PMRC®
Policy Monitoring and Research Centre

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MS. BERNADETTE DEKA — PMRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

As we near the close of the year we would like to thank you our stakeholders for your continued support throughout 2018. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2019 filled with prosperity, peace and success.

PMRC has with keen interest, been following the Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) for the period 2017 to 2021 under the theme "Accelerating development efforts towards the Vision 2030 without leaving anyone behind". At PMRC, we have been driven by the aspirations of the people on inclusive socio-economic development which is at the core-goal of the 7NDP; to create a diversified and resilient economy for sustained growth and socioeconomic transformation driven, among others, by agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and mining.

The country has seen pronouncements of measures by the Ministry of Finance aimed at addressing Fiscal and Debt Challenges for Sustained Macroeconomic Stability and Growth which are consistent with PMRC's recommendations to Parliament and Government ministries over the last three years. The proposed measures include; strategies to curb the debt stock and the pace of debt accumulation, reduce Government arrears, reduce unsustainable Government expenditure, ramp-up revenue measures and achieve effective communication on economic and financial matters.

The 2019 National Budget was formulated against the backdrop of 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 2019 National 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.

The importance of IMF package to Zambia cannot be overemphasized and as is the requirement of a homegrown economic recovery plan, Zambia scored a first by developing the Economic Stabilization and Growth Programme[ESGP]. PMRC's recommendation is that the IMF bailout policy that focuses on measures such as economic adjustments, austerities and consolidation of the fiscal position should be prioritised. PMRC submits that Zambia needs an IMF package.

Another opportunity that exists is for Zambia to tap into the US$60 billion (cooperation commitment to Africa) pledged by China at the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) as this would compliment current efforts by Government to develop the economy.

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. 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.

Bernadette Deka - PMRC **Executive Director**

OP-ED: MINDSET CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATIVE DEVELOPMENT

" Towards the Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan"

Mindset Change and Transformation

" Towards the Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan"

"A nation is not defined by its borders or the boundaries of its land mass rather, a nation is defined by adverse people who have been unified by a cause and a value system and who are committed to a vision for the type of society they wish to live in and give to the future generations to come."
— Fela Durotoy

This PMRC OPED discusses the critical role of mindset shift towards the implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan (2017-2021) in view of new approaches to development that our country Zambia has embarked on. Over time, it has been realized that citizens' **negative mindsets** are some of the key national constraints to development and social transformation in many nations and it is widely held that growth of any country's economy is only possible if citizens play their various roles and responsibilities diligently. The wealth of society is mutually created by the **collective efforts** of citizens who include workers, farmers, intellectuals and entrepreneurs, among many others.

Lets begin by defining mindset, which is basically a set of assumptions, methods, or notations held by people or simply beliefs held about oneself. A mindset can also be said to be a mental attitude or disposition that predetermines responses and interprets situations. In other contexts, mindsets are beliefs that orient our reactions and tendencies towards many aspects including development. When our mindsets become habitual, they define who we are, and who we can become. One of the most powerful aspects of mindsets is how quickly they can be shifted, and how influential the values can be. Unlike skills that have to be practiced again and again, mindsets sometimes show vivid alterations according to social orientations.

What is the Link between Mindset, Citizens and National Development?

Development is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of economic, environmental, social and demographic components. The resolution of development is a rise in the level and quality of life of the population, and the creation or expansion of local income and employment opportunities. Consequently **National development** is the aptitude of a country to improve the social welfare of the people e.g by providing social amenities like quality education, clean water, transportation infrastructure, medical care, etc. As veracity, every country is made up of citizens and the strength of the country or community depends upon the mindsets and attitudes of its people. Further, we must bear that sound policies still require positive mindset from implementers and citizens in order to translate into positive developmental results. This has been the case in countries of best practice such as China, The far eastern Tigers, and an example of Rwanda in Africa. Mindset change is not a technical challenge; rather it is administrative and social, because it is about people. Citizens

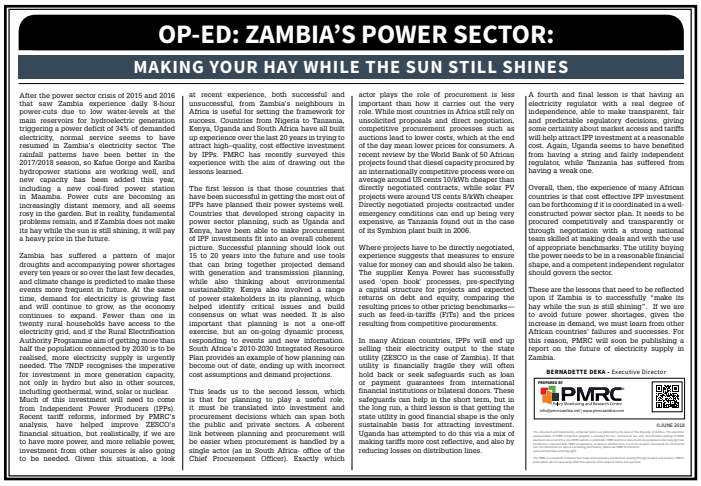
bear most of the impact of transformation and thus have to be included in the decisions and understand the benefits because accomplishment comes from what they do every day. Experience has further disclosed that countries with an entrenched culture of hard work develop faster than those without such a culture. In view of these actualities, the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Edgar C. Lungu, during the official opening of the second session of the Twelfth National Assembly of Parliament emphasized on the need for a **"change of mindset"** in order for the country to achieve aspirations in the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP 2017-2021). The President's call comes in the wake of inculcating a new approach of development delivery.

Within the framework of the 7NDP, it is expressed that cultural traits tend to influence development in Zambia in both positive and negative ways. However, observations in the 7NDP further designate negative traits that may be detrimental to achieving rapid progress in development including: Poor time management, Poor working culture, Low productivity, Poor reading culture, Poor entrepreneurship culture, Low levels of innovation. These negative traits need to be confronted and remedied whilst building on the positive traits of our culture and development model. Transforming these traits will call for widespread **Mindset Education Programme** and sensitizations, which combines positive traits towards developing a positive Zambian identity and propel a profound approach towards development, patriotism and looking after the environment among other things. The aim is to ensure that majority of the citizenry reach a level of sharing the same concept and idea about our development path and approaches. This would certainly promote a coordinated approach to development. One of the pathways towards attainment of the Vision 2030 is the current national development plan referred to as the Seventh National Development Plan (2017- 2021) or 7NDP.

In view of the Seventh National Development Plan Implementation, PMRC has since produced a publication titled: **"Towards Successful Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan – with a focus on Mindset Shift".** The Publication promotes embracing of national ethics and mindset shift towards a positive Zambian Identity. The main recommendation in the publication is for the establishment of a **National Mindset Education Programme,** which would promote patriotism and above all a positive Zambian Identity and positive attitude towards Development among citizens. The categorization of citizens in this case implies firstly with the actual implementers of the plan and spreads to the rest of the citizenry to promote coordinated and multi sectoral approach to development. We also highlight some of the factors that impeded the implementation of the previous Sixth National Development Plan and Revised Sixth National Development Plan. The aim is to create awareness and ensure that during this implementation of the 7NDP, we don't face the same challenges. On the government side, we highlight key reforms that need to be undertaken to ensure accurate implementation of the 7NDP; such as Decentralisation Reforms, Public Finance Reforms, Public Service Management Reforms among others. We also highlight measures that government commits to in ensuring that impediments to implementation are remedied. We also highlight key success factors that are critical towards the implementation of the Plan and the importance of coordination in delivery of development among the various institutions and individuals.

Conclusion

The changing of mindsets will require substantial awareness, strong institutions and management, which will strengthen our strategies and facilitate for cohesive policies and implementation. Finally as PMRC we call on Zambians to take ownership of the 7NDP and contribute towards implementation with a shift in mindset, as this will contribute towards Zambia attaining the status of being a developed middle-income nation by the year 2030. Zambia needs to commence with Mindset Education Programme, to propel implementation efforts of the Seventh National Development Plan.



