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INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH  
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IN THIS ISSUE :

Misinterpretation of Zam-  
bian Traditional Norms  
fuel Corruption, study  
reveals 2

Zambian PMTCT pro-  
gramme successful, study  
reveals 3

Inequalities in Labour  
Market Outcomes, Gender  
Disparities and Lack of  
Employment Opportuni-  
ties for youths under 25  
years still persistent de-  
spite rosy economic out-  
look 4

INESOR Joins the rest of  
the University in the Keep  
UNZA Clean Exercise 5

Online Newspapers 6  
should regulate them-  
selves, study demonstrates

CORE VALUES

Academic Freedom  
Accountability

Equity

Excellence

Green Environment

Innovativeness

Integrity

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear readers,

Greetings from INESOR!

As we wind up the first quarter of the year, we are glad to share with you all, our activities during this period. During the first quarter, we focused on disseminating study findings of completed research projects; this was done through conferences, seminar presentations, and Journal publications.

In this newsletter, we report on the key findings of our research on *Corruption in the Construction Sector*, which was a collaborative project between the Institute of Economic and Social Research and the School of



Dr. Jolly Kamwanga

Engineering. The study found that respondents perceived corruption in the construction sector to be rife; this was partly attributed to the misinterpretation of some of Zambia's cultural norms and practices. This newsletter also reports on findings of a study on *National Evaluation of the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Programme*. The study found that the PMTCT program was quite successful at minimizing vertical transmission among women who initiate and are retained in PMTCT care at study facilities.

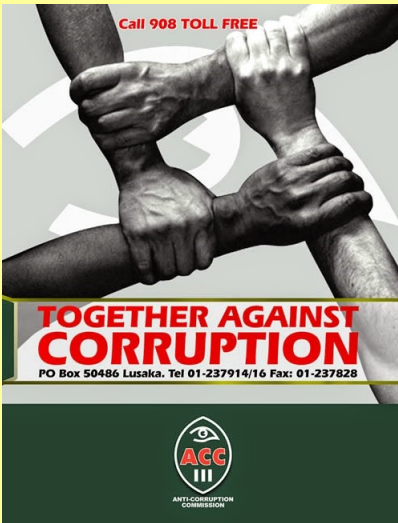
In our bid to share our research outputs, INESOR was part of an African Labour Experts' delegation that discussed the *World Economic Outlook Report* during the 2018 World Bank/ International Monetary Fund Trade Union Advisory Committee meeting in Washington D.C; and INESOR further discussed the credibility and ethical dimensions of online media newspapers in Zambia at the 2nd African Conference of the International Telecommunications Society in Lusaka, Zambia.

As always, we remain committed to collaborating with both Government and Non-Governmental Organizations in generating and sharing knowledge in our six (6) areas of focus: Agriculture and Rural Development, Economic and Business, Health Promotion, Socio-cultural, Governance and Urban Development

We always welcome and value your feedback on our work.

Pleasant reading!

Jolly Kamwanga (PhD)  
Director-INESOR



Picture courtesy of <http://paulshalala.blogspot.com/2014/12/zambia-maintains-corruption-score-but.html>

## Misinterpretation of Zambian Traditional Norms fuel Corruption, study reveals

A study conducted by the Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR) and the school of Engineering on Corruption in the Construction sector has revealed that misinterpretations of Zambian traditional norms fuel corruption. This is contained in an article titled ‘evolving cultural norms at crossroads with legal frameworks in reducing corruption in the procurement of construction projects in Zambia,’ jointly authored by INESOR and School of Engineering.

The article which was published in the International Journal of Advances in Mechanical and Civil Engineering titled ‘Options for Reducing Corruption in Procurement: The Case of the Construction Sector in Zambia’ was based on a study conducted by two units of the university with support from the British Academy – Department for International Development (DFID) Anti-Corruption Evidence Program (ACEP).

The study was conducted in 12 districts drawn from five (5) provinces of Zambia in December 2015. The overall objective of the study was to examine the extent and nature of corruption in the procurement of construction projects in Zambia. One specific objective was to identify contextual factors that facilitate corruption in procurement in the construction sector.

