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Executive Director's Remarks

Diversification of Zambia's Power Sector in the face of Load Shedding Management and Incentives for Solar Equipment

An adequate power supply underpins any successful economy. However, Zambia has struggled to generate enough electricity to meet growing demand as the country has developed. This longstanding issue came to a head in 2015/16 and now in 2019 when poor rains depleted the hydroelectric power stations which provide over 83% of Zambia's power. The ensuing load-shedding in 2015/16 and 2019 has had severe consequences for the economy, as businesses scale back production, small to medium sized enterprises struggle and households experience blackouts. As demand continues to grow, it is essential that Zambia gets energy generation right if the country is to fulfil its potential for growth. PMRC has long been an advocate of Renewable Energy Master Plan to actualize the aspect of a viable energy mix for Zambia. Indeed massive opportunities for diversification do exist in solar and geothermal energy.

While the country appeared to have overcome short-term challenges in electricity generation after power cuts in 2014-15 the fundamental challenge of exponential increases in demand remains as evidenced by the power deficit currently being experienced that has resulted in increased power outages throughout the country. PMRC work in the power sector has highlighted the challenges and modelled power demand by households and economic sectors to demonstrate the need to diversify power sector sources given the country's below-cost tariffs, complex procurement processes, planning

bottlenecks, credit-worthiness of ZESCO Limited and regulatory environment in which the Energy Regulation Board exists. Furthermore, without diversification of power sources, power supply will remain vulnerable to seasonal rain patterns and long-term climate change. Moreover, the Government's fiscal position in the face of debt obligations owing to massive infrastructure investments limits the scope for direct investment in improved capacity.

Therefore, the key to adequately improving power supply in line with fiscal consolidation is through private sector investment in Independent Power Producers (IPPs) where the country has struggled to attract investments as well as demand side management measures. The Zambian Government in its efforts to mitigate demand for power has embarked on demand side management measures through the modification of consumer demand for power using various methods such as financial incentives for using energy efficient equipment and behavioral change through education. Some of the financial incentives include; the Customs and Excise (Electrical Machinery and Equipment Regulations, 2008 Statutory Instrument No. 32 of 2008 which suspended customs duty on generators and other alternative sources of power such as solar panels. To compliment this, Government through the Value Added Tax Act (zero-rating) (amendment no. 2) order 2008 Statutory Instrument No. 33 of 2008, also zero-rated the supply of these items in order to make these affordable to the wider sector of the country. These measures as stipulated in the two Statutory Instruments imply that that NO customs duty and VAT should be charged

on items such as energy efficient lighting lamps, solar geysers, solar batteries and generators as specified in the schedule. Added to this, the 2020 Budget further highlighted that in order to mitigate the impact of climate change and promote the use of alternative energy sources, Government has zero rated the supply of gas stoves, other gas cookers and gas boilers. To ensure that this measure is a success, there is need to engage with gas supply companies so as to have the commodity affordable to most citizens and to allay safety concerns.

However, PMRC notes that the application of SI 32 and 33 has not been consistent with some companies and individuals operating in the market reporting having to pay taxes on occasional imports due exemptions not being well defined and different interpretations at the various entry points. Given the quantum of taxes in import duties and value added tax this creates significant uncertainty for companies and individuals thereby raising the cost for end-users.

Further, the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) in 2017 revised the licensing regime for solar equipment which made it a requirement for all importers of solar equipment to obtain a licence from the ERB and quality certification from the country of origin with each shipment. This measure is meant to protect consumers from poor quality products that have in the past flooded the Zambian market and to protect investments made by businesses that have a high compliance rate towards standards.

PMRC would like to urge the Government to;

- Improve clarity in statutory instruments no. 32 and 33 of 2008 and thereby reduce scope for misinterpretation and misapplication.
- Explicitly state and distinguish between solar batteries used to store energy from ones used in different applications but using the same technology. There should be a clear categorisation of which specific solar product products are exempted.
- Waive Energy Regulation Board requirements for individuals importing solar solutions for personal or household use by specifying limits on what constitutes application for personal use.
- Scale up the implementation of the IDC Solar Project being set up in the MFEZ.
- Urgently formulate a programme to set up further solar projects across the country under the PPP arrangement. Using Bilateral relations with some of the worlds leading nations in solar installation, we must begin to roll-out a massive solar instalment programme.
- Educate citizens on efficient use of power through sensitization programmes on safety of alternative sources such as gas and gas stoves whose duty was zero-rated in the 2020 budget.
- Provide greater incentives for power efficient equipment to increase uptake and reduce demand on electricity grid.
- Ensure ZESCO regularly conducts load-analyses and provides accurate information on load management to forestall panic usage. Load management must be applied fairly while giving priority to industry, health facilities and small medium-sized enterprises.
- Overall there should be regular communication relayed to the nation by the Ministry of Energy, ZESCO and IDC; explaining measures being undertaken and also clarifying some misconceptions that may arise.

These measures if correctly implemented will help mitigate the power deficit in the medium term while the country strives to increase and diversify its power sector portfolio. PMRC calls on all stakeholders to come together and submit forth viable suggestions and recommendations that would expedite the mitigation of the current power deficit.

In view of climate smart agriculture: Agriculture and fisheries dubbed as the holy grail of diversification are highly dependent on the climate. Increases in temperature and carbon dioxide

(CO2) can increase some crop yields in some places. But to realize these benefits, nutrient levels, soil moisture, water availability, and other conditions must also be met. Changes in the frequency and severity of droughts and floods could pose challenges for farmers and livestock and threaten food safety. Overall, climate change could make it more difficult to grow crops, raise animals, and catch fish in the same ways and same places as we have done in the past. The effects of climate change also need to be considered along with other evolving factors that affect agricultural production, such as changes in farming practices and technology. According to Zambia's 2018/19 crop forecast maize production declined from 2,394,907 metric tonnes in 2017/18 season to 2,004,389 metric tonnes in 2018/19 accounting for 16% decline in production due to climate change effects that led to prolonged dry spells. Out of the total production of maize, small and medium scale farmers contributed 94.5% while large scale farmers took up 5.5%. PMRC therefore recommends the deployment of climate smart agriculture practices and the re-alignment of spending in the agriculture sector to focus on key drivers of growth in the sector such as irrigation, livestock and fisheries management, disease control, research and development, and extension services. There is significant Climate Change Research that is being undertaken in Zambia and there is need to coordinate and ensure maximum utilization of the information generated for effective implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures.

PMRC's vision to unlock Zambia's potential was bolstered by domestic and international think-tank exchanges and various stakeholder collaborations that resulted in detailed context of policy development conversations. This year, PMRC hosted the Africa China Think Tanks Forum under the theme Africa-China Economic Development Agenda-Opportunities for Belt and Road Initiative & FOCAC," with the sub-theme of "Rebranding Africa as a Premier Destination." PMRC continues to anchor context, comparative discussions of research agendas, communication strategies and ways of engaging with the Government to achieve successful operations.

These events have provided a unique opportunity for PMRC to promote and encourage good governance and keep the citizenry informed on critical social and economic policy issues. As we look back on some of our achievements and publications produced during the course of the year, we invite you to continue to work with us as we achieve our mission to 'Unlock Zambia's Potential'.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing partnership, support and feedback in all aspects of our work. We will continue to produce high quality, relevant and timely public policy analysis, policy monitoring and reform proposals.



Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu
PMRC Executive Director



Africa-China Think Tanks Forum: Africa-China Economic Development Agenda - Opportunities For Belt And Road Initiative & FOCAC.

Sub theme: Rebranding Africa As a Premiere Destination

Introduction

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 Premier 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 Premier 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.

Organization and attendance

The forum was held on the 23rd and 24th May 2019 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka Zambia and 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 Failing? What Economic Opportunities and Challenges exist and how to overcome these?
- Opportunities and Challenges of Bilateral And Multilateral Relations Between African 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.

Read more by following the links below

LINKS FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC AND REPORT

<https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Africa-China-Think-Tanks-Infographics.pdf>

<https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Africa-China-Think-Tanks-Forum-2019-Report.pdf>







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 small-holder 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 farmersto 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.

