



2019 PMRC 2nd QUARTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY TO JUNE

17th JULY 2019



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VOLUME 4

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Executive Director’s Remarks

The Zambian Government has in the recent past been pursuing the country’s aspirations as enshrined in its Seventh National Development Plan which is the country’s blue-print for development for the next five years, up to 2021, and broadly envisions and smartly articulates a prosperous middle-income economy that offers decent employment opportunities for all Zambians of different skills and background and will be achieved by harnessing opportunities for economic diversification and growth. It is a building block formulated to meet the goals contained in the Vision 2030. This effort requires periodic reviews of country and continental progress being made towards development plans and Africa’s aspirations as enshrined in the African Union Agenda 2063 respectively.

The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre in its efforts to champion economic development in Zambia and Africa recently partnered with the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Zambia to host the Africa- China Think Tanks Forum themed “**Africa-China Economic Development Agenda-Opportunities for Belt and Road Initiative & FOCAC,**” with the sub-theme of “**Rebranding Africa as a Premiere Destination.**” The objectives of the Forum were to promote Africa’s Global Economic Cooperation through sharing knowledge and research outcomes on **infrastructure, economic development, trade facilitation and initiating the process to establish renewed networking among African think tanks network committed to building great cooperation with China and the rest of the world.** “Rebranding Africa as a Premiere Destination” was the sub-theme of the Forum with emphasis on African continental

branding as a tool to contribute materially to solidifying, combining, projecting, and in some cases, driving the positive elements that are bringing about the emerging and fast-growing optimistic outlook. **This outlook if vigorously and smartly pursued is envisaged to produce and serve to improve dramatically the continent’s attractiveness to tourists and investors as well as its capabilities to compete effectively regionally and internationally.**

The African Union adopted Agenda 2063 as a roadmap for continental development by aligning thinking from across the continent and distilling the vision in a set of aspirations.

“According to statistics provided by the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China, in 2018, China’s total import and export volume with Africa was US\$204.19 billion, a year-on-year increase of 19.7%, exceeding the overall growth rate of foreign trade in the same period by 7.1 percentage points. Among these, China’s exports to Africa were US\$104.91 billion, up 10.8% and China’s imports from Africa were US\$99.28 billion, up 30.8%; the surplus was US\$5.63 billion, down 70.0% year on year.

By December 2018, China’s total imports and exports with Africa were US\$18.27 billion, up 15.5% year on year and 2.1% month on month. Among these, China’s exports to Africa were US\$9.55 billion, up 3.9% year on year and 3.0% month on month; China’s imports from Africa were US\$8.72 billion, up 33.7% year on year and 2.2% month on month; the trade surplus was US\$840 million, down 68.7% year on year and up 13.5% month on month.

In 2018, the growth rate of China's trade with Africa was the highest in the world. The import growth rate was also the highest in the world, 15 percentage points higher than our import growth rate of foreign trade in the same period."

It is evident that as a rising continent, Africa needs to be more deeply engaged with China's grand vision of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) which is viewed as a mini-version of multilateral cooperation that will aid implementation of BRI projects. For African countries, there are more reasons for China to share its development experiences considering the common shared history and development paths. It is therefore imperative that African countries develop their own "homegrown solutions that actively seek to shape their partnerships with China to achieve country and the African continent's goals.

THE AFRICA – CHINA THINK TANKS FORUM



The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) hosted the Africa-China Think Tanks Forum in collaboration with the People's Republic of China in Zambia (Chinese Embassy), themed – **Africa-China Economic Development Agenda Opportunities for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and FOCAC** with the sub theme **"Rebranding Africa As a Premiere Destination"** on 23rd and 24th May, 2019 in Lusaka, Zambia. We hosted delegates from 12 African countries and China.

The objectives of the Forum were to promote Africa's Global Economic Cooperation through sharing knowledge and research objectives on infrastructure, economic development and trade facilitation and initiating the process to establish global think tanks network committed to building great cooperation with China and the rest of the world.

The African Union adopted Agenda 2063 as a roadmap for continental development by aligning thinking from across the continent and distilling the vision in a set of aspirations. A snapshot of the 7 aspirations of Agenda 2063 include;

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development,
2. An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance,
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law,
4. A peaceful and secure Africa,
5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics
6. An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children
7. Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernadette', written in a cursive style.

Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu
PMRC Executive Director

Africa's general economic performance continues to improve despite the myriad of challenges, but it remains insufficient to address the structural challenges.

The desire to envision a long-term 50 year development trajectory for Africa is vital as Africa continues to adapt its development agenda to global and regional structural transformations; increased peace through reduction in the number of conflicts; renewed economic growth and social progress; the need for people-driven development, gender equality and youth empowerment; changing global contexts such as increased globalization and the Information Communication Technology revolution spurred by the "4th Industrial Revolution". Africa requires increased unity of purpose which makes it a global power to be reckoned with capable of rallying support around its own common agenda; and emerging development and investment opportunities in areas such as agri-business, infrastructure development, health and education as well as the value addition in Africa vast commodities.





The Forum was attended by more than 120 delegates drawn from Think-Tanks, Academic institutions and Governments from several African countries and China. The format of the forum included the presentation and discussion of seven topics that included;

- The Role of African Think Tanks in spearheading the African Development Agenda.
- China-Africa Opportunities of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Forum On China-Africa Corporation (FOCAC).
- Is Africa on the Rise or Falling? What Economic Opportunities and Challenges exist and how to overcome these?
- Opportunities and Challenges of Bilateral And Multilateral Relations Between Africa and Other Countries: A Case of Africa – China Relations.
- Impact of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on African Manufacturing and Industrialization (Opportunities) for BRI.
- Impacts of US-China Trade war on Africa’s Development Agenda.
- Re-branding Africa in the New Global World Order.

The depth and level of engagement was reflected in the rich mixture of presenters and panelists drawn from prominent think-tanks, academic institutions, Governments and industry that developed consensus from a range of voices all aimed at sharing challenges and identifying opportunities to attain medium and long-term economic objectives of Africa.



Towards the Implementation of a Sustainable, Inclusive and Effective Electronic Farmer Input Support Program (E-FISP) in 2019 and beyond

The Electronic Voucher Farmer Input Support Programme (e-Voucher) was fully implemented during the 2017/2018 farming season after a successful pilot of two farming seasons before. There have been notable implementation successes such as; reduced Government expenditure associated with procurement, transport and storage of inputs. The other successes relate to increased private sector participation in input distribution, beneficiary farmers have wide options of agriculture, livestock and fisheries inputs to choose from and an improvement in beneficiary targeting among others successes.

