



ECZ

IN PERSPECTIVE

News about the Examinations Council of Zambia

Issue No. 5

July to December 2014

ECZ COMMENDED FOR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE IN 2014



Inside this
Issue



ECZ receives 2014
Presidents Recognition
Award



Zambia hosts the
32nd AEAA Conference



Four Surveys conducted
in 2014



ECZ participates at the
Golden Jubilee
Inter-Company
Tournament





The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) was established by an Act of Parliament Number 15 of 1983 with a mandate to set and conduct examinations and award certificates to successful candidates. Before enactment, the Ministry of Education and Culture, under the Examinations Section used to conduct the examinations. The full launch and operationalisation of the ECZ began in 1987 as a semi-autonomous public institution (parastatal).

VISION STATEMENT

The Examinations Council of Zambia will be a leading examining Board in providing accurate and timely assessment and certification systems reflective of the competencies of learners and the education system in a prospering economy.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Examinations Council of Zambia will provide an effective and efficient system for setting and conducting assessments of comparable international standards.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Mr Daniel Chapi - Chairperson

Mr Ronald M. Tembo - Secretary

Mrs Charity M. Kombe - Member

Ms Mamunye S. Njekwa - Member

Mr Andrew Matiya - Member

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The Examinations Council of Zambia has recorded a number of achievements in the year 2014. Our open door policy, our attention to detail and innovative thinking has led us to develop a 'winners' attitude. Some of the achievements for the year includes the implementation of the June General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination; Separation of GCE Examination from School Certificate Examination; Conduct of leakage free Grades 7 and 12 Examinations and the early release of Grade 7 Composite Examination results.

The ECZ honoured the Government of the Republic of Zambia with two Jubilee events. These were; the successful hosting of the 32nd Annual Conference of the Association for Education Assessment in Africa (AEAA) which was successfully held at Zambezi Sun Hotel in Livingstone from 11th to 15th August 2014 and the successful launch of the state of the art ECZ Service Centre on 16th October 2014. The two events happened at a time when Zambia was celebrating 50 years of political independence, peace and economic growth.

We are also excited to mention that our efforts have been recognised in form of Awards of Recognition from the Zambia Society for Public Administration; Joint recognition by Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA) and Institute of Directors of Zambia (IOD) and the Zambia Agricultural and Commercial Show Society. This clearly shows that our efforts towards the conduct and management of examinations have helped to enhance the role, professionalism, image and visibility of Zambia's public service.

As we strive to automate in our operations, we wish to indicate that the Council is working hard to ensure that it maintains a positive corporate reputation with the public and the progress made in that regard, is continually receiving urgent undivided attention. We will continue to engage the general public in an open minded way to attain improved communication, seek alternatives and provide constructive feedback to ensure that we provide the best customer service in the country.

We look forward to continued support from various stakeholders and the Government; as we plan to implement new initiatives, particularly the next Service Centre Project on the Copperbelt Province in 2015, among others.

Enjoy reading this edition.

Ronald M. Tembo
Corporate Affairs Officer

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Having succeeded
in 2014, we smell
excellence
in 2015**



Mr Michael M. Chilala

We certainly have no exceptional talents, other than a passionate curiosity. We have gone through the storm and wouldn't want to get back there. This explains why having started to forge meaningful partnerships within ourselves and our valuable stakeholders in 2014, we managed to exhibit our potential through various innovations and achievements.

Arising from the examination malpractices experienced during the 2013 examinations, we put in place measures that saw leakage free Grade 7, Grade 12 and Teacher Education examinations in 2014. Public criticism of the statues that were erected at the entrance of our main office did not take away our successful conduct of the maiden 2014 June GCE examination, which has eventually led to a complete separation of the GCE examination from the Grade 12 internal examination effective this year, 2015. Despite the entry ban imposed by the Ministry of Health on delegates from some West African countries on account of the outbreak of Ebola, we successfully hosted the

32nd annual conference of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) from 11th to 15th August, 2014 at Zambezi Sun Hotels in Livingstone. Despite the limited financing, we had our new Service Centre officially opened by the Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education, Honorable Dr. John T.N. Phirion 16th October, 2014.

We believe in the adage that chance favours only the prepared mind. We have therefore prepared our minds to focus on the following in 2015:

- **Online registration** of candidates—we shall pilot the in-house developed system for registering candidates online at grades 7, 9, 12 and Teacher Education;
- **e-marking** – we will pilot the e-marking system whereby instead of the traditional marking using a pen, the marking will have to be done using the computer;
- **Online query tracking system**—we will implement the system for tracking online all queries to enable our clients submit queries online and monitor progress until the queries are resolved;

Strategic Planning - we shall develop a new strategic plan to guide our growth since the current one ends in December, 2015;

• **Job Evaluation** – we shall undertake this exercise to ensure all positions contribute optimally to the achievement of the new strategic plan;

• **Copperbelt Service Centre**—we will move to establish a Service Centre in Kitwe to promote efficient and effective service provision through decentralisation.

Although they say criticism takes from the tree caterpillars and blossoms together, we ensured that public criticism did not derail our agenda to serve the public better. Building on our achievements in 2014, we shall maintain our desire to remain creative and keep growing. We believe that the past chaos has bred life, while the current order will create the good habit of smart work and success. We shall endeavour to maximise the gains arising from every aorta of our effort.

We therefore invite you to stay with us and continue to be part of our winning team by sharing in our experiences.

*Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year to You All*

Launch of ECZ Service Centre marks a milestone of real innovation



Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education- Dr John T.N. Phiri delivering the speech

The Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education, Honourable Dr John T.N. Phiri-MP officially launched and commissioned the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) Service Centre on Thursday, 16th October 2014.

The launch marked a significant milestone of real innovation, growth and development in the provision of high quality assessment services to Zambia's education system and the community at large by the ECZ. The Service Centre is situated on Plot No. 1926 Msuzi Road in Woodlands, Lusaka. Hereunder are excerpts of Dr John Phiri's speech during the Launch of the Service Centre.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the initiative to construct the Service Centre could not have come at a better time than now when the country was celebrating 50 years of independence, peace and development. I wish to pay tribute to the ECZ Chairperson- Professor Samuel F. Banda for the splendid leadership he and the entire Council has shown which had resulted into the selection of a new Director, having taken over the institution when it had lost credibility and was on its knees".



Construction works at the Service Centre

"I am proud to announce that the Council has made strides in cleaning the entire examination process from ECZ to the school level through working together with the Provincial Education Officers (PEOs), security agencies and other stakeholders. This achievement is evidenced by the introduced and leakage free 2014 June General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination and the non-availability of any authentic leakages so far during the 2014 Joint School Certificate and GCE examination."



Minister unveils the Service Centre

"I am proud to state that the Council has moved to improve the conditions for setters and markers of examinations, which has attracted some of the markers and setters who had given up due to poor conditions; to come back on the setting and marking panels. I wish to state that the ECZ has honoured the Government of the Republic of Zambia with two Jubilee events and these were the hosting of the 32nd Annual Conference of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) which was successfully held at Zambezi Sun Hotel from 11th to 15th August 2014 in Livingstone and the Construction and successful launch of the state of the art ECZ Service Centre."

"I am excited as I toured the Service Centre that the Council has indeed restored the dignity of ECZ clients who would no longer be scorched by the sun while waiting to be served, no longer be served through the windows as if they were still in colonial times, and no longer had to wait too long to receive a complete service. I have no doubt that with the current Council and Management in place, the ECZ will continue growing, achieving and making the country proud."

"I wish the ECZ all successes as you strive to further improve the provision of examinations and all other assessment services to the education system."



Minister tours the Service Centre

The Service Centre is now a one stop shop that has all relevant personnel, information technology infrastructure and systems to ensure effective and efficient service delivery.

The Centre is electronically linked to the ECZ Headquarters along Haile Selassie Avenue in Longacres, Lusaka. Among the services the ECZ Service Centre is offering are Combination of Grade 9 Statements of Results, Verification/Certification of Statements of Results/Certificates, Replacements of Certificates, Registration and Renewal of Examination Centre Status for Private Schools, Equating of foreign results/qualifications to local qualifications, Accumulation of GCE Certificates and any other general enquiries on examinations and certification.

The building where the Service Centre is now, previously served as the ECZ Guest House for many years and was almost at the verge of being sold. With the coming in of the new Council on 25th April 2012, the idea not to sell the Guest House was presented by Management to Council with a proposal to re-model the Guest House into Service Centre.

On 19th March 2013, the Council considered the proposal from Management and resolved to rescind the decision made by the previous Council to sell the Guest House and mandated Management to transform it to a Service Centre.



Clients entering the ECZ Service Centre to access Council services

On 20th November 2013, the development process of remodelling and reconstructing began, after Management had complied with procurement procedures and the site was handed over to the Contractor, Hua Chang Infrastructure and Engineering Limited in December 2013.

Due to the challenges in remodelling the old structure, a decision was made to demolish the structure and build a modern building as we see it today. It should be put on record that the reconstruction of the Service Centre was made possible via ECZ's limited internally generated finances and without recourse to government finances. The Service Centre project was completed in May 2014 and from then, more work shifted to Information Communication Technology (ICT) system connections. The ICT present at the Centre is a replica of what is in existence at the main offices thereby making it ready to open its doors to the public.

With this new Service Centre in place, the ECZ has now reached a level of excellence to apply tried and tested systems, rules and procedures to provide high quality service delivery. As ECZ, we are assuring the public that they will always enjoy positive experiences whenever they visit our Service Centre to access Council services.



A Lusaka High School pupil entertain the guests with a traditional dance



Some invited guests in attendance during the launch



ECZ Staff assigned to the Service Centre pose for a Photo

Visit the ECZ Service Centre Now

Innovations Today and Tomorrow

By Kasonde Kembani

The Software Development and Examination Processing Section of the Information Technology Department has of late embarked on a number of innovations spanning core areas of the Examinations Cycle such as candidate registration, results processing and service delivery.

Not only has the Software Development Section taken a paradigm shift vis-à-vis the software development approach, it has also become more proactive in providing ICT solutions and services.



e-MES being implemented

When business processes change or when new products and services are introduced by an institution, existing software has to be enhanced or new software developed to embrace the change.

In its quest to be more effective and efficient in processing examinations and service delivery in a prosperous economy, the ECZ has streamlined core business processes and introduced new services to the public such as the combination of GCE results. The IT department has been there to support these developments and has thus, embarked on the

following innovation:

The Query Tracking System

The Query Tracking System (QTS) is a Web Application developed to keep track of queries from clients. The QTS can process the following categories of queries; Missing Marks, Name Correction, Transcript Replacement, Certificate Replacement, Unprinted Certificates and Under Protest Cases.

This system is currently in use internally and will be unveiled to the public later so that clients can be able to track the status of their queries anywhere as long as they have an active connection to the Internet.