LINK FOR REPORT

<https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads-2019-09-towards-the-implementation-of-a-sustainable-inclusive-and-effective-e-voucher-farmer-input-support-program-fisp-in-2019-and-beyond-newspaper-2-pdf/>



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.**

LINK FOR REPORT

<https://pmrczambia.com/blog-zambia-scores-with-first-scaling-solar-project-in-africa/>





A Smart and Value Centred Public Service: The Key to Enhanced Public Sector

The Public Service Vision and Balanced Scorecard for the **Zambian Public Service** have been launched under the theme “A smart and value centered Public Service”. The vision is anchored on the following core values: **Integrity, Honesty, Objectivity, Impartiality, Loyalty, Respect, Accountability, Excellence, Confidentiality and Selflessness**. Further, the strategic themes are: Human Capital Leadership Development, Work Environment Enhancement, Partnership Management and Work Culture Transformation. As a matter of Standard, The Public service plays a fundamental role in governance of every country and strengthening public services is very critical. Hitherto, we believe that with measures such as the vision launched, public service overall is strengthened to facilitate healthy communities, promoting accountability, active citizen engagement, and frameworks for development and growth. This is step in the right direction towards Government’s commitment to ensuring **“total adherence to good governance by 2030”**, as espoused in the 7NDP.

Generally, the 21st century poses new and multiple challenges to public services,

including widening inequality, slow economic growth, and the irreversible impact of climate change. More so than in any other part of the world, Africa is facing all these challenges simultaneously and they are amplified by the continent's young and urbanising demography. As a result, citizens are making new demands beyond the delivery of traditional public services, including, but not limited to, solidarity, social inclusion and business-enabling environments. These are indeed new dimensions that are addressed by the Public Service Vision that promotes inclusivity, hard work, excellence and selflessness among all.

The Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) under Pillar 5; Development Outcome 4; commits towards **enhancing professionalism and efficiency in the public service**, with reforms aimed at building public satisfaction and confidence. The other critical element pertains towards modernizing and enhancing the delivery of public services through the use of ICTs. We observe the progress being made to attain this by SMART Zambia integration platform. Ultimately, we believe that in order to expedite service delivery and development, we need to

continuously seek innovative methods that are effective. In this era of technological advancements, we have to continue pursuing means of service delivery that cut out delays and ensure efficiency at every interval. Considering that further, the 7NDP lists poor time management and poor working culture as some of the negative traits that may be detrimental to achieving rapid progress in development. **The Public Service Vision and Balanced Scorecard** are very timely towards addressing these challenges and this should be commended. This coincides with what PMRC has been advocating for; a National Mindset Education Programme that is aimed at emulating all the positive elements of our culture and also developing a core Zambian Identity of hard work and selfless service to the nation

In conclusion, PMRC welcomes the Balanced Scorecard for the Zambian public service especially that it presents a realistic approach towards attaining excellence in the public service, with the broader aim of enhancing service delivery for the citizenry. We are committed towards playing our role in relation to monitoring and ensuring that the strategies and initiatives are supported. Some of the strategies instituted are;

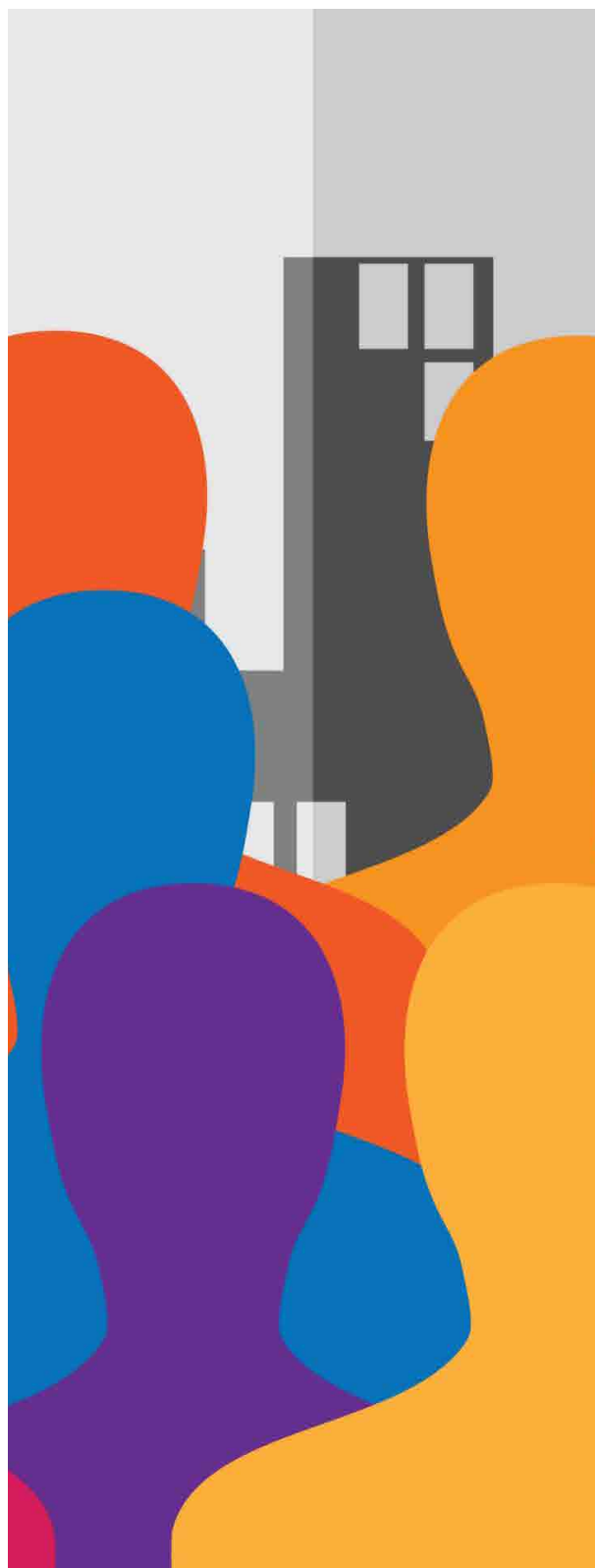
- a. Continuous competence based learning and leadership
- b. Implementation of Decentralisation programme
- c. Implementation of e-Government
- d. Implementation of a work culture remodeling programme and institutional restructuring.

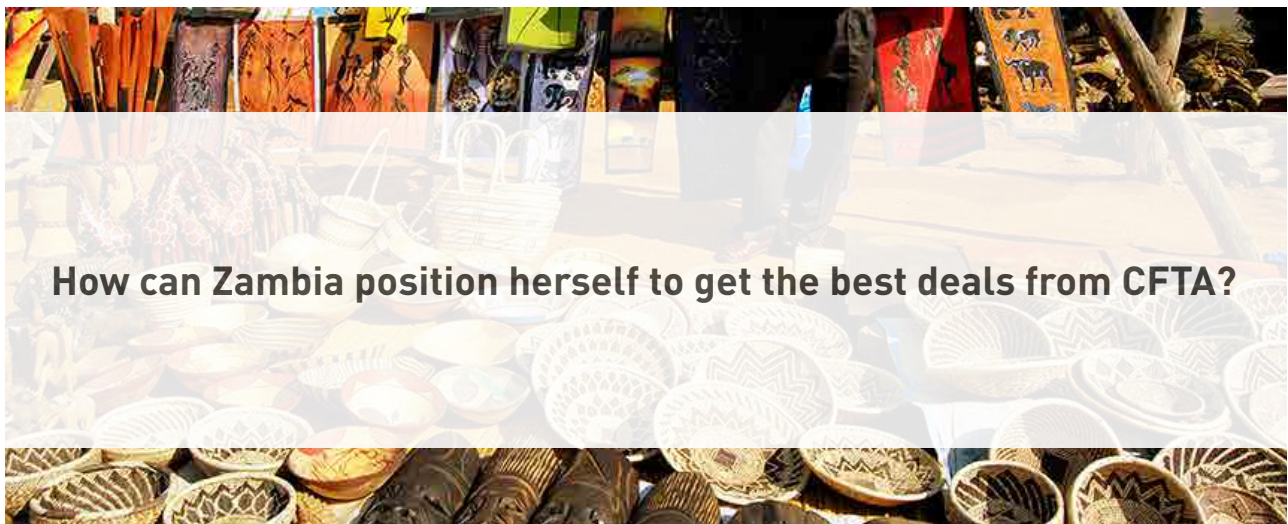
These measures are in line with the boarder national vision. PMRC has been advocating for these reforms in relation to the public-sector enhancement. The challenge now remains on implementation and we need a collective approach to ensure that we adhere to these measures, as they will definitely be key in enhancing service delivery in the country and attainment of our aspirations.

Download Here:

LINK FOR REPORT

<https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/PRESS-STATEMENT-A-SMART-AND-VALUE-CENTERED-PUBLIC-SERVICE-%E2%80%9CTHE-KEY-TO-ENHANCED-SERVICE-DELIVERY%E2%80%9D-.pdf>





How can Zambia position herself to get the best deals from CFTA?

Zambia must prepare for the various potential challenges that she may face. In order to prepare for the potential increase of migration, various policies may be developed. These policies must be set up in such a way that Zambian citizens are protected from loss of employment; and that immigration of skilled labour is encouraged to ensure that the benefits of these skills are harnessed. Skilled labor allows the country to be efficient in its production and also its ability to develop advanced technological systems and equipment within the country. Zambia also needs to focus on strengthening the facilitation of movement of capital.