However, e-Voucher FISP implementation also faced challenges notably; delays in Government funding; complications in deposit capture due to lack of physical presence by some contracted banks in some districts, poor internet connectivity and poor flow of beneficiary information among other challenges. Consequently, Government was prompted to vary the FISP implementation in the current 2018/2019 farming season with **fifty-four districts** reverted to the old Traditional Direct Supply of inputs while **sixty-**

one districts, have been maintained on the new e-voucher FISP.

Status of FISP implementation in 2018/2019 farming season

PMRC has noted remarkable improvements with the Zambia Integrated Agricultural Management Information System (ZIAMIS) platform performance which previously was characterized with systems crashes, stakeholders' competence limitations in the use of the code system and slow processing time. ZIAMIS system improvements and other interventions by the Ministry of Agriculture has led to enhanced beneficiary targeting with over 900,000 farmers making the K400 contributions by December 2018 after being given Authority To Deposit (ATD).

We have however, noted a number of challenges that need urgent attention in as much as over 850,000 farmers having redeemed inputs by the end of 2018 through the direct supply of inputs and e-Voucher FISP. The following are the challenges;

1. Late payments to suppliers under the '**Direct Supply of Inputs FISP mode**' who in some instances opted to withhold input stocks.
2. Late payment and backlog of pending payments to some agro dealers which has affected their cash flow and consequently affected operations with some being forced to suspend operations.

These challenges need to be adequately addressed to ensure smooth implementation of E voucher and also attain the programmes broader objectives

As PMRC we earnestly propose that the Government to re-strategize the funding modalities of the FISP and consider upfront complete funding of the entire programme as opposed to the phased funding to assure programme reliability and prompt agro-dealer payment starting with the current farming season. This would ensure sustainability.

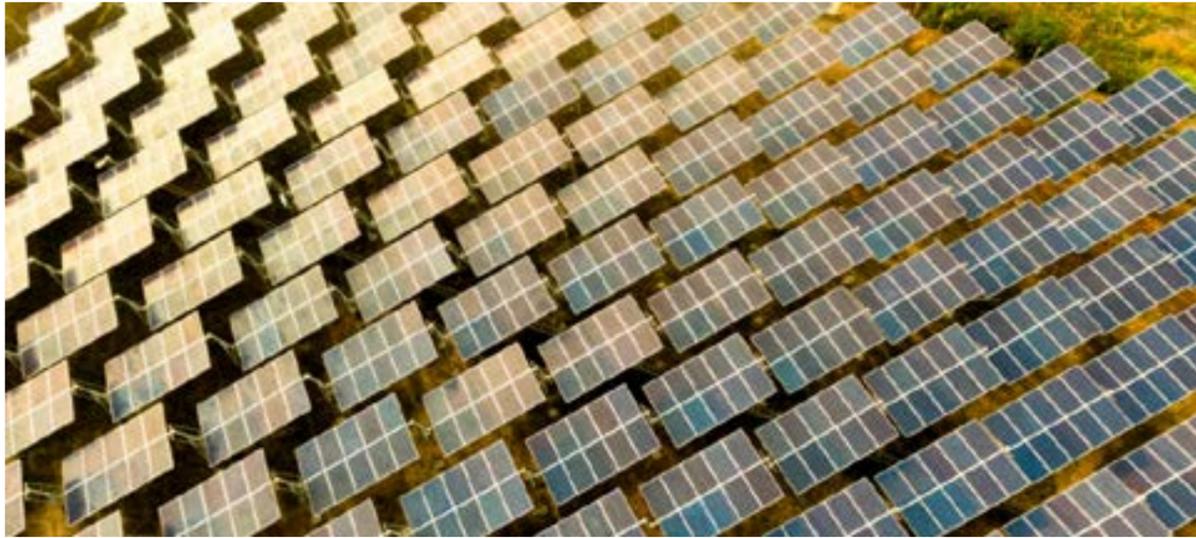
To further develop agricultural produce marketing capacity in remote areas and increase the volumes of agricultural produce traded and facilitate fair prices leading to better profits and income to smallholder farmers, **Government needs to focus attention on the state of feeder roads** in addition to high-ways that have received considerable attention. To ensure effective linkage between the smallholder farmers and markets, Government through the Road Development Agency (RDA) should conduct routine grading of feeder roads.

The effective implementation of FISP given the favorable rainfall forecast for this season should be anchored on reliable and timely funding and resolving other perennial challenges in the sector. This will not only guarantee a bumper harvest to ensure food security but also guarantee peoples' livelihoods. Effectively, Food Reserve Agency (FRA) will be in a position to meet 500,000 metric tonnes of maize crop strategic reserves. The country will also have enough crops to export and **do away with the costly export**

bans and administrative export restrictions that deprived the country of the much-needed foreign exchange.

Recommendations

1. Government should prioritize disbursement of funds with upfront payment to FISP program
2. The Government needs to formulate exit strategy for the farmers currently on the FISP programme given the improved beneficiaries' information storage and processing through the Zambia Integrated Agriculture Management Information System (ZIAMIS) database. This will enable Government to cater for as many eligible farmers as possible in the future.
3. Government should also prioritize the maintenance of feeder roads to link farmers to the markets to further develop agricultural produce marketing capacity.
4. We encourage Government to continue with the review of districts reverted to the direct input supply especially those that have enhanced agro-dealer capacity so that they are taken back to e-voucher FISP.



Zambia Scores with “First Scaling Solar Project in Africa”

The President of the Republic of Zambia, His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu on 11th March 2019 **commissioned Zambia’s and Africa’s First Scaling Solar Project** supported by the World Bank to be run by the Bangweulu Power Company Limited. The **facility boasts of a 54 MW first large-scale solar power plant in Africa that will cover 30,000 households and the lowest tariff in sub-Saharan Africa at 6¢ (US Cents)**. In July 2015, Zambia’s Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) signed an agreement with the International Finance Corporation to explore development of two large-scale solar projects through Scaling Solar. The competitive auction organized through the program attracted 48 solar power developers, seven of whom submitted final proposals, and the bids yielded the lowest solar power tariffs in Africa to date.

PMRC reiterates the importance of having a coherent, transparent process that the investor and investing public, the private sector, are able to work towards as well as the public institutions on the Government side — that is, the IDC as investment vehicle and the state utility as off-taker, to achieve predictability and a clearly defined process that lays the foundation towards the attainment of this 600-megawatt target which has been set for renewable energy in Zambia. PMRC’s research and policy contributions on Power Sector Reform and Renewable Energy in

Zambia have laid the framework for success and provided key policy recommendations relevant to the discourse.

