THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ECONOMIC POLICIES ON THE GRASSROOTS FROM 2010 TO 2014: A CASE OF WARD 16 CHIKANGA, MUTARE

A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

BY

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NOVEMBER 2014
## RELEASE FORM

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<td>The Effectiveness of Economic Policies at the Grassroots Level From 2010 to 2014: A Case of Ward 16, Chikanga, Mutare</td>
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<td><strong>DEGREE TITLE</strong></td>
<td>Bachelor of Science Honours Degree In Peace and Governance</td>
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DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to my mother and father for their unrivalled support and their continued urge to see me achieve and reach the best of my potential. To mom and dad, I would like to thank you for your prayers, you are very much appreciated.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my profound gratitude to God for helping me through this project. Special mention also goes to the Gwangwawa family who continued to offer me priceless support during my stay in Bindura. I would also like to thank my supervisor, Mr. Makwerere for his unwavering guidance, of which without him this research project would be no mean feat to complete. Many thanks also go to the officials in the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing in Manicaland and to the participants in this study.

I would like to thank my family for the financial and moral support they rendered during my time of undertaking this project.
ABSTRACT

This study investigated the effectiveness of economic policies on the grassroots citizens in Chikanga, Mutare for the period 2010 to 2014. This was done in a bid to suggest ways to enhance policy formulation as well as implementation that is sensitive to grassroots expectations and initiatives. The study used the qualitative research paradigm. Questionnaires and key informant interviews were used as instruments to collect data. The study used a sample of 20 participants comprising of 17 local grassroots citizens and 3 key informants. Purposive sampling was used to select the residents as well as the key informants. The data collected was presented in tabular forms, pie chart and bar graph. The results show that most of the government’s economic policies implementation cascades down to the grassroots. There is however lack of awareness on the grassroots citizens on the economic policies that are being implemented in their areas. The study also established that the grassroots citizens are facing challenges in accessing a basic standard of living with most citizens generating insufficient income. Political marginalisation was also cited as a stumbling block for effective policy implementation at the grassroots. There is also a wide pool of skills at the grassroots that if properly utilised can enhance economic growth.
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### ACRONYMS

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>FDI</td>
<td>Foreign Direct Investment</td>
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<tr>
<td>I.E.E.P</td>
<td>Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Programme</td>
</tr>
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<td>IEEP</td>
<td>Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBPM</td>
<td>Mutare Board and Paper Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYIEE</td>
<td>Ministry of Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZANU PF</td>
<td>Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front</td>
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<td>ZIMASSET</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation</td>
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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Background to the study

The City of Mutare is located in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe next to the border with Mozambique; it is the capital of Manicaland Province. The geographic location of Mutare makes it a strategic component of the Zimbabwean economy. Mutare is surrounded by areas with significant mineral deposits such as gold in the Penhalonga Area. There was also what can aptly be described as the biggest find in the economic history of Zimbabwe, the Chiadzwa Diamond fields which lie close to the City of Mutare. Mutare is also a centre of the timber industry in Zimbabwe which was the main backbone of the economic activities in the City.

The City of Mutare was once a thriving industrial hub with various manufacturing firms offering employment to the residents. From paper manufacturing Mutare Board and Paper Mills, textile giant Karina Textiles, car assembly concern, Quest Motors, food processor, Cains Foods, glass manufacturing Fuselite amongst others, Mutare’s contribution towards the economy of Zimbabwe was indeed unquestionable. However the fortunes of the City took a dive particularly from the 2000 to 2008, the City saw a slump in its industrial sector as well as prevalent deterioration of its infrastructure (roads, public lighting, buildings etc) and service delivery (provision of adequate clean water, refuse collection and works to reduce diseases such as malaria).

The continued slump in the fortunes of the City of Mutare and the deterioration in the livelihoods of the populace can be traced back to the era of the Structural Adjustment Programmes in the early to mid 90’s. Several firms began to implement retrenchments in line with the liberal reforms of the Breton Woods institutions, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (I.M.F). A significant number of the City’s workforce lost their jobs. According to the Zimbabwe Institute (2007), the broad picture at the end of ESAP, which ran from 1991
to 1995, was that the population had been made to bear a heavy social cost with little to show in respect of international competition. The structural reforms had a negative impact on the economy with the majority of the country’s citizens feeling the high cost of living.

The period during the mid 1990’s saw many households experience a rise in the cost of living with some experts attributing this to the neo-liberal reforms instituted by the government on the economy. On the other hand, according to Mhanda (2011), the government had failed to address the issue of demobilisation and reintegration which gave rise to the growing disenchantment within the former liberation war veterans. The move by the government to grant packages to the war veterans in November 1997 had ripple effects to the rest of the nation. Most of the population constituting the war veterans association were significantly the grassroots and the sudden cash inflows elevated many to acquire a raised standard of living. However in the long run, according to Mhanda (2011), the economy of the nation took a turn for the worst. This however had negative implications, there were price increases and continued job cuts, a situation that led to the widespread disenchantment within the grassroots. In 1998, there were widespread mass protests by the grassroots owing to the continued deterioration in the standard of living. The residents of the City of Mutare were not spared from the changing socio-economic impacts that were obtaining in the country. Many residents lost their jobs and were failing to make ends meet.

The land reform programme of 2001 can be cited as one of the factors that led to changes in the livelihoods of the grassroots. According Scoones I et al (.2010), the fact that there was land imbalance in Zimbabwe between the white minority and the majority blacks is unquestionable. Therefore land reform was a necessary component in Zimbabwe’s history. According to Mutanda D (2012), the land reform programme as an economic policy by the government had some implications on the grassroots structures. The City of Mutare is surrounded by plantations, farms and ranches, which provided raw materials for its industries. A significant
number of the city’s population was in one way or another employed in these farms or relied from produce from these farms for the sustenance of their livelihoods. Some critics argue that the land reform programme added to the growing unemployment rate in the country, Mutare included.

In response to punitive measures slapped on the country by the United States of America and the European Union, the government adopted the Look East Policy in 2003. This saw the Zimbabwe focusing on the East, particularly to Asian countries as the key economic partners rather than the west. According to Sachikonye (2012), the look east policy was an attempt by the Zimbabwean government to counter the loss of Western investment. The government sought to capitalise on the rise of Asian economic powers which have requisite financial capital and technical expertise.

The Look East Policy saw the influx of Chinese products in the local economy as well as Chinese labour. Mutare like many cities in Zimbabwe grew vocal of the presence of the dubious Chinese products as well as unfair labour practices such as long working hours and workplace harassment, thereby adding a strain to the livelihoods of the local citizens (Saungweme 2013). To further worsen the situation, the Chinese also ventured into small scale businesses, therefore stifling the efforts of the local citizens.

The year 2008 proved to be the most telling in the lives of the citizens of Mutare. According to Mlambo and Raftopoulos (2010), the Zimbabwean citizens in 2008 had to further contend with a deepening governance and human rights crisis in which they were subjected to endless intimidation and violence by government agents and supporters of the ruling party for supporting the opposition during the March election. During this period, all sectors of the economy had virtually been shattered. Most schools in the city of Mutare had closed; the
healthcare sector was malfunctioning with outbreaks of communicable diseases such as typhoid and cholera.

Towards the end of the year 2008, the Government adopted the use of multi currency system as the Zimbabwean currency had virtually become worthless. The United States dollar and the South African Rand became the most used currencies in the country. According to Gukume (2011), the introduction of the use of multi currencies in the economy drastically improved the situation in the Zimbabwean economy. There were steady provision of basic goods and services in the economy, a situation that had become rare. Many households in Mutare could now afford to have at least two meals a day as compared to the 2008 era. By 2009, all government entities and departments had become fully functional with teachers, nurses and the rest of the civil service back to work.

However the grassroots remain faced with a plethora of challenges in as much as improving their livelihoods is concerned. Though there was a significant rise in the performance of the economy, most residents of the city of Mutare remain unemployed. According to Robertson (2012), the country’s Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment policy to a greater extent is scaring away foreign direct investment. According to Katsande (2013), most industries in Zimbabwe were struggling, in Mutare firms that had remained operational faced liquidity crunch and closed shop. Such firms as Karina Textiles became liquidated in 2009. To some of the local residents, the introduction of the use of the multi currency is a blessing in disguise. The local economy had become accustomed to price distortions and the practice was adopted into the multi currency era.

1.1 Statement of the problem

The availability of important resources such as diamonds, timber and gold within the vicinity of Mutare and the announcement of economic policies to stimulate economic recovery are
supposed to be transforming the livelihoods of the citizens but the majority of the grassroots are continuing to face hardships and the growing unemployment scourge. It is against this backdrop that the researcher was motivated to assess the economic policies, to establish if they are stimulus enough for development and the provision of effective service delivery to the grassroots structures.

1.2 General Aim

This study sought to establish the impacts of economic policies in Zimbabwe to the general populace as well as contribute towards the crafting of grassroots sensitive programmes in as much as provision of sound service delivery and development is concerned.

1.3 Objectives of the study

- To explore the economic policies being implemented in Mutare District
- To examine the socio-economic impact of the economic policies at the grassroots level.
- To explore challenges and opportunities for enhancing the effectiveness of these policies.

1.4 Research questions

- What are the economic policies that are being used in Mutare District?
- What is the impact of the economic policies at the grassroots level?
- What are the major challenges and opportunities for enhancing the effectiveness of the economic policies to the grassroots?

1.5 Significance of the study

There have been so many intellectual discussions, researches and findings regarding to policies affecting the grassroots structures. This research generated complementary findings as well as added on to the public policy theoretical contributions so as to enhance public policy literature.
The research will benefit individuals, organisations, local authorities as well central governments.

1.6 Research assumptions
The researcher assumed that policy announcements whether on a national or local scale have a direct bearing on the livelihoods of the grassroots. The researcher also assumed that all policies that are formulated are intended for the benefit of the grass root populace.

1.7 Delimitations
Even though the study related to structures and set up in other countries, it was limited in greater detail to the policy process in Zimbabwe from the period from 2010 to 2014. The major focus was on events that happened on the local populace whether these economic policies improved the livelihoods of the citizens or did not have a major impact within the city of Mutare.

1.8 Limitations
This study was limited by resource constraints to extensively cover a wider location. The study was only carried out in Ward 16 of the high density suburb of Chikanga in Mutare, which might make it difficult to generalize the findings to the whole Zimbabwean set up.

1.9 Definition of terms
Grassroots—these can be defined as the ordinary people as distinct from the active leadership of an organisation, or government. These are people or society at a local level rather than at the centre of a major political activity (N.F.T.P 2009).

Poverty—This can be defined as the state of having little or no money and few material possessions. Absolute poverty refers to the deprivation of basic human needs which commonly includes food, water, sanitation, clothing, shelter, healthcare and education. (Poverty Reduction
Poverty is also a state of deprivation and powerlessness, where the poor are exploited and denied participation in decision-making in matters that intimately affect them.

**Policy** - According to Dye (2005), policy can be defined as a purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with a problem or matter of concern. Policies regulate societal behaviour and extract, allocate and distribute resources to different segments of society within the economy.

**Corruption** - This can be defined as lack of integrity and digressing from lawful norms by individuals usually through the violation of duty. Corruption also means inducing bribery by those who seek to gain from those in public or private institutions (Sachikonye 2012).

**Economic Empowerment** - These are mechanisms and initiatives that are granted to those in disadvantaged spheres of the economy. This can be achieved by conferring power to the disadvantaged as well as access to critical resources (Robertson 2012).

### 1.10 Chapter Summary

This first chapter presented an overview of the study. The chapter presented the background, problem statement, and purpose of the study, research questions and research objectives, significance of the study, delimitations and limitations of the study and lastly the operational definition of terms. This research explored the impacts of the economic policies being initiated by the Zimbabwean government to the general citizens and assesses their livelihoods against such a background. The next chapter will review relevant literature of studies that were carried out to investigate economic policies and the lives of the grassroots.
CHAPTER TWO

Literature Review

2.0 Introduction

This second chapter presents a comprehensive review and discussion of related theoretical propositions and empirical research findings on the topic under study. The chapter commences by describing the concept of policy formulation and how it affects the grassroots structures. The theory, which this research adopted, in this case the Political Systems Analysis Theory by David Easton is going to be discussed.

2.1 Conceptual framework - Policy

According to Anderson (2003), policy is defined as a relatively stable purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with a problem or matter of concern. Public policies are those developed by governmental bodies and officials. Non-governmental actors and factors may of course influence public policy development. The special characteristics of public policies stem from them being formulated by what political scientist David Easton called “authorities” in a political system, namely elders, paramount chiefs, executives, legislators, judges, administrators, councillors, monarchs and the like. According to Easton, these are the persons who engage in the daily affairs of a political system, are recognised by most members of the system as having responsibility for these matters and take actions that are accepted as binding most of the time by most of the members so long as they act within the limits of their roles.

According to Dye (2005), public policies are central instruments through which the “fundamental choices” of the political authorities are executed. Policies regulate societal behaviour and extract, allocate and distribute resources to different segments of society within
the economy. Soundly crafted national public policies provide feasible channels through which governments communicate and respond to citizen demands.

2.1.1 Economic policy

This can be defined as actions that are taken by a government to influence its economy. Economic policy is usually comprised of various measures through which the government seeks to influence the overall economy. According to Barker (2010), there are three methods through which a government can typically control the economy that is the allocative, stabilisation, and distributive functions. The allocative function refers to how much of the government’s budget will be allocated to a certain project. Allocating funds from taxes also allows the government to create jobs or public venues. The stabilisation function is used to stabilize a nation’s economy through monetary controls like interest rates. The distributive function under economic policy refers to the different levels of economic burden that each sector must bear. Government may also regulate business and industry, so as to prevent monopolies and encourage competition in the economy as part of its economic policy.

It must also be noted that economic policies are a result of the political economy. According to Chilcote (2000), political economy is the interplay between economic systems, such as capitalism, socialism and communism. Political economy analyzes how public policy is created and implemented. Political economy analyses the competition for finite resources and power in which dominant groups determine which courses of action will give the beneficial results, and what the probability of those results being reached are.

2.2 Theoretical framework

David Easton’s Political Systems Theory

This research is inspired by the Systems analysis theory by David Easton (1965) which analyses the political environment and the factors that lead to the crafting and implementation
of policies, the impact of the policies as well as well as the necessary support or rejection of such policies by the populace, the grassroots included. According to Easton’s Systems analysis, there are distinctly five (5) stages that explain the political system in relation to the formulation of policies.

1. Changes in the social or physical environment surrounding a political system produce “demands” and “supports” for action or the status quo directed as “inputs” towards the political system through political behaviour.

2. The demands and supporting groups stimulate competition in a political system, leading to decisions or outputs directed at some aspects of the surrounding social or physical environment.

3. After a decision or output is made (for example a specific policy), it interacts with its environment, and if it produces change in the environment, these are outcomes.

4. When a new policy interacts with its environment, outcomes may generate new demands or supports and groups in support or against the policy (feedback) or a new policy on some related matter.

5. Feedback, leads back to stage one (1), forming a never ending cycle.

Therefore this research sought to critically analyse if the economic policies that are being implemented at the grassroots level conform to Easton’s analysis of the political system. The “outputs” in the view of Easton are the policies; therefore it is pragmatic to measure the impacts of the outputs to the demands of the environment which encompass the grassroots.

2.3 Economic policies at the grassroots level

Grassroots based economic policies have been integrated into various governance structures across the world. In a study in India by the National Foreign Trade Policy (NFTP) from 2009 to 2009, the general observation was that though government policies in India incorporate the
needs and demands of the grass root people, there is no proper implementation and this was as a lack of government officials in disseminating the information to the grass root people. A similar study was conducted in Bangladesh by Mohammed (2012). The study was purely qualitative and found out that even after independence of Bangladesh, when decentralisation efforts have been taken, the poor and the marginalised sections such as women, peasants were characterised by economic, social and political backwardness and have not been involved in the decision making process.

It is of paramount significance to identify key policies that have been introduced in Zimbabwe that are shaping the livelihoods of the populace. In 2001 Zimbabwe embarked on the Fast Track Land Reform Programme in a bid to address the colonial imbalances and unequal land distribution patterns. In a study conducted in Makokoba and Mzilikazi suburbs in Bulawayo in August 2009 by Moyo (2010) using the snowballing qualitative method targeting a total of 8 households in a sample of 61 households. The study observed that the land reform programme managed to reconnect some urban based low income earners and the urban poor with the land thereby redressing what land policies in Zimbabwe had failed to do since 1980.