As the region becomes a large single market, competition is likely to increase for Zambian producers in particular. It is essential for Zambian producers and businesses to be able to survive in this very competitive market. Research on the potential demands of products that Zambia may have comparative advantage in should be carried out to ensure necessary targeting is done. This will give Zambia an advantage as it services varying customers in different countries. Cost-benefit analysis of the best means of business must be undertaken to ensure efficiency and to benefit from economies of scale. Zambia must also

invest in technology and equipment which improve productivity.

Zambia can also mobilize domestic resources in such a way that it can survive the potential short term losses that come with developing the CFTA. In this way, the country may not incur a lot of costs despite the reduction in tariff revenue. The removal of trade barriers is likely to bring about foreign direct investment and more multinational companies that need to be regulated. The issue of cross-border tax avoidance may arise as a result of this. Zambia may avoid this by endorsing a global common reporting standard for Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) which allows easier access to financial information to the residence country.

Support must be provided for small scale producers to avoid crowding out by a market run by the private sector. Small scale producers may adapt to the post-CFTA market through enhanced technical, managerial and financial skills and meet industry standards. The Government may assist in the investment of these attributes.

Zambia's priorities in its trading arrangements are currently focused on interventions that promote value addition,

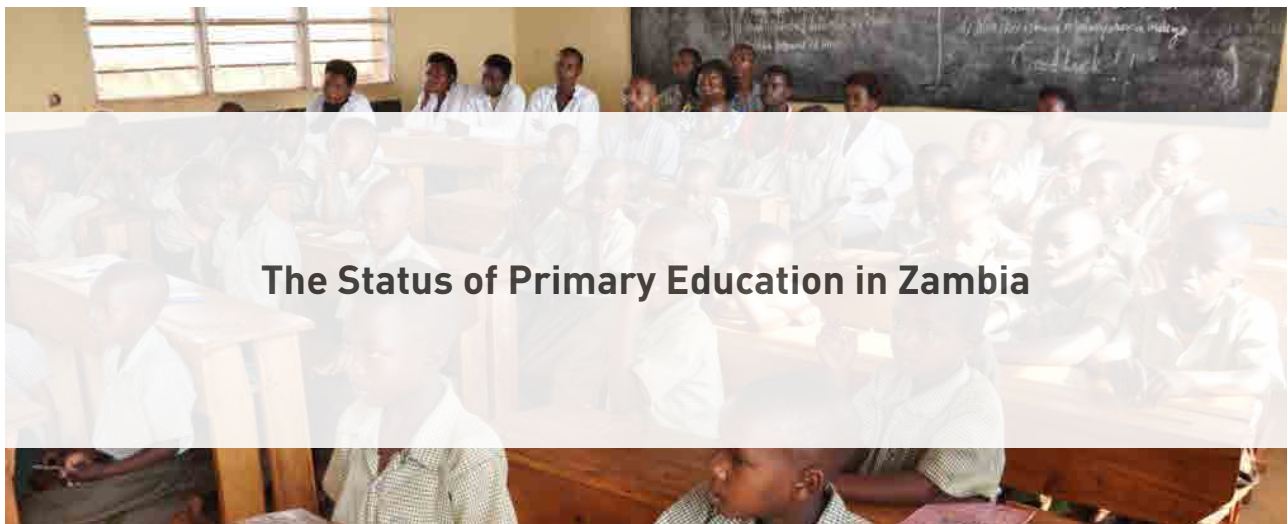
diversification and job and wealth creation. In order to achieve this Zambia has recently developed an export strategy that is focused on ensuring beneficiation for the domestic industry and manufacturing products that will be able to meet the demands of the CFTA countries.

Download Here:

LINK FOR REPORT

<https://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/The-Continental-Free-Trade-Area-CFTA.-What%E2%80%99s-in-it-for-Zambia.pdf>





The Status of Primary Education in Zambia

Education plays a major role in the economic development of any country. Education, coupled with human and skills development, is an important component of every Government, as it builds the competencies of the workforce responsible for service delivery and development. To this effect, investment in human capital is key towards achieving sustainable economic development. **Primary education is a basic right of every child, and education policymakers around the world are increasingly aware of its potential to impact child development positively.** Therefore, investing in human capital through the provision of primary education, brings about powerful social change and creates opportunities for a developing country like Zambia to realise its full potential.

The Zambian education system has a 7-5-4 structure, namely 7 years at primary school, 2 and 3 years at junior and higher secondary school amounting to 5 years, and 4 years at university for undergraduate degrees. Primary education in Zambia is from grade one to seven and has an entry age of seven years. **According to the 2017 Educational Statistical Bulletin, the 2017 national Gross Intake Rate (GIR), which is a rough measure of access to grade one stood at 110.0%.** The GIR is the total number

of entrants in the first grade of primary education, regardless of age expressed as a percentage of the population at the official primary school entrance. GIR of over 100%, like in the case of Zambia, implies that both under and over-aged learners enter grade 1 at the same time.

The Net Intake Rate (NIR) which is the percentage of seven year olds who enter school for the first time, expressed as percentage of the total number of seven-year-old population stood at 47.7% in 2017, this implies that 47.7 % of the learners in Grade one were of the official entrance age of 7 years. The 2017 statistics also showed that 8.6% and 43.1% of the learners were below and above the official entrance age of 7 years respectively. **The 43.1% of learners above the official entrance age is concerning as studies have proven that cognitive development in a person is at its peak during the early years in one's life.**

The Implementation and adherence to the official age of entry into Grade 1 remains a challenge in Zambia, especially in the rural areas where the reporting of childbirths remains low. For this reason school officials find it challenging to assess whether or not, a child is eligible for Grade 1. Rural areas also experience high levels of poverty which has resulted in many children being

malnourished stunted. Without proper birth documentation, such children may be seen as underage thereby disadvantaging them to enroll for Grade 1.

The Zambian Government has made efforts with regards to achieving universal primary education by being a signatory to several international protocols such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Government has also introduced **free Primary Education Policy and the School Feeding Program** as measures aimed at increasing accessibility to primary education. Another measure which the **Government has taken up is an increase in permanent classroom spaces at primary level.** The 2017 Education Statistical Bulletin showed that there was an increase in the total number of permanent classroom spaces from 39,941 in 2016 to 43,627 in 2017.

However, there have been some challenges that have characterised the provision of primary education which include, among others, inadequate budget financing. According to international standards, such as the 2015 Incheon Declaration, signatory countries were urged to commit 4-6% of their Gross Domestic Product or 15-20% of their public expenditures to improving the status of education. The 2020 budget allocation for education shows a reduction from K13.6 billion in 2019 (representing 15.3% of the national budget) to K13.1 billion (representing 12.4% of the national budget) which is a setback in improving the status of education in Zambia.

The 2017 statistical bulletin also revealed a bias in the location of primary schools. It was reported that 81.7% of primary schools were located within rural areas. In as much as this may be a good move with regards to reducing developmental inequalities, it disadvantages primary school going pupils from poor households living in urban areas. It has been noted that urban areas have a large concentration of private primary

schools, which however, have proven to be more expensive and maybe out of reach for the disadvantaged poor urban households. Secondly, it has been reported that most townships in urban areas record high birth rates which increases the demand for primary school. Therefore, there is need for more primary schools to be located in urban areas.

In conclusion **Primary education is important, in fact it is essential for numerous reasons including; ensuring that children acquire basic literacy and allowing for students to learn through socialization. Primary education also fulfils the special needs of students during the first few years of their schooling life and it has specific goals that make it a critical component of an educational system as a whole.** Therefore, achieving universal primary education is one of the ways in which Zambia as a nation can enhance human development.

In view of improving access to primary education in Zambia, PMRC recommends the following;

- Government should ensure budget allocation towards education meets international standards of 20% of the total budget.
- There is need for sensitization on the importance of recording childbirths as it will help assess the eligibility of one's age of entry as well as provide information that will ensure effective planning for primary schools.
- There is need for a needs assessment to be carried out which will help Government assess areas that require more primary schools.

Download Here:

LINK FOR REPORT

<https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/OPED-The-Status-of-Primary-Education-in-Zambia.pdf>



The Overview of the Aquaculture Sector In Zambia, Challenges and Best Practice in Aquaculture Sector.

The sub-sector has over the recent years experienced development making Zambia one of the leading countries in fish farming in the region. Despite these developments, the sub-sector has still remained in its infancy stage if compared to other sub-sectors in the agricultural sector such as the crop and livestock sub-sectors. The following appear to be some of the factors constraining the sector:

To begin with, the aquaculture sub-sector is guided by inadequate policy framework, although Government has developed an aquaculture strategic plan, this plan has not been fully implemented to facilitate for the management of the sector which could enhance fish production. It is therefore required that Government works with relevant stakeholders to implement best aquaculture management practices which will further develop the sub-sector. With the introduction of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, there exists an opportunity for improved policy implementation and improved support.