The study revealed that the construction sector in Zambia is riddled with bribery, extortion and fraud and that corruption has direct negative consequences on socio-economic development and quality of life. It also discussed the results of the study which showed that despite government efforts, corruption remains unabated in Zambia due to a myriad of prevailing socio-economic factors that thwart or contradict the legal framework and related interventions designed to prevent corruption in the Country. This means that positive traditional norms or practices which existed to support the extended family values system are now being misappropriated and ‘new’ norms are emerging to support corruption. If not checked, these corrupt practices will be deeply rooted and jeopardize anti-corruption efforts in the country and seriously undermine development and perpetuate inequities in the distribution of the socio-economic resources in the country.

In Zambia, some cultural norms or practices that have a bearing on corruption and/ or efforts to prevent it were reported to be common in everyday life. The study revealed that some of these norms were not new, as they have a long historical context and some originated as positive practices. However, as the contemporary society evolved with the cash economy taking center stage, the interpretation and application of these practices transformed while some emerged as intermediaries of corruption. Some of the common norms or practices being misapplied with a bearing on corruption include ‘kwasamukwenu’ in Luvale, meaning ‘help your neighbour or friend,’ ‘ukubosha’ in Bemba, in the traditional system was intended to honor or show respect to Chiefs, village headmen, parents or other significant people and ‘ubombamwibala alyamwibala which translates to ‘you eat from where you work.’ In the same space of time, some norms namely ‘nchekelako’ in Chinyanja or ‘ndekulishamo’ in Bemba which translates to ‘cut a piece for me in return of a favor’ and ‘wakoniwako’ in Chinyanja an expression which means ‘help your own’, emerged as new norms that support corruption.

Despite corruption in the procurement of construction projects being a very common and serious problem in Zambia, it is important to note that its increase it is not mainly due to gaps in the legal frameworks, but social and contextual factors such as the misinterpretation of the positive traditional practices and norms and the emergence of “new” norms that support corruption negatively affect the impact of mitigation efforts aimed at fighting corruption in Zambia.

## Zambian PMTCT programme successful, study reveals

A study conducted by INESOR has revealed that the Zambian PMTCT programme has generally been successful in reducing vertical transmission of HIV among women who initiate and are retained in PMTCT care programmes.

This came to light when INESOR Research Fellow, Dr. Joseph Simbaya who led the implementation of the first-ever National Evaluation of the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) presented the study findings of the study on 23 March 2018 at Inter continental Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia.



Dr. Joseph Simbaya (right) listens on as the Director of Programmes moderates the discussion

The study was funded by the United States Government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Centres for Disease Control (CDC). Following an intention to conduct a national evaluation of PMTCT services and a consultative meeting at Protea Hotel in Chisamba in 2012, INESOR conducted a Data Quality Assessment (DQA) study led by Dr. Joseph Simbaya, Prof. Mubiana Macwan'gi and Mr. Richard Bwalya which assessed the quality of existing data in health facilities in order to determine the appropriate methodology for the impact study. The DQA revealed that the quality and completeness of existing PMTCT data in health facilities could not be relied on for assessment of the effectiveness of the national programme. This led to the development of national protocol that would use a mixed of methods to assess the impact of PMTCT services in Zambia. The study had two components which included a cohort study among HIV-positive pregnant women receiving antenatal care (ANC) in the Northern Provinces of Central, Copperbelt, and Luapula provinces. The same activities were conducted for the southern provinces of Lusaka, Western and Southern between January 2015 and January 2017. The second component of the study piloted the feasibility of using infant testing in immunization sites to estimate mother to child transmission (MTCT) rates for infants below the age of one year.

Overall, the first component of the study (Prospective cohort) showed that among women who initiate and are retained in PMTCT care at study facilities, the program was quite successful at minimizing vertical transmission. Nevertheless, generalizability of these findings to the broader community of HIV-positive pregnant women should be made with caution. This is because study participants were likely to have had better service access and utilization compared to the broader population; they were women already seeking facility-based ANC who already knew their HIV status.