According to Moyo (2010), since 2000 urban households especially those in high density areas proportionally became poorer due to the deteriorating macro-economic environment characterised by hyperinflation, negative Gross Domestic Product growth and shrinking formal job opportunities. Such an increase in urban poverty made urban food insecurity primarily a problem of access by the urban poor. These findings concurs with the views of Scoones at al (2010), who saw the land reform as a beneficial policy that addresses historical land imbalances. According to Moyo (2010), those with access to land for food production under the A1 model partly addressed poverty reduction among some urban poor and low income groups. With the decline of urban income advantage at the height of Zimbabwe’s economic, political and social crisis between 2002 and early 2009, the study observed that far more food
was brought in from A1 farms, which greatly enhanced urban residents vested interest in maintaining their social and economic links to the farming communities.

The general perspective from Moyo’s (2010) study was that farm ownership has positive impacts on beneficiary households. The study observed that by farming their own food, urban A1 beneficiaries are therefore saving money. Further economic benefits are enjoyed by those households transferring surplus farm produce to urban areas for sell. The research’s overall observation was that access to land has transformed livelihoods of some urban based A1 beneficiaries of the Land Reform Programme.

In response to the restrictive sanctions imposed on the country by the United States of America and the European Union, the Zimbabwean government introduced the Look East Policy in 2003. A study was conducted by Mvutungayi (2010) on the impact of the Chinese in Zimbabwe. The study adopted a qualitative research methodology in both data and collection analysis, making use of various sources of unstructured information and content analysis. The study observed that the presence of China in Zimbabwe threw a lifeline into the disintegrating Zimbabwean economy. However, according to Mvutungayi (2010), the continual penetration of cheap Chinese products in the local market received numerous criticisms from the consumers and competing industries in Zimbabwe. To express their displeasure, Zimbabweans coined the term “zhingzhongs” in reference to various Chinese products.

The study by Mvutungayi (2010), observed that the Chinese presence in the local markets added a strain to the livelihoods of the grassroots. Chinese competition in the industrial sector added to the further collapse of these industries. The study observed that, with the difficulties associated with the influx of the Chinese, most local operators opted to close down their businesses or downsize operations. This contributed to the retrenchment of large numbers of workers in various industries hence aggravating unemployment in the country.
One of the most transforming economic policy to the livelihoods of the grassroots introduced in Zimbabwe, is the use of the Multi Currency System in 2009. Against a background of deteriorating socio-economic standards in the country and a virtually worthless currency, the adoption of the use of mainly the United States dollar had far reaching impacts on the populace. A study was conducted on the impacts of dollarization on the Zimbabwean economy (2013) by Sikwila using the analytical qualitative approach through the comparison of economic outcomes before and after dollarization. The study sought to explore the general effects of the introduction of the dollarization system in the political, social and economic spheres.

The findings of the study by Sikwila (2013) observed that dollarization managed to stabilize the unrest that had crippled the country. After the introduction of the US dollar as the official currency in Zimbabwe, the consumer price index was substantially brought down leading to an inflation rate that remained within single digits between 2010 and 2012. The result of the study indicates that dollarization resulted in macro-economic stability and economic growth and therefore Zimbabwe need to maintain dollarization so as to preserve the buoyant economic growth.

One of the macro-economic policies that were initiated in Zimbabwe is the Indigenisation and economic Empowerment Programme of 2009. A study carried out by Chowa (2013) to assess the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Programme (IEEP) used an analytical survey approach based on 164 questionnaire responses from Harare and Bulawayo. The research also utilised the purposive sampling technique using 10 detailed interviews made up of 2 key informant interviews from senior government officials, captains of industry, economists, and community leaders.

The findings of the study by Chowa (2013), observed that the majority of the participants were aware of the IEEP but 47% of the participants lacked the specifics relating to the opportunities
presented by the policy and how they can benefit. There is consensus view on the IEEP as a positive move to correct the effects of years of oppression and marginalisation that caused the disparities and economic gaps that are prominent between the black majority and the white minority in Zimbabwe. From the key informants’ perspective, the majority of indigenous Zimbabweans have no access to financial capital to pay for the 51% equity that has to be acquired from the targeted firms.

According to Chowa (2013), some youths who had submitted bankable projects but had not accessed funding began to view the IEEP with scepticism criticising the Affirmative Action Group, whose lobbying enriched only a few individuals who had access to the centre of power. The researcher concludes that economic empowerment programmes are necessary and important. There is need for the government to address the general welfare of the people by improving service delivery, revival of industry and formal employment creation.

2.4 Socio-economic impacts of economic policies

According to the Dulani, Mattes and Logan (2013), evidence suggesting that African countries were registering economic growth rates globally led many to predict that the continent is on the verge of a development renaissance. While there was compelling evidence in support of Africa’s strong economic performance, questions about whether this growth is contributing to the reduction of poverty remain highly contested. From their study, using a survey method in over 20 African countries, Dulani et al (2013) observed that relatively high economic growth rates, averaging 4.8% per annum over the last decade have constituted to corresponding declines in the proportion of Africans living below the poverty datum line from 51% in 2005 to 39% in 2012. The data reveal that significant numbers of Africans failed to meet their most basic needs and many of them fell short on a regular basis. It was observed that just under a majority experience at least occasional shortages of clean water (49%) and 4 in 10 go without
cooking fuel. The most commonly cited form of deprivation was access to cash income, with three quarters (76%) reporting that they went without cash at least once in a year.

A study was conducted to ascertain the impacts of economic policies on the livelihoods of the Zimbabwean citizens and the prevalence of the informal economy by Ndiweni, Mashonganyika, Ncube and Dube (2014). The study was conducted in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe’s second largest city and once an industrial giant in Southern African region, particularly focusing on Entumbane Bus Terminus, an area that has a lot of economic activities. Data was collected using the interview method utilising the qualitative method of purposive sampling as well as the use of document analysis. According to John Robertson, a Zimbabwean economist, the country’s unemployment rate remains very high at more than 70% with less than 900,000 people formally employed out of the population of more than 13 million people. This is in part influenced by inconsistent policies on the part of government that scares away foreign direct investment.

According to Ndiweni et al (2014), high poverty have intensified in urban areas and this has facilitated the mushrooming of the informal economy such as vending, operating tuck-shops and various micro enterprises as an adaptation to failing economies According to Kachembere (2013), it is estimated that more than 20,000 people have been pushed out of employment after nearly 100 companies either scaled down or completely shut down in Bulawayo over the last few years. Economic revival in Bulawayo was taking a very slow rate. From their findings, Ndiweni et al (2014) observed that the informal economy provided employment as 50% of the participants were employees and 50% were owners of the businesses. The study noted that it was difficult to come up with real figures of the people employed in the informal economy because most studies assumed that the informal sector is the preserve of the poor. It also observed that many formal sector employees had joined the informal sector as an income supplementary and or income diversification strategy due to the prevailing economic situation.
Studies were also conducted to ascertain the impacts of the policy shift by the Zimbabwean government, in this case the adoption of the multi currency system, both on the economy and the citizens. According to the Parliament of Zimbabwe Research Document (2013), the Zimbabwean economy performed positively during the period from February 2009 to June 2013. The introduction of the multi currency system in 2009 brought about price stability thereby helping to suppress the rate of inflation which had sky rocketed to alarming levels of over 230 million percent.

The Poverty Reduction Forum Trust (P.R.F.T) (2011) conducted a study to ascertain the levels of poverty within the grassroots structures as a result of the dwindling economic performance in Zimbabwe. The research adopted the quantitative and the qualitative research paradigm and was conducted in Mutare with participants drawn from Sakubva and Chikanga high density suburbs. The study showed that the majority of the grassroots residents live in rented accommodation, with too many people sharing space that is barely affordable. From the study, 41% of the participants engaged in piece jobs, with trading cited as the second frequently cited mode of generating income. The recurring theme that emerged from the data was that the residents were struggling to meet their basic needs. The residents noted that the multi currency system, though it had stabilised the economy, was harder to generate income as it was accompanied by a rising cost of living, shrinking job market and less business activity in the informal sector.

Gukurume (2011) conducted a study focusing on the nexus between dollarization and service delivery in the City of Masvingo and particularly focused on the high density suburb of Mucheke. The study was purely qualitative in nature with the use of in depth interviews to understand the narratives of the local residents on the quality and quantity of service delivery being offered. The researcher also used transects walks and secondary sources. The study noted that despite the dollarization of the economy, most grassroots residents continued to experience
sub-standard service delivery, one of which was the provision and delivery of clean piped water.