The QTS is the first Web-based Application developed since the establishment of the ECZ.

The Online Candidate Registration System

Like the Query Tracking System, the Online Candidate Registration System (OCRS) is also a Web Application currently being developed and will replace the current Electronic Candidate Registration System (ECRS). Joining the Web will definitely make the candidate registration process more efficient by eliminating the need of

consolidating data from different schools at district level and physically submitting Data Compact Discs (CDs) to ECZ main offices.

The OCRS is expected to be piloted in 2015. Once fully functional, candidates will be able to sign in and verify their registration details.

Electronic Marks Entry System

The history of the Electronic Marks Entry System (e-MES) dates back to 2009 and was formally known as the Electronic Marks Capturing System (EMCS). After re-developing it on a different platform and adding more features, the EMCS was later known as e-MES. The e-MES is a robust and flexible system embracing marks entry at Grades 9, 12 and Teacher Education.

The e-MES has effectively eliminated physical mark sheets and related problems thereby, quickening the marks entry process at marking centres and consequently shortening the results processing timeframe by a significant degree.

In 2013, e-MES was introduced at Grade 9 and this led to the early release of Grade 9 results for the first time since the inception of the ECZ. The e-MES was first used at Teacher Education (Pre School, ZATEC1 and ZATEC2) in 2013.

Future Innovations

At this point, ICT solutions can only get better. There are a number of innovations that have been aligned for tomorrow and beyond and all of these are meant to make ECZ a fully-fledged Digital Institution for the greater good of our Nation.



EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

SEPARATION OF GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (GCE) EXAMINATION FROM SCHOOL CERTIFICATE (SC) EXAMINATION

This is to inform all members of the public that in an effort to effectively and efficiently conduct the 'O' Level Examination in the country, the Examinations Council of Zambia in consultation with key stakeholders, has delinked the Grade 12 School Certificate (SC) Examination from the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination, effective the year 2015. The October/November Grade 12 internal examination will be strictly for regular **school going candidates** while the external GCE examination will be for **Open and Distance Learning (ODL)** and **Out of School candidates**.

While the School Certificate (Grade 12 Internal) Examination will continue to be conducted in October/November, the GCE examination will run in August each year effective 2015. Please note that effective 2015, **there will be no restriction** to the **number of subjects** that the **GCE candidates** can enter. This means that the GCE candidate can enter for as many subjects as they wish.

Please note that all institutions that were running as GCE centres in the past but not included on the approved list for 2015 **have been frozen** until further notice. They **should not register any candidates** for the 2015 GCE Examination. All queries related to the GCE Examination Centre Status must be channelled through the appropriate Provincial Education Office (PEO).

Members of the public may visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/examcouncilzambia or send the queries to our email address: info@exams-council.org.zm or visit our website at www.exams-council.org.zm for further information.

Michael M. Chilala
DIRECTOR

EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

These news articles contain some of the news published in the newspapers for the period July to December 2014. These have been reproduced courtesy of The Post and Zambia Daily Mail Newspapers:

May the fake exam leakages continue – Phiri

The Post, Friday October 17, 2014

By Moono Chungu and Tilyenji Mwanza

Education Minister John Phiri has encouraged perpetrators of examination malpractice to continue producing fake leakages. And Dr Phiri has appealed to UNZA students to leave the issue of the Commonwealth Youth Centre to competent authorities to resolve.

Speaking at the official opening of the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) Service Centre in Lusaka's Woodlands area, Phiri commended ECZ for making it impossible for pupils to cheat their way to success.

"May the fake leakages continue, 2014 will see leakage free examinations," he said. "Thank you for making it impossible for our learners to get away with malpractices."

Phiri expressed disappointment with the Kitwe pupils who violently protested over fake leakages and encouraged them to work hard.

"You are wasting your parents' money. Just work hard and excel," he said.

And ECZ chairperson, Samuel Banda, apologized for the below-par conditions clients were subjected to and assured that the new Service Centre will offer more humane services.

"We apologise for our services that required customers to stand at a window and crowd our headquarters along Haile Selassie Avenue. We continue to ensure that we serve the community, our ministry and the government at large," said Banda.

And speaking during the presentation of scholarships to 50 first year students at UNZA by Bayport Financial Services, Dr Phiri urged UNZA students to desist from demonstrating over the Commonwealth Youth Centre building and instead cultivate a spirit of dialogue.

"The issue of who must own the Commonwealth Youth Centre must be left to competent authorities to resolve. The issue of first year students'

bursaries must be left to competent authorities to resolve. I also appeal to UNZA Council and management not to tempt government to resolve UNZA issues for them," he said.

Dr Phiri said the riotous behaviour by students would hinder active and strong participation of the private sector.

And Dr Phiri said his ministry will announce major changes to the Bursaries Committee to make it more responsive to the needs of students who need government support.

"The loan system is an attractive option It is now necessary to examine how a similar system may operate in the Zambian context," he said.

Dr Phiri also said a new list of students who will be awarded bursaries will be published by October 21, incorporating students in the newly introduced programmes in the school of education and those that submitted applications late through the offices the Ministry of Community, Mother and Child Health.

39 exam cheats arrested ...Teacher, businessman also cornered in operation

Zambia Daily Mail

9th October 2014

*By Nancy Siame and Monica Kayombo
Lusaka, Ndola*

Thirty nine Grade 12 pupils have been arrested in Lusaka over suspected examination malpractices.

And two pupils at Lwela secondary School in Nchelenge have been arrested for allegedly being in possession of this year's Grade 12 examination papers. A third suspect is on the run.

Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) director Michael Chilala and Ministry of Education spokesperson Hillary Chipango confirmed the incident in an interview yesterday.

Mr Chilala said the 39 were rounded up in Lusaka's Mtendere East Township at a house where they were being guided through a fake English examination paper by a teacher.

He said the owner of the house, a businessman, and a teacher at a private school have been detained to assist with investigations. He said the pupils from various schools were being tutored on the fake paper by the teacher after paying K500 to the businessman.

"On Sunday around 21:00 hours, we raided a house where 39 pupils were rounded up for suspected examination malpractice," he said.

Mr Chilala said the pupils were released after it was discovered that the paper was fake. "The pupils thought they were being taught the real paper but it was that of the June examination," Mr Chilala said.

He said when the businessman was questioned, he said he was sold the paper by a man only identified as Prince, who is currently on the run.

In the Nchelenge incident, a strongroom was broken into. Luapula Province commissioner of Police Malcolm Mulenga said in an interview from Mansa yesterday that the suspects of stolen examination papers are Evans Mupeta, 24, and Damiano Sota, 18, both pupils at Lwela Secondary School.

Mr Mulenga said school headmaster Innocent Chilando reported the break in to police on Sunday and some missing examination materials were recovered later around 21:00 hours.

"It is believed that the duo entered the office of the deputy headmaster in which the strongroom for Grade 12 examination papers is," Mr Mulenga said. Mr Mulenga said police managed to recover 12 examination papers at 21:00 hours from Sota of Musumali Village in Chief Kalasa's area. Mupeta is from Chikola in Chingola. The third suspect who is on the run is David Mwitwa of Maiteneke Village in chief Kalasa's area.

AEAA urges Africa to fight examination malpractices

Sunday Post, August 17, 2014

By Brina Siwale in Livingstone

The Association for Educational Assessment in Africa says there is need for the continent's education system to work towards fighting examination malpractices.

According to a communiqué released at the end of the association's 32nd annual conference which attracted participants from within and outside the continent. The member states stated that examination malpractices were a challenge that needed to be dealt with collectively.

"Irregularities of examination security are still a challenge despite the efforts made to curb the vice. There is need to enhance security through the use of ICTs and to redefine the role of law enforcement agencies in the fight against examination malpractices," the communiqué read in part.

The members also agreed that there was need to develop appropriate harmonization strategies at country, regional and continental levels.

"Apart from this, there is need for ICT literacy to be introduced in teacher learning education courses so that graduate teachers are ICT literate. There is need to use ICTs in test development and administration," read the communiqué.

And MESVTEE permanent secretary Dr Patrick Nkanza said he was hopeful that the members of the association would contribute to the improvement of the education and examinations system on the continent.

Dr Nkanza said the AEAA provided a platform for the member countries to come up with innovative ideas in educational assessments.

He said such innovations would also go towards the elimination of exam malpractices and effective use of results



Dr Nkanza said he was hopeful that the member states would implement the recommendations arising from the conference and thereby improve the assessments systems and practices.

Meanwhile, director of Examinations Council of Zambia Michael Chilala was elected president of the AEAA.

Chilala, who was previously vice-president of the AEAA, pledged to work diligently to serve the association during his tenure.

Maiden June examination: 12,657 pupils obtain General Certificate of Education

Zambia Daily Mail, Friday, July 25, 2014 By Christine Chisha



GCE Candidates writing the examination

A TOTAL of 12,657 candidates have obtained General Certificates of Education (GCE) in the maiden June examinations introduced by the Ministry of Education. This is out of a total of 18,371 who entered for the out of school examinations of whom 6,608 were male and 11,763 were female. Minister of Education, Science Vocational and Early Education John Phiri said yesterday when he announced the June

2014 results that Lusaka and Northern provinces achieved higher GCE pass rates while Western and North-Western provinces obtained lower rates. Dr Phiri said following the successful implementation of the maiden June GCE examination, he instructed the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) and Directorate of Standards and Curriculum to quickly complete the separation of the GCE examination from the internal examination.

"The separation should be done without losing the high levels of integrity with which the 2014 June GCE examination was conducted."

"A way must be found as well to include practical subjects during the June GCE examinations to create an opportunity for those who rewrite examinations in order to remain in line with the principle behind the revised curriculum," he said.

The minister said subject performance analysis shows that the performance of the

June 2014 GCE was generally good in information subjects but poor in natural sciences.

Dr Phiri said "the continued poor performance in mathematics, science and biology by candidates of all our examinations requires serious attention by our Directorate of Standards and Curriculum"

He said the June GCE examination results will be made available through the SMS Results Release System (SRRS) which was introduced in January this year.

Dr Phiri said candidates will therefore have the opportunity to access the results through the mobile phones even before they collect the official statement of results from the examination centres they wrote the examination from.

He said he was however happy that the June 2014 GCE examination were completely free of examination leakages which arose from stringent measures put in place to secure examination materials.

2014 Labour Day Awards

By Fidelis M. Makala

For the second time, the Best Performers in 2014 were acknowledged and honoured during the Labour Day Awards Celebrations which took place on 19th June, 2014 at ECZ Offices. Council staff were recognised and appreciated for specific achievements, actions taken, excellent performances and attitudes exemplified through their behaviours which contributed to the attainment of ECZ's Strategic objectives.

