Spring 2016

The Political Participation, Engagement, and Perceptions of President Magufuli Among Students at the College of African Wildlife Management

Carolyn Del Vecchio

SIT Graduate Institute - Study Abroad

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/isp_collection

Part of the Economics Commons, Gender and Sexuality Commons, Political Science Commons, Politics and Social Change Commons, and the Social and Cultural Anthropology Commons

Recommended Citation

https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/isp_collection/2351

This Unpublished Paper is brought to you for free and open access by the SIT Study Abroad at SIT Digital Collections. It has been accepted for inclusion in Independent Study Project (ISP) Collection by an authorized administrator of SIT Digital Collections. For more information, please contact digitalcollections@sit.edu.
THE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, ENGAGEMENT, & PERCEPTIONS OF PRESIDENT MAGUFULI AMONG STUDENTS AT THE COLLEGE OF AFRICAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

CAROLYN DEL VECCHIO ||| GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE
SIT TANZANIA: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION & POLITICAL ECOLOGY ||| SPRING 2016
Acknowledgements

Many thanks to my instructors & SIT staff, especially Baba Jack and Oscar for full confidence in my abilities. Also, I thank the College of African Wildlife Management for granting me permission onto your beautiful campus and allowing me to speak to faculty and students. I would like to give special recognition to the CAWM staff that helped the project run smoothly, and to all students who were willing to share their opinions with me. I give endless thanks to you.

I’d like to give a special shout-out to the Gustavus Adolphus Political Science Department for providing me with the prior knowledge, tools, and confidence necessary to venture solo and conduct my own political research. I’m talking to you, Chris Gilbert & Alisa Rosenthal! I am eternally grateful for the professors that work so hard and have a vested interest in my success, both academically and personally. You have taught me how to be a lifelong student.

Lastly, my heart is full of immense appreciation for the two wonderful people I have the pleasure of calling my parents.
Abstract

In 2015, John Pombe Magufuli won the Tanzanian presidential election, continuing on the 54-year reign of CCM, the political party founded by the country's “father,” Julius Nyerere. Before the end of his political career, Nyerere had massive influence in selecting the future candidates of the CCM party that would take the presidential office. However, 2015 was the first election in which the CCM candidate was not selected, influenced, or supported by Nyerere. While CCM has been in power since independence, opposition parties have been steadily increasing in support. For this reason, the 2015 election was critical in determining whether Tanzanians would maintain support for the ruling party or push for shift in political power. Magufuli was victorious with 58% of the vote, revealing that citizens still support the CCM political platform.

Throughout his 6 months in office, Magufuli has received world-wide press for being a politician determined to make changes to the Tanzanian government. Immediately after taking office, he removed multiple high-ranking government officials accused of corruption, cancelled the Independence Day celebrations to conserve funds, and ordered new medical equipment after witnessing dismal conditions of hospitals. Consequently, Magufuli has earned an overwhelming amount of support from Tanzanians with a national approval rating of 90%. However, a national survey commissioned by Mwananchi Communications Limited revealed that young people gave Magufuli the lowest approval rating of 78.3% (Nyanje, 2016).

For my Independent Study Project, I researched the frequency of political participation, engagement, and perceptions of Magufuli by distributing a survey to 120 students at the College of African Wildlife Management located in Mweka. The sample frame was the entirety of the approximate 600 students attending CAWM, but my sample population was the 120 students I surveyed during my 14 day data collection period from April 6th to the 14th. This study was non-random and non-representative. The quantitative survey data reveals gender differences in the frequency of political participation, as well as non-gendered trends regarding perceptions of President Magufuli. The survey data also corresponded to the results of the national survey, as male respondents 18 to 24 had a lower approval rating of President Magufuli in comparison to students aged 25 and older. Lastly, qualitative data was recorded from a student focus group and faculty interviews to incorporate a cultural, political, and economic context into the study.
# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements ........................................................................................................ ii
Abstract ........................................................................................................................ iii
Introduction .................................................................................................................... 1
Study Area ..................................................................................................................... 4
  Figure 1 ..................................................................................................................... 4
Methods ......................................................................................................................... 6
Results & Discussion ..................................................................................................... 8
  Figure 2 ..................................................................................................................... 8
  Figure 3 ..................................................................................................................... 8
  Figure 4 ..................................................................................................................... 9
  Figure 5 ..................................................................................................................... 9
  Figure 6 ..................................................................................................................... 10
  Figure 7 ................................................................................................................... 11
  Figure 8 ................................................................................................................... 12
  Figure 9 ................................................................................................................... 12
  Figure 10 ............................................................................................................... 13
  Figure 11 ............................................................................................................... 14
  Figure 12 ............................................................................................................... 15
  Figure 13 ............................................................................................................... 15
Limitations & Biases .................................................................................................... 17
Recommendations ......................................................................................................... 18
Conclusion .................................................................................................................... 19
Works Cited .................................................................................................................. 21
Introduction