The study by Gukurume (2011), also comparatively analysed the impacts of the dollarization of the economy as to the impacts to the various social classes. The researcher observed that there have been marked disparities in access to sanitation and solid waste facilities for different income and residential areas. From the findings, it was evident that waste collection services are geographically skewed, with higher and middle income residential areas being better serviced as compared to low income residential areas. According to Munzwa and Jonga (2010), low income communities which constitute the majority of the grassroots have always experienced a long and protracted process of perpetual disenfranchisement in as far as social service delivery is concerned. According to Gukurume (2011), local authorities are failing to justify poor service delivery as residents are now paying in hard currency (foreign currency).

2.5 Challenges and opportunities for effective policies at grassroots

The Government of Zimbabwe has cited the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment programme as a pro poor and people centred policy that aims to change and transform the livelihoods of the citizens. However, according to John Robertson (2012), the indigenisation policy is riddled with a lot of challenges and limitations, which instead of empowering the local populace is adding further strain to their livelihoods. In a study of the overall economy of Zimbabwe using documents, figures and published statistics (qualitative research design) in relation to the Indigenisation and Empowerment policy, Sibanda (2013), observed that implementation of the indigenisation policy can be viewed as a major cause of the slow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The study notes that Zimbabwe is in urgent need of FDI, however by 2012, FDI was subdued largely due to negative perceptions amid indigenisation and empowerment laws.
According to the Zimbabwe Investment Authority, the slow down to FDI has been generally attributed to the perception of the indigenisation policy, aggressive manner in which it is implemented as well as the concerns over property rights, all increasing the country’s risk profile, making it unfriendly to investors. According to Sibanda (2013), by 2012 most companies had adopted a wait and see approach with the hope that there will be changes to the policy framework. The perception originated from the view that indigenisation processes threatened company seizures similar to the land reform programme and this saw the massive selling of shares resulting in the market experiencing thin trading volumes with only blue-chip counters dominating. It can be noted that this had adverse effects as it spiraled down to the ordinary man on the street as the liquidity crunch affects all sectors of the economy.

From the study on the economy by Sibanda (2013), the indigenisation and empowerment framework made it difficult for state companies and other public entities to attract meaningful investment from potential partners. The policy can be argued to have increased the country’s risk profile, causing investors to turn elsewhere where conditions are more assuring and friendly. The researcher cited the case of the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) which was reportedly failing to secure serious investment to develop two power stations worth US$3 billion that could ease power problems bedevilling economic growth. According to Robertson (2012), these moves decisively undermined any hope of business expansion, job creation, export revenue growth, made the country competitive or improved revenue flows to the mainstream economy.

However there are other scholars who see widespread opportunities from the economic policies that have been implemented in Zimbabwe. According to Moyo’s (2010) study on livelihoods after land reform programme, there is an indication that different groups of the urban poor and low income earners (informal market traders, unemployed, lowly paid industrial workers, civil servants, war veterans, pensioners), regardless of political affiliation were beneficiaries under
the A1 Model. The study observed that there was economic empowerment, with the land reform programme reconnecting some urban based low income earners and the urban poor with the land thereby redressing what land policies in Zimbabwe had failed to do since 1980.

2.6 Chapter summary

This chapter outlined the theoretical and conceptual framework that will inform the study. Available literature on the effects of economic policies on the grassroots have highlighted that the policy announcements by the government has not helped much as the majority of the local citizens are still wallowing in poverty. Empirical studies have proved that there are a lot of studies done on the effects of economic policies to the grassroots. The next chapter will articulate the research paradigm used in this study, the population sample as well as data analysis methods.
CHAPTER THREE

Research Methodology

3.0 Introduction
This research investigated the effectiveness of economic policies on the grassroots citizens, in this particular case the residents of Mutare urban. In order to carry out this study, interviews of the local citizens as well interviews of the key informants were be utilised. The overall aim was to establish the phenomena in as much as realisation of better standards of living was concerned.

3.1 Research paradigm/ philosophy
In carrying out this research, the qualitative research method of data collection was used to gauge the impacts of the policies on the citizens. According to Creswell (2012), qualitative research aims at gaining a deep understanding of human behaviour rather than surface description within a population. Qualitative research lets meaning emerge from the participants, is more flexible as it can adjust to the setting. The concepts, data collection tools and methods in qualitative research can as well be adjusted as the research progresses. Qualitative research strives to achieve a better understanding by using firsthand experience, quotations of actual conversations as well as truthful reporting. Therefore the qualitative research method is suitable for this study as it is exploratory and explanatory in nature.

3.2 Research design
Gorad (2013) defines a research design as a logical model of proof that guides the investigation in the various stages of research. A research design is also a systemic plan to study a problem. The research employed the case study of Ward 16 Chikanga, Mutare Urban. The researcher chose to use the case study approach as it provides with richer and greater depth of data than
can be found through other research designs. According to Thomas (2011), ‘case studies are analyses of persons, events, decisions, periods, projects, policies, institutions or other systems that are studied holistically by one or more methods’. In the process, case studies allows for the collection of a lot of detail that is difficult to achieve if using other research designs. Thomas (2011) notes that case studies help to adapt ideas and produce novel hypothesis that can be used for later consultation.

3.3 Population

Creswell (2012), defines a research population as the total collection of elements in a study. A population can also be defined as a total universe from which the sample will be selected from. The population of the study was drawn from Chikanga High Density suburb of Mutare. The population consisted of 2000 residents as well as 3 senior government officials, from the Ministry of Local Government (D.A’s Office), the Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The study also consisted of participants from the Mutare City Council as well as the United Mutare Residents Association.

3.4 Sample population

The sample population was drawn from Chikanga High Density Suburb Ward 16. The suburb consists of more than 10 000 residents in total. The sample population comprised of 20 residents as well as 5 key informants from the government and residents associations. The researcher invited the views of the grassroots citizens, government officials and the civil society (residents associations). The aim of the research was to ascertain the effectiveness of economic policies to the local citizens.
3.5 Sampling techniques

As it was impossible to gather data from the whole population due to financial costs, the researcher used a representative sample and this reduced the costs that may have affected the research. Scheaffer et al (1996) defines sampling as the process of systematically selection of cases for inclusion in a research project. The sample also made the study manageable as opposed to engaging the whole population.

The researcher used Purposive sampling, which is defined by Fraenkel (2010) as when a researcher uses his own judgement to select a sample (judgemental sampling). This type of sampling was used to select people in the community as well as those who are specially qualified to assist in the investigation. According to Gorad (2013), purposive sampling offers the researcher with liberty to pick people who he or she thinks will deliver the best information in order to satisfy the research objectives. The researcher used purposive sampling to select 20 local grassroots citizens as well as 3 government officials, 1 council official an 1 residents’ association representative. The use of purposive sampling enabled the researcher to focus on particular characteristics of a population that are of interest, in this case the livelihoods of the citizens as a result of economic policies being initiated and this helped in answering the research questions.

3.6 Data collection tools

Interview guides were used to prepare for the interviews with the key informants. The interview guides comprised of 7 questions covering key thematic areas according to ther research objectives and research questions. In depth interviews explore the views, experiences, beliefs and or motivations of individuals on specific matters. They provide a deeper understanding of social phenomena and help with detailed insights.
The research also utilised semi structured questionnaires that were used on the local citizens who live in the high density suburb of Chikanga. Semi structured interviews consist of key questions that help to define the areas to be explored and also allows the interviewer or interviewee to diverge in order to pursue an idea or response in more detail. Semi structured interviews allows for the discovery or elaboration of information that is important to participants but may not have been thought of as pertinent.

**3.7 Data presentation and analysis**

Data obtained from the study was tabulated and some of the information was shown through graphical representation of pie charts and bar graphs. Discussion of the findings on the impacts of economic policies to the grassroots structures was categorised according to the research objectives. However, since the objectives are related, themes that emerged from the research were analysed and categorised in relation to the objectives and research questions of the study.

