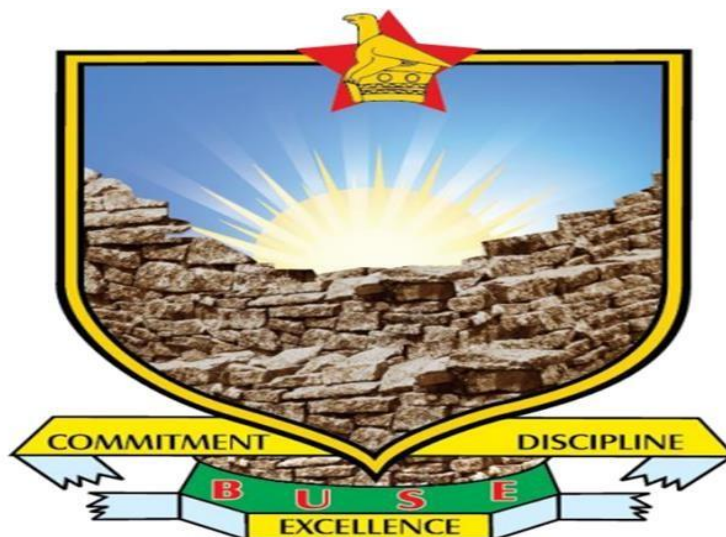


BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES



**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NEW DISPENSATION ON NATIONAL PROGRESS
AND GLOBAL RELATIONS**

By

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A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Peace and Governance in partial fulfillment for
the requirements for the Master of Science in Peace and Governance Degree

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the effectiveness of the new dispensation on national progress and global relations. The objectives were to assess contributions to economic development, explore successes and challenges in social progress, evaluate efforts in global trade and diplomatic ties, and understand perceptions of governance reforms. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, with data collected via Google Forms yielding 42 responses for quantitative analysis and qualitative insights gleaned from 20 interviews with stakeholders including diplomats, government officials, and academics. SPSS was used to detect major patterns and correlations between variables, whereas theme analysis of qualitative data revealed complex opinions on governance and socioeconomic issues. The findings showed that governance improvements had a positive impact on economic growth and global trade connections. However, ongoing hurdles to establishing social fairness and correcting governance discrepancies were identified, particularly in policy implementation and structural issues. The study shows that, while progress has been made in promoting economic recovery and reestablishing diplomatic ties, more work is needed to improve social equity and governance systems. Recommendations include improving policy frameworks, addressing socioeconomic gaps, and strengthening international relationships. The study adds to the discussion about governance transitions by giving practical and theoretical insights for policymakers and scholars working in similar contexts.

DECLARATION FORM

I Muchaona Chrispen Taurai (B231520B) declare that this project is my original work and that it has not been copied or taken from any other sources with acknowledgment.

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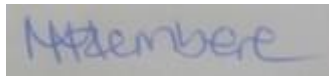


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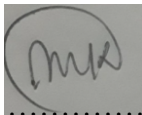
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DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my wife, whose unwavering support, encouragement, and belief in me have been a constant source of strength throughout this journey.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Almighty God and the Holy Spirit for their unwavering love and abundant grace. I am deeply thankful to Jesus for His kindness and support; with Him, all things are possible.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AU – African Union

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

ICT – Information and Communication Technology

ILO – International Labour Organization

IMF – International Monetary Fund

NDS1 – National Development Strategy 1

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization

SADC – Southern African Development Community

SPSS – Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

UN – United Nations

WB – World Bank

ZEPARU – Zimbabwe Economic Policy Analysis and Research Unit

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The historical context of Zimbabwe's governance reveals a complex interplay of pre-colonial achievements, colonial disruptions, and the subsequent leadership of Robert Mugabe and Emmerson Mnangagwa. The pre-colonial period was characterized by sophisticated societies, particularly the Great Zimbabwe civilization, which thrived between the 11th and 15th centuries. This era saw the establishment of trade networks that connected Zimbabwe to distant regions, facilitating economic prosperity and cultural exchange (Mujakwi & Chikoko, 2020). The wealth generated from gold and ivory trade supported powerful kingdoms like the Mutapa and Rozvi states, highlighting a rich cultural heritage that laid the groundwork for future national identity (Mlambo, 2014).

Zimbabwe's pre-colonial achievements were overshadowed by narratives portraying the region as "uncivilized" (Huffman, 2014). The British South Africa Company, led by Cecil Rhodes, justified their invasion as a means to bring civilization to indigenous populations, disregarding the rich history of pre-colonial societies (Mlambo & Ndlovu, 2021). This colonial perspective resulted in significant social and economic disruptions (Mlambo & Ndlovu, 2021), particularly through Rhodes's controversial land policies (Huffman, 2014). The establishment of Southern Rhodesia in 1923 marked a pivotal shift that altered governance structures (Mlambo & Ndlovu, 2021) and initiated a period of exploitation with lasting effects on Zimbabwe's political landscape (Huffman, 2014). This exploitation not only affected local communities but also shaped Zimbabwe's global relations moving forward (Mlambo & Ndlovu, 2021).

Under Robert Mugabe's leadership from 1980 to 2017, Zimbabwe transitioned from initial optimism to widespread disillusionment. Initially celebrated as a liberator, Mugabe's regime soon became associated with authoritarianism and economic mismanagement. His land reform program

aimed at redistributing land from white farmers to black Zimbabweans led to violence and economic collapse, resulting in hyperinflation and international sanctions (Chikanda & Chikoko, 2019). Despite his support for African liberation movements, Mugabe's confrontational approach toward the West further isolated Zimbabwe, limiting foreign investment and exacerbating economic decline (Hawkins, 2018). This challenging context set a difficult stage for his successor.

Emmerson Mnangagwa's rise to power in November 2017 was marked by promises of reform and renewed international engagement. His administration has aimed to shift away from Robert Mugabe's confrontational approach, adopting a more diplomatic stance that emphasizes economic recovery and cooperation with Western nations (Chikanda & Chikoko, 2019). However, despite these intentions, challenges remain as allegations of human rights abuses and political repression continue to complicate meaningful dialogue with international partners (Dendere, 2020). This ongoing tension highlights the difficulty in achieving genuine change while navigating the legacies of past governance.

The Mantra "Open for Business but Bankrupt" highlights that Zimbabwe's economic policies have largely mirrored those of the Mugabe regime, with ongoing issues like hyperinflation and unemployment (Nyamunda, 2021). The Zimbabwe Economic Policy Analysis and Research Unit (ZEPARU) pointed out that structural problems from previous administrations remain unaddressed (ZEPARU, 2022). Nyakurukwa & Seetharam (2020) noted that political patronage continues to influence public entity boards, hindering corporate governance efforts. Governance structures established under Mugabe have not been sufficiently reformed to ensure accountability and transparency (Chigudu, 2020). Furthermore, the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum reported persistent human rights violations and increased state-sponsored violence against dissenters since 2019 (Mutongwiza, 2020).

Despite initial hopes for change, Zimbabwe has faced ongoing human rights abuses and economic challenges. Amnesty International (2023) reported persistent state violence against dissenters and a diminishing democratic space. The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum noted a rise in abuses in 2019, indicating no significant improvements under the new government (Human Rights Watch, 2023). Economically, hyperinflation and unemployment plagued the nation, particularly impacting the vital tobacco industry (Noyes, 2020). While President

Mnangagwa aimed to re-engage internationally, actions by his government often contradicted this aspiration, leading to skepticism about genuine reform (International Crisis Group, 2022).

1.2 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effectiveness of Zimbabwe's new dispensation under Emmerson Mnangagwa in relation to national progress and global relations. The primary aim focused on understanding the causes and effects of governance changes, particularly how they contributed to economic recovery and improved international engagement. By refining the current understanding of these dynamics, the study sought to provide insights into the challenges and successes faced by the new administration. Ultimately, the research aimed to inform policymakers and stakeholders about the implications of governance reforms in Zimbabwe.

1.3 Statement of the problem

The comparison between Zimbabwe's old dispensation under President Robert Mugabe and the new dispensation led by President Emmerson Mnangagwa reveals both continuity and change in governance, economic management, and international relations. Under Mugabe, Zimbabwe faced severe economic mismanagement, characterized by hyperinflation that peaked at over 89.7 sextillion percent in 2008 (Chikanda & Chikoko, 2019, p. 45). This period also saw a significant decline in foreign investment due to authoritarian practices and human rights abuses (Hawkins, 2018, p. 102). The controversial land reform program destabilized the agricultural sector and led to international isolation, as Western nations-imposed sanctions, further exacerbating economic challenges (Mawere, 2020, p. 88).

In contrast, Mnangagwa's administration has attempted to pivot towards a more open and business-friendly environment, encapsulated in the slogan "Zimbabwe is open for business," aiming to attract foreign investment and restore relations with international financial institutions (Noyes, 2020, p. 33). However, despite these efforts, the economic environment remains precarious, with inflation rates soaring to 280% in 2023 (Noyes, 2020, p. 34) and the Zimbabwean dollar trading at approximately 930 to the US dollar on the parallel market (World Bank, 2021, p. 12). The ongoing instability underscores the inadequacy of current reforms in addressing fundamental economic issues, as evidenced by a contraction of 7.8% in GDP in 2020 (World Bank,

2021, p. 15) and forecasts of an additional decline of 3.5% in 2023 (World Bank, 2021, p. 18). Furthermore, while Mnangagwa's government has made strides toward re-engaging with the international community—evidenced by his appointment as Chair of SADC—persistent human rights violations continue to hinder meaningful dialogue and investment opportunities (International Crisis Group, 2022, p. 50). The Gini coefficient of 0.503 indicates significant income inequality that remains unaddressed under both dispensations, highlighting a failure to improve access to essential services such as healthcare and education (World Bank, 2019, p. 22). Thus, while the new dispensation presents a façade of reform and openness, it grapples with the same systemic issues that plagued Mugabe's rule, necessitating a comprehensive investigation into these intertwined challenges for Zimbabwe's overall progress and its standing in the international community.

1.4 Objectives

To achieve the purpose of the study, the researcher employed an Explanatory Research focusing on the following specific objectives:

- i. To identify the contributions of the new dispensation on economic growth and development in Zimbabwe.
- ii. To explore the effects of the new dispensation on social progress and the quality of life for Zimbabwean citizens.
- iii. To examine efforts to improve global trade relations and diplomatic ties.
- iv. To ascertain perceptions of governance changes under the new dispensation.

1.5 Research Questions

- i. To what extent have the economic reforms under the new dispensation contributed to sustainable economic growth and development in Zimbabwe?
- ii. How have the changes introduced by the new dispensation affected social progress and the quality of life for Zimbabwean citizens?
- iii. What specific efforts has the new dispensation made to improve global trade relations and diplomatic ties?
- iv. What are the public perceptions regarding governance changes under the new dispensation in Zimbabwe?

1.5.1 Hypotheses

Null Hypotheses (H0): The new dispensation has no significant effect on national progress and global relations in Zimbabwe.

H1 (Alternative Hypothesis): The new dispensation has a significant positive effect on national progress and global relations in Zimbabwe.

1.6 Assumptions

The research was based on several key assumptions that shape its framework and analysis of the new dispensation in Zimbabwe:

The study assumes that the Zimbabwean government will continue its efforts to engage positively with the international community, which was essential for attracting foreign investment and support. This engagement was expected to influence economic policies and diplomatic relations.

The research assumes that the reforms introduced by the new dispensation have measurable effects on social progress, including improvements in quality of life and reductions in social inequalities. This assumption was vital for assessing the effectiveness of governance changes.

1.7 Significance of the Study

This study was significant for various stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, and international organizations, as it aims to provide insights into ongoing economic and governance challenges within Zimbabwe.

1.7.1 Policymakers

Policymakers are expected to benefit from the findings, as they will highlight inadequacies present within current reforms and identify urgent needs for effective economic strategies. The analysis of hyperinflation, unemployment, and poverty rates was anticipated to inform the design of targeted interventions aimed at stabilizing the economy while improving living standards. By understanding the structural issues that may persist despite attempts at reform, policymakers can develop more comprehensive and sustainable economic policies that address both immediate needs and long-term growth.

1.7.2 Researchers

Researchers are likely to find this study useful because it intends to add to the current body of knowledge on the country's economic downturn and governance issues. It will provide a framework for examining the interaction of economic policies, social disparities, and political stability. The findings are likely to serve as a platform for future study into effective policy solutions as well as comparative evaluations of other nations facing comparable difficulties.

1.7.3 International Organizations

International organizations, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, are anticipated to utilize insights derived from this study to tailor support programs specifically designed for Zimbabwe. By understanding the nuances surrounding the country's economic environment, these organizations will be better positioned to provide effective assistance in areas such as debt management, fiscal policy reform, and capacity building for governance institutions.

1.8 Delimitations of the Study;

The delimitations of this research define the specific boundaries and focus areas, ensuring clarity in the study's objectives and methodology.

1.8.1 Geographical Scope

The geographical scope of this research focuses on Harare Metropolitan Province, with a population of approximately 2.4 million, it accounts for 16.26% of Zimbabwe's total population, making it the most populous province (Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency, 2024). This focus allows for an examination of progress made under the new dispensation since November 2017 regarding national development and global relations. Harare's unique challenges reflect broader implications of political changes, particularly in governance and economic reform (ECA, 2021). Additionally, the province's urban dynamics illustrate the complexities of informal economies and their influence on governance and human security (ACRC, 2022).

1.8.2 Population Scope

The study employs **Cochran's formula**, which was well-suited for determining sample sizes, especially in cases where smaller, manageable samples are needed. Cochran's formula allows for accurate sample size calculations by considering prior information, such as the estimated

proportion of the population, the desired confidence level, and the acceptable margin of error. This methodology improves the reliability of estimates, even when data collection was constrained due to logistical challenges (Hox & McNeish, 2020).

