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Executive Director's Remarks

This year, Zambia has an opportunity to build on the positive economic trajectories that were recorded in 2018; which led inflation to maintain a single-digit status, and the Kwacha maintaining strength against other major currencies. The economic outlook of this year looks positive and we expect growth of above 4% due to improved performance in sectors such as construction among others.

This year, we need to explore possibilities and harness our resources for the growth of our economy. The adage "Thinking outside the box" should be the anchor of our policy alternatives especially as we seek to enhance Domestic Resources Mobilization. We need to look at various innovative possibilities that will promote revenue generation for the country. Such possibilities range from; The Mukula tree programme, Emerald sub sector and the Fisheries sub sector among others. If well harnessed, these sub sectors could yield substantial revenue for the treasury. Further, in view of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, (AFCFTA) which will come into effect, Zambia needs to develop a strategy that will ensure that the country benefits immensely from trading under the Continental Free Trade Agreement (CFTA). This will call for growth of the manufacturing sector and revamping of selected viable industries to promote value addition; that we have spoken about for sometime. We need as a country to be very competitive and planning starts now.

In this year 2019, the Seventh National

Development Plan (7NDP) will enter its 3rd year of operation. We have been closely monitoring the implementation progress of the 7NDP but our call is for all implementation agencies to expedite efforts this year to ensure that the programmes in the plan are speedily implemented. We expect to see a reduction in developmental inequalities and also a reduction in incidences of poverty and vulnerability. This is because majority of the policy decisions that had been implemented in 2018 will bear fruit this year.

As we look to the future, many of our opportunities that exist to confront our challenges will need constant engagement with a wide range of societal groups, each with their own needs, interests and levels of influence. In the same trajectory, As we enter a new year, it is important that we reflect on our collective efforts in our different capacities to address various key trajectories aimed at national building and development.

Opportunities

The 2018 Forum on China – Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) committed US\$ 60 billion towards Africa under 8 initiatives as follows:

- Industrial Promotion Initiative;
- Infrastructure Connectivity Initiative;
- Trade Facilitation Initiative;
- Green Development Initiative;

- Capacity Building Initiative;
- Health Care Initiative;
- People-to-People Exchange Initiative; and
- Peace and Security Initiative (China-Africa peace and security fund).

Zambia therefore needs to formulate a strategy and technical working groups, in order to benefit from these initiatives. Preparations should commence now and thus within the framework of FOCAC, Zambia can align some of these initiatives to our development efforts under the 7NDP.

Further, the Government should this year continue to pursue the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout deal. We have been submitting to Government to pursue the IMF bailout Programme for balance of payment support for as long as the bailout terms and conditions are favorable to all Zambians by consolidating growth. As a matter of fact, The IMF presents affordable finance and is significantly more affordable than commercial borrowing from domestic and international markets and thus PMRC encourages the Government to continue pursuing an IMF package that compliments our home grown Economic Stabilization and Growth Programme (ESGP)

In Conclusion

As PMRC, we are committed to continuously work towards supporting Government institutions, agencies and development partners in developing evidence-based policy recommendations for the effective delivery of the national development agenda. We commit to continue providing policy analysis to compliment the Government in pursuit of prudent macroeconomic policies and reforms to place public finances and debt on a sustainable path; increase the economy's resilience to shocks, and achieve higher and inclusive growth. With this pledge, We will continue to partner with all like-minded institutions to bolster our efforts and work towards encouraging debate on social and economic policy issues critical to national development and economic transformation.



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: Re-branding Africa As a Premier Destination

The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) and the Peoples Republic of China in Zambia (Chinese Embassy), will jointly host the Africa Think Tanks Forum – Africa-China Economic Development Agenda Opportunities for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and FOCAC under the sub theme “ Re-branding Africa As a Premier Destination” on 23rd and 24th of May, 2019 in Lusaka, Zambia. We will host delegates from 20 African countries and five from China.

The objectives of the Forum are 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. “Rebranding Africa as a Premier Destination” will be the sub-theme of the Forum.

The African Union adopted Vision 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 Vision 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; and
7. Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner.