The second component, a variant of sentinel surveillance, demonstrated that it is feasible to use routine infant testing in immunization clinics to estimate MTCT rates among infants under the age of 1 year. However, for success of MTCT estimation through infant testing in immunization settings, there is need to strengthen the supply chain of consumables such as rapid test kits, DBS cards and Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) reagents. There is evidence of an effective PMTCT program among the general population of HIV positive mothers. As expected, the overall MTCT rates in the general population of HIV positive mothers is higher than MTCT rates among PMTCT enrolled mothers. However, the difference is relatively low indicating an effective PMTCT program and elimination of vertical Human Immune Virus (HIV) transmission is within reach.

## Inequalities in Labour Market Outcomes, Gender Disparities and Lack of Employment Opportunities for youths under 25 years still persistent despite rosy economic outlook



A Research Fellow at the Institute of Economic and Social Research has maintained that despite the good economic outlook highlighted in the World Economic Report (2008), inequalities in labour market outcomes, Gender disparities and lack of employment opportunities for youths under 25 years have still remained persistent.

Mr. Grayson Koyi, who was among the four (4) African delegates nominated to attend and make presentations at the 2018 Annual World Bank/International Monetary Fund (IMF)-Trade Union Advisory Committee meeting held in the first week of March, this year in

Washington, D.C. reacted to a presentation on the World Economic Outlook Report (2018) made by IMF Chief Economist and Director of the IMF Research Department at the IMF Headquarters in Washington D.C.

Dr. Maurice Obsterfield, who noted among other things, that the World Economic Outlook suggested that the cyclical economic growth momentum across the globe would continue, and that this growth would be driven by strong investment and trade. , by articulating Africa labour's view on the World Economic Outlook Report published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) early this year.

In his reaction Mr. Koyi, observed that beneath the surface of a rosy economic outlook lied disturbing evidence of elevated global inequality, unemployment and slow wage growth. He noted that consequently, the incidence of working poverty was on the upswing. He maintained that despite the economic growth momentum, inequalities in labour market outcomes had persisted alongside gender disparities and lack of employment opportunities for youths under 25 years.

Based on his analysis, the overall position of his paper was that it was difficult to see correlations between the rosy economic outlook presented in the IMF report and the daily experiences of people in much of the developing world, particularly people at work. He argued that while economic outlook continued to firm up, working people in many regions will likely continue to experience high unemployment, under-employment, vulnerable employment, extreme working poverty, inequality and wage stagnation.

Mr. Koyi, maintained that economic growth for a significant proportion of the developing and emerging economies had not been inclusive enough. On this basis, he called for a more diagnostic approach which was objective enough to identify the missing link, wondering whether this could be due to absence of universal social protection, labour safeguards or the failures of multilateralism.

## INESOR Joins the rest of the University in the Keep UNZA Clean Campaign



INESOR Research Fellow, Mr. Edward Chibwili slashing the surrounding

In March 2017, the Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR) continued to join the rest of the university community in cleaning the surroundings. INESOR Director, Dr. Jolly Kamwanga led the team in undertaking various cleaning activities such as slashing, sweeping, trimming of shrubs and mowing of grass among others things.

Speaking when he addressed members of staff at the Institute, Dr. Kamwanga expressed happiness at the turnout of staff and called for continued participation in this activity stating that it was the one of the ways in which we could all get involved in caring for our environment. And in a related development, Prof. Mumba stated during the launch of this campaign that as UNZA, we would like to promote a culture where belief about a clean and green environment is espoused by everyone who works for UNZA. Therefore, this activity is a step in the right direction in inculcating this culture and shared belief among staff.

The importance of keeping a clean learning environment can not be over emphasised. This is because, the university intends to enhance the learning and working environment through maintenance of clean and healthy surroundings. This is in line with one of the institutions core values of being a green environment or eco-friendliness as referred to in the new strategic plan of 2018-2022.

Following the launch of the Keep UNZA Clean Campaign by UNZA Vice Chancellor, Prof. Luke Evuta Mumba on 11 January 2018, members of staff in the have been consistent in university participating in the maintenance and cleaning of the surroundings every first Friday of the month.