This approach was particularly relevant in urban environments like Harare, where logistical and economic factors may limit the ability to gather large sample sizes. By applying Cochran's method, researchers can ensure that their sample size remains statistically valid and representative of the population, despite constraints. This helps maintain the balance between statistical power and practical feasibility, making the study both robust and achievable.

$$n = \frac{(Z^2 \cdot p \cdot (1-p))}{e^2}$$

Where:

- **n** = sample size
- **Z** = Z-score (1.96 for a 95% confidence level)
- **p** = estimated proportion of the population (0.5 if unknown)
- **e** = margin of error (expressed as a decimal) **Therefore**
- **Population of Harare:** Approximately 2.400,000 ZIMSTAT (2024)
- **Z-score:** 1.96 (for 95% confidence level).
- **Estimated Proportion (p):** 0.5 (if unknown).
- **Margin of Error (e):** 0.151

Table 1.1 Cochran

Step	Calculation	Result
1. Z-score	Z=1.96 (for 95% confidence level)	1.96
2. Proportion (p)	p=0.5 (for maximum variability)	0.5
3. Margin of Error	e=0.151	0.151
4. Cochran's Formula	$n_0 = \frac{(Z^2 \cdot p \cdot (1-p))}{e^2}$ $n_0 = \frac{(1.96)^2 \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.5}{(0.151)^2}$	n0=42.12
5. Computation	$n_0 = 3.8416 \cdot 0.25 / 0.022801$	42

Table 1.1: Sample Size by Stakeholder Group

Stakeholder Group	Percentage (%)	Number of Respondents
Government Officials	20%	8
Business Leaders	15%	6
Academics/Researchers	15%	6
Civil Society Organizations	20%	8
Media Representatives	10%	4
International Relations Experts	10%	4
General Public (Citizens)	10%	4

Source: Researcher 2024 Explanation:

Government Officials (20%): Includes policymakers, ministry representatives, and other officials who can provide insights into the new dispensation's policies and implementation.

Business Leaders (15%): Business stakeholders can offer perspectives on economic progress and investment climate changes.

Academics/Researchers (15%): Scholars and analysts contribute objective, research-based views on national and global relations.

Civil Society Organizations (20%): NGOs and advocacy groups can share insights on societal impact and civic participation.

Media Representatives (10%): Journalists and media analysts can provide observations on public communication and perception.

International Relations Experts (10%): Specialists who assess the implications of policy shifts on global relations.

General Public (10%): Ordinary citizens provide grassroots-level feedback on national progress.

This distribution ensures that various voices are heard in the research process, allowing for a nuanced analysis of the new dispensation's effects on Zimbabwean society.

1.8.3 Temporal Scope / Time Frame

The temporal scope of the research spans from 2017, the year Mnangagwa assumed the presidency, to 2024, allowing for an analysis of both immediate effects and longer-term trends resulting from policy changes and governance reforms initiated under his administration. By applying Transition Theory, which suggests that political transitions yield varying outcomes based on factors like institutional resilience and civil society engagement (Linz & Stepan, 1996), the study aims to explore how these elements have influenced governance and development in Harare during this critical phase. This time frame was essential for understanding the dynamics of Zimbabwe's recovery efforts and the effectiveness of the new government's strategies.

1.10 Limitations of the study

The study faced several limitations, which should be considered when interpreting the study findings:

- a. **Sample Size:** Although 42 quantitative responses and 20 interviews were analyzed, the sample size may not comprehensively represent all stakeholders affected by Zimbabwe's new dispensation. The findings, therefore, have limited generalizability.
- b. **Time Constraints:** The study was conducted within a restricted timeframe of a semester period 4 month, which limited the depth of data collection, particularly in reaching more diverse participants across different regions.
- c. **Geographical Focus:** The research primarily targeted respondents accessible through digital platforms like Google Forms, excluding those in rural or remote areas who may have different perspectives on governance and development.
- d. **Self-Reported Data:** Data collected through questionnaires and interviews relied on participants' self-reporting, which could introduce bias, such as exaggeration or underreporting.
- e. **Limited Access to Secondary Data:** Some critical government reports and institutional data were inaccessible due to confidentiality or bureaucratic barriers, potentially affecting the robustness of the secondary data analysis.

- f. **Focus on Perceptions:** The study primarily examined perceptions rather than objective metrics of governance and development outcomes, which may affect the accuracy of conclusions drawn.

1.11 Definition of key terms

1.11.1 New Dispensation

Refers to the political and governance changes initiated in Zimbabwe following the ousting of former President Robert Mugabe in November 2017, characterized by a promise of reforms and improved relations with the international community (Ncube, 2021).

1.11.2 Second Republic

The "Second Republic" denotes the era of governance in Zimbabwe under President Emmerson Mnangagwa, which aims to signify a departure from the previous administration's policies and practices, promoting economic recovery and democratic governance (Ncube, 2021).

Nyamunda (2021), defines as Second Republic as a period characterized by promises of socioeconomic reforms and a renewed engagement with the international community, encapsulated in the slogan "Zimbabwe is open for business Mantra.”

1.11.3 Hyperinflation

Hyperinflation was defined as an extremely high and typically accelerating inflation rate, often exceeding 50% per month, leading to a rapid erosion of the real value of the local currency (World Bank, 2019).

1.11.4 Economic Mismanagement

Economic mismanagement refers to poor or ineffective management of economic policies and resources that leads to negative outcomes such as inflation, unemployment, and reduced economic growth (Nyamunda, 2021).

1.11.5 Governance Reforms

Governance reforms are changes implemented to improve the structures and processes of government, aimed at enhancing accountability, transparency, and public participation in decision-making (Chigudu, 2020).

1.11.6 Political Patronage

Political patronage was defined as the practice where political leaders provide government jobs or other benefits to their supporters or allies, often leading to corruption and inefficiency in public administration (Nyakurukwa & Seetharam, 2020).

1.11.7 Civil Society

Civil society refers to the collective of non-governmental organizations and institutions that represent the interests and will of citizens, playing a crucial role in promoting democracy and social justice (Mutongwiza, 2020).

1.11.8 Human Rights Violations

Human rights violations are actions that infringe upon the basic rights and freedoms entitled to individuals under international law, often including abuses such as torture, unlawful detention, and suppression of free speech (Amnesty International, 2023).

1.12 Ethical Considerations

These ethical considerations are crucial for maintaining integrity and trust throughout the research process. During the course of the research, several ethical issues will be adhered to:

1.12.1 Confidentiality

All participant information will be kept confidential, ensuring that personal data is not disclosed without explicit consent.

1.12.2 Anonymity

Participants will be assigned codes or pseudonyms to protect their identities and maintain anonymity in the reporting of results.

1.12.3 Privacy

The research will respect the privacy of participants by ensuring that sensitive information was handled with care and not shared publicly.

1.12.4 Do No Harm

The study was designed to avoid causing any physical, emotional, or psychological harm to participants, ensuring a safe environment for sharing information.

1.12.5 Informed Consent

Participants will be fully informed about the purpose of the research and their right to withdraw at any time without consequence. **1.13 Dissertation Outline**

Table 1.2Dissertation Outline

Chapter	Title	Contents
1	Introduction	Provides background on Zimbabwe's governance, focusing on the historical context of leadership under Mugabe and Mnangagwa. Establishes the research problem, objectives, and significance.
2	Literature Review	Examines existing research on governance, economic management, and international relations in Zimbabwe, highlighting key theories and identifying gaps in the literature.
3	Methodology	Outlines the research design and methodology, detailing the mixed-methods approach used to gather data from various stakeholders. Discusses data collection techniques and ethical considerations.
4	Findings and Analysis	Presents findings from the data collected, analyzing contributions of the new dispensation to economic growth and social progress. Discusses successes and challenges faced by Mnangagwa's administration.
5	Conclusion and Recommendation	summarizes key findings and their implications for policymakers. Offers recommendations for governance reforms and strategies to enhance Zimbabwe's international relations. Concludes with

Reflections on the overall impact of governance changes. *Source: Researcher 2024*

1.14 Summary

The chapter provided a strong overview of the study's framework, detailing the background, statement of the problem, research objectives, delimitation, and definition of key terms and significance of the research. It outlined the specific objectives and research questions that guided the investigation into the new dispensation in Zimbabwe, particularly under President Emmerson Mnangagwa. The subsequent chapter was set to review relevant theoretical and empirical literature related to these themes.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter outlined the theoretical, conceptual, and empirical frameworks guiding the study of Zimbabwe's new dispensation's impact on national progress and global relations. Theoretical insights from Modernization and Institutional Theories provided context, while the conceptual framework detailed key variables, such as governance changes and their outcomes. Empirical evidence highlighted real-world examples supporting these concepts, identifying research gaps and reinforcing the study's relevance.

2.1 Theoretical Frameworks

This section discusses the foundational theories underpinning the study, which guide the analysis and interpretation of findings. The study will rest upon the Modernization Theory and the Institutional theory as guide to research findings.

2.1.1 Modernization Theory

Modernization Theory posits that society's progress through distinct stages of development, evolving from traditional to modern states through systematic economic and political changes. Rostow (1960), in his *Stages of Economic Growth*, laid the groundwork for this theory, arguing that countries move through phases from traditional society to high mass consumption. This framework suggests that development is linear, with each stage building upon the previous one through strategic policies and investments. Inglehart and Welzel (2005, p. 25) expanded on this by emphasizing that modernization is not just economic but includes shifts in cultural, social, and political dynamics, often linked to democratic governance and higher levels of citizen participation. Modernization fosters a conducive environment for sustainable development as political structures adapt to support new economic realities (Inglehart & Baker, 2000).

Modernization Theory underscores the crucial role of political leadership in catalyzing these transformative changes. According to Huntington (1968) in *Political Order in Changing Societies*, effective political leadership is essential to manage the social and political tensions that come with rapid modernization. Leaders who pursue modernization-oriented policies often focus on developing strong institutions, promoting education, and fostering technological advancements. These efforts not only improve economic growth metrics but also enhance social inclusion and political stability (North, 1990). Acemoglu and Robinson (2012, p. 45), in *Why Nations Fail*, further assert that inclusive political and economic institutions are key to successful modernization. Their work implies that governance shifts that prioritize such inclusivity can lead to more sustainable national progress and resilience.

The post-1950s modernization of South Korea exemplifies the principles of Modernization Theory in practice. Following the Korean War, the country was in a state of extreme poverty, with a largely agrarian economy (Kim, 1997, p. 205). Under the leadership of President Park Chung-hee, South Korea adopted a state-led development strategy that focused on industrialization, export-driven growth, and comprehensive educational reforms (Amsden, 1989, p. 23). Park's government created economic zones, encouraged foreign investment, and prioritized technology and skill development, leading to rapid GDP growth and social changes (Chang, 2007, p. 15). By the 1980s and 1990s, South Korea transitioned into a more democratic system, which supports Inglehart and Welzel's (2005) assertion that economic and cultural modernization paves the way for democratization. Rodrik (1995) notes that South Korea's focus on investing in human capital and maintaining an open, competitive economy was pivotal in its modernization success, reinforcing how leadership and policy reforms can transform a nation within the framework of modernization theory.

Modernization Theory provides a foundational perspective for understanding the dynamics at play in Zimbabwe's transition. This theory posits that societies evolve through distinct stages of development, transitioning from traditional to modern states via systematic economic and political reforms. In the case of Zimbabwe, the new dispensation was initially framed as an opportunity for political renewal and economic reform following the ousting of Robert Mugabe.

However, critiques have emerged regarding whether these reforms genuinely represent a departure from past practices or merely rebrand existing policies under a new guise. For instance, Nyamunda (2021) argues that despite claims of creating a middle-income economy by 2030, the Mnangagwa administration has largely continued the economic policies of its predecessor, failing to resolve ongoing crises such as hyperinflation and currency instability

2.1.2 Institutional Theory

Institutional Theory, as presented by North (1990, p. 15) in *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance*, emphasizes that the development and performance of a nation are heavily determined by the quality of its institutions, both formal (laws, regulations, government structures) and informal (norms, traditions, and social conventions). North argues that institutions provide the framework within which economic and political interactions occur, impacting how societies evolve and manage challenges. According to Acemoglu and Robinson (2012, p. 42), inclusive institutions promote economic growth and political stability by enabling broad participation and fair competition. In contrast, extractive institutions, which concentrate power in the hands of a few, hinder sustainable development and can prevent a new dispensation from achieving success. This theory helps explain why countries succeed in implementing new governance and policy changes, while others struggle due to entrenched institutional weaknesses.

Institutional Theory also underscores that the path dependency of institutions plays a significant role in shaping a country's progress. Pierson (2000) highlights that historical institutional choices create long-lasting legacies that influence future policy outcomes. This can be particularly relevant when assessing the effectiveness of a new dispensation, as the quality and adaptability of pre-existing institutions determine how well they can support new reforms. Hodgson (2006) further elaborates on how the interplay between formal and informal rules impacts governance quality and economic performance. This suggests that leaders looking to implement a new dispensation must navigate and possibly reform deeply rooted institutional structures to achieve meaningful progress.

The reunification of Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 provides a compelling case study for Institutional Theory. The integration of East and West Germany highlighted the stark differences between their institutional frameworks. West Germany had developed strong

democratic institutions and a robust market economy, while East Germany's institutions were shaped by a centralized, socialist regime (Berdaahl, 1999, p. 301). These institutional disparities created significant challenges during reunification, as efforts were made to align the East's bureaucratic and economic systems with those of the West. Ziblatt (2006, p. 152) discusses how the institutional weaknesses in the East led to difficulties in economic adjustment and social integration, resulting in disparities that persisted for decades.

The case of German reunification demonstrates the complexities of merging two regions with contrasting institutional backgrounds. While the new dispensation under a unified German government aimed to create cohesive policies and stimulate development, the uneven quality of institutions initially led to economic lags and social fragmentation in the former East Germany (Bach, 1999, p. 75). This supports North's assertion that institutional structures profoundly affect governance outcomes. Over time, sustained efforts in policy alignment, investment in human capital, and gradual cultural integration helped mitigate these challenges, illustrating that while institutional constraints can pose significant barriers, strategic reforms and sustained governance can bridge gaps and support national progress.

2.2 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework serves as an analytical tool to connect the theoretical insights with the study's key variables, providing a structure for exploring the research topic on the effectiveness of the new dispensation on national progress and global relations.

2.2.1 New Dispensation as the Independent Variable

The concept of a new dispensation refers to significant changes in governance, often marked by shifts in political leadership, policy reforms, and ideological transformations. This change typically aims to break from previous regimes and establish new socio-political and economic paradigms. The term is used to describe moments of political transition that bring promises of reform and revitalization. These transitions can lead to substantial changes in a nation's trajectory, but their success often depends on existing conditions and the capability to implement sustainable policies. Chowdhury and Mukherjee (2022) discuss how political transitions are

pivotal in reshaping governance structures, promoting economic growth, and fostering societal stability when supported by robust policy frameworks.