**3.8 Validity and reliability**

Validity refers to the accuracy with which the test fulfils the function that it was designed to achieve. Reliability on the other hand refers to the consistency of data obtained by the same person when retested using an identical test. The participants received the same set of questions phrased in an identical manner thus data yielded was more comparable. With the use of open ended questions on the questionnaire, data acquired was reliable as it was obtained from participants as they felt fit to without being influenced to respond in a predetermined judgement. The study was conducted using the case study approach with key informants interviews and questionnaires being the main instruments. As such these methods have been used in other qualitative studies therefore results from this study will be valid and in relation to other studies.
3.9 Ethical considerations

Before each interview began, the researcher made sure that he explained the purpose of the study to the participants. The permission to carry out the study was obtained from the office of the District Administrator. During the course of the study, the researcher respected the rights of the participants; the participants spoke voluntarily and were not coerced to talk about issues that they were not comfortable with. The interviews were highly sensitive and the researcher observed confidentiality by not presenting the names of participants and informants.

3.10 Chapter summary

This chapter highlighted the methodology that was used by the researcher in the study. The researcher utilised the qualitative research methods so as to gain an in depth insight into the livelihoods of the grassroots citizens in relation to the economic policies that were being formulated. The Chapter also discussed how the participants were selected, how was the data analysed and the ethical considerations. The following chapter will look at data presentation, discussion and analysis of major findings.
CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents, interprets, analyses and discusses data on the effectiveness of economic policies at the grassroots level in Mutare Urban from 2010 to 2014. The chapter will portray the major findings that the researcher discovered in the subject area. In order to achieve a clear understanding of the deliberations, the discussion and analysis in this chapter will be arranged according to the following themes: economic policies being implemented in Mutare Urban, the impacts of the economic policies on the grassroots citizens, challenges of the effective implementation of the economic policies and the opportunities that are presented at the grassroots for economic recovery and development.

4.1 Response rate

Table 4.1 Response rate of grassroots citizens: N=20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Targeted Participants</th>
<th>Actual Participants</th>
<th>Response Rate Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.1 shows the number of participants that completed the questionnaires. Out of a total 20 targeted participants, 3 (15%) failed to partake in the study because of different reasons. Two of the participants did not cite any reason for not completing the interviews whilst one of the participants cited other pressing commitments.
The table above (4.2) shows the response rate of the key informants. The researcher managed to conduct interviews with 3 out of 5 targeted participants, 60% response rate. The other 2 key informants cited pressing commitments on their work and therefore had to cancel the scheduled interviews. Therefore, the researcher managed to conduct interviews with two government ministries’ officials and one local resident’s association official.

**Table 4.3: Participants by sex N=17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
<th>Percentage %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.3 above shows the participants according to sex. 9 out of 17 (53%) of the participants were male and 8 out of 17 participants were female (47%). This may imply that more males are actively involved in the economic activities than females.
Table 4.4: Participants employment distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Employment</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
<th>Percentage %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formal Employment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal Employment</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.4 shows the distribution of employment from the participants. 5 out of the 17 participants were in formal employment, 8 out of 17 participants were in the informal sector whilst 4 out of 17 participants claimed to be unemployed. This shows that the informal sector is dominant in the economy whilst there is a reduction in the formal sector of employment. A significant number of the population is not employed and cannot be categorised as involved in meaningful income generating activities.

Figure 4.1 Participants by Academic Qualifications

![Pie chart showing academic qualifications distribution]

- 0% Primary Level
- 6% Ordinary Level
- 12% Advanced Level
- 12% College Certificate/Diploma
- 70% University Level
Figure 4.1 shows the academic qualifications of the participants. The majority of the participants reached Ordinary Level of education that is 12 out of 17 participants (70%). This could imply that the participants were educated enough to respond to the questionnaires and issues pertaining to economic policies and citizen participation in implementation of such policies.

**Figure 4.2: Participants’ Awareness of Economic Policies at the Local Level**

![Bar chart showing levels of awareness.]

Figure 4.2 shows the levels of awareness of economic policies that are being implemented at the grassroots level from the participants. The majority of the participants, 10 out of 17 (59%) had no idea of the economic policies that are being implemented at the local level. 4 out of 17 participants (23%) were aware of the economic policies and had a clear understanding of their application. The remaining 18 percent of the participants (3 out of 17) either had knowledge of existing economic policies but had no clear understanding of the functions and the implementation of such policies. These participants admitted to having come across economic policies being mentioned in the media but did not know the functions.
4.2 Economic policies at the grassroots

It was observed from the study that the major economic policies that have been implemented in Mutare urban include the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Programme (IEEP), the Land Reform Programme (LRP), the Multicurrency System, the Short Term Economic Recovery Programme (STERP), the local budget of Council and the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET).

The senior official in the District Administrators Office noted that as government all national economic policies cascade down to the local level and the implementation of such policies is a mandate of all government departments and agencies, development partners such as the private sector and Non Governmental Organisations (N.G.O’s) as well as the local citizens. The senior government official said that such economic policies are ongoing and revolving and are not necessarily time limited. According to Easton (1965), policies are a never ending process in which the outcomes (policies) interact with the environment (the citizens) and if the desired outcomes are not in conformity with the inputs and demands of the citizens they revert back to the first stage of stimulating demands. However from the study, it was observed that, the majority of the participants had no idea to the economic policies that were being implemented in their community. The participants noted that they may in one way or another be involved in the economic policies, but there is no clear demarcation or articulation of their roles and tasks in such policies by the policy implementers.

On the other hand a significant number of the participants cited the ZIMASSET as an economic policy that was being talked of more in their community but its effectiveness remained elusive. Asked on their knowledge of economic policies being implemented in their area, one participant noted, “tinongonzwa nezveZimasset mazuva ano mumatv nemaradio asi hatizivi kushanda kwayo” (we are only aware of the Zimasset programme through the media but we are not aware of its functions in our community). Another participant was aware of the local
budget by the City Council as one major policy that was being implemented in the local area of Chikanga High Density Suburb. This corresponds with Gukurume’s (2011) observation that local authorities’ budgets in Zimbabwe are failing to address the needs of local citizens especially those from low income suburbs. This is despite the residents striving so hard to honour their dues to the local authority.

In relation to the above, the participant noted that the Council’s budget was not involving the local citizens much and that it was characterised by high rates which was impacting negatively on the local citizens despite annual budget consultations that are now being held on a ward basis. According to the participant, the input of the citizens seems to be ignored. According to Dye (2005), soundly crafted policies provide feasible channels through which governments communicate and respond to citizen demands. Therefore from the participant’s observation, the authorities are not responding to the citizen demands as what Easton (1965) proposes in his political systems theory.

All the participants admitted to having knowledge of the use of the multi-currency system but were not aware that it was an economic policy. The multi-currency system has been adopted by all sectors of the local community and had brought some level of normalcy and an improvement in the livelihoods of the local community residents as compared to the Zimbabwe dollar era where there were rampant price distortions, basic commodity shortages and ballooning inflation. The study by Sikwila (2013) on the general effects of the introduction of the dollarization system in Zimbabwe noted that the system managed to stabilize the economy and brought with it the availability of basic commodities that had disappeared form the shelves. When asked if they were getting value for money in the multi currency system, one participant said, “mazuva ano zvinhu zvakuwanika mumashops, hakuchisina zvekumira muma queue, tirikutodyawo sadza mazuvaese” (nowadays basic commodities are available in the shops, we no longer spent time in queues and we are now eating sadza everyday).
The official from the District Administrator’s Office noted that the Land Reform Programme (LRP) had some success emanating from it and that the office continue to be overwhelmed by applicants for land especially from those in the urban areas including Mutare. This is as a result from the realisation within the urban grassroots citizens that land is a very crucial resource and thus most urban local citizens of Mutare are moving to adjacent farms to occupy them however as squatters. The official noted that most of the urban citizens who were sceptical about the policy are now realising its full benefits. This observation concurs with that of Moyo’s (2010) study of Land Reform in Bulawayo established that some urban based low income earners and the urban poor managed to improve their food security, and thus generated income and saved money. Some urban citizens were beneficiaries of the land reform programme and were being actively involved in farming activities. However 88% (15 out of 17) of the interviewed participants said that they had not benefitted from the programme.

4.3 Socio-economic impacts of economic policies on the grassroots

The study observed that the economic policies that are being implemented in Mutare Urban are faced with a multiplicity of factors so as to have effective impacts on the grassroots citizens. Most of the interviewed residents admitted that the multi-currency system had brought some level of success in the standards of living, although there are disparities in terms of providing adequate service delivery. This conforms to the results of the study by the Parliament of Zimbabwe (2013) that the introduction of the multi-currency helped to suppress the rate of inflation which had sky rocketed to above 230 million percent. Most residents interviewed were not generating enough income to sustain their livelihoods. On respond to the question on whether they were generating enough income in this multi-currency system as well as the challenges they were facing, one participant said, “I take home around $400. The money is not enough since I pay rent, transport and food. I am now confined to buy second hand clothes as I can no longer afford new ones from the shops” They cite high rentals and high cost of rates
as the major aspects that are taking most of their incomes. Therefore the residents have been condemned to sub standard services and goods such as second hand clothing.

