

## The Impact of Cameroon-China Cooperation on Economic Development in Cameroon

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**Abstract:** The economic impact of Cameroon-China Cooperation has received mixed feelings from researchers (Khan and Baye, (2008: 37); Eyong, 2015: 26). China's cooperation with Cameroon is considered as burdensome characterized by "untied" and "rogue aids" which is guided by China's interest rather than the development of Cameroon. The purpose of this article is to investigate the impact of China-Cameroon cooperation on economic development in Cameroon. The areas of cooperation examined in this article includes infrastructure, technical and economic cooperation. The paper adopted two theories which include the modernization, and dependency theories for the theoretical framework. The research method adopted is the quantitative method with a case study design. A sample of 200 respondents was selected from the Cameroon's Ministries of External Relation, Ministry of Economic Planning and Regional Development, and the Ministry of Finance. Official of Chinese Embassy in Yaounde and workers in the Chinese funded infrastructure projects in Cameroon and officials of the Chinese and Japan diplomatic missions in Yaounde and other donor agencies/institutions. The sample was selected using the probability sample technique specifically the simple Random sampling techniques and purposive sampling. Data sources included books, journals, articles, documentary review and questionnaires. Findings revealed that despite the positive contributions of China for infrastructural development in Cameroon, a lot still has to be done to make this impact more significant and durable. Also despite the positive and significant role played by China on technology transfer to Cameroon with a great impact on modernization, there is still a lot to be done in this domain. Furthermore, Cameroon's increasing debt burden due to Chinese loans has sparked debate. It has been noted that the country's debt has increased markedly, putting the country at a high risk of debt distress. There is need for the Cameroon government to rethink the cooperation with China and create policies to work with other African countries such as Nigeria than China.

**Keywords:** Cameroon, China, Cooperation, Economic Development.



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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Research Background

Regarding development as a whole, critics of China posit that the strengthening of ties between Beijing and Africa has resulted in no significant structural transformation (Nola Nouck Lucien, 2023). Bernal-Meza (2016) for instance perceives China's win-win discourse mainly as a strategy to divert attention from the fact that Chinese bilateral relations have a clear North-South pattern which serves China's core interests more than those of its various partners.

To authors like Taylor (2016), this has rather produced a de- industrialization of the continent with almost no industry or sector GDP distribution by sector having experienced notable enhancements between 1960 to present. On their side, Mohan and Power (2009) believe that reinforced ties between China and Africa will hardly yield different results from those achieved with traditional western partners since the African giant has failed to engage into development-prone activities such as adding value industrialization or implementing even a marginal redistribution of economic benefits. Going further, Clapham (2008) points out that the Chinese type of new South-South Cooperation (SSC) is actually a rebranded and strengthened model of the old North-South one. However, friends of this relationship argued that China aid has offer a different alternative of western aid which has helped to spur economic growth and has enhanced African self-reliance (Mbajon and Xiaolong, 2020: 49-70).

Cameroon has established strong bilateral relations with many countries for diverse reasons, among them economic interests. Such strong ties exist between Cameroon and France, Russia, Britain, USA and Germany among others. While these are traditional links owing to colonialism and the head start of the advanced economies of the global North, the last three decades have witnessed a surge in Cameroon-China economic relations (Eyong, 2015:7; Cabestan, 2015; Ghekendeh and Robert, 2023:1-12).

To build its economy, Cameroon have turned to China for support over the past few decades as the conditions attached to accessing loans from the West have become increasingly unattractive. These inflows of FDIs from China, along with aid, grants, and trade agreements, have helped to open the countries' economy and propel infrastructure development, social impact programs, and a reduction in poverty (Ghekendeh and Robert, 2023:1-12). However, even with its current cooperation with China, Cameroon is primarily underdeveloped, with a substantial number of its people living below the poverty line.

Cameroon's cooperation with China therefore carries huge potential advantages, but equally some risk and challenges. Critics question China's motives and point to the burden facing Cameroon that may struggle to repay the loans. China's FDI in Cameroon has generally contributed to improved living conditions of the people, but this progress is tempered by trade imbalances, mounting debt, and failure to produce projected job opportunities (Eyong, 2015:7). For their part, the Chinese have benefited from access to the Cameroon's resources and new markets for their merchandise (Polycap, 2022:101-126). Further challenges remains the fact that Chinese companies are now taking total control of the Cameroon market, and this is negatively affecting local business development. In addition, the Cameroon government does not have systems and measures in place to actually evaluate the quality of the work delivered by the Chinese partners and this end up not to be a win-win situation for Cameroon (Polycap, 2022:101-126).