Most African countries in the Sub-Saharan are struggling to gain a significant role on the world stage after decolonization, and political leadership has often been a reason of blame for such stagnation of progress. Throughout East Africa, corrupt political leaders are known to embezzle from foreign aid money and relish in their own personal wealth. Tanzania has been no exception. While there are anti-corruption domestic policies in place, they have rarely been internally or externally enforced. For this reason, combined with IMF Structural Adjustment Programs and other extraneous factors, has left the Tanzanian economy relatively poor and unchanged for the past thirty years. However, there has been a recent wave of national optimism as new political leadership has committed to economic reform. In order to understand the current political and economic state of Tanzania, it is necessary to know a short summary of national leaders and policies implemented after Independence.

Tanzania Post-colonialism

Since independence in 1962, Tanzania has been governed by the political party Chama Cha Mapinduzi, or CCM. The party was established by Julius Nyerere, Tanzania’s first president who is known as the “father of the country” (“Julius Nyerere,” 2016). During his presidency, Nyerere implemented a socialist state in which he collectivized farmlands, conducted literacy campaigns and established the national language of Kiswahili, and implemented free education through secondary school (“Julius Nyerere,” 2016). His quest for socialism was termed ujamaa, or familyhood. As a leader, he was successful in uniting a country of over 120 ethnic groups under the same language and establishing free health care and education, all without violence. Many other African countries experienced mass bloodshed for post-colonial rulings in attempt to reestablish an independent state. However, Nyerere’s socialist programs were too expensive to maintain in comparison to the minimal capital generated by the economy. By the time he left office in 1985, Tanzania was $170 million dollars in debt (World Bank International Debt Statistics).

Throughout the next thirty years, Nyerere possessed a massive influence over which candidates were to represent CCM in office. He hand selected his predecessor, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, who served as president for the next ten years. In the first multi-party
election, CCM candidate Benjamin Mkapa was elected president and was in office until 2005. While Nyerere died in 1999, he still trained the next president, Jakaya Kikwete, who won the election and reelection and remained president until 2015 (“Julius Nyerere,” 2016). Therefore, CCM maintained political power for 53 years, doing so with help from Nyerere’s influence.

The 2015 Election

The 2015 election was the first election in which the CCM candidate was not selected, influenced, or supported by Nyerere. While CCM has been in power since independence, opposition parties have been steadily increasing supporters. For this reason, the 2015 election was critical in determining whether Tanzanians would maintain support for the ruling party or push for shift in political power. CCM candidate John Pombe Magufuli ran against Edward Lowassa, a man that was supported by four different opposition parties and posed the greatest threat to overturning the CCM political reign (“Tanzania Poll,” 2015). Magufuli was victorious with 58% of the vote, revealing that the majority of Tanzanians still support the CCM platform (“Tanzania Poll,” 2015).