Secondly, there have been low levels of investment in the aquaculture sub-sector when compared to other sectors in the economy. However, there is need for a deliberate paradigm shift that would change the development of the sector

through research and extension services for meaningful aquaculture development to be actualized spearheaded by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

Lastly, there is fragmented coordination amongst stakeholders leading to delays in the implementation of aquaculture strategies, interventions, and policies. It is therefore important for the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to work together with different stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of initiatives that will increase aquaculture production and productivity.

BEST PRACTICE IN AQUACULTURE IN AFRICA

There are a number of countries Zambia can learn from best practice for a successful aquaculture sector such as Egypt. The Egyptian aquaculture sub-sector is currently number ten in the world in terms of fish production and the largest in Africa. This status has been due to a number of interventions that the Egyptian government has implemented in the last four decades targeted on reducing fish imports due to a reduction in capture fisheries and the realization of the economic opportunities of aquaculture. In 2010 the Egyptian government designed

and implemented a National Aquaculture 2030 Strategy, this strategy focused on the development of freshwater aquaculture with an emphasis on cage fish farming and desert fish farming.

In order to achieve the 2030 strategy, the Egyptian government implemented a wide range of policy interventions such as;

Efficient use of fresh water for fish production through the recirculation aquaculture method of rearing fish, rather than using open ponds. The choice of this type of fish farming was considered the best for increased productivity because it is done all year round, low water requirement and little space.

Financing for aquaculture- the government has made strides in financing aquaculture, although challenges still exist for small-holder farmers to access finance from formal financial institutions when compared to informal credit providers.

The Government has created an environment where it has licensed the establishment of fish feed mills within the country for feed production.

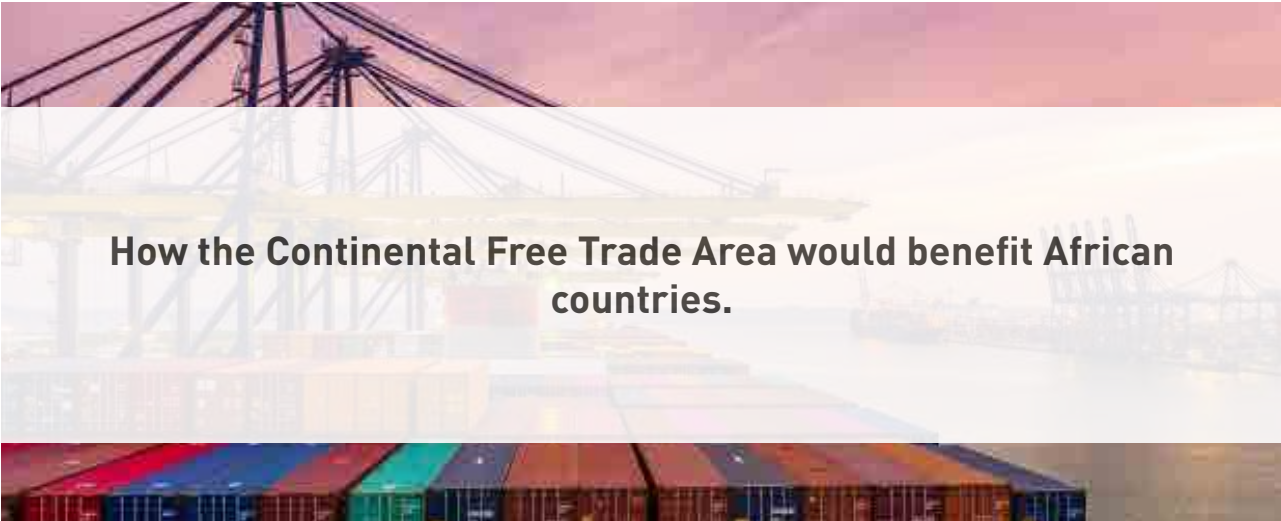
From the Egyptian case, Zambia can adopt the policy implementation of an aquaculture strategy to guide the sub-sector development and the use of the recirculation aquaculture system which will ensure whole year-round fish production which will cushion the gap in supply caused by the fish ban.

Download Here:

LINK FOR REPORT

<https://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/The-Aquaculture-Sub-Sector-in-Zambia-Challenges-and-Opportunities.pdf>





How the Continental Free Trade Area would benefit African countries.

According to UNCTAD, a UN body focusing on trade; in 2010 intra-African trade only made up 10.2 percent of Africa's total trade. Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) aims to remove trade barriers in order to improve intra-African trade. To achieve this, the CFTA draft agreement commits countries to removing tariffs on 90 percent of goods with 10 percent of "sensitive items" to be phased in later. The agreement also liberalises services and aims to eliminate non-tariff barriers which hamper intra-African trade. According to a paper by Brenton, nontrade barriers limit access to necessary inputs; for instance, limited access to inputs such as seeds and fertilisers in the agricultural sector. Non-tariff barriers such as lack of competition and unfavourable regulations may hinder access to inputs of production. Clear regulatory systems of inputs and outputs ensures reliable information about the quality of goods and services available.

Though there may be an initial loss of revenue income, the long-term welfare gain is significantly larger. A research paper by UNCTAD suggests that elimination of all tariffs between African countries would take an annual US\$4.1bn out of the trading states' coffers, but would create an overall annual welfare gain of US\$16.1bn in the long run. Short term integration and adjustment costs will be incurred in establishing the CFTA. These short term costs include loss in trade tariff revenue, local SME's vanishing in front of stronger competition, adjusting unemployment,

required investment in infrastructure, political and regulatory reforms. Majority of the welfare benefits to be gained from further integration will only materialise in the long run. These include lower import prices, efficient production, output increase, higher value-added jobs and exports, and technological specialization.

With the CFTA in place, the continent can benefit from a single market for goods and services, having free movement of people and investments; which therefore paves the way for accelerating the establishment of the continental customs union and the African customs union. This in turn would bring about the spillover effects from countries that may develop new technologies and skills in response to the single continental market demands. The removal of barriers amongst the countries allows free flow of experts and skills.

The establishment of CFTA could also resolve the challenges of multiple and overlapping memberships. Countries belonging to many Regional Economic Communities (RECs) face multiple financial obligations. Such countries must also cope with attending various meetings, policy decisions, instruments, procedures, and schedules. The customs officials of such member countries have to cope with varying tariff reduction rates, RoO, trade documentation, and statistical nomenclatures. These varying considerations may undermine the effectiveness of customs officials' overall

performance. The overlaps and multiple memberships may also affect the commitment of member countries and consequently the success of any Regional Trade Agreement (RTA). The CFTA can correct this by encompassing the other REIs and progressively harmonising and integrating their activities, in a similar fashion as ECOWAS playing an umbrella role for the sub-REIs in Western Africa.

Furthermore, Countries will benefit from enhanced competitiveness at the industry and enterprise level. When a country has competitive companies within its sectors, the country itself is more likely to have a competitive advantage as a nation competing in a large single market.

African industrial products may have increased competitiveness through harnessing the economies of scale of a continental-wide market. Small African Countries, having access to this large market, will no longer be restricted to producing their traditional products. Better policies and human resources could make them the focus of new manufacturing operations that serve larger markets. Additionally, in the long run, increased competition due to trade liberalizations provides incentives for domestic firms to operate more efficiently. As firms are faced with competitive pressures, they are forced to use their resources efficiently, implement new technologies and innovate in order to survive under the new conditions.

The CFTA may result in increased food security through reduction to barriers on trade in agricultural products. Export restrictions, in particular, decrease food security as farmers may not be able to secure higher prices in neighbouring markets. This may provide incentives for them to shift to producing other crops or reduce output, creating losses to the economy as a whole. This suggests that when a country lifts these restrictions, as would be the case with the CFTA; countries can benefit from the easy access of inputs of agricultural products. This, in turn, contributes to increased food security.

The CFTA may result in increased rate of diversification and transformation of Africa's economy and the continent's ability to supply its import needs from its own resources. As the

continent operates as a single market, it can obtain import needs from its own resources. Moreover, as the continent develops its infrastructure to support the single market, employment can be provided for its people and development of engineering services can be fostered. Moving away from dependence on raw materials; it also allows the continent's economies to diversify. The associated technological development, combined with appropriate industrial policies, will lead to the creation of new industries.