Given the challenges of **Rising Demand, Below Cost Tariffs, Over Dependence of Hydropower and Climate Vulnerability and Low Rates of Access in Rural Areas, the private sector remains a key investment partner to adequately improving power supply in line with fiscal consolidation**. Following PMRC’s recommendations, Government has made reforms to increase tariffs to make them cost-reflective thereby improving the country’s power sector investment climate.

To build on this progress Government has demonstrated its willingness and commitment to secure investment in the power sector without compromising fiscal consolidation objectives through the launch of the Scaling Solar Project. Government must therefore continue to make institutional changes to its planning and procurement capacity to secure productive, cost-effective and diversified power sector investment portfolio.

PMRC therefore recommends that the Government:

Establishes a planning function to develop a strategic vision for Zambia’s energy portfolio and guide procurement;

Establishes a procurement function that sits alongside the planning function to implement the strategy for Zambia’s Power Sector and secure investment at better value for money, through improved commercial capacity, more competitive tenders and a streamlined procurement process;

Speeds up reforms based on diagnostic study on ZESCO Limited to improve the credit-worthiness of ZESCO as off-taker to improve investor confidence through increased financial transparency and more secure guarantees; and

Makes governance reforms to the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) to improve its independence and its effectiveness so that it better serves both investors’ and consumers’ interests.

Renewable energy is growing rapidly on a global scale, with record numbers of new renewable energy solutions ranging from wind and solar installations coming online every year. Zambia can readily continue this expansion of renewable energy by utilizing existing technologies, investing in improvements to our electricity system, and **making smart policy decisions** that move the country towards a **clean energy future and harnessing its vast potential for renewable energy.**

Improving operational efficiency in the power sector in Zambia will be a key driver for the country’s prospects of substantial progress in the attainment of **Sustainable Development Goals, Vision 2030, and the programmes envisioned in the Seventh National Development Plan.**

Commission on the Status of Women 63 Session CSW resolutions

The **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW or UNCSW)** is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and one of the main United Nations organs. The Commission on the Status of Women is the United Nations' organ that promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on **gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.**

This year's CSW marked the 63rd session under the theme **"Social Protection Systems, Access to Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls"**. On the 17th of March 2019, the Commission released a draft of agreed resolutions aimed at addressing the various gender disparities that women face globally. It is pleasing to note that there has been progress towards women's and girls' access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, particularly in the areas of health and education. **This is evident from the global increase in social protection coverage, more girls attending school as well as access to affordable and quality essential health-care services.**

The Commission however, recognized significant challenges which include gender gaps averaging 32% which remain to be closed according to the 2018 Global Gender Gap Report. **The progress that has been achieved over the years is threatened by budget cuts and austerity measures and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women and girls. The Commission stressed the importance of addressing these remaining gaps, as well as inequalities, structural barriers and biases that constrain equal access to social protection systems, public**

services and sustainable infrastructure.

The following were some of the resolutions made during this year's CSW;

Education

The Commission reaffirmed the right to education and stressed the need for equal access to high quality, affordable, accessible and inclusive education in contributing to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. It noted with concern the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in and completion of secondary and tertiary education and emphasized the importance of technical and vocational training and lifelong learning opportunities in achieving sustainable development.

Health

A healthy population is the desire for all nations and it is for this reason that the Commission recognised the need to target and eliminate the root causes of gender inequality, discrimination, stigma and violence in health-care services. The Commission also reiterated the need for Member States to promote universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to quality health services and ensures affordable and quality service delivery through primary health care.

Social Protection

Social protection is one of the key instruments of reducing inequality and poverty. Many countries have adopted various social safety nets aimed at uplifting livelihood of vulnerable and marginalized groups. The Commission was concerned with the social protection coverage gap especially for women in some countries which goes against a person's right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their families, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.

Infrastructure, Water and Sanitation

Poor infrastructure, water and sanitation remains a challenge in many developing countries. The Commission was concerned that women and girls are particularly affected by water scarcity, unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene, and that they shoulder the main burden of collecting household water in many parts of the world, restricting their time for other activities, such as education and leisure, or for earning a livelihood.

Investment

The Commission affirmed that accelerated investments in gender-responsive social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure, along side gender-responsive macroeconomic policies that enhance job creation and livelihoods, are critical in tackling economic, social, environmental, legal and demographic challenges. These are important for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and inclusive growth on the path to sustainable development.

PMRC would like to commend Government for its efforts in ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout the country. PMRC would also like to urge Government to adopt its recommendations on increasing budget allocation towards the health and education sectors which are below international standards of fifteen and twenty percent respectively.

Lastly PMRC would like to urge the private sector to supplement Government's efforts by promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through empowerment programs as well as strengthening the mainstreaming of gender responsive planning and budgeting of all programs and projects.



Zambian Youth: Generation Unlimited, Re-Energizing Opportunities for the Zambian Youth Through Policy Reform.

Zambia recently celebrated Youth Day themed “**Zambian Youth: Generation Unlimited,**” on the backdrop of International Women’s Day (8th March) with the urgent reminder to harness the demographic dividend in view of the country’s youthful population. Peace, economic development, social justice, tolerance – all this and more, today and tomorrow, depends on tapping into the power of the youth. Many young women and girls in the world today are breaking barriers that previously made them vulnerable in the face of unequal opportunities and conservative society. Things have changed and many young women and girls in the world today are taking the lead in science, leadership in the public and private sectors.

Zambia’s Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) data shows that youths (**people aged 15-35 years old**) make up about **36.7%** of the country’s total population representing the largest number of youth as a share of population in the country’s history, according to United Nations Population Fund (UNPF).

Further, the United Nations projects Zambia’s youth population to remain between **34-37%** of the population for the next **20-30 years**, while

the World Bank estimates **56 percent** of the local labour force comprising youths and this is projected to continue rising between now and 2035.

The Government has created multiple policy frameworks aimed at addressing youth unemployment and encouraged increased participation of young people in the country’s economic development agenda. This is evident from the number of young women and men who have been given the platform to lead in Government and the private sector. Despite these efforts, challenges remain with youth unemployment in Zambia estimated at about 10.5%, above the national average unemployment of about **7.4%**.

The private sector has a role to complement these efforts by introducing homegrown sustainable youth empowerment strategies for Zambia.