Magufuli’s Reign

Since taking office in November 2015, Magufuli has thrilled citizens and gained worldwide attention for his “no-nonsense” methods of enacting change. Within the last six months, Magufuli cancelled the extravagant Independence Day celebrations to save money and instead asked citizens to clean up trash to combat a recent cholera outbreak. After making a surprise visit to one of Tanzania’s largest hospitals, he fired the board after finding patients sleeping on the floor and ordered new medical equipment after witnessing the dismal conditions. Most notably, he has been notoriously strict on government officials accused of being corrupt (Allison, 2016). On social media, the hashtag “#WhatWouldMagufuliDo” trended throughout the world in support of his immediate reforms and methods of cutting costs (Wong, 2016). Such attention gave Magufuli a spotlight on the world stage and has consequently earned him a staggering 90% approval rating among Tanzanians (Allison, 2016). An approval rating that high is impressive and rare in the current state of world politics, which indicates that Magufuli’s actions have earned almost unanimous support, despite only receiving 58% of the Tanzanian vote.
Overall, Magufuli’s overwhelming support is tangible throughout Tanzania, regardless of geographic location. Throughout my travels this semester, I’ve noticed bright green “Chagua Magufuli” (Translation: “Select Magufuli”) on posters, hats, shirts, billboards, and tire covers in both rural and urban areas. There has been noticeable shift in attitudes of optimism and hope for the future, largely attributed to the recent political changes.

While his support is high, Magufuli’s approval ratings vary within certain demographics. For instance, a publication in The Citizen celebrating Magufuli’s 100th day in office stated that young people aged 18 to 25 gave the new Tanzanian president the lowest approval rating among age groups at 78.3% (Nyanje, 2016). What is the disconnection between Magufuli and his young audience? My interest in studying the political attitudes of young people in Tanzania is attributed to my experience in the United States political system that often undermines the power of a young generation. Young activists are rarely heard due to the assumption of inexperience, even though they possess power to enact political change. In Tanzania, studying the political attitudes of youth is pertinent and important, as 64% of the country’s population is under the age of 24 (CIA World Factbook 2015). Soon, this generation will dominate Tanzania’s economy, markets, politics, and culture, and their opinions are valuable. For this reason, I analyzed the political participation, engagement, and perceptions of President Magufuli among students at the College of African Wildlife Management located in Mweka by distributing surveys and conducting a focus group to analyze the cultural context of trends.
Study Area

I surveyed students attending the College of African Wildlife Management located in Mweka.

Figure 1. The College of African Wildlife is located along the Mweka route ascending Mount Kilimanjaro to the west of Moshi. This route is indicated by a circle, and the map scale depicts a small section of northern Tanzania and the dotted Kenyan border.

The CAWM has about 650 students currently enrolled. Of those 650 students, there are only about 150 women who make up 23% of the student body. Additionally, the CAWM offers various study programs for various durations of length. There are longer degree programs that span three years, or shorter certificate programs that are only one year in duration. The students enrolled in the certificate programs are usually from the Moshi/Arusha region and towns nearby. However, the degree programs typically have a much farther reach. Students within the degree programs come the greater Tanzania region and all over Africa, especially Rwanda and Kenya. Additionally, there have been European and Middle Eastern students throughout the college’s fifty-five year operation.
The CAWM school fees are more expensive than an average degree at a similar institution. The tuition is about five million Tanzanian shillings, which is more than double the cost of post-secondary schools in the region. Therefore, the students attending the CAWM are likely more wealthy than the average young Tanzanian, or at least come from a family that is able to pay the more expensive school fees. The increased tuition is justified by the college’s well-known reputation for technical programs that offer job training rather than only academic lessons. The students conduct their own research, have intensive field trainings, and journey to different National Parks to study the flora and fauna. Additionally, the CAWM has trained highly successful management staff that now work throughout Africa. The college is well known and highly esteemed.

These details about the students and the college they have chosen to attend provide some insight into why they think and act a certain way. Prior knowledge on their general background can help understand the larger context of the study.
Methods

I distributed a short survey (*Appendix A*) taking no longer than 10 minutes to willing students attending the College of African Wildlife Management. My sample frame was the entirety of the approximate 650 students attending CAWM, but my sample population was the 120 students I surveyed during my 14 day data collection period from April 6\textsuperscript{th} to the 14\textsuperscript{th}. I received responses from 30 women and 90 men, which accurately reflects the gender ratios of the student body. Students enrolled at CAWM are planning a career in the broad field of Tanzanian wildlife management which allows the study to contain a focused lens on conservation. While the college provides specific programs and different attainable degrees, they are all operating under the theme of African wildlife management. For this reason, there was no necessity to categorize subjects based off of their program of study or degree. However, I categorized respondent’s data based off of gender. Throughout my two months of living in Tanzania, I’ve noticed that gender shapes opinions and perspectives, especially in regards to politics. Additionally, I categorized data by age. While most students that attend the CAWM are between the ages of 18-24, there is a large male population of students over the age of 25. The majority of women I surveyed were between ages 18-24, so I didn’t have enough data to confirm any trends. However, half of the male respondents were over the age of 25, so I had enough data to compare the two populations. Their insight may be different than the younger students they go to school with, as they have generally had more life experiences.

