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The Dimensions of Climate Change as a Non-Traditional Threat to Human Security in Zimbabwe

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Abstract: *Globally, non-traditional threats had taken the leading role in paralysing the ecosystem and endanger the psychological well-being of states. These non-traditional threats move beyond boundaries as they bedevilled all states, big and small or developed and developing despite circumstances. Due to limited resources developing states became the most affected by non-traditional threats as they cannot put measures in full capacity to deal with such threats. These non-traditional threats range from natural catastrophes and man-made induced disasters. Natural catastrophes encompass climate induced calamities such as hurricanes, floods, droughts and volcanoes to mention a few. Ironically, although some of these can be considered natural it is amenable that some of the threats are propelled by the actions of men. An example might be the cutting down of trees that may result in massive land degradation and perhaps contribute to climate change. It was in this auspices that the paper focused on the dimensions of climate change as a non-traditional threat to Zimbabwe. Moyo and Tevera (2000) notes that, environmental security research in Southern Africa is a young and eclectic academic endeavour, quite rare in university curricula. This acclaim was made nearly twenty (20) years ago, but this paper argues that, despite much having been done to move along in researching about environmental security research more still can be done. The research findings revealed that climate change is a genuine insecurity issue to developing countries which cries for much wider attention by the respective governments. Although strategies are there as envisioned by the country's ratification of international instruments on the subject matter and the enacting of domestic laws to deal with the vice, a lot still need done. It was also revealed that the modus operandi that the country takes when dealing with such kind of threats is not proactive but rather reactionary. As part of the recommendations there is need to increase funding for mechanisms to fight climate change and the need to ensure self-reliance by Government when it comes to issues of environmental security as opposed to relying on external funding.*

Keywords: *climate change, traditional threats, non-traditional threats, security, human security*

1. INTRODUCTION

Worldwide, there are a lot of pervasive threats to fundamental human lives. Human security has become a canonical universal concern mostly mired by non-traditional threats. These threats are accelerating and jeopardizing human freedom, dignity, and abilities. Climate change is the universal set of most non-traditional threats which are notable in most countries. The image of non-traditional threats has become more diffuse, ubiquitous, equivocal, and latent. Human security is a condition that results from an effective political, economic, social, cultural, and natural environment, and not from executing a set of administrative procedures (Alkire, 2003). The human threats distract the psychological strength by undermining vital core human activities and abilities. Security threats are either traditional or non-traditional to human beings. According to Hove, Ngwerume and Muchemwa (2013) non-traditional threats are a silent and devastating manifestation which is not receiving appropriate attention as they are overshadowed by traditional military security challenges.

The globe is facing climatic and ecosystem changes which has wreaked to a surge of novel and re-emerging pathogens. Researches has indicated that the world had experienced almost 30 human pathogens with seventy-five percent (75%) being zoonotic related and 25% being caused by climatic changes (Jones *et al.*, 2008 in Badu et al, 2020). Some of these pathogens include the Rift Valley fever, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV-1), Pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, Yellow fever, Avian Influenza (H5N1 and H7N9), West Nile virus, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and the current Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome CoV-2 (SARS-CoV-2), coronavirus, (Badu et al, 2020). This entails that climate change is a major human security issue that poses serious global threats. Africa is often cited as the continent most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Climate change is now being recast as a threat to international peace and security. Non-traditional security threats cannot be contained by traditional national military capabilities and law enforcement agencies amongst other traditional mechanisms of dealing with threats. Therefore, these non-traditional security threats does not only endanger human lives but it also tears down social development, geo-political fundamentals and economic growth.