The Awards for the 2014 Labour Day were in the Category of Long Service and Hardworking Worker, Effective and Efficient Worker and Innovative and Conscientious Worker. The Awards were also based on various benchmarks of performance including Integrity, Competence, Teamwork, Effectiveness, Information stewardship,

Fairness and Good Governance. Employees nominated had to meet the following criteria: had worked for ECZ for at least three years continuously; were outstanding in their work performance and had no disciplinary case in the last two years.

The nominees were drawn from various departments of ECZ. The winners were awarded Certificates from the Zambia Federation of Employers (ZFE) and a gift voucher from ECZ as a way of motivating staff to raise standards of service delivery.

The Council, Management and staff of ECZ congratulate the recipients of the Awards for 2014 Labour Day listed below:



Mrs Jacqueline C.M. Chikwama

She was awarded for the splendid leadership she exhibited when the institution was undergoing a turbulent period, had lost credibility and was also on its knees. Despite the challenges experienced, she managed to unite all Council staff and propagated the values of hardwork, professionalism, integrity and information stewardship which made the ECZ release results without interruptions.



Long Service and Hardworking Worker

Mr Tyson Miti (First Prize)

He has been a very dedicated Council staff. Being a Groundsman, the area apportioned to him within the Council premises has always been clean. He works with minimal supervision and is multi-tasked. He enjoys his job and is a team player.



Mrs Albina Mutale Hachinene (Second Prize)

She has always been loyal and has exhibited high levels of integrity in the discharge of her duties. She has provided exceptional leadership to her subordinates in the Typesetting section and managed to secure the Item bank and all the data related to examinations. She is a reliable and dependable Council staff.



Efficient and Effective Worker

Mrs Felidah Kiwala (First Prize)

She is a hardworking and dedicated Council employee. She does her duties on schedule and the quality of her work is excellent. She is innovative and performs her task to the best of her ability. She has never been late for work. Mrs Kiwala is not only a team player but has also mentored a good number of Subject Specialists at the ECZ.



Mr Dominic Kangwa (Second Prize)

His appointment to the ECZ added value to the operations of the Audit Section. His wealth of experience, exposure, knowledge and skills has enabled the Audit section able to perform accurate finance and systems audit effectively. Through his input, the unit is now able to provide audit reports on time to management. His time management skills and work ethics are excellent.

cont on next page

Most Innovative and Conscientious Worker

Mrs Banji Milumbe Shakubanza (First Prize)

She is a dependable and reliable Council staff. She has provided valuable input and leadership in most of the ICT innovations, processes and systems currently being implemented at ECZ. She spearheaded the implementation of the Electronic Candidate Registration System, Electronic Marks Entry System and Combination of GCE Certificates among others. She is a natural forward planner, keen to new experience, self-driven and results-oriented professional with a positive outlook.



Mr Moffat Mwale (Second Prize)

He has been instrumental in developing appropriate ECZ forms that are still being used at the marking centre. Arising from this, the ECZ is now able to conduct the marking exercise in a more transparent and coordinated way resulting in timely processing of examination results. He is receptive to new ideas and is also multi-tasked.



ZSPA 2014 Public Service Excellence Awards

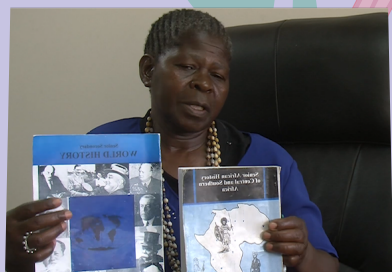
By Ronald M. Tembo

During the 2014 Public Service Excellence Awards, the Zambia Society for Public Administration (ZSPA) awarded organisations and individuals that had demonstrated outstanding leadership by taking bold steps to change and improve the face of the public service in Zambia, through advancements in public policy and management. The event was held at InterContinental Hotel in Lusaka on 21st November 2014. The event was officiated by the Secretary to the Cabinet- Dr Roland Msiska. The ZSPA recognised and awarded the following professionals for their outstanding contributions to the public service;

Presidents Awards

Mrs Anastazia L.Z. Kasoma

Mrs Kasoma has been an Examiner in History for the past 35 years. She started marking in 1970 after a training she underwent at Cambridge University. She was appointed in 1984 as Deputy Chief Marker- the position she is currently holding. She has been inspired by the fact the standards needed to be maintained in the preparation and marking of examinations. Through her input, the proposal to have two Setting Panels in History (World History and African History) was accepted and the practice is being followed to date. Due to her passion to help the candidates to benefit from her works, Mrs Kasoma authored the Senior Secondary World History and Senior African History of Central and Southern Africa Text Books which are being used in our schools.



Distinguished Public Service Excellence Award

Mr Austin G. Chibesakunda

Mr Chibesakunda is an Examiner in Biology for 38 years and is currently lecturing at the University of Zambia. He was trained as an Examiner at Cambridge University. He has been an advocate of the agenda to localise the preparation and marking of examinations at all levels and that has been a major achievement in the past 50 years. The localising of the examination administration has allowed for efficiency in the examining process. As a country, we are now able to prepare the examination question papers, mark, assess and award certificates/or diplomas to deserving candidates. Mr Chibesakunda is the author of the School Certificate Biology Text Book which is currently being used in our schools for teaching and learning.



Leadership and Service Excellence Award

Mr Michael M. Chilala

Since his appointment as Director in December 2012, Mr Chilala has managed to ensure that the marking and processing of examination results was done in time at all levels. Under his management, the ECZ has successfully launched and commissioned the state of the art Service Centre in Woodlands, Lusaka. The ECZ successfully conducted the maiden Mid-Year GCE Examination and a leakage free Grades 7 and 12 Examinations. The ECZ has been a closed entity for sometime and Mr Chilala has managed to open up the organisation to the public. The ECZ is now able to interact with the media more often and openly so through the facebook page, the Newsletter, the interactive website and the toll free line. We are certain that under his great leadership, wisdom and guidance, the ECZ will strive to much greater heights in line with the strategic objectives.



ECZ commended for excellent performance in 2014

By Ronald M. Tembo



ECZ Chairperson- Professor Samuel F. Banda delivering a speech

A great record starts with a simple idea. John F. Kennedy, one of the great Presidents of the United States of America (USA) assassinated for the cause of justice once said, "Stronger than all the armies is an idea whose time has come." For the Examinations Council of Zambia, the idea to set the new record by officially announcing examination results early is the time which has come.

The ECZ has been commended for the excellent performance in 2014. This is in the light of many achievements scored in the management and administration of examinations.

For the first time in history, the ECZ officially released the Grade 7 Composite Examination results in November 2014; much earlier than anticipated by our stakeholders and members of the general public. In 2013, the official release of results was on 12th December 2013. This means that the 2014 results were released 14 days earlier than the 2013 results.

The Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education, Honourable Dr John T.N. Phiri-MP officially announced the 2014 Grade 7 Composite Examination results in Parliament on 26th November 2014, barely a month after the examination was conducted.

With the early release of examination results, candidates who qualified to proceed to Grade eight

would start their classes with the rest on the opening day of the 2015 School Academic Calendar which falls on 12th January 2015.

The early release of results also gave the parents/guardians time to plan, mobilise resources and purchase all the school requisites for their children/dependants.

It is for this reason that the Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education, Honourable Dr John T.N. Phiri-MP in a letter dated 4th December 2014 commended the Council, management and staff of the ECZ for the job well done in the efficient manner the examination was processed leading to the unprecedented early release of the results.

In the same light, the ECZ Chairperson- Professor Samuel F. Banda joined Dr Phiri in commending all Council employees for the job well done.



EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: 15th December 2014
TO: All Members of Staff
FROM: Chairperson – Examinations Council of Zambia
SUBJECT: COMMENDATION FOR THE 2014 GOOD GRADE 7 EXAMINATIONS RESULTS

The above subject refers.

I wish to express my gratitude on the efficient manner in which you, the Examinations Council of Zambia Management and members of staff performed your roles in the administration, processing and release of the 2014 of Grade 7 examinations results.

This year was the first time in the history of the Examinations Council of Zambia whereby the Grade 7 examination results have been released before Christmas. It is for this reason that the Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education, Dr. John T. N. Phiri in a letter dated 4th December 2014 commended the Council, Management and staff of the Examinations Council of Zambia for the job well done in the efficient manner the examinations were processed leading to the unprecedented early release of the results.

In this regard, I on behalf of the Council join Dr. John T. N. Phiri in commending you for a job well done. I however urge all of you to continue working hard **together** so that the excellent performance exhibited in the administration and processing of the Grade 7 results can be sustained or even improved upon as we process the Grade 9 and Grade 12 examination results.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2015.

Prof. Samuel F. Banda

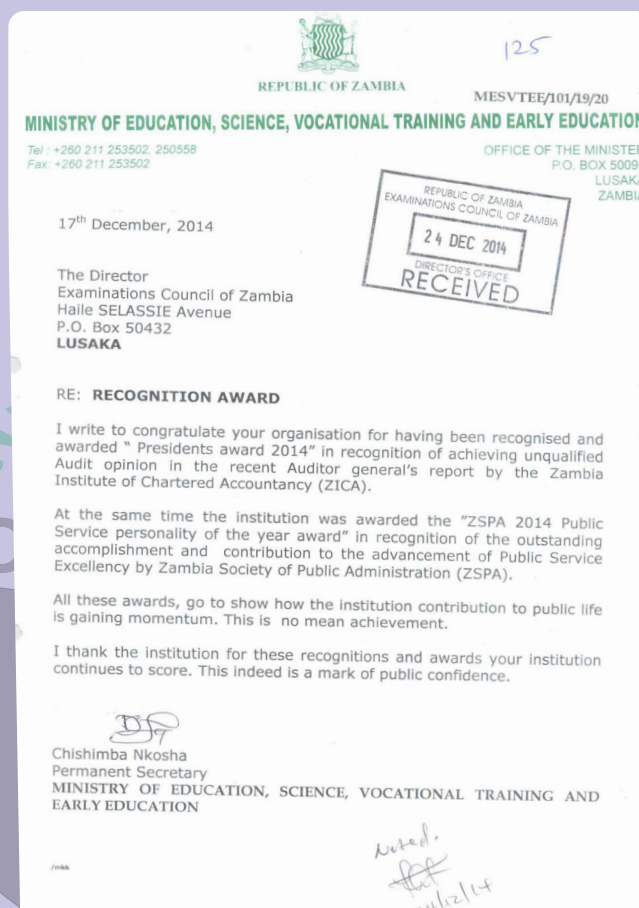
In a commendation Internal Memorandum dated 15th December 2014, Professor Banda urged all the Council employees to continue working hard together so that the excellent performance exhibited in the administration and processing of the 2014 Grade 7 examination results could be sustained or even improved upon as Grade 9 and Grade 12 examination results were processed.

