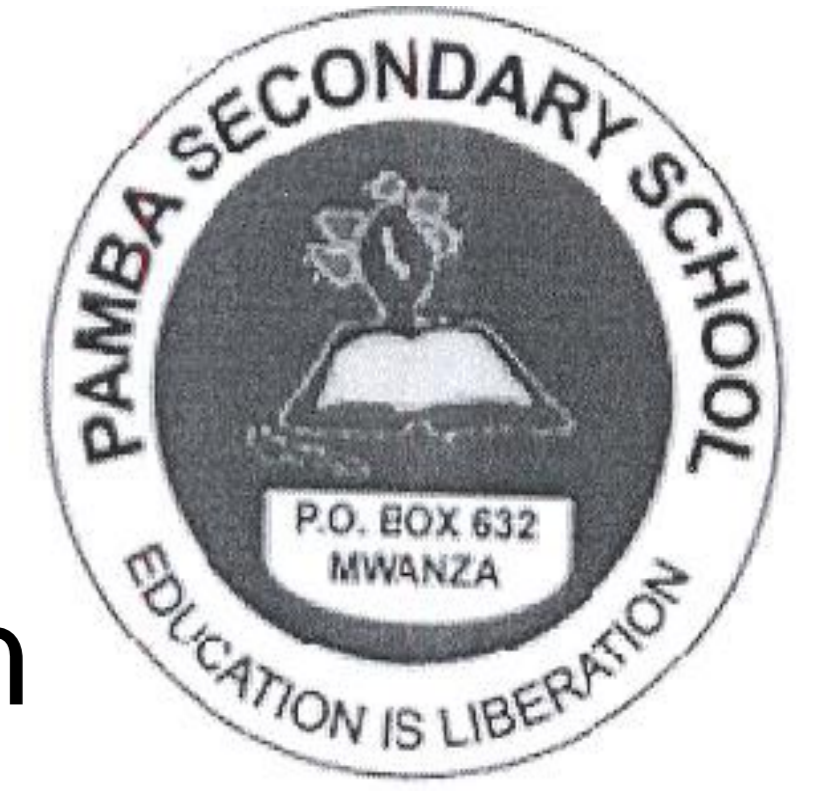




Why is Tanzania Poor Despite Having Abundant Resources?

68. Pamba



Nyanjige Mazerengwe, Paschazia Faustine and Agnes Simon

Introduction:

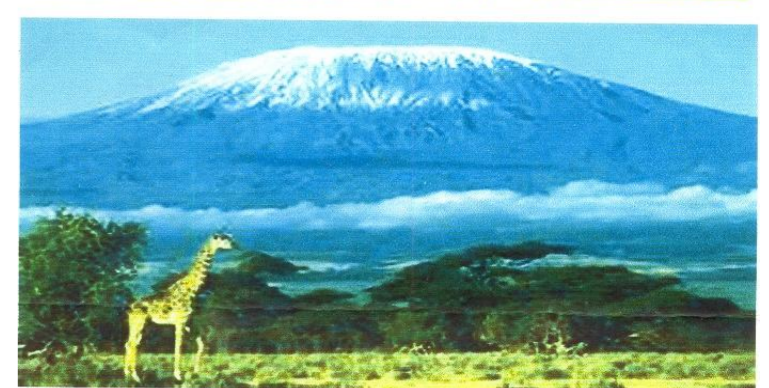
It has been 50 years since Tanzania got her independence from the British. Before the coming of the colonialist, Tanzania owned and still owning different minerals, local industries, land and other resources which yield 3.6% of the national GNP. Through political domination, economically, culturally and socially is where colonialism emerged. This is where by primary goods were exploited to develop western European industries and also there was introduction of western culture which by then seemed to be more modernized compare to our culture.



Colonialism made African countries to depend on western European countries. This attitude of not being themselves eroded their confidence and to date we still have political leaders bureaucrats who still consider development as westernization (about 99% of African leaders).

As economic students we are trying to find out and experiment on what is making our country to continue being poor while all the resources are now owned by the government of Tanzania. This experimental approach is based on our community which we live in and are facing the consequences.