Having a youthful population gives us a huge opportunity to create tangible and sustainable development for Zambia by placing strong emphasis on youth empowerment now and for the future. **With approximately 75% of**

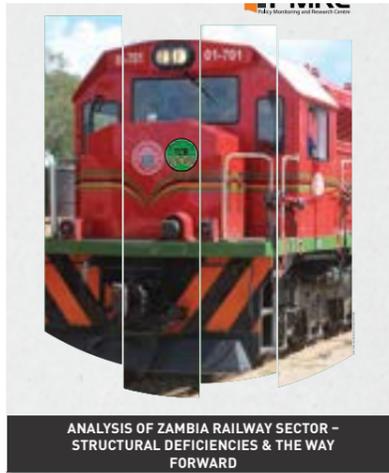
Zambia’s population under the age of 30 years the country needs to reconfigure its strategies to harness this youthful generation and create opportunities for the future. To achieve this PMRC recommends;

- 1. Strengthening Labour Regulations and Skills Development Programmes** by focusing on policies to improve the quality of labour supply and achieve better market matches between available stock of labour force and the demands of industry. This should include but not limited to skills training, education, expansion of education access with quality, especially for low income households. Zambia’s Industry use of foreign skilled workers demonstrates further evidence of the shortage of well-trained nationals in some fields and provides an opportunity re-double efforts to increase education coverage and quality. There is also a need to shift university programmes towards producing professionals who can meet the needs of industry.
- 2. Improve quality and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Programmes** by focusing on generating on young entrepreneurs that are relevant to the times and industry needs. This should be focused on support to upskilling and skill training to support economic diversification into agribusiness, tourism and construction which provide opportunities for large numbers of young people to engage in non-farm work in both rural and urban areas.
- 3. Design labour regulation to support growth of formal and informal jobs by easing the cost of compliance and encouraging the expansion of small businesses run by the youth.** The youth are also encouraged to show responsibility by utilizing funding resources based on their business plans to yield better outcomes for repayment and subsequent benefit for other youths because these loan facilities are designed to work as revolving funds. Non-payment of loans by youths presents a challenge for growing the base of young

entrepreneurs and Government must align its strategies to increase incubation support to businesses to create a generation of innovative entrepreneurs with unlimited potential to grow.

Given the tenacity, brilliance and innovation demonstrated by many Zambian youths, a “Generation Unlimited” is apt and befitting and clearly demonstrated by the abilities and milestones that have been scored by our youth in the **Agriculture and Economic Sectors, Sport, Media, Mining, Robotics Innovation, Leadership, Film and Music Industry** and many others too numerous to mention. And this has been made possible by Government efforts to deliberately create a conducive environment for the youth to thrive and giving leadership opportunities to young people that are serving as members of parliament and senior Government officials and those leading in the private sector.

In line with the Government’s National Youth Policy and National Action Plan themed “**Towards Skilled, Enlightened, Economically Empowered and Patriotic Youth Impacting Positively on National Development**” there is need to break more barriers through closer collaboration between the Ministry of Youth and Sport and relevant Government agencies and stakeholders to report on progress and resolve challenges affecting the youth in the country.



Analysis of Zambia Railway Sector – Structural Deficiencies & the way forward

The railway system in Zambia comprises of an extensive network of surface transport with the potential to offer safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly transport across the country and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, connecting all major centers of economic activity and facilitating growth.

However, the railway systems network in Zambia has been operating at a sub optimal level compared to its capacity. Firstly, there is lack of integration among railway companies within the region who have opted to operate as autonomous entities. Secondly, the railway traffic dwindled to current levels following the deregulation of road transport in the region, due to high fixed costs, low investments in rail track infrastructure, working capital and rolling stock.

Zambia like many other sub Saharan African countries has made efforts to increase the volume of rail transport traffic but has not been successful due to the poor conditions of the rail track infrastructure and low investments in assets and working capital. Despite the many challenges faced by the rail sector in Zambia, the Government is committed in revamping the sector as outlined in the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) and Vision 2030, (the two policy documents that prioritize the construction of new rail spurs and rehabilitation of existing lines to increase operational efficiency, reduce the cost of freight, and increase the tonnage being carried.) Further, the Government has pledged to promote private investments to construct other rail spurs, including intracity transit systems. Plans to migrate the rail gauge from the existing Cape gauge to Standard gauge are in place to enable higher speeds and higher tonnage of freight.

At the regional level, SADC region remains committed to fostering a functional and integrated rail network throughout Southern Africa because of the railways fuel efficiency and potentially

cost-efficient implementation. This is outlined in the Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology enforced in 1996 to which Zambia is a signatory. In agreeing to the Protocol, Member States are required to facilitate an efficient and reliable railway service that helps to integrate the region¹. To do so, Member States are required to collaborate on harmonized policies for railway use and implementation that economically restructures the railways by increasing the role of the private sector. The harmonized policies should aim for common standards and procedures, particularly in terms of infrastructure. The SADC Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology also advocates for Member States to establish Multilateral Railways Route Management Groups that facilitate and oversee railway networks in the region².

1. Southern African Development Community (SADC), 'Southern African Development Community ;Railways', 2018 <<https://www.sadc.int/themes/infrastructure/transport/railways/>>.
2. Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Read more by following the link below

[LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION](https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Analysis-of-Zambia-Railway-Sector-%E2%80%93-Structural-Deficiencies-the-way-forward.pdf)

<https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Analysis-of-Zambia-Railway-Sector-%E2%80%93-Structural-Deficiencies-the-way-forward.pdf>



The Case For Cost Reflective Tariffs Implementation – Is Zambia Getting It Right?

Generally, most countries in Africa charge tariffs that are much lower than the actual cost of generating, distributing and retailing electricity. The difference between the tariffs most customers pay and the actual cost of electricity is subsidised by Governments. For this reason, in 2008 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers of Energy were prompted to approve migration of unsustainable electricity tariffs towards cost reflectivity¹ within five years and set a deadline of 31st December 2013. However, by 2015 only Namibia and Tanzania in the 15-country regional bloc had successfully achieved cost-reflectivity, despite an earlier commitment by all member states to meet the objective by 2013. Consequently, (SADC) energy ministers further extended the deadline to 2019 by which member countries were required to produce road-maps for transitioning their electricity supply industries towards cost-reflective tariffs by 2019 in an effort to improve the sustainability of the sector and create the basis for greater investment in new generation capacity by state utilities and independent power producers (IPPs).² Cost-reflective tariff designs send price signals to various stakeholders that lead to better decisions with respect to consumption, production and the expansion of networks.

