Yohane Tembo

A Look at Zambia's Road Financing Strategies

The Impact of Incongruent Policies and Budgets



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PREFACE

Investments in transport infrastructure have massive economic benefits, leading to a vibrant and efficient transport system. In Zambia, where a disproportionate distribution of freight between road and rail exists, with road transport carrying over 85% of freight, the significance of road investments cannot be emphasized. To remain competitive, the country must prioritize sustainable road maintenance on her road network, and ensure that a decent balance is maintained between investments in maintenance and those aimed at new construction.

Insufficient budgetary allocation to road maintenance normally results in road deterioration that significantly reduces the utility of the existing roads. This makes it expensive and more difficult to move products and services from producers to consumers or inputs to designated industrial centers. Construction of new roads is deterred due to lack of funds, which entails that many areas which have the potential to trigger economic growth would remain unnecessarily inaccessible for far too long. The alternative is to seek political interference in the budgeting process in order to skew the fiscus towards road construction and development, rather than routine and periodic road maintenance which, purposefully, extend the service life cycle of existing road infrastructure through effective and efficient road asset management. Naturally, maintenance is rarely seen as important and it hardly attracts appropriate funding from the fiscus.

For many years, it has been observed that Zambia's road asset has been wasting away at an accelerated rate due to the preference of reactive, rather than preventive, road maintenance strategies. New road construction is believed to have also contributed to the neglect of maintenance. This book, therefore, presents an analysis of Zambia's incongruent road financing strategies which have led to inefficient road asset management over the past decades. Endogenous deficiencies which tend to exhibit themselves in a road network that is grossly in a state of disrepair are exposed and discussed in the context of optimized and sustainable road network and budgetary allocations as a cure going forward. However, the final decision about which policies and strategies should be adopted to address the vexing problem, has been left entirely in the hands of political office holders, in whom the people of Zambia have had to vest their power to legislate and manage the affairs of the country.

It is a key element of this book to demonstrate of originality in tackling the road asset management problem in Zambia and thereby create a platform for extending such knowledge for use on the global stage.

DEDICATION

This book is particularly dedicated to all colleagues who have spent a substantial amount of their effort towards the improvement of the road transport system in Zambia, as well as across the African continent, in pursuit of sustainable solutions to our economic growth and the general well-being of our citizens.

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First and foremost, there are many people from whom I obtained much assistance in the course of preparing this book of which it would be impossible to chronicle all of them, but who I still owe my sincere gratitude. My biggest appreciation goes to the academic staff and management of Atlantic International University for their critical, but awesome support.

Secondly, I wish to express my gratitude to all the Zambian institutions, agencies, and ministries which assisted in a special way by providing information which I consider vital for the completion of my manuscripts. These institutions primarily include the National Road Fund Agency, the Road Development Agency, and the Road Transport and Safety Agency. I also received assistance from the Ministry of Local Government and Housing, Ministry of Transport, Works, Communication, and Supply and the Ministry of Finance, for which I am very grateful.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AC Asphalt Concrete AWP Annual Work Plan

BOT Build Operate and Transfer
CPI Consumer Price Index
CRN Core Road Network
CSO Central Statistics Office
DBST Double Surface Treatment
DBSD Double Surface Dressing

EU European Union

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GRZ Government Republic of Zambia
HMS Highway Management System
IRI International Roughness Index

MLGH Ministry of Local Government and Housing

MoF Ministry of Finance

MTCWS Ministry of Transport, Communication, Works and Supply

MTEF Medium Term Expenditure Framework

NAR Needs Assessment Report
NRFA National Road Fund Agency
NTRC National Toll Road Company
ORUCs Other Road-User Charges

PBRCs Performance Based Road Contracts

PFI Private Finance Initiative PFR Primary Feeder Road Periodic Maintenance PMPPP Public Private Partnership Pavement Management System **PMS** Road Development Agency RDA RMI Road Maintenance Initiative **RMS** Road Management System

RoadSIP I Road Sector Investment Plan Phase 1
RoadSIP II Road Sector Investment Plan Phase 2

RRM Routine Road Maintenance

RRU Rural Road Unit

RTSA Road Transport and Safety Agency SNDP Sixth National Development Plan

SPV Special Purpose Vehicle

TAZARA Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority
TMD Trunk, Main, and District Roads

US\$ United States Dollar Veh/day Vehicles per Day World Bank

WEI Wider Economic Benefits

ZIPAR Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research

ZMK Zambian Kwacha (old currency)
ZMW Zambian Kwacha (rebased currency)
ZNS Zambia National Service

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