



JESUIT CENTRE FOR THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION
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12th April, 2021

Dear Friends of JCTR,

RE: CALL FOR ARTICLES TO THE SECOND QUARTER BULLETIN

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) is a research, education and advocacy organization that promotes study and action on issues linking Christian faith and social justice in Zambia. Through a faith-based perspective, JCTR strives to critically understand current issues, which emphasize human dignity at individual, household and national levels and generate activities to promote social justice. With the vision to educate, inform, advocate and lobby, JCTR publishes the JCTR quarterly bulletin, monthly Basic Needs Basket (Food Basket) and other engagement activities like workshops, trainings, meetings etc.

Evidently, Zambia's economy is facing a lot of challenges as witnessed by the poor performance of micro-economic fundamentals like exchange rates, fiscal deficit, economic growth, inflation rate, debt stock, GDP-Debt ratio. This economic performance can be related to the advent of Covid-19, debt unsustainability, public resource management, budget performance, unemployment rates, minimal economic diversification, etc. On 18th December 2020, the president of Zambia launched the Economic Recovery Programme 2020-2023 (ERP 2020-23). The theme of the ERP is "***Restoring Growth and Safeguarding Livelihoods through Macroeconomic Stability, Economic Diversification and Debt Sustainability***". The plan targets to achieve:

- GDP growth to above 3% by 2022,
- Reduce fiscal deficit to less than 9% in 2021, less than 6.1% in 2022, less than 4.9% of GDP in 2023,
- Increase domestic revenue to not less than an average of 18% of GDP from 2021 to 2023, reduce and sustain inflation within single digit by end 2022,
- Raise international reserves to at least 3 months of import cover by 2023
- Significantly dismantle domestic arrears and curtail their accumulation
- Reduce the pace of debt accumulation and ensure sustainability in the next 3 to 5 years.

In envisioning restoration of economic growth and safeguarding of livelihoods, the plan intends to achieve these objectives through micro-economic stability, economic diversification and debt sustainability. In the light of this background, JCTR is calling for articles analysing various aspects of the ERP. **For the forthcoming JCTR Bulletin, JCTR is specifically calling for articles on the following:**

1. How can Zambia grow her economy and how best can the ERP 2020-23 deliver on its planned targets?
2. How can Zambia solve the economic twin crisis of Covid-19 and the national debt?
3. How best can the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) be utilized to growth the economy and economic diversification?

4. What must Zambia do to benefit from the Africa free trade area?
5. What policy and legal reforms must be prioritized in order to improve the social, political and economic outlook of the country?
6. What must the government and other stakeholders do to address the country's debt crisis?
7. Objective analysis of key national issues as the country prepares for the General Elections in August
8. Extensive analysis of other key regional and international issues

The dateline for article submission for the Second Quarter JCTR Bulletin is 30th May 2021. The articles should be in Times New Roman, Font 12 and NOT exceeding 1,500 words and must be sent to bulletin@jctr.org.zm and copy jctrbulletin@gmail.com

Thank you and we will greatly appreciate your positive response.

Faithfully yours,



Fr. Alex Muyebe, S.J.

Executive Director/Bulletin Editor