During the study period, I visited classrooms filled with students working on homework and projects. I introduced myself and my research project and distributed the surveys. After visiting four classrooms, I had 120 surveys completed and enough qualitative data to begin to analyze trends. For the next five days, I examined trends and absence of trends. From the data, I drafted corresponding questions to further investigate such trends in a focus group and interviews.

I utilized opportunistic, non-random sampling from the pool of survey respondents to participate in a student focus group. The focus group served to extract social and political context from the recorded qualitative data. There was one focus group of six men and two women. Next, I utilized willing professors to participate in interviews concerning
the broader political landscape and history of the region of Mweka. I consulted with the older professionals of CAWM to gain knowledge and perspectives from an older member of the Mweka community that provided context and insight varying from the younger students attending the college. By the end of my study period, I recorded both qualitative data and a broader understanding of what the data means in the context of Mweka and northern Tanzania.
Results & Discussion

I analyzed the frequency of political participation, engagement, and perceptions of President Magufuli after distributing 120 surveys to students of all ages and academic standings at the College of African Wildlife Management. Survey results are organized by the two variables of first gender, then age. Responses to each survey questions are categorized into qualitative pie charts, followed by the subsequent trends and discussion.

Gender

The following survey results are from 30 female respondents and 90 male respondents. Each survey question is displayed in bold, and underneath are the responses from women on the left (yellow pie charts) and responses from men on the right (green pie charts).

Figure 2: Rate your interest in Tanzanian national politics:

![Pie chart showing interest levels]

Figure 3: How often do you discuss Tanzanian national politics with friends, family, or colleagues?

![Pie chart showing discussion frequency]
Trend I: Gendered Political Involvement

The first trend shows that men and women rated similar interests in politics (Figure 1), but men discuss politics more frequently (Figure 2), post political-related content on social media more frequently (Figure 3), and have a higher voter turnout (Figure 4). Why are men more involved in politics? After conducting a focus group, a few male students provided opinions on why women have a lower political participation. They stated that Tanzanian society adheres to traditional gender roles, meaning men dominate the economic and political spheres while women raise children and maintain the home. Because women are traditionally homemakers, they don’t possess the capital necessary to run for office. Additionally, women have less access to education, which limits their opportunities for a successful career outside of motherhood. One male student simply stated: “Women are afraid to be leaders.” The female participants of the focal group
provided different insight into the reasons behind the gender imbalance. One woman explained "We women still need empowerment to do such a thing. Because of gender inequalities, men believe there are certain things women should not do."

A combination of my education and experiences in Tanzania leads me to believe that there is no cultural space for women to participate in politics. Because women are predominately homemakers, their social space is usually in the home, the kitchen, or in a public place like the salon. For men, however, that social space usually involves alcohol and happens at the pub. When men and women congregate in their separate spaces, the conversational topics are usually much different. For men, politics is a casual topic for discussion in which they are free to express opinions without stepping outside of cultural normalcies. Because politics is a male-dominated field, they are allowed and expected to be more involved. This societal standard does not apply to women. When women participate in political behaviors, they are subject to ridicule because it is not their place in society. Their role lies predominately with housekeeping and childcare, and therefore it is culturally abnormal to contribute to Tanzanian national politics. As a result, women participate in politics less frequently.