To this effect and in accordance with the Electricity Act Chapter 433 of the Laws of Zambia, ZESCO on 22nd March 2019 issued notices to its consumers of its intention to adjust electricity tariffs and connection fees by a weighted average rate of 113 percent and 213 percent respectively. However, on 3rd May 2019, a pronouncement was made that Government suspended ZESCO's application after consultations with various stakeholders .

The question that begs answers is whether ZESCO's proposed tariff adjustment over the years is justified?

1. A cost reflective tariff is one which reflects the true cost of supplying electricity and removes the reliance on Government subsidies to cover the variance between the current tariff and the true cost of supply of electricity
2. Namibian Sun Newspaper, 'SADC Ministers Set 2019 for Cost-Reflective Tariffs.', Namibian Sun Newspaper, 27 July 2015 <<https://www.namibiansun.com/news/sadc-ministers-set-2019-for-cost-reflective-tariffs>>.

Read more by following the link below

[LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION](http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/The-Case-for-Cost-Reflective-Tariffs-Implementation--Is-Zambia-getting-it-Right.pdf)

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/The-Case-for-Cost-Reflective-Tariffs-Implementation--Is-Zambia-getting-it-Right.pdf>

POLICY MONITORING AND RESEARCH CENTRE



EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
ASSESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICY ON DISABILITY

Unlocking Zambia's Potential JAN 2019

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Empowering Persons with Disabilities Assessing the Implementation of the National Policy on Disability

In February 2016, the Government of the Republic of Zambia launched the National Policy on Disability. As the case, this policy was launched in an effort to deal with various challenges faced by persons with disabilities and ensure social and economic inclusion for these persons. The theme of the policy is **'Empowering Persons with Disabilities'** and this is in line with international and national policy instruments including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Recent statistics reveal that about 2 million women and men in Zambia have a disability (WHO, 2011). Detailed information of this statistics revealed that most of these people with disabilities live in rural areas, and have limited access to basic services. There are 181, 856 (2.4 %) with disabilities in rural areas and 69, 571 (1.4%) people with disabilities in urban areas in the country (Zambia Census of Population and Housing 2010). The World Health Organisation (WHO) also revealed that the employment rate of persons living with disabilities in 2005 was 58% and that most people living with disabilities were self-employed with more than 80 per cent of them in the agriculture sector of the economy.



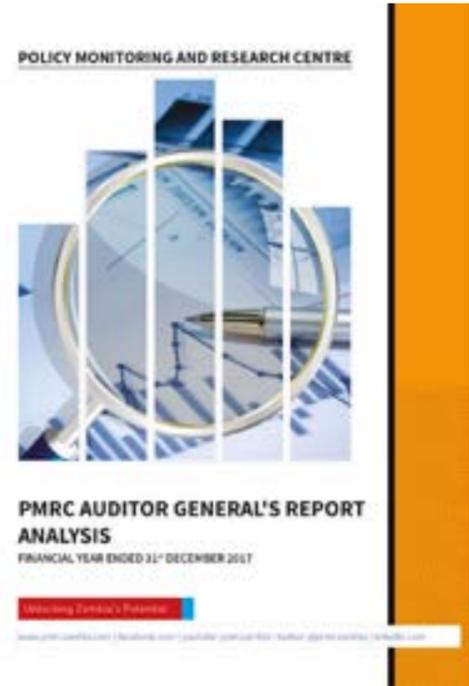
This Policy Analysis seeks to analyse the National Policy on Disabilities in Zambia. The analysis contains a background and current situational analysis of various monumental initiatives which have been implemented in the past and currently, in an effort to better the lives of persons with disabilities in Zambia. Additionally, this background and situational analysis will outline the initial past and current challenges being faced by persons with disabilities in Zambia, clearly stating what international, regional and national legal instruments and initiatives that have been implemented to help improve the livelihoods of persons with disabilities Zambia. The main aim of the paper is to examine the components of the National Policy on Disability and highlight the successes which have been scored by the policy, and identify the challenges which have been faced in implementing the policy, in an effort to offer evidence based recommendations for increased effective implementation of the policy.

Read more by following the link below

[LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION](#)

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019-01-latest-pmrc-policy-analysis-empowering-persons-with-disabilities-assessing-the-implementation-of-the-national-policy-on-disability-copy-pdf/>

ANALYSIS



PMRC Auditor General's Report Analysis Financial Year Ended 31st December 2017

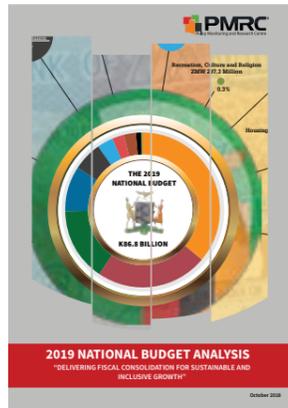
This analysis begins by presenting an overview of public expenditure performance, drawing on information stipulated in the Auditor General's Reports from 2012 - 2017, and highlighting the current scenario in Zambia. The analysis then considers best practice in terms of managing public resources, reviewing international auditing guidelines and regional experience. Key issues affecting the auditing process in Zambia are identified, and recommendations made in order to promote greater transparency and accountability in the management of public resources. The analysis underscores the importance of public access to comprehensive information and the need for improved funds, skills and resources. The fundamental role of internal audits and requirement for integration between departments is highlighted. The analysis emphasises the vital need to introduce mechanisms and strengthen relationships in order to follow-up on the implementation of sanctions and recommendations provided in the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) process.

Read more by following the link below

[LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION](#)

<https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PMRC-Auditor-General-Report-Analysis-Financial-Year-Ended-31st-december-2017-2019.pdf>

ANALYSIS



2019 National Budget Analysis “Delivering Fiscal Consolidation for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth”

On Friday 28th September 2018, the Minister of Finance, Honourable Margaret D. Mwanakatwe, MP delivered the 2019 Budget address to the National Assembly under the theme “**Delivering Fiscal Consolidation for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth**”.

Key Messages

The 2019 National Budget was formulated against the backdrop of the austerity measures being implemented by Government to deliver fiscal consolidation. It provides a firm foundation for the country to return to moderate debt levels, entrench overall macroeconomic stability and promote sustained and inclusive growth.

The budget proposes bold and substantial changes in revenue mobilisation and spending strategies in support of the goal for fiscal consolidation. The proposed measures aim to ensure that domestic revenue as a proportion of GDP increases to 18.7 % from 17.7 % in 2018. The 2019 Budget aims to achieve a fiscal deficit of no more than 6.5 % of GDP from the projected 7.4 % in 2018.