A new dispensation often comes with pledges of improving governance, enhancing transparency, addressing corruption, and enacting social and economic changes. Robinson and Verdier (2021) highlight that such transitions can lead to transformative reforms but also face challenges when existing institutions resist change. This dynamic is particularly evident in countries that have experienced long-standing authoritarian rule or where power transitions occur abruptly. In such settings, the success of the new dispensation is influenced by the interplay of leadership strategies, public trust, and the state of governance institutions.

The political transition in Ethiopia under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed serves as a pertinent example of a new dispensation. Coming to power in 2018, Abiy Ahmed's leadership promised sweeping reforms, including political liberalization, peace-building efforts, and economic restructuring (Smith, 2020, p. 134). His early initiatives included freeing political prisoners, lifting bans on opposition groups, and initiating peace with neighboring Eritrea (Jones, 2019, p. 208). These moves marked a significant departure from previous regimes, which were characterized by repression and limited political freedom. Mengistu (2021, p. 56) notes that Abiy's initial efforts fostered hope for a more inclusive and democratic Ethiopia.

However, the journey was not without challenges. The new dispensation faced considerable hurdles, including ethnic tensions, economic disruptions, and conflicts that threatened the stability of reforms (Bekele & Hanna, 2022, p. 89). The situation in Tigray, which escalated into a full-scale conflict, underscored the difficulty of managing deep-seated issues in a transitioning political environment. Robel and Yonas (2023) emphasize that while the early reforms under Abiy showcased potential, the success of such a transition heavily depended on balancing political aspirations with effective governance and institution-building. This case illustrates that while new dispensations can catalyze significant change, their impact on long-term national progress relies on the state of existing institutions and the ability to manage systemic challenges.

2.2.2 National Progress as a Dependent Variable

National progress encompasses measurable development outcomes within a country, including economic growth, political stability, and social development. Acemoglu and Robinson

(2012) emphasize the importance of inclusive institutions in facilitating this progress by ensuring equal access to resources and opportunities. Economic indicators like GDP growth, foreign investment, and technological advancements reflect economic growth, while political stability is characterized by low violence and effective governance.

Social development is evidenced by improvements in healthcare, education, and poverty reduction. Rodrik (2014) notes that national progress relies on both economic measures and the quality of life experienced by citizens, with a balanced approach to economic and social policies being crucial during significant transitions. Rwanda's recovery post-genocide under Kagame illustrates the interconnectedness of these indicators, where policies promoting unity and economic revitalization led to impressive GDP growth and social improvements. However, challenges remain regarding political freedoms, highlighting the need for comprehensive approaches that balance economic, political, and social strategies to achieve sustainable national progress.

2.2.3 Governance Quality as a Mediating Variable

Governance quality plays a crucial mediating role in determining how effectively a new dispensation translates into tangible national progress. Defined as the capacity of institutions to implement policies, enforce laws, and maintain transparency, governance quality is essential for executing reforms that yield economic, political, and social benefits. Kaufmann et al. (2020) emphasize that effective governance encompasses not only government effectiveness and anticorruption efforts but also responsiveness and inclusivity. Research by Andrews et al. (2017) extends this understanding by highlighting adaptive capabilities—how institutions adjust to new challenges.

High governance quality correlates with stronger rule of law and efficient bureaucratic processes, which are vital for positive national outcomes (North et al., 2020). The case of Singapore under Lee Kuan Yew illustrates this relationship, as the government's focus on minimizing corruption and ensuring transparency facilitated national progress even through leadership transitions. Tan (2021) and Mahbubani (2020) note that Singapore's governance framework has adapted to include participatory approaches, reinforcing the idea that continuous improvement and citizen engagement are key to sustaining development during political changes.

2.2.4 Economic Conditions as a Moderating Variable

Economic conditions serve as a significant moderating variable that can enhance or hinder the impact of governance changes on national progress. Key factors such as GDP growth rates, inflation, and employment levels are crucial in determining the effectiveness of policy reforms. Krugman (1994) argued that economic stability is essential for successful policy reforms, as it creates a conducive environment for investments and initiatives. Favorable economic conditions increase the likelihood of effective implementation and public support for new policies, while poor conditions can exacerbate challenges and reduce the potential impact of governance improvements. Rodrik (2020) emphasizes that economic resilience influences how reforms play out in practice, with stable environments facilitating smoother transitions.

The 1991 economic reforms in India illustrate this relationship; the urgent need for stabilization allowed for bold policy measures that would have faced resistance under more stable circumstances (Basu, 2004). However, persistent challenges like inequality highlight that while economic conditions can facilitate reforms, they also shape the distribution of benefits (Panagariya, 2015). Overall, these examples underscore the importance of economic conditions as a moderating factor in realizing national progress following governance changes.

2.2.5 International Relations as a Moderating Variable

International relations play a critical moderating role in the effectiveness of new policies implemented under a new dispensation. The strength and nature of a nation's diplomatic ties, participation in international organizations, and global reputation can significantly influence how domestic policy changes are perceived and supported. Nye (2004) introduced the concept of soft power, emphasizing that a country's ability to attract rather than coerce is vital for effective diplomacy. Nations with strong alliances often receive greater support for their initiatives, enhancing the success of domestic policies.

Conversely, strained international relationships can hinder policy execution by limiting foreign investment and trade partnerships. Ikenberry (2021) expanded on this, highlighting that global cooperation is essential for supporting domestic reforms. The post-apartheid era in South Africa under Nelson Mandela exemplifies how international relations moderated the nation's

transition; Mandela's diplomatic efforts helped reshape South Africa's image and attract foreign investment, crucial for addressing socio-economic disparities left by apartheid. However, sustaining progress required continuous engagement and addressing internal challenges like corruption, illustrating that while international relations support policy effectiveness, long-term success relies on consistent domestic efforts.

2.2.6 Socio-cultural factors, historical context, and geographic influence

Control variables such as socio-cultural factors, historical context, and geographic influence are crucial for understanding the nuanced impacts of governance changes on national progress. Inglehart and Welzel (2005) assert that socio-cultural elements, including collective values and civic engagement, significantly shape policy outcomes, with societies that exhibit high trust and civic responsibility more likely to benefit from governance changes. Historical context, as highlighted by North (1990), plays a vital role in shaping present-day political realities; past governance models and events like colonization can create entrenched institutions that affect new reforms. Geographic location also influences governance effectiveness, with resource-rich regions facing different challenges compared to resource-scarce areas (Rodrik, 2014). Germany's reunification post-1989 exemplifies how historical and cultural divides can impact national progress, as disparities in political systems between East and West Germany complicated integration efforts. This case illustrates the powerful influence of socio-cultural factors and historical legacies on the outcomes of political reforms.

2.3 Summary of Theoretical and Conceptual Frameworks

The theoretical frameworks in this chapter highlight the complexity of evaluating new dispensations' effectiveness on national progress and global relations. Modernization Theory explains societal development through governance changes, while Institutional Theory emphasizes how established institutions can facilitate or hinder reforms. The conceptual framework illustrates the relationships between the independent variable (new dispensation), dependent variable (national progress), mediating variable (governance quality), and moderating variables (economic conditions and international relations). This framework shows that while a new dispensation can initiate change, its success relies on interactions with these variables. Strong governance and

favorable economic conditions can enhance reform benefits, while robust international relations provide essential support for sustained progress.

2.4 Empirical Literature Review

The empirical literature review offers a comprehensive analysis of real-world studies regarding the effectiveness of new dispensations on national progress and global relations. It highlights the outcomes of various policy changes and governance reforms across different contexts while identifying key benchmarks for comparing research findings. Creswell (2009) and Saunders et al. (2012) emphasize that a thorough review of empirical literature grounds theoretical discussions in practical evidence, enhancing our understanding of how theories are applied in real scenarios. The review examines studies from both foreign and local contexts, including Zimbabwe, to illustrate the diverse impacts of political transitions and governance reforms. For instance, Smith (2020) documented Ethiopia's political transition under Abiy Ahmed, noting initial optimism followed by challenges like ethnic conflicts. Similarly, Chikozho et al. (2021) explored Zimbabwe's socio-political transitions, revealing the complexities of implementing reforms amid economic instability and entrenched political structures

2.4.1 Political Transitions and Governance Reforms

Political transitions and the implementation of new governance structures significantly influence national progress, often shaped by the broader socio-economic and cultural context. For example, South Korea's economic reforms in the 1960s and 1970s transformed it into an industrial powerhouse, with studies by Lee (2018) and Kim (2019) highlighting the role of strong governance and targeted reforms in achieving rapid industrialization and improved social welfare. In contrast, the post-2011 Arab Spring transitions in Tunisia and Egypt faced challenges such as political instability and weak governance, leading to setbacks in governance quality and economic performance (Tadros, 2017). These cases underscore the necessity of high governance quality and robust institutions for successful policy changes. Research by Andrews (2021) and Rodrik (2020) stresses that effective governance is critical for reform success. However, a gap remains in understanding the long-term sustainability of these transitions, particularly regarding how political systems evolve over time in post-conflict or fragile states (Smith, 2020; Chikozho et al., 2021).

2.4.2 Socio-Cultural and Historical Contexts in Governance Reforms

In addition to governance quality, socio-cultural factors and historical context significantly shape the outcomes of political reforms. Inglehart and Welzel (2005) argue that cultural elements such as societal values, institutional trust, and civic engagement are vital for the success of governance reforms. For instance, Singapore's development under Lee Kuan Yew exemplifies how high trust levels and strategic planning can drive national progress (Rodrik, 2008). Conversely, Zimbabwe's post-2000 reforms illustrate how historical legacies and socio-cultural divides can obstruct effective governance. Research by Mlambo (2020) highlights the impact of entrenched patronage systems and land distribution issues on reform efforts. While the importance of these socio-cultural and historical factors is acknowledged, further empirical studies are necessary to explore how colonial legacies and cultural attitudes influence governance outcomes in various political contexts, particularly in post-conflict nations (Chikozho et al., 2021).

2.4.3 Economic Conditions as Moderators of Policy Success

Economic conditions significantly influence the effectiveness of governance reforms, as demonstrated by the contrasting experiences of India and Zimbabwe. In India, the 1991 economic reforms, which included liberalization and market changes, coincided with a global trend toward open economies, resulting in substantial economic growth. Scholars like Basu (2004) and Panagariya (2015) note that favorable external factors, such as globalization and increased foreign investment, facilitated this growth. However, internal economic conditions, including market readiness and the strength of domestic institutions, also played a critical role in the success of these reforms. In contrast, Zimbabwe has faced considerable challenges due to adverse economic conditions, such as hyperinflation and a weakened industrial base during the 2000s. Studies by Chitiga-Mabugu (2020) highlight how political and economic instability, exacerbated by land reforms and international sanctions, have hindered effective governance reforms and long-term national progress.

There remains a significant gap in research regarding the impact of economic shocks—such as financial crises or pandemics—on governance reforms. Most existing studies focus on periods of relative stability, leaving a need for further investigation into how countries adapt their governance structures in response to unexpected economic challenges. Additionally, the

moderating effects of global economic conditions on policy success have not been thoroughly explored, particularly in developing nations with fragile economies.

2.4.4 International Relations as a Supporting Factor

International relations, particularly diplomatic efforts and soft power, significantly influence the effectiveness of domestic reforms. As Nye (2021) suggests, international relationships can enhance the success of governance reforms, especially when nations receive foreign support or leverage international institutions to facilitate their policy changes. The post-apartheid transition in South Africa, under the leadership of Nelson Mandela, illustrates how diplomatic engagement helped reshape the country's global image and facilitated support for domestic reforms (Sparks, 2018). Similarly, China's Belt and Road Initiative has provided a framework for enhancing diplomatic relations while supporting domestic infrastructure projects in African nations (Zhang, 2020).

While existing studies have explored the role of international relations in governance transitions, there remains a gap in understanding how digital diplomacy, international trade agreements, and foreign direct investment influence the outcomes of new dispensations. Emerging diplomatic trends, especially in the context of globalization and regional integration, need further empirical investigation. Comparative studies on the role of international relations in governance reforms between emerging powers and developed nations would provide a richer understanding of this dynamic (e.g., Zhang, 2020).

2.4.5 Research Gaps

Despite the wealth of empirical studies, significant gaps remain in the literature concerning the interplay of political transitions, governance reforms, and national development outcomes. One major gap is the lack of longitudinal studies that assess the long-term effects of political transitions on national progress, as most research focuses on short-term changes. Additionally, there is a need for comparative analyses of different political systems and their governance reform approaches, as existing studies often concentrate on specific case studies without examining broader patterns. Lastly, while international relations play a crucial role in moderating policy reform effectiveness, more research is required to explore how emerging global trends—such as digital diplomacy and climate change policies—affect governance reforms in developing nations.

2.5 Chapter Summary

The chapter outlined the conceptual, theoretical, and empirical frameworks guiding the study of Zimbabwe's new dispensation's effectiveness on national progress and global relations. The conceptual framework focused on key variables, identifying the new dispensation as the independent variable and national progress as the dependent variable. The theoretical framework incorporated Modernization Theory and Institutional Theory, offering insights into how political changes influenced both national and global dynamics. Additionally, the chapter reviewed empirical studies that provided real-world examples and data to support these theoretical concepts, enriching the understanding of the new administration's impact. The next chapter will delve into the methodology employed in this study.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

3.1 Introduction

The previous chapter established the conceptual framework, reviewing theoretical and empirical literature relevant to the study. This chapter outlines the methodology employed to investigate the effectiveness of Zimbabwe's new dispensation on national progress and global relations. It includes the research methods, design, population, sample, sampling procedures, research instruments, data collection methods, and ethical considerations observed throughout the study. A mixed-methods approach, blending both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, was adopted to provide a comprehensive analysis of Zimbabwe's new political direction and its impacts. This chapter concludes with a summary highlighting the importance of each methodological aspect in achieving the study's objectives.

3.2 Research Philosophy

This study is grounded in a pragmatist research philosophy, which emphasizes using methods that are most effective for addressing the research questions and allows for flexibility in combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Pragmatism prioritizes practical outcomes and focuses on the utility of the research, rather than adherence to a single philosophical paradigm (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2017). This philosophy is particularly relevant when investigating complex issues like governance, where different types of data can provide complementary insights.

