

Commentary

# The Role of the President in fostering Sustainable Development: A Focus on the Fifth President of Tanzania

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**Abstract:** Presidency is the most crucial and difficulty post one might have in sustaining development of any country. In this regard, other countries the role of president are assumed by the prime minister. We have used the term presidency to include whatever mandate which portrays the top mandate one might have in order to foster sustainable development of the country. This article stems in the leadership style of the former president of Tanzania in the name of Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli – Mahanji (JPM). It is a case study in nature and has articulated experiential, observation and interview to come up with the findings that we have assimilated. This is a case study, which has used Tanzania as an example but the habitual and undertakings of our then president could be manifested in other several settings of other leaders the world over. We have decided however, to observe the characters of some seven persons whom we believe they were close to him to cement on the findings. Hence forth the conclusion reached were at the cost of the respondents. We realize that leadership is the key in bringing development to the people, and that hinges to the good extent is a result of failure of leaders to come up with feasible ways on how to merge between ways to develop and the needs of the people. We therefore conclude that although Magufuli was considered a hero among most leaders, but equally most of those who were seen as key were not pro-him. Hence the development that is echoed to have brought were indeed superb with lots of hinges. We conclude that JPM indeed did many things to foster sustainable development of Tanzania, though he failed to sustain development due to his modality of appointing leaders in favor of one tribe-Wamahanji.

**Keywords:** Development, election, president/prime minister, leadership

## Introduction

President for countries like Tanzania, USA, Nigeria, South Africa and Malaysia and prime minister for countries like United Kingdom and Australia. In Africa and the world over, it is what the president does to foster development minister for country like United Kingdom and Australia are the posts that require an adept understanding of the things that surround the country and proper intervention of the strategy that require development. In these two posts which when one is elected, we assume that has ability and heroes, and honors will be for him. Yet all maladministration that may be imposed by that leader will be a hinge to him or her (Norman, 1998). President is one of the most difficulty job on human resource management perspective. Because of supporters of the incumbent would want to be selected to several ministerial posts and when the president has not accorded them those positions, they become an enemy (King, et al, 2018). of the people, who grants him or her the votes for the next elections. One of the challenges that most president do face is on knowing what people prefer (Mwinyi, 2019). It is from these perspectives that we notice some president being seen as performing well but when you subject them into votes you realize a huge decline of votes. We notice that the fourth president of Tanzania had the highest number of votes of about 81.7% when he contested for the first time in 2005 (NEC, 2005). And surely most people had a feeling that the president had faired very well, but when he contested for the second time, he attained 62% (NEC, 2010). This is marvelously told but there are some other instances that when happen they bring forth a diversity of ideas to the extent that voters behave arrogantly to the incumbent to the existent that will start strategizing on how to employ other methods of winning an election. We participated in elections several times and we remember very well how we failed to win. And when we won an election at constituency level in Makete in Njombe region we cheered. But five years later we failed by 16 votes. Then it is important to ask ourselves what made us to lose an election when we had brought

tarmac road from Njombe to Makete and budget were there to ensure that the roads are constructed from Makete, Kipagalo to Mbeya and Makete, Ujuni to Kitulo. We failed on votes when we have ended up water problems in Matamba division. We lost an election when we ensured electricity is worthy every village. Here the questions should be reiterated to understand why people decided to vote to another person while we were there?

President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli was born on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1959. He worked as a secondary school teacher having acquired a diploma of education at Mkwawa institute of education majoring in chemistry and mathematics. He taught in several regions before joining a university of Dar es salaam for bachelor's degree of mathematics and Chemistry as teaching subjects in 1988. He then pursued a master degree of chemistry at the same university and attained it in 1994. He suffered a heart attach which made him to undergo surgery in one of duchy country, which they insisted that is for 28 years life span. When he contested for the first time he lost and wan for the second time in 1995. He was very much eager to study because he registered for PhD at the same university and attained it in 2009. He then contested for president, and he was declared as a winner by the national electoral commission in 2015 general election. The commission declared him to have wan by 84% (NEC, 2020). Thus, he became president of Tanzania.