Climate change has caused severe social, economic and physical repercussions in developing countries (Hove, Ngwerume and Muchemwa, 2013). Visible changes in environment conditions in the last years have further popularized debate about the threats that may be linked to environmental changes. Nurhasanah, Napang and Rohman (2020) point that, the concept of human security has been touted as an essential paradigm for understanding global vulnerabilities as part of changes that move beyond security concerns since the outbreak of the coronavirus. The essential survival components of humans being are ultimately nature dependent such as food, water, energy and shelter. Nature is coiled with diverse conditions that have posed various forms of security challenges over time such as drought, heavy precipitation, pandemics, road accidents, terrorism, human trafficking, wildfires and cyclones. These threats are as a result of climate change and technological advancement. Zimbabwe still lags behind on conceptualising non-traditional environmental threats. This is due to lack of appreciation, negligence, corruption, poor funding for research, and lack in technological consolidation among other reasons which are interlaced in the performance of the economy. As such, this paper intends to explain the dynamics of climate change as a non-traditional threat in Zimbabwe through theoretical introspection of other works on the subject and empirical investigation of issues on the ground. In Zimbabwe there is still patch information on the literature which show the dynamism of climate change as a human threat.

1.1 A Historical Perspective on Climate Change

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1994) human security is about being free from harm from such chronic threats as diseases, poverty, repression and protection from hurtful and sudden disruptions in the pattern of everyday life. It therefore entail that human security is all about guaranteeing the right to life which is the first and most fundamental right that each and every human being should enjoy. It is without doubt that all other rights feed into this absolute right to life, as all others necessitate that the right to life be enjoyed in its fullest. As such environmental security is important as men interact with the environment, and if the environment is inconsistency, men's requirements are likely to be hampered and in turn the right to life becomes untenable. The reciprocal determinism which was propounded by Bandura in Schultz and Schultz (2013) explain that the behaviour of men can determine the environmental setup and the environment can shape the behaviour of men. Hence, if the environment is not conducive it will automatically be regarded as a sick and a threat environment to mankind. The history of men since the Stone Age has been a history full of his endeavour with the environment as a way to attain a life with dignity. It was better in the primitive stages, where, if the area that men found himself to be was characterised by environmental stress he would simply move to other locations with a conducive environment for him to survive and live. However, with the modern world where there are now well defined and instituted boundaries of statehood, if a particular locality happens to be affected by environmental stress most of the people there do not have an opportunity to elope but to face such insecurity stresses.

In Zimbabwe and as well perhaps in Africa the debate on climate change is still searching for meaning. The issue is not new to Africa as it has always been there since time immemorial, perhaps what is new is the metaphysical approach given to the discipline of environmental change. In the traditional African worldview, climate change has been largely believed to be a response by God to evil actions of men which then culminated in rains not coming, drought and any other such related consequences of the scourge (Nsamenang, 2007). The remedy of such trends in African was believed to be in making peace with God or their gods through religious ceremonies and sacrifices which in turn would absolve them from the ill-gotten climate change. This was the belief then and it worked for them. However, with the advent of modernity the African was introduced to different metaphysical explanation of climate change that was scientific as opposed to religious and traditional explanations. This meant that the African had to contemplate and alter his/her thinking of what really causes and what the actual remedies to this scourge of climate change are. The Western hegemony has indoctrinated the Africans to believe that

the West provides a universal panacea to African problems. Therefore much attention was given to scientific and standardisation of climatology. The African perspectives on climate change has been shunned as primitive, side-lined, ignored, relegated and misunderstood as lacking scientific standards (Chisa & Hoskins 2015). This means Africa instead of being made secure it was left exposed, to broad and conflicting philosophies about climate change. Given an example of Zimbabwe, at government level there might be consensus about the prowess of science, but in villages (were most people still struggle with nature to get a living) were technology is still lacking there is wide believe about God or gods being at the centre of climate change hence thus why rainmaking ceremonies (mukwerera) are still being held. As a result, the policy maker is caught between a rock and a hard place, because most environmental laws are hinged upon international standards which are biased towards international outlook and scientific explanations, to balance that with cultural beliefs. It is undeniable that in Africa at large and Zimbabwe in particular climate change was deeply traditionally and religiously entrenched as opposed to being scientifically coated.