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.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Rebranding Africa in the New Global World Order.
2. Is Africa on the rise or falling? What economic opportunities and challenges exist and how to overcome.
3. Opportunities and challenges of bilateral and multilateral relations between Africa

and other countries: a case of Africa-China relations.

4. The role of African think tanks in spearheading the African development agenda.
5. Impact of the BRI on African manufacturing and industrialization (Opportunities for CFTA).
6. Impact of China-US trade war on Africa's development agenda.
7. China-Africa Opportunities of the Belt and Road Initiative and Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Think Tanks Forum outcomes shall include:

- I. Enhanced understanding of African needs and development path.
- II. Build strong collaborations among African think tanks and academia.
- III. Sharing of national and international development strategies and frameworks to enhance policy implementation in Africa.
- IV. Strengthening the knowledge base and design for program implementation towards a better Africa.
- V. Promote shared vision of a developed Africa among African think tanks.



Chinese Ambassador to Zambia His Excellency, Mr. Li Jie, met with PMRC Executive Director Mrs. Bernadette Zulu for a working lunch together with the technical team planning the Forum.

The Africa - China Think-Tanks Forum was last hosted in China, Beijing. This year Zambia becomes the second country in Africa to host the 2019 Think Tanks Forum.

Follow the link below to register online:

<http://pmrc.intellectualexpression.com/africa-china-think-tank-forum-register/>

Please note that attendance to this forum is subject to final confirmation by the Forum conveners.

For more information, contact the following:

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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

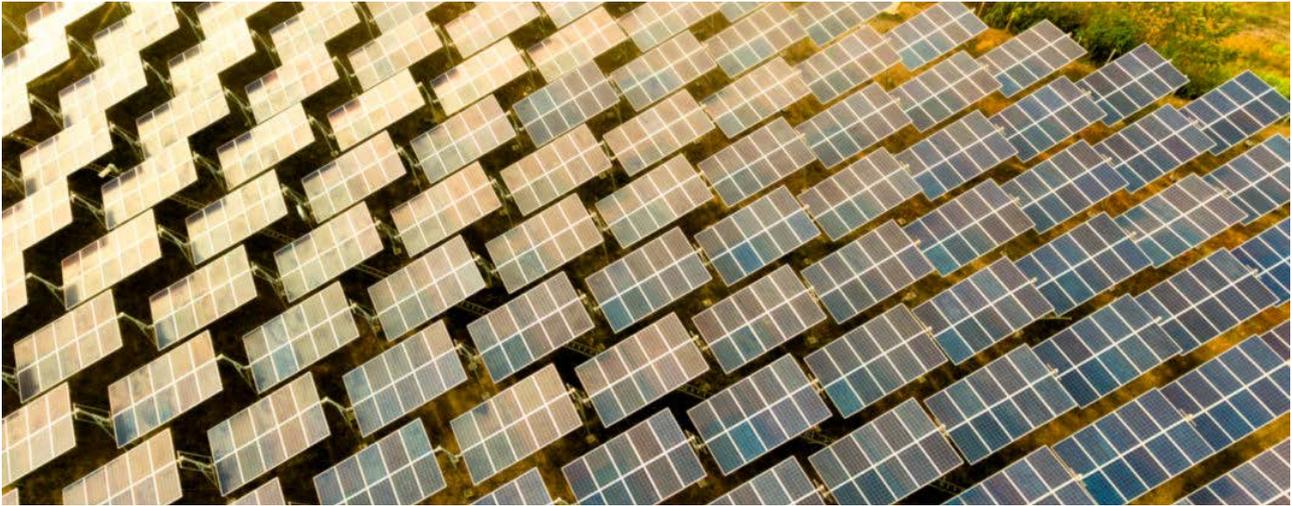
As PMRC we earnestly propose that the Government to re-strategize the funding modalities of the FISP and consider upfront complete funding of the entire programme as opposed to the phased funding to assure programme reliability and prompt agro-dealer payment starting with the current farming season.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

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

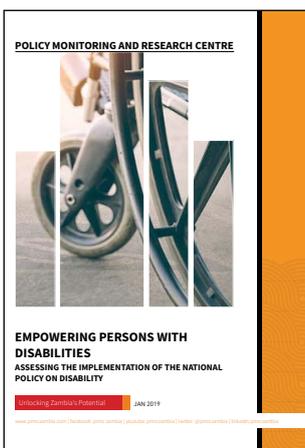
Assessing the Implementation of the National Policy on Disability

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 that 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.