We understand efforts to make him win were done by several people including the humble person Abdulhaman Kinana whom none of active CCM member would forget his resilience of making CCM win. He travelled all over the country to ensure that CCM wan an election in the year 2015. The rest we know them but in so mentioning in this article we may be campaigning for them in coming elections.

We realize that presidency is a continuation of the leadership. And we notice that when you have attained presidency you need to honor those who preceded before you. This was character which JPM did not have. He was rebuking our former president openly (Magufuli, 2015). We understand that some of the projects which were signed during the fourth regime were the construction of Kigamboni bridge, the Mwendokasi in Dar es salaam city, the construction of the SGR rail, which was signed by the Chinese and the construction of the Ubungo and Mwenge bridges, and the construction of the Salender bridge Daraja jipya.

### **Heroes of JPM**

We realize that to give honor to he who deserves honor is a character of true mankind. We know that projects management in the hands of the firth president of Tanzania was highly managed and equally well done. He managed to foster the dispensaries in every village and health center in every ward of Tanzania. He also managed to develop hospitals of referral in nature in every zone of Tanzania and in some of the regions of Tanzania. He was fond of roads, and he managed to accomplish most roads which were found in Tanzania. In Dar es salaam city, he managed to fast track the construction of roads in the manner that when you are in Dar right now you can enjoy driving extensively. He managed to foster the development of bridge across the Lake Victoria which is now in final stages. He managed to develop the ship in Lake Tanganyika, lake Nyasa and Lake Victoria. These are heroes to him.

JPM managed to enforce workers of Tanzania government to be on duty all hours that were employed for it. No workers in Tanzania had a weakness in terms of abstaining the works or duties. JPM managed to say it and it could pass, for instance he came up with a proposal of payment of 27,000 TZS about 12 USD for the installation of electricity per house this managed to increase the number of villages that had no electricity more than 200%.

JPM managed to enforce the tax evasion to people who were transporting agricultural products less than a tone. He said it and it was observed. This brought happiness to businesspeople, but it had huge hinges to the council. Because one person can transport even sixty tones through the principle of one tone no tax. Hence it led to the poor correction of tax especially to the councils which have huge crops like Makete, Ludewa, and all districts of Rukwa and Katavi.

JPM managed to enforce the contractors to work even when the government did not not pay. He was forceful enough to ensure that all contractors who were given jobs could continue to work irrespective that availability of money was a problem. This is true to all government of Tanzania projects that were paid by the same. Such projects include the Mbezi main bus station, which the contractors had to apply for 10 billion TZS from the one foreign bank that operates in Tanzania.

JPM managed to make Tanzanians continue to work in agricultural production while the neighboring countries like Kenya and Uganda were made to abstain because of Covid 19. Hence to date there is plenty of food in Tanzania which is giving them huge economic generation.

JPM managed to enforce collection of tax and income to the treasure. This had created weakness of spending to the councils and regions because the total amount of money which the government was collecting was huge to about 2

trillion per month but indeed this was value resulting from all councils in Tanzania which were depositing the money into the treasury.

JPM managed to cut off all bureaus which were scattered in Tanzania and in particular Dar es Salaam and he introduced a new capital of 500 million TZS to have a bureau. This in its implementation caused loss of jobs and most USD which were with these people could not be banked rather were taken into their homes hence reducing the availability of dollars. The intelligent way was to maintain the minimum entry fee of about 10 million up to 50 million TZS to enable people who were employed keep their jobs, and taxes could be imposed to ensure that all dollars are finally deposited into their accounts.

JPM passed laws in the parliament to the extent that we members of parliament could not argue against him. He passed a law to confer mandate to the Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner to take money in any capacity which he seems to have seen it as illegal and his withdraw of these moneys is final, in that no legal accusations against him can retain the money.