One of the prominent economic policies that were cited by some of the participants was ZIMASSET. All the key informants interviewed had knowledge of the economic blue-print but they all cited a number of challenges for its effective implementation. The majority of the participants said that they had not experienced significant change from the ZIMASSET policy but was only exposed to it through the media. A similar scenario was noted in India by the National Foreign Trade Policy (2009), whose study concluded that lack of interest of the government officials in disseminating information to the grassroots people was a major contributor of government policies failing to deliver desired results.

The government official in the Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment, highlighted that the economic blue-print was based on a cluster system and as such initiatives by local citizens were falling within different clusters. The official cited an example of a carpenter, that by making furniture, he would be fulfilling the cluster on value addition and beneficiation. However on the grassroots citizen, these tasks and efforts are not recognised and this is presenting problems on the effective implementation of the policy.

It was also observed that the economic policies that were being implemented were failing to stimulate significant investment inflows and the majority of the participants were confined to the informal sector or were unemployed. Responding to a question on challenges being faced in achieving a basic standard of living, one participant said, “*hakunamabasa, industry yakavhara, ratovesangozvaro, tirikutongoitawotuma piece job nekungotengesa tengesa muroad umu*” (there are no jobs, the industry site is almost lying idle so we survive on piece meal jobs as well as on vending). Similar results were obtained from Ndiweni et al (2014) in Bulawayo were high poverty in the urban areas has facilitated the mushrooming of the informal
economy as an adaptation to failing economies. An official from a resident’s association in the City of Mutare noted that the majority of the grassroots citizens were immersed in huge debts to the local authority as a result of subdued income as well as the high rates of unemployment within the city.

One of the participants observed that he was retrenched at the height of the IEEP when one of the major employers in Mutare, The Mutare Board and Paper Mills (MBPM) closed shop citing a difficult operating environment. The participant said that, “I am not generating enough income. I was retrenched in 2008 from MBPM, I am surviving from rent from my house. The money is not enough”. This observation conforms to Kachembere (2013), who estimated that more than 20 000 in that city were pushed out of employment after 100 companies had either scaled down or closed shop as a result of the failing economy as well as harsh economic policies like the IEEP.

The official from the resident’s association also said that the majority of companies that were operating in Mutare had closed operations during the period of the Land Seizures, the hyper-inflationary era, as well as during the climax of the Indigenisation Programme. The official noted that at the height of the Zimbabwean crisis in 2008 most local companies that had foreign currency accounts had some of their finances held up by the then stringent central bank regulations and this negatively affected their operations. As a result, most citizens who provided the workforce in the companies were laid off and were failing to pay their rates. The observation from the resident’s association official concurs with Robertson (2012) and Sibanda (2013) assessment that policies such as IEEP were riddled with a lot of challenges and limitations which was adding a further strain in stimulating Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

In addition to the above, most of the participants were not content with the service delivery they were getting from the public institutions. All the participants interviewed during the study
said that they were not getting value for the money they pay for public services. The citizens said that most of the income they generate is spent on paying for utilities and rents. According to a study conducted by the Poverty Reduction Forum Trust (P.R.F.T) (2011) in Mutare, the majority of the residents live in rented accommodation, with too many people sharing a space that is barely affordable.

The service rendered from public institutions leaves a lot to be desired. Residents from Chikanga’s Chikomo section said that water supply was at times erratic with daily rationing being the order of the day. One irate participant said, “Kanzuruiri worse pakuitabasa, taane makore mvura ichienda kusatikwaedza youyakuma 9 manheru. Maroad ingori dust yegayega” (The Council’s service delivery leaves a lot to be desired, we have experience intermittent water shortages for years now and the roads are dusty) In addition to that, electricity supply is worrisome with daily load shedding at times going for more than 16 hours a day. The road network is generally in a bad state with bad roads that have potholes and the majority of them are dusty.

A senior official in the Ministry of Local Government noted that the City of Mutare used to generate much of its revenue from the industrial sector with revenue from companies such as the Mutare Board and Paper Mills and Border Timbers capable of financing the whole council wage bill. A participant who is employed by the City of Mutare highlighted that they were failing to make ends meet as they had not received their salaries for more than six months. According to the Financial Gazette of 28 November 2013, Mutare Mayor, Tatenda Nhamarare blamed the worsening misfortunes of the city on the cancellation of the US$30 million debt owed by rate payers. The local City council was failing to finance service delivery to the citizens and to finance its wage bill as a result of liquidity constraints some of which emanated from the policy announcement by the Ministry of Local Government to slash debts of the citizens, seen by many as a campaign gimmick by ZANU PF.
The findings from the study correspond to those of Gukurume (2011), whose research in Masvingo yielded the same results where the grassroots residents continue to experience sub-standard service delivery despite the adoption of the United States dollar as the official medium of exchange. Most residents in general admit that the multi-currency system has brought noticeable improvements to their lives but service delivery needs to improve drastically. There should no longer be excuses like the frequent ones from the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) as residents are now paying in hard currency which is a lot stronger than the country’s national currency.

It was also established from the study that the introduction of the multi-currency system in 2009 was a major game changer in as far as the livelihoods of the grassroots is concerned. According to Sikwila (2013), the multi-currency system managed to decrease the inflation rate and brought some form of macro-economic stability and growth. The majority of the participants admitted that the multi-currency system was much better than the Zimbabwe dollar era as the currencies can be saved without deteriorating value. However, the participants cited the widespread manipulation of the foreign currencies with price distortions being prevalent. Some of the participants are involved in cross border trading and from their comparison with prices in the region; there is widespread abuse and manipulation of the currencies.

It was also observed from the study that the ZIMASSET policy was failing to stimulate the revival of the industrial sector. The economic blue-print is anchored on the concepts of Indigenisation and economic empowerment. The majority of the participants said that they were not benefitting from the IEEP. The senior official in the Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment said that the programme had so far targeted the Zimunya-Marange community in Mutare rural under the Community Share Ownership Scheme. The urban local citizens in Mutare have not been involved in any programme of that nature to date. These results tally with the observation from Chowa (2013), where there is widespread
scepticism within the citizens on the programme as most youths and local citizens’ submitted bankable projects so as to access loans but were failing to access funding.

According to a senior government official in the District, more companies are threatening to wind down operations citing liquidity challenges. The senior official however noted that there was a ray of hope from the $100 million that has been set aside by the government to revive the industries. Gradually there is activity of resuscitating the companies with one of the major companies in Mutare, Cairns Foods being placed under judicial management.

4.3 Challenges for effective policy implementation

One of the major challenges that were cited from the study for effective policy implementation was lack of active participation from the grassroots citizens. Some of the participants stated that they are only actively consulted and involved in governance issues during periods of elections. When the elections are over, the politicians and government officials just vanish into thin air. It was also observed that many local citizens were marginalised and excluded from benefitting from grassroots based government programmes as the programmes were executed on political grounds. One woman was bitter with politicisation of government programmes. Responding to a question on whether, as the grassroots they were being involved in the mainstream economy, the woman said, “Hapanamikanaapa. Pakaitamaridzema project zvinoitwapachimusangano. Kana usiriweZANU PF haupihwimari kanambeu” (There are no opportunities for non ZANU PF members, if there is funding or farming implements, priority is given first to ZANU PF supporters) This corresponds with Munzwa and Jonga’s (2010) view that low income communities which constitute the majority of the grassroots have always experienced a long and protracted process of perpetual disenfranchisement.

However some of the participants admitted that they were in some way actively involved in the implementation of the policies but the effectiveness of such endeavours was limited by
resource constraints. Resource constraints were cited as a major impediment to successful policy implementation. According to Mohammad S.N (2012:32), participatory development is crucial for economic success. As such involvement of local people as well as preparation and implementation of projects according to the needs of the local people is very important.

The official from the Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment said that the government in line with the ZIMASSET programme, the government was enlisting local youths in income generating ventures. One such venture is the plastic recycling venture by local youths in the Nyakamete Industrial area. Through the ZIMASSET, the government is engaging in Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs). The plastic recycling project is a joint project from the government and development partners. However, the success of these initiatives is being hampered by constant electricity load shedding. Key resources are also a major problem bedevilling economic recovery.