A check on the ECZ facebook page, indicate that more than 26,000 fans accessed the information on the official release of the 2014 Grade 7 Composite Examination results and most of whom commended the ECZ for its pledge to release results on time.

Some fans on the ECZ facebook page namely Kennedy Chinyemba, Chamutwamakhuku Waying, Saki Muyangana, Chrisnet LK, Mark Wilson, Tash Texie MsBanks and many others commended ECZ and the MESVTEE for the early release of results. Hereunder are some of the comments from the fans:

"Please keep the same spirit up. This brings back the feeling I had when I wrote my Grade 7 examination. I can't wait to see the ECZ send the results in schools quickly. This is good news."

"Parents will spend their money wisely during this festive season. That is great, ECZ! During our time, I sat for Grade 7 in 1992. The results came out in March 1993. It is a 'Quantum Leap' ECZ! Wow so early! That is good. I hope even for the Grade 12 results they will be released early as well. I can't wait," the fans stated.



ECZ receives 2014 Presidents Recognition Award

The Examinations Council of Zambia has received the Presidents Award 2014 in recognition for achieving an unqualified audit opinion in the recent Auditor General's Report.

This was during the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA) and the Institute of Directors of Zambia (IoDZ) 4th Annual Awards Dinner held at Pamodzi Hotel on Friday 5th December 2014 in Lusaka.



This event is held annually to recognise accountants, other professionals and organisations that have made significant contributions to the development of the profession and the economy in various tenets including social corporate responsibility.

For ECZ, the Certificate of Recognition means that the audits conducted by the Office of the Auditor General were performed according to accepted accounting principles, with an emphasis on detail and accuracy. It also means that the audits for ECZ have been performed, researched and analysed thoroughly in both the internal systems of control as well as of the details in the Councils Books of Accounts.

ECZ wins 2nd Prize during 2014 Agricultural Show

By Samson Shivanwa and Ronald M. Tembo



ECZ Staff during the Show

The Examinations Council of Zambia scooped the Second Prize in the 'Best Educational Institution Exhibit' Category during the 2014 Zambia Agricultural and Commercial Show held in Lusaka from 30th July to 4th August 2014. The University of Zambia (UNZA) scooped the First Prize in this category.

The ECZ has been recognized for its contributions towards making Zambia's education system gaining international recognition both locally and international. This was the second time the ECZ was awarded for the successful management and administration of examinations in Zambia since inception. The first award in this same category was scooped in 2010.

The 2014 Show was held under the theme: "2014 Breaking New Grounds" and attracted a number of firms both locally and internally. The show was a premier forum and platform of choice for ECZ to showcase the various innovations undertaken in the recent past with a view to improving the quality of service provision to members of the general public.

During the same event, a number of people passed through the stand and a lot of literature about ECZ was distributed. Members of the public were able to provide constructive feedback on examination related matters. The occasion also provided an opportunity for advisory services to the public.

Zambia hosts the 32nd AEAA Conference

By Charity Meki Kombe and Nicholas Nkhuwa

The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) hosted the 32nd Annual Conference of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) from 11th to 15th August 2014 at Zambezi Sun Hotel in Livingstone, Zambia. This was the third time Zambia was hosting this Conference. The first conference was hosted in 1990 and the second in 1999.

The Conference was convened under the theme 'Educational Assessment in a Knowledge Society.' The theme was deliberated under eight (8) sub- themes as follows:

1. Qualification Harmonisation for Regional Integration
2. Best practices in combating examinations irregularities
3. Best Practices and Experiences in Soft Skills Assessment
4. Curriculum and Assessment Integration
5. Enhancing Equity in Educational Assessment
6. Innovations in Educational Assessment in Africa
7. Using Assessment Results to Improve the Quality of Teaching and Learning
8. Applications of ICT's to Educational Assessment

The Conference attracted a total of 365 delegates from 23 countries as follows; Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, United States of America, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe and the host Zambia.

Day 1 -Monday, 11th August 2014- Opening Ceremony

The Guest of Honour, Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education (MESVTEE), Honourable Dr. John T.N. Phiri-MP officially opened the Conference. Dr Phiri stated that the Conference could not have come at a better time for Zambia than when the country was celebrating her 50 years of political independence, peace and development.

He added that since gaining political independence from the British in 1964, the country had played a critical role in the political emancipation of other nations around Africa

in general, especially the Southern African region.

Dr. Phiri stated that the Conference was an opportunity for ECZ, the MESVTEE and all examining boards to integrate their mission, vision and practices in order to allow for improvements in service provision.

The Minister challenged the AEAA Executive Committee members to develop a feasible Strategic Plan to ensure that the operations of the Association were linked to the African Union.



Choral Group from David Livingstone Secondary School Singing the National Anthem



Delegates at the 2014 AEAA Conference



Dr Joyce Ndalichako

The AEAA President- Dr Joyce Ndalichako, told the Conference that the Association had achieved a lot since inception.

Dr Ndalichako highlighted among other things, the appointments of one of members of the AEAA, Professor Godwill Obioma as President of the International Bureau of Education and the training of members of staff to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Other achievements were the development of the software for Item

Analysis by Kenya, Cameroon and Nigeria which would be shared with AEAA member countries, the adoption of e-Marking in Zimbabwe and awarding of individuals who had contributed positively to the Association.

The ECZ Director-Mr Michael Chilala who was also the AEAA Vice President thanked the delegates for finding time amidst busy schedules to participate in the Conference.

He assured the Honourable Minister, Dr John Phiri-MP that the Association would develop the Strategic Plan.

Professor Pinalo Chifwanakeni - Vice Chancellor from the University of Lusaka – Zambia indicated in his address that despite a large number of trained human resource, the level of economic and social development had been low.

The address was a wakeup call to African countries in knowing where

they were on the global map with regards to learning and assessment.

On day one, 12 papers were successfully presented. Experts drawn from examining boards in Africa and overseas presented the papers.

The plenary sessions provided an opportunity for possible reforms in assessment systems and processes to enable examining boards to move in tandem with the modes of teaching and learning that were used by various education systems.

In the evening, the delegates were treated to a Buffet Dinner at Zambezi Sun Hotel at the Lawns and were



Dinner at the lawns

Day 2 - Tuesday, 12th August 2014



A Paper Presentation from Zambia



some Conference delegates

Two keynote addresses were delivered this day. Ms. Mary Hooker - Senior Education Specialist (Global E-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI) - Kenya) delivered the first keynote speech.

PHOTO FOCUS



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PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education- Dr John T.N. Phiri (Right) receives a gift from ECZ Director, Mr Michael Chilala
2. A traditional Tonga performance 'Chiyabilo' during the opening ceremony of the 2014 AEAA Conference
3. Delegates sample one of Livingstone's Tourist Attraction Site- The Mighty Victoria falls during the 2014 Association for Educational Assessment in Africa Conference
4. ECZ Cultural team entertain delegates during the 2014 AEAA Conference
5. Management Team inspects the Construction works
6. A client being served at the ECZ Service Centre in Lusaka
7. ECZ Corporate Affairs Officer- Ronald M. Tembo (Middle) explains the significance of the 2014 AEAA Conference on ZNBC TV 2 Morning Live Programme in Livingstone
8. The ECZ Choral Group entertain delegates to the anti-malpractice song during the launch of the Service Centre in Lusaka
9. Training of data collectors for the 2014 National Assessment Survey in Chongwe for Lusaka Province
10. A field photo during the 2014 Grade 2 National Assessment Survey
11. Grade 1 learners during the Competence Assessment Test at Woodlands B Primary School in Lusaka
12. Mr Mbangu Libuwe (left) receiving a gift during his Farewell Party at ECZ offices

PHOTO FOCUS



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In her address, Ms Hooker stated that 'Knowledge is the engine for development in any society especially now that we are living in times of unprecedented change because of interconnections, networked society and interlinked lives.' She further said that there was a close connection between knowledge and innovation.

Professor Robert Serpell, Professor of Psychology and Coordinator of Centre for the Promotion of Literacy in Sub-Saharan Africa (CAPOLSA) from the University of

Zambia was the second speaker.

His presentation focused on what formal assessment added to parents, teachers and learners in the evaluation of behaviour and mental capacities and cultural responsiveness assessment.

He explained the inequalities in opportunities of access to higher education in Zambia.

He highlighted the affirmative strategy to correct the imbalance which was adopted in which School

leavers from the provinces with low marks were selected basing on the basic minimum entry qualification.

Professor Serpell emphasised that assessment could yield right results when modified to incorporate local cultural relevance and demands of the local context as was the case in his "Panga Muntu" research.

In the evening, the delegates were entertained to traditional dances which added value and flavour to the Conference proceedings.

Day 3 - Wednesday, 13th August 2014

The delegates were treated to exciting social events in the beautiful tourist town of Livingstone on the third day. The delegates sampled some of Livingstone City's Tourist attraction sites.

They were also accorded an opportunity to sample tourist attractions that included the spectacular Mighty Victoria Falls, Livingstone Museum, Railway Museum and Musi-oa-Tunya National Park. Other places visited included the famous Mukuni Big 5 Safari, Bungee Jumping and Boat Cruise on the mighty Zambezi river.

The Local Organising Committee also organised a Cultural Night where delegates showcased their traditional dances clad in their traditional attires. The event was spiced up by a prominent Zambian Comedian, Mr Bob Nkossa and live entertainment by the Air Power Band.



Delegates visit the Livingstone Museum



Delegates sample the Mighty Victoria Falls



One of Zambia's Traditional Dance performed during the Cultural Night



Member States showcase their Tradition and Culture during the Conference

Day 4 -Thursday, 14th August 2014



Professor Anne Sikwibele

Paper presentations and the fourth keynote address were delivered. Professor Anne Sikwibele – Director for the Institute of Distance Education (Mulungushi University – Zambia) delivered her keynote address.

Professor Sikwibele called for increased awareness of what was happening globally and regionally to develop appropriate harmonisation strategies. “There is also need for quality assurance system because harmonization has to do with quality of qualifications and quality of graduates.” She stated

Professor Sikwibele stated that there was need to design assessment policies and procedures that would enable higher education to design courses relevant to the knowledge society needs and also to be proactive in fulfilling the vision of the African Union.

In the evening, the delegates were treated to a Gala Dinner at Zambezi Sun Hotel. Different gifts were presented to the participants. The delegates were entertained to live music by the Air Power Band.

Gala Night Pictures



Air Power Band entertain delegates



Some Sponsors dancing to the local rhythms



Some delegates in attendance



ECZ Staff pose for a photo

Day 5 - Friday, 15th August 2014

Friday, 15th August 2014 marked the end of the 32nd annual Conference of the AEAA. Professor Sichalwe Kasanda who is an Educationist and Consultant from Zambia, gave the last keynote speech. Professor Kasanda emphasised the importance of building innovativeness in our learners and the importance of assessment in ensuring that it assessed the innovativeness of the learners. He further urged African Educationists not only to condemn but to emulate good practices from western education systems to improve education.