### **His weakness**

Each of us has weakness and strength. Some are weak to the extent that weakness do not merge to honor the crown which they are covering. Though on construction most contractors were crying because some of us were the chairman of infrastructure committee of the parliament and were vivid on the cries of Chinese contractors. Some contractors went to the financial institutions to carter for loan to allow the contraction to go on. This was the case with contractors of the new Mbezi bus station. Most of the funds for the contraction of the SGR were not realized. It became difficulty when he proposed for the construction of Stiglers gorge, we said no. We asked how much will it cost? He said 6 trillion TZS, we said no. We argued strongly in that the construction of the 6 trillion TZS to generate 2150 MG was very little. We said India has constructed a solar plant for 1 trillion TZS to generate 5000 MG. Why don't we use that technology to foster the development of electricity in Tanzania? We again argued why do you leave a gas without being fully utilized to generate electricity. On the day we finished those arguments he could call in the midnight and rebuke vehemently.

We remember every single word which he used when he called. He could call at midnight. As chairman of infrastructure committee of the parliament we went to China for a training of 40 days. And we were with other chairman from 16 countries, and they nominated the chairman of Tanzania to be the overall chairman of the entire group. We then went on to learn on how to manage the airports, ports, rail and schools of pilots. Then the Chinese gave much favor to the chairman because they considered Tanzania to be superior in relationship compared to the rest of the countries. Of all the countries six were from Africa and six from Asia and four from pacific region of the commonwealth. We were taught on Bagamoyo port and the way it will be worthy for the development of the economy of Tanzania.

When we got back to our country, we wrote a letter to the president to ask him that we should see him before signing an agreement which was before him. He could not give a chance. We wrote some messages on his handset which he read but could not reply. Then he sent some of his assistants to come to see us and we shared with them on what we leant of Bagamoyo port, on central rail, and on Mchuchuma and Liganga projects. For him giving any project to China which was propounded by the former president was feeling inferior. He called a cabinet minister and during a swearing in of some officials he said, "the Chinese wants to construct the Bagamoyo port, and they want to stay with it for 99 years. And they want us not to develop any port from Tanga to Mtwara" (Magufuli, 2017). This was a total lie. Then during the contribution in the parliament, I asked the speaker and I made contribution to differ with the president. And the message of the chairman of infrastructure committee of the parliament was endorsed ably with the speaker.

In that night he called, and he rebuked vehemently. There are several programs that we differed and which I guess was the cause for not being appointed to any cause. But his weakness was too huge to the extent that you could wonder why he became president.

One time we noted that he is going to sign. And we rushed quickly to the Chief permanent secretary. When we met him, we asked for his favor to present to the president what we have written. He read it and he said, "this job is not worthy for me to work, if I was sure that leaving this job would not cause me to die, I would have left today. But I work because I am fearful of losing my life. I cannot give it to him. If I give this letter, he might slap me" (Kijazi, 2017). Then this was the end.

As we have argued during the beginning of this humble work, we are going to concentrate on the appointments he made to come up with conclusion.

## **Literature review**

Leadership avails what people would want to be. Elected leaders are important in our societies because it is the believe of the voters that leaders know most of the things that surround them (Massoi et al, 2007; Norman, 2008). They equally believe that leaders are pathetic to their needs. However, in Africa and may be the world at large we notice that most leaders who vie for presidency are crooks who keep on looking at what they have missed in lives (King, 2013). And the answer to attain them is through presidency. This equally is what Magufuli commented when he was making some talks with his friend Charles Kitwanga when he was the minister he said, “if am elected as president of Tanzania wow people will walk with their teeth” (Magufuli, 2001).

Equally, some have different dimension. For instance, when Mzee Mwinyi the second president of Tanzania was commenting with Thabit Kombo he said, “These Tanzanians need freedom to bring things from Nairobi and sell here, to restrict them has no deal at all” (Mwinyi, 1986). He made this comment when he understood that the former president Mwalimu Nyerere had burned things from Nairobi, Kenya.

Again, we have the third president of Tanzania whom to him he felt that institutions were weak, and he needed to revamp the economy of the country, he had this to say, “It is important to have free economy, which is run by private sector, and if it is central government then we need institutions to foster that part of development” (Mkapa, 1996). This was said by Benjamini William Mkapa.

We had another president of the forth regime who felt the need of competent intelligence department and the information it brings and that even the information that you receive from people who seem faithful need to be questioned, he had this to say, “literary what you have been told weigh it accordingly because people have reasons as to why they say what they say, in this regard what you have been told capitalize it with your senses”(Kikwete, 2006).