The focus of the budget is to promote not only broad-based sustainable and inclusive growth, but also address the high unemployment and poverty levels among the people. To achieve this, the creation of space for private sector growth and entrenching macroeconomic stability through fiscal consolidation is central to this process.

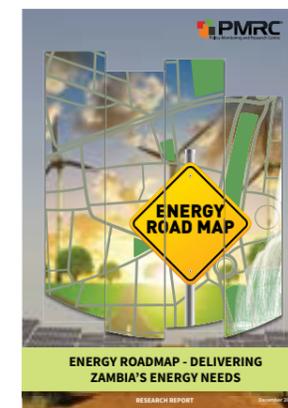
The budget is aligned to the **Economic Stabilization and Growth Programme, the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP), and the vision of becoming a prosperous middle-income country by 2030**. The national budget intends to actualise poverty reduction through proportional investments to sectors as outlined in the 7NDP. The Economic Stabilisation and Growth Programme is aimed at fiscal consolidation, reduction of the budget deficit and management of debt while stimulating growth.

Read more by following the link below

[LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION](http://www.pmrzambia.com/pmrc-2019-national-budget-analysis/)

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/pmrc-2019-national-budget-analysis/>

RESEARCH REPORT



Energy Reforms: Delivering Zambia's Energy Needs

Zambia faces a challenge to meet rising demand for electricity as the economy, population and electrification continue to grow. Load-shedding in 2015-16 demonstrated just how high the stakes are for meeting this challenge as the economy suffered losses equivalent to 20% of GDP (Samboko et al 2016) and Government bore the cost of expensive energy imports. As government undergoes fiscal consolidation in response to high debt levels, it should look to increased investment in Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to develop energy capacity. This approach offers the opportunity to meet increased demand in a way that protects fiscal spending and ultimately promotes long-term economic growth.

IPPs offer a sustainable route to increased energy capacity across Sub-Saharan Africa, where public and utility financing has traditionally been the largest source of investment in power generation. This picture is true of Zambia, where IPPs currently make up a small but growing part of Zambia's energy portfolio through plants ranging in capacity from a few megawatts to around 300MW. Zambia has faced significant challenges in attracting IPP investment for several reasons, including below-cost tariffs, its regulatory framework and procurement processes, all of which need to be addressed if Zambia is to better exploit the opportunities that IPPs provide.

This report highlights the challenges that policymakers are facing in promoting effective investment. The report first summarizes the challenges facing Zambia's energy sector: it provides a new forecast for increased demand and identifies key problems of insufficient capacity and over reliance on hydropower. It then analyses the state of the energy sector and identifies the current role of IPPs. Finally, it looks to other countries in sub-Saharan Africa for lessons in accelerating investment in IPPs and concludes with recommendations for how Government can develop a healthy market for investment and improve internal planning and procurement capacity in order to secure a productive, cost-effective and diversified portfolio of energy generation.

Read more by following the link below

[LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION](http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Energy-Roadmap-Delivering-Zambia-Energy-Need.pdf)

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Energy-Roadmap-Delivering-Zambia-Energy-Need.pdf>

BRIEFING DOCUMENT



The Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). What's in it for Zambia?

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a flagship project of African Union Agenda 2063 and refers to a continental geographic zone in which goods and services are to move with, no restrictions; among member states of the African Union (AU). The AfCFTA aims to boost Intra-African trade by providing a comprehensive and mutually beneficial trade agreements among the member states, covering trade in goods and services, investment, intellectual property rights and competition policy. The agreement has been signed by member states of the African Union, bringing together 1.2 billion people with a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of more than US\$2 trillion. The draft agreement commits countries to removing tariffs on 90 % of goods, with 10% of "sensitive items" to be phased in later. The agreement is also set with the aim of liberalising services and to tackle non-tariff barriers, which hinder trade between African countries.

The (CFTA) intends to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments, and thus pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the Continental Customs Union and the African Customs Union. Through better harmonization and coordination of trade liberalization and facilitation regimes and instruments across Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and across Africa in general; the CFTA aims to expand intra African trade. It further aims to resolve the challenges of multiple and overlapping memberships and expedite the regional and continental integration processes. Through exploiting opportunities for scales of production, continental market access and better reallocation of resources; the CFTA further aims to enhance competitiveness at the industry and enterprise level.

Read more by following the link below

[LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION](http://www.pmrzambia.com/the-continental-free-trade-area-cfta-whats-in-it-for-zambia/)

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/the-continental-free-trade-area-cfta-whats-in-it-for-zambia/>

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Parliamentary Committee on National Economy, Trade and Labour Matters and Committee on Budgets, PMRC presented on Sales Tax. The discussions bordered around; provisions of the proposed Sales Tax, Incentives, and Disincentives of both Sales Tax and VAT, as well as the case of tax administration among other categories.



Read more by following the link below

[LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION](https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Sales-Tax-Parliamentary-Presentation-.pdf)

<https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Sales-Tax-Parliamentary-Presentation-.pdf>

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Parliamentary Committee on National Economy, Trade and Labour Matters and PMRC presented on the China Zambia Relations vis-à-vis Trade and Investment



[LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION](http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Zambia-China-Relations-Trade-Investment-Presentation-Final.pdf)

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Zambia-China-Relations-Trade-Investment-Presentation-Final.pdf>

Parliamentary Committee on Budgets and PMRC presented on Maximising Revenue Collection from the Mines in Zambia



Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Works and Supply and PMRC presented on the Revamping of the National Airline.



Read more by following the link below

[LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION](http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/The-Transport-Works-and-Supply-Committee-Presentation.pdf)

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/The-Transport-Works-and-Supply-Committee-Presentation.pdf>

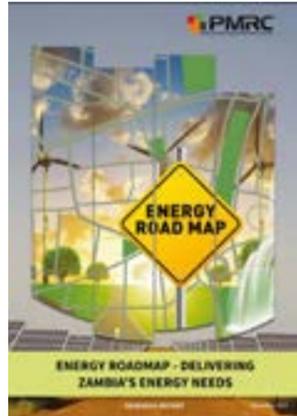
INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS/COLLABORATIONS

- PMRC's Executive Director Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu participated in the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63 -2019) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Priority theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session);



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS



Read more by following the link below

[LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION](http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Energy-Policy-Reform-Independent-Power-Producers-and-Power-Sector-Reform.pdf)

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Energy-Policy-Reform-Independent-Power-Producers-and-Power-Sector-Reform.pdf>

- PMRC Executive Director Mrs. Bernadette D. Zulu presenting at the BOLD Experience on unpacking the critical role that women play in the implementation on the 7NDP. The BOLD experience is a networking branch that hosts 50 women every quarter with the hope of fostering healthy business and social connections among women.