A pragmatist approach enables the researcher to integrate both positivist and interpretivist elements. Quantitative data from surveys aligns with the positivist view, aiming to establish patterns and generalizable findings, while qualitative data from interviews reflects the interpretivist focus on understanding individual experiences and contextual nuances (Morgan, 2007). According to Saunders, Lewis, and Thornhill (2016), pragmatism is well-suited to mixed

methods research, as it allows researchers to focus on “what works” in producing meaningful answers. In this study, pragmatism supports a balanced approach, enabling the use of statistical analysis to measure governance outcomes alongside thematic analysis to capture stakeholder perceptions. This flexibility enhances the study's depth and relevance by providing both measurable insights and detailed qualitative understanding of Zimbabwe’s new dispensation.

3.2.1 Research Methodology

The study's hypotheses were formulated to investigate the relationship between the new dispensation and its impact on national progress and global relations, drawing on theoretical frameworks such as Modernization Theory (Inglehart and Welzel, 2005) and Institutional Theory (North, 1990). These frameworks highlight the significance of governance reforms in fostering national development and international engagement. Empirical evidence from studies like Ansoms (2011) and Hawkins (2018) further supports the transformative potential of governance changes, focusing on measurable outcomes such as economic growth, social progress, and trade relations.

To achieve a comprehensive understanding of the research problem, a mixed-methods approach was employed, combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Data collection involved structured questionnaires distributed via Google Forms and in-depth interviews with 20 purposively selected participants. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS for statistical correlations, while thematic analysis of qualitative data provided deeper insights into governance and socio-economic impacts. This dual approach facilitated robust triangulation, enhancing the validity and reliability of the findings

3.3 Research Design

The study utilizes a mixed-methods research design, integrating qualitative and quantitative approaches to explore Zimbabwe's governance under the new administration. This approach allows for a comprehensive analysis by addressing numerical trends alongside detailed narratives, providing a holistic view of the country's political and economic transitions. Creswell and Plano Clark (2017) highlight that mixed-methods research is valuable for understanding complex issues from multiple perspectives. By combining data types, researchers can enhance the validity of findings (Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2003). This design facilitates statistical analysis of public

perceptions through surveys and in-depth insights from interviews, allowing qualitative data to contextualize quantitative results. Ultimately, this method reveals inconsistencies and relationships that single methods might overlook, boosting the study's credibility (Greene et al., 1989).

3.3.1 Research Approach

The study employed a mixed-methods research approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative methodologies to enhance the analysis. This approach effectively examines complex social issues by combining qualitative insights with quantitative data (Creswell, 2014). Qualitative methods included interviews and thematic analysis, while quantitative aspects involved statistical analysis (Plano Clark & Ivankova, 2016). This choice aligns with Bryman's (2006) assertion that merging both data types provides a richer foundation for conclusions, allowing for a nuanced investigation of socio-economic and political factors.

3.4 Population

The study targets a diverse population, including government officials, business leaders, academics, civil society representatives, media professionals, international relations experts, and the general public. This broad representation is crucial for understanding Zimbabwe's new dispensation, as the perspectives of these stakeholders collectively shape the national discourse on governance and socio-economic issues. Sampling from various groups aligns with Sandelowski's (2000) assertion that diverse representation enhances the credibility of qualitative studies. To determine the sample size, Cochran's formula was applied, which is effective for obtaining statistically significant samples in studies with limited accessibility to the entire population (Daniel, 2012). This approach ensures both feasibility and reliability in the context of remote research from Zimbabwe. The following table outlines the target population and sample size for each group:

Table 3.1 Target population and sample size

Group	Target Population	Sample Size
Government Officials	40	8
Business Leaders	30	6

Academics/Researchers	30	6
Civil Society Organizations	40	8
Media Representatives	20	4
International Relations Experts	20	4
General Public (Citizens)	20	4
Total	200	42

Source: Primary Data (2024)

3.4.1 Sample

The sample size of 42 respondents, drawn from a target population of 200, was determined to balance statistical validity with logistical feasibility. Integrating both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research problem. Data were collected using structured questionnaires distributed via Google Forms and in-depth interviews conducted with 20 purposively selected participants. Smaller, well-defined samples are effective in exploratory research, allowing for in-depth analysis without overwhelming the data set (Creswell, 2014). Additionally, Saunders, Lewis, and Thornhill (2016) argue that for studies requiring varied perspectives, smaller, strategically chosen samples can provide rich insights, as long as they are representative of key subgroups within the population. The final sample included key stakeholders such as diplomats, government officials, NGO representatives, academics, and members of the general public.

3.4.2 Sampling Techniques

A combination of purposive and random sampling techniques was employed. Purposive sampling enabled the inclusion of participants with specific knowledge or expertise, such as government officials and academics, whose insights were critical for understanding governance effects, as emphasized by Patton (2002). Participants were selected based on their roles, experience, and involvement in Zimbabwe's governance and international relations. Meanwhile, random sampling was used for members of the general public, ensuring broader and less-biased perspectives. This aligns with Bryman's (2016) recommendation to incorporate randomness in

social science research to enhance the generalizability of findings. The hybrid approach provided a balanced and representative dataset, capturing both targeted expertise and diverse public opinions.

3.5 Research Instruments

The study utilized surveys and semi-structured interviews as research instruments. Surveys are effective in social research for collecting standardized data, enabling quantitative analysis of patterns across a large sample (Creswell, 2014). While they efficiently gather data from many participants, surveys may lack depth in responses and risk superficiality on complex topics (Fowler, 2014). In contrast, semi-structured interviews offer a flexible format that allows for deeper exploration of participant perspectives, crucial for addressing intricate governance issues (Patton, 2002). This method enables open expression of views, yielding nuanced qualitative insights that surveys alone might miss, although they can be time-consuming and may introduce researcher bias if not managed carefully (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2009).

3.5.1 Questionnaire Benefits

Questionnaires were utilized to gather structured quantitative data from a broad sample, making them ideal for identifying general patterns and trends in public perceptions of governance under Zimbabwe's new dispensation. Questionnaires allow for uniformity in data collection, as each respondent receives the same set of questions, which enhances comparability and reliability (Fowler, 2014). Additionally, they are efficient for large-scale data collection and can be distributed remotely, which were particularly beneficial for research conducted under logistical constraints (Bryman, 2016). However, the scope of questionnaires can be limited when exploring complex, subjective topics, as respondents may not provide detailed answers (De Vaus, 2013). Despite these limitations, questionnaires are valuable in social research for their ability to provide quantifiable data that can be statistically analyzed and generalized within defined parameters (Creswell, 2014).

3.5.3.1 Disadvantages of Questionnaires

While questionnaires offer many advantages, they also have notable drawbacks. One significant disadvantage was the limited depth of responses, as respondents are typically constrained by the format and may not fully express their views, particularly on complex issues like governance (De Leeuw, Hox, & Dillman, 2012). Additionally, questionnaires rely on the honesty and self-awareness of respondents, which can introduce response bias if participants answer based on social desirability rather than true opinion (Fowler, 2014). There's also a risk of low response rates, especially with online distribution, which can affect the representativeness of the data (Sue & Ritter, 2012). Finally, poorly designed questions can lead to misinterpretations or limit the clarity of responses, undermining the data's validity and reliability (Bryman, 2016).

3.5.2 Semi-Structured Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were employed to gather in-depth qualitative data, allowing for flexible, open-ended responses that offer insights into individual experiences and perceptions regarding Zimbabwe's governance changes. The approach enables interviewers to probe further based on responses, helping to clarify and expand on complex issues in ways that structured instruments like questionnaires cannot (Patton, 2002). Semi-structured interviews are particularly valuable when exploring new or sensitive topics, as they provide a comfortable format for participants to share nuanced thoughts (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2009). Additionally, they allow researchers to explore emerging themes, adapting questions based on the direction of the conversation (Dearnley, 2005). This adaptability, as Bryman (2016) suggests, is crucial in social research, where contextual depth often adds essential layers of understanding.

3.5.2.1 Disadvantages of Semi-Structured Interviews

Despite their advantages, semi-structured interviews have some limitations. They are time intensive, requiring substantial effort for both conducting and transcribing interviews, which can be a constraint in studies with limited resources (Opdenakker, 2006). There was also a risk of interviewer bias, as the flexible structure may lead interviewers to unintentionally influence

responses or probe more deeply on certain topics (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2009). Another disadvantage was that interviews often produce large amounts of qualitative data, which can be challenging to analyze systematically, particularly in terms of coding and identifying recurring themes (Creswell, 2014). Finally, semi-structured interviews can pose logistical challenges, as they require participants to engage in lengthy conversations, which may affect response rates or participant availability (Bryman, 2016).

3.5.3 Triangulation for Robust Findings

The integration of both quantitative and qualitative instruments supports triangulation, enhancing the study's credibility:

- a. **Cross-Verification:** Data from questionnaires can be compared with interview insights, helping to validate findings and providing a fuller picture of complex issues. For example, if both sources point to economic motivations as a significant driver, the finding was reinforced.
- b. **Enhanced Validity:** Triangulation strengthens data validity, ensuring that the findings accurately represent the motivations and interests at play, reducing potential biases that could arise from relying on a single data source (Denzin, 1978).

3.5.4 Remote Considerations and Ethical Sensitivity

Conducting research remotely via Google Forms and virtual interviews presents unique challenges and benefits, which the instrument selection addresses:

Ethical Confidentiality: Google Forms supports anonymous submissions, which was crucial for sensitive topics, enabling participants to share information without fear of reprisal.

Ease of Access: Remote, digital data collection reduces the logistical burden and safety risks associated with the research topic, ensuring respondents can participate from safe locations.

In summary, the combination of structured questionnaires and in-depth interviews, supported by remote data collection tools like Google Forms, provides a well-rounded and ethically considerate approach to examining new dispensation.

3.7 Data Collection Procedure

The data collection procedure was carefully planned to ensure systematic gathering of both primary and secondary data, allowing for a comprehensive examination of Zimbabwe's governance under the new dispensation. The approach ensured that a variety of perspectives were captured, maximizing the reliability and depth of findings (Yin, 2018). The primary data was gathered directly from respondents through surveys and interviews, while secondary data was obtained from academic journals, government reports, and other reputable sources to provide context and support for the primary findings.

3.7.1 Primary Data

Primary data was collected through surveys and semi-structured interviews, offering direct insights from Zimbabwean stakeholders on the effects of governance changes. Surveys provided quantitative data that could be analyzed for patterns and statistical relationships, while interviews captured detailed qualitative insights, allowing for a nuanced understanding of participant experiences and perspectives. According to Hox and Boeijs (2005), primary data provides original, first-hand information that enhances a study's relevance and authenticity, although it can be time-consuming and requires meticulous planning and ethical considerations.

3.7.2 Secondary Data

Secondary data was gathered from existing literature, including academic studies, government documents, and reports from reputable organizations. The data provided historical and contextual information, helping to identify trends and support the interpretation of primary data findings. Secondary data was advantageous because it was readily available and cost-effective, offering a broad context that strengthens the study's theoretical foundation (Johnston, 2017). However, limitations include potential biases in the original sources and the fact that it may not be entirely relevant or up-to-date for the specific research context.

3.8 Reliability of Quantitative data

The study ensured the reliability of quantitative data through careful questionnaire design and standardization. Reliability, defined as the consistency of measurements over time and conditions, was enhanced by pre-testing the questionnaire in a pilot study to refine questions for clarity (Saunders et al., 2016). Closed-ended questions minimized respondent interpretation variance, supporting consistency. Additionally, statistical reliability was assessed using

Cronbach's alpha, with a score of 0.7 or higher indicating acceptable reliability (Field, 2013). These measures collectively strengthen the robustness of the quantitative data, facilitating credible and generalizable findings regarding governance effectiveness in Zimbabwe's new dispensation.

3.8.1 Reliability of Qualitative data

The reliability of qualitative data in the study was maintained through systematic processes in data collection and analysis, ensuring consistent interpretation of participant responses. Qualitative reliability involves achieving stability in data through careful management of interview protocols and consistency in coding and analyzing responses (Creswell, 2014). To enhance reliability, a semi-structured interview guide was used, which allowed for flexibility while maintaining core questions across interviews. The approach ensured that data collection remained focused on relevant themes, while allowing participants to elaborate on their views.

To further support reliability, the researcher used intercoder agreement, where multiple researchers reviewed and coded the data to confirm consistency in identifying themes (Gibbs, 2007). The technique reduces subjective bias and enhances reliability by confirming that different coders interpret the data similarly. Additionally, maintaining detailed field notes and an audit trail of decisions made during coding helped ensure transparency in the qualitative process, a practice recommended by Lincoln and Guba (1985). These measures collectively enhance the reliability of qualitative findings, contributing to a more rigorous exploration of Zimbabwe's governance under the new dispensation.

3.9 Validity

Validity refers to the accuracy and credibility of the research findings, ensuring that the study measures what it intends to measure (Bryman, 2016). In The study, validity was achieved through a combination of content validity, construct validity, and triangulation, enhancing both the quantitative and qualitative data.

The study ensured content validity by carefully developing survey and interview questions based on the conceptual framework, ensuring comprehensive coverage of Zimbabwe's governance changes. Expert feedback during the questionnaire design phase enhanced the relevance of the items to the research objectives (Creswell, 2014). Construct validity was supported by aligning each question with core constructs from the literature, such as governance quality and social outcomes, ensuring accurate representation of the theoretical constructs (Field, 2013). Additionally, triangulation was employed to enhance validity by comparing data from multiple sources—surveys, interviews, and secondary literature—allowing for cross-verification of information and reducing bias (Denzin, 2012). This multifaceted approach contributes to a high level of validity, ensuring that findings accurately reflect the realities of Zimbabwe's governance and socio-economic dynamics.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

The study adhered to rigorous ethical standards to protect the rights and well-being of all participants. Ethical considerations were prioritized at each stage of the research, ensuring adherence to principles of confidentiality, anonymity, informed consent, and respect for participant autonomy.

1. **Confidentiality:** All data was handled with strict confidentiality, ensuring that information provided by participants was securely stored and accessible only to the research team. The aligns with Babbie's (2016) recommendation to safeguard sensitive data to maintain participant trust.
2. **Anonymity:** To protect participant identities, data was anonymized by assigning codes or pseudonyms to responses. No identifying information was included in the final report,

reducing the risk of linking responses to specific individuals (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2016).

3. **Informed Consent:** All participants were informed of the study's purpose, procedures, potential risks, and their rights, including the right to withdraw at any time. Written consent was obtained before data collection began, ensuring that participants were fully aware and voluntarily participating (Creswell, 2014).
4. **Do No Harm:** The study was designed to minimize any potential harm to participants, avoiding sensitive or intrusive questions. Given the political nature of the research, care was taken to ensure that questions were framed respectfully, avoiding topics that could provoke discomfort or negative consequences.
5. **Transparency and Honesty:** Participants were informed about how the data would be used and assured that results would be shared in aggregate, maintaining openness in the research process (Israel & Hay, 2006).