It is this thinking, contestant of president who do not see weakness of the entire ruling regime should not contest. We contest to foster changes. When we have feelings that the incumbent president is doing what is right then to contest unless the incumbent asks you to do so, or the party asks you to take the position otherwise you are not required to contest. But contesting means that a contestant knows what was required to be done and was not done (King et al, 2014; 2015). When we get leaders which they applaud everything that is done by the incumbent we know that they are not competent to bring changes.

We know for sure that ignorance is paramount for leaders who are weak. Because they use that ignorance to foster development of their homes. We politician at times we demonstrate weakness when each leader who is in power, we tend to echo him or her. We guess it is wrong. It is important to say it the way it is, and serious leaders will pick you to foster your thinking. Weak leaders will generate enmity with that person to the extent of killing. When they have killed and we know who were killed by who, to speak we tend to be against our party (King, et al, 2015). We guess that is wrong. We must say it the truth, Karume the first president of Zanzibar was killed by who in 1972? Sokoine the prime minister of Tanzania was killed by who in 1983? When we become adamant of things, we know we become unlawful to our country and future generation. Because knowledge is power and thus most issues for Tanzania including the union would be baseless if people are hidden from the truth. It is the truth which set people to attain sustainable development.

## **Materials and methods**

This article is an observant of case study design. It focuses on Tanzania. It has utilized experiential, observation and interview for coming up with conclusion which it asserts. We have interviewed few people who seemingly to be close to Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli as we were. The list includes friends of JPM and subordinates which are regional commissioner, Chief Executive Officers of some huge governmental organizations, Chief permanent secretary and members of the parliament. We have observed entirely of the regime looking at pros and cons. In this study we focus on appointment of various carders as pursued through the president. As a case if we are going to address the entirety of performance of JPM we shall need a book not an article. Hence, we have hesitated to mention percentages rather words of many have been opted. All in all, we do appreciate that research that are found in the areas of common understanding will yield sustainable development much as the findings will observe the scientific emulations of research.

## **Findings for the study**

We are now looking at the presidency as a regime and we cognize that president is a difficulty job the world over. If we look unto that job for the attainment of sustainable development. We notice that heroes and honors will be enjoyed

by any president much as he does things that are worthy. We again realize that it is difficulty to receive honors and heroes as president because of several reasons one of them being most people who were against when a president is elected may not surrender their wishes. This is clerical because of the nature of president office and the caliber of the person who is elected as president. We have come to deliberate on this wonderful post because it is our duty to say it and explore issues to make other leaders correct their ways for achieving sustainable development. We have not in any way tried to undermine the presidency, not at all. But we know that it is our responsibility we as institutions and as individuals to narrate through scientific research on matters that if tackled would bring forth sustainable development. Now we investigate the performance of JPM on one character which is appointment of leaders within his government.

**a) Appointment of ministers**

We notice that the appointment of ministers was done in favor of Wamahanji. Of all the ministers we had only five ministers who were not of his tribe as he considered himself to be. This was clerical to most of educated people who were following the appointments of several appointments made by the president. Indeed, caused most of government workers to lose morale with the ruling party CCM. The danger ruling party face is that no one is ready to say the truth. And when we are asked, we tend to shy from the truth until we are set out of power. To some of us we said no. We do not want to enjoy suffrage of seeing CCM out of power. Indeed, we shall try to speak the truth to all mankind until we recoup the value we deserve.

**b) Appointment of regional commissioners**

These also falls under the same trend of the ministers. We notice that few regional commissioners who were not Wamahanji either were supported by a certain regional commissioner whose region is the most popular in Tanzania who was also Mmahanji. Otherwise, the rest of regional commissioner were Wamahanji. Even elevation of District commissioner he was fond to do so if the District Commissioner was Mmahanji. JPM could avail good wishes to any Mmahanji regional commissioner. He was fond of tribalism. At times we ask ourselves how he could do it at this very new generation, and the answer were not found. In this regard, we are not attempting to say that Wamahanji RC were weak, but we are trying to put across the appointments of the JPM. In so doing he missed an attribute of sustainable development because sustaining leaders needs perception from people that the appointment are just and fair.