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/>

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**”.

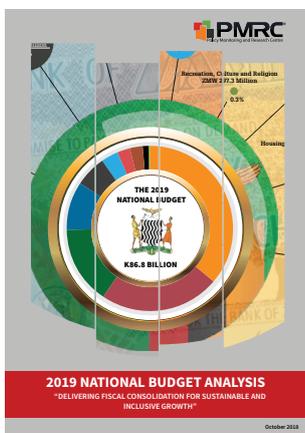
Key Messages

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.



LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION

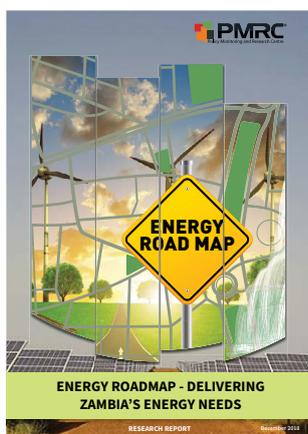
<http://www.pmrzambia.com/pmrc-2019-national-budget-analysis/>

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.



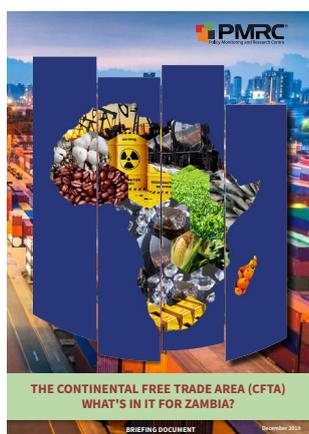
LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION

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

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.



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 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 presented on Maximising Revenue Collection from the Mines in Zambia



[LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION](http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Presentation-Progress-and-Update-of-the-Social-Cash-Transfer-Programme-in-Zambia.pdf)

<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Presentation-Progress-and-Update-of-the-Social-Cash-Transfer-Programme-in-Zambia.pdf>

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



LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION

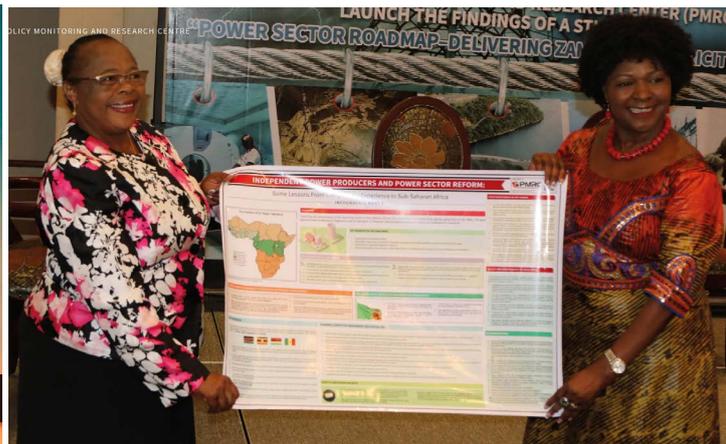
<http://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/The-Transport-Works-and-Supply-Committee-Presentation.pdf>

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



LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION

<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 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).