OP-ED: ZAMBIA'S POWER SECTOR:

MAKING YOUR HAY WHILE THE SUN STILL SHINES

After the power sector crisis of 2015 and 2016 that saw Zambia experience daily 8-hour power-cuts due to low water-levels at the main reservoirs for hydroelectric generation triggering a power deficit of 34% of demanded electricity, normal service seems to have resumed in Zambia's electricity sector. The rainfall patterns have been better in the 2017/2018 season, so Kafue Gorge and Kariba hydropower stations are working well, and new capacity has been added this year, including a new coal-fired power station in Maamba. Power cuts are becoming an increasingly distant memory, and all seems rosy in the garden. But in reality, fundamental problems remain, and if Zambia does not make its hay while the sun is still shining, it will pay a heavy price in the future.

Zambia has suffered a pattern of major droughts and accompanying power shortages every ten years or so over the last few decades, and climate change is predicted to make these events more frequent in future. At the same time, demand for electricity is growing fast and will continue to grow, as the economy continues to expand. Fewer than one in twenty rural households have access to the electricity grid, and if the Rural Electrification Authority Programme aim of getting more than half the population connected by 2030 is to be realised, more electricity supply is urgently needed. The 7NDP recognises the imperative for investment in more generation capacity, not only in hydro but also in other sources, including geothermal, wind, solar or nuclear. Much of this investment will need to come from Independent Power Producers (IPPs). Recent tariff reforms, informed by PMRC's analysis, have helped improve ZESCO's financial situation, but realistically, if we are to have more power, and more reliable power, investment from other sources is also going to be needed. Given this situation, a look at recent experience, both successful and unsuccessful, from Zambia's neighbours in Africa is useful for setting the framework for success. Countries from Nigeria to Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa have all built up experience over the last 20 years in trying to attract high-quality, cost effective investment by IPPs. PMRC has recently surveyed this experience with the aim of drawing out the lessons learned.

The first lesson is that those countries that have been successful in getting the most out of IPPs have planned their power systems well. Countries that developed strong capacity in power sector planning, such as Uganda and Kenya, have been able to make procurement of IPP investments fit into an overall coherent picture. Successful planning should look out 15 to 20 years into the future and use tools that can bring together projected demand with generation and transmission planning, while also thinking about environmental sustainability. Kenya also involved a range of power stakeholders in its planning, which helped identify critical issues and build consensus on what was needed. It is also important that planning is not a one-off exercise, but an on-going dynamic process, responding to events and new information. South Africa's 2010-2030 Integrated Resource Plan provides an example of how planning can become out of date, ending up with incorrect cost assumptions and demand projections.

This leads us to the second lesson, which is that for planning to play a useful role, it must be translated into investment and procurement decisions which can span both the public and private sectors. A coherent link between planning and procurement will be easier when procurement is handled by a single actor (as in South Africa- office of the Chief Procurement Officer). Exactly which actor plays the role of procurement is less important than how it carries out the very role. While most countries in Africa still rely on unsolicited proposals and direct negotiation, competitive procurement processes such as auctions lead to lower costs, which at the end of the day mean lower prices for consumers. A recent review by the World Bank of 50 African projects found that diesel capacity procured by an internationally competitive process were on average around US cents 10/kWh cheaper than directly negotiated contracts, while solar PV projects were around US cents 8/kWh cheaper. Directly negotiated projects contracted under emergency conditions can end up being very expensive, as Tanzania found out in the case of its Symbion plant built in 2006.

Where projects have to be directly negotiated, experience suggests that measures to ensure value for money can and should also be taken. The supplier Kenya Power has successfully used 'open book' processes, pre-specifying a capital structure for projects and expected returns on debt and equity, comparing the resulting prices to other pricing benchmarks—such as feed-in-tariffs (FiTs) and the prices resulting from competitive procurements.

In many African countries, IPPs will end up selling their electricity output to the state utility (ZESCO in the case of Zambia). If that utility is financially fragile they will often hold back or seek safeguards such as loan or payment guarantees from international financial institutions or bilateral donors. These safeguards can help in the short term, but in the long run, a third lesson is that getting the state utility in good financial shape is the only sustainable basis for attracting investment. Uganda has attempted to do this via a mix of making tariffs more cost reflective, and also by reducing losses on distribution lines.

A fourth and final lesson is that having an electricity regulator with a real degree of independence, able to make transparent, fair and predictable regulatory decisions, giving some certainty about market access and tariffs will help attract IPP investment at a reasonable cost. Again, Uganda seems to have benefited from having a string and fairly independent regulator, while Tanzania has suffered from having a weak one.

Overall, then, the experience of many African countries is that cost effective IPP investment can be forthcoming if it is coordinated in a well-constructed power sector plan. It needs to be procured competitively and transparently or through negotiation with a strong national team skilled at making deals and with the use of appropriate benchmarks. The utility buying the power needs to be in a reasonable financial shape, and a competent independent regulator should govern the sector.

These are the lessons that need to be reflected upon if Zambia is to successfully "make its hay while the sun is still shining". If we are to avoid future power shortages, given the increase in demand, we must learn from other African countries' failures and successes. For this reason, PMRC will soon be publishing a report on the future of electricity supply in Zambia.

BERNADETTE DEKA - *Executive Director*

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Zambia's Power Sector:

Making Your Hay While the Sun Still Shines

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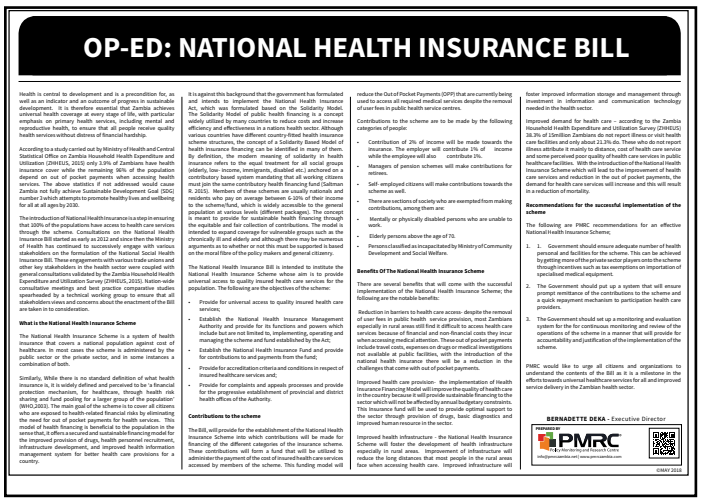

OP-ED: NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE BILL

Health is central to development and is a precondition for, as well as an indicator and an outcome of progress in sustainable development. It is therefore essential that Zambia achieves universal health coverage at every stage of life, with particular emphasis on primary health services, including mental and reproductive health, to ensure that all people receive quality health services without distress of financial hardship.

According to a study carried out by Ministry of Health and Central Statistical Office on Zambia Household Health Expenditure and Utilization (ZHHEUS, 2015) only 3.9% of Zambians have health insurance cover while the remaining 96% of the population depend on out of pocket payments when accessing health services. The above statistics if not addressed would cause Zambia not fully achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 3 which attempts to promote healthy lives and wellbeing for all at all ages by 2030.

The introduction of National Health Insurance is a step in ensuring that 100% of the populations have access to health care services through the scheme. Consultations on the National Health Insurance Bill started as early as 2012 and since then the Ministry of Health has continued to successively engage with various stakeholders on the formulation of the National Social Health Insurance Bill. These engagements with various trade unions and other key stakeholders in the health sector were coupled with general consultations validated by the Zambia Household Health Expenditure and Utilization Survey (ZHHEUS, 2015). Nation-wide consultative meetings and best practice comparative studies spearheaded by a technical working group to ensure that all stakeholders views and concerns about the enactment of the Bill are taken in to consideration.