Zimbabwe cannot afford to ignore the effects of climate change because it is largely an agrarian country with most of the folk in the country relying on agriculture as their way of living. Second to agriculture is mining which also rely heavily on the environment. So whatever changes that are brought about by the climate these sectors are likely to be affected. According to "Reports of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that Africa will suffer the most from the impacts of climate change. The serious under-development of the continent signifies high vulnerability to climate change impacts, (The Zimbabwe Climate Change Round Table Report, 2009). According to the above mentioned Report, impacts of climate change range from heavy or less rains, reduced productivity in the agricultural sector, dwindling water resources, rapid spread of vector-borne diseases, dangers to forests, increased flooding and reduction in natural resources such as fish. The same report then goes to affirm that such scourges have been on the increase in Zimbabwe. Ibid. further notes that, there are "predictions that agricultural productivity in Zimbabwe could decrease by up to 30% this century and marked by severe droughts, climate change poses one of the most serious food security challenges of the 21st century in the country." This prediction shows that climate change is one of the major non-traditional threats facing Zimbabwe. With some studies even claiming that by 2050 Zimbabwe will be a desert as a consequence of climate change if the matter is not taken seriously.

Outside the traditional and religious beliefs that was attributed to climate change exists plausible scientific explanation as to what causes climate change. According to Sodangi, Izge and Maina (2014), science has made strides in trying to proffer probable explanations as to the causes of climate change and its effects there afterwards. Various causes of climate change have been agreed upon worldwide. According to Brazier (2017), climate change is caused by the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which is a direct result of natural intricacies or an indirect result of human actions. This greenhouse can be a result of burning of fossil fuels (coal, petrol and natural gas etc.) and there end up being trapped in the atmosphere thereby causing global warming, (Ibid.). This will have a huge bearing on weather patterns and in some cases causing severe climatic shifts. There are various types of greenhouse gases which include carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane among a whole plethora of them. These as alluded to earlier can be transmitted into the atmosphere naturally and human induced. As such, everyone has or is capable of causing climate change as all human actions are responsible for the emission of these gases. Human actions which range from eating habits, shopping habits and general living traits contribute directly to the creation of such gases and their general emission. Resultantly, climate change is indirectly caused by everyone knowingly or unknowingly. As Brazier (2017) puts it, what only differs is the magnitude at which others do it over others.

1.2 An Understanding of Non-Traditional Threats to Security

The issue of non-traditional threats to security should be understood within the auspices of International Security Studies (ISS). International Security Studies as a discipline seeks to evolve out of debates to the state against internal and external threats at the conclusion of the Second World War, (Buzan and Hansen, 2009:8). ISS sought to delineate from previous thinking which saw security as absence of military threats to the state as it encompassed a wide area of threats. In the thinking of ISS philosophers such as Wolfers (1952), the state was vulnerable to threats that included the military threats and other far beyond such military threats. There is no universal agreement of what really constitute ISS as trends have been changing over the years since its inception. According to Buzan and Hansen (2009:10), "ISS can be seen as structured by engagement with four questions: whether to privilege the state as the referent object, whether to include internal as well as external threats, whether to expand security

beyond the military sector and the use of force, and whether to see security as inextricably tied to a dynamic of threats, dangers and urgency." These four questions are the major pillars of ISS which firstly view the state as being at the centre of security in the international arena. Why the state? The state is viewed as the major referent object because despite the existence of other players in the international arena they (only) exist as in relation to the state. Without the state it was going to be difficult to have the existence of other players. Another reason is that it is the state that has absolute control over a certain geographical location and a population; as such the state is at the heart of the protection of that locality and population.

Secondly, after the state has been highlighted as the major focal point of security in the international arena, it then follows to determine the nature of the threats, that is, if there are internal or external. It is widely agreeable that states are affected by both internal and external threats. Threats that affect a location and a population are regarded as transboundary, meaning that a threat that affects people in Zambia cannot be said to be immune to people in Zimbabwe. An example can be drawn from the cholera epidemic that affected Zambia in January 2018. Although having started in Zambia in early January 2018, Zimbabwe was not immune to such a threat as it was also affected by this epidemic in the second half of January (ZBC News 2018 Chegutu Cholera Outbreak.