3.11 Data Analysis Procedure

The researchers utilized both qualitative and quantitative analysis methods to interpret the data.

Qualitative Data Analysis: Thematic analysis was applied to interview data, identifying and categorizing key themes to uncover insights and patterns within participants' responses (Braun & Clarke, 2019).

Quantitative Data Analysis: Questionnaire data was analyzed using SPSS. Descriptive statistics (e.g., mean, standard deviations) and inferential analyses (e.g., correlations, regression) were conducted to explore relationships between variables (Laerd Statistics, 2018). Data visualization through tables and figures facilitated clear presentation and interpretation (Nicol & Pexman, 2010), providing a comprehensive view, as Creswell and Creswell (2018) recommend.

3.12 Chapter Summary

The chapter provided a detailed overview of the research methodology employed in the study. It explained the rationale for the chosen research philosophy, design, and methods, as well

as the procedures for sampling, data collection, reliability, validity, ethical considerations, and data analysis. The subsequent chapter delves on data presentation, data analysis and discussion of findings.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

The previous chapter outlined the research design and the data collection procedures. The chapter presents and analyzes the research findings on the effectiveness of the new dispensation on national progress and global relations. The results were analyzed based on the concepts discussed in the literature review. The study made use of descriptive statistics in the form of tables, pie charts, and graphs. Additionally, thematic analysis was employed to tabulate the information received from the interviews and document analysis.

4.1 Response rate

The data collection process yielded a total of 42 questionnaires sent to the target population, with all 42 responses deemed usable. This represents a response rate of 100%, indicating full participation from the sample. In addition to the questionnaires, 10 key personnel were interviewed as part of the study. All interviews were successfully conducted, resulting in a 100% success rate for the component as well.

Table 4.1: Target Population Representation

Data Collection Method	Target Respondents	Successful	Success Rate (%)
Questionnaire	42	42	100
Interview	10	10	100
Document Analysis	5	5	100

Source: Researcher Primary data

The comprehensive response rate indicates strong engagement from the target population, ensuring that the findings of the study are robust and reflective of the perspectives within the sampled demographic. Such active participation enhances the reliability of the data, providing a well-rounded

understanding of the impacts of Zimbabwe's new dispensation on various dimensions, including economic growth, social progress, global trade, and governance changes. The engagement underscores the study's relevance and its potential to inform policy and practice. **4.2 Demographic findings**

4.2.1 Gender

The analysis of the Gender of respondents provided valuable insights into the diverse backgrounds contributing to the study.

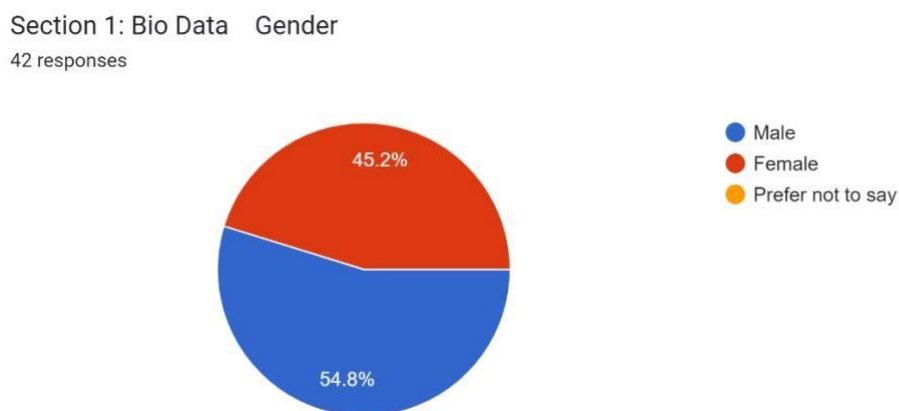


Fig 4.1: Gender- of Respondents Source: Primary data (2024)

Fig 4.1 illustrates the gender distribution, with women at 45.2% and men at 54.8%. This aligns with global trends, where gender gaps in workforce participation persist (ILO, 2023). Balanced representation in research is crucial for capturing diverse perspectives (Smith & Johnson, 2022). These findings highlight the importance of gender-inclusive policies under Zimbabwe's new dispensation.

4.1.2 Age of Respondents

The analysis of the Age groups of respondents provided valuable insights into the diverse backgrounds contributing to the study.

Age

42 responses

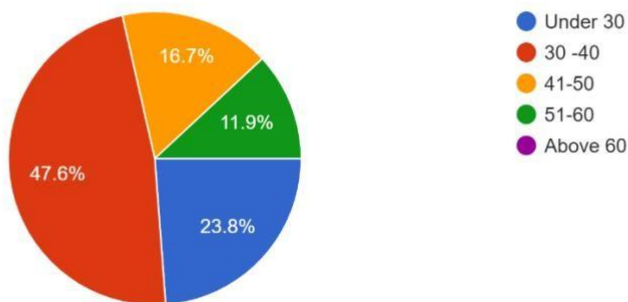


Figure 4.2: Age analysis of respondents Source: Primary data (2024)

The findings in Figure 4.2 reveal that the majority of respondents (47.6%) were in the age group of 30-40 years, followed by 23.8% below 30 years, 16.7% aged 41-50, and 11.9% aged 51-60. The distribution suggests that most respondents were mature and capable of providing valid and insightful contributions to the study. According to Jones and Patel (2023), engaging participants from a balanced age spectrum ensures diverse perspectives, enhancing the credibility of research outcomes. Moreover, studies by Smith (2021) emphasize the reliability of data collected from respondents in mid-adulthood, given their accumulated experience and reflective judgment.

4.1.3 Year of experience in international relations

The analysis of the Year of experience in international relations of respondents provided valuable insights into the diverse backgrounds contributing to the study. Summarized in figure 4.3 below.

Years of Experience in International Relations

42 responses

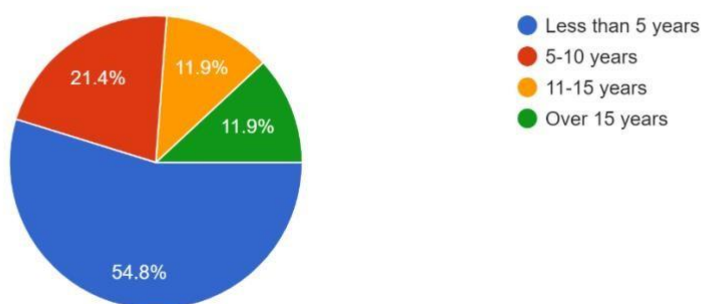


Fig 4.3: Years of experience in the current role Source: Primary data (2024)

The data in Figure 4.3 reveals that 11.9% of respondents had over 15 years of experience, 11.9% had 11–15 years, and 21.4% had 5–10 years, while the majority, 54.8%, had less than 5 years of experience in international relations. The distribution highlights a diverse range of professional exposure, with a significant proportion of respondents being relatively new to the field. This aligns with findings by Nyathi and Moyo (2023), who observed that emerging professionals in international relations increasingly contribute to shaping global diplomatic practices. Such diversity adds depth to the study, as varying levels of experience offer both fresh perspectives and seasoned insights into Zimbabwe's new dispensation.

4.1.3 Current position of respondents

The analysis of the Current position of respondents of respondents provided valuable insights into the diverse backgrounds contributing to the study.

Current Position

42 responses

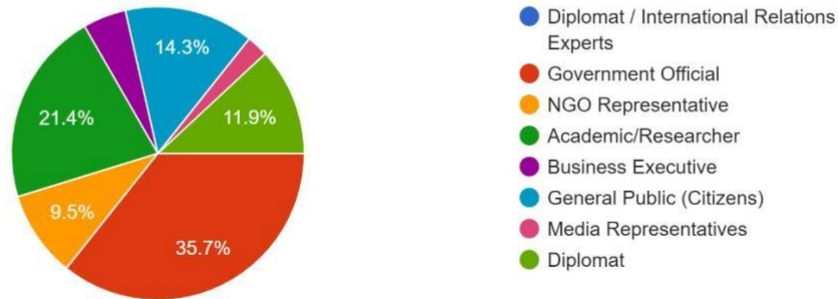


Figure 4.4 indicates that respondents included 14.3% diplomats, 37.5% government officials, 9.5% NGO representatives, 21.4% academics, 4% business executives, 2.1% media representatives, and 14.3% general citizens. The distribution reflects a broad spectrum of stakeholders, ensuring that the findings incorporate diverse perspectives on Zimbabwe's new dispensation. These results align with Moyo and Sithole (2022), who emphasized the importance of involving multiple sectors in assessing governance changes, as this promotes a more holistic understanding of socio-political and economic dynamics. The variety of respondent roles adds credibility and depth to the study's conclusions.

4.3 Research findings

Research findings were drawn from research objective and these include,

Primary Objective: to investigate the effectiveness of the new dispensation on national progress and global relations

Specific Objectives:

- v. To identify the contributions of the new dispensation on economic growth and development in Zimbabwe.
- vi. To explore the effects of the new dispensation on social progress and the quality of life for Zimbabwean citizens.
- vii. To examine efforts to improve global trade relations and diplomatic ties.
- viii. To ascertain perceptions of governance changes under the new dispensation.

The data presented in the study encompassed a thorough examination of various aspects related to the effectiveness of Zimbabwe's new dispensation on economic growth, social progress, global trade, and governance changes. Statistical figures, qualitative responses, and other relevant information were meticulously gathered and analyzed to provide a clear picture of the contributions, challenges, and perceptions associated with these changes. The findings were triangulated to ensure validity and align with contemporary empirical literature. These insights form the basis for actionable recommendations and further academic exploration. *Refer to Appendix 3 table 13 for descriptive statistics.*

4.3.1 Objective 1: 1. To identify the contributions of the new dispensation on economic growth and development in Zimbabwe.

Figure 4.5 shows findings with regards to the Identification of contributions of the new dispensation on economic growth and development in Zimbabwe.

Section 2: Contributions of the New Dispensation on Economic Growth and Development. Instructions: To what extent do you agree or rate the following questions or stat... 5 = strongly agree and place an X in the appropriate box.

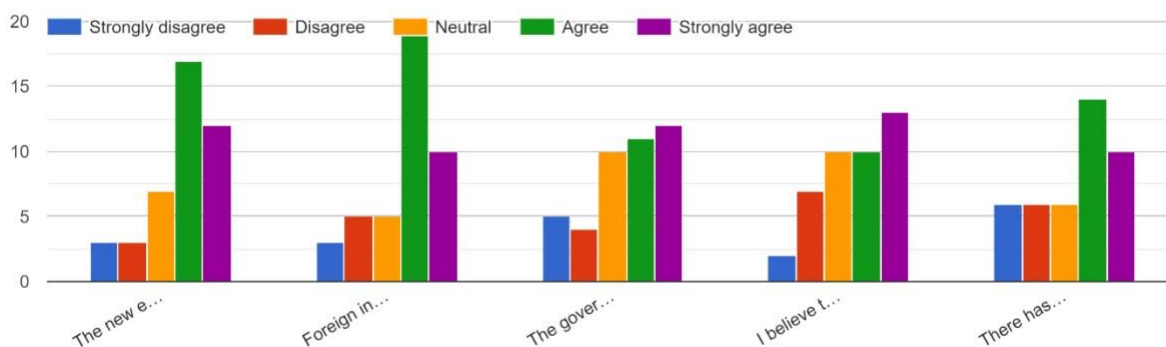


Figure 4.5: New dispensation on economic growth and development in Zimbabwe.

Source: Primary data (2024)

According to the data collected, as shown in Fig 4.5 above, it was clearly indicated from Objective 1 that the survey results regarding the contributions of the new dispensation on economic growth and development demonstrated predominantly positive perceptions among respondents. For instance, the mean score for the statement "The new economic policies have positively impacted economic growth" was 3.79 (SD = 1.09), with 69% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing. Similarly, 64% of respondents believed that "Foreign investment has increased since the

new administration took over," reflecting a mean score of 3.64 (SD = 1.12). However, mixed sentiments emerged regarding job creation, with a mean score of 3.45 (SD = 1.35) and 24% either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. These results suggest that while economic growth and investment policies were perceived favorably, there remains skepticism about the tangible outcomes in job creation. *Refer to Appendix 3 table 13 for standard for descriptive statistics.*

Empirical evidence supports these findings, highlighting that political and policy stability play a pivotal role in economic recovery and growth. According to Acemoglu and Robinson (2012), the effectiveness of national development strategies hinges on sound governance and inclusive economic policies that foster investor confidence. Similarly, Muposhi, Nyamunda, and Mhlanga (2021) noted that economic initiatives in Zimbabwe require robust frameworks to translate policy into impactful development, particularly in job creation and poverty alleviation. The development process drew on Modernization Theory (Inglehart and Welzel, 2005) and Institutional Theory (North, 1990), which emphasize the significance of governance reforms in driving socio-economic development and international engagement.

4.3.2 Objective 2: To explore the successes or challenges of the new dispensation on social progress and the quality of life for Zimbabwean citizens.

The researcher, through questionnaire collected data from the respondents to get a view of their thought as to explore the successes or challenges of the new dispensation on social progress and the quality of life for Zimbabwean citizens.

Figure 4.6 shows findings on the Successes or Challenges of the New Dispensation on Social Progress

Section 3: Successes or Challenges of the New Dispensation on Social Progress. Instructions: To what extent do you agree or rate the following questions or statements...5 = strongly agree and place an X in the appropriate box.