What is the National Health Insurance Scheme

The National Health Insurance Scheme is a system of health insurance that covers a national population against cost of healthcare. In most cases the scheme is administered by the public sector or the private sector, and in some instances a combination of both.

Similarly, While there is no standard definition of what health insurance is, it is widely defined and perceived to be 'a financial protection mechanism, for healthcare, through health risk sharing and fund pooling for a larger group of the population' (WHO,2003). The main goal of the scheme is to cover all citizens who are exposed to health-related financial risks by eliminating the need for out of pocket payments for health services. This model of health financing is beneficial to the population in the sense that, it offers a secured and sustainable financing model for the improved provision of drugs, health personnel recruitment, infrastructure development, and improved health information management system for better health care provisions for a country.

It is against this background that the government has formulated and intends to implement the National Health Insurance Act, which was formulated based on the Solidarity Model. The Solidarity Model of public health financing is a concept widely utilized by many countries to reduce costs and increase efficiency and effectiveness in a nations health sector. Although various countries have different country-fitted health insurance scheme structures, the concept of a Solidarity Based Model of health insurance financing can be identified in many of them. By definition, the modern meaning of solidarity in health insurance refers to the equal treatment for all social groups (elderly, low- income, immigrants, disabled etc.) anchored on a contributory based system mandating that all working citizens must join the same contributory health financing fund (Saltman R. 2015). Members of these schemes are usually nationals and residents who pay on average between 6-10% of their income to the scheme/fund, which is widely accessible to the general population at various levels (different packages). The concept is meant to provide for sustainable health financing through the equitable and fair collection of contributions. The model is intended to expand coverage for vulnerable groups such as the chronically ill and elderly and although there may be numerous arguments as to whether or not this must be supported is based on the moral fibre of the policy makers and general citizenry.

The National Health Insurance Bill is intended to institute the National Health Insurance Scheme whose aim is to provide universal access to quality insured health care services for the population. The following are the objectives of the scheme:

- Provide for universal access to quality insured health care services;
- Establish the National Health Insurance Management Authority and provide for its functions and powers which include but are not limited to, implementing, operating and managing the scheme and fund established by the Act;
- Establish the National Health Insurance Fund and provide for contributions to and payments from the fund;
- Provide for accreditation criteria and conditions in respect of insured healthcare services and;
- Provide for complaints and appeals processes and provide for the progressive establishment of provincial and district health offices of the Authority.

Contributions to the scheme

The Bill, will provide for the establishment of the National Health Insurance Scheme into which contributions will be made for financing of the different categories of the insurance scheme. These contributions will form a fund that will be utilized to administer the payment of the cost of insured health care services accessed by members of the scheme. This funding model will reduce the Out of Pocket Payments (OPP) that are currently being used to access all required medical services despite the removal of user fees in public health service centres.

Contributions to the scheme are to be made by the following categories of people:

- Contribution of 2% of income will be made towards the insurance. The employee will contribute 1% of income while the employee will also contribute 1%.
- Managers of pension schemes will make contributions for retirees.
- Self- employed citizens will make contributions towards the scheme as well.
- There are sections of society who are exempted from making contributions, among them are:
- Mentally or physically disabled persons who are unable to work.
- Elderly persons above the age of 70.
- Persons classified as incapacitated by Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare.

Benefits Of The National Health Insurance Scheme

There are several benefits that will come with the successful implementation of the National Health Insurance Scheme; the following are the notable benefits:

Reduction in barriers to health care access- despite the removal of user fees in public health service provision, most Zambians especially in rural areas still find it difficult to access health care services because of financial and non-financial costs they incur when accessing medical attention. These out of pocket payments include travel costs, expenses on drugs or medical investigations not available at public facilities, with the introduction of the national health insurance there will be a reduction in the challenges that come with out of pocket payments.

Improved health care provision- the implementation of Health Insurance Financing Model will improve the quality of health care in the country because it will provide sustainable financing to the sector which will not be affected by annual budgetary constraints. This Insurance fund will be used to provide optimal support to the sector through provision of drugs, basic diagnostics and improved human resource in the sector.

Improved health infrastructure - the National Health Insurance Scheme will foster the development of health infrastructure especially in rural areas. Improvement of infrastructure will reduce the long distances that most people in the rural areas face when accessing health care. Improved infrastructure will foster improved information storage and management through investment in information and communication technology needed in the health sector.

Improved demand for health care – according to the Zambia Household Health Expenditure and Utilization Survey (ZHHEUS) 38.3% of 15million Zambians do not report illness or visit health care facilities and only about 21.3% do. These who do not report illness attribute it mainly to distance, cost of health care service and some perceived poor quality of health care services in public healthcare facilities. With the introduction of the National Health Insurance Scheme which will lead to the improvement of health care services and reduction in the out of pocket payments, the demand for health care services will increase and this will result in a reduction of mortality.

Recommendations for the successful implementation of the scheme

The following are PMRC recommendations for an effective National Health Insurance Scheme;

1. 1. Government should ensure adequate number of health personal and facilities for the scheme. This can be achieved by getting more of the private sector players onto the scheme through incentives such as tax exemptions on importation of specialised medical equipment.
2. The Government should put up a system that will ensure prompt remittance of the contributions to the scheme and a quick repayment mechanism to participation health care providers.
3. The Government should set up a monitoring and evaluation system for the for continuous monitoring and review of the operations of the scheme in a manner that will provide for accountability and justification of the implementation of the scheme.

PMRC would like to urge all citizens and organizations to understand the contents of the Bill as it is a milestone in the efforts towards universal healthcare services for all and improved service delivery in the Zambian health sector.

BERNADETTE DEKA - Executive Director

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National Health Insurance Bill

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- Provide for complaints and appeals processes and provide for the progressive establishment of provincial and district health offices of the Authority.

Contributions to the scheme

The Bill, will provide for the establishment of the National Health Insurance Scheme into which contributions will be made for financing of the different categories of the insurance scheme. These contributions will form a fund that will be utilized to administer the payment of the cost of insured health care services accessed by members of the scheme. This funding model will reduce the Out of Pocket Payments (OPP) that are currently being used to access all required medical services despite the removal of user fees in public health service centres.

Contributions to the scheme are to be made by the following categories of people:

- Contribution of 2% of income will be made towards the insurance. The employer will contribute 1% of income while the employee will also contribute 1%.
- Managers of pension schemes will make contributions for retirees.
- Self-employed citizens will make contributions towards the scheme as well.

There are sections of society who are exempted from making contributions, among them are:

- Mentally or physically disabled persons who are unable to work.
- Elderly persons above the age of 70.
- Persons classified as incapacitated by Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare.

Benefits Of The National Health Insurance Scheme

There are several benefits that will come with the successful implementation of the National Health Insurance Scheme; the following are the notable benefits:

- Reduction in barriers to health care access- despite the removal of user fees in public health service provision, most Zambians especially in rural areas still find it difficult to access health care services because of financial and non-financial costs they incur when accessing medical attention. These out of pocket payments include travel costs, expenses on drugs or medical investigations not available at public facilities, with the introduction of the national health insurance there will be a reduction in the challenges that come with out of pocket payments.

- Improved health care provision- the implementation of Health Insurance Financing Model will improve the quality of health care in the country because it will provide sustainable financing to the sector which will not be affected by annual budgetary constraints. This Insurance fund will be used to provide optimal support to the sector through provision of drugs, basic diagnostics and improved human resource in the sector.

- Improved health infrastructure - the National Health Insurance Scheme will foster the development of health infrastructure especially in rural areas. Improvement of infrastructure will reduce the long distances that most people in the rural areas face when accessing health care. Improved infrastructure will foster improved information storage and management through investment in information and communication technology needed in the health sector.