Thirdly, the question whether to expand security beyond the military sphere and the use of force is at the epicentre of acclimatising the concept of human security that paves way to the issue of environmental security. In international relations, it is the realists that spearhead the traditional perspective of security that views it in pure military context. This was summed up by Eckersley (2004: 21) when he noted that, "That states should be so preoccupied with security issues is understood by realists to arise from their location in an anarchic state system, which is understood as an essentially Hobbesian world made up of a social, strategic state actors who are fearful, mistrustful, and constantly competing for scarce resources for the purposes of self-preservation or expansion." For the realists the environment only posed dangers in so far as it was at the centre of men competition, meaning that the environment was not an end security wise, but was a means for man to exact force over another man. Henceforth, the environment was not a major security issue it only came into play when men fought due to natural resources that are found in it. However, with the advent of human security the environment became a major security issue as it was now witnessed that just as war endangered livelihoods so did the environment. Ibid. 224-225 notes that, ecological problems such as (global warming, deforestation, species extinction, and pollution) "have been represented as posing a challenge to the state system, to the principle of territorial rule, to the activities and privileges of the military and the basic priorities of states, calling forth new forms of ecologically enlightened development, diplomacy, and governance." This has gone a long way in ensuring that environmental and climate change issues to be on the agenda of world bodies such as the United Nations (UN) among others.

Deudney (1990) notes that, environmental threats differ significantly to military threats in that there are not specific, and "are usually diffuse, transboundary, unintended, operate over longer time scales, and implicate a wide range of actors ("ourselves" rather than "the other"), and their resolution usually carries common benefits." The transboundary nature of environmental threats is best understood in the eyes of political ecologists, that is, "the earth's political geography bears no resemblance to its appearance from space—a solitary blueplanet, with a single ocean and seven large land masses". The last statement of a solitary planet with one ocean shows that despite different geographical locations a natural environment problem in the Middle East has to be of concern to Africa. Henceforth, if environmental problems have not been a concern to Zimbabwe in the previous decade, it is now evident that there has to be of very much concern.

Climate change as a non-traditional threat calls upon academics to think thoroughly about issues to do with eco-centrism. The values of eco-centrism are rooted in the belief that human nature is directly dependent on the ecosphere which is the utmost fundamental to define the world order, (Loo, 2007). This is in direct contrast to techno-centrism which holds that the environment is at the mercy of mankind and therefore can use it whatever best way that suits himself, (Clover, 2005). It is at the mentality of techno-centrism that some of man's actions can be situated.

2. Aim of the Study

To explore the dimensions of climate change as a non-traditional threat in Zimbabwe as guided by the following major objectives:

- To identify the effects and magnitude of climate change to Zimbabwean society,
- To determine the insecurities being posed by climate change to Zimbabwe

3. METHODOLOGY

This research was anchored on the uses of a qualitative approach, which is enriched with data from reliable scholarly international and national journals, proceedings, and information from websites. A choice between which methodology to use depends on the type of inquiry which one is undertaking with quantitative research having roots in the natural sciences whilst qualitative research is mainly rooted in social science inquiry, (Wagner, Kawulich and Garner, 2012). The explanatory research design was used to explain the climatic change as it endanger human life. Qualitative methods are typically inductive and naturalistic. Qualitative methods intend to give a holistic, full representation of complex, dynamic social circumstances reality (Padgett, 2016; Pope, Mays, & Popay, 2006; Damschroder et al., 2009; Kitson et al., 2017). This study opted for the qualitative methodology due to its ability to give researchers as much interaction as possible with those involved with a phenomena. This is against the backdrop that security studies are largely relative hence, for one to fully understand the dynamics involved in security issues one has to interact with those involved.