Chilala takes over AEAA Presidency

The ECZ Director, Mr Michael Chilala was appointed as the new President of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) for 2014 and 2015.

Mr Chilala who took over from Dr Joyce Ndalichako of Tanzania was bestowed with the responsibility of leading the organisation for a full year. This was part of the tradition of the Association where a new president is appointed on an annual basis. Mr Chilala was given the instruments of power that included the sage and the AEAA Charter to help him run the Association.

In his acceptance speech, Mr Chilala thanked all the past Presidents for making the Association what it had become. He particularly thanked his predecessor, Dr Ndalichako for all the guidance he received as Vice President of the Association for 2013 and 2014. He expressed awareness of the great responsibility that was ahead of him to lead the Association in developing the AEAA Strategic Plan that would align its mandate to that of the African Union (AU).

Mr Chilala joined the AEAA as an individual member in 2009. He was appointed Vice President of the Association in 2013 and took over Presidency in 2014 after successfully hosting the 32nd AEAA Conference.

2014 AEAA Conference Communiqué

Dr Edmund Madzibuko, the Secretary General of AEAA Executive Committee delivered the 2014 AEAA Communiqué. According to the Communiqué, the member states noted that examination malpractices were a challenge that needed to be dealt with collectively. They further agreed to develop appropriate harmonisation strategies at country, regional and continental levels.

“There is need to enhance security through the use of ICTs and to redefine the role of law enforcement agencies in the fight against examination malpractices. Apart from this, there is need for ICT literacy to be introduced in teacher learning education courses so that graduate teachers are ICT literate.” read the communiqué in part.

Closing Ceremony

The Conference was officially closed by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education, Dr Patrick Nkanza.

He stated that the AEAA provided a platform for member countries to come up with innovative ideas in educational assessments. Dr Nkanza further stated that such innovations would contribute towards the elimination of examination malpractices.

Dr Nkanza was hopeful that the member states of the AEAA would implement the recommendations arising from the Conference and thereby improve the assessment systems and practices. He assured the delegates that the Government of the republic of Zambia would continue to support the ECZ in order to contribute effectively to the success of the Association.

The Permanent Secretary then declared the 32nd Conference of the AEAA officially closed.



Dr Patrick Nkanza

Examination Centres urged to conduct thorough 2015 candidate registration



Ian Chirambo

The registration of all the candidates in examination classes for School examinations is of paramount importance as it ensures that the processing of examinations are fulfilled to the highest standard. Since 2009, the registration of candidates for examinations has been done at school level electronically using the Electronic Candidate Registration System (ECRS) software for all the levels.

This innovation by the ECZ has gone a long way in shortening the time within which the registration processes takes place. It has also reduced on the many errors that were common with the old registration system. That is, the efficiency and effectiveness of the process has been assured.

Despite the fact that schools/centres register the candidates for the examinations on their own, it was sad to note that in the 2014 examinations, a number of centres reported a lot of cases on omission of candidates, wrong spellings of candidate names, wrong subject entries and wrong sex for candidates entered. This state of affairs has implications on the shortfalls in the number of examination question papers the school/centre receives.

As most schools/centre are aware, the ECZ has stringent timelines in its operations such that if queries like these from the centre reach the Council in the month of September, that would be too late as data would have already been submitted to the Printer. This entails that the examination materials would have already been prepared and printed for that particular session.

The ECZ is therefore, urging schools/centres to thoroughly check candidate registration details to avoid such kinds of short-comings.

This can simply be done by asking candidates to submit this data on prescribed forms that could be designed specifically for examination purposes before keying in candidates data on the ECRS.

Moreso, the School/centre could make all the candidates verify their entries on the provisional registers that the school is able to print-out after the registration process has been completed electronically. Candidates should sign against their names if everything is correct. However, if amendments are to be

effected, the candidates should still sign the provisional register.

Officers responsible for registering candidates should make sure that the amendments made after the check by candidates are effected on to the ECRS.

If a good job is done at registration stage, a number of issues like registering Grade 6 pupils instead of Grade 7 at that level may be avoided, omitting 25 pupils from one centre maybe a thing of the past, bringing queries for wrong spellings of over 20 candidates' names may not be there anymore. In short, a summary of the registration process maybe as simple as;

- Collecting correct data from pupils/candidates
- Entering the correct data
- Allowing pupils/candidates to check on provisional registers, making amendments were necessary, and signing
- Responsible officer making sure amendments made are effected
- Submission of correct data to ECZ

The ECZ hopes that 2015 candidate registration will be done in such a manner as to avoid all the aforementioned challenges experienced in 2014 registration.

If only the submission of correct data gets to the ECZ, then all the stakeholders can least be assured that the processing of the examinations could achieve the highest of standards.

Stakeholders review examination guidelines

By Kunda Kuku

Stakeholders in the education sector convened to review the Guidelines on the Administration and Management of Examinations in Zambia. The workshop was held at Mika Exotic Hotel in Lusaka from 12th to 15th September 2014.

The Workshop was attended by the ECZ management team, Directorates from the Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education, Senior Education Standards Officers, Teachers Union, Anti-Corruption Commission, Zambia Police Service and Head Teachers Association among others.

The platform provided an opportunity for the stakeholders to identify where changes could be made on the guidelines in order to improve the management and administration of examinations. The members also considered past performance and recognised successes scored in the management of examinations.

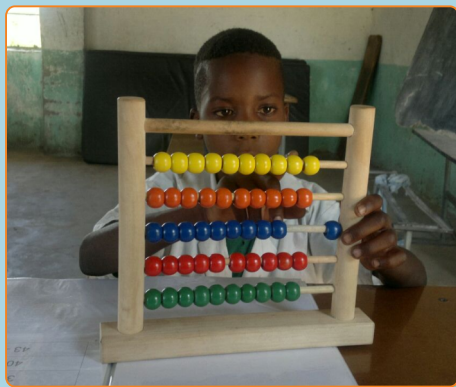
It must be said that the review workshop went beyond achieving the objectives; as it fostered and strengthened good working relationships among stakeholders in managing examinations at all the levels.

It is therefore hoped that the revised Guidelines on the Administration and Management of Examinations could be implemented during the 2015 Examination Cycle as most of the pertinent issues have been incorporated for effective examination administration.

The ECZ Guidelines on the Administration and Management of Examinations in Zambia were last reviewed in 2011.

Four surveys conducted in 2014

By Shakazo Mzyece



Early Grade Reading Assessment

The Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education undertook four surveys during the third term of the 2014 school calendar year, namely the 2014 National Assessment Survey of Learning Achievement at Grade 5 level; the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS); the Grade 2 Survey of Learning Achievement for Reading and Mathematics, and the Grade 1 School Readiness Competence Assessment.

The Examinations Council of Zambia being the implementing agency for the National Assessment programme conducted the 7th Survey of Learning Achievement at Grade 5 level. The Survey covered 400 GRZ, Private, Grant Aided and Community Schools. countrywide.

The Survey was to measure the extent to which Grade 5 learners have mastered the literacy and numeracy skills appropriate to their level; provide information on regional and geographical disparities in the levels of learning achievement; provide information on gender disparities in levels of learning achievement and provide information on the changes in learning achievement over time.

The 2014 Survey was unique in that for the first time, all the seven Zambian Languages were assessed following the successful development of achievement tests in Luvala, Lunda and Kikaonde earlier in June, 2014.

The World Bank conducted the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS), through RuralNet Zambia (a local research

consulting firm).The PET survey targeted Grades 5 and 9 learners and their teachers countrywide. The sample size was 500 schools with 200 schools at Grade 9 level and 300 schools sampled from the 2014 7th National Assessment Survey of Learning Achievement at Grade 5 level.

The Public Expenditure Tracking Survey aimed at providing information on the efficiency of public spending by examining the quality and quantity of services in schools. The 2014 PETS also collected information on facility characteristics, financial flows, outputs, accountability arrangements and relating them to learning achievement of the Grades 5 and 9 learners.



Pupils being accessed in the field

The third survey was implemented by the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) in collaboration with the University of Zambia, Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR) and the Examinations Council of Zambia.

Using the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) and Early Grade Mathematics Assessment (EGMA) tools, the survey aimed at assessing the early grade reading and numeracy levels among 4,800 Grade 2 learners, covering a total of 480 government, private, grant aided and community schools in 46 districts of Zambia. Field work was done between 3 November and 2 December 2014.

The Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) is an oral assessment designed to measure the most basic foundation skills for literacy acquisition in the early grades: recognizing letters of the alphabet,

reading simple words, understanding sentences and paragraphs, and listening with comprehension.

While the Early Grade Mathematics Assessment (EGMA) is an oral assessment designed to measure a learners foundation skills in numeracy and mathematics in the early grades, including number identification, quantity discrimination, missing-number identification, word problem solving, addition and subtraction, shape recognition, and pattern extension. These skills are known to assist build the foundation needed for learners to accomplish other measurement tasks.

The fourth survey provided a competence assessment for first graders in reading and numeracy as they progressed to the Grade 2. The Grade 1 Readiness survey was a census based survey administered to all Grade 1 learners in primary schools in Zambia on the 2nd and 3rd December 2014.

The Survey was conducted by the Curriculum Development Centre in collaboration with Examinations Council of Zambia in the 10 provinces of Zambia . The Survey instruments used for assessing the competences of the Grade 1 learners in literacy and numeracy were developed following a series of consultative meetings organised by the Curriculum Development Centre.

All preparatory activities for the surveys started in much earlier in the year 2014, while field related activities for the survey were conducted during the months of September, October, November and December 2014. Preliminary results and release of the survey findings is expected in the first quarter of 2015.

It is hoped that the findings will provide information to the country's education system in terms of learning achievement at various Grade levels in line with the number of policy reforms, educational inputs and increased funding.

SCECSAL Conference presents new trends in Information and Management

By Milimo Mweemba

It is a fact that access to timely relevant up-to-date information influences decision making in an organisation. The ECZ as an institution mandated to conduct examinations, award certificates and carry out relevant research in assessment has found it beneficial to expose its Library to new trends that are emerging in knowledge and information management in Africa. The ECZ participated at Conference of East, Central and Southern African Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL) held in Lilongwe Malawi July 2014.

The Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL) is believed to have originated from the East African Library Association (EALA) which was formed in 1957. In 1970, it is reported that EALA resolved to retain the biennial conference. Therefore, countries in the sub-region were invited to the next biennial conference that was held in Dar-Es-Salaam Tanzania. As of now, SCECSAL is believed to be the largest and fastest growing professional association for Librarians and information professionals in Africa.