Figure 6: How often per week do you watch or listen to the news?
Political participation includes being informed about current national affairs. According to the survey, men watch or listen to the news more frequently than women (Figure 5), and consider themselves more politically informed (Figure 6). This trend can also be explained by designated cultural spaces. When men gather, it is culturally accepted and expected for men to watch or listen to the news together, but that same expectation is absent for women. Men typically gather in pubs with televisions broadcasting the news, which is an atmosphere in which political conversation is facilitated. When women gather in spaces with a television, they will usually watch one of the many dramatized soap operas that are specifically marketed and distributed for women. This is especially relevant to the surveyed female age demographic of 18-24 year-olds. Additionally, the frequency of news consumption can be attributed to traditional gender roles. During our stay with families in the greater-Arusha region, most students experienced a stark contrast in resource and time allocation between men and women. Typically, the father was responsible for supplementing an income and a woman (either the mother or daughter) worked as the designated homemaker. Once the father returned from work, his role was fulfilled and he didn’t participate in cooking, cleaning, or general household work. Therefore, he was free to sit and watch the evening news while the woman’s work was still incomplete. These generalizations will not apply to each familial structure, but it provides insight into how traditional gender roles either facilitate or inhibit
political participation. While survey respondents likely do not have a family of their own, they may have been shaped and influenced by growing up in a household adhering to traditional gender roles.

Figure 8: Did you vote for Magufuli in the 2015 Presidential election?

- Yes: 29%
- No: 42%
- I didn't vote: 29%

Figure 9: Are you affiliated with the CCM political party?

- Yes: 34%
- No: 33%
- I don't affiliate with a political party: 33%

- Yes: 44%
- No: 43%
- I don't affiliate with a political party: 13%
Figure 10: Rank your approval of Magufuli’s policies and political work until now:

Note: This question had a “strongly disapprove” option, but it was left out of the pie chart because no respondent chose that answer.

Trend III: Magufuli- Gendered & Non-gendered Trends

The survey questions pertaining to President Magufuli highlighted both gendered and non-gendered trends. For instance, there was less female voter turnout, but women voted for him less frequently (Figure 7), and were more likely to not affiliate with a political party (Figure 8). Such behaviors could indicate a disconnection from a political system that doesn’t primarily involve them. In a system catered for men by men, the exclusion of female voices may lead to more women not adhering to traditional parties or their candidates.

Overall, the majority of both men and women did not vote for Magufuli in the 2015 election (Figure 7) and do not affiliate with CCM, his political party (Figure 8). However, his support transcends gender divisions, as about 80% of all students recorded a “strongly approve” rating (Figure 9). No female respondent recorded a rating of disapproval, while only 4% of men stated they “somewhat disapproved” (Figure 9). Out of 120 surveys, not one respondent marked “strongly disapprove.” President Magufuli has spent his last six months in office making political decisions that has given him almost unanimous support, despite the fact he only received 58% of the country’s vote. A professor at the College of African Wildlife Management explained that “Everybody would approve of these actions
and decisions, even if it was a different politician.” Within the last six months, Magufuli has cut government spending, improved social services like education and medicine, and removed government officials accused of embezzling. Students explained their support for Magufuli, stating he is a “non-corrupt, confident leader, and strict but respectable,” and they believe he represents a politician that will finally enact the changes they’ve been waiting for. Whether Magufuli is acting out of political strategy has been contested among scholars, but regardless, his maneuvers are intelligent. Magufuli represents the political party, CCM, that has allowed and facilitated such corruption and embezzling since independence, but that fact is overlooked because his political decisions are benefitting most Tanzanians. While Magufuli has successfully united a country of politically dissatisfied people, he still has his critics.

Age

Since my survey results only consisted of about 25% female respondents, there were not enough women over the age of 25 to compare the two populations and determine any trends. However, of the 90 of male respondents, exactly 50% were above the age of 25. Therefore, the pie charts depicting survey responses will be only representative of men. The responses of men aged 18-24 will be on the left (blue pie charts), and the responses of men aged 25 and older will be on the right (red pie charts). The responses to each survey questions are categorized into qualitative pie charts, followed by the subsequent trends and discussion. Out of the entire survey, there was only variability in responses for questions pertaining to Magufuli.

Figure 11: Did you vote for Magufuli in the 2015 Presidential election?
Figure 12: Are you affiliated with the CCM political party?

Figure 13: Rank your approval of Magufuli’s policies and political work until now:

Note: This question had a “strongly disapprove” option, but it was left out of the pie chart because no respondent chose that answer.

