Development or Displacement? Unmasking the Absurdities of Zimbabwe's 'Second Republic' Vision 2030 Implementation: 2018-2024.

Khumbulani Maphosa

University of Johannesburg
Email: maphosakhumbulani@gmail.com

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Abstract: *Is it not absurd that in this age of development policy enlightment and with an open source colossal of epistemological evidence drawn from global case studies, Zimbabwe's 'Second Republic' is still adopting a cavalier approach to development-induced displacements? This article employs a decoloniality lens to interrogate the development and development-induced displacements paradoxes inherent in Zimbabwe's pursuit of the ambitious Vision 2030 developmental agenda. It elucidates the realities of discontenting displacements and the absurdities that have emerged as a result of the implementation of the country's development policy. The paper postulates three forms of development absurdities responsible for contemporary development-induced displacements in Zimbabwe and these are - 'development masquerade', 'development amnesia', and 'development anorexia'. 'Development masquerade' refers to the superficial facade of development progress camouflaged in progressive policies, while 'development amnesia' denotes the systemic oblivion to historical lessons and development policy safeguards; and 'development anorexia' represents the pathological penchant for ill-conceived and unsustainable economic development pursuits at the expense of socio-cultural and environmental significances. Through a nuanced analysis, this article contributes to the broader discourse on development policy and development-induced displacements by calling for a realignment of Zimbabwe's National Development Strategies to ensure they are inclusive, sustainable, and beneficial for all Zimbabweans.*

Key Words: Development; Development-induced Displacements; Development masquerade; Development amnesia; Development anorexia; Vision 2030.

1. Introduction:

The phenomenon of development-induced displacements, a term that delineates the involuntary migration of communities engendered by developmental initiatives (Cernea, 1997; Scudder, 1968), has been the subject of extensive epistemic kaleidoscope in recent years due to the growing numbers of displacees. Hagen and Minter (2020) notes that over 20 million people a year are being displaced by development projects worldwide. Hirsh et al (2020) observes that in the year 2018 alone, approximately 70.8 million people were forcibly displaced by development projects worldwide. This paper aims to delve into the intricacies of this phenomenon, with a particular emphasis on Zimbabwe's National Development Strategies (NDS) implemented from 2018 to 2023 as midterm goals of the country's Vision 2030 agenda.

The National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1), a Zimbabwe national policy goal designed to catalyze economic growth and enhance living standards (Government of Zimbabwe, 2020) is paradoxically responsible for the displacement of local people in various rural communities that include Binga, Hwange, Mutoko, Beitbridge, Zvimba and Chiredzi districts. These displacements result in a myriad of socio-economic challenges for the local affected peoples. It is ironic that the negative results of these development-induced displacements are similar to the negative socio-economic challenges that NDS1 purport to seek to address. This paper posits that such parallaxes accentuate the inherent absurdities within development paradigms that ostensibly aim to foster progress but inadvertently beget the forced socio-economic dislocation of the local people in project communities.

The case of Zimbabwe serves as a salient exemplar of these paradoxes. Despite the ostensible objective of fostering socio-economic progress, some of the NDS1 inspired mega projects such as hydro-power dams, mega agricultural projects, mining ventures and urban expansion ventures have inadvertently exacerbated socio-economic disparities and caused a sense of disillusionment among the displaced communities (Chimedza, 2013).

This paper unravel these complexities, drawing upon empirical evidence and decoloniality theoretical insights gleaned from the disciplines of development anthropology. In so doing, this paper contributes to the burgeoning epistemological discourse on decoloniality and development. It underscores the imperative for a more nuanced understanding of the intercourse between capitalistic forms of development and displacements, thereby challenging the prevailing crooked rhetoric that naturalizes Eurocentric modernity typologies as a universal global process to development success whilst hiding its constant reproduction of coloniality (Mignolo, 2007). By illuminating these inherent parochial and endogenous development absurdities within the Zimbabwean context, this paper advocates for a critical re-evaluation of development strategies and their impacts on local communities.