Not many systematic evaluations of the effectiveness of South-South cooperation have been undertaken, especially with regards to impact, contribution to development outcomes, quality of assistance and the added value of this type of contribution to developing countries (Kitano, 2018). This article therefore investigates the impact of Cameroon-China cooperation on economic development in Cameroon in the areas of infrastructure, technical and economic cooperation.

## 1.2. Research Questions

- To what extent does China-Cameroon infrastructure cooperation influence infrastructure development in Cameroon?
- What is the impact of China-Cameroon technical cooperation on technology transfer in Cameroon?
- Does China-Cameroon economic cooperation relate to the increased opportunities for employment creation in Cameroon?

## 1.3. Research Objectives

- Examine the extent to which China-Cameroon infrastructure cooperation influences infrastructure development in Cameroon.
- Assess the impact of China-Cameroon technical cooperation on technology transfer in Cameroon.
- Evaluate the relationship between China-Cameroon economic cooperation and the increased opportunities for employment creation in Cameroon.

## 2. Literature Review

The empirical literature is reviewed according to the three research objectives as presented below;

### 2.1. China-Cameroon infrastructure cooperation and economic development in Cameroon

Research by Sneha Tewari *et al* (2024: 49) demonstrates that China has made significant investments in Cameroon in a number of industries, including telecommunications, energy, and infrastructure. Projects including port expansion, hydroelectric dam construction, and road construction results to improvement on infrastructural development in Cameroon. However, according to the author, the conditions of these loans, which frequently feature exorbitant interest rates and demand collateral, have drawn criticism, nevertheless. Critics contend that Cameroon's debt to China has escalated to unmanageable proportions, so jeopardizing the nation's economic stability and sovereignty. The ongoing dispute over China-financed building of the Kribi Deep Sea Port is one well-known example. Although the project could increase Cameroon's trade capacity, concerns have been expressed over the deal's transparency and long-term financial effects.

Nzie (2021: 81-96) researched on the influence of China's investment in Cameroon in the transport infrastructural sector and the development of transport infrastructure. The interest of this study was to analyze the importance of China's investment in the infrastructural sector of Cameroon through qualitative methodology by the use of empirical articles to collect data. Data analysis was mostly descriptive. The results of the study revealed a positive relationship between China-Cameroon transport infrastructure cooperation and infrastructural development in Cameroon. The findings of this study presented a good record of Chinese investment in the infrastructural sector of Cameroon since it helps to boost Cameroonian economy by improving infrastructure development in Cameroon which improves tax revenues, decreases poverty and modernizes trade.

Unity Ghekendeh *et al* (2023: 1-12), conducted a study on the sociological analysis of the "Win-Win relationship" between China and Cameroon in the domain of health infrastructure and its influence on public health infrastructure development in Cameroon. Data was collected through official reports, interviews, research findings, publications, textbooks, journals, dissertations, mass media and library sources. Results from this study revealed that in terms of infrastructure Cooperation, there is a positive relationship between China-Cameroon cooperation in public health infrastructure and infrastructure development in Cameroon.

## **2.2. China-Cameroon technical cooperation and economic development in Cameroon**

Daka *et al* (2021: 49-72) examined the impact of technical cooperation between China and Cameroon, in particular, on transferring technologies to the local population in Cameroon in different areas of the economy. Based on in-depth fieldwork, qualitative data was collected in the locality of Nanga-Eboko and Yabassi in Cameroon. 22 interviews involving several categories of actors were carried out. The results revealed that China's investments in the technology sector in Cameroon contribute relatively to the transfer of technologies to the local population in different areas of the economy. However, despite the execution of all these projects and Chinese technical knowledge, technical cooperation between the two countries is subject to multiple challenges. Hence, there is a need to rethink this relationship by placing the local population at the center of action strategies.

According to Anderson, (2022: 478), Chinese technology companies are becoming a crucial factor in the rapid modernization of Cameroon societies and economies. Especially the rise of Chinese digital technology and platform companies in Cameroon has raised eyebrows, often linked to the claim that Chinese companies would spread authoritarian models of government. Arguably, the widespread use of mobile phones generated the most important impact on the technological transformation of individual and collective life in Cameroon.