Trend IV: Male Responders & Age

After categorizing male data according to their age (18-24 or 25 and older), there was only variation in their responses concerning Magufuli. Men aged 18-24 reported a higher frequency of voting for Magufuli and affiliation with the CCM political party (Figures 10 & 11). However, their approval rating was lower in comparison to men ages 25 and older (Figure 12). These results align with the national survey conducted in February of
2016 that reported the lowest approval ratings among Tanzanians aged 18 to 24 (Nyanje, 2016). When asked about the decreased support, male students aged 18 to 24 at the College of African Wildlife Management explained the highly unrealistic possibility of massive economic reforms necessary to guarantee them stable careers. Because 64% of Tanzania is under the age of 24, they acknowledge the already limited opportunities for employment and predict it will only get worse as the market is flooded with educated students like themselves. Therefore, their lower approval ratings likely stem from the likelihood of future unemployment. Unless the Tanzanian economy shifts away from solely exporting raw materials, there will be constrained prospects of a sustainable job market. Reformation of an entire economy that is under IMF Structural Adjustment Programs is a massive issue that even highly-esteemed President Magufuli will likely be unable to repair. Young Tanzanians have realistic and legitimate reasons to be critical of the current political and economic state of their country.
Limitations & Biases

There are multiple biases within the study that should be recognized as potentially affecting study results and findings. Firstly, the survey itself and my pool of respondents has inherent biases. The qualitative data obtained is limited to the questions asked on the survey. The respondents had to choose answers that I provided and were unable to provide their own thoughts. Additionally, there is a difference between studying political attitudes versus political actions. It’s typically much easier to answer whether or not a certain action was performed (Did you vote in the 2015 election?), instead of quantifying an attitude or behavior that is not normally quantifiable. Questions from the survey asked, “How often do your posts on social media concern Tanzanian national politics?” and “How often do you discuss Tanzanian national politics with friends, family, or colleagues?” Such questions asked to give a quantitative answer, which likely required the respondents to estimate. There will always will error incorporated when studying human behavior.

Furthermore, the survey was distributed in English, which is a second language to all of the students. The language barrier may have prevented full comprehension of the survey, as there were specific questions in which students had repeated questions. For instance, the word “affiliation” confused many students (Full question: Are you affiliated with the CCM political party?), and multiple respondents only marked one answer when a question asked to “mark all that applied.” Communication with students in their second or third language will usually have misunderstandings.

Finally, I must acknowledge the power and privilege that accompany me anywhere I go throughout Tanzania. As a white American, most Tanzanians have stereotypical presumptions about the culture and country I come from. While some of these preconceived notions are realistic and accurate, most are not. However, it’s necessary to acknowledge that Americans are typically idolized and perceived to possess more power than they actually have. Any of these perceptions of cultural differences could have affected the results of the study.
Recommendations

If I was to repeat this study, I would try to survey a larger sample size, as I only surveyed about 20% of the entire student body. Ideally, I would have equal respondents of men and women, but I chose a study site that trains students entering the male-dominated field of wildlife management. Even though the students spoke proficient English, I would have translated the survey into Kiswahili to avoid the miscommunications and eliminate substantial biases. Speaking English is typically easier than reading and understanding it. However, I would attempt to remove paper surveys altogether and research the possibility of an electronic survey. In each classroom I entered, essentially all of the students had their own laptops, and there were desktop computers present throughout the room. An electronic survey would significantly decrease analysis time and reduce the error of hand-tallying 120 paper surveys.

For future studies, I suggest a more concentrated lens on President Magufuli. This study only briefly acknowledged his influence, but there are numerous possibilities for focused studies, such as: education, foreign aid, healthcare, and gender equality. Additionally, it would be interesting to study Magufuli’s approval ratings as his duration in office increases. Only time will reveal if his momentum is sustained, or if these first six months in office was a phase of optimism. After the 2016 presidential election, a comparative study between Tanzanian and U.S. national politics, civilian attitudes, or the election cycle would be relevant. Essentially any study regarding Tanzanian politics would be interesting due to the unique political landscape of a relatively new country.
Conclusion