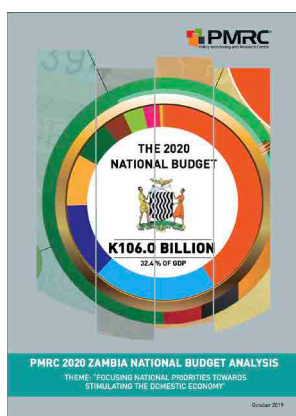
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LINK FOR REPORT

www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/The-Continental-Free-Trade-Area-CFTA.-What%E2%80%99s-in-it-for-Zambia.pdf



ANALYSIS



PMRC 2020 Zambia National Budget Analysis: Theme “Focusing on National Priorities Towards Stimulating the Domestic Economy”

On Friday 27th September 2019, the Minister of Finance, Honourable Dr. Bwalya K.E. Ng’andu, MP delivered the 2020 Budget address to the National Assembly under the theme “Focusing national priorities towards stimulating the domestic economy.”

KEY MESSAGES

- The 2019 National Budget was formulated against the backdrop of the austerity measures being implemented by Government to deliver fiscal consolidation. It provided a firm foundation for the country to return to moderate debt levels, entrench overall macroeconomic stability and promote sustained and inclusive growth.
- The 2020 Budget focuses on stimulating the domestic economy by reducing the budget deficit, rationalising debt contraction and dismantling of domestic arrears while protecting social sector allocations. This is in line with the Seventh National Development Plan, austerity measures and key reform areas in the Economic Stabilisation and Growth Programme.
- The 2020 Budget seeks to further consolidate the austerity measures that Government has been implementing by directing resources and efforts towards stimulating the domestic economy by dismantling domestic arrears and addressing the debt overhang. The process of formulating the 2020 Budget was informed by the compelling need to continue consolidating the fiscal position whilst safeguarding the allocations on social protection and other core service delivery areas.
- Government proposes to spend K106.0 billion in 2020, representing 32.4% of GDP. Of this amount, K72.0 billion, representing 22.0% of GDP will come from domestic revenues, while the balance will be raised through domestic and external financing.
- The fiscal deficit is projected to reduce to 5.5% of GDP in 2020 from 6.5% in 2019.
- To efficiently allocate resources in the 2020 Budget, the Output Based Budgeting system has been rolled out to 22 more Ministries and Spending Agencies from seven in 2019.

Read more by following the link below

LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION

<https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/PMRC-2020-Zambia-National-Budget-Analysis.pdf>

ANALYSIS



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/2019/08/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 .

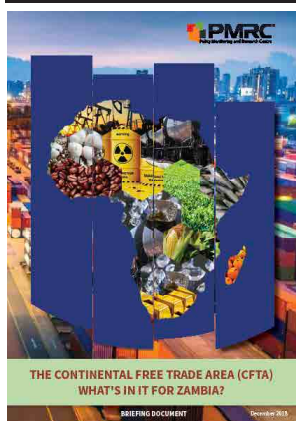
The question that begs answers is whether ZESCO's proposed tariff adjustment over the years is justified?

Read more by following the link below

LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION

<https://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/The-Case-for-Cost-Reflective-Tariffs-Implementation-%E2%80%93-Is-Zambia-getting-it-Right.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/>

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>

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>

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>

The PMRC team, appeared before the Expanded Parliamentary Committee on Budgets and presented on the 2020 Zambia National Budget under the theme: “Focusing National Priorities Towards Stimulating the Domestic Economy”



Read more by following the link below

LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads>

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);



- Social Protection and Climate Change: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: "Empowering Rural Farmers Through Rural Development Responsive Social Protection within Changing Climatic Conditions and Social Protection and Natural Resource Management a Case of Ecosystem based Social Protection in Zambia, held in South Africa.



INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS/COLLABORATIONS

PMRC Head of Monitoring and Evaluation Mr Akabondo Kabechani made a presentation on Understanding Africa's Energy Needs: The Case of Zambia at the Africa-China Industrial and Infrastructural Cooperation-Drivers and Prospects Conference being held at the University of Johannesburg Centre for African Studies in Johannesburg South Africa.

The presentation focused on;

- Power Sector Reform in Africa
- The Case of Zambia's Power Sector
- Challenges
- The Case for Cost-Reflective Tariffs
- Effects of Unprecedented Increases
- Role of Private Sector Investment
- Policy Reform for Efficiency of ZESCO
- Regulation, Planning and Procurement

DOWNLOAD LINK: <https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Understanding-Africa%E2%80%99s-Energy-Needs-The-Case-of-Zambia-Presentation.pdf>



PMRC Head of Research and Analysis Mr Salim Kaunda made a presentation on Powering Africa's Industrial Development: The Role of Energy and Water Resource Management held at the University of Johannesburg Centre for African Studies in Johannesburg South Africa.

The presentation focused on;

- Industrial Development in Africa
- The Case of Energy-Challenges and Opportunities
- Water Resource Management-Challenges and Opportunities
- Concept of the Blue Economy
- The Role of China-What We Can Learn
- Recommendations

DOWNLOAD LINK: <https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/The-Role-of-Energy-and-Water-Resource-Management.pdf>

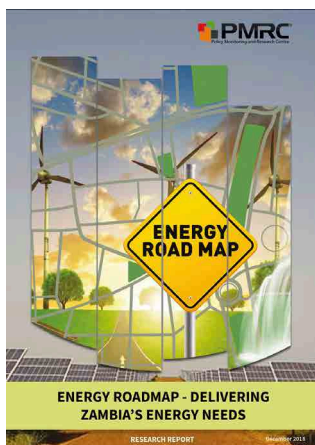


INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS/COLLABORATIONS

PMRC Executive Director, Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu, attended a side-event on Illicit Financial Flows (IFF), which was hosted by Nigeria and co-hosted by Zambia, at the 2019 United Nations General Assembly. Other co-hosts included UNICAID, NEPAD, South Africa, Norway, and Ethiopia. President Lungu, President Buhari Of Nigeria and President Zewde Of Ethiopia gave keynote addresses.



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>

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

PMRC Executive Director, Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu, and Japanese Ambassador to Zambia, His Excellency Ryuta Mizuuchi, held a closed-door high-level policy dialogue.



Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) hosted a High Level Stakeholders meeting focusing on strategies aimed at improving the implementation of Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP)-Direct Input Supply (DIS) and the e-Voucher Models. Further, the meeting was aimed at contributing towards attainment of key objectives of the E-voucher as well as enhancement of crop diversification in the Agriculture sector. We had representation from the following stakeholders; Zambian National farmers Union (ZNFU), Millers Association of Zambia (MAZ), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Consumer Trust Unit (CUTS), Grain Traders Association of Zambia (GTAZ), Smart Zambia Institute (SZI), Ministry of Finance, Indaba Agriculture Policy Research Institute (IAPRI), National Union of Small Scale Farmers of Zambia (NUSFAZ). Deputy Secretary to Cabinet and Smart Zambia Institute (SZI) National Coordinator, Dr. Martine Mtonga graced the high level E-voucher Stakeholders Consultative Meeting which was held at Southern Sun Ridgeway Hotel. The meeting focused on looking at strategies aimed at improving the implementation of Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) in Zambia.