2. Problem Statement:

The displacement of people by development projects geared to facilitate economic dividends has grown to be a global problem (Hirsh et al, 2020) and though there is no concrete global portal to show the gravitas of the mater, Hagen and Minter (2020) maintain that about 20 million people are displaced globally by these projects. Zimbabwe, like many developing nations of the global south has ambitious plans to develop itself and improve both the economic and social status of its inhabitants. In pursuance of this, Zimbabwe adopted in 2018, the Vision 2030 development agenda. Halfway (by middle of 2024) through the implementation of the development blue print, there is still dearth of literature that analyses the growing concern of forced mass displacements of or threats of mass displacements of indigenous citizens due to the development blueprint's projects. Contemporary evaluations of the Transitional Stabilization Programme by Pasipanodya (2020); IMF (2019); Chitongo et al (2020); ZIMCODD (2020); Labour and Economic Development Research Institute Zimbabwe (LEDRIZ) (2020); and World Bank (2020) are encored on the capitalistic and modernist perspectives which are infatuated with economic and financial performance but paying little to no focus on socio-cultural and environmental factors. Whilst, LEDRIZ (2020) makes a strong argument for social and environmental development, they also conspicuously fail to interrogate the subject of development-induced displacements in Zimbabwe. This article therefore employs the decoloniality binoculars to extrapolate the nuances (absurdities) of development-induced displacements linked to the implementation of Zimbabwe's national development agenda. The article, unlike others that have been fixated with economic indicators, is more concerned with the social sustainability of the development discourse.

3. Theoretical Framework:

The Decoloniality Theoretical Framework emerged as part of diasporic scholarly works of a South American movement examining the role of European colonization of the Americas in establishing Eurocentric modernity (Bhambra, 2014). Mignolo (2007) credits Peruvian sociologist Anibal Quijano for having birthed the decoloniality framing in his 1989 article which linked coloniality of power in the political and economic spheres with the coloniality of knowledge. The Decoloniality Theoretical Framework is thus a school of thought that seeks to delink from Eurocentric knowledge hierarchies and ways of being (Maldonado-Torres, 2007) and critiques the perceived universality of Western knowledge and the superiority of Western culture, including the systems and institutions that reinforce these perceptions (Quijano, 2007). Mignolo (2007) argues for decoloniality through epistemic de-linking that changes the concepts and histories of conversations on modernity/coloniality from the European incursion. The Decoloniality Framework is, therefore, not a mere epistemic discourse but also a praxistical anthropological means to challenge global developmentalism hermeneutics and structures that make dialogue impossible as they perpetuate racial and imperial domination, division, manipulation, cultural invasion, and conquest (Temin, 2023).

This article explores the usefulness of Decoloniality Theoretical Framework in dealing with development-induced displacements in Zimbabwe.

Development-induced displacements often occur due to projects such as water supply, urban infrastructure, transportation, energy, agricultural expansion, parks and forest reserves, and population redistribution schemes (Robison, 2003; Aboda et al, 2019; Terminiski, 2013). These displacements often disproportionately affect marginalized communities, leading to loss of homes, livelihoods, incomes, social capital, biodiversity and cultural heritage (Nustad, 1996; Dandub and Abdul, 2022; and Hirsh et al, 2020). The Decoloniality framework, therefore, challenges the dominant paternalistic narratives that often frame development-induced displacements as necessary sacrifices for progress (Bhagath, 2019) instead highlighting the human and socio-cultural costs of such displacements. By doing so, the decoloniality framework disrupts the power dynamics inherent in development discourse and practice (Temin, 2023).

Moreover, the decoloniality framework offers a parallax view to development-induced displacements and encourages the exploration of alternative development models (Tavernaro-Haidarian, 2019) that are more respectful of local cultures, knowledge systems, and ways of life. It calls for a shift away from feudalist and hegemonic development paradigms, towards one that is participatory, based on the positionality of the displaced (Hirsh et al, 2020), and guided by context-specific, culturally sensitive approaches (Dandub and Abdul, 2022).

4. Development-Indued Displacements: A Critical Examination:

Development-induced displacement and resettlement (DIDR) represents a significant socio-economic and philosophical phenomenon, characterized by the involuntary relocation of individuals due to the implementation of development-oriented initiatives (Cernea, 2005; Ambaye and Abeliene, 2015). These initiatives encompass a broad spectrum of projects, including but not limited to, dam construction, mining, agricultural expansion, military installations, airport development, industrial plant construction, railway and road development, urbanization, conservation projects, and forestry (Robison, 2003; Aboda et al, 2019; Terminiski, 2013). Vanclay (2017) argues that development-induced displacements constitute displacements by projects irrespective of their purpose and whether they are initiated by government or private sector. Ploeg and Vanclay (2017) further elaborates that these displacements may be permanent or temporary removal against the affected people's will without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protections.