**c) Appointment of District Commissioner**

We notice a cry of district commissioners who worked hard to ensure that he became president, on the contrary 105 District Commissioners were expelled from job the moment he was declared president. But who are these expelled from Job, were none Wamahanji. These DC kept grieving because they were expelled from job without being given the handshake as we used to receive during the other four regimes. They were mourning and we are sure they had no gist of voting for the ruling political party. The appointment which followed were to replace them with Wamahanji. Here if one is not Mmahanji then one of his parents must be Mmahanji. Indeed, the sustainable development cannot be attained when the tribal based appointment is at pace.

**d) Appointment of Regional Administrative Secretary**

These followed the same trend of all cadres of appointees. He appointed huge numbers of RAS from Wamahanji in that regard leaving many who were seemingly not competent because of their tribes. We hesitate to make computation of percentages because it is too alarming. These Regional Administrative Secretaries (RAS) are the head of all employees in the region except RC, DC and appointed members of the president and elected members by votes in the elections supervised by the national electoral commission or ministry of local government and regional administration. Hence not everyone can be the RAS. Much as these are the head of all workers within the region, achieving sustainable development will obvious be hard because they cannot match with the challenges that the region face, or if they match, they will receive some dissonancy of being accepted by the majority of workers which will render them to abstain the ruling party.

**e) Appointment of Municipal Directors/Town Directors/District Executive Directors**

We notice also that when JPM got in power he expelled the 125 municipal, town and district executive directors from the posts. He pursued that goals on the manner that those who were expelled were none Wamahanji. These were people who worked hard to ensure that elections were done in proper manner. To date these people who were off job as directors are of course not in favor of CCM and because they had influence in the society and many people who see this happen are against CCM. The appointment that followed were to replace them with Wamahanji. Of course, if we question much the Wamahanji are denying that this president was not Mmahanji. These are the focal point to

enhance sustainable development. They are the people who must know how to carry meetings of councilors, design works, know the whole district properly to the extent that they locate the funds of the council. They are the people who provide budgets of the councils, they are the people who make transfers of workers according to the challenges they see. Hence these are the focal people towards enhancing sustainable development.

#### **f) Appointment of District Administrative Secretary**

The appointment of district executive secretary followed the same trend. In one district we noticed that the cashier of Tigo company limited in Iringa was appointed as District Administrative Secretary. We attended the meeting of council as members of parliament, we noted that she had no crew of the laws which governs the council or any law of the land. Accordingly in Tanzania the District Administrative Secretary is the head of all employees in government and private sector in the entire district. We expect a person who is appointed to discharge as District Administrative Secretary (DAS) to have huge of knowledge of administration in particular administrative law and other laws governing the government for the purpose of attaining sustainable development.

#### **g) Nomination of members of parliament**

The president of Tanzania has ability to nominate 10 members of parliament. The nominees were majoritarian Wamahanji. I remember one professor was nominated and many do think that he is Mgogo but the truth is Mmahanji and we shared with him and he confessed that he was Mmahanji. The professor was granted one ministry to head, and he ably headed it. We are not arguing in respect that all the Wamahanji were weak no, we saying some were weak. But we have an overall that all were favorably good, but they were appointed based on the favoritisms.

#### **h) Appointment of chief executive officers**

Here except when you had a connection with him, or your father had mandate on him then he will spare you. The only Chief Executive Officer who was popular but was a hehe is our lovely brother Mfugale of TANROAD who now is resting before the Lord God. We visited him at his home, and we noted that he was not able to talk with him though he was one of the persons who visited the president severally. The rest of nominees were Wamahanji. How could he do it? He registered names of Wamahanji in this country and he could phone any and what follows was the uplifting to the new jobs. Few very competent CEOs were left with zero assurance of existing tomorrow. This for obvious reasons would provide failure of achieving sustainable development.

#### **i) Appointment of board chairmen**

The appointment of board chairman was largely all most all were Wamahanji. Except when some of chairman were his teachers at university, he would certainly spare him or her. But the rest of chairmen were Wamahanji. We would not like to touch other departments of the government because we are affiliated with them, and we consider it prudent to observe silence. This for obvious reasons deterred most workers and people in general to vote for the ruling party.