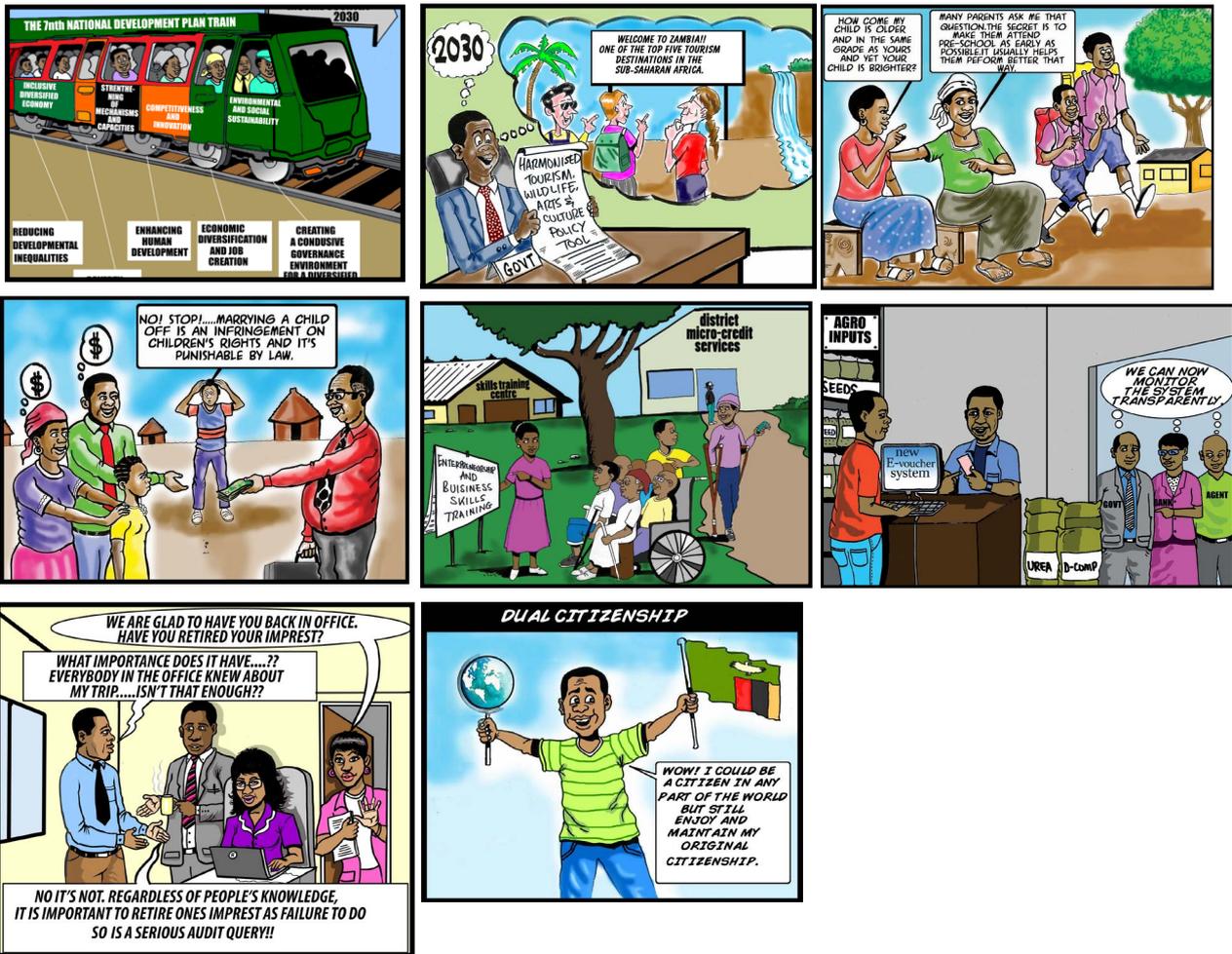
- The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre has embarked on country-wide sensitization programmes on the role of citizens in implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan: Mindset Shift Towards Attainment of 7NDP. PMRC on 29th march 2019 conducted a public lecture at the University of Lusaka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



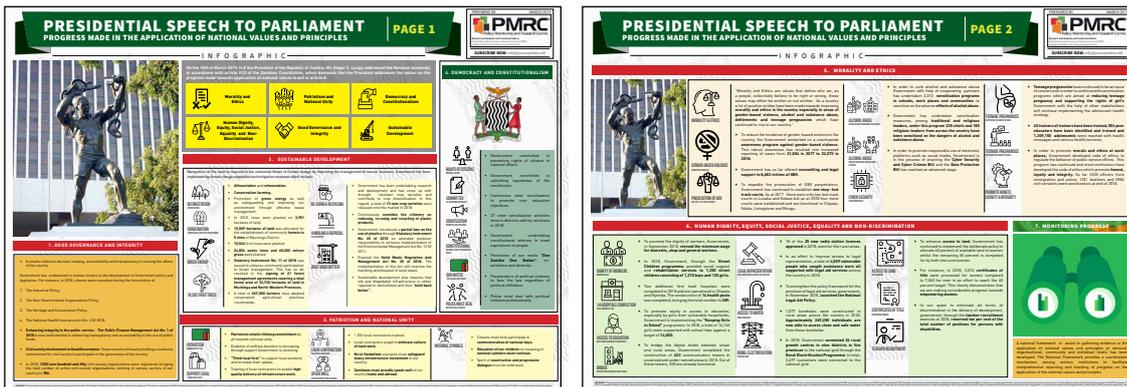
LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION

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

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 PRESENTATION

<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>

LEADS AFRICA 2018

The League of African Development Students (LEADS AFRICA) has 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



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
- Copperbelt Province Media Workshop
- Media Awards
- Higher Education Debates
- International Public Lecture

PMRC RESEARCH AND SUPPORT TEAM



Mrs. Bernadette Deka Zulu -
Executive Director



Mr. Salim Kaunda -
Head of Research Analysis



Mr. Akabondo Kabechani -
Head of Monitoring and Evaluation



Mr. Mutala Chawelwa -
Head of HR and Admin



Mr. Freddy Lubinda Oyat -
Head of Accounts



Ms. Melody M. Simukali -
Head of Communication and Grants



Mr. Sambo Mwila -
Communication Specialist



Mr. Albert Chanda Kasoma -
Senior Researcher



Ms. Chileshe Chaunga -
Senior Researcher



Ms. Esther Nyemba -
Researcher



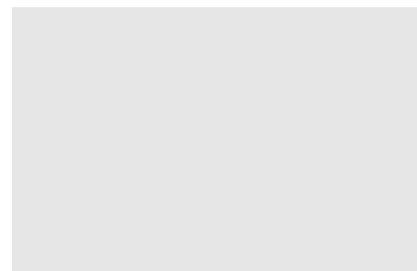
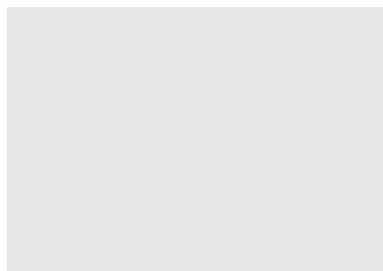
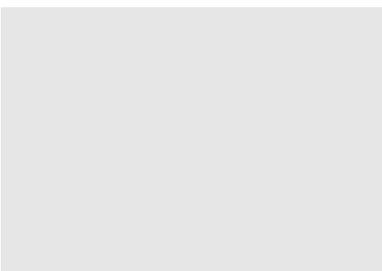
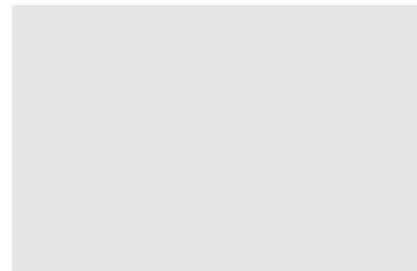
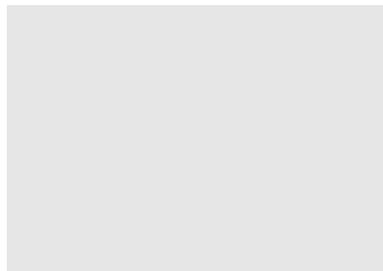
Ms. Leya Namonje -
Researcher



Ms. Chibuye Susa
Executive Assistant



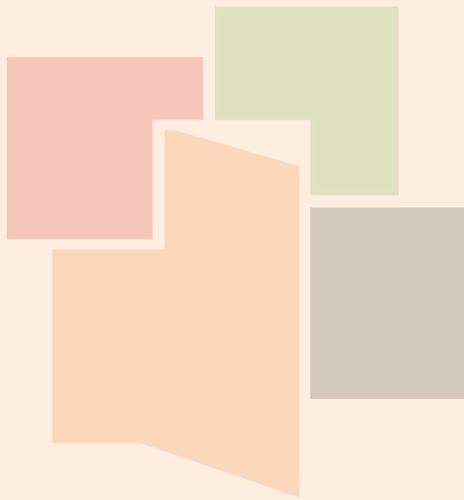
Mr. Chiti Nkunde -
Communication Specialist



2019 PMRC NEWS LETTER

JANUARY TO MARCH

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