Mozambican perspectives about China in Mozambique: a comparative analysis of discourses from Government, civil society and communities

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1. Government perspectives

- Formal and defensive speeches
- Good diplomatic relations between Chinese and Mozambican Governments / historical friendship
- Development opportunity: Technical and Financial support for the construction of infra-structures in Mozambique (roads, ministry buildings, sportive equipments, water, agriculture research and training institute)
- No political and economic conditions attached
- Alternative in the credit access
- Chinese workers skills, competences and work capacity – an example for Mozambicans.
- “Anti-Chinese movement” is a result of a Western concern about China.
## 2. Civil society perspectives

Table 1: Social Representations of China in the weblog:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illegalities and unrespect for Human rights</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>34,1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scramble for African raw materials</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>30,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing opportunities</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>14,7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflictual relations with Mozambican workers</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10,4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese strategies in Africa</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4,3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependency and wrong application of Chinese investment</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3,7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese cultural influence</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2,0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>100,0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Civil society perspectives

China-Africa Trade Grows...

What about conditionalties...?
I mean, human rights, good governance, fighting corruption...!

Well... we can sell or loan that to you too...

...and another thing: Zimbabwe will never, never be colonised again!
3. Communities perspectives

- Low wages (cuts in salaries)
- Any social benefits (transport, meals)
- Low safety conditions
- Long/heavy working hours
- Low promotion opportunities
- Language barrier and low learning opportunities
4. Communities perspectives

- High power distance ("military discipline") but with informal relations
- Lack of respect for local traditions (religious or family obligations)
- To much task orientated (to obstinate)
- To much demanding, nervous and violent ("confusos")
- Lack of respective of the labor law / bribing the police
- High level of turn over
5. Some final observations
5. Some final observations

- Good relations at the top level / Tense relations at the ground level
- Mozambican – Chinese civil societies are very fragile and are not communicating
- Civil society and communities critics are not only directed to China/Chinese but also to other foreign investors (Portuguese, South Africans)
- The critics to China investment are also a critic to the Mozambican Government (not transparent, corrupt, do not protect nationals)
- Mozambican Government defensive attitude can be explained in the communities / civil society discontent.