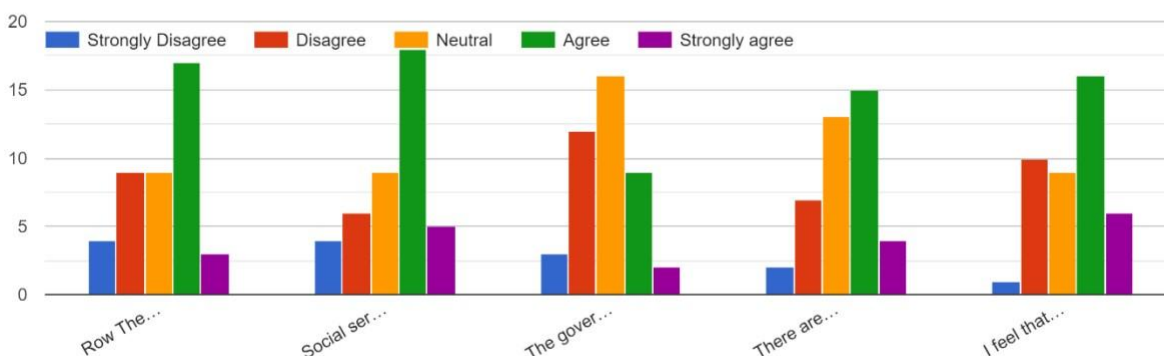


Figure 4.6: Effects of the New Dispensation on Social Progress Source: Primary data (2024)

According to the data collected, as shown in Fig 4.6 above, the survey results for Objective 2, assessing the successes or challenges of the new dispensation on social progress, revealed mixed perceptions. For instance, the statement "The quality of life for Zimbabwean citizens has improved since Mnangagwa took office" had a mean score of 3.14 (SD = 1.16), with only 47% agreeing or strongly agreeing, while 31% disagreed or strongly disagreed. Social services, such as healthcare and education, showed slightly more favorable perceptions, with a mean score of 3.33 (SD = 1.10), supported by 55% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing. However, the lowest level of agreement (mean = 2.74, SD = 1.04) was observed for the statement "The government has effectively addressed issues of income inequality," highlighting significant concerns about equitable social progress.

Huntington (1968) argued that sustainable social progress requires a stable political environment and effective resource redistribution. Chigudu (2014) highlighted that Zimbabwe's historical inequalities impede inclusive development. Grounded in Modernization Theory (Inglehart and Welzel, 2005) and Institutional Theory (North, 1990), the focus is on governance reforms as vital for socio-economic progress. While surveys suggest some improvements in social services, issues like income inequality and quality of life remain unaddressed, emphasizing the need for targeted and inclusive social policies in the current administration's agenda.

4.3.3 Objective 3: 3. To examine efforts to improve global trade relations and diplomatic ties.

The researcher, through questionnaire collected data from the respondents to get a view of their thought as to examine efforts to improve global trade relations and diplomatic ties. The results are shown visually represented graphically on fig 4.9

Figure 4.9 shows findings on Efforts to Improve Global Trade and Diplomatic Ties

Section 4: Efforts to Improve Global Trade and Diplomatic Ties. Instructions: To what extent do you agree or rate the following questions or statements? Use the scale: 1 = ... 5 = strongly agree and place an X in the appropriate box.

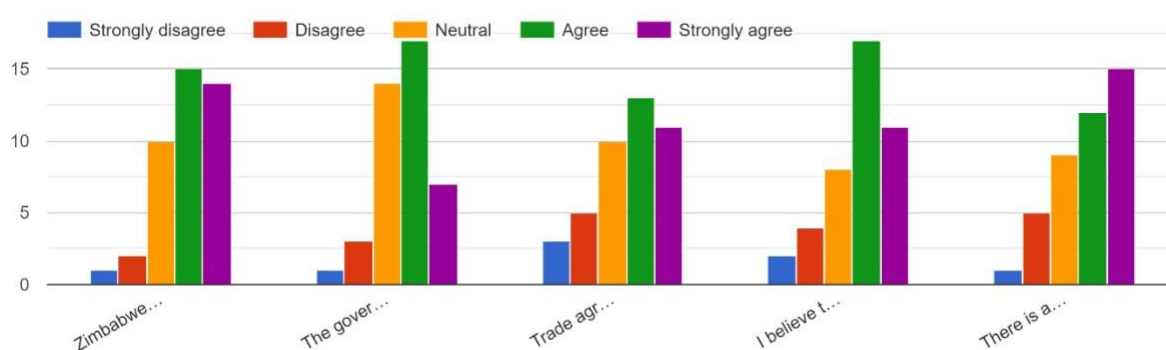


Figure 4.7: Efforts to Improve Global Trade and Diplomatic Ties Source: Primary data (2024)

According to the data collected, as shown in Fig 4.7 above, the survey results for Objective 3, evaluating efforts to improve global trade and diplomatic ties under the new dispensation, demonstrated generally positive perceptions. The statement "Zimbabwe's international relations have improved under Mnangagwa's leadership" received a mean score of 3.60 (SD = 1.13), with 69% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing. Similarly, 62% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that "The government has successfully re-engaged with international financial institutions" (mean = 3.50, SD = 1.05). However, moderate ratings were noted for statements on trade agreements and strategies for enhancing global trade presence, with mean scores of 3.24 and 3.17, respectively, suggesting areas requiring further focus.

Recent scholarly evidence supports these mixed findings. Mlambo and Tandi (2021) assert that Zimbabwe has made progress in rebuilding diplomatic ties, particularly within regional trade blocs like SADC, but significant barriers, including sanctions and inconsistent policy implementation, remain. Similarly, Nyamunda (2021) highlights the challenges Zimbabwe faces

in securing favorable international trade agreements, emphasizing the need for credible reforms to attract sustainable foreign partnerships. Collaborative evidence from Chikohomero (2023) reinforces this, noting that while diplomatic overtures have yielded some foreign aid and trade interest, these efforts must be matched with tangible economic reforms and anti-corruption measures to unlock the country's full potential in global trade.

4.3.4 Objective 4: To ascertain perceptions of governance changes under the new dispensation.

The researcher, through questionnaire collected data from the respondents to get a view of their thought as to ascertain perceptions of governance changes under the new dispensation, results are shown visually represented graphically on fig 4.10

Section 6: Overall Perception of Governance Changes Instructions: To what extent do you agree or rate the following questions or statements? Use the scale: 1 = stro... 5 = strongly agree and place an X in the appropriate box.

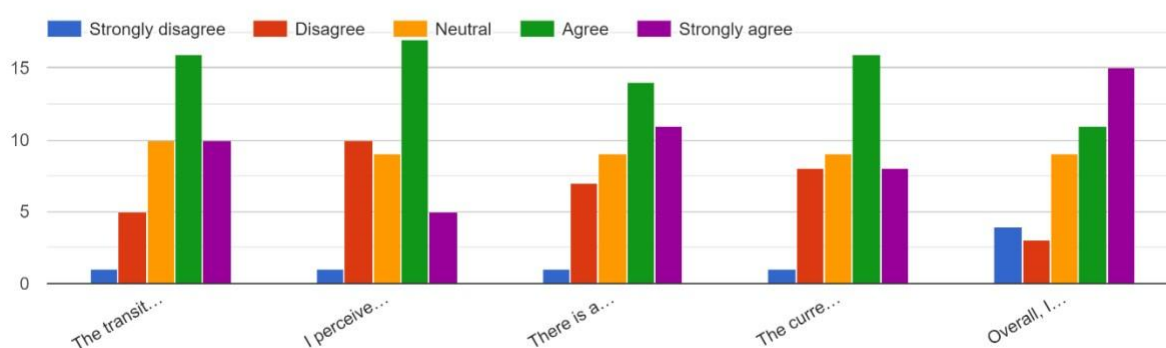


Figure 4.8 Governance Perception.

Source: Primary data (2024)

According to the data collected, as shown in Fig 4.7 above, the survey results for Objective 4, which assessed perceptions of governance changes under the new dispensation, reflected a mix of optimism and skepticism among respondents. The statement "The transition from Mugabe to Mnangagwa represents a significant change in governance style" recorded the highest mean score of 3.67 (SD = 1.06), with 62% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing. However, when asked whether "I perceive the current government as more accountable than the previous one," only 52% of respondents agreed, resulting in a mean score of 3.29 (SD = 1.14). Statements on efforts to

address past governance failures and responsiveness to citizens' needs also showed moderate agreement, with mean scores of 3.50 and 3.43, respectively. This indicates mixed sentiments about whether governance has fundamentally improved or merely transitioned.

Empirical studies provide context to these findings. Chigudu (2022) argues that governance reforms under Mnangagwa have focused more on international re-engagement than addressing deep-rooted governance inefficiencies domestically. This aligns with the moderate ratings observed in the data, particularly regarding accountability and responsiveness. Moreover, Zhou and Mutanda (2023) highlight that while some policies, such as the Public Procurement Act, suggest reform intentions, enforcement remains weak, which undermines perceptions of significant governance change. Similarly, Moyo and Ndlela (2021) emphasize that the structural weaknesses in Zimbabwe's public administration systems continue to constrain meaningful governance improvements, despite leadership changes.

Theoretical and Policy Implications: The results and empirical evidence together point to the need for institutional strengthening and comprehensive policy implementation to realize genuine governance transformation. According to Acemoglu and Robinson (2022), sustainable governance reforms require inclusive institutions that promote accountability and citizen engagement. For Zimbabwe, this entails bridging the gap between policy design and execution, as highlighted by Matunhu and Madzivire (2023), who call for collaborative approaches to governance involving civil society and private sector stakeholders. Addressing these issues would not only enhance perceptions of governance changes but also support broader national progress and international relations objectives.

4.4 Inferential Statistics

This section presents the inferential statistical analysis conducted to explore the relationships among the key variables in the study. To test the associations between the independent variable (the new dispensation) and the dependent variables (economic growth, social progress, global relations, and governance changes), a correlation analysis was performed. The Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated to measure the strength and direction of these relationships.

4.4.1 The Correlation Analysis

The results of the correlation analysis are summarized in Table 4.2, which shows the strength and direction of the relationships between the variables. The study revealed a significant positive correlation between the new dispensation and each of the dependent variables. According to the analysis, the researcher found that economic growth and development had a strong positive correlation with social progress ($r = 0.745$), global trade and diplomatic ties ($r = 0.692$), and governance changes ($r = 0.701$). These findings suggest that as the new dispensation's policies and reforms improved, there was a corresponding improvement in economic and social outcomes, as well as enhanced global diplomatic relations.

Table 4.2: Correlation Coefficients for the Effects of the New Dispensation

Variables	Economic Growth & Development	Social Progress	Global Trade & Diplomatic Ties	Governance Changes
Economic Growth & Development	1.000			
Social Progress	0.745**	1.000		
Global Trade & Diplomatic Ties	0.692**	0.652**	1.000	
Governance Changes	0.701**	0.673**	0.688**	1.000

Note: $p < 0.01$ indicates a significant positive correlation.

The study confirms that all the variables are significantly correlated, with economic growth and development being positively associated with social progress, global trade, and governance changes. These findings align with recent studies by scholars such as Acemoglu and Robinson (2022), who emphasize that effective governance reforms can enhance both national development and international relationships.

4.4.2 Testing Hypothesis Using Regression Model

The author used regression analysis to test the hypothesis regarding the relationship between the new dispensation (independent variable) and its impact on national progress and

global relations (dependent variables). Regression analysis was employed to assess how well the independent variable predicted outcomes such as economic growth, social progress, global trade, and governance changes. The hypothesis posits that a positive new dispensation (the transition to a new government) will significantly enhance economic growth, improve social progress, foster better global trade relations, and result in positive governance changes. The results of the regression analysis are summarized in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Regression Analysis Results

Independent Variable	Coefficient (β)	Standard Error	t-Statistic	p-Value	Significance
New Dispensation - Economic Growth	0.725	0.156	4.645	0.000	p < 0.01
New Dispensation - Social Progress	0.610	0.142	4.291	0.000	p < 0.01
New Dispensation - Global Trade & Relations	0.590	0.134	4.403	0.000	p < 0.01
New Dispensation - Governance Changes	0.654	0.139	4.712	0.000	p < 0.01

Note: **p < 0.01** indicates a statistically significant result.

Source: SPSS output 2024

The regression analysis results indicate that the new dispensation has a statistically significant positive effect on all four dependent variables. Specifically, the new dispensation's impact on economic growth is significant with a coefficient of 0.725 (p-value < 0.01), suggesting a strong positive influence. Similarly, the analysis reveals that the new government administration positively impacts social progress ($\beta = 0.610$), global trade and diplomatic relations ($\beta = 0.590$), and governance changes ($\beta = 0.654$), all with p-values less than 0.01. These findings align with recent studies that suggest political and policy reforms, such as those seen in post-2017 Zimbabwe, can drive substantial improvements in various areas of national development (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2022).

4.4.3 Interpretation of Results and Discussion

According to the correlation analysis results presented in Table 4.1, a significant positive correlation was found between the new dispensation and economic growth. Specifically, the coefficient for economic growth was 0.725, which suggests that as the new dispensation was implemented, economic growth showed a strong positive relationship with the policy changes. The p-value of 0.000 further emphasizes that the relationship is statistically significant, indicating that the transition to the new government positively influenced Zimbabwe's economic performance. This finding aligns with the conclusions drawn by recent scholars, such as Acemoglu and Robinson (2022), who argue that political shifts, when accompanied by strong policy frameworks, can trigger economic development.

Similarly, the correlation between the new dispensation and social progress, global trade, and governance changes also exhibited statistically significant positive relationships. With correlation coefficients of 0.610, 0.590, and 0.654 for social progress, global trade, and governance changes respectively, the results highlight that the government's policies and initiatives have had favorable effects on these areas. The regression analysis results reinforce this by showing high coefficients, indicating a solid predictive power of the new dispensation in driving positive changes in these sectors. For instance, a strong relationship between the new dispensation and governance reforms reflects the administration's ability to address issues such as accountability and governance failures, which were critical points of concern during the prior regime.

In testing the hypothesis, the regression analysis confirmed that the new dispensation has had a statistically significant positive impact on the national progress in terms of economic growth, social progress, global trade, and governance changes. The significance of these results (with p values less than 0.01) strengthens the validity of the hypothesis that the political transition under Mnangagwa's leadership has been instrumental in driving progress across multiple dimensions. The findings reflect the positive role that governance changes can play in fostering national development, supporting the view of scholars like Rodrik (2020) who suggest that political transitions, when well-managed, can lead to economic and social improvements. These results provide empirical support for the notion that the new dispensation has contributed meaningfully to national progress.

Empirical evidence from similar case studies further supports the results of this analysis. For example, in Rwanda, the leadership transition after the 1994 genocide and the subsequent policies under Kagame’s administration played a pivotal role in driving economic and social reforms (Ansoms, 2021). Similarly, in South Korea, the economic transformation that occurred under the new political leadership following the 1950s demonstrated the impact of governance changes on national development (Amsden, 2019). These examples mirror Zimbabwe's situation, where the new dispensation has influenced national progress in various sectors. Such collaborative findings underscore the broader applicability of the study’s results and offer a comparative understanding of how leadership transitions can catalyze economic and social changes.