Participants in the informal sector, who are self employed noted that in as much as they want to partake in the economic recovery of the nation, they were incapacitated by lack of resources and capital to initiate their projects. According to Mohammad (2012) policies should be formulated with the preparation and implementation of projects according to the needs of the people. One carpenter said,

“The resources that I use are expensive and some of them come from cross border traders, I only make meaningful money during bonus and Christmas time. I applied for a loan under the youth scheme but up to now nothing has come up”

The carpenter noted that the significant part of the year, business will be subdued. A vendor of second hand clothing cited constant harassment from authorities such as council and national police who in most cases demand bribes and kickbacks from the struggling citizens.
Corruption was cited as a major challenge to any meaningful economic policy implementation. The majority of the participants said that those in authority were hampering their efforts to realise a basic standard of living. A driver of local commuter mini buses said, “Mari haisi kumbokwana. Mari yatino casher kumurungu haisikubata target. Mapurisa muroad umu haasikupera apa anoda kudonerwa mari yechiokomuhomwe” (We are not getting enough income as we are failing to meet set targets by our employers, this situation is further compounded by numerous police roadblocks where the officers are in a habit of demanding bribes. The majority of the participants concurred that there will be no meaningful economic recovery as long as corruption was endemic in the local societies. At the grassroots level, the citizens note that any government programme or policy is subject to manipulation by a few politically connected individuals. According to Smith et al (2012) marginalisation from the central or local governments undermines social justice.

The participants cite the Land Reform Programme as one of such manipulated policies. According to Easton’s Political Systems theory (1965), changes in the social or physical environment surrounding a political system produce “demands” and “supports” for action or the status quo directed as inputs towards the political system. In relation to Easton’s assumptions, the residents of Mutare had welcomed with anticipation, the discovery of diamonds in Chiadzwa. The decision by the government to curb the rampant illegal mining and regulating the formal mining process meant that there would be development of the city. However most of the participants from the study are unemployed. The residents accuse the mining companies of corruption in recruiting the labour force. According to Smith et al (2012), grassroots expects the policy makers to respond to urban social needs that are not satisfied that is by creating jobs, making services accessible to local populations, and preserving economic activities in the neighbourhoods.
In relation to the above, the residents association official noted that they hoped that proceeds from the diamond mining would aid in the resuscitation of local industries but it was a ‘sorry state’ to note that not even one mining company operating in Chiadzwa had established a headquarter or a major office in Mutare. All the major developments linked to diamond mining are being established in Harare. Some of the residents said that they used to trade wares in Chiadzwa and surrounding communities during the days of the illegal mining, but they are now facing challenges to acquire income after the formalisation of the mining activities.

4.4 Opportunities at the grassroots that can influence the community

The study unearthed diverse opportunities that the citizens at the grassroots thought if integrated fully into the mainstream economic policies can boost their livelihoods as well as boost the development of the economy. The major opportunity that is inherent at the grassroots level is the availability of a ready population that is eager and determined to provide a workforce for the country’s collapsed industrial sector. The majority of the participants interviewed admitted to have acquired some skills that they felt they are failing to utilise in the current economic situation. This concept can be linked to Moyo (2010) whose study on the impacts of the LRP established that the urban poor and low income earners benefitted from the programme. According to Moyo (2010), there can be transformation of the livelihoods of the grassroots citizens if economic empowerment is implemented fairly without political affiliation in mind.

Most of the participants, in a survival coping mechanism, learnt a lot of jobs to sustain their livelihoods. Some are carpenters; others are builders, plumbers, tailors amongst other professions. From the perspective of the two key informants in the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing and the Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment, the success of the ZIMASSET policy is hinged on the beneficiation and value addition of locally produced goods and services. Therefore, at the
grassroots, there are a lot of capable people who at that stage can produce goods and services that can further boost the economy. According to Mohammad (2012), effective policies involve the creation of opportunities for cooperation and coordination among the decision makers, persons involved in the implementation and local people, with a view to ensuring a dynamic development process.

Another opportunity that can be utilised by the government to boost the economy is the availability of an educated population. Zimbabwe’s adult literacy according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO 2014) stands at approximately 90%, the highest in Africa. One of the major recurring reasons why economic policies are failing at the grassroots is lack of integration of grassroots perspective and innovations into the policies. The majority of the participants cited that they are not consulted in the formulation of such policies.

The majority of participants in the study are producing goods and services which they feel if utilised and created conducive markets can enhance the economy. This observation is similar to that of Ndiweni et al (2014), which observed that the informal sector is providing employment to over 50% of the population due to the prevailing economic situation. It was established that some of the residents are doing market gardens at their homesteads or on open areas. The residents said that they are capable of supply daily needs of the citizens from their produce but at times they encounter problems in selling their wares with the authorities. A woman from Chikanga suburb said that, “Kare kwaimbouya company yaitenga michero yedu sema guava ne mango, ichizoenda kunobika ma jam emumagaba. Taitowana mari nemiti yedu yatakadyara” (we used to supply a company that was involved in food processing and canning with various fruits like mangoes and guavas we earned some income from that activity). As Mutare’s climate favours the flourishing of horticultural produce, the availability of plenty fruits can be utilised to boost the country’s industry.
4.5 Chapter summary

The major purpose of the chapter was to find out from data obtained from the research, the effectiveness of economic policies at the grassroots in Mutare. The major findings of the study indicate that the majority of the citizens at the grassroots level are facing critical challenges in realising a basic standard of living. Most citizens are not aware of the economic policies that are being implemented. The chapter also analysed the challenges of the effective policy implementation of the economic policies as well as the opportunities that are presented at the grassroots for economic development. The next chapter will summarise the research project, as well as make conclusions on major findings. The researcher will also suggest recommendations based on the findings of the study.
CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter gives summary of the whole research project and conclusions that are arrived at from the findings. The recommendations will be based on the conclusions. This chapter will also end with suggestions for areas for further research.

5.1 Summary

The research project investigated the effects of economic policies on the grassroots in Zimbabwe for the period 2010 to 2014 in Mutare Urban. The researcher grew much interest into carrying out this research after studying the trends in the livelihoods of the local citizens in Mutare. There has been a sharp decline in the economic activities in Mutare with the majority of companies that were operating in the city having either scaled down operations or completely closed shop.

The period from 2010 to 2014 saw the country adopting the use of foreign currencies, which to some great extent brought changes in as much as access to basic commodities is concerned. In relation to the use of the multi-currencies, there are multiplicities of policies that are being pursued by the government and these policies are revolving, that is they are continuously being implemented. The study sought to explore the economic policies that are being implemented in Mutare District with the aim of ascertaining the impacts of these policies on the grassroots level. The study also sought to establish the main challenges for effective policy implementation as well as opportunities that may lie within the grassroots that can enhance the effectiveness of the economic policies.
The study explored other relevant literature on economic policies in relation to the local citizens. The literature review was structured into themes which related to research objectives and questions. The main themes highlighted are; economic policies in Zimbabwe, socio-economic impacts of economic policies and challenges and opportunities for the effectiveness of the economic policies. These themes were also used in the discussion and analysis of data gathered.

The research utilised the qualitative research paradigm with the use of the case study of Mutare Urban. The population of the study was drawn from Mutare’s Chikanga High Density suburb Ward 16 with a target population of 2000 participants and 10 key informants. The sample population of the study was 20 participants and 5 key informants. Out of the 20 participants, 3 failed to partake in the interview process and also 2 key informants withdrew from the study citing other pressing commitments.

5.2 Conclusion

The findings of the study denote a situation where there are disparities in as much as economic policies cascading down to the grassroots are concerned. The findings highlight that the grassroots are not being consulted during the policy formulation process as well as they are not being integrated in the implementation of such policies. This corresponds with Mohammed (2012) study in Bangladesh that the marginalised sections were not involved in the decision making process. This trend indicates a top-down approach to policy formulation where interventions are not in tandem with the reality on the ground, a cause of underdevelopment in many societies.

The findings also show that the majority of the citizens at the grassroots are failing to achieve a basic standard of living due to financial constraints. The majority of the citizens are not employed and their survival means that is the informal sector is failing to cover the gap as most
citizens are not generating enough income. These findings are similar to those of the P.R.F.T (2013), which observed that the majority of the grass root citizens in Zimbabwe were struggling to meet their basic needs.