3.1. Population and Setting

The researchers made use of already existing documents on climate change in Zimbabwe, such document analysis which helped in giving depth knowledge of climate change trends and how it has become an insecurity issue in the country. The study employed the purposive sampling from the key informants such as traditional leaders, environmental experts and community elders. This type of sampling enables the researcher to utilise time by selecting those most suitable basing on their levels of expertness insofar the subject matter at hand is concerned (Wagner, Kawulich and Garner, 2012). This foresaw experts on climate change in Ministries and Departments being targeted as respondents for this particular research.

3.2. Data Collection

Data was collected from primary and secondary sources. Interviews mainly in-depth interviews of officials at the Ministry of Environment and Water and the Meteorological Department contributed in appreciating long-term and short-term initiatives at the disposal of government in its endeavour to secure the country against climate change. Use of both face to face and virtual interactions was used. It is without doubt that in this information edge virtual communication is fast becoming the new norm. Resultantly, academic research should not be left out in this new bandwagon as virtual communication has got key takeaways for the academic field insofar the gathering of data is concerned.

3.3. Data Analysis

Bogdan and Biklen (2003) define qualitative data analysis as the process of organizing and breaking data into manageable units, coding them, synthesizing them, and searching for patterns. The data analysis used was the PESTEL model, that is, political, economic, social, technological, ecological effects of climate change to the country. Climate change's effects to the country have political, economic, social, technological, economic, legal underpinnings. On the economic effects the researcher attempted to come up with a cost analysis of the impacts of climate change to Zimbabwe. It must however be mentioned that the actual cost analysis is difficult to come up with as the impasse of climate change are felt from the top level up to the lowest level of society. It might be easier to quantify the cost at government level but very difficult to do so at societal or individual level.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Climate Change and Insecurity in Zimbabwe

The current study investigated the dimension of climate change as a non- traditional threat to human security in Zimbabwe. The findings creamed out different outcomes which are indirectly and directly caused by climate change ranging from healthy related, economic, social, cultural, technological, geopolitical and psychological in nature. These findings proves to cause more harm to humanity both in the short and long term auspices. The majority of the participants reveals that fear and worries are halting their future due to unprecedented climate calamities. This was shown by their verbatim statements below:

- Drought is the top worldwide worry, food security is not guaranteed these days. The world is now being forced to venture in genetically modified food (GMO) which has significant side-effects to our health.
- Sudden experience of hurricanes and cyclones are a threat to us such as the cyclone Eline, Japhet and the Cyclone Idai in Chimanimani.
- Technological advancement which is inevitable is causing more harm than good to human security.
- Poverty is a human security issue caused by economic instability which is partly a result of climate change
- We are experiencing harmful diseases and pandemics such as the covid-19 due to climate change hence a serious threat to Human beings.
- Cultural erosion due to displacement is being experienced each year.
- Road carnage is affecting human lives as a result of human error and environmental degradation.

The study has found that the human security threats posed by climate change in Zimbabwe are multifaceted. The study reveals that climate change has affected the economic, social and geopolitical standing of the Zimbabwean society. Zimbabwean society in all of these dimensions is mainly premised on environmental determinism (Moyo and Tevera, 2000). It is without doubt that climate change threatens the national production as Zimbabwe is an agro-based country and its economic auspices are anchored on the environmental support. This is in agreement with the work of Manjengwa et al (2014) who points that climate change is one of the major threats affecting humanity and has already affected Zimbabwe greatly. Document analysis shows that the reason why Zimbabwe has been adversely affected by this scourge was rightly put forward by ZIMSTAT (2013a) when it highlighted that the majority of the population, about sixty seven per cent (67%) largely depend on agriculture. Due to the fact that, agriculture on its own depend on the natural environment any changes highly affects this sector. The issue of climate change in Zimbabwe is real and records show that the country's temperatures are on the rise and the amount of rainfall is fluctuating leading to excessive droughts. The same report further estimates that by 2050 the global temperature will increase up to 2.5°C. The same scenario that happened in Darfur, Sudan is likely to transpire in Zimbabwe if this non-traditional security threats are unsolved through sustainable policies. In Darfur climate change 'transformed the Darfur region from sustainable agricultural land into a partial desert', (Abwao, 2007). This scenario was a security threat in a number of ways including distorting the people's livelihoods, as they heavily depended on the land; it became a major cause of conflicts between and among people as it resulted in conflict over the control and jurisdiction of the scarce natural resource. As such climate change is tolling at significant levels that if not curbed the country risk to be a desert in the next thirty (30) or forty (40) years. This will heavily affect the economy as Zimbabwe is an agrarian economy, (ZIMASSET, 2013).