4.1 Conceptualizing Development-Induced Displacements

Proponents of modernization theory and economic developmentalism consider development-induced displacements as unavoidable necessary anthropological collateral damage reasonably necessary to achieve modernity and economic growth (Cernea and McDowell, 2000; and Bhagath, 2019), especially in developing nations like Zimbabwe.

The epistemic oration surrounding development-induced displacements is predicated on several conjectural assertions. Firstly, it posits that the infrastructural project necessitating the displacement of individuals/communities serves the collective national public interest. Secondly, it contends that the project will engender a plethora of benefits for both the resettled populace and other communities in the vicinity and beyond through direct and trickle down benefits such as employment and business opportunities. The notion is that the compensation package given to the resettled will better their housing and they will gain new livelihood adaptation opportunities. Thirdly, the privation of the impacted communities is seen as acceptable collateral damage for national development interest (Bugalski, 2016; and Mathur, 2013) and thus the scale of displacement is romanticized to be commensurate with the projected benefits, thereby rendering the displacement both reasonable and proportionally appropriate (Vanclay, 2007). The displaced are perceived to be on the way of development and therefore they have to move and pave way for the project.

4.2 Implications of Development-Induced Displacements

The ramifications of development-induced displacements are multifarious, extending from tangible losses such as household and communal infrastructure, livelihoods, and landscapes to more intangible impacts such as mental/psychological distress, cultural diversity and various forms of social capital. There is vast scholarship that documents the various forms of losses sustained during development-induced displacements and the implications for the affected peoples.

Inquisitive enquiry encompassing the works of Ambaye and Abeliene (2015), Cernea and McDowell (2000), Cernea (2009), and Bhagath (2019) coalesces around the assertion that development-induced displacements have metamorphosed into a global conundrum of significant magnitude. This necessitates an immediate and cogent response in the form of alternative development trajectories. These trajectories should not only uphold the rights of the displacees but also foster an environment conducive to non-recurrence, thereby addressing the exigencies of this pressing issue.

The scholarly discourse on the displacement of individuals due to development projects is marked by a conspicuous scarcity of succinct and digestible data (Dandub and Abdul, 2022). The extant literature is fraught with controversies, rendering the task of data interpretation and synthesis a perplexing endeavor. Nonetheless, empirical estimates proffered by Hay et al. (2019) and Skinner and Schulz (2022) posit that the global count of individuals displaced as a consequence of infrastructure projects surpasses an alarming figure of 20 million annually. This translates to a staggering total of 200 million displacements over the span of the decade from 2011 to 2020. In a revelation that underscores the gravity of this issue, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2019) reported that in the year 2018 alone, approximately 70.8 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a direct result of development projects. This statistics serves as a stark reminder of the profound and far-reaching implications of development-induced displacement.

The displacement phenomenon provokes a cascade of disruptions that permeate various facets of life, encompassing housing, health, security, livelihoods, and education, for both the displacees and the host communities. These disruptions precipitate far-reaching implications on the capacity of the affected individuals to contribute to local economies, generate income, fulfill fiscal obligations such as rent and taxes, engage in commerce, and invest in their socio-economic development. These vulnerabilities resonate with the impoverishment risks delineated by Cernea (2000), which encompass landlessness, homelessness, joblessness, marginalization, increased morbidity and mortality, food insecurity, loss of access to common property resources, and social disintegration. Cernea's Impoverishment Risk and Reconstruction (IRR) model has catalysed a plethora of scholarly inquiries into the impacts of displacements on both the displacees and the host communities. In a compelling testament to the deleterious effects of development-induced displacements, Randell (2022) cites evidence from a study which examined the impact of 44 large dams constructed between the 1950s and early 2000s. This study accounted for the displacement of 1.2 million individuals and found that the standards of living for resettlement households deteriorated in 82% of the cases. This finding underscores the profound and enduring consequences of displacement on the socioeconomic fabric of affected communities.