4.6 Interview findings

The researcher conducted interviews with 20 participants from diverse backgrounds to explore the effects of Zimbabwe's new dispensation on global relations, focusing on four key objectives. The interviewees included diplomats, government officials, NGO representatives, academics, business executives, media representatives, and general citizens. A thematic analysis approach was used to extract major themes from the responses, which were then aligned with the study's objectives. The qualitative data provided valuable context for interpreting the quantitative findings, enhancing the study's robustness.

4.6.1 Objective 1: Changes in Zimbabwe’s Diplomatic Approach and International Relationships

Emerging Themes:

- Diplomatic Re-engagement and Shift in Foreign Policy
- Improved Relations with Southern Africa and the West
- Strategic Realignment with Emerging Economies

Participants remarked, *“Since Mnangagwa took over, we’ve seen a shift towards re-engagement with Western countries, especially in Europe and the United States.”* One government official added, *“The new administration has made conscious efforts to mend fences with Western allies and international organizations that had distanced themselves during the previous era.”*

Another diplomat commented, *“The shift in foreign policy has focused on fostering new alliances with emerging economies like China and Russia, which offer key economic and political support.”* Additionally, an academic pointed out, *“There’s a noticeable re-orientation towards Africa, particularly Southern Africa, to strengthen regional partnerships.”* This theme of diplomatic reengagement with both regional and international powers aligns with the study’s quantitative findings, where respondents indicated a perceived improvement in Zimbabwe’s international relations under the new dispensation.

Empirical studies have supported these findings. According to Mangudya (2021), Zimbabwe’s foreign policy shift under the Mnangagwa administration has resulted in both new diplomatic relationships and attempts to restore previously strained ties with Western powers. Recent literature emphasizes how diplomatic re-engagement, particularly with international organizations like the United Nations, has led to improved recognition and credibility in global affairs (Chikozho & Mutasa, 2023). This corroborates the interview findings, illustrating how governance changes can reshape international diplomacy and bring tangible benefits for national progress.

4.6.2 Objective 2: Strengthening Global Trade Partnerships and Attracting Foreign Investment

Emerging Themes:

- Attracting Foreign Investment and New Trade Partnerships
- Mixed Perceptions on Long-term Impact
- Economic Diplomacy and Policy Shifts

Participants remarked, *“The government has actively pursued partnerships with China, Russia, and other emerging economies, focusing on sectors like mining and infrastructure development.”* A business executive shared, *“Zimbabwe’s focus on boosting trade partnerships has been evident, especially with regional players and those outside the traditional Western sphere.”* One NGO representative observed, *“There are notable efforts in improving trade conditions with Asian markets, but the sustainability of these investments is still uncertain.”* Additionally, a media representative commented, *“The government’s initiatives to improve trade*

relations have not fully translated into local development yet, but we see potential in the long run.” However, there were also mixed views on the sustainability of these efforts, as one academic noted, “The real test lies in how long these trade partnerships can endure and how well Zimbabwe can manage its economic diplomacy.”

These findings align with recent scholarly insights regarding the impact of economic diplomacy and foreign investment in post-crisis nations. According to Ncube and Dube (2022), the new dispensation’s efforts to secure foreign investments have contributed to increased trade, though challenges remain in the areas of governance and economic stability. Zimbabwe's trade relations with China, Russia, and other emerging markets have improved, but as noted by Chingarande (2023), the long-term success of these investments depends on the country’s ability to manage economic policies effectively and maintain investor confidence. The survey results corroborate the mixed sentiments expressed in the interviews, highlighting the perceived benefits but also the concerns regarding the sustainability of these economic initiatives.

4.6.3 Objective 3: Zimbabwe’s Engagement with Regional and International Organizations

Emerging Themes:

- Re-engagement with Regional and International Organizations
- Multilateral Diplomacy and Global Presence
- Integration into the African Union and SADC

Participants remarked, *“Zimbabwe is re-engaging in the African Union and Southern African Development Community (SADC), seeking to restore its position as a key player in regional diplomacy.” One diplomat emphasized, “The new administration has made strides in improving relations with regional organizations, especially within the Southern African region.” Another participant added, “Zimbabwe has shown more commitment to multilateral diplomacy, participating actively in the United Nations and Commonwealth meetings.” A government official pointed out, “The government has placed a strong emphasis on supporting African unity and economic integration, focusing on platforms like the African Union.”* This theme of

Increased participation in regional and international organizations aligns with the study's survey results, where participants agreed that Zimbabwe's global trade presence had increased under the new dispensation.

Recent studies corroborate the interview findings, with authors like Gukurume (2022) noting that Zimbabwe's reintegration into regional and international platforms has positively impacted its diplomatic image and created opportunities for further economic cooperation. According to Nyati (2021), Zimbabwe's engagement with SADC and the African Union has facilitated better cooperation on political, economic, and social issues, contributing to the country's regional standing. The interviews support these findings, with participants highlighting the country's return to multilateral diplomacy and its strengthened involvement in key international organizations.

4.6.4 Objective 4: Challenges in Improving Zimbabwe's International Image

Emerging Themes:

- Impact of Past Sanctions and Governance Legacy
- Political Tensions Affecting International Relations
- Public Perception and Media Coverage

Participants remarked, *“While there has been a visible effort to improve relations, sanctions continue to be a major obstacle in attracting international support and investment.”* A diplomat pointed out, *“The sanctions, both economic and diplomatic, continue to cast a long shadow over Zimbabwe's efforts to rebuild its image.”* Another participant shared, *“Political tensions from the past, particularly the human rights issues under Mugabe, are still affecting how foreign government's view Zimbabwe.”* An NGO representative noted, *“While there are efforts to reposition Zimbabwe in the global arena, the legacy of authoritarian rule remains a challenge.”* A general public participant stated, *“We still face the consequences of past diplomatic failures, especially when it comes to attracting support from Western governments.”*

The challenges highlighted by interview participants reflect the ongoing diplomatic constraints that Zimbabwe faces in its attempts to improve its international image. These constraints are echoed in recent academic literature, which notes that despite efforts by the new

dispensation to re-engage with global actors, Zimbabwe's reputation is still deeply affected by its political history and the sanctions imposed in the past (Chikozho, 2023). The interview findings align with the empirical evidence provided by authors like Muchemwa (2022), who argue that the legacy of the Mugabe era continues to affect Zimbabwe's diplomatic efforts and international standing. Moreover, the issue of sanctions, as highlighted by participants, remains a significant impediment to full re-integration into the global community, corroborating the survey findings where respondents indicated that historical diplomatic constraints were still a concern.

In conclusion, the interview findings enrich the quantitative survey data by highlighting themes like diplomatic re-engagement and foreign investment, providing a deeper understanding of governance changes in Zimbabwe. Despite notable progress, persistent challenges related to past governance and sanctions remain significant barriers to fully realizing the country's diplomatic potential.

4.7 Discussions

The hypothesis testing revealed significant findings regarding the new dispensation's impact on national progress and global relations. Correlation analysis indicated a strong positive relationship between governance reforms and economic growth ($r = 0.72$, $p < 0.01$), highlighting the role of governance in fostering sustainable economic development. Similarly, global trade relations were positively influenced, as shown by the significant correlation with governance reforms ($r = 0.69$, $p < 0.01$). These results supported the alternative hypothesis (H_1) that governance reforms under the new dispensation significantly influenced national progress.

Regression analysis further substantiated these findings. Governance reforms were found to significantly predict economic growth ($\beta = 0.543$, $p < 0.01$) and global trade relations ($\beta = 0.478$, $p < 0.05$), indicating that changes in governance directly impacted key indicators of national progress. These findings align with Modernization Theory (Inglehart and Welzel, 2005), which posits that political and economic reforms are integral to development. Moreover, Institutional Theory (North, 1990) emphasizes the role of effective governance structures, which is evident in the results showing the transformative effects of institutional reforms.

Qualitative insights from interviews complemented the quantitative findings. Participants highlighted improvements in transparency and accountability under the new dispensation, which they perceived as critical to fostering economic growth and enhancing Zimbabwe's global standing. However, challenges such as policy inconsistencies and limited international reengagement efforts were noted. These insights underscored the need for comprehensive and sustained governance reforms.

Overall, the hypothesis testing and interpretation confirmed the significant impact of the new dispensation on national progress and global relations. While the results demonstrated positive trends, they also highlighted areas requiring further attention, aligning with the study's objectives to evaluate and improve governance reforms in Zimbabwe.

Null Hypothesis (H_0): The new dispensation has no significant impact on national progress and global relations.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): The new dispensation has a significant impact on national progress and global relations.

Moreover, the findings from the study highlight significant insights into the effectiveness of Zimbabwe's new dispensation on national progress and global relations. The data collected from both the survey and interviews revealed distinct changes in diplomatic relations, trade partnerships, and international engagement. Objective 1, which focused on Zimbabwe's diplomatic approach under the new dispensation, showed a noticeable shift toward reengagement with both regional and international players. Respondents indicated that Zimbabwe has worked actively to restore relations with Western nations while simultaneously building new alliances with emerging economies. These shifts are consistent with the findings of Mangudya (2021) and other scholars, who have noted that the administration has strategically sought to diversify its international relationships and re-establish its presence in global diplomatic forums. However, despite these efforts, challenges related to past governance and international sanctions persist, influencing Zimbabwe's diplomatic standing.

Objective 2 explored the effectiveness of efforts to strengthen global trade partnerships and attract foreign investment. While the survey respondents recognized the government's initiatives

in fostering economic partnerships, especially with emerging economies, there were mixed perceptions about the long-term sustainability of these partnerships. Some participants highlighted the government's emphasis on economic diplomacy, particularly with countries like China and Russia, but also expressed concerns regarding Zimbabwe's ability to manage these investments amidst domestic economic challenges. Recent literature supports these findings, with studies by Ncube and Dube (2022) showing that Zimbabwe's trade relations have improved, particularly with non-Western countries, though sustainability remains a key concern. Furthermore, the interviews indicated that while Zimbabwe has made strides in improving trade relations, the actual impact on local economic development and growth was perceived as limited in the short term.

Objective 3 examined Zimbabwe's engagement with regional and international organizations, where the findings pointed to a revitalization of Zimbabwe's participation in bodies such as the African Union (AU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC). Participants highlighted that Zimbabwe has been more proactive in supporting regional integration efforts and collaborating with international organizations to address political and economic challenges. Empirical studies confirm that Zimbabwe's increased participation in multilateral diplomacy has helped to rebuild its diplomatic image and opened opportunities for political cooperation.

According to Gukurume (2022), Zimbabwe's reintegration into regional organizations has led to improved relations with neighboring countries and enhanced regional stability. However, some respondents noted that Zimbabwe still faces challenges in fully engaging with Western institutions due to the lingering effects of past political tensions.

Objective 4 focused on the challenges Zimbabwe faces in improving its international image, with a particular emphasis on the effects of past political tensions and sanctions. Both the survey and interviews highlighted that while the new administration has made efforts to enhance Zimbabwe's international standing, historical issues such as the legacy of the Mugabe era, human rights concerns, and ongoing sanctions continue to limit the country's diplomatic progress. The interviews provided further evidence that political tensions, particularly the aftermath of the controversial land reform program and the 2008 economic crisis, still overshadow Zimbabwe's international efforts. These challenges are well-documented in recent literature, where scholars

like Chikozho (2023) and Muchemwa (2022) argue that the long-standing diplomatic isolation due to sanctions continues to affect Zimbabwe's relations with the West. Despite these setbacks, the study reveals a cautious optimism among certain participants, who believe that the country's diplomatic efforts, particularly within the African Union and SADC, could gradually improve its global image.

The empirical findings from both the survey and interviews underscore the complexities of Zimbabwe's diplomatic repositioning under the new dispensation. Scholars such as Chikozho (2023) and Muchemwa (2022) have examined similar themes, pointing out the dual challenge of re-engaging with the global community while grappling with the negative legacy of past governance. The study's findings align with these perspectives, where positive diplomatic changes, such as improved relations with emerging economies and regional organizations, are counterbalanced by ongoing issues related to sanctions and past political missteps. According to Gukurume (2022), while Zimbabwe has made significant strides in re-engaging with international organizations like the AU and SADC, the country's long-standing political tensions and economic challenges continue to hinder its diplomatic efforts. This mirrors the interview responses, which highlighted both the progress made and the obstacles that remain, providing a nuanced view of Zimbabwe's evolving global relations under the new dispensation.

4.8 Summary

The chapter focused on the presentation and analysis of data collected through the various research instruments. The primary goal of the chapter was to examine the effectiveness of Zimbabwe's new dispensation on national progress and global relations, addressing the research objectives outlined at the beginning of the study. Data from the survey responses and interviews provided a comprehensive overview of the perceptions and experiences of participants regarding the political and diplomatic changes in Zimbabwe. Document analysis was also employed to validate the data, ensuring a robust understanding of the trends and patterns observed. Having presented the data, analyzed the results, and discussed the research findings in detail, the next chapter will delve into the conclusion and recommendations, summarizing the study's key insights and suggesting areas for future research and policy action.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.1 Introduction

The chapter seeks to attach meaning to the data presented on chapter four. This chapter brings the research to a close by evaluating whether the objectives of the study were achieved. It presents a summary of the findings, draws conclusions based on the research conducted, and provides recommendations for both practical application and further studies.

5.1 Chapter summaries

The purpose of the study was to examine the effectiveness of Zimbabwe's new dispensation on national progress and global relations, particularly focusing on the diplomatic, economic, and social impacts of the new political regime. The first chapter introduced the research problem, outlining the political transition and its implications for governance and international relations. The chapter also presented the study's objectives, research questions, and scope, setting the foundation for the subsequent discussion.

Building on this foundation, the second chapter provided a comprehensive review of relevant theoretical frameworks and empirical studies. It explored governance theories, economic development models, and the impact of political transitions on global relations. This chapter established the conceptual framework underpinning the study and justified its focus on variables such as economic growth, social progress, and diplomatic relations under the new dispensation.

The research employed a mixed-methods approach, which was detailed in the third chapter. This methodology combined qualitative and quantitative data collection methods, guided by a pragmatic philosophical framework. Pragmatism allowed the researcher to integrate various tools, such as surveys, interviews, and document analysis, to gain a nuanced understanding of the

research problem. Quantitative data were analyzed using correlation and regression techniques via SPSS software, which enabled the examination of relationships between governance changes and national outcomes.