- Improved demand for health care – according to the Zambia Household Health Expenditure and Utilization Survey (ZHHEUS) 38.3% of 15million Zambians do not report illness or visit health care facilities and only about 21.3% do. These who do not report illness attribute it mainly to distance, cost of health care service and some perceived poor quality of health care services in public healthcare facilities. With the introduction of the National Health Insurance Scheme which will lead to the improvement of health care services and reduction in the out of pocket payments, the demand for health care services will increase and this will result in a reduction of mortality.

Recommendations for the successful implementation of the scheme

The following are PMRC recommendations for an effective National Health Insurance Scheme;

1. Government should ensure adequate number of health personal and facilities for the scheme. This can be achieved by getting more of the private sector players onto the scheme through incentives such as tax exemptions on importation of specialised medical equipment.

2. The Government should put up a system that will ensure prompt remittance of the contributions to the scheme and a quick repayment mechanism to participation health care providers.

3. The Government should set up a monitoring and evaluation system for the for continuous monitoring and review of the operations of the scheme in a manner that will provide for accountability and justification of the implementation of the scheme.

PMRC would like to urge all citizens and organizations to understand the contents of the Bill as it is a milestone in the efforts towards universal healthcare services for all and improved service delivery in the Zambian health sector.

PRESS STATEMENT

DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND ZAMBIA'S 'FOREST GOLD RESOURCES': THE CASE OF MUKULA TREES

Zambia has just been commemorating Farmer's Day, which is of great importance to the agriculture sector and economy at large. We take stock of the gains made in promoting diversification of the economy. Agriculture has clearly emerged as the Government's torch bearer and sector of choice to push Zambia's economic diversification programme for obvious reasons and the 2018 Budget bears proof of this. It links well with the 7NDP whose aspirations are centred on a diversified and export-oriented agriculture sector.

In the 2017 Budget Address, Government made strong commitments to promote diversification and wealth creation in many sectors of the economy. This included the promotion of value addition in the forestry sector with a proposal to introduce specific rates on the export of unprocessed and semi-processed timber products at the rate of K10 per kg and K5 per kg respectively. Other measures included support to economic diversification and promoting capital investment by increasing the capital allowance for plant, equipment and machinery used in farming and agro-processing to 100 percent from 50 percent.

Zambia's aspirations to diversify its economy away from the mining industry to other sectors such as agriculture and forestry are fully supported by the Seventh National Development Plan, which states that; the forestry industry, if properly nurtured, can significantly contribute to employment and wealth creation. Zambia Forestry and Forest Industries Corporation (ZAFFICO) currently employs a good number of people under the tree planting exercise, financed by the Government. Estimates made by ZAFFICO management indicate that , land clearing, preparation and planting of 40,000 hectares of land would provide direct employment opportunities to 40,000 seasonal employees. If this exercise was to be undertaken in designated sites in all the provinces at an expanded rate, the impact on job creation and incomes would be significant. This will contribute to eliminating social exclusion faced by the majority of the people who are unskilled and have had no employment opportunities for decades. In addition to this, strategic interventions set out to achieve this include the acquisition of 50,000 hectares of land in each province for forest plantations to be established by ZAFFICO, support for value addition to wood and non-wood forest products, promotion of investments through public-private partnerships in environment, forestry and other natural resources and the promotion of applied research on forests, forest products and the environment.

Given Zambia's Demographic Dividend Study findings which assessed the economic and human development potential of the country in the short, medium and long-term using a comprehensive approach, the country can harness a "demographic dividend," resulting from declining mortality and fertility rates, strong institutional capacities, healthy and skilled human capital, improved decent job prospects and an inclusive governance system. To take advantage of this prospect an enabling

environment needs to be created that ensures citizens claim their rights to education, health, development, and live free from violence and discrimination. The demographic dividend report for Zambia requires timely, strategic, targeted and simultaneous investments in various sectors of the economy in an integrated manner, and enables the translation of policies into equitable, cost-effective interventions that leave "no one" behind.

Diversifying the economy and reducing over-dependence on the extractive industry by modernising the agriculture sector and prioritising value addition requires well thought out policy interventions for monitoring and evaluation and constant planning processes.

Zambia's forests are endowed with some of the most valuable timber resources that include the Mukula tree, scientifically called "Pterocarpus erinaceus" which takes about 80 to 90 years to fully mature. Dubbed as Zambia's Forest Gold Resource, the Mukula tree has the potential to increase Zambia's Resource Mobilisation efforts and contribute to the country's earnings through export of finished timber products and increased investments in the sector.

A Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) study titled 'Informality, global capital, rural development and the environment: Mukula (Rosewood) trade between China and Zambia.' published in March 2018 examined the political economy of the international Mukula trade and the role of global capital, in particular that of Chinese origin in Zambia, and its impacts on rural livelihoods, the environment and resource governance.

The study showed that rural villagers increasingly forged direct links with foreign investors and produced innovative business models that accelerate the rate of small-scale production and extraction of resources under limited Government supervision. In 2017 the Government banned the harvesting, transportation, trading and exportation of the Mukula tree in accordance with Statutory Instrument (SI) number 94 of 2015 and also mandated the Zambia Forestry and Forest Industries Corporation Limited (ZAFFICO) to auction confiscated Mukula.

PMRC therefore recommends that the Government of the Republic of Zambia protect the Zambian forests against depletion and take stock of the resource availability for better planning. The recommended stock assessment of the timber resources must be conducted on a regular basis to ensure the country has accurate stock information. Given the challenges that threaten the existence of Zambia's forests and tree species such as the Mukula there is need to improve the capacity of local forestry departments which are poorly staffed, leaving vast areas of forest in different parts of the country open to illegal activities such as deforestation. There is urgent need to shift local mindsets and attitudes towards the environment by encouraging the protection of tree species such as the Mukula by members of local communities.

The National Forestry Policy and the Forests Act, which contain provisions for Community Forest Management (CFM), Joint Forest Management (JFM) and Private Forest Management (PFM) to supplement the forestry department's lack of capacity to manage Zambia's protected forest estate must be implemented for Zambia to realise its full potential and promote sustainable forest management practices. This can be achieved through participation of communities, traditional authorities and NGOs in the management of forests to bolster capacity to manage, monitor and enforce the principles of sustainable forest management.

Government needs to constantly assess and implement measures included in the Forests Act of 2015, including community, joint and private forest management to achieve diversification, wealth creation and attract investment in the forest/timber processing sectors.

PRESS STATEMENT

THE E-VOUCHER RESTRUCTURING: TOWARDS A SMART 2018/19 FARMING SEASON

The agriculture sector is the fourth largest contributor to GDP (8.7 percent) and the largest contributor to employment. The sector is critical for achieving diversification, economic growth and poverty reduction in Zambia. One major component of the agriculture sector is the e-voucher programme, which was allocated K1,785,000,000 in the national budget (Farmer Input Support Programme – FISP budget line). The e-voucher system has had its challenges and with the intervention of the Smart Zambia, there could be light at the end of the tunnel.

The Government in June, 2018 did announce that some farmers would this farming season of 2018/19, be reverted to the conventional FISP to enable Government resolve challenges associated with e-voucher administration. About 55 districts are earmarked to be captured translating to about four hundred thousand farmers of the one million targeted farmer beneficiaries. Some of the challenges faced last farming season in the administration of e-Voucher especially in rural parts of the country included among others: poor network connectivity, delayed card activation, lack of capacity by agro-dealers to stock enough inputs to meet demand and long distances covered by farmers to the nearest agro-dealer. The 2018/ 2019 farming season commences on 1st of September 2018. In partnership with Smart Zambia, it is therefore prudent that we analyze and give an update on how the e-voucher will be rolled out. Smart Zambia Institute has indicated that three (3) modes of administering the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) will be used. These are;

a. Card less mode.

b. Use of electronic voucher (e-voucher) cards with Government engaged banks.

c. Use of electronic voucher (e-voucher) cards with a proxy bank.