Furthermore, in the area of technical cooperation between China and Cameroon, research by Jean-Pierre (2015:9-10), revealed there is the transfer of agricultural technology from China to Cameroon to boost the agricultural sector in Cameroon and for her to experience second generation agriculture. The plans were to cultivate rice, cassava, maize and other farming products with advanced technology from China to Cameroon on three different sites: 2000 ha in Nanga-Eboko (in the Centre region's Haute-Sanaga department, 170 km from Yaoundé); 4000 ha in Ndjoré (in the same area, 100 km from Yaoundé); and another 4000 ha in Santchou (in the West region). However, there has been some uncertainty about the amount of the realized investment since, to date, only an agricultural demonstration centre and a pilot project using 2000 ha for cultivating fruits, vegetables and various varieties of rice have been built with no significant contribution to economic development in Cameroon (Jean-Pierre Cabestan, 2015:9-10).

## **2.3. Cameroon-China economic cooperation and economic development in Cameroon**

Kum (2019) investigated the impact of Cameroon-China economic cooperation in terms of Foreign Direct Investment in Cameroon (FDI) from China. A sample of 398 economic operators responded to the questionnaire. The chi-square test of independence was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level of significance. All the null hypothesis were rejected and the alternatives retained leading to the results that; - FDI contributes significantly in alleviating poverty and technological advancement. Thus it was concluded that FDI do play a major role in the economy recovery of Cameroon.

Research by Samuel Assembe-Mvondo *et al*, (2024) demonstrates that Chinese-linked trade and investments have major implications for forests and community livelihoods in Cameroon, with unsustainable practices by some companies, illegal logging, violation of laws, and poverty among the rural population. Weak implementation of the national and international regulations that apply to Chinese-linked investments, and a lack of dialogue between Chinese and Cameroonian actors, exacerbate these effects.

Asongne (2017: 106-107) carried out a study to explore the contributions or impacts of Chinese investment in Cameroon as mixed blessings to the Cameroonian economy. The author argued that looking at Chinese private investment in Cameroon; one cannot in any way deny that it has brought about some remarkable gains to the Cameroonian economy. It has improved on employment opportunities. According to the study, although there are no clear records of Chinese investment at the moment, the government is no doubt benefitting from revenue derived from

tariffs and business taxes. The population also benefits from quality health and transfer of technology.

However, on a negative point of view, the Cameroon government is losing revenue that was to be derived from the local firms which are being closed down thus, low living standard. Chinese firms offered mostly unskilled jobs such as assistants and translators to work in Chinese shops, construction sites and restaurants with little wages and barely any contracts and mostly on a short duration and many of whom became redundant workers as soon as the Chinese are able to speak the languages (English and French). The local labor is witnessing a great loss due to low wages and collapsed faced from Chinese firms and as if this is not enough, the Chinese firms import most of unskilled labor from China. Also, the presence of Chinese in the country is a serious threat to the stakeholders as they suffer competition from the advanced technology and management skills of the Chinese (Asongne, 2017: 106-107).

Gadinga (2013) carried a study to investigate the impact of China's aid on economic development in Africa: the Case of Cameroon. The objective of the study was to investigate the sincerity of China aid towards capacity building with emphasis on employment creation and technology transfer. The findings gotten for the case of Cameroon portrays the impact of China project aid toward capacity building in Cameroon, is at best, still "insignificant". Cameroon has been receiving the shorter end of the development stick thus far. In order to change this status-quo so that Cameroon could realize its full potentials, there is the urgent need for reconstitution of the Cameroon political and economic power.

Numbu, & Belyaeva, (2021: 200–209) conducted a study to examine the relationship between foreign direct investment and employment creation in Cameroon (2000–2020). The study used correlation and regression analysis to show the relationship between FDI and employment creation in Cameroon. The results show that FDI can increase Cameroon's employment opportunities and may be used as an empirical basis for policy- and strategy-making in Cameroon. They found a strong correlation between FDI and increased employment in Cameroon for a 21-year period. This result is supported by the double effect of FDI on the national economy: FDI directly affects the investment component of GDP, but it also influences employment indirectly.

Polycap Mudoh (2022: 101–126), conducted a study to explore the contribution and impact of China's foreign aid on Cameroon in the period of 2009-2020. The study revealed that since the cooperation of these two nations, Cameroon has secured various aid from China. Assistance to Cameroon has been realized through grant or donation, interest free loan, and concessional loan. It is no doubt that such aid has huge positive impact on the nation's employment rate and poverty reduction. According to the study compared with other donor institutions, Cameroon finds dealing with China very much convenient and comfortable based on some of its policy advantages that it has over others, like the World Bank.