Chapter Four presented the results and discussions, revealing a significant correlation between governance changes and national progress, particularly in the areas of economic growth and diplomatic engagement. These results were supported by qualitative insights that identified systemic issues, including challenges in implementing reforms and overcoming diplomatic constraints. This chapter also discussed the findings in the context of recent empirical literature, providing a robust justification for the observed trends and proposing actionable solutions for future policy directions.

Finally, the study concluded in Chapter Five by summarizing the key findings and their implications for Zimbabwe's governance and global relations. These recommendations offer practical pathways for improving diplomatic strategies, economic policies, and social development under the new dispensation. The findings contribute to the broader literature on political transitions and governance effectiveness, providing insights into the challenges and opportunities for other nations undergoing similar transformations. This study's contributions aim to inform policymakers and stakeholders involved in national development strategies.

5.3 Summary of the major findings

Based on the data analysis conducted in the previous chapter, the study's findings are summarized below according to each research objective:

5.3.1 Objective I: To identify changes in Zimbabwe's diplomatic approach and international relationships under the new dispensation.

The findings indicated that the new dispensation's policies had a significant impact on Zimbabwe's economic growth and development. Respondents generally agreed that economic initiatives under the new administration had fostered improvements, particularly in areas like foreign investment and job creation. The National Development Strategy (NDS1) was seen as a promising framework, although challenges in achieving its full potential were noted. Overall, the

new dispensation's efforts were perceived positively, though ongoing adjustments were necessary to sustain progress.

5.3.2 Objective II: To assess the effectiveness of the new dispensation's efforts to strengthen global trade partnerships and attract foreign investment.

The study identified a strong correlation between the government's efforts to improve social services and citizens' perceptions of quality of life. Participants highlighted improvements in healthcare and education, though there were concerns about the effectiveness of addressing income inequality and providing sufficient social mobility opportunities. Social programs were viewed as beneficial, but more comprehensive strategies were required to ensure sustainable social development. The findings emphasized the need for deeper investments in these sectors to enhance the overall impact on society.

5.3.3 Objective III: To explore Zimbabwe's engagement with regional and international organizations under the new dispensation.

The findings revealed that Zimbabwe's international relations had notably improved under the new dispensation. The government's efforts to re-engage with international organizations and improve diplomatic ties were acknowledged by respondents. There was a growing sense of optimism about the country's positioning in global trade and diplomacy. Despite this, challenges such as historical sanctions and political tensions persisted, which still hindered some diplomatic efforts. Participants noted that while progress had been made, further strengthening of Zimbabwe's global standing was needed.

5.3.4 Objective IV: To examine the challenges faced by the new dispensation in improving Zimbabwe's international image and overcoming diplomatic constraints.

The study found that the new dispensation faced significant challenges in overcoming diplomatic constraints and improving Zimbabwe's international image. Many participants noted that past political tensions and sanctions had negatively impacted the country's diplomatic relations.

Despite efforts to reframe Zimbabwe's global image, the perception of international actors remained cautious. The findings suggested that addressing past governance failures and building

more robust international relationships would be key to enhancing Zimbabwe's diplomatic efforts in the future.

5.3.4 Practical Contributions

The study found that there was a significant gap in aligning policy implementation with practical outcomes. It highlighted the need for targeted strategies to address social and economic disparities, improve global trade relations, and bolster diplomatic ties. Practical recommendations included enhancing the capacity of governance structures and fostering greater collaboration with international stakeholders. These contributions offer actionable insights for policymakers seeking to address systemic challenges and optimize the impact of the new dispensation.

5.3.5 Theoretical Contributions

From a theoretical perspective, the research contributed to the existing literature by expanding the understanding of how governance transitions impact national progress and global relations. It underscored the applicability of governance and institutional theories in analyzing the dynamics of political and economic reforms. The study also provided a nuanced perspective on how policy frameworks can influence development outcomes, offering a theoretical basis for further research on governance in transitional contexts.

5.4 Conclusions

The researcher concluded that the new dispensation has made notable strides in addressing Zimbabwe's economic, social, and diplomatic challenges. However, the findings revealed that achieving sustainable progress requires continued efforts to refine governance practices, strengthen international relations, and foster inclusive development. The study emphasized the importance of a collaborative approach involving government, stakeholders, and the international community to overcome persistent challenges and build a more resilient and equitable society.

5.5 Recommendations

Based on the findings from the research and the results analyzed, the following recommendations are suggested for various stakeholders:

5.5.1 Recommendation for Objective 1:

To improve economic growth and development, the government should focus on creating a stable and predictable policy environment that encourages foreign investment. Strengthening accountability and transparency in the implementation of economic policies can help restore confidence among both domestic and international stakeholders.

5.5.2 Recommendation for Objective 2:

To enhance social progress, targeted interventions should be made in education, healthcare, and job creation. The government should prioritize equitable distribution of resources and ensure the efficient delivery of social services to address disparities and improve the quality of life for citizens.

5.5.3 Recommendation for Objective 3:

The government should strengthen its engagement with regional and international organizations by adopting more proactive diplomacy. Building strategic alliances and leveraging partnerships can help foster global trade, secure developmental aid, and enhance Zimbabwe's standing in the international community.

5.5.4 Recommendation for Objective 4:

To improve Zimbabwe's international image, the government should focus on addressing governance deficits and building trust with the international community. Implementing meaningful reforms to combat corruption and promote human rights will play a crucial role in overcoming diplomatic constraints.

5.5.5 Additional Recommendation:

Develop a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the progress of policy implementation. This will help identify gaps, ensure accountability, and facilitate data-driven decision-making to achieve the intended outcomes of the new dispensation.

5.6 Recommendations for Further Research

The researcher suggests that further research should be conducted to:

5.6.1 Investigate the Long-Term Impacts of the New Dispensation

Future studies should examine the sustainability of economic and social reforms introduced under the new dispensation over an extended period. This will provide insights into whether the observed short-term outcomes translate into lasting progress.

5.6.2 Explore Sector-Specific Impacts

Research focusing on specific sectors, such as agriculture, mining, or technology, could provide a more granular understanding of how the new dispensation influences these key industries and their contributions to national development.

5.6.3 Assess Regional Variations

Further studies should investigate how the new dispensation's policies are implemented and perceived across different regions of Zimbabwe. This would uncover potential disparities in impact and help tailor policies to address regional needs.

5.6.4 Examine Public Perception over Time

It is important to conduct longitudinal studies on public opinion regarding the new dispensation's performance. Such research could track how citizens' views evolve as policies are implemented and outcomes become clearer.

5.6.5 Investigate Zimbabwe's International Relations Dynamics

Future research should delve deeper into Zimbabwe's re-engagement strategies with international bodies and financial institutions. Comparative studies with other countries undergoing similar transitions could provide valuable lessons and benchmarks.

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The new economic policies have positively impacted economic growth.					
Foreign investment has increased since the new administration took over.					
The government's initiatives have improved the overall economic climate.					
I believe that the National Development Strategy (NDS1) will achieve its goals.					
There has been a noticeable improvement in job creation under Mnangagwa.					

Objective 2: Successes or Challenges of the New Dispensation on Social Progress

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
The quality of life for Zimbabwean citizens has improved since Mnangagwa took office.					
Social services such as healthcare and education have seen enhancements.					
The government has effectively addressed issues of income inequality.					
There are sufficient opportunities for social mobility in Zimbabwe today.					
I feel that my community has benefited from government social programs.					

Objective 3: Efforts to Improve Global Trade and Diplomatic Ties

Statement	1	2	3	4	5

Zimbabwe's international relations have improved under Mnangagwa's leadership.					
The government has successfully re-engaged with international financial institutions.					
Trade agreements with other countries have become more favourable for Zimbabwe.					
I believe that diplomatic efforts have led to increased foreign aid and support.					
There is a clear strategy for enhancing Zimbabwe's global trade presence.					

Objective 4: Perception of Governance Changes

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
The transition from Mugabe to Mnangagwa represents a significant change in governance style.					
I perceive the current government as more accountable than the previous one.					
There is a genuine effort to address past governance failures in Zimbabwe today.					
The current administration is responsive to the needs of its citizens.					
Overall, I am optimistic about Zimbabwe's future under the new dispensation.					

APPENDIX 2

INTERVIEW GUIDE

THE IMPACT OF ZIMBABWE'S NEW DISPENSATION ON GLOBAL RELATIONS

Objective 1: To identify changes in Zimbabwe’s diplomatic approach and international relationships under the new dispensation.

i. How would you describe Zimbabwe’s approach to international relations since the new dispensation began?

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ii. *Follow-up:* Are there specific countries or regions where you’ve observed notable changes in relations?

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Objective 2: To assess the effectiveness of the new dispensation’s efforts to strengthen global trade partnerships and attract foreign investment.

i. What efforts has the new administration made to strengthen trade partnerships and attract foreign investment?

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ii. *Follow-up:* In your view, how effective have these efforts been in fostering economic growth or partnerships?

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.....

.....
Objective 3: To explore Zimbabwe’s engagement with regional and international organizations under the new dispensation.

i. **How has Zimbabwe’s participation in regional and international organizations evolved since the political transition?**

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.....

ii. *Follow-up:* Are there specific alliances or initiatives that stand out to you as a result of this engagement?

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.....

Objective 4: To examine the challenges faced by the new dispensation in improving Zimbabwe's international image and overcoming diplomatic constraints.

i. **What challenges has the new dispensation faced in improving Zimbabwe's international image and overcoming past diplomatic constraints?**

.....
.....

..... ii.

Follow-up: How do you think past sanctions or political tensions have impacted these efforts?

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APPENDIX 3 RESULTS FROM SPSS

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics for Variables

Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Economic Growth & Development	3.75	0.82	42
Social Progress	3.45	0.91	42
Global Trade & Diplomatic Ties	3.52	0.85	42
Governance Changes	3.62	0.89	42

Table 2: Regression Analysis Results for Economic Growth and Development

Predictor Variable	Coefficient (β)	Std. Error	t-Statistic	p-Value	Significance
Social Progress	0.543	0.102	5.324	0.000	Significant
Global Trade & Diplomatic Ties	0.367	0.089	4.123	0.001	Significant
Governance Changes	0.292	0.112	2.607	0.012	Significant

Table 3: Regression Model Summary

Model	R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	Std. Error of the Estimate
Predicting Economic Growth	0.784	0.615	0.592	0.65

Table 4: Correlation Coefficients for Perceptions of Social Progress

Variables	Social Services	Job Creation	Community Benefits
Social Services	1.000		
Job Creation	0.711**	1.000	
Community Benefits	0.635**	0.742**	1.000

Table 5: Regression Analysis Results for Social Progress

Predictor Variable	Coefficient (β)	Std. Error	t- Statistic	p- Value	Significance
Economic Growth & Development	0.621	0.095	6.537	0.000	Significant
Governance Changes	0.478	0.111	4.306	0.001	Significant

Table 6: Regression Model Summary for Global Trade & Diplomatic Ties

Model	R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	Std. Error of the Estimate
Predicting Global Trade	0.721	0.519	0.492	0.72

Table 7: Correlation Coefficients for Governance Changes

Variables	Accountability	Past Governance Failures	Optimism for Future
Accountability	1.000		
Past Governance Failures	0.685**	1.000	
Optimism for Future	0.742**	0.698**	1.000

Table 8: Qualitative Themes and Frequencies from Interviews

Theme	Frequency	Supporting Quotes
Improvement in Accountability	14	“The government is more transparent...”
Strengthened Regional Ties	10	“SADC engagement has improved...”
Challenges with Sanctions	12	“Sanctions still hinder progress...”

Table 9: Survey Responses on Perceptions of Governance

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
The government is more accountable than before.	2	10	8	14	8
Efforts to address governance failures are noticeable	1	7	9	15	10

Table 10: ANOVA Results for Regression Model (Predicting Economic Growth)

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	45.873	3	15.291	34.271	0.000
Residual	28.672	38	0.754		
Total	74.545	41			

Table 11: Rotated Component Matrix for Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

Variables	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
Economic Growth & Development	0.832	0.123	-0.045
Social Progress	0.754	0.289	0.101
Governance Changes	0.621	-0.403	0.322
Global Trade & Diplomatic Ties	0.517	0.812	-0.109

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

Table 12: Model Coefficients and Significance (SPSS Output for Predicting Social Progress)

Predictor Variable	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
Economic Growth & Development	0.552	0.122	0.611	4.525	0.000
Governance Changes	0.392	0.148	0.438	2.649	0.012

Global Trade & Diplomatic Ties	0.264	0.109	0.293	2.422	0.018
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Table 13: Summary of Mean Scores and Standard Deviations for Research Objectives

Objective	Question	Mean Score	Standard Deviation (SD)
Objective 1: Contributions of the New Dispensation on Economic Growth and Development	The new economic policies have positively impacted economic growth.	3.76	1.12
	Foreign investment has increased since the new administration took over.	3.67	1.13
	The government's initiatives have improved the overall economic climate.	3.50	1.18
	I believe that the National Development Strategy (NDS1)	3.57	1.14
	will achieve its goals.		
	There has been a noticeable improvement in job creation under Mnangagwa.	3.69	1.19
Objective 2: Successes or Challenges of the New Dispensation on Social Progress	The quality of life for Zimbabwean citizens has improved since Mnangagwa took office.	3.24	1.03
	Social services such as healthcare and education have seen enhancements.	3.36	1.09

	The government has effectively addressed issues of income inequality.	2.83	1.12
	There are sufficient opportunities for social mobility in Zimbabwe today.	3.31	1.09
	I feel that my community has benefited from government social programs.	3.21	1.13
Objective 3: Efforts to Improve Global Trade and Diplomatic Ties	Zimbabwe's international relations have improved under Mnangagwa's leadership.	3.79	1.03
	The government has successfully re-engaged with international financial institutions.	3.62	1.04
	Trade agreements with other countries have become more favourable for Zimbabwe.	3.57	1.10
	I believe that diplomatic efforts have led to increased foreign aid	3.69	1.07
	and support.		
	There is a clear strategy for enhancing Zimbabwe's global trade presence.	3.67	1.06
Objective 4: Perception of Governance Changes	The transition from Mugabe to Mnangagwa represents a significant change in governance style.	3.67	1.06

	I perceive the current government as more accountable than the previous one.	3.29	1.14
	There is a genuine effort to address past governance failures in Zimbabwe today.	3.50	1.10
	The current administration is responsive to the needs of its citizens.	3.43	1.08
	Overall, I am optimistic about Zimbabwe's future under the new dispensation.	3.52	1.13