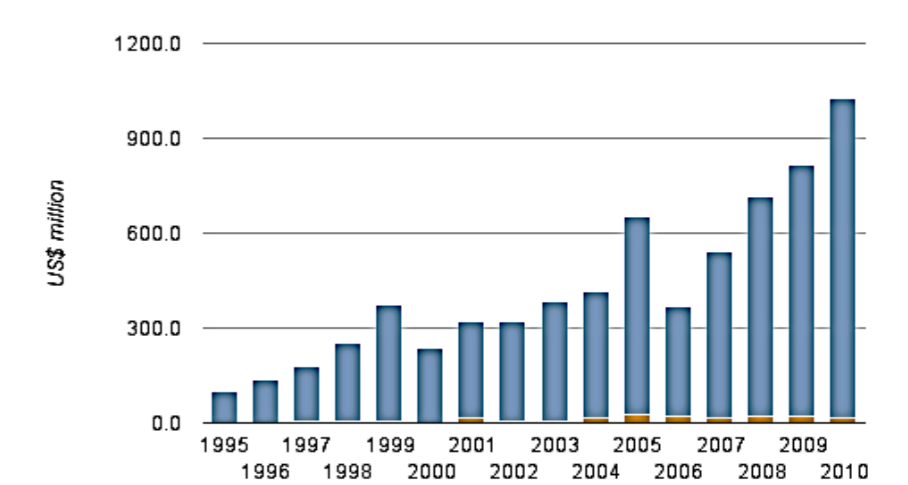
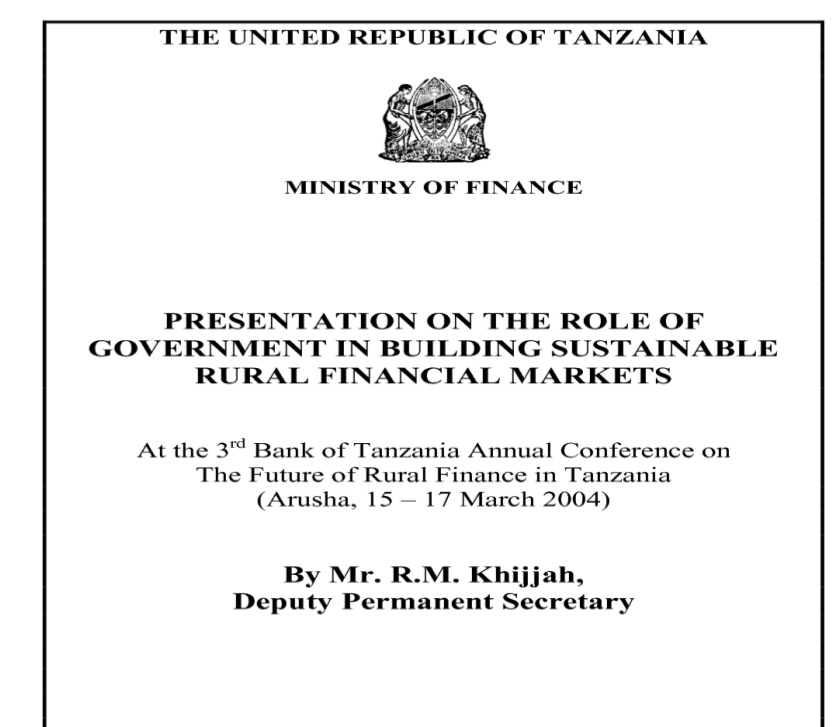
We have come up with different ideas including historical factors like slavery, colonialism, economic factors, poor management of resources E.g. Minerals, fish products, forests, lakes (Victoria, Nyasa, Tanganyika), globalization, poor marketing strategies, weak infrastructure, political factors like lack of political commitment, social factors like ignorance about minerals contribution, poor education system traditional and cultural factors etc. Our main hypothesis is laziness of people which is witnessed through the amount of time used for unproductive/passive leisure e.g. sleeping, playing cards, and story telling on streets and under tree shadows, corruption and embezzlement of funds and minerals, unclear mining contracts between Tanzania government and miners both local and foreigners miners.



Results:

- Heavy public debts both internal and external debts which increase rapidly amounting to 21 trillion to date
- Rampant corruption and embezzlement of funds, minerals and wildlife organisms. This has been seen in ministry of mineral Development, Tanesco, and Ngorongoro game park
- Inadequate skilled personnel in the field of minerals and natural resources management which has led to foreign dependence
- Poor and unclear mining contracts between Government, local and foreign miners leading to mass loss of funds.
- Tax evasion and tax avoidance by mining companies by escaping and refusing to pay mining tax
- Limited knowledge about the nature of various minerals by the Tanzanians about 90% know nothing about Tanzanite, Diamond, and Copper

24 hours services for higher growth, much of the country's GNP is lost to passive leisure like "constant sleeping". It has been observed that 20% of adult people can work from 8:00am to 5:00pm, the rest 80% work for a few hours. The 20% of labor force are those who work objectively



Conclusions:

The hypothesis of this research project was laziness of the people in Tanzania. Most of time is wasted on passive leisure example sleeping, story telling on streets, also peeling the satisfaction on that very moment without thinking of the future. This hypothesis was supported by different people we were interviewing to the extent of about 95%

These results are conclusive and interesting because this is what is facing the Tanzania's economy because we have abundant resources but still people are not willing to work hard and to figure out ways on improving the economy of the country. Our findings are relevant to other written materials and also to most of the LDC'S. This project is not only meant for the young scientist's competition but also to widen our knowledge on what is going on in our country and what steps to take in order to bring about changes of development.

OUR RECOMMENDATION:

All in all, Tanzania is among the best investment destination in the world due to the presence of conducive climate, unique natural resources like tanzanite, diamonds, game reserves, national parks, hospitality of Tanzanians, good governance. However, to benefit from those natural resources, there is a need to improve on science and technology, education system, improving health sector and Tanzanians need to be patriotic to their country, ICT education in schools should be encouraged, mining and minerals education should be encouraged among Tanzanians.

References:

- Bank of Tanzania annual report 2010/11 and the role of government in building sustainable rural financial market by R.M. Khijjah
- Internet surfing

Acknowledgements:

We would like to acknowledge the support we got from these people especially on providing us reliable data
Managing director economic office B.O.T Mwanza (D.D Thewa)
Economic department city council Mwanza
I.T Managing director lake zone (Mr. Albert)
Economic Director TRA Mwanza
H.O.D Economics, Pamba secondary school (Mr. Jehoash Magala Matovu)

Further information:

Download at: www.youngscientists.co.tz/posters