## **2.4. Theoretical Framework**

In the course of this paper, the researcher made use of two different theories deemed necessary for understanding the analysis of the effectiveness of Cameroon-China relations towards economic development in Cameroon. These include the modernization and dependency theories.

### **2.4.1. Modernization theory**

According to proponents of this theory such as W.W Rostow, Harrod–Domar, Todaro and Smith (2009) Modernization refers to a model of a progressive transition from a 'pre-modern' or 'traditional' to a 'modern' society (Smith, 1973). Modernization Theory asserts that underdeveloped countries such as Cameroon can achieve economic prosperity by following the same path that developed nations took through industrialization, technological advancement, and the adoption of Western values (Ellis and Biggs, 2001). Modernization is about Africa following

the developmental footsteps of Europe (largely the former colonizer of Africa) Hussain et al., 1981; Lenin, 1964). The modernization theory depicts the process of change whereby the underdeveloped societies in this case Cameroon should make use of the external efforts (opportunities) to adopt the characteristics mentioned in each stage by Walt Whitman Rostow to archive development and be like China.

However, this theory has been criticized for ignoring structural inequalities, such as those arising from colonialism, and for assuming that economic growth will naturally lead to social progress. Modernization often overlooks the uneven distribution of development benefits, contributing to the paradox.

#### **2.4.2. Dependency Theory Raul Prebisch (1950-1970), Dos Santos (1970), Andre Gunder Frank (1972)**

This paper adopted the dependency theory due to the shortcomings of the modernization theory. Dependency Theory emerged as a critique of Modernization Theory, emphasizing the historical and structural factors that have kept underdeveloped countries in a state of dependency on wealthier nations. Dependency theorists argue that underdevelopment is not a natural stage that countries will eventually overcome, but rather a product of exploitative relationships and global inequalities (Abdulyakeen, 2022; Amin, 1976, Sachs, 1992).

This theory argues that the global capitalist system has created a pattern of dependency that locks peripheral nations like Cameroon into a position of subordination, preventing them from achieving sustainable development (Sachs, 1992; Nayar, 1996). According to dependency theorists, the Global South's economic and political systems are shaped by the needs and interests of the core nations, which perpetuates the paradox of growth and underdevelopment (Andre Gunder Frank, 1972).

However, according to Ghosh, (2001) dependency theory fails to provide any practical alternative to overcome the economic dependency of less developed economies from developed economies. The theory is too subjective and does not provide better alternatives or solution to overcome the challenges of underdevelopment in less developed countries, (Ghost, 2001:12). Dependency theory lacks concrete details on how developing countries can become less dependent on developed economies. Nonetheless, the Dependency theory has helped to enlighten us on the circumstances contributing to the underdevelopment of less developed countries (LD C) like Cameroon which is the focus of our research.

The theory have helped to reveals that an aspect of Chinese cooperation with Cameroon which contributes to dependency is the fact that China focuses solely on raw material which is not good for the industrialization of infant industries in Cameroon due to limited transfer of knowledge by Chinese Firms since they prefer Chinese workers (Marks, 2007). Such a trajectory of Sino-Cameroon Corporation makes Cameroon's economies too reliant on relations with China. Furthermore, according to the theory, Chinese economic relations with Cameroon focuses more on raw materials locks Cameroon's economies in the primary industry and susceptible to prices fluctuation. Similarly, Chinese investment in oil and gas sectors in Cameroon which has not encourage Cameroon to diversify its economy and have made Cameroon to reliant on Chinese investment in the oil sector which has a negative effect on the employment situation, (Adenikingjin and Bamou, 2006:18-19). The dependency theory demonstrates that Sino-Cameroon economic relations have contributed in Cameroon economies becoming too dependent on trade with China which has disastrous consequences.

### **3. Research Methodology**

This article examined the impact of China-Cameroon cooperation on the economic development of Cameroon by the use of other empirical studies such as books, journals, articles and

quantitative methodology. In this paper the researcher examined the cooperation between China and Cameroon on three aspects which are infrastructure development, technology transfer and economic cooperation (trade and investment). In order to obtain authentic information, the researcher relied on both secondary and primary mode of data to generate update existing data on Chino-Cameroon cooperation in the selected areas. The primary data was gotten from questionnaires concerning China's presence in Cameroon and their foreign aid investment using semi-structured but flexible questions and secondary data was gotten from empirical reviews and scholars' previous studies in order to acquire an understanding of the economic impact of China-Cameroon relations by the use of articles, books and publications.