This is in par with Brazier (2017) who notes that the impacts of climate change on agriculture are multifaceted ranging from inconsistent rainfall patterns that are either drought like or flood like, rise in temperature creating a problem of crop pests for farmers, degradation of natural resources such as soil upon which all agricultural activities are premised. All this has significantly contributed to food insecurity in the country thereby threatening the livelihoods of millions of people in Zimbabwe. As of December 2019 the whole of Zimbabwe was facing a food shortage crisis affecting nearly eight million (8 000 000) people out of the countries fourteen million (14 000 000) people (World Food Programme (WFP), 2019). The WFP (2019) alludes to the fact that the maize and other cereal crops harvest in the country for the 2019 farming season was half and below half that of the previous year for the two, respectively. This scenario was largely due to 'late and inadequate' rains recorded in the country. As a result families were exposed to malnutrition as they were now eating less against the required standard. To show the extent of the threat on food security, the WFP categorised fifty six (56) of Zimbabwe's sixty (60) districts as experiencing 'crisis' hunger. A statistical presentation then means that nearly ninety four percent (94%) of the country was under threat from hunger. The UN report (2018) alludes to the fact that part of this hunger can be attributed to drought and long years of mismanagement. Mismanagement is an indicator of poor and lack of proper policy mechanisms to climatic change readiness in developing countries like Zimbabwe. Hence, a mixture of climate change and failure to come up with proper adaptation and mitigation measures poses a great threat to human security.

The research discovers that the other vital element heavily threatened by climate change in Zimbabwe is the natural resources sector that is a source of livelihood for many people. Mutasa and Ndebele (2015) notes that Zimbabwe is endowed by abundant natural resources, including agricultural land, water, minerals, forests and wildlife. These resources are very key to life for both humans and animals. However, the ecosystem of these natural resources have been greatly threatened by climate change thereby posing great danger to human and animal life. In as much human activities has caused degradation of some of these natural resources it is evident that climate change has in many cases accelerated the pace at which this degradation occurs. Wildlife which is a means of livelihood for many in Zimbabwe as it provides food and much economic activities through sectors such as tourism has significantly been affected. According to Brazier (2017), many animal species will likely be deprived of their habitat and even face death due to changes in the vegetation patterns and the scarcity of water caused by climate change. It is very difficult for wildlife species to survive under dwindling resources which in most cases results in increased human life conflict as the two species try to cope with climate induced threats (Ibid). Natural resources in Zimbabwe have been exposed to greater induced climate change stress.

The above findings postulates that there is no doubt that this leads to the death of the tourism sector which was one of the key sectors contributing to human security in Zimbabwe. It is no doubt that the tourism sector in Zimbabwe has been severely affected by climate change resulting in the number of tourists visiting the country reducing. These effects ranged from dwindling water levels in the Kariba Dam and Victoria Falls. According to the Government of Zimbabwe (2014), tourism was contributing around ten percent (10%) to the country's GDP and it is clear that this slightly increased over the years. Any slight negative effects to this sector is likely to be felt by many in the country and threatens the livelihoods of those depending on this sector. As such the tourism sector becomes a human security issue for the progress of the country. Below is a diagram showing the contribution to national GDP by sector in Zimbabwe as of 2014. As derived from the diagram most of the sectors contributing to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are very climate sensitive. Henceforth, the issue of climate change is a serious security issue to the existential basis of the Zimbabwean state.