While development initiatives necessitating displacement have conferred developmental dividends upon urban dwellers and society's affluent strata, they paradoxically beget impoverishment among rural inhabitants, ethnic, and linguistic minorities (Hirsh et al., 2020; Dandub and Abdul, 2022; Temin, 2023). These communities, often constituting the majority poor in underdeveloped regions, grapple with a myriad of deleterious effects precipitated by development-induced displacement (Hoshour and Kalafut, 2010). One such effect is cultural annihilation, as displacement severs the social ties integral to their survival, thereby diminishing their cultural identity (Bhagath, 2019). This loss of connection to historical, religious, symbolic, or spatial locations is a profound consequence of forced displacements. Empirical evidence of these impacts is found in the study by Ambaye and Abeliene (2015) on displacements in Bahir Dar, Northwestern Ethiopia. Their findings underscored that displacement not only devastated the livelihoods of the affected but also catalysed social disintegration. Further testament to the adverse effects of displacement is provided by Mashingaidze (2013; 2020) and CCMT (2021), who documented the pre-independence 1959 displacements of the 23,000 Zimbabwe Tonga people by the hydropower Kariba Dam. Their observations revealed a lack of compensation for the affected communities and a consequent loss of the Tonga's cultural sites and traditional rituals. Randell (2022) advocates for the mental, emotional, and psychosocial wellbeing of the displaced, arguing that there is evidence signifying a decline in happiness and an increase in sadness, anxiety, stress, and depression among displaced communities. This underscores the multifaceted and profound impacts of development-induced displacements on the affected communities, necessitating comprehensive and empathetic approaches to address these challenges.

Development projects necessitating displacements have occasionally employed compensation, in its multifarious forms, as a purported panacea for mitigating the catastrophic repercussions of their undertakings (Cernea, 2008). While such compensatory measures have ostensibly sought to alleviate the adverse vulnerabilities associated with housing, land, and infrastructure, they are often found to be paltry, insufficient, and incapable of addressing the comprehensive spectrum of vulnerabilities (Cernea, 2003; Cernea and Mathur, 2008; McDonald, 2006). Compensation has been particularly ineffectual in redressing the critical and contentious losses pertaining to cultural values, psychosocial wellbeing of the displaced, memories, and sacred sites that are obliterated during displacements (Cernea, 2008; Dassanayake et al, 2015). Randell (2022) further elucidates that individuals subjected to development-induced displacements can experience heightened levels of anxiety, stress, and depression as they grapple with uncertainty. However, these psychological impacts are typically overlooked in compensation schemes, primarily because, as Cernea (2008) astutely observes, they do not carry an attached monetary value.

5. Case Study of Zimbabwe: 2018 - 2023

Waking up from more than a decade of ambivalent development failure and remissness under the tutelage of Zimbabwe's authoritarian Robert Mugabe who was ousted in a military assisted coup in 2017 (Financial Times, 15 March 2018) – Zimbabwe found herself with a mammoth task to develop and regain her lost prestine in the global development theatre. The Emerson Mnangagwa led quasi-military government, which christened itself 'the second republic' (Chitongo et al, 2020; and Moyo and Motsi, 2023) sought to inoculate the country from development comatose by snuggling with the developmentalism philosophy with a capital-centric orientalism, which sought to catapult a third world country into 'a world of the third' (Dev and Amiya, 2019). As part of the broader formative project, the Zimbabwe 'second republic" postulated a departure from Mugabe's dictatorial and centralist system to a more open, accountable, developmental and devolved system of government, as part of a broader formative project (Moyo and Motsi, 2023).

In September 2018, the 'second republic' adopted a 12 year national development policy blueprint, Vision 2030 whose main goal was to lob the landlocked Southern African country "Towards a Prosperous and Empowered Upper Middle Income Society by 2030, with Job Opportunities and a High Quality of Life for its Citizens" (Government of Zimbabwe, 2018; World Bank, 2020). The government claimed that the Vision 2030 blueprint was modelled along the aspirations of African Union's socio-economic transformation Agenda 2063 and was geared towards realizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Some critical take-ways of the Vision 2030 included:

- Vision 2030 was focused on promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, equitable development and prosperity for all, under a market economy that leverages on Zimbabwe's natural resources and abundant human skills.
- The key aspirations of Zimbabwe's Vision 2030 were to be realised through five strategic Pillars, namely:
  - ✓ Governance;
  - ✓ Macro-economic Stability and Financial Re-engagement;
  - ✓ Inclusive Growth;
  - ✓ Infrastructure and Utilities; and
  - ✓ Social Development