- PMRC Executive Director Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu was one of the keynote speakers at the China-Zambia Cultural Exchange Forum on the Importance of Culture and the Zambia Culture Typical Character. She spoke along side; Dr. Sande Ngalande - Acting Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Zambia, Mr. Li Tie - President of the Zambia Council for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification, Hon. Sebastian Kopulande, MP. President of the Zambia - China Business and Friendship Association, Mr. Lai Bo - Political Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Zambia and Mrs. Victoria - Director of Zambia National Museum.



- PMRC Executive Director Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu was part of the panel discussion at the Ignite Africa Youth Symposium hosted by the Junior Chamber International - JCI. The panel focused on inspiring young people to start from where they are with what they have but with a broader vision of influencing and shaping their different spaces and spheres to the Zambia and Africa they want. 25.05.19



- PMRC Executive Director Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu conferred with Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Chalwe Lombe on the Africa-China Think Tanks Forum that was held on 23rd and 24th of May 2019 at Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka



- Instant Grass International (IGI) a South African based Research Institution paid a courtesy call on PMRC. In the Picture: PMRC Executive Director Mrs Bernadette Deka Zulu, The IGI Representative Mr Dali Tembo, PMRC Head of Research Salim Kaunda and Mr Bruce Ernest



- The 2019 Junior Chambers International (JCI)-Zambia National President Ms Tafadzwa Bete Sasa called on the PMRC Executive Director Mrs Bernadette Deka Zulu. JCI is a global organization for young active citizens (aged 18-40 years) with presence in about 500 communities in more than 125 countries. During their closed door meeting, Ms Sasa called on the PMRC Executive Director to speak at the upcoming "Steming-Up from Thought-To-Action" event when JCI Zambia will host its International Vice President, Adeniyi Rasheed Balogun



- National Youth Constituency Assembly Founder Mr. Emmanuel Kamwi and CEO Ms. Nomsa Ingwe meeting PMRC Executive Director Mrs Bernadette D. Zulu who is a former youth Parliamentarian to prepare for the upcoming Zambian National Youth Parliament slated for 12th August 2019; Which seeks to draw participation from all 10 provinces;- to be held in Lusaka at the Lusaka City Council Chambers

- PMRC Executive Director, Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu officiated at the opening of the Youth Hub on public policy promotion, governance, and civic engagement. The Youth Hub is an initiative of the Kelvin Nyirongo Hope Foundation and Humanity Challenge Organization. The initial sponsors of the Youth Hub are Action Aid under their Queen's Young Leaders Fire Starter Initiative.



- An MOU was also signed between Kelvin Nyirongo Hope Foundation, Humanity Challenge Organization and the Policy Monitoring and Research Centre to enhance joint collaboration on public lectures and information sharing.



- PMRC Head Communication and Grants Ms. Melody Simukali presenting on Core Principles of Data Visualization at the Zambia Monitoring and Evaluation Association (ZAMEA) meeting, a collaboration with the Policy Monitoring and Research Center (PMRC) & the University of Zambia Population Studies – Monitoring and Evaluation Center of Excellence.



LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Core-Principles-of-Data-Visualization-University-of-Zambia-Presentation.pdf>

- PMRC made an appearance during the planning meeting of the Office of the Auditor General where our Researcher, Ms. Leya Namonje presented on the PMRC analysis of the Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of Parastatal Bodies and other Statutory Institutions for the financial years ended, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Also present during the session were PMRC's Head of Research and Analysis Mr. Salim Kaunda and Head of Monitoring and Evaluation Mr. Akabondo Kabechani.



LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Report-of-the-Auditor-General-on-the-accounts-of-parastatals-bodies-and-other-statutory-institutions-for-the-financial-years-ended-2013-2014-2015-and-2016-Presentation.pdf>

- PMRC Senior Researcher Ms. Chileshe Chaunga was a panellist at a breakfast meeting that reviewed the progress of the E-Voucher Implementation. The event was hosted by the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) International Lusaka, and OXFAM.



- PMRC Senior Researcher Mr. Albert Kasoma presented on "The benefits of Chinese Investment in Zambia" at the launch of the Chinese Policy Brief. The event was hosted by Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD).



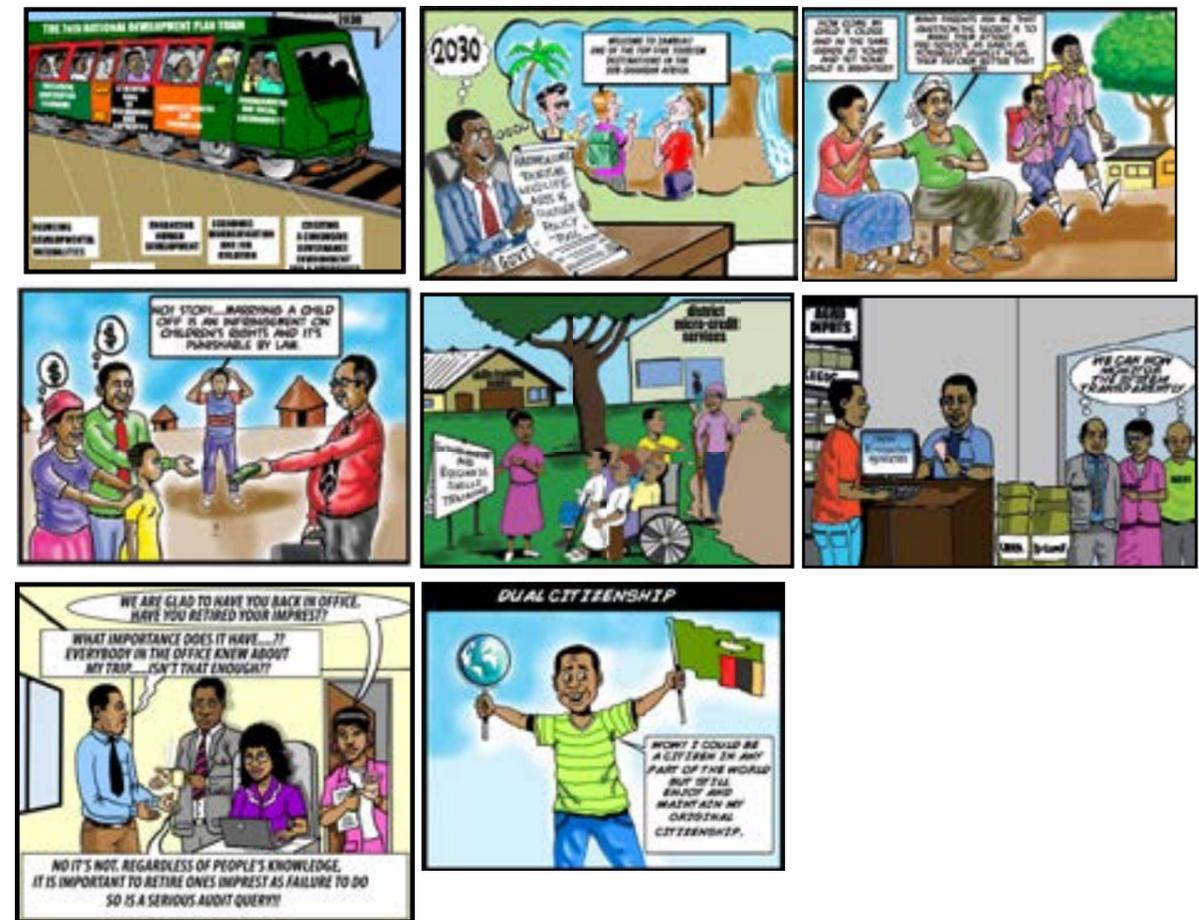
- The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre has embarked on country-wide sensitization programmes on the role of citizens in implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan: Mindset Shift Towards Attainment of 7NDP. PMRC on 29th March 2019 conducted a public lecture at the University of Lusaka to kick-start the campaign. The Head of Research and Analysis Salim Kaunda made a presentation on the 7NDP.