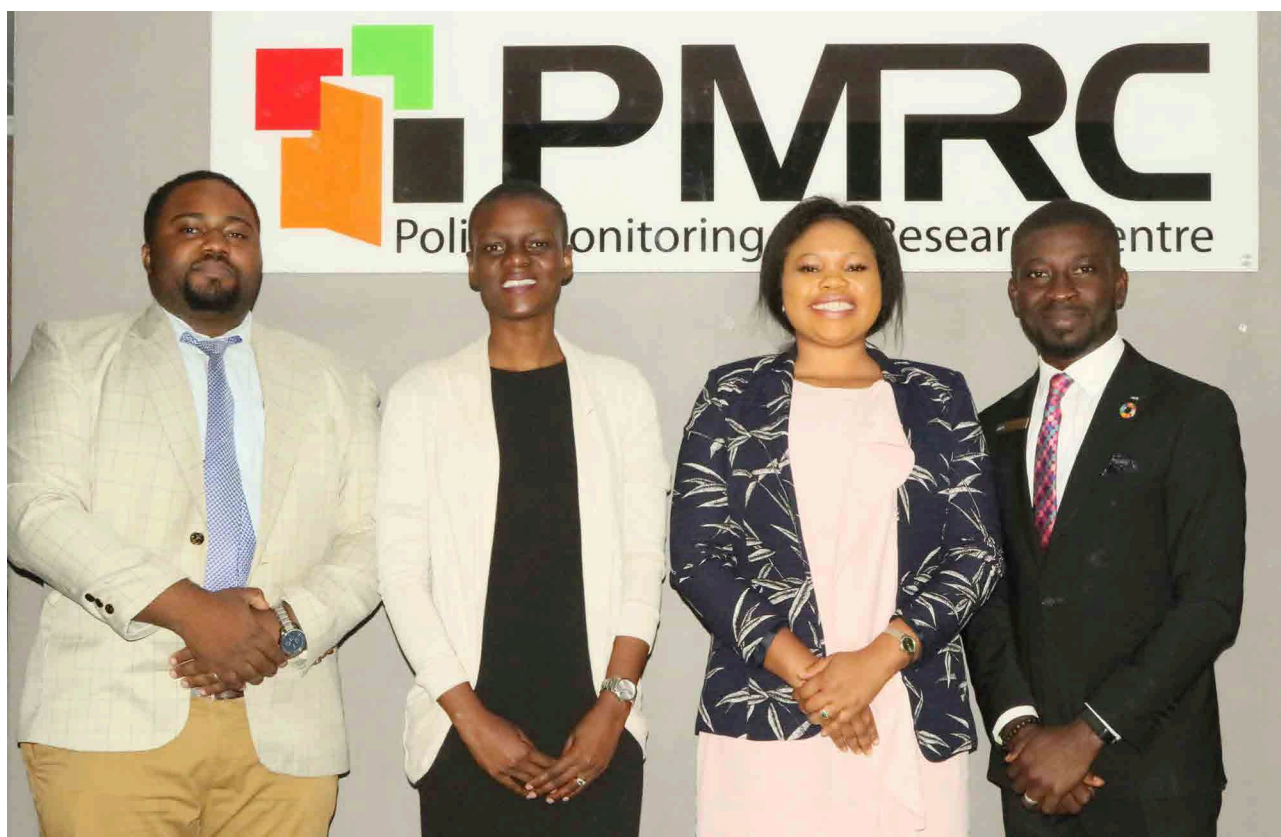


PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

PMRC Executive Director Mrs Bernadette Deka Zulu, was a guest speaker at the Youth Lead Activity Zambia which is a USAID funded project at FHI 360. She gave a talk bordering on the policy environment in Zambia and the role of PMRC in policy formulation and the requirements of being a successful young leader.



The 2019 Junior Chambers International (JCI)- Overall Vice President assigned to Zambia, Mr. Adeniyi Rasheed Balogun, and Zambia National President Ms Tafadzwa Bete Sasa called on the PMRC Executive Director Mrs Bernadette Deka Zulu to discuss possible collaboration in developmental opportunities for change in Governance, Economic Development and Entrepreneurship through giving development spaces to young people. JCI is a global organization for young active citizens (aged 18-40 years) with presence in about 5000 communities in more than 125 countries. In Zambia, JCI has five chapters in three cities with over 100 active citizens. Also present during the meeting was the Head of Research and Analysis Mr. Salim Kaunda.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

Eagles of Change Co-Founder, Robson Chalwa, a 4th year student at the University of Zambia, paid a courtesy call on PMRC Executive Director, Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu, to discuss possible partnerships in the organisations upcoming launch themed “Dare to Think, Dare to Act, the Future is Now”



PMRC Executive Director, Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu, met with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Deputy Resident Representative, Fujiie Hitoshi Ph.D, to discuss several areas of mutual interest bordered on Energy, Transport, Education, Health, Water & Sanitation, and Agriculture.

JICA is advancing its activities around the pillars of a field-oriented approach, human security, and enhanced effectiveness, efficiency, and speed. Others present during the meeting included: JICA Project Formulation Advisor Mr. Naoki Uozawa, PMRC Head of Research and Analysis Mr. Salim Kaunda and PMRC Head of Communication and Grants Ms. Melody Simukali.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

PMRC Executive Director Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu met with Sino Hydro Project Director Mr. Zhou Quigguo at the 750 Mega Watts Kafue Gorge Lower Hydro Electric Project in Chikankata District, to discuss Zambia's power deficit and mitigation measures.

The Greenfield 750 (5 x 150) Mega Watts Kafue Gorge Lower Hydropower Project will increase Zambia's generation capacity to 3,648 Mega Watts and is expected to immediately close the current power deficit, end load-shedding and provide power for export. The Power Station will provide greater value for the water resource by using the same water that is used at the existing Kafue Gorge Upper (KGU) Station with an added 30% operational efficiency over KGU. The project has employed 4000 Zambians and is located in the Kafue Gorge, about 65km upstream of the confluence of the Kafue River and the Zambezi River and 9km downstream of the existing 990MW Kafue Gorge Hydroelectric Power Station in Chikankanta District of Southern Province. The first generating unit is expected to be commissioned in the first quarter of 2020 while the project is scheduled to be completed in August 2020 and is expected to supplement Government efforts to develop renewable energy and ease the electricity deficit in the country.

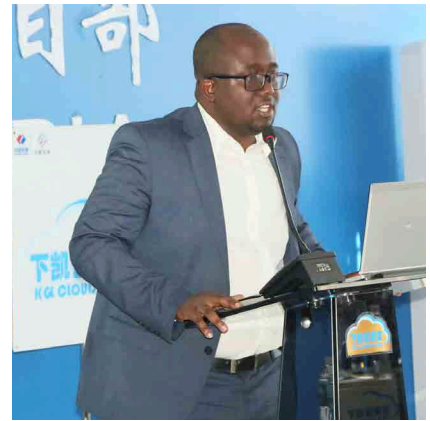
The facility also runs a Skills Institute which trains about 15 Zambians every six months at no cost in craft courses that include; Welding, Mechanics & Electrical Engineering and Laboratory Training.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

PMRC Head of Human Resource and Administration, Mr. Mutala Chawelwa, Head of Communications and Grants, Ms. Melody Simukali, and Mr. Albert Kasoma, a PMRC Senior Researcher, conducted a public lecture at the 750MW Synohydro Kafue Gorge Lower Hydroelectric Project in Chikankata District. The topics of discussion included Ethics in a Workplace, Negotiation Skills, Employee Relations, Personal Growth and Career Progression, and Overview of Energy Research conducted by PMRC and the Role of Management.

The lecture was preceded by a tour of the project's construction sites with Mr. Yuan Haiting, a manager at the site.



PMRC Senior Researcher Ms Chileshe Chaunga presented on Land Tenure and Resource Rights for Women and Youths in Zambia. The presentation was made at the 2019 Planning, Resource Management and Strengthening Tenure Annual Research Symposium hosted by the USAID Integrated Land and Resource Governance (ILRG) program.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

Policy Monitoring and Research Centre hosted a high-level stakeholder meeting. The focus of the meeting was on how Government could reform domestic policy to increase revenue, generate savings and promote private sector growth. Present at the high-level meeting were some PMRC Researchers, Dr. Caleb Fundanga, Dr. Trevor Hambayi, Mr. Fackson Simambwe, Mr. Daniel Mauzu, Mr. Chibamba Kanyama and Ms. Muchimba who represented JCTR.



The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) Executive Director Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu and her team, hosted a delegation of heads of several Governmental and non-Governmental organisations from Malawi. The team was headed by Dr. Thomas Munthali, Director General of Malawi's National Planning Commission and the core discussion was on lessons that could be learnt from Zambia's implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP).

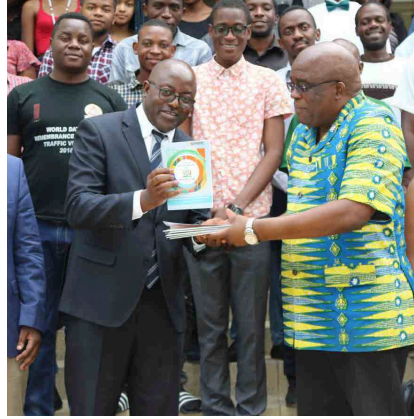
Other accompanying organisations were the IM-Swedish Development Partner, Council of Non-Governmental Organizations of Malawi and Civil Society for Poverty Reduction - Zambia.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

The PMRC team led by Head of Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr. Akabondo Kabechani, conducted a Public Lecture themed 'Unpacking the Zambia 2020 National Budget' at Mulungushi University. The team later presented the PMRC 2020 National Budget Analysis and Infographic.

DOWNLOAD LINK: <https://pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/PMRC-2020-Zambia-National-Budget-Analysis.pdf>



PMRC Executive Director Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu met with DAI Global-Opportunity Manager/ Senior Global Sector Specialist Ms. Lusine Sarkisyan, DAI Global Project Manager –Africa Region – Mr. Aaron Sheldon and Mr. George Mwanda to discuss the Status of Decentralization in Zambia. The team is in Zambia as part of its preparation for an upcoming USAID funded project that will work with Zambian institutions to build up local systems of governance capable of responsive service delivery.

DAI is a global development firm implementing social development projects world wide. The DAI portfolio is divided among four technical sector; governance & stabilization, economic growth, energy & environment and health. DAI is currently implementing the USAID Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUNTA) project in Zambia.