Looking at the new innovations that

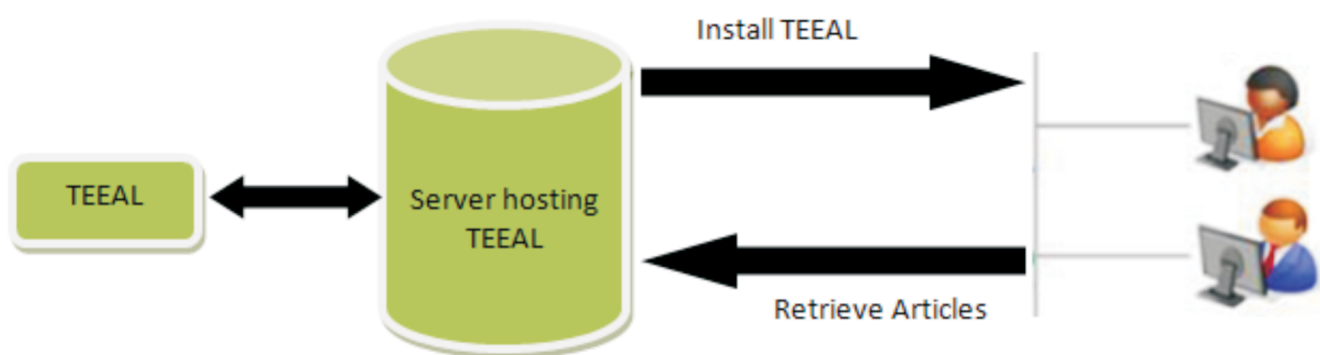
have been integrated in information management presented at the conference clearly indicates that librarianship is a growing profession. Librarians are agents of change and as such they need to adapt to new trends in information management, dissemination and preservation in order for them to provide timely up to date relevant information. Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA) has made it possible for librarians and researchers in the fields of health and agriculture. ITOCA is a capacity building organisation aimed at enhancing information and communications technology skills for African librarians, information specialists, scientists, researchers and students in Sub-saharan Africa. Formerly TEEAL Africa Office (The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library). ITOCA was established in February 1999. Now ITOCA spear heads programs and support for TEEAL, AGORA, HINARI AND ORARE in Africa.

Education assessment agencies in Africa have something to learn on how ITOCA is working to bring information closer to professionals and researchers in the fields of health, agriculture and

environmental management. ITOCA (Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa and Research4Life which is a collective name for the four programmes [HINARI](#), [AGORA](#), [OARE](#) and [ARDI](#) . These are entities which professionals in the agriculture, health and environmental health fields have established in conjunction with international organisations such as the United Nations, USAID, WHO, FAO, UNEP, WIPO and The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). The aim of these entities is to facilitate free flow of information and open up professionals in health, agriculture and environmental health to new ideals and professional expertise. This has made it easy for professionals in the fields of health, agriculture and environmental management to share information and professional expertise (knowledge).

TEEAL is a full text and searchable database of articles from more than 275 high quality research journals in agriculture and related sciences around the world. TEEAL arrives on an external hard drive that you can run on one computer and can be accessed by multiple computers in your local area network.'

How TEEAL works



The device is delivered in a small external hard drive. The above picture is from the TEEAL website.

Cont on next page

There is also Research4life. This is a collective name for HINARI, AGORA, OARE and ARDI. All these are online searchable databases. They provide developing countries with low cost access to online journals and sometimes free access to academic and professional peer reviewed content online. The four programmes mentioned above represent specific profession fields. HINARI is for research in health and related subjects it is spearheaded by world health organisation, AGORA is for research in Agriculture and related subjects, set up by food and Agriculture organisation, OARE is for research in environment set up by United Nations environment program (UNEP) and ARDI is for research in innovations set up by WIPO.

Such innovations by ITOCA should bring inspiration to other entities such as educational assessment agencies to establish online searchable journal databases that would facilitate the free flow of information for research in educational assessment and examinations in Africa. Information management is very important for both organisational and individual needs. Free flow of information in an organisation would help employees to make informed decisions. ITOCA and its programmes has made it easy for health workers, agriculture extension officers and environmental health technicians and researchers to access, timely up to date, information for decision making in the respective fields.

Let us also look at the egrnary, set up by the wider net project. Wider net project is involved in training information professionals in specialised information and communication technology training. The egrnary digital library delivers more than 30 million educational resources to individuals and organisations around the world. The wider net project in its continued development of the egrnary has added a new feature on the egrnary, called Community Information Platform (CIP) which allow users to edit and add local content to their egrnary. Librarians and researchers always collaborate in order to acquire new ideals. For any innovation to take place, there must be a reliable information base for decision making and research. Governments should consider research and knowledge management as priority areas in fostering development in Africa.

Why do you study?



By Nicolas Nkhuwa

This is the question that you should be asking yourself each time you study. There are indeed many reasons for studying. In general, we study to widen our understanding towards *life and by this; we increase our mental, economic and intellectual capabilities in this knowledge globe we live in.*

According to Business Dictionary the concept 'studying' refers to systematic research, examinations, understanding and identification of the aspects or

factors associated with an activity, event, phenomenon or situation.

In this article, I have deliberately chosen to bring an argument on studying aimed at knowledge and understanding and studying aimed at passing examinations. I have observed that many students struggle when time to write examinations is near. When asked, they say, "I am studying so that I can pass my examination". However, the idea is when one is studying, they need to take time to know and understand the content, concepts and theories in text. Studying for the sake of passing an examination has costed many people when it comes to applying the skills in a particular job with regards to the qualifications one obtained. Actually, I have come to learn that some students try to memorise answers in an examination and once the examination is over, they tend to forget everything they studied. Why? The answer has already been given in this paragraph.

Yes, you want to pass your exams but do not forget that you are also trying to learn, understand the complexities of things and get a good education and not just a "paper". Try not to let yourself become, what I term as 'An examination-

passing locomotive.' Ultimately, it is not enough to be complacent and happy that your statement of results is having "distinctions" printed on it when in fact the grades were obtained through memorising without much comprehension in the examination. In this instance, the purpose of the studying is misunderstood. If you love a subject and you really like learning about it, you will do everything possible to know it even if it means sleeping for only two hours each day. That may be much more rewarding in the end and when the examination comes; surely, pressure will not be your portion.

Having knowledge on different topics and subjects makes us that aggregate person we are who can contribute to society positively and be able to initiate development at different levels. Remember **Knowledge is Power**.

When you study to know and understand, will you be able to apply the knowledge in practical terms with much ease during examination. With this study spirit, you will surely help us eradicate **EXAMINATION MALPRACTICES** at varying levels of assessment in our education system.

Highlights of 2014 maiden June General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination

By Japheth Chanda

The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) successfully conducted the maiden June General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination on a self-sustaining basis. This was in response to the increased public demand for GCE examination by members of the general public who were seeking the required five 'O' level or better results for entry into college and/or employment. This examination was administered in 77 centres countrywide and ran from 14th to 28th June 2014. Out of a total of 16,344 School candidates that sat the 2014 June Examination, 12,657 obtained General Certificate of Education Certificates, representing a 77.5 percent pass rate. Lusaka and Northern provinces achieved higher GCE pass rates at 80.6 percent and 79.1 percent respectively.



Pupils writing an examination

Western and North-western provinces obtained the lower rates of candidates obtaining GCEs at 70.9 percent and 73.4 percent respectively. All the 10 provinces had more than 70 percent of the candidates that obtained GCEs.

The GCE examination attracted candidates who particularly wanted to improve their results and attain a credit or better, so that they could meet the entry requirements for tertiary education.

The performance of the 2014 June GCE candidates was generally good in information subjects, but poor in natural sciences.

The continued poor performance in Mathematics, Science and Biology by candidates of all our examinations requires serious attention by the Directorates of Standards and Curriculum in the Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education. We remain hopeful that under the new Curriculum,

performance will be put in place to consistently monitor learner performance at school level. Important to note is the fact that the maiden 2014 June GCE Examination was completely free of examination leakages.

This arose from the stringent measures put in place to secure examination materials by the structures of the Ministry starting from headquarters to the School level, the ECZ and all the partners have in all the Security Committees.

However, 20 cases of examination malpractices were reported. They were broken down as follows; one case of smuggling in of pre-written materials from a wrong examination leakage, 11 cases of assistance, five cases of impersonation, one case of copying and four cases of collusion.

Out of the 20 cases, five cases were immediately expelled from the examination rooms, while the rest had their result nullified by the relevant Committee of the ECZ.

Your Questions Answered

By Nicolas Nkhuwa

- Q. We received a verbal announcement from Lusaka District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) that the June GCE session has been moved to August effective 2015. It was also indicated that there will be no GCE examination in October/November 2015 as the two have been merged in August and separated from the G12 Internal/External session. Is this information correct, and when are we likely to receive official notification from ECZ?**
- A.** In 2014, the ECZ introduced the maiden June GCE Examination on a self-sustaining basis. This was in response to the increased public demand for GCE examination by members of the general public who were seeking the required five 'O' level or better results for entry into college and/or employment. However, in an effort to effectively and efficiently conduct the 'O' Level Examination in the country, the ECZ has delinked the School Certificate from the GCE examination with effect from the year 2015. This means that the Grade 12 internal examination shall run in the October/November session while the GCE Examination shall run in August 2015 and the consecutive years. The delinking of the two examinations will provide room for non-examination classes to attend classes during examination, eliminate the congestion that currently characterises most examination rooms and ensure a clean examination process with high levels of integrity. More than 260 centres countrywide have been approved to administer the GCE examination. Check the press for details. The Provincial Education Officers have already been notified and are expected to communicate to the schools/centres.
- Q. I want to come and collect the statement of results and a Certificate for Grade 12 at ECZ Offices. I completed in 2011. What is the procedure?**
- A.** According to the examination regulations, Statement of Results/Certificates must be collected from the School/Centre where the candidate wrote the examinations from. Therefore, the mentioned documents should be collected at your respective school and not ECZ or any Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education offices. One other important thing to note is that the Certificates for 2011 examinations are ready and have been dispatched to schools. Hurry and collect yours from the school.
- Q. When are the schools starting to register GCE candidates?**
- A.** Registration for the examinations started in November 2014 and will end in February 2015. Please, ensure that you register for the examination only at the 2015 approved GCE centres. It should be noted that the GCE Examination will now be conducted in August effective 2015. Check the press or visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/examsCouncilZambia or website on www.exams-council.org.zm for more information.
- Q. I would like to find out the process of having Grade 12 results for some of our new members of staff verified by the ECZ. Kindly advise on the cost for verifying each Grade 12 Certificate for every employee?**
- A.** Verification of results for an institution is done when the following requirements are met: An official letter from the organisation, a list of names with their results examination number (s), Copies of Certificates for candidates who wrote their examinations from 2012 downwards, Statement of Results whose Certificates are not yet printed by the ECZ- In the case of candidates who completed Grade 12/GCE in 2013 and June 2014 as their Certificates have not been printed. The charge is K10.00 per copy and not per candidate. Payment is done through the Bank using Zanaco Bill Master Payment System. For more information on the mode of payment, visit ECZ Service Centre situated on Plot No. 1926 Msuzi Road in Woodlands, Lusaka.
- Q. My name is Cathy. I stay in Kasama and have two General Certificate of Education (GCE) Certificates. I want to have them combined and have got all the requirements. Do I have to travel to Lusaka or there are other means?**
- A.** It is gratifying that you have all the requirements. However, Accumulation of GCE Certificates is only done in Lusaka. You are therefore advised to travel to Lusaka to access the Service. You should visit the new ECZ Service Centre in Lusaka. Our officers will assist you. Best wishes.