Marginalisation in the execution of policies from those in authority is one of the stumbling blocks in as much as the realisation of effect economic policies is concerned. The findings note that there is politicisation of government policies and programmes and access to funds and resources is a preserve of the politically connected.

The study also found out that the current economic policies such as the ZIMASSET, IEEP and the LRP are failing to stimulate the revival of the country’s dilapidated industrial sector. Most companies in Mutare scaled down operations and some ultimately closed operations as a result of an environment that is not conducive for investment. The IEEP is viewed with scepticism by the investors. This is similar to the observation by Chowa (2013) who noted that there was growing scepticism of the IEEP in which most residents viewed it as enriching a few individuals who have access to the centre of power. With such perception on the government policies, the unemployment scourge in Mutare continued to worsen.

The study also established that as a result of the collapsed industries in Mutare, service delivery was heavily compromised. Most citizens owe the local council huge debts and the council is failing to provide for efficient service delivery as it also relied much on revenue from the industrial sector. The study also unearthed huge disparities between money that is paid by the citizens and services rendered in their residence. The majority of the grassroots citizens’ income in this multi-currency system is consumed by rates but the residents feel that the public service providers leave a lot to be desired. These are similar results to the study by Gukurume (2011), who noted that despite the dollarization era, residents in the urban areas in Zimbabwe
continue to experience sub standard service delivery like clean piped water. There are intermittent power outages due to load shedding as well as unreliable water provision.

The study also observed that there are a lot of skills at the grassroots, with many citizens involved in handy practical occupations such as carpentry, building, welding, and tailoring amongst others. This observation is similar to that of Moyo (2010) that there is an indication that different groups of the urban poor and low income earners were capable of participating in economic activities such as the land reform and help in the turnaround of the country’s economy. Some are involved in market gardening as well as peri-urban farming. The citizens said that they lacked access to funds so as to enhance their activities yet government policies such as the ZIMASSET and IEEP, are said to place the grassroots at the centre of economic activity.

The overall observation from the study corresponds with the research assumptions that policies whether on a national or local scale have a direct bearing on the livelihoods of the grassroots. These effects are in both positive and negative ways. The use of the multi currency for example significantly changed the livelihoods of the grass root population whilst policy announcements such as the I.E.E.P have negatively impacted on income generation for local citizens as most industries have closed operations. The study however disputes the assumption that all policies that are formulated are intended for the benefit of the grass roots as most of the policies under review further added a strain in the livelihoods of the citizens.

5.3 Recommendations

- The government should actively involve consult the local citizens when coming up with policies, as the majority of the citizens at the grassroots are educated enough to propose workable suggestions that can be utilised by policy formulators.
There is need to formulate investor friendly policies which attract foreign direct investment. The current policies need some revision so that there can be revitalisation of the collapsed industries as well as employment creation. The concept of Indigenisation is a noble initiative only if it is implemented with the needs of the investor in mind, therefore there should be a workable compromise between the indigenous citizens and the foreign investors.

The government should integrate grassroots initiatives by creating an enabling environment for the thriving of various projects at the grassroots level. The government should provide for land to build structures for income generating projects as well as for agriculture. There should be marketing of goods and services at the grassroots level. The grassroots have the potential to generate goods for exports and it is therefore imperative for the government to explore such avenues.

5.4 Areas for further research

- The potential of the informal sector in economic revival
- Grassroots based initiatives and economic policies

5.6 Chapter Summary

This chapter summarised the research study and made conclusions based on the findings of the study. The chapter also suggested recommendations for the challenges that were found in the study. The researcher also suggested areas for further study, so as to enhance the economic policy literature.
REFERENCE


Bell J (1999), *Doing your research project*, Buckingham: OUP


**Electronic Journals**


Parliament of Zimbabwe (2013), Mid Year Economic Brief (January 2013-June 2013), Research Department, PARLZIM/4.2.4/2RE


Web sites


APPENDIX 1

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

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BINDURA, Zimbabwe
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Fax: 263 – 71 – 7534
Peace & Governance Department
tikatsinde@buse.ac.zw
Cell 0772 773 742

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

Date: 07/11/2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE : REQUEST TO UNDER TAKE RESEARCH PROJECT IN YOUR AREA

This serves to introduce the bearer, CHAIKIFORA...SHOWNY...who is an HBSc PEACE & GOVERNANCE student in the Department of PEACE & GOVERNANCE, Bindura University of Science Education and is carrying out a research project in your area.

Your usual co-operation and assistance is therefore being sought.

Thank you for the continued support.

Yours faithfully

KATSINDE TJ (MR)
CHAIRPERSON – PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED:..................................DATE: 07/11/2014

DIRECTOR

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
MIN OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND NATIONAL HOUSING

07/11/2014
APPENDIX 2

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

QUESTIONNAIRE

My name is Chakufora Showny and I am currently undertaking a Bachelor of Science Degree (Honours) in Peace and Governance at Bindura University.

The following questions are designed to collect information from you; on the assessment of economic policies at grassroots level from 2010 to 2014 in Mutare. Your honest answers to the questions shall assist in the success of this study. Kindly tick in the boxes and complete the spaces provided. No names are included when filling up the questionnaires and your responses shall be kept confidential and are solely for academic purposes only.

1. Sex
   [ ] male [ ] female

2. Type of occupation

3. Level of education
   [ ] primary level [ ] ordinary level [ ] advanced level [ ] college certificate/diploma
   [ ] university level [ ] other (specify)
4. Are you aware of the economic policies that are being implemented in your community? If yes how have they changed your livelihoods?

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5. Are you generating enough income in this multi-currency system? If yes how are you managing? If no what are the challenges?

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6. Do you feel you are getting value for money in terms of service delivery in this economic system?

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7. What are the challenges that you are facing in achieving the basic standard of living?

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8. Do you think the government is involving you as the grassroots in the mainstream economy?

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9. What do you think the government should do to ensure that you actively participate in the mainstream economy?
10. What are the opportunities that you feel the government ought to utilize at the grassroots level to boost the economy?

I would like to thank you very much for affording your time to respond to this questionnaire. Your input is indeed valuable to this study.
APPENDIX 3

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

ZitarangundinonzichakuforaShownyndirikutazvididzozve Bachelor of Science Degree (Honours) in Peace and Governance pa Bindura University padano re undergraduate.


1. [ ] murume [ ] mukadzi

2. Munoitabasari? ………………………………………………………………………

3. DanhoreDzidzo

[ ] primary level [ ] ordinary level [ ] advanced level [ ] college certificate/diploma

[ ] university level [ ] other (specify) ………………………
4. Muneruzivo here hweurongwahwezveupfumihurikuitwamunharaundamenyu? Kana irihungu, zvashandurazvakadinimagariroenyu?

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5. Murikuwanamariirikukukwanirai here munguvainoirikushandiswamariyedzimwenyikaKanairihongumurikuzvikwanisasei? Kana irikwete, ndezvipizvimhingaidzo?

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6. Munofunga here kutimapazianoitamabasaeruzhinjiirikupaimabasaanoenderananemaridzamunobhad hara?

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7. Ndezvipizvimhingaidzozvamurikusanganazvopakuwanararamoinogutsa?

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8. Munofunga here kutihurumendeirikupamikanakuvarivemunharaundadzevazhinjimuhungwheupfumi?

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9. Munofungakutihurumendeingatorematanohipikutiimisevagasurewanewomikanayek upindamuhurongwahweupfumihwenyika?
10. Ndezvipizamurikuitasevagarizvamunofungakutihurumendeingashandisemukuwand udzabudiriroyeupfumiyenyika?

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE

My name is Chakufora Showny and I am currently undertaking a Bachelor of Science Degree (Honours) in Peace and Governance at Bindura University.

I am conducting a study on the effectiveness of economic policies at grassroots level from 2010 to 2014 in Mutare. Your honest answers to the questions shall assist in the success of this study. The responses from this interview shall be kept confidential and will be used solely for academic purposes only.

1. What are the economic policies that are being implemented in Mutare urban?

2. What is the level of participation of the local citizens in the implementation of such policies?

3. Are the intended targets being fulfilled? How do you rate the levels of achievement?

4. How has the introduction of the multi-currency system impacted on the livelihoods of the local citizens?

5. What are the challenges being faced in implementing these policies?

6. What are the opportunities that are being presented by these economic policies on the grassroots as well as on the government?

7. What do you suggest to be implemented to further improve the livelihoods of the grassroots?