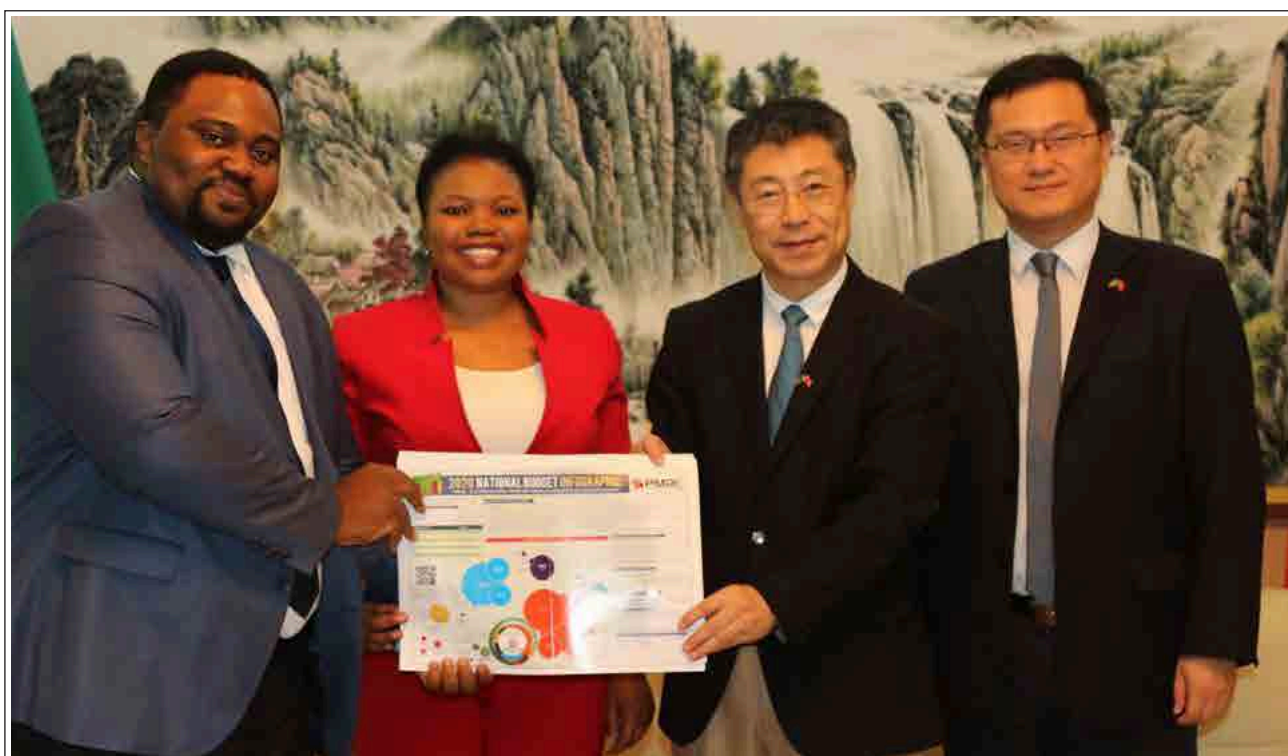


PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

PMRC Team met with Tetra Tech Assistant Development Manager Ms. Lo Wolf from the United States of America (USA) to discuss the Status of Decentralization in Zambia.



On Friday, 8th November 2019, PMRC Executive Director, Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu, paid a courtesy call on the Chinese Ambassador to Zambia, His Excellency Li Jie. Among several themes, the discussions bordered on areas of mutual interest such as Infrastructure Development, Energy, and Manufacturing. Earlier this year, PMRC partnered with the Chinese Embassy to host the Africa-China Think Tanks forum, and this meeting also discussed actualization of the resolutions made from the forum. PMRC Head of Research and Analysis, Mr. Salim Kaunda, was also present in the meeting.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

PMRC Executive Director, Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu met with the Irish Aid Head of Development – Mr. Pronch Murray to discuss several areas of mutual interest bordered on Governance, Education and Social Protection.



Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) hosted Professor Syed Ali and the Mulungushi University Economics Association. The aim of the meeting was for the association to familiarize themselves with PMRC and its works.

The presentations bordered on:

- About PMRC
- Highlights of Recent Research Publications
- How to conduct Research
- Monitoring Government Policy
- PMRC Communication and Outreach Strategy



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.



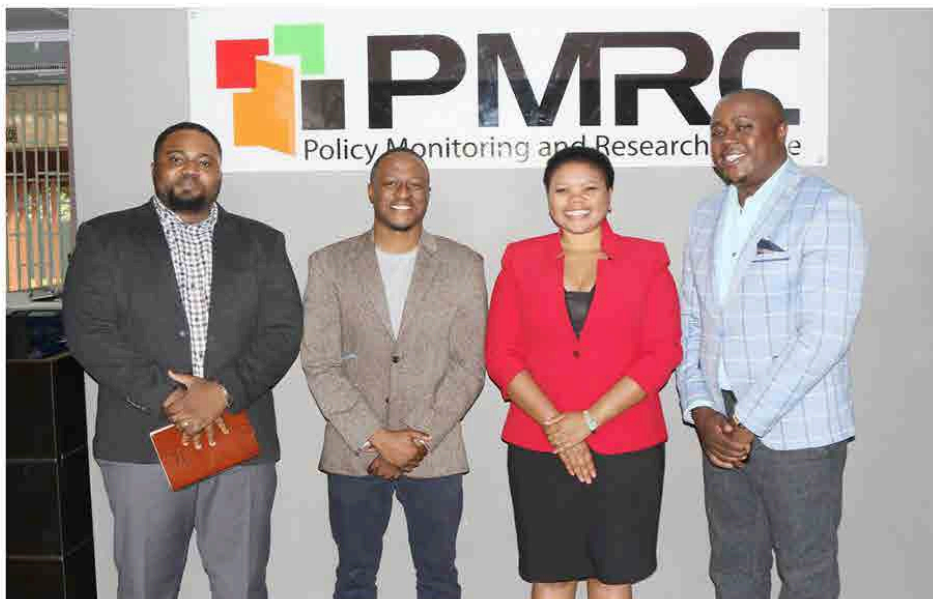
PMRC Executive Director Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu was part of the panel discussion at the Ignite Africa Youth Symposium hosted by the Junior Chamber International - JCI The panel focused on inspiring young people to start from where they are with what they have but with a broader vision of influencing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



National Youth Constituency Assembly Founder Mr. Emmanuel Kamwi and CEO Ms. Nomsa Ingwe met PMRC Executive Director Mrs Bernadette D. Zulu who is a former youth Parliamentarian to prepare for the Zambian National Youth Parliament.



The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre team, led by Executive Director Mrs. Bernadette Deka-Zulu, held a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director, Department of Political Affairs Mrs. Isabelle Lemba and her team to discuss the Diaspora Policy and International Relations towards the attainment of Zambia's development goals.

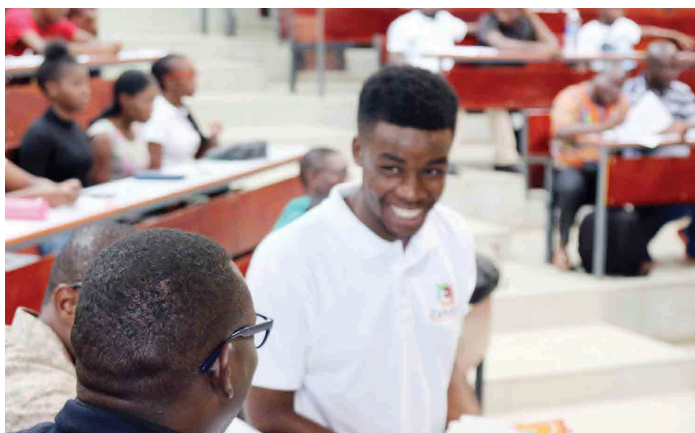
PMRC Executive Director, Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu officiated at the opening of the Youth Hub on public policy promotion, governance, and civic engagement. The Youth Hub is an initiative of the Kelvin Nyirongo Hope Foundation and Humanity Challenge Organization. The initial sponsors of the Youth Hub 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 presented 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).



