



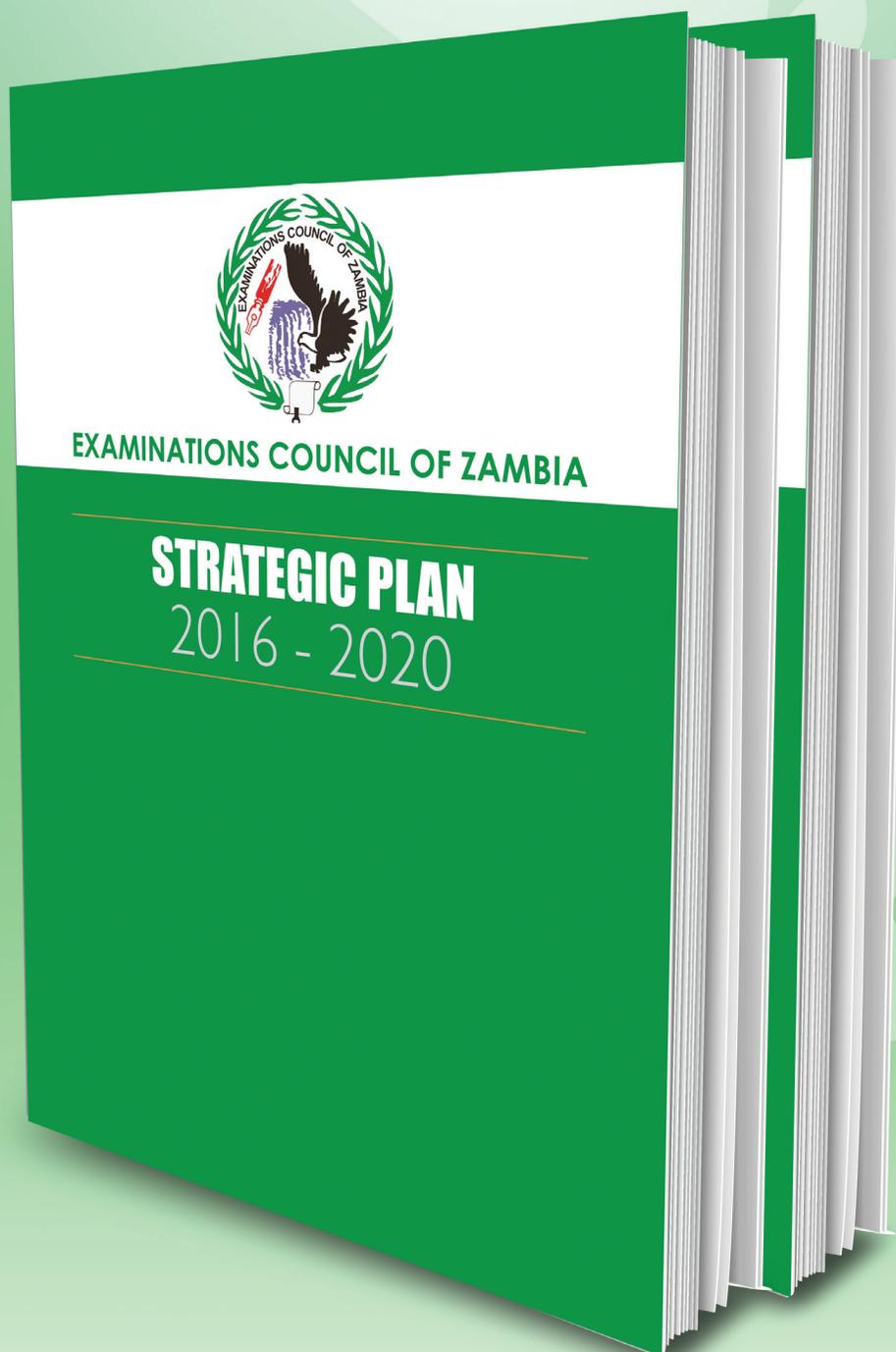
# EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

**In Perspective**

*News about the Council*

Issue No. 8 | January to June 2016

## ECZ UNVEILS STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 TO 2020



### Inside this Issue:

Zambia Successfully Hosts the  
10<sup>th</sup> SAAEA Conference

2015 National Examinations  
Performance Review Meeting

ECZ Celebrates International  
Womens Day

*ECZ Vision: An Examining Body of Excellence*



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 begun in 1987 as a semi-autonomous public institution (parastatal).

### **VISION**

An Examining Body of Excellence.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Efficiently Conduct Assessments and Award Certificates of Comparable International Standards.

### **VALUES**

Accountability  
Efficiency  
Integrity  
Confidentiality  
Transparency  
Teamwork  
Competence  
Innovation

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# EDITORIAL

#### Dear Readers,

This is the first edition published under the new Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) Strategic Plan 2016 to 2020. This publication highlights major activities and innovations implemented in the first half of 2016.

The Council has made a lot of progress in improving the services offered to the general public. A recent milestone is the development of the 2016 to 2020 Strategic Plan and Financial Regulations which will provide guidance in the operations of the Council. The Strategic Plan has been developed in line with the country's Vision 2030 on education which articulates Zambia's long term-development goals. The vision, 'to become a prosperous middle-income country by 2030,' challenges the education sector to provide innovative and productive lifelong education and training accessible to all by 2030. The Plan has been set and will continue with the transformation agenda through innovations and reforms.

Within the period under review, distinguished stakeholders in the education sector, members of the press and cooperating partners convened to deliberate on the performance of learners on the 2015 National Examinations. The Meetings have been necessitated by the increased demand for examination-related data by stakeholders in the quest to improve the quality of education. These assessments provide empirical evidence that feed into policy.

In 2014, the then Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education (MESVTEE) introduced the revised Primary and Secondary School Curricula. In view of this, the ECZ piloted and successfully administered the 2015 Grade 9 Examination under the revised Curriculum. The Council is now set to conduct the 2016 Grades 7, 9 and 12 Examinations under the revised National Curriculum.

The ECZ has also been mandated by the Ministry of General Education to conduct examinations at Diploma levels for the Junior Secondary Teacher Education effective 2016. So far preparations for the 2016 examinations are going as planned at the Council. Already, it is extremely gratifying that there has been overwhelming response from Colleges of Education to apply for Examination Centre Status for the Junior Secondary Diploma Programme.

Zambia through the ECZ hosted what has been by all accounts a very successful and productive 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Southern Africa Association for Educational Assessment (SAAEA) held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in Lusaka. Who could have imagined a better exchange than seeing representatives from several countries joining forces in the Conference to provide cutting edge solutions to many challenges the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and Africa as whole was grappling with, regarding the provision of quality education and learner performance.

As the ECZ embarks on implementing activities in the new Strategic Plan, we pledge to continue providing you with adequate information on examinations administration and innovations through the Newsletter. It is our hope that the contents of this edition will increase your knowledge, appreciation and participation in examination processes at the Council.

To you our stakeholders, we thank you for your support and we wish you a very fruitful and productive 2016.

**Ronald M. Tembo**  
Corporate Affairs Officer  
Examinations Council of Zambia

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## Message from the Director



Dr. