return home and help Zambia grow economically. My advice to those young women and men who are debating whether to eventually coming home is; we cannot all be politicians, Presidents, and Civil Servants. Instead we can help develop Zambia in our own little way by being good citizens, youth workers, lay Christians, and even good parents; as individually you can effectively contribute albeit in the smallest way to changing the world for the better.



Does it Look Positive

Positive exciting things are definitely taking place in Zambia due to the strong investment and infrastructure policies that government is implementing throughout the country today. These strong policies will not only help develop Zambia but they would also help bring back the lost skill that Zambia has lost in her immigrants, who have decided to leave the country for a better life abroad. ✓

In relation to Zambia's economy, it is said that the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is expected to reach seven percent by the end of 2010, exceeding the projected growth of five percent. This tremendous growth is a product of the increased investment in key productive sectors like commerce and trade. An increase in GDP would not only attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) but it would also reduce poverty significantly. Other factors that contribute to this overwhelmingly positive growth is mining production that has gone up by almost 30 percent due to the steady increase of copper output since 2004; thanks to higher copper prices and the opening of new mines throughout the country. An amazing bumper harvest in maize also contributed to the boost in GDP because Zambia was able to export her maize abroad to countries like Zimbabwe, Malawi and Sudan to name a few. Moreover, Trade and Industry Minister Felix Mutati reported that the investment inflow value of US\$950 million created more than 3,459 jobs in the mining industry, followed by the energy sector which attracted "investment totaling US\$565 million and 199 jobs in the last 10 months" (Times of Zambia). In addition, more investments came from local investors worth US\$353 million in the

last 10 months creating more than 2,424 jobs. With increased investment from foreigners and locals, Zambia's economic prospects ^{could} will make her the bread basket of Southern Africa.

When it comes to business, Zambia seems to be attracting economic giant China, who believes that Zambia is one of the best investment destinations for China in Southern Africa; due to her stable economic environment and her warm hospitality especially in relation to her citizens. Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Li Qiangming said that "his country has invested more than a US\$1 billion in Zambia and created 30,000 jobs for locals" (State house website). These newly locally created jobs are said to improve the living standards of Zambians as more Chinese invest in the country. Furthermore, Chinese investment in Zambia is said to have increased by 106 percent from January to August in 2010. It is also estimated that this number will only increase in the future as "more Chinese companies are expected to invest in hydro electricity, telecommunications, road, and in the water sectors" (State house website).

In the health sector it is said that "about 175,000 deaths from HIV/AIDS related illnesses were prevented last year as a result of the provision of free antiretroviral treatment (ART) to Zambians" (Lusaka Times). Health minister Kapembwa Simbao has said "that the country has recorded tremendous gains in reversing the trends of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and mitigating its impact on society" (Lusaka Times). These positive impacts on society are due to the provision of free ART in most hospitals across the country, which consequently helped prevent the large numbers of people dying of HIV related illnesses. Since 2008 "government had put over 300,000 people on ART, 230,000 of whom were children" (Lusaka Times); furthermore government is also said to have recruited 4,000 new doctors and nurses in the health sector

since President Banda took over. Moreover since Government has provided ART's to 89% of the
Zambian people suffering with AIDS; more than 50% of the Zambian population now know their
HIV/AIDS status, and more than 1,500 men in Ndola have undergone circumcision, as a way to
minimize the spread of HIV/AIDS.

In ~~relation to~~ the Diaspora state house in Zambia launched a survey which was designed
to find out more about Zambians living abroad. It is said that the results of this survey will help
provide policy makers with information that will aid the formation of effective national
development strategies. Moreover, it will serve Zambian individuals living abroad by a)
providing an opportunity for individual Diaspora members, in various geographic locations to
share relevant information. B) Improve information sharing among and between members of
the Zambian Diaspora, c) provide opportunities for the Zambian Diaspora to contribute to
national development and d) creating a foundation for the development of future programs
and the promotion of policies that make it easier, more convenient, and less expensive. If
Zambians abroad do not take advantage of the positive economic signs, investment growth,
and positive health policies that are taking place in Zambia today. One would not only lose out
on such great economic and social opportunities being presented, but also on a great historical
moment when one of the poorest nations was able to efficiently turn its self around and
become one of the best success stories of its time. Through strong policies, an educated and
healthy population and great leadership, the drive, skill, and passion of our lost immigrants will
definitely set the path for a brighter future.