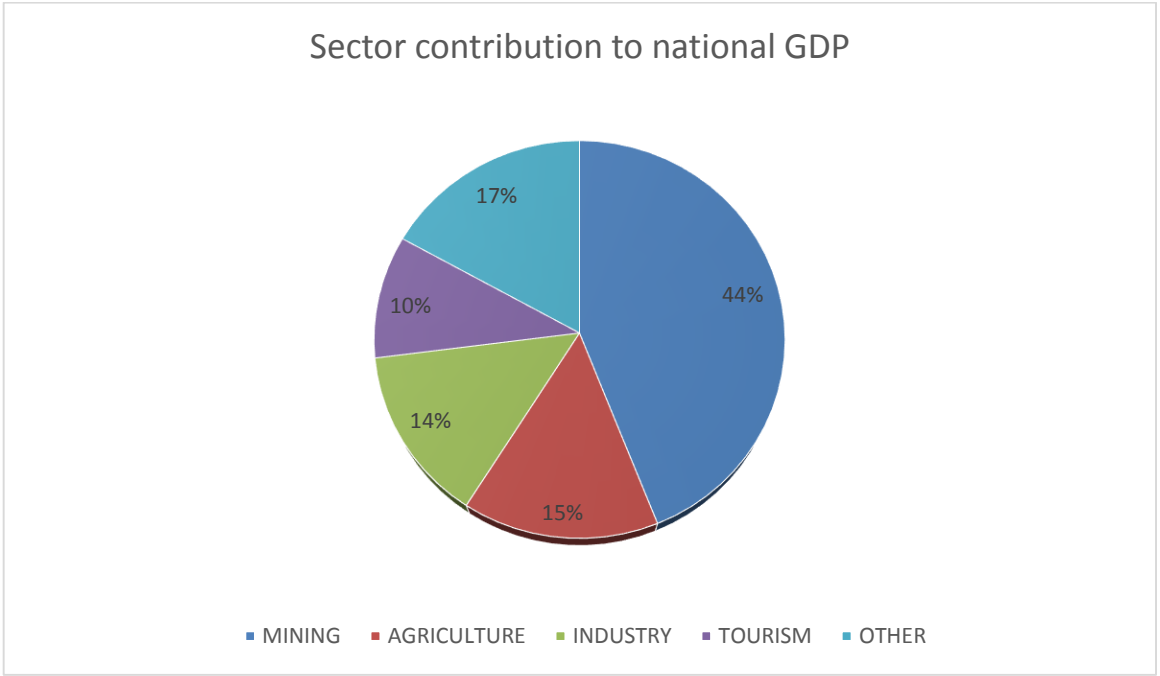

Figure1. *Sector Contribution to national GDP*

Adapted from the Government of Zimbabwe 2014 data

Another sector heavily threatened by climate change in Zimbabwe is the energy sector. According to one respondent Zimbabwe has a national electricity demand of two thousand two hundred megawatts (2200MW) at its peak, but however, current demand was reported to be at one thousand four hundred megawatts (1400MW). Although they are other energy sources such as thermal plants and others it is a fact that hydro-source significantly contributed. However, climate change has significantly affected sources of hydro energy in the country due to dwindling water resources resulting in most of the hydro-

plants failing to operate at optimum levels, (Brazier, 2017). This has in turn affected other sectors of the economy which rely on electricity. A case in point is the trends obtaining at the Kariba Power Station, where a respondent noted that the Station has got eight generators/turbines with capacity to generate one thousand and fifty megawatts (1050MW). However, due to the water situation only four (4) turbines were being utilised. This has seen some industries failing to operate at optimum levels owing to the unavailability of electricity and the exorbitant of it thereof caused by its scarcity. As such one can safely argue that perhaps industries ended up shelving off some workers owing to this thereby endangering those people's livelihoods.

Just as war which is a traditional threat affects a country's GDP so is climate change which is a non-traditional threat. Worse so countries cannot plan for climate change as they can do so for war, effects of the former can be very catastrophic as compared to the latter.