It is important to note that all the 3 modes are still electronic and differ slightly from the old conventional FISP which involves the use of paper in addition to farmers being required to append signatures on hard-copy registers.

a. Card less mode.

Government through the Zambia Integrated Agriculture Information Management System (ZIAMIS) hosted by Smart Zambia has developed a new module, which will enable farmers to access inputs without use of the electronic voucher (e-voucher) cards. This measure mostly targets FISP beneficiary farmers in areas that had network problems and were affected by lack of input availability and long distances to the nearest agro-dealer. Government has specifically procured fertilizer which has been stored in sheds across the targeted 55 districts where this program will be implemented. To access the fertilizer, farmers will first need to collect the Authority to Deposit (ATD) codes from the office of the District Agriculture Officers (DACOs) after which farmers will then be required to deposit their K 400 contribution at any bank engaged by Government to roll out the program. Once the deposited money reflects in the Government account, DACOs will then issue farmers with the Authority to Collect (ATC) codes which enables these farmers to collect fertilizer at any of the Government sheds nearby in the districts under consideration. Government fertilizer sheds are using a Biometric system

to verify farmer records through ATC Codes. The Biometric system has an advantage of being operational even in areas without internet connectivity because it relies on satellite signals.

We have noted that the ZIAMIS system has now been upgraded and will only take a maximum of four hours for deposited money to reflect. However, farmers are still being encouraged to collect their inputs a day after collection of ATC codes to allow the system to fully synchronize and update the records.

By the use of electronic cards, Government intends to capture 60% of the targeted one million farmers on FISP. The two modes of input delivery through the use of electronic cards are highlighted below;

b. Use of electronic voucher (e-voucher) cards with government engaged banks.

Under this mode, a FISP beneficiary is expected to first deposit K 400 mandatory farmer's own contribution with a Government engaged bank; money which reflects immediately after depositing in the e-card. A day or two later the bank will then upload K1, 600 [FISP amount per farmer beneficiary] onto the farmer's e-card as soon as authorization is granted by Government. The farmer is then free to go and collect inputs at any agro-dealers of choice.

c. Using electronic voucher (e-voucher) cards with a proxy bank.

Farmers in areas without presence of Government engaged banks can still make deposits with a proxy bank in the areas and get their inputs almost immediately.

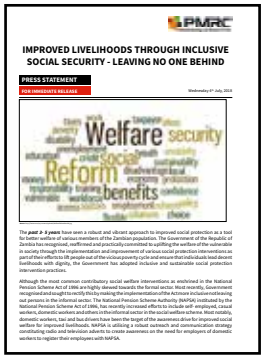
Under this mode, a FISP beneficiary is expected to first deposit K 400 with a proxy bank. The proxy bank is then expected to forward the money to a Government engaged bank. The moment such a bank to bank transaction is affected, ZIAMIS system will receive a notification and an ATC code is then issued to the farmer immediately through a mobile text message or can be accessed from the DACO. With an ATC code a farmer can now collect inputs of preference from any agro-dealer of choice.

Conclusion

PMRC remains hopeful that these new e-voucher administrative measures put in place by Government will continue to reinforce the initial reasons that led Government to move away from the conventional FISP. We hope the new FISP measures will be cost effective to administer, promote crop diversification, improve timeliness in inputs distribution, improve the quality of inputs, build private sector capacity in inputs marketing and distribution, provide means to easily introduce farm risk mitigation measures and ultimately improve household and national food security as well as farm incomes for smallholder farmers.

One of the several problems faced in the last farming season with this e-voucher administration system, was that banks were not uploading money as soon as Government released funds. Consequently, farmers received inputs late and this contributed to poor crop yields. However it is important to note that some banks performed exceptionally well last season regarding e-card activations. Banks have now been engaged on the need to promptly upload e-cards as soon as Government gives authorization. Our hope is that the 2018/19 farming season will be devoid of avoidable hiccups of late card activation. Banks are implored to continue operating optimally in their endeavours to support e-voucher implementation in the 2018/19 farming to help grow agriculture in the country. PMRC therefore advises all farmers that have made deposits to redeem their inputs effective 1st September 2018.

We wish Zambia a productive 2018/19 farming season.


PMRC

IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS THROUGH INCLUSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY - LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday 6th July, 2016

The *past 3 - 5 years* have seen a robust and vibrant approach to improved social protection as a tool for better welfare of various members of the Zambian population. The Government of the Republic of Zambia has recognised, reaffirmed and practically committed to uplifting the welfare of the vulnerable in society through the implementation and improvement of various social protection interventions as part of their efforts to lift people out of the vicious poverty cycle and ensure that individuals lead decent livelihoods with dignity, the Government has adopted inclusive and sustainable social protection intervention practices.

Although the most common contributory social welfare interventions as enshrined in the National Pension Scheme Act of 1996 are highly skewed towards the formal sector. Most recently, Government recognised and sought to rectify this by making the implementation of the Act more inclusive not leaving out persons in the informal sector. The National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA) instituted by the National Pension Scheme Act of 1996, has recently increased efforts to include self- employed, casual workers, domestic workers and others in the informal sector in the social welfare scheme. Most notably, domestic workers, taxi and bus drivers have been the target of the awareness drive for improved social welfare for improved livelihoods. NAPSA is utilising a robust outreach and communication strategy constituting radio and television adverts to create awareness on the need for employers of domestic workers to register their employees with NAPSA.

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It is incumbent upon all Zambians to further increase public awareness on the benefits of social security and more specifically the benefits which can be accrued through registration with NAPSA. Domestic workers and their employees must be aware that, by being registered with NAPSA and paying contributions to the Authority, employers and employees ensure that the three major benefits provided by the pension fund are covered and these include (invalidity, old age and survivors). Benefits are normally paid in form of a monthly pension but members who fail to meet the minimum requirements for a pension are paid a lump sum. Other key benefits that the employees receive are a lump sum funeral grant, which is a one off payment upon the death of the employee.

The requirement as stated by Act is that both the employee and employer (jointly) must contribute 5% each of the employees monthly salary to the pension scheme.

Section 51 and 52 highlight the offences and penalties under the National Pension Scheme Act No. 40 of 1996 and these include;

- Evading payment of contributions
- Failing to register within the period specified
- Failure to provide information or providing false information
- Obstructing an inspector, officer or servant of the scheme in the discharge of his duties and
- Failing to produce documents when requires to do so without a lawful excuse.

The above listed offences attract various penalties specified in the Act and anyone who is found guilty of an offence is liable on conviction

to a fine not exceeding 1000 penalty units, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or both. The Act further consists of a provision for the court to order offenders to pay all outstanding contributions and penalties due to the pension scheme at a specified date.
Besides the legislative backing of the requirement of all domestic workers to register with NAPSA, it is important to note that the benefits of this registration are key to reducing poverty, improving the general welfare of all without leaving anyone behind and above all, improving the general social protection efforts which must be recognised as a human right for all Zambians.
PMRC commends the Government through the relevant bodies (NAPSA) for the robust approach taken towards improving the livelihoods of Zambians through inclusive social security. The organization is confident that the measures taken to implement the Act will improve the welfare of the general population (especially those in the informal economy- specifically domestic workers).

PMRC will continue to advocate for more robust and progressive approaches to be developed and implemented to ensure all sections of the informal economy are adequately covered by the scheme.