INESOR IT Officer, Mr. Nyambe Silimwe trimming the shrubs

## Online Newspapers should regulate themselves, study demonstrates



Picture courtesy of [https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj\\_\\_o-norzbAhWibhQKH3SCLkQjhx6BAG-BEAM&url=https%3A%2F%2Fapkpure.com%2F](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj__o-norzbAhWibhQKH3SCLkQjhx6BAG-BEAM&url=https%3A%2F%2Fapkpure.com%2F)

A study on the Credibility and Ethical Standards of Zambian Online Newspapers and Options for Regulation has demonstrated the need for online newspapers to regulate themselves. This was brought to light in a presentation made by INESOR Research Fellow, Mr. Parkie Mbozi at the just ended 2nd African Conference of the International Telecommunications Society, held on March 15 – 16, 2018 at Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia.

The study examined the readership of Zambian online newspapers among individuals aged 18 years and above in Lusaka Province of Zambia. It specifically aimed at investigating the following:

- How readers perceive and rate the Zambian online newspapers on credibility;
- How credibility of online newspapers compares with traditional newspapers and other mainstream media;
- Whether perceived credibility of the online newspapers is a predictor of reader gratification and influence; and,
- options for regulating Zambian online newspapers.

Mr. Mbozi narrated that overall, results indicated that the readers of Zambian online newspapers perceive them as generally credible on a number of journalistic standards, particularly as sources of up-to-date and breaking news.

There also seems to be correlation between the negative public perceptions of the traditional public media and the growing cannibalisation of these media by online newspapers. As a result, readers are turning to online newspapers as sources of information that is perceived to be balanced, fair and uncensored.

He also observes that the influence of online newspapers is, however, hampered by concerns around truthfulness and believability of their content. Political polarisation and perceived biasness across party lines have added to the mistrust and how the readers perceive of these media and ultimately the extent of believability. He further observes that print newspapers (their online versions included) are the worst affected by cannibalisation and displacement effects from the online newspapers. Online newspapers can however, bolster their credibility and ultimately maximise reader satisfaction if they can adopt and adhere to professional codes of ethical conduct.

Therefore, it is goes without saying that some of form of (self) regulation, through an online media council of one form or another, is inevitable. It also follows logically that everything that is published for the public through the mass media ought to be regulated in one form or another. However, the question that begs an answer remains “Who should regulate online newspapers, how and what should be regulated?” It is worth noting that with a clear strategy, the potential threats to both the survival of the online media council and individual rights and freedoms can be minimized. Lessons can be drawn from existing associations of online media, such as the Online News Association of the United States of America (USA).

## ABOUT INESOR

Established in 1938, as Rhodes Livingstone Institute, INESOR is an interdisciplinary social science centre of the University of Zambia (UNZA). The Institute conducts both basic and applied research and consultancy. Our research activities are organized around six thematic areas: Agriculture and Rural Development, Economic and Business, Health Promotion, Governance, Socio – Culture and Urban Development.

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## CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH SHORT COURSES

As part of our contribution to knowledge development, we offer short trainings courses. The short courses are tailor made and held on a quarterly basis with the aim of raising the capacities of Researchers, Policy Makers, Program Managers, and students to engage more effectively and achieve evidence based policy and program decision-making. They are also targeted at practitioners working in public, private, media, NGOs, students and members of the public who may be interested and working in an environment related to Research, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. Some of the courses offered are Research Methods, Data Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluations and Policy Analysis. We also train So far, we have trained the Zambia Police Research Department, Ministry of Finance and National Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Planners, among others.

Contact us for more details

## ELIZABETH COLSON RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE



ECRDC Ikmmmmkksue Desk

The Elizabeth Colson Research and Documentation Centre (ECRDC) is the information unit of INESOR. It is situated within INESOR premises and was primarily set up to support the research needs of the Institute but has over the years extended its services to students, lecturers, researchers and the general public. The services offered are reference, dissemination and internet or computer services.

The centre has an excellent collection of journals and periodicals, Research Reports, Manuscripts, Off Prints, Government Documents, Historical and Cultural information. The ECRDC collection is being added to the main UNZA library catalogue to ensure that the collection is searchable and viewable online through the UNZA website. The ECRDC is open from 08:00-17:00 hours Monday to Friday except week ends and public holidays. We invite to visit our centre and sample our collection for all your research and study requirements.