Figure 1: Depiction of Vision 2030 Pillars (Government of Zimbabwe 2018)

- . Delivering this ambitious process of national transformation will require a fundamental shift from business as usual to a "business unusual" approach.
- Vision 2030 was to be realised through implementation of the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (2018-2020), and successive Five-Year Medium-Term Development Strategies (2021-2025) and (2026-2030), centring on provision of key public infrastructure and services delivery.
- Therefore, there is a need to implement difficult and painful policies that bring about the necessary transformation to achieve the Vision. Those countries that persevered with Visions of development succeeded, notwithstanding seemingly unfavourable initial conditions.

Some of the key tenants of the Vision 2030 pillars relevant to issues of development-induced displacements included:

PILLAR	KEY FEATURES
Governance Pillar	Good governance the bed-rock for a new democratic and developmental Zimbabwe, based on: • Rule of Law, Human Rights and Freedoms; • Transparency and Accountability; • Equity, Inclusivity and Responsiveness; and • Full Participation of the People in socio-economic development
	• The Vision 2030 values are enshrined in the Constitution, and the new Dispensation commits to live by them, never overstepping its mandate.

	• The political leadership is, under Vision 2030, a Servant of the public that it serves, and undertakes to listen, embrace, and engage citizens in an interactive manner
	• An "Open Door Policy" has already been adopted, taking advantage of communication channels with the public, now able to interact with the President through various social media platforms.
	• The spirit of working with all stakeholders, inclusive of Opposition Political Parties, Churches, Youths, Women Groups, Professional Associations, Students, Zimbabwe Vision 2030 11 Traditional Leaders, Academia, the Business Fraternity, among others, allows for cross-pollination of views and building of Trust, Tolerance and Common Understanding that informs public policy interventions
	• Vision 2030 commits Government to uphold the Rule of Law, Promote Peace, Harmony, Safety, Security and Stability for the citizenry
	• In support of this thrust, Government will continue to work with Civil Society and International Organisations, and also maintain open channels for dialogue with Opposition Parties to ensure that Human Rights concerns are adequately and timeously addressed.
	• National cohesion is a necessary condition for a peaceful and developing new Zimbabwe. 71. This entails moving away from the past omissions and commissions to build a new future.
INCLUSIVE GROWTH PILLAR	• . The thrust of agriculture, under Vision 2030, is to create a self-sufficient and food surplus economy that will see the re-emergence of Zimbabwe as the 'Bread Basket' of Southern Africa. • Vision 2030 will leverage on its diversified mineral resource base of over 55 exploitable minerals to help grow the economy • Vision 2030 will ensure sustainable mining by stakeholders through a well governed mining sector which is ethically inclusive, environmentally friendly, socially responsible and appreciated by surrounding communities.
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PILLAR	• Vision 2030 envisages a modern, efficient, reliable, well developed infrastructure which will be an enabler that catalyses Zimbabwe's economic transformation. 200. • Government will develop a robust, elaborate and resilient infrastructure through the rehabilitation and development of power, road, rail and air transport, water and sanitation, housing and ICT infrastructure. • In the energy sector, Vision 2030 prioritises attainment of optimal generation of power from both renewable and non-renewable sources. • This entails raising installed generation capacity, also through development of new power stations to achieve 95 percent urban and 75 percent rural electrification • Investment in electricity generation is also benefitting from private sector involvement through: • Public Private Partnerships (PPPs); • Joint Ventures; and • Independent Power Producers (IPP). • . Vision 2030 major power projects include: • Hwange Thermal Power Station, addition of Units 7 and 8; and • Batoka Gorge Hydro-Electric Scheme, which involves construction of the dam, power station, and the power evacuation and transmission infrastructure. • Vision 2030 targeted major dam construction projects include: • Kunzvi-Musami; • Gwayi-Shangani; and • Kondo-Chitowe

The implementation of Zimbabwe's Vision 2030 is anchored on 3 phased five year policy programmes: the Transitional Stabilization Programme (TSP) (2018 – 2020), the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) (2021 – 2025) and the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2) (2026 – 2030).