Need a Comma here

Great!

Personally I believe that "return migration" which is defined by the International Organization for Migration as "the process of a person returning to his/her country of origin or habitual residence" (2004), is a positive process that would bring with it development and new ideas. This is because; innovation is brought to a country by the return of its immigrants because when immigrants return home they bring back with them new ideas, values and ambitions of the host country. Moreover, "they view themselves as innovators believing that the skills they have acquired abroad, as well as their savings, will have turned them into carriers of change" (Knipe, Davies, 7). Furthermore, it could also be argued that return migration brings with it conservatism, as remittances and savings are channeled to the home country.

"Conservative returners do not aim at changing the social context they had left before migrating, instead they help preserve it" (Knipe, Davies, 7). These advantages are the very reasons why the Zambian government should make changes to the social, political, and economic frameworks of the country, so that it looks attractive enough to get back Zambia's lost skill.

My first policy recommendation for ensuring return migration is the capitalization of peace in Zambia. As mentioned earlier, many African immigrants leave their country of origin because of the civil wars that take place. However, Zambia is unique in that the country since independence has not had any type of war. That is why I believe that Zambia should use its "peace" as a marketing tool, and attract as much investment into the country as possible. Foreigners are mostly attracted to peaceful resource rich countries, because these countries not only provide profit but they also provide stability. If Zambia was able to woo a majority of

This word was misspelled
reache
association

Wrong word
Capitalization

investors, the county's economy will look attractive both internally and externally. Hopefully this external beauty would lead to a large number of immigrants flocking back home.

My second recommendation would be for the Zambian government to look more into remittances. As mentioned, remittances play a focal part in development because they act as a source of income for some family members; as they pay for school fees, rent, clothes and even help in starting new businesses. Whilst doing my research I found it very difficult to get any information on Zambia and remittances, because not enough research on behalf of the Zambian government has been done on this important subject. In 2009, it was estimated that remittances sent by migrants totaled \$414 billion of course some countries have more of their citizens abroad compared to Zambia. However, countries such as Cameroon have caught on to the importance of remittances fairly quick. This has resulted in "Cameroonians in the Diaspora paying for imports from their savings, and when the merchandise is sold, the repayment is made in Cameroon in the form of putting up a building, making monthly payments to the family in Cameroon, or carrying out some other project the diasporan wants" (Sikod, Tchouassi, 52). Imagine if encouraged by the government what remittances could do for the development of basic social services and infrastructure in Zambia. It could do wonders as the money could help build schools, libraries, sport complexes for the youth, parks and even provide books for government schools.

My third recommendation is making the job market in Zambia look attractive. From my questionnaire I found that immigrants abroad were reluctant to return home "if they would not be able to help their families who had remained behind" (Knipe, Davies 16). Not being able to

return with cars and money to build a house proves difficult because, after being independent abroad it would be demeaning for the immigrants to depend on family members for housing. For many *Zambian and African immigrants* the main point of working so hard is to retire and have a house in the country of origin. Thus, the government has to do everything in their power to make sure that there are jobs open for immigrants so they too can have an opportunity to earn some sort of wage when they return. As most immigrants tend to belong to the highly skilled niche of doctors and nurses, I think that the government has to ensure that they get higher wages and work in adequately equipped environments. The government through the ministry of health could come up with a separate wage for doctors; I feel that doctors are the most important part of a country's health system therefore we should take care of them and ensure they too can support their families. For nurses I would recommend better living conditions for them, thus government can also ensure set housing complexes, and apartments. Better pay should also be considered as nurses are much needed in the country for child birth, tending to the sick, shadowing a doctor at times, and for health education especially when it comes to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

My Final recommendation would be for government and returning immigrants to work together and create programs especially directed towards returnees. This program should include ways in which the returning immigrant could easily assimilate back into the *Zambian* population. Ways to how government could reserve land for returning immigrants so they don't feel left out in *Zambia's* economic developments, and also ways that immigrants can easily assimilate into *Zambia's* job market. Although the *Zambian* government is doing the best it can to work with immigrants, they should not forget that immigrants bring money, new ideas,

conservatism, and development back to the country of origin. Therefore, immigrants and government must work hand in hand to ensure that everything is being done for the development of Zambia. Thus, I urge all you immigrants to return home, and explore the many developments of the newly energized Zambia.

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