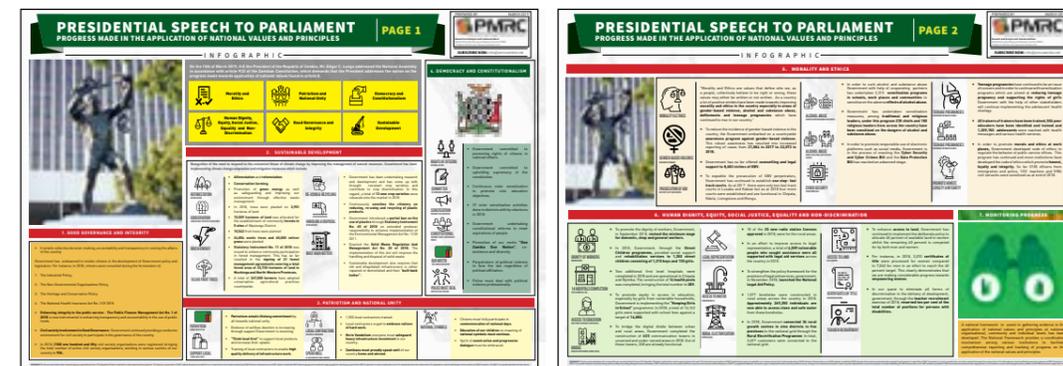
[LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION](http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Anchoring-on-the-7NDP-for-Effective-service-Delivery-University-of-Lusaka-Presentation.pdf)

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Anchoring-on-the-7NDP-for-Effective-service-Delivery-University-of-Lusaka-Presentation.pdf>

CARTOON ANIMATIONS



INFOGRAPHICS



Presidential Speech to Parliament on Measures taken by Government to ensure Progress on Application of National Values and Principles - Infographic

[LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC](http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Presidential-Speech-Infographic-2019-Measures-Taken-By-Government-To-Ensure-Progress-In-The-Application-Of-National-Values-And-Principles.pdf)

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Presidential-Speech-Infographic-2019-Measures-Taken-By-Government-To-Ensure-Progress-In-The-Application-Of-National-Values-And-Principles.pdf>

INFOGRAPHICS

- Presidential Speech to Parliament on Measures taken by Government to ensure Progress on Application of National Values and Principles - Infographic
- Empowering Persons with Disabilities Assessing the implementation of the National Policy on Disability - Infographic
- The Case of Cost Reflective Implementation. Is Zambia Getting it Right? Accelerating Growth in Zambia's Agriculture Sector- Remaking the Case for E-FISP - Infographic
- State of Zambia's Economy - Infographic
- Outcome of the 11th (Special) Cabinet Meeting on the State of the Economy, held at State House on Monday, 27th May, 2019 - Infographic

PMRC AND LUSE MOU SIGNING

Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) and Lusaka Securities Exchange (LuSE) have entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaboration in Joint Research and Policy Analysis with the aim to empower the general public with simplified and accurate information pertaining to Capital Markets and overall promotion of Financial Literacy, among other objectives



LEADS AFRICA 2018

The League of African Development Students (LEADS AFRICA) awarded the 2018 LEADS Outstanding Performance Corporate Mandate Delivery Merit Award presented to Management, Staff of the Policy Monitoring Research Centre (PMRC) for pioneering;

- Due Diligence in Zambia for Africa's Development.
- Corporate Commitment
- Attainment of Mandate Requisite for the Entrenchment of Regional Integration in Africa
- National Building in Zambia, Economic Growth and True Democracy in Africa



2019 PMRC MEDIA AWARDS SUBMISSIONS

The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre will be hosting the **2019 Media Awards in the following categories – TV, Radio, Online Media and Print.** The media awards ceremony has been slated for December 2019.

Participate in the awards by submitting public policy reports (Print, Radio, Online Media and TV) to media.awards@pmrczambia.net

Include relevant supporting documents e.g. script or full reports, video and audio clips. Only one entry is allowed per category.

All content submitted for entry must have been published or broadcast between 1st January 2019 and 20th November 2019.

The PMRC Media Awards Committee will use the following nine (9) dimensions to grade work that will be submitted:

- Clarity of submission
- Reference data
- Contextualization
- Objective
- Topical
- Originality of aspect of views
- Depth of analysis
- Grassroots connection: What it means for Zambia/Zambians
- Impact on national development

We look forward to receiving submissions in the various categories. The closing date for submissions is 20th November 2019

For queries call 0977716387

LOOKING AHEAD

- The Impact of ICTs on Education, a case study
- Understanding the Role of the IDC towards Infrastructure development
- Investigating the State of Decentralisation in Zambia
- Energy Market Dynamics in Zambia
- Investigating the Implementation of the 7NDP
- Tracking the Reforms in the MTEF
- Land Policy Analysis
- Lusaka Province Media Workshop
- Media Awards
- Higher Education Debates
- International Public Lecture

2019 PMRC NEWS LETTER

JANUARY TO JUNE

VOLUME 4



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