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Social capital,economic performance and political engagement: A case study of Congolese Immigrants in Central Johannesburg

Mavungu, Mazembo

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DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis is my own, unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Masters of Arts in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination in any other university.

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27th June 2006

DEDICATION

To the memory of four millions of Congolese who have died as a result of the 1996-2006 armed conflict that has obliged thousands others to settle in South Africa

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express gratitude to various persons whose contributions to the success of this study deserve explicit acknowledgment. Prof. Tom Lodge inspired the project, and together with my classmates Morgen, Debbie Love, Ditsego helped to design the questionnaire. Prof. Rupert Taylor whose reliable supervision has provided critical remarks in tightening the whole argument. Prof. Ran Greenstein reviewed the research design and methodology in his course on methods in social sciences. My friend Vicky assisted with his statistics skills. Regular discussions with Kumbu Bisengo, Fleury Dala, Pascal Nsundi, Dieudonne Bikoko, Dede Mengi, Thierry Musanda, Leon Matondo, Papy Masiala and Clement Phebe have also enriched the study. Ursula and Delia offered their availability for proofreading. The Department of Political Studies in the University of the Witwatersrand financially supported the research survey. However, as no human endeavour is perfect, I remain the only responsible for possible errors and weaknesses.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

SAQUA	: The South African Qualifications Authority
DRC	: The Democratic Republic of Congo
SA	: South Africa
USA	: United States of America
COSATU	: Congress of South African Trade Unions
TV	: Television
SPSS	: Statistical Package for Social Sciences
R (as currency)	: Rand
NGOS	: Non-governmental organisations
POL.ENG	: Political engagement
MEMBSHIP	: Membership
PERWEEK	: Per week
PERMONTH	: Per month
POL.TRUS	: Political trust
SOC.CAP	: Social capital
INCOMEXP	: Income experience
HOWLONG	: How long
DRCMTY	: Congolese community
POLTRUST	: Political trust
EDUCATIO	: Education
SOC.TRUS	: Social trust
IDEXP	: Legal residence (identity) experience
BETTEROF	: Being better off
KNOWLDGE	: Knowledge
READINES	: Readiness

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