Climate change has caused a lot of suffering and loss of life due to disasters such as the Cyclone Idai which affected some parts of Zimbabwe and a number of countries in the Southern African region. According to Chatiza (2019), Cyclone Idai was characterised by massive storms and flooding which struck the Southern African region affecting millions of people through loss of life and livelihoods. Human security in all its facets as presented by the United Nations Development Report of 1994, that is, political security, food security, health security, economic security, social security and environmental security was all affected as a result of this environmental hazard. Explanations of the rise of this cyclone is deeply rooted within dimensions of climate change. In Zimbabwe alone more-than two hundred and fifty thousand (250 000) people were directly affected. The impacts ranged from death, disruptions on education and health systems, and economic distortions among others as witnessed by how people were displaced. This led to government to quickly divert funds towards helping the affected communities and at the same time being forced to ignore other necessities which might otherwise could have received funding. A key lesson that the Cyclone Idai disaster showed was that in face of climate change induced calamities the right to life can never be guaranteed. Therefore, climate change is posing significant threats to Zimbabwe in almost every sphere of life.

The findings also revealed that climate change creates volatile weather patterns coupled with extreme changes in rainfall and temperature leading to shortages in food, water and energy production as enveloped in the traditional model (Brown, Hammill and Mcleman, 2007). The extreme change weather patterns causes mental stressors such as natural disasters and difficulty coping mechanisms. The climate change has led to climate-related diseases and outbreak of unprecedented pandemics such as Ebola, cholera, coronavirus (Covid-19) and many more. This means that climate change spur to the spread of a variety of health problems, leading to more widespread malnutrition, psychological induces ailments and altered distribution of some vectors of disease transmission such as the malarial mosquito. Diseases caused by climate stressors represent a clear and distinct form of security threat to human life. A lot of lives have been lost in the country as a direct result of diseases that are climate induced. In the same vein, one respondent noted that the health sector at many times is faced with temporary outbreaks of diseases that are caused by heat stress when sometimes massive heat weather patterns are experienced in the country.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends the following:

- There is need to create a Department within the Ministry of Environment which shall be responsible with educating the community through community awareness campaigns on climate change. This will enable the entire community to develop psychological mental strength and design coping mechanisms.
- It should be mandatory for nation to rewire the indigenous knowledge system of curbing climate change. A multifaceted approach is needed when dealing with the scourge of climate change. As noted earlier in this paper, there are long standing traditional beliefs that were followed through in trying to cope with climate change. Such indigenous knowledge systems should not die with the coming of modernization but should be infused in current efforts to fight climate change. Therefore, there is need to promote research on these indigenous knowledge systems such that they can be harnessed in the fight against climate change.
- The fight against climate change is not going to be won without the participation of communities. Therefore, government should enhance community participation in all efforts to curb climate change as this will go a long way in providing lasting solutions.

- Climate change is here to stay and as such there must be cultivated permanent and lasting climate financing solutions. Everyone is involved and the authors strongly believe that a Climate Tax/ Levy in the same form as the Aids Levy that is taxed on every formally employed person will go a long in Zimbabwe's fight against the scourge of climate change.
- Early warning systems should be erected and must be advanced to ensure that the country does not take a reactionary step but rather a proactive one when dealing with climate change induced disasters.

6. CONCLUSION

The study found that climate change has negatively affected the Zimbabwean community wellness. The country is faced with a dilemma of becoming a desert come 2050 if something is not urgently done insofar climate change is concerned. Livelihoods are at stake and the prospect of conflict as a result of climate change induced scarcity is inevitable. This happened before in Darfur and the consequences are there for everyone to witness. Therefore, Zimbabwe should have a proper strategy that has got the buy in of every citizen such that efforts to fight climate change are successful. Most human challenges are anchored on the environment. The strategies that the country employs in curbing the effects of climate change has to be inclusive and all-encompassing if there are to work. Culture erosion has been noted as a notable factor which is causing climate change. Throwing away traditional culture has caused a lot of problems which threatens the security of a human being.

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