5.1 The Transitional Stabilization Programme (2018-2020),

The Transitional Stabilisation Programme (Government of Zimbabwe, 2018b) outlined policies, strategies and projects that guided Zimbabwe's social and economic development interventions up to December 2020, simultaneously targeting immediate quick-wins and laying a robust base for economic growth for the period 2021-2030. The Programme envisaged a private sector led economic growth trajectory with Government facilitating a supportive macro-economic and business environment. The pursuit for Upper Middle Income Status was premised on inclusive growth ideologies, and ensuring that Zimbabwe begins to extricate a growing proportion of the ordinary people out of poverty. The Programme prioritised quick-win projects in energy, water and sanitation, information communication technology (ICT), housing and transport, with a focus on expediting completion of ongoing infrastructure projects, thereby contributing to the revival of the economy (ibid).

Current evaluations of the Transitional Stabilization Programme by Pasipanodya (2020); IMF (2019); Chitongo et al (2020); Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) (2020); LEDRIZ (2020); World Bank (2020) all point to minimal

achievements of the TSP in Zimbabwe due to various internal and external circumstances. The government set itself to accelerate extractivism as economic growth catalyser by promulgating an ambitious fourfold increase US$12 billion mining economy target by year 2023 (Mining, 2019). Mining has been found, globally, to be one of the main causes of development-induced displacements after dams and in Africa alone, extractivsm is responsible for displacing millions of villagers every year (Gukurume and Tombindo, 2023) and most of the affected are indigenous communities since 60% of global natural resources are located in their communities. In the Tarkwa region of Ghana, for instance, the development of a gold mine is estimated to have displaced between 20,000 and 30,000 local residents (ibid).

Adopting an ambitious extractivist approach increased vulnerability of ruralites to mass displacements. The TSP, through development partner support, managed to deliver an important document that responds to development-induced displacements – the Zimbabwe National Human Settlements Policy (ZNHSP) of 2019. Specific clauses of the ZNHSP (Government of Zimbabwe, 2019) related to displacements include:

- ✓ **Section 40.** Mass displacements without negotiated alternatives will be a last resort.
- ✓ **Section 41.** Clear and defensible tenure rights across will be defined for all land categories nationally and mechanisms for guaranteeing security of tenure set up. Across all levels of government roles will be defined on land acquisition, allocation, administration and efficient utilization based on the principle of subsidiarity and whole-of-government consistency. National government will develop a **'Compensation and Relocation Framework'** and build capacity in its application.
- ✓ **Section 42.** Processes of land identification, acquisition, planning and development for settlements will fully involve the local authorities and concerned communities. Viability of local planning authorities will rest on clear and legally enforceable land delivery and administration instruments. Every local authority will enact these in a participatory and consultative manner.
- ✓ **Section 43.** Land designated for small urban centers and institutional land uses in rural areas e.g. schools and clinics will be title-surveyed to ensure tenure security, enable investment and guarantee objective land valuation.
- ✓ **Section 44.** Where an alternative land use (a dam, road, mine, plantation, different type of settlement etc.) warranting displacement is contemplated proponents of the alternative land use, in close and non-coercive collaboration with the community of place will fully implement the national compensation framework. Local authorities will apply the **'Compensation and Relocation Framework'** for different land categories adapting it to local conditions as appropriate. This will ensure upholding of every settlement's social and economic value principally arising from the people settled in it.

5.2 The National Development Strategy 1 (2021-2025)

Launched in November 2020 as the successor of TSP and the first 5-year Medium Term Plan, the National Development Strategy 1: 2021-2025 (NDS1) is envisaged to build on the success of the TSP, notably entrenching macroeconomic stability, necessary for economic recovery and growth, and conferring new opportunities for wealth creation, innovation and enterprise development (Government of Zimbabwe, 2020). The key objectives of The NDS1 are to:

i. Strengthen macroeconomic stability, characterised by low and stable inflation, as well as exchange rate stability;
ii. Achieve and sustain inclusive and equitable Real GDP growth;
iii. Promoting new enterprise development, employment and job creation;
iv. Strengthen Social Infrastructure and Social Safety nets;
v. Ensure sustainable environmental protection and resilience;
vi. Promote Good Governance and Corporate Social investment; and
vii. To modernise the economy through use of ICT and digital technology.

The 2021 -2025 Macroeconomic Framework is premised on the adoption and swift implementation of bold policies and programmes aimed at achieving economic transformation through the creation of a thriving private-sector led, open and competitive economy, with sound macroeconomic policies anchored on fiscal discipline, monetary and financial sector stability, a business friendly environment which promotes both foreign and domestic investment. Key drivers of the NDS1 are expected to be mining and agriculture (ibid).