For this study, I surveyed 120 students at the College of African Wildlife Management researching their frequency of political involvement, engagement, and perceptions of Magufuli. While men and women reported similar interest in politics, men were more politically involved and considered themselves to be more politically informed. This is likely attributed to traditional gender roles that influence the variation of lifestyles and opinions between men and women. As a result, there are cultural spaces designated for each gender that reflect societal normalcies. It is expected of men to express their political involvement and opinions because politics is a male-dominated field. The gendered exclusivity of politics may explain the decreased participation among women. Additionally, the data also revealed non-gendered trends. The majority of all students do not affiliate with the CCM political party and they did not vote for Magufuli in the 2015 presidential election, yet an average of 80% of students recorded a strong approval rating. Magufuli has spent his time in office establishing reforms which benefit most Tanzanians, consequently earning him a 90% national approval rating (Nyanje, 2016). This unique political landscape influenced my research topic, as it is a stark contrast to the political division currently rampant in the United States. The two-party system produces candidates like Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders who advocate for drastically different methods of enacting change, with few candidates in the intermediate political spectrum. Meanwhile, Magufuli is executing reforms that benefit essentially all citizens. This political strategy seems impossible in contemporary U.S. affairs, as unanimous support for political decisions seldom exists. Is the U.S. capable of electing a president that will earn a 90% approval rating?

While Magufuli is widely supported, young Tanzanian men aged 18 to 24 gave Magufuli the lowest approval rate at 65%. Similarly to the U.S., young people appear to be less hopeful for the future in comparison to older generations. This is likely attributed to limited employment opportunities and the understanding of the complex structural issues that are more difficult to change.

This study is an important indication into why there are political differences and distinctions among Tanzanians in regards to both age and gender. Both of these variables
can shape an individual’s perspectives and world views, especially in relation to politics. Only time will illustrate if Tanzanian women will become more politically involved and if young adults will maintain criticisms of the government and structurally rooted issues that plague their generation.
Works Cited


World Bank International Debt Statistics


CIA World Factbook
Appendix A

My name is Carolyn Del Vecchio, and I am a student from the United States that is in Tanzania studying Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology through the School for International Training. I am interested in studying your political involvement, interests, and perceptions of President Magufuli. You participation in this survey is completely optional and you may choose to opt out at any point. Your information will remain completely confidential and will not be used for anything other than academic purposes. By May 4th, the College of African Wildlife Management will have a copy of my finished study paper if you’d like to view the results. Please feel free to approach me with thoughts, concerns, or questions. Thank you for your willingness to participate!

Demographics
Which year were you born? ________
Which year did you enroll at the CAWM? ________
Gender: Male / Female

Political Involvement
Did you vote in the 2015 Presidential election?
A) Yes B) No C) I don’t know

How often do you discuss Tanzanian politics with friends, colleagues, or family?
A) Very often B) Occasionally C) Rarely D) Never

How often do your posts on social media (WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) concern Tanzanian national politics?
A) Very often B) Occasionally C) Rarely D) Never E) I don’t have social media

Do you watch or listen to the news?
A) Yes B) No

If yes, about how often a week do you watch or listen to the news?
A) Multiple times a day B) Once a day C) Three to four times a week D) Twice a week E) Once a week

From which sources do you receive your news? Circle all that apply.
A) Television B) Radio C) Internet D) Social media E) Newspaper
F) Other people G) Other H) I don’t watch or listen to the news

How informed do you consider yourself to be on Tanzanian national politics?
A) Very informed B) Somewhat informed C) Not informed D) I don’t know
Rate your interest in Tanzanian national politics:
   A) Very interested   B) Somewhat interested   C) Not interested   D) I don’t know

Magufuli
Did you vote for Magufuli in the 2015 presidential election?
   A) Yes   B) No   C) I didn’t vote

Are you affiliated with the CCM political party?
   A) Yes   B) No   C) I don’t affiliate with a political party

Rank your approval of Magufuli’s policies and political work until now:
   A) Strongly approve   B) Somewhat approve   C) Somewhat disapprove
   D) Strongly disapprove   E) I don’t know

Please list three issues that are top priority on Magufuli’s political agenda:

1.  

2.  

3.  

Please list three issues that you believe should be top priority on Magufuli’s political agenda:

1.  

2.  

3.  

23