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Tanzania's president advises against birth control – 16th September, 2018

Level 4

Tanzania's President advised against using birth control pills. He said Tanzania needed more people and it was rich enough to educate more children. The president used the example of European countries that do not have enough workers, which he says is because of birth control. He said: "I have seen the effects of birth control. In some countries they are now struggling with a declining population. They have no labor force."

The president said using birth control was lazy. He said people who use family planning didn't want to work hard to feed a large family so they have just one or two children. He said: "You are big farmers. You can feed your children. Why then resort to birth control?" One politician reminded him that Tanzania does not help large families. He said: "Our health insurance...can only [help] a maximum of four children from one family."

Level 5

Tanzania's President John Magufuli advised women to stop taking birth control pills. He said this was because Tanzania needed more people and it was wealthy enough to educate many children. He said: "Women can now give up contraceptive methods." President Magufuli cited the example of European countries that do not have enough workers, which he says is because of birth control. He told reporters: "I have traveled to Europe and I have seen the effects of birth control. In some countries they are now struggling with a declining population. They have no labor force."

President Magufuli said birth control was because of laziness. He said people who use family planning worry about feeding their children. He said they didn't want to work hard to feed a large family, so they use birth control instead and have just one or two children. He said: "You have cattle. You are big farmers. You can feed your children. Why then resort to birth control?" One politician pointed out that Tanzania does not help large families. He said: "Our health insurance schemes can only accommodate a maximum of four children from one family."

Level 6

Tanzania's President John Magufuli has advised women in his country to stop taking birth control pills. He said the reason was because Tanzania needed more people and the country was now wealthy enough to feed and educate many children. President Magufuli said: "Women can now give up contraceptive methods." He supported his argument by citing the example of European countries that he says are struggling to find enough workers because people use different methods of birth control. He told reporters: "I have traveled to Europe and I have seen the effects of birth control. In some countries they are now struggling with a declining population. They have no labor force."

President Magufuli accused those of using birth control of laziness. He said: "Those going for family planning are lazy. They are afraid they will not be able to feed their children. They do not want to work hard to feed a large family and that is why they opt for birth control and end up with one or two children only." He added: "You have cattle. You are big farmers. You can feed your children. Why then resort to birth control? I see no reason to control births in Tanzania". One politician pointed out the fact that Tanzania does not help large families. He said: "Our health insurance schemes can only accommodate a maximum of four children from one family."