5.3 Scale of displacements during Zimbabwe's Second Republic

The implementation of Vision 2030 through the TSP and NDS has led to numerous threats and actual displacements of local rural residents across the country, but mainly in the ethnic, linguistic and indigenous rural communities. There is currently no succinct database of the number of people being evicted, facing threats of eviction, or who have been displaced by development projects since the commencement of the Zimbabwe Vision 2030. However, an open data collation by Matabeleland Institute for Human Rights (MIHR) (MIHR, 2022) Policy Submission Paper records over 75,000 people (from over 5,000 households) have either been displaced, are facing displacement or are being threatened with displacements in Zimbabwe. The organization also argues that about 23,700 hectares of communal ancestral land is being lost by the evictees in the process. Communities facing displacement have been at loggerheads with the government citing disgruntlements with poor to no consultation regarding the displacement process; lack of clarity on the compensation packages and modalities; and dictatorial/colonial tendencies from both the government and the displacing projects. Some of the notable displacements during the period 2018 – 2024 include:

a) **Hwange District:** about 3 600 villagers (from 600 households) face eviction due to coal mining extraction by Beifa Investments, a Chinese company (Business Times 21 October 2021);

b) **Chigomba District:** about 800 villagers from Manhize face eviction due to iron ore and carbon steel plant by the Tsinghan Holdings, a Chinese company (Nehanda Radio, 11 July 2021);
c) **Murehwa:** about 39 House-holds face eviction as 300 hectares of land will be taken by a Chinese company called Heijin for Black Granite extraction (Mining Index, 28 August 2021);
d) **Domboshava:** an estimated 20 000 people face eviction due to quarry mining by a Chinese company called China Aihua Jianye in an area of about 5km radius (The Standard 28 April 2019);
e) **Binga District:** about 502 households with an estimated population of 2 422 villagers face eviction from Binga wards 1 and 2 due to the Gwayi – Shangani Lake being constructed by a Chinese company China International Water and Electric Corporation (Pvt) Ltd (The Chronicle 19 October 2023);
f) **Mutoko District:** about 1 500 Households are set to be evicted to pave way for a Black Granite extraction project by the Chinese company – Shanghai Haoying Mining Investment (The Herald, 14 July 2021);
g) **Chiredzi District:** about 12 500 people from 2 258 househods in Chilonga are set to be evicted and loose about 12 940 hectares of communal land to Daindary Company which wants to set up a Lucerne plantation (HRW, 12 March 2021);
h) **Beitbridge:** about 34 202 people from wards 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are set to loose over 4 000 hectares of Shobi Block to Schweppes Company for a Citrus plantation;
i) **Hwange District:** about 100 homesteads from Jembwe, Jabula, Kasikili and Kanywambizi communal lands face eviction due to the establishment of the of Batoka Township (CITE, 13 August 2020).

6. Key Absurdities of Vision 2030 Implementation

6.1 Development masquerade

It was Cernea (2008:90) who made a profound observation that "the outcomes of most development-caused forced displacements and resettlements leave a disgraceful stain on development itself, conflicting with its rationale, objectives and morality." Therefore, when a national development strategy in a post-colonial nation is complicit in achieving the same results it seeks to ameliorate, instinctual inquisivity will interrogate if it was indeed a development strategy or a mere 'development masquerade' (Korf, 2023). As properly observed by Hagen and Minter (2020) the undesirability of development-induced displacement is widely acknowledged by the United Nations, the African Union (AU, 2012), major development banks and many national governments. Development epistemology has proposed numerous safeguards to prevent displacements in order to attain sustainable development in the post modernity and de-colonial era, and yet for Zimbabwe to fail to restrain her development strategy from mulling indigenous citizens by mass displacing them in the name of sustainable development is arbitrarily disingenuous. It is the argument of LEDRIZ (2020) that the "Zimbabwe is open for business" mantra which was adopted by the 'second republic' and imbedded to the TSP and NDS1 implementation has shown an obvious patronage to attracting Foreign Direct Investment at the expense of the socio-cultural sustainability of local indigenous people as natural resource extraction has long been the foundation of process of primitive accumulation. It is therefore now a theatre of critical inquisition to interrogate if the lascivious mortgaging of natural resources to foreign direct investors by Zimbabwe was for public development purposes or a disguised accumulation that enriches the political bourgeoisie and their foreign cronies. The wanton and arbitrary displacements in the name of development in contemporary Zimbabwe is testimony that the Zimbabwe government sold a development masquerade – that is, a façade of a well written development strategy that is in tandem with global development paradigms in order to gain political legitimacy and attract foreign direct investments, but without a genuine desire to ensure that proper sustainable development is achieved.