#### **j) Firing and appointments of JPM**

The president was rough at appointing and even at firing. We mention few cases here. He appointed a lady to be regional commissioner of one region in the north of Tanzania, and later after few months he fires her. And then he fired her daughter who was a head of one department of government, and she was a medical doctor. This caused us to tell him when we met at state house in Dodoma. Indeed, we pleaded that the husband of the very regional commissioner flew from UK to Tanzania to support him on elections. And he did it. On firing his wife and his daughter you are causing a bad syndrome to the entire party. Then he called in the night at about 3.20 AM. We received a call and after greetings he started talking endlessly up to 4.25 AM. We hesitate to say what he talked about. Then the same day in the morning about 10.10 AM he called in the morning he said, "How are you" we said we are fine. He said, "where are you right now" we said in our constituency. He said, "why you are not attending a parliament" we said because of your words which you spoke on phone today made us not to feel as members of parliament. He said, "forget about what we talked, you had a point." Then after ten minutes he nominated that lady to members of parliament.

Another case was appointment of minister of home affairs. Whose ability was huge. But he fired him because of abusing him to be a drunkard. To date no single member of parliament will concur with that accusation because it was questionably true. This is the friend of himself, and they married together. One is married to a younger sister and another to the order sister. They were friend for so long. I remember the wife of this brother Charles Kitwanga called JPM and she said we shall see if you will cross the entire coming elections if you are going to continue with this bad behavior. You have fired my husband for what cause? But fortunately, he crossed the election.

We are not aware of what he focused for such nominations. But this is a picture of any government worker and ministers would feel. It is this article that will enable people to say the truth and saying the truth shall made them free. We notice that some members of parliament, we guess because of not understanding how the very brother his excellency our president was, they keep on saying we must echo him. This is not the case. We must echo those who deserves heroes and honor. We have saved in all the governments in power, when we were recruited in 1984 and we know that Mzee Ali Hassan Mwinyi deserves heroes optimally. He could not kill or alter anyone to endanger his life. Heroes and honor should go to Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, who led the country to the extent that we see what we see now as a new Dar es Salaam. People who were smart could prosper and he did not attempt to kill any person. Heroes and honors should go to our father Benjamin William Mkapa who accidentally whose tongue was truth. Some do not deserve to be mentioned in this worthy literature because of the extent of evils they did. We still believe that it is truth that sets sustainable development at pace. And that truth must be said in all facets.

### **Conclusion**

We notice that huge applauds have been ascending to the fifth president of Tanzania as was a hero, indeed yes, he was a hero in some respects. For instance, he managed to enforce government workers participation on job, and he pushed to ensure that workers were saving people. Irrespective of poorly or biased appointments but he managed to succumb the entire machinery of the government to act as one. He managed to cancel spending of the councils in the whole country and their money were supposed to come to the treasury, hence he was considered as highly collected the money through tax. In this regard, Tanzania as country was achieving sustainable development. JPM passed a law through the parliament of Tanzania which some of us were in, to allow intrusion of commissioner for TRA to any bank accounts and he can take the money. He instituted a system of payment of water and electricity through control numbers. This was the achievement to the country as no stealing was enforced. Currently no single bill is paid by cash, we pay all bills through control number and the work is done. This for obvious reasons was brought by him and he deserved heroes and honors. But on nominations he failed completely to enforce a character of a good president. We notice that currently there is huge number of government workers who are not in support of Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM), because of appointments. We all know that when appointments are made of Municipal directors, town directors, and district executive directors should be within councils and rarely through the central governments. Junior workers should not be appointed to those posts, because the moment the appointments are made it jeopardizes the entirety of the government. We notice farther that when regional commissioner and district commissioners are appointed, the trend is the same. We need senior people to overcome these duties. For so when regional and district administrative secretary are appointed, we need to concentrate on senior civil servants because of the huge mandates that these people have. Unless the interviews were enrolled which would set why this senior person has been left at the expense of the junior, the appointments will be weak and will lead to underdevelopment of our countries. We need to change the way we make appointment if we want to attain sustainable development.

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