Skin care: 5 tips for healthy skin

Good skin care — including sun protection and gentle cleansing — can keep your skin healthy and glowing for years to come.

Don't have time for intensive skin care? Pamper yourself with the basics. Good skin care and healthy lifestyle choices can help delay the natural aging process and prevent various skin problems. Get started with these five no-nonsense tips.

1. Protect yourself from the sun

One of the most important ways to take care of your skin is to protect it from the sun. A lifetime of sun exposure can cause wrinkles, age spots and other skin problems — as well as increase the risk of skin cancer.

2. Don't smoke

Smoking makes your skin look older and contributes to wrinkles. Smoking narrows the tiny blood vessels in the outermost layers of skin, which decreases blood flow. This depletes the skin of oxygen and nutrients that are important to skin health. Smoking also damages collagen and elastin — the fibers that give your skin its strength and elasticity. In addition, the repetitive facial expressions you make when smoking — such as pursing your lips when inhaling and squinting your eyes to keep out smoke — can contribute to wrinkles. If you smoke, the best way to protect your skin is to quit. Ask your doctor for tips or treatments to help you stop smoking.

3. Treat your skin gently

Daily cleansing and shaving can take a toll on your skin. To keep it gentle: Hot water and long showers or baths remove oils from your skin. Limit your bath or shower time, and use warm — rather than hot — water. **Avoid strong soaps.** Strong soaps and detergents can strip oil from your skin. Instead, choose mild cleansers. **Shave carefully.** To protect and lubricate your skin, apply shaving cream, lotion or gel before shaving. For the closest shave, use a clean, sharp razor. Shave in the direction the hair grows, not against it. After washing or bathing, gently pat or blot your skin dry with a towel so that some moisture remains on your skin contains SPF.

4. Eat a healthy diet

A healthy diet can help you look and feel your best. Eat plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins. The association between diet and acne isn't clear — but some research suggests that a diet rich in vitamin C and low in unhealthy fats and processed or refined carbohydrates might promote younger looking skin.

5. Manage stress

Uncontrolled stress can make your skin more sensitive and trigger acne breakouts and other skin problems. To encourage healthy skin — and a healthy state of mind — take steps to manage your stress. Set reasonable limits, scale back your to-do list and make time to do the things you enjoy. The results might be more dramatic than you expect.

Source: <http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-living/adult-health/in-depth/skin-care/art-20048237>

Examination Quotes

By Nicolas Nkhuwa

Many Scholars and authors world over have researched on a number of topics including the concept “success.” As human beings, we encounter a number of challenges as we go about our daily lives. In examinations, success comes in a number of ways. As noted by other scholars, I have taken time to write some of my favourite examination quotes from my favourite authors. As you take time to read, as you read, remember to pick out the lines in which the secret of success lies and you will testify the results in your life. Here are some of them;

“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work learning from failure.” - General Colin Powell.

Colin Powell (born 1937) is a retired four-star general in the US Army and the 65th United States Secretary of State. He is also the first African American appointed to this position and served under President George W. Bush from 2001-2005.

“Few minds wear out; most rust out.” - Christian Nextell Bovee

Christian Nextell Bovee (born 1820) was an American author from New York City. Many widely circulated quotes from him come from his two publications, *Thoughts, Feelings, and Fancies*, and *Intuitions and Summaries of Thought*.



By Charity Meki Kombe

C	O	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	S
F	R	E	E	S	H	O	A	E	A	A
M	C	L	P	E	I	G	C	E	M	T
S	A	E	O	R	L	R	U	L	E	S
U	S	A	R	V	A	T	S	I	S	C
Z	E	S	T	I	L	O	R	N	D	H
I	S	E	E	C	A	L	R	E	I	O
R	O	A	D	E	Y	L	S	S	A	O
W	O	O	D	L	A	N	D	S	L	L

Read the sentences below and spot the underlined words from the puzzle.

Remember, as you read and work out the puzzle, you will get important information about the Examinations Council of Zambia that concerns YOU!

1. Effective Monday, 29th September, 2014, all services that were provided to the public at Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) premises are being provided at the ECZ Service Centre located in Woodlands, Plot 1926 along Msuzi Road, off Mwatusanga and Impala Roads.
2. Corrections of names are supposed to be reported to ECZ after the results have been released to schools and before 31st May following the year of the examination.
3. According to the Examinations Rules and Regulations, original results transcripts must be obtained from the School where the candidate sat from after the results have been officially announced by the Minister of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education.
4. The Examinations Council of Zambia has started combining GCE Certificates for different examination sittings into one Accumulated Certificate.
5. You can dial 8383, the ECZ toll free line to make general enquiries and report any suspected cases of malpractices in your area.
6. The toll free line is available to all the networks in Zambia and it is absolutely free!
7. ECZ was privileged to have hosted the 32nd Association for Educational Assessment in Zambia (AEAA) conference in August 2014 in Livingstone, Zambia.
8. During the 32nd AEAA conference held from 11-15th August 2014 Livingstone in Zambia, the Director of the Examinations Council of Zambia, Mr. Michael Chilala became the President of the Association.
9. ECZ introduced the Short Message Service (SMS) Results Release System (SRRS) which enables candidates to access examination results via SMS using their mobile phones. The results are currently available on Zamtel and Airtel Networks.

The ECZ welcomes the following New Members of Staff...



Ms Ireen Chitesha

Ms Ireen Mwansa Chitesha joined ECZ on 1st September 2014 as Chief Accountant. Ireen has an MBA from Manchester Business School (UK), is a Chartered Management Accountant (ACMA), a holder of full Association of Accounting Technician (AAT) qualification and is a member of Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA). Prior to joining ECZ, she worked as Country Finance Manager with SNV Zambia from April 2013 to August 2014. Her previous experience among others includes 6 years gained from Global Blue UK Ltd in London (April 2007 to March 2013) where she initially worked as an Accountant and finally as Administration Manager and 4 years from National Pension Scheme Authority as Budget Accountant.



Mr Robby M. Witika

Mr. Witika M. Robby joined ECZ on July 14, 2014 as Assistant Director for Information Technology. Prior to this, he worked as part-time ICT consultant (COMPSOURCE Ltd) and Lecturer (ZCAS and ZABTUC). Mr. Witika M. Robby started his career at Standard Chartered Bank (Z) Ltd, Head office, as an IT Support Officer in January 1990. In June 1994, he joined Finance Bank (Z) Ltd, Head office, as an IT Senior Officer and 1999 become IT Manager till 2007. He was part of the initial Core team that designed and implemented the Zambia Electronic Clearing House (ZECH) software system, from 1999-2000, Microbanker and Flexcube Banking Systems (Zambia and Malawi, FBZ), Seconded to Bankers Association of Zambia (BAZ) Steering Committee as Advisor on ICT issues in 1999.



Mr Fidelis Makala

Mr. Fidelis Moonga Makala joined ECZ on 14th July 2014 as a Principal Human Resource Development Officer. Before joining ECZ, Fidelis worked for the Zambia Revenue Authority as a Human Resource Manager from 2007 to 2012. Prior to that, he worked for Kitwe City Council from 2000 to 2007. Fidelis brings a wealth of experience and skills in strategic human resource management, corporate and business strategic planning, change management, business process re-engineering, risk management, execution of blue ocean strategies, and project management.



Mrs Kabanda C. Honester

Mrs Kabanda C. Honester joined ECZ on 19th August 2014 as a Senior Human Resource Development Officer. She joined the field of HR practitioners in 2009 with Beatmas Human Resource Consultants where she worked as a Human Resource Officer. Before joining ECZ she worked with Impala Warehousing and Logistics Company Limited as Human Resource Practitioner until August 2014. Mrs Kabanda holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Administration from the University of Zambia.



Mr Lesa Mwansa

Mr. Lesa Mwansa joined ECZ on 10th November, 2014 as an Assistant Stores Officer. He worked for Evelyn Hone College both as a Procurement Officer and Stores Officer before joining ECZ. Mr Mwansa holds a Graduate Diploma in CIPS, and he is also a full member of both CIPS and ZIPS bodies. He is currently studying for a Masters programme in Supply Chain Management as a stage two student, at University of Lusaka.



Mr Ezmara Chijikwa

Mr Ezmara Chijikwa joined the ECZ on 10th November 2014 as Driver. Prior to his appointment, Mr Chijikwa worked for Zambia Daily Mail in the same capacity for 12 months. Mr Chijikwa also worked for Southern Cross Motors as a Mechanic for 10 years.

The ECZ congratulates staff...



Mr Angel Mutale Kaliminwa

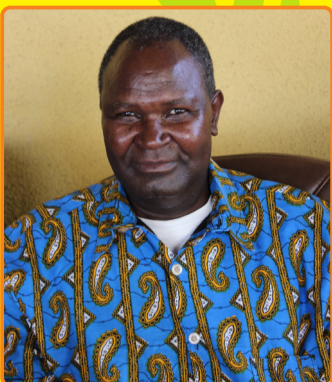
The Council, management and staff of the ECZ has the pleasure to congratulate Mr Angel Mutale Kaliminwa-Principal Examinations Specialist, Test Development on his well-deserved appointment as Board member of the Higher Education Authority. The Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education has made an excellent choice based on expertise, experience and talent to appoint him and we wish him all the best on his new assignment.



Mrs Violet Muchelemba Banda

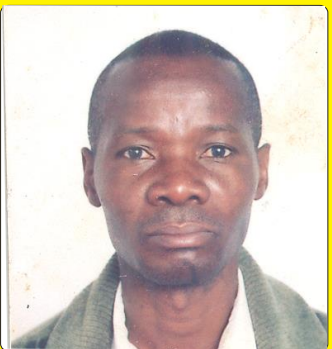
The Council, Management and Staff of the Examinations Council of Zambia congratulate the Assistant Director- Examinations Administration Department- Mrs Violet Muchelemba Banda on her appointment as a member of the Teaching Council of Zambia (TCZ). Mrs Banda brings to the Council a wealth of experience and skills in test development, examinations administration, teaching and operating in a deadline driven quasi-organisation. May the good Lord provide divine guidance and wisdom to her as she takes up the new responsibility.