6.2 Developmental amnesia

When Zimbabweans went to the armed liberation struggle in the mid-1960s they were ostensibly pushed by colossal social inequalities which epitomized the colonial administration. Mashingaidze (2019) records the callous nature of development-induced displacements in the precolonial Zimbabwe and it is apparent such policy inclinations fuelled the liberation struggle. Now, for an independent post-colonial and sovereign Zimbabwe to display a form of selective amnesia by mimicking the hegemonic ideals of the colonisers by arbitrarily and allowing the capricious displacements of its indigenous citizens is inexcusable. Development policy and anatomy has undergone momentous metamorphosis in recent decades (Nustad, 1996) making policy amnesia on the socio-cultural implications of capitalistic development-induced displacements odious. As observed by Marthur (2011) and Bugalski (2016) it is indeed inexcusable for Zimbabwe to turn a blind eye on the centrality of indigenity in human development. Furthermore, considering that stakeholder involvement is one of the hallmarks of the second republic which thematized it under the cliché of *'leave no-one and no community behind'* it becomes monumentally absurd that in the pursuit of mining induced economic growth, Zimbabwe is not only leaving out and behind of decision making many communities that are being displaced by mines, but also is propelling what LEDRIZ (2020) calls a projected growth pattern that results in many people being left behind and out of the growth dynamic.

6.3 Development anorexia

Both the TSP and NDS1 have proven that Zimbabwe's Vision 2030 implementation is thin (anorexia) when measured against contemporary development theory and approach. The implementation of Vision 2030, sofar, is not based on a holistic approach to sustainable development that integrates economic, social and environmental imperatives and considerations to economic development. As LEDRIZ (2020) argues, the Zimbabwe development strategy is based on an anorexic conventional macroeconomics 'trickle-down' assumption which is hypnotized by the fallacy that once economic growth is attained that will automatically result in employment creation and poverty reduction. It is absurd that Zimbabwe is condescending with the canard that attaining upper middle-income status and attaining pro-poor, decent-work rich and sustainable development are the same thing. Critical epistemological inquisition on mega infrastructural and extractivism driven development trajectories have shown that

attaining upper middle-income country status is necessary but not sufficient to ensure the attainment of pro-poor, decent and sustainable standard of living for all. LEDRIZ (2020) correctly observes that the country can attain upper middle-income status by 2030 without necessarily reducing poverty and creating full and productive employment opportunities. The poorly conceived Vision 2030 implementation strategy, is thus the catalyst for mass displacements of the local citizens due to development projects. The TSP and NDS1 implementation exemplifies that Zimbabwe is complicit in believing that the displacement of rural people for development projects is necessary collateral damage for national interest cause. Such an approach to development is poorly conceived and anorexic as it lacks the key ingredients of social, cultural and environmental development which currently form the fulcrum of development scholarship.

7. Conclusion:

Development-induced displacements in contemporary Zimbabwe (2018 – 2024) present a paradox where development initiatives, aimed at improving the quality of life for all, end up being causation for significant harm and underdevelopment to the very same people they are meant to benefit. This becomes more bizarre upon realizing that this disenfranchisement is being done against the tentacles of vast epistemological reasoning that proves the concomitant actions of displacing people from their ancestral lands. It is also absurd that the guiding development policy has nuances that are couched to protect citizens from adverse development un-intentionalities which are being totally disregarded. This article therefore argued that development-induced displacements in Zimbabwe are a consequence of three major development absurdities: development masquerade where development projects and policies are used camouflage personal aggrandizements; development amnesia which relates to conveniently forgetting the development goals and safeguards in order to achieve intended goals; and development anorexia which is a consequence of ill-conceived and ill balanced development policy conceptualization which is starved of crucial development nuances such as social, environmental and cultural development indicators.

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