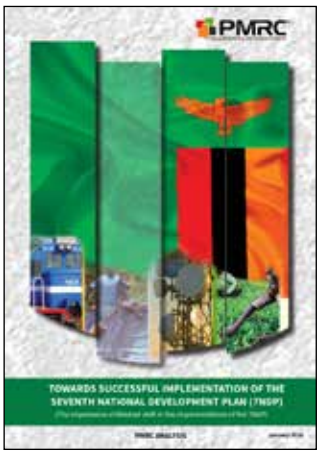
OTHER PRESS STATEMENTS

- The 7th China - Africa Think Tank Forum "Strengthening Dialogue for a Shared Future"
- The Mid Year Economic Brief 2018
- 2019 Budget Expectations
- Government Engagement with Cooperating Partners Poised to Yield Positive Economic Results

PMRC ANALYSIS

Towards Successful Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP)-The Importance of Mindset shift in the Implementation of the 7NDP

This publication basically focuses on the role of mindset in the implementation of the 7NDP whilst also depicting the need for a Mindset Education Programme in Zambia. In view of this, the President of the Republic of Zambia, His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, during the official opening of the second session of the twelfth Assembly of parliament emphasized the need for a "change of mindset" in order for the country to achieve aspirations in the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP 2017-2021). It also outlines the efforts of Government on mindset change and gives the case studies of Uganda and Rwanda on how they are using mindset change to alter their societies in the case of Rwanda, while Uganda has championed the "National Mindset Education Programme". The publication further highlights success factors towards implementing the 7NDP with the theme to accelerating development efforts towards the vision 2030 without leaving anyone behind.



LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Towards-Successful-Implementation-of-the-Seventh-National-Development-Plan-7NDP.pdf

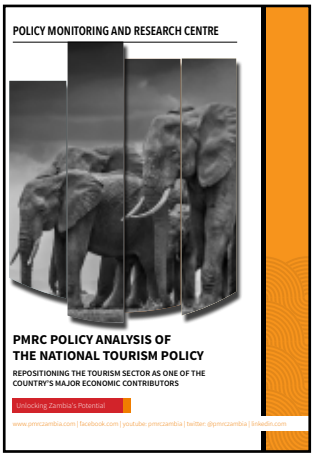
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

Policy Analysis: National Tourism Policy - Repositioning the Tourism Sector as One of the Country's Major Economic Contributors

Zambia's tourism sector has been identified as one of the key economic sectors for diversification of the economy. Government and key stakeholders recognize the potential the sector has in contributing to the economy through job creation, foreign exchange earning, contributions to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other economic facets. The sector's potential to contribute to the economy has not however been fully unlocked due to a number of impediments. Some of these include delays in policy and legislative reforms and administrative and structural reforms.

In February 2017, the Government of the Republic of Zambia launched the National Tourism Policy of 2015. The delayed launch of the policy was attributed to the interruptions in the review process, in the form of various national events such as the successive presidential, parliamentary, and local government elections and others. The aim of reviewing the policy was to present stakeholders' views in light of the changing trends in the tourism sector and also to reposition the sector as one of the county's major economic contributors. This followed the recognition and reclassification of the tourism sector from a social sector to an economic sector. The revised policy is aimed at ensuring the tourism sector contributes to job creation, foreign exchange earnings Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and poverty reduction through wealth creation. Additionally, the policy is meant to provide a strategic framework for sustainable tourism development intended to ensure the sector realizes its full potential (Ministry of Tourism and Arts, 2015).

The purpose of this policy analysis is to present and asses the contents of the 2015 National Tourism Policy with the hope of increasing public understanding on the importance of the policy to the sector. This publication will further build a case for the need for effective policy implementation by presenting best practice examples of various countries with adequate policy frameworks that have enhanced their tourism sector performance. Lastly, the policy analysis will outline recommendations for effective implementation of the 2015 National Tourism Policy.



LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION

http://www.pmrczambia.com/pmrc-policy-analysis-of-the-national-tourism-policy-repositioning-the-tourism-sector-as-one-of-the-countrys-major-economic-contributors/

BRIEFING DOCUMENT

Housing Development in Zambia within the Framework of Achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11

The quest for development, with a focus on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 11 is unique because it deals with cross cutting issues of space, living conditions and functions of the local government. SDG number 11, aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. However, this paper focuses on one of its targets that concentrates on housing development and planning. This target entails the provision of sustainable and affordable housing to citizens and the upgrading of slums. It further requires integrated and sustainable participatory urban planning for better cities

and human settlements. To achieve this, the paper will analyses various legislation that have been put in place to foster housing development in Zambia

As Zambia works towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), attention should also be towards SDG 11, with reflection on how achievements of this particular goal can impact people's living conditions. This goal has unique targets that the country should strive to achieve which have a focus on the effective use of land for housing development, access to sustainable and affordable housing1 and an enabling policy environment for housing development.

SDG number 11 sets to achieve inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements by 2030. Zambia's ratification of the SDGs comes at the time when the country is experiencing rapid urbanization. Zambia has been viewed as one of the most urbanized countries in Sub-Saharan Africa; this urbanization however has come with some challenges in the housing sector such as inefficiencies in the housing market, housing infrastructure lagging behind required stocks and low levels of living standards.

The inability of the urban development dynamics in the housing sector to cope with increasing urban housing demand has led to the shortage of affordable decent housing and poor infrastructure for social service delivery (water, sanitation and waste management).

This shortage has over the years resulted in the continuous development of unplanned settlements in the periphery of major urban towns and cities. The realization of better housing and urban planning will lead to Zambia achieving SDG number 11 through the enhancement of effective urban service delivery to urban population and acceleration of economic growth.

LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/PMRC-Housing-Development-in-Zambia-within-the-Framework-of-Achieving-Sustainable-Development-Goal.pdf

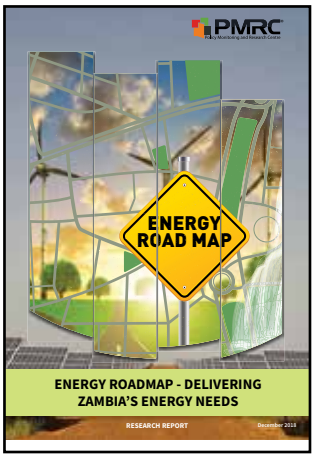
RESEARCH REPORT

Energy Reforms: Delivering Zambia's Energy Needs

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

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

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



LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION

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

ANALYSIS

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

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

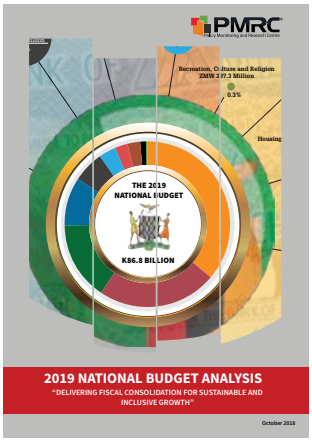
Key Messages

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

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

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

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



LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION http://www.pmrczambia.com/pmrc-2019-national-budget-analysis/

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.

LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION

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

BRIEFING DOCUMENT

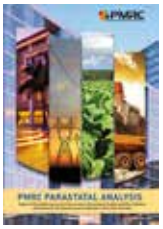
PMRC Analysis Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of Parastatals Bodies and other Statutory Institutions for the financial years ended 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016

Effective management of public resources is essential in the development of any nation. Public resources should therefore, be applied for the best possible public benefit. It is for this reason that the Zambian Government allocates public resources to Parastatal bodies and Statutory institutions as they have an important role to play in service delivery, which ranges from water and sanitation, electricity, education and transportation among others.

Statutory institutions are institutions established by Acts, which Parliament and State Legislatures can pass. They are generally established to perform specific functions which a Government considers effectively performed outside the traditional departmental executive structure. Parastatal bodies, which are also referred to as State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), are legal entities that undertake commercial activities on behalf of an owner Government. The management of public resources, however, remains a challenge in Zambia with some public entities failing to account for these funds or give full and accurate accounts of their activities, which is in violation of the laws of Zambia.

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) in accordance with the Constitution of Zambia, the Public Finance Management Act and the Public Audit Act, is mandated to audit all public and private institutions that receive Government funding. On the 30th of November 2017, the Report of the Auditor General on Accounts of Parastatals Bodies and other Statutory Institutions for the financial years ended 31st December 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 was released to the public. The report contained twenty-two paragraphs on Parastatals bodies and Statutory institutions that were audited or whose performance was reviewed but the issues remained unresolved as at the date of reporting. The twenty two paragraphs included two Parastatals bodies and twenty Statutory institutions.