#### **4. Research Findings**

##### **4.1. Findings on infrastructure cooperation and economic development**

According to the findings presented in relation to the influence of China-Cameroon infrastructure cooperation on infrastructure development in Cameroon, it is indicated that China-Cameroon infrastructure cooperation has a positive influence on infrastructure and economic development in Cameroon by facilitating access to new markets though not significant to foster greater development.

The findings implies that China is becoming a significant player in infrastructure construction in Cameroon where infrastructure deficits have historically been a bottleneck to economic development and investment, hydropower is one area in which Chinese financial resources and domestic expertise contribute to advancement in energy infrastructure. Going back to our literature, this is in line with the findings of Nzie (2021: 81-96) who researched on the influence of China's investment in Cameroon in the transport infrastructural sector. The results of the study revealed a positive relationship between China-Cameroon transport infrastructure cooperation and infrastructural development in Cameroon since it helps to boost Cameroonian economy by improving infrastructure development in Cameroon which improves tax revenues, decreases poverty and modernizes trade.

Similarly, Eyong, (2015: 60-61), and Unity Ghekendeh *et al* (2023: 1-12), conducted a study on the sociological analysis of the "Win-Win relationship" between China and Cameroon in the domain of health infrastructure and its influence on public health infrastructure development in Cameroon and found a positive impact. The manifestation is shown, for instance, as China has successfully constructed 04 hospitals in Cameroon with the first constructed in Mbalmayo then, Douala, Guider, and Yaounde Gynaeco-Obstetric and Paediatric Hospitals. The construction of these hospitals plays a big role in the area of improvement in health infrastructures in Cameroon thus an engine of economic development.

However, on a negative side, it was reveal that despite its relationship with China; Cameroon is still facing lots of infrastructural and developmental challenges which have led to the perception that China-Cameroon relationship has not had the desired outcome. This implies that despite the contributions of China for infrastructural development in Cameroon, a lot still has to be done to make this impact more significant and durable.

Literature reveals that that even though China plays a key role for infrastructure development in Cameroon, most of the projects executed by through China-Cameroon infrastructure cooperation do not last long and the materials and labour mostly comes from China reducing the impact it would have had on Cameroonians. It was also revealed that the high cost of projects, poor quality materials, lack of follow up and transparency in contract awarding are key challenges for infrastructure development in Cameroon resulting to a lesser positive impact on economic development.

## **4.2. Findings on technical cooperation and economic development**

The paper reveals that China-Cameroon technical cooperation has some influence on technology transfer in Cameroon. The sum of investments of Chinese large high-technology companies in Cameroon are amounting to 12 per cent of their overall projects and investments abroad according to the data set from ASPI. However, though positive cases exist of technology and skills transfer from Chinese firms to the local economy in Cameroon, poor infrastructure, lack of skills, and low social trust are barriers to the development of linkages into industrial supply chains.

Despite the existence of technical cooperation and Chinese technical knowledge, technical cooperation between the two countries is subject to multiple challenges. Hence, there is a need to rethink this relationship by placing the local population at the center of action strategies. There has been some uncertainty about the amount of the realized investment in technical cooperation since, to date, only an agricultural demonstration centre and a pilot project using 2000 ha for cultivating fruits, vegetables and various varieties of rice have been built with no significant contribution to economic development in Cameroon (Jean-Pierre Cabestan, 2015:9-10). According to our findings there is still a lot to be done in the domain China-Cameroon technical cooperation, technology transfer and economic development in Cameroon.

In line with the opinion of the insignificant impact of China-Cameroon technological cooperation on economic development, Gadinga Amstrong Dopgima (2013) carried a study to investigate the sincerity of China aid towards capacity building with emphasis on employment creation and technology transfer. The findings gotten for the case of Cameroon portrayed that the impact of China project aid toward capacity building and technology transfer in Cameroon, is at best, still “insignificant”. The study revealed that Cameroon has been receiving the shorter end of the development stick thus far.

## **4.3. Findings on economic cooperation and economic development**

According to our findings, Chinese-Cameroon economic cooperation in terms of trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) has a general positive impact on Cameroon’s economy because of all the innovations it brings in various sectors. Findings indicate that FDI to GDP ratio in Cameroon was sensitive to economic growth conditions and resource prices. It creates employment for local citizens which range from working on the construction sites, road construction, telecommunication experts, forest exploitation and retailing of a wide variety of cheap goods imported from China thus, reduces poverty, improves tax revenues, modernizes international trade and it’s a win-win cooperation for both countries. However, FDI does not accrue mechanically, national policies such as development of human capital and infrastructure, macroeconomic and politic stability, financial development matter for attracting FDI in the country and for reaping the full gain of foreign investment for economic development.