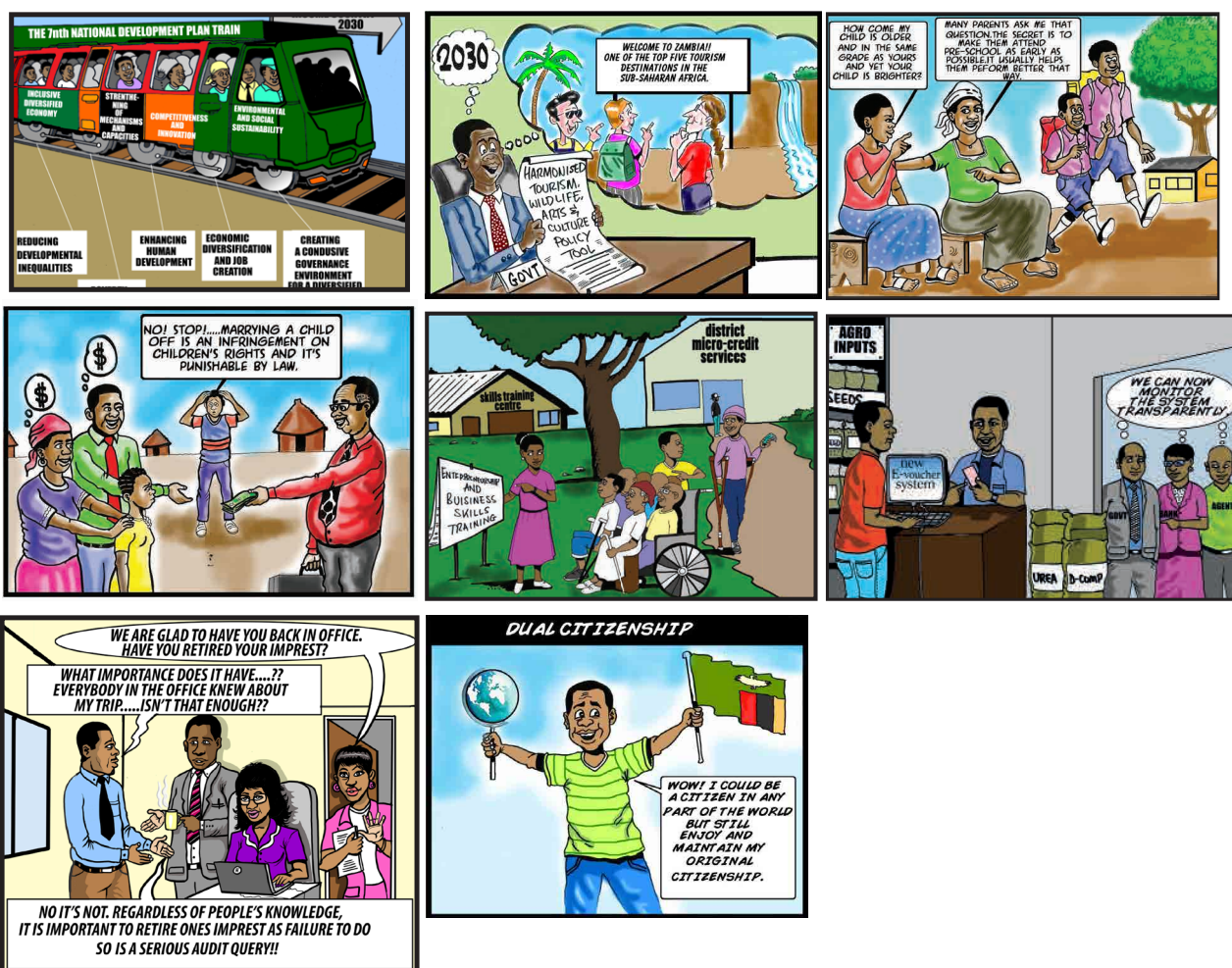
The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre embarked on country-wide sensitization programmes on the role of citizens in implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan: Mindset Shift Towards Attainment of 7NDP. PMRC on 29th March 2019 conducted a public lecture at the University of Lusaka to kick-start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



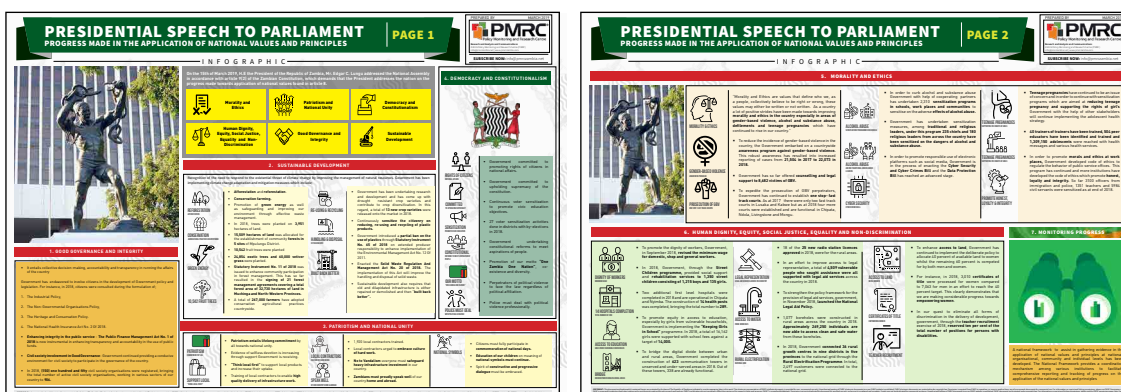
LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION

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

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

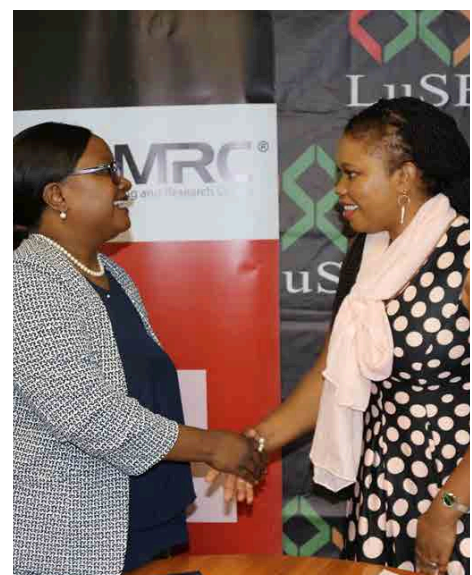
<http://www.pmrzcambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Presidential-Speech-Infographic-2019-Measures-Taken-By-Government-To-Ensure-Progress-In-The-Application-Of-National-Values-And-Principles.pdf>

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](#)
- [2020 Zambia National Budget under the theme: "Focusing National Priorities Towards Stimulating the Domestic Economy"](#)
- [Presidential Speech Infographic: "Accelerating Sustainable Development for a better Zambia amidst the Impact of Climate Change](#)
- [Address by His Excellency Edgar Lungu at the high level segment of the 74th session of the UN Assembly . Theme: Galvanising Multilateral Effort for Poverty Era](#)
- [The Case for Cost Reflective Tariffs Implementation – Is Zambia getting it Right?](#)

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



2019 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSO) AWARDS

- PMRC was awarded the 2018 Best Youth Led CSO of the year at the 2019 Civil Society Organisations (CSO) Awards held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre on 6th December, 2019. PMRC Executive Director, Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu was honored during the event.
- PMRC was awarded the 2018 CSO with Most Inclusive Communication and Media Strategy at the 2019 Civil Society Organisations (CSO) Awards held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre on 6th December, 2019.



2019 PMRC & ZANEC MEDIA AWARDS

- PMRC hosted the 2019 Media Awards under the theme: “Awarding Innovative Journalism in the New Digital Era” at Intercontinental Hotel. PMRC has dedicated itself to support the media in improving the quality of reporting through research, improved media ethics and motivation which will in turn lead to enhanced media participation in the nation’s sustainable development agenda. The awards were in the following categories; TV, Radio, Print and Online Media.



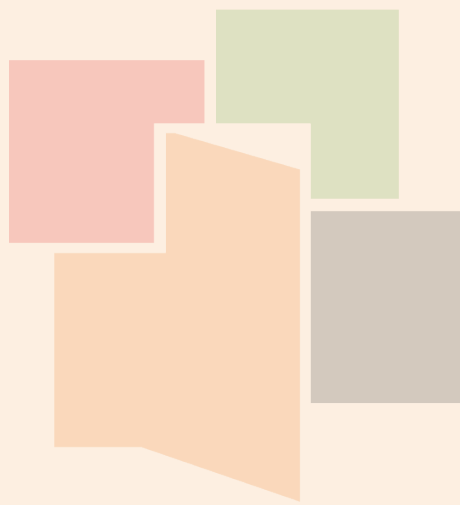
LOOKING AHEAD

- Analysis of the Diaspora Policy
- Analysis of the Blue Economy – Encouraging Investments in the Blue Economy (de-risking investments in the Blue Economy Sectors) – The Case of the Water Sector
- The Regulatory Impact of the New Energy Policy of 2019
- Analyzing Zambia's Alternatives to Petroleum (biofuels)
- Accessing the Social Economic Impact of Climate Change, the Economic Wide Effects
- e-Commerce e-Opportunities for Economic Growth in 2020

2019 PMRC NEWS LETTER

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