This PMRC document provides an analysis of the Auditor General (AG) report on Parastatal bodies and Statutory institutions for the years ended 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2015. It begins by providing an overview of Parastatals bodies in Zambia, focusing on the current operations, ownership and economic performance of these institutions. It further provides insight on the most significant audit issues and internal control issues based on the AG report. Lastly, this analysis showcases the corporate governance issues faced by Parastatals bodies and Statutory institutions, prior to the efforts being made to address the inefficiencies of these institutions.



LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION

http://www.pmrczambia.com/pmrc-parastatal-analysis-2018/

OTHER SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Briefing Document: Analysis of Dual Citizenship in Zambia
- Analysis of Public Finance Management Act of 2018
- Briefing Document: The Aquaculture Sub-sector in Zambia: Challenges and Opportunities.
- Research Report: The e Voucher Research Report 2017/2018

LINKS ABOVE FOR THE PUBLICATIONS FOUND ON:

www.pmrczambia.com

Energy Policy Reform – Independent Power Producers and Power Sector Reform: Some Lessons from Comparative Experience in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Improving the performance of the electricity sector in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries is a long-standing agenda, going back to the 1990s. At that time, the electricity sectors in most African countries were state-owned and run as parastatals, and were characterised by low levels of access, unreliable service, high energy losses, capacity shortfalls, heavily subsidised pricing structures, poor financial performance of utilities and a lack of resources to improve and extend services.

The early approach by the World Bank and other agencies was to attempt to implement a set of 'standard' or 'textbook' reforms based on economic theory and experience in countries such as Chile and the UK. Key elements were:

Corporatisation of parastatal utilities;

- Unbundling of generation, transmission, distribution and supply;
- Introducing competition to wholesale generation and supply;
- Establishing an independent regulatory authority;

Horizontal separation of incumbents to create viable supply (i.e. breaking up state monopoly into several companies); and Privatisation.

However, the subsequent experience of reform efforts has led to two broad conclusions.

Firstly, reforms have proceeded more slowly than anticipated, and in most cases remain only partial. In SSA, while many countries have opened up space for investment by private sector Independent Power Producers (IPPs), most have not privatised, unbundled fully or introduced wholesale and retail competition.

Secondly, reforms have not always had the expected effects. While some reforms have in some cases led to improved capacity expansion and utilisation, expanded access and reserve margins, they have not done so in all cases, and in many cases prices have increased as they have become more cost-reflective. There is some evidence that increasing competition has had more of a positive effect than privatisation or regulation.

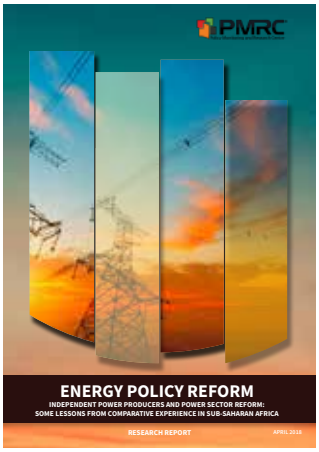
Key issues to consider in Zambia's IPP Investment Drive

In principle there is a great deal of interest from companies seeking to invest in the electricity sector in Zambia; for example the February 2018 launch event of the GETFiT Solar Programme was oversubscribed by a factor of two.

Zambia has as yet relatively little experience in this area. Much can be learned about how to accelerate good quality, cost-effective investment by independent power producers (IPPs) from looking at the experience – both good and bad – of neighbouring countries in Africa.

PMRC has reviewed the track record of a number of countries, including Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa.

In these circumstances, there needs to be focus first on effective planning, procurement and contracting practices for new generation investment and second on ensuring the financial health of the off-taking utility.



LINK FOR THE PUBLICATION

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

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Committee on Local Governance, Housing and Chief Affairs: Implementation of the National Decentralization Policy.

LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Implementation-of-the-National-Decentralisation-Policy-in-Zambia-Parliament-Presentation.pdf

Committee on Health, Community Development and Social Services: Progress and Update of the Social Cash Transfer Programme in Zambia.

LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION

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

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Parliamentary Committee on Budget Estimates and submitted on the Proposed Bills in the 2019 National Budget. (Customs and Excise Amendment Bill, 2018,Value Added Tax Amendment Bill, 2018 ,the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, 2018 and the Income Tax Amendment Bill, 2018.

LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION

http://www.pmrczambia.com/consideration-of-customs-and-excise-amendment-bill-2018-value-added-tax-amendment-bill-2018-and-the-mines-and-minerals-development-amendment-bill-2018-presentation/

Committee on Estimates; Resource Mobilisation and the Ability of the National Budget in Addressing Inequalities

LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Domestic-Resource-Mobilisation-Parliament-Presentation-2018.pdf

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Parliamentary Committee on Budget Estimates submitted on " The 2019 National Budget" under the theme "Delivering Fiscal Consolidation for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth"

LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION

http://www.pmrczambia.com/pmrc-2019-budget-presentation-to-the-parliamentary-committee-on-budget-estimates/

Committee on National Economy, Trade and Labour Matters :Implications of Amending the Business Regulatory Act No. 3 of 2014

LINK FOR THE PRESENTATION

http://www.pmrczambia.com/implications-of-amending-the-business-regulatory-act-no-3-of-2016-presentation/

PMRC PARTICIPATION

1. 2018 UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62), Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls; Review theme: Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session), New York, United States of America

2. 2018 Africa Development Bank (AfDB) annual meetings under theme "Accelerating Africa's Industrialization" in Busan, South Korea.

3. 2018 International Tourism Fair: Maximising Heritage Interpretation for Tourism promotion and Development', in Berlin Germany

4. The 5th Anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative: Assessment and Prospects International Think Tank Symposium and Release of Research Results held in Beijing, China.

PMRC PARTICIPATION

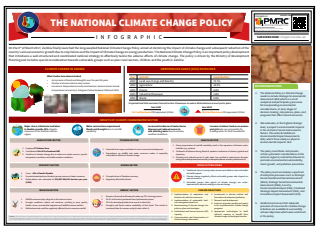
1. 2018 Southern Africa Social Protection Experts Network (SASPEN) Annual Conference, "Non-cash based social protection interventions for reduced hunger: linkages between food security, environment and climate change adaptability-the case of Zambia's challenges and opportunities" at the 2018 SASPEN Conference under the theme re-thinking social protection for inclusive social and economic development Agenda 2030.Johannesburg South Africa.

2. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Shanghai Institute for International Studies Forum 2018; The Belt and Road Initiative and African Development. Paper: International Development: Challenges and Opportunities in Shanghai China

3. The Belt and Road International Think-Tank Forum under the theme " Towards a Path to Civilization for the Future" in Gansu Province of China

4. China-Africa Cooperation on Poverty Alleviation and Development hosted by the Communist Party in China

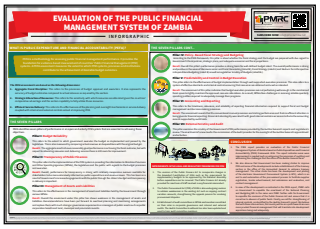
INFOGRAPHIC



The National Climate Change Policy

LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/The-National-Climate-Change-Policy-PMRC-Infographic.pdf



Evaluation of Public Financial Management System in Zambia

LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Evaluation-of-the-Public-Financial-Management-System-of-Zambia-Infographic.pdf

Towards Successful Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan; The Importance of Mindset Shift in the Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan.

LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC

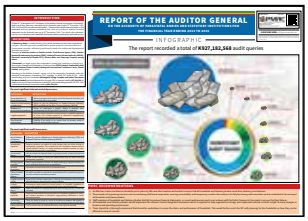
http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/The-Importance-of-Mindset-shift-in-the-Implementation-of-the-7NDP-Infographic.pdf

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

LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Presidential-Speech-Infographic-2018-Measures-Taken-by-Government-to-Ensure-Progress-in-the-Application-of-National-Values-and-Principles.pdf

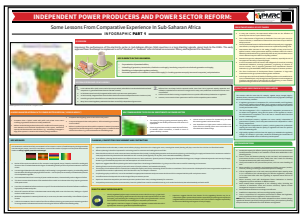
INFOGRAPHIC



2016 Auditor General's Report on Parastatals and Statutory Bodies

LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC

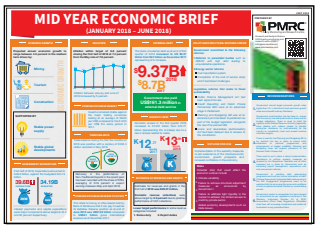
http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Parastatal-Infographic-2018.pdf



Independent Power Producers and Power Sector Reform: Some Lessons from Comparative Experience in Sub-Saharan Africa part 1

LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC

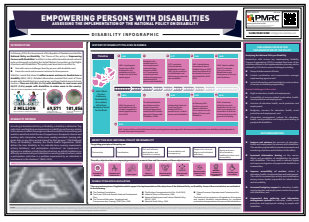
http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Independent-Power-Producers-And-Power-Sector-Reform-Infographic.pdf



Mid Year Economic Brief (January to June,2018)

LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Mid-Year-Economic-Brief-Jan-June-Infographic.pdf



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

LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Empowering-Persons-with-Disabilities-Assessing-the-implementation-of-the-National-Policy-on-Disability-Infographic.pdf

INFOGRAPHIC

Presidential Speech Infographic

LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Presidential-Speech-3rd-Opening-Infographic_2018.pdf

The 2019 National Budget

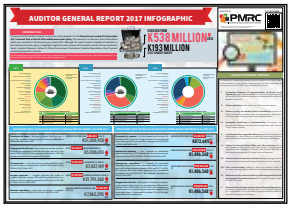
LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Zambia-National-Budget-2019-Infographic.pdf

E Voucher Restructuring: Smart 2018/2019 Farming Season

LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/The-e-Voucher-Restructuring_final.pdf



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

LINK FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC

http://www.pmrczambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Auditor-General-Report-2017-Infographic-2018.pdf

Handover of braille materials to the First Lady Mrs. Esther Lungu at State House

PMRC Media Workshops (Lusaka, Southern and Copperbelt Provinces).

PMRC Community Outreach at Taya Community School in Chawama.

PMRC EVENTS

Courtesy call on PMRC by Chinese Ambassador to Zambia H.E Yang Youmig and Madame Hailing.

Public Lectures: Towards Successful Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan; The Importance of Mindset Shift in the Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan – Choma Trades (Choma), David Livingstone Teachers Training College (Livingstone), LIBES (Livingstone), Mulungushi University (Kabwe), University of Zambia (Lusaka)

PMRC EVENTS

Exhibitions: Agritech Expo in Chisamba, Central Province

Energy Launch of the booklet titled: Energy Policy Reform – Independent Power Producers and Power Sector Reform: Some Lessons from Comparative Experience in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Training for 88 students at the University of Zambia in Qualitative Research

Launch of Research Findings on the Implementation of e-Voucher in the 2017/2018 Farming Season.

Launch of Booklet titled Towards Successful Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan; The Importance of Mindset Shift in the Implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan. Launched by the Minister of Religious Affairs Hon Rev. Godfridah Sumaili.

PMRC - CUTS MoU Signing.

Research Report: Energy Policy Reform – Independent Power Producers and Power Sector Reform : Some Lessons from Comparative Experience in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Central Province Investment Expo. The theme for the Investment Forum and Expo was "Accelerating Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Development".

CSO Fair – PMRC participated in the 1st Zambia Civil Society Organization Fair at Cosmopolitan Mall in Makeni Lusaka. Under the theme "Promoting Networking for Effective Service Delivery.

Energy Launch of the Research Report titled "Energy Reforms: Delivering Zambia's Energy Needs" The event was graced by the Minister of Energy Hon. Matthews Nkhuwa.

PMRC team participated in the Public Debt Indaba under the theme " Addressing Zambia's Economic Challenges for a Stronger Future" The Indaba was a collaboration between CSPR, PMRC, Development Finance Associates, Zambia Association of Manufacturers, CTPD, CUTS and other Cooperating Partners

The 2018 PMRC Media Awards.

PMRC CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

1. The PMRC team on 2nd of April, 2018 took time to visit **TAYA (Teens and Youth Ablaze) Community School in Chawama** to paint classrooms, motivate and encourage pupils as our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity. TAYA Community School is founded, headed and driven by teenagers and youths. TAYA offers education service and life transforming skills to children in the community that donot have the privilege of being able to enroll into a formal school. We appreciate their dedication to service. They work under limited space and resources, just to see other persons/child get exposed to early foundations of education. Their dedication to enhancing human development through education remains unprecedented.

2. PMRC team on 9th of November, 2018 took time to visit **Nyumba Yanga Primary School** in Lusaka Province to paint , motivate and encourage pupils as our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity. As part of our CSR, we always endeavor to give back to the communities and make meaningful difference in the lives of citizens. PMRC chooses needy schools because we believe that every child should have the right to a clean and comfortable environment and this is indeed a platform for "Unlocking Zambia's Potential".

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

The League of African Development Students (LEADS AFRICA) has awarded the 2018 LEADS Merit Awards Certificate to the PMRC Executive Director Bernadette Deka in due recognition of her outstanding contributions to Africa's Development and meritorious service to God, Humanity and the Country especially through the various National and International assignments.

2018 PMRC MEDIA AWARDS

PMRC hosted the 2018 Media Awards. This year's theme was: "Awarding Excellence in Development Policy Reporting" in the following categories: Online, Newspaper, Televison and Radio.

As a way of achieving one of our stated aims: to promote public understanding through research and education, 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.

PMRC AND CUTS MOU SIGNING

Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) and Consumer Unity and Trust Society International (CUTS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaboration in Joint Research, Policy Analysis, Information Dissemination and Event Co-Hosting.

LOOKING AHEAD 1ST HALF OF 2019

1. Media Workshops
2. Higher Education Debates
3. International Public Lecture
4. Decentralisation Implementation Survey
5. Manufacturing Sector Survey (anchored on value addition)
6. Analysis of the Auditor General report
7. Analysis on Domestic Resources Mobilisation
8. E - Voucher Countrywide Sensitisations
9. Countrywide Public Policy Lectures

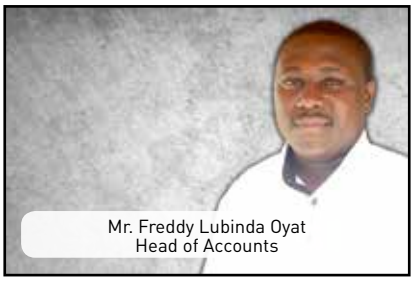
PMRC STAFF


Ms. Bernadette Deka
Executive Director


Mr. Salim Kaunda
Head of Research Analysis


Mr. Akabondo Kabechani
Head of Monitoring and Evaluation


Mr. Mutala Chawelwa
Head of H.R. and Administration


Mr. Freddy Lubinda Oyat
Head of Accounts


Ms. Melody M. Simukali
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Mr. Albert Chanda Kasoma
Senior Researcher


Ms. Chileshe Chaunga
Senior Researcher


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Communication Specialist


Mr. Sambo Mwila
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Ms. Leya Namonje
Researcher


Ms. Esther Nyemba
Researcher


Ms. Chibuye Susa
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2018 PMRC ANNUAL NEWS LETTER

JANUARY TO DECEMBER

20 TH DEC 2018

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