Similarly, Polycap Mudoh (2022: 101–126), conducted a study to explore the contribution and impact of China’s foreign aid on Cameroon in the period of 2009-2020. Findings revealed that it is no doubt that such aid has huge positive impact on the nation’s employment rate and poverty reduction. According to the study compared with other donor institutions, Cameroon finds dealing with China very much convenient and comfortable based on some of its policy advantages that it has over others, like the World Bank. Again, According to UNCTAD (2024), Cameroonians have benefited and are still benefited from employment from China in the mining sector in Cameroon, where it has been present for some years through the Sinosteel Group, which is developing the Kribi iron ore project in the South region.

On a negative side the paper revealed the issues of low quality product from China which cost high but do not last long thereby draining the Cameroon economy. Also most of the key positions in the employment opportunities created through China-Cameroon economic cooperation are occupied by personnel from China. Most Cameroonians who are employed do not occupy key

positions where they can gain skills and earn higher wages. Cameroonians who work in Chinese firms are paid far below their deserved wages. They are being exploited without any serious action from the government of Cameroon.

Again, Cameroon's increasing debt burden due to Chinese loans has sparked debate. It has been noted in the World Bank that the country's debt has increased markedly, putting the country at a high risk of debt distress. Furthermore, the over dependence on China, some civil society and economic experts worry about Cameroon's over-dependence in China for funding which may lead to oversight issues, particularly in natural resource exploitation.

Some scholars see this relationship as being exploitative as China transports huge natural resources from Cameroon to China with little or no development in Cameroon. The environmental impact of the relationship is another issue to be worried about especially when it comes to the Mining sector where issues of environmental degradation and pollution are common.

## 5. Conclusion

There is no doubt that Chinese private investors have brought some benefits to the Cameroonian economy through employment creation. They have increased the stock of capital goods through cheap capital imports from China. They have equally increased the production of goods and services at lower costs like construction of the roads in some parts of the country which has greatly improved on employment rate and circulation in that neighborhood. However, Cameroon's increasing debt burden due to Chinese loans has sparked debate. It has been noted in the World Bank that the country's debt has increased markedly, putting the country at a high risk of debt distress. Furthermore, the over dependence on China, some civil society and economic experts worry about Cameroon's over-dependence in China for funding which may lead to oversight issues, particularly in natural resource exploitation.

This paper sees the relationship between Cameroon and China as being exploitative as China transports huge natural resources from Cameroon to China with little or no development in Cameroon. Despite the huge amount of money from China to Cameroon through aid and trade as part of economic cooperation between the two nations, the effect is hardly felt by the average Cameroonian because this money sometimes ends in the hands of top government officials for personal use. Little is done to create employment opportunities which will benefit the general public. There is need for the Cameroon government to rethink the cooperation with China and create policies to work with other African countries such as Nigeria than China.

### 5.1. Recommendations

Based on our findings, it is recommended that;

- To make infrastructure cooperation more profitable to Cameroon, it is important for the government of Cameroon to have Cameroonian trained to carry out these infrastructure projects themselves and reduce over dependency on foreign aid which often comes with a negative impact on Cameroon. The government should promote industrialization such that the materials to build these huge infrastructure projects can be bought in Cameroon and the money will be pumped back into economic for economic development.
- To render technical cooperation an avenue of opportunity for Cameroon, the government of China in partnership with Cameroon government has to build more technology centers in different parts of Cameroon where Cameroonians are trained to lead in the technology industry. As it stands now and from our research findings, during the execution of projects that requires high technical knowledge, Cameroonians are not given the opportunity to learn on these high technology skills.

- On the third research objective which was to evaluate the impact of Cameroon-China economic cooperation, there is also need for more transparency in Cameroon-China aid relationship. This should not only facilitate harmonization with other donor programmes, but allow for public scrutiny. Civil society organisations (both local and international) are called upon to play the important role of watchdogs. They should formulate strategies for assessing and monitoring the effects of China's assistance to and cooperation with Cameroon.
- Alternatively, there is need for the Cameroon government to rethink the cooperation with China and create policies to work with other African countries such as Nigeria than China.

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