The ECZ bid farewell to...



Mr Mbangu Libuwe

Mr Mbangu Libuwe separated retired from ECZ as Principal Administration Officer on 25th August 2014. We will miss the pleasurable experience of working with him. We wish him all the best and thank him for his dedication, enthusiasm and team spirit he exhibited at ECZ.



Mr Dickson Mumba

Mr Mumba retired from ECZ as a Security Officer. While we will miss him, We as Council employees have fond memories of working with him. We can only wish him well and hope he attains all the successes he deserves in his retirement. His loyalty and work ethics at ECZ has been an inspiration to us all.

ECZ participates at Zambia's biggest marketing event

By Munsaka Mabbolobolo and Ronald M. Tembo



ZIM lined up best marketing resource persons from the African Sub-Region who were eminent persons in the areas they were presenting. At this very auspicious event, the ECZ was represented

Certificate and the Separation of the GCE Examination from the School Certificate (SC) Examination. It was gratifying after a 10 minutes presentation from the ECZ that various Marketing Professionals present exhibited keen interest in knowing more about the operations of the Council. Institutions such as Lusaka Apex Medical University, Cavendish University and many other corporate organisations took time to discuss with the ECZ personnel to seek clarification on different issues related to examination and the new innovations.

The Examinations Council Zambia successfully participated at the 2014 Zambia Institute of Marketing (ZIM) Annual Marketing Conference under the theme, "Understanding the Role of the Marketing Process in Value Addition and Job Creation," from the 11th to 12th December 2014 at Zambezi Sun International Hotel in Livingstone.

by Mrs Munsaka Mabbolobolo in her capacity as the ZIM Education Committee Chairperson and Mr Ronald Mwelwa Tembo as the Information, Education and Communications Specialist.

This is the biggest marketing event in Zambia bringing together more than 300 Marketing Professionals. The year 2014 drew more than 200 delegates from different institutions across the country.

The ECZ was accorded an opportunity during the Conference to showcase various innovations being implemented at the Council. These included the launch and commissioning of the state of the art Service Centre, the Short Messaging Service (SMS) Results Release System, the combination of the General Certificate of Education (GCE)

The 2014 ZIM Conference was worth undertaking as it marketed Council services and the new innovations. The event also put the ECZ in good light with the general public.

ZIM is a membership organisation regulating the practice of marketing in Zambia as provided for in the ZIM Act No. 14 of 2003. As part of its mandate, the Institute works towards the improvement of professional training and excellent marketing practice.

ECZ Toll Free Line

8383 is the Examinations Council of Zambia Toll Free Line. The stakeholders and the general public are hereby advised to use the Toll Free Line to make enquiries on candidate registration, certification, verification, combination of GCE Certificates and any other Council services by simply dialling 8383.

You may also use the line to report any suspected cases of examination malpractices in your area. The ECZ Toll Free Line is available to all the networks in Zambia and is absolutely free.

Make the enquiry now.



Ms Hildah Kalimakwenda, Switchboard Operator responding to a query

From Examinations to Farming

By Michael M. Chilala



Mr. Newton Neo Mutanekelwa at his farm in Kaoma District

In my language they say, 'Aali mupati taatiki musinza,' literary translated as, 'where the elderly are, soup does not spill.' In the interest of ensuring that we keep the soup in the plate at Examinations Council of Zambia, I took time on one of my trips to the Western Province of Zambia to visit and be in the presence of the elderly, the father of the Examinations Council of Zambia, Mr. Newton Neo Mutanekelwa at his farm in Kaoma District.

Mr. Mutanekelwa started off his career as a Secondary School Teacher at St. Raphael's Secondary School in Livingstone from 1975 to 1977, both years inclusive. He was then promoted and appointed to the position of Head - Grade 12 School Certificate Examination in the Examinations Section, Ministry of Education Head Quarters from 1978 to 1982. He then became Deputy Chief Examinations Officer in the Examinations Section of the Ministry of Education from 1983 to 1985, and eventually appointed as Chief Examinations Officer in the Ministry of Education 1986. He finally became

the first Director (Chief Executive Officer) for the Examinations Council of Zambia in 1987.

Mr. Mutanekelwa successfully served government in this position under three presidents by the time he retired in 2007. He served under Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda from 1987 to 1991; Dr. Fredrick J.T. Chiluba from 1991 to 2001; and finally under Dr. Levy P. Mwanawasa from 2001 to 2007. During his reign, he served as President of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) twice, first in 1990 and then in 1999. He also served as a member of the Committee to spearhead the development of the National Qualifications Framework from 2006 to 2007, to pave way for the establishment of the National Qualifications Framework and National Qualifications Authority.

Mr. Mutanekelwa was born on 17th November 1950 in today's Nalolo District, Western Province, Zambia. He pursued his primary education and obtained his Grade 7 Certificate at Railway Primary School, Broken Hill (now known as Kabwe) in 1965. He continued with school and completed

his Form II Certificate (equivalent of Grade 9) in 1967 Livingstone Day Secondary School in Livingstone, where he eventually completed his Form V (equivalent of Grade 12) in 1970.

He was one of the first to go to University of Zambia (UNZA) to pursue a Bachelor of Arts with Education degree (Double major English and History), which he completed in 1975.

He then obtained a Certificate in Examinations Procedures and Standards from the University of Cambridge, Local Examinations Syndicate, UK in 1980; a Diploma in Teaching English and Assessment from the University of Leeds in the UK in 1982; Master of Education degree in Assessment and Evaluation from the University of Manchester, UK in 1989; a Certificate in Examinations Administration from the University of Cambridge, Local Examinations Syndicate, UK in 1978; and lastly but not the least, he underwent Management Training at the University of London, UK and Scottish Examinations Board, Glasgow in 1995.

Despite his high levels of education and having retired in a privileged and high profile position of Chief Executive Officer of the monopoly examining board, Mr. Mutanekelwa has remained humble and realistic to life.

Having retired on a Friday (date not specified), "I heard that Mr. Mutanekelwa drove straight to his farm in Kaoma for a weekend," said Milambo, the Head Driver at the Council. Since then, he has rarely been around Lusaka where he owns a property he currently occupies in one of Lusaka's low density areas, woodlands. He spends most of his time at the farm to ensure that all goes well.

ECZ participates at the Golden Jubilee Inter-Company Tournament

By Ronald M. Tembo

The ECZ Soccer team participated at the Golden Jubilee Inter-Company Madala's Tournament held at ZAMSURE Sports Complex on 26th July 2014 in Lusaka.

The Tournament which was held under the theme; 'Managing Drug and Alcohol Abuse at Work places for enhanced productivity,' was organised by Campaign Against Drug Abuse Project (CADAP). The purpose of the venture was to raise funds to carry out awareness sensitisation programmes in workplaces, schools and communities by CADAP.

CADAP is a non-profit and Non-Governmental Organisation founded for the purpose of sensitising the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse. ECZ soccer team successfully participated in the tournament under the category of 'Football.' The tournament attracted more than 12 companies from both the private and public sectors.

Though the passion was there amongst the members, the team failed the test to impress and maintain its

winning ways. The ECZ hardly created chances in the opponent's area to score. Though the mid-field could intercept passes and endeavour to attack, the many chances created could not be converted into goals.

The opponents capitalised on the weaknesses and mistakes of our defenders. The teams we played made thrilling counter attacks and exposed our defense which seemed to have developed tired legs. After several attempts, perseverance and a prolonged exchange of magic passes, the opponents managed to snatch a goal which booked them a place in the knock out stages of the tournament.

The important thing for the ECZ team now; is to learn a lesson every time it loses. McEnroe won more than any other tennis pro of his era, yet even him knows that 'errors are the signposts to success.' Henry Ford believed that "Failure is only an opportunity to begin again more intelligently." Woody Allen says, "If you're not failing, you're not trying anything." And Winston Churchill held that, "Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm." All these great men

know that dealing with failure successfully is part of a winner's mind set. I am a firm believer in the motto, "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link," and when a team is losing, I tend to ask myself if there is a weak link on defense or offense side of the team. Probably, the team could start using statistics and performance analysis to find areas that need improvement to ensure that we get back to the winning ways.

The team should continue to hustle, being enthusiastic, and bringing much more energy to practices and contests. What is imperative for the ECZ Soccer team is to present nothing but positive encouragement to all the members of the team when things are not going right.

However, apart from having a good exercise during the tournament, the team managed to network with other organisations. If only the members can hold on to a "never give up" attitude in sports, the team members will go far in anything else they choose to do and bring glory to the organisation. We can only wish the ECZ Madala's team the best in 2015.



GOD IS IN CONTROL

By James Banda

HAPPY Golden Jubilee Zambia! And condolences to the first family, relatives and PF government. Further condolences all Zambians for Our beloved President was President of all Zambians. We mourn for the son of Zambia who did what he could for our beautiful country. It is a mixture of celebration and mourning.

Weeping has come after celebrations. National History breaks forth changes everything...and the world is in shatters. DEATHS through:

Ebola, Boko haram, Elshabab, terrorism, earthquakes, tornados, heavy rain downpour destroys property and lives; international and personal tragedies etc etc a drunk driver, a defiler, GBV- claims innocent lives, a divorce shatters a home, Sodom-

All this makes our world seem a fearful place, overflowing with evil and seemingly out of control. And the litany of bombings, coups, murders, and natural disasters could cause us to think that God is absent or impotent. "Where is God?" we cry engulfed by sorrow and despair.

I'm reminded of the scriptures in Proverbs 1: 20 – 33. In short, God says I called to all of you to listen and follow my instructions but you refused to listen therefore I will laugh when you are met with disaster. When tragedies strike you I will cover myself and won't hear your cries because when I called, you did not listen! Please read this interesting scripture and interpret.

Ladies and gentlemen, God is in CONTROL. God is sovereign. God was in control in Babylon and He has been moving in history, controlling the destinies of people ever since.

And He is here now! Despite news reports or personal stress, we can be confident that God is in CONTROL. As you read the Bible, and obey his commands, watch God work and find your security in His Sovereignty.

ZAMBIA is in God's hands. We are a Christianity pursuing nation. We haven't reached there yet. But God honours our desire to be like Christ. To subscribe to His son's NAME... I would rather be a doorkeeper in God's House than be anywhere else. If Zambia by desiring to be Christian is like a doorkeeper so be IT Zambia! Happy Jubilee! Farewell Sata our beloved President!

We are Gods own . . . **Zambia** means **God's Land** from **Zambezi** river meaning **God's River** what a rich Background.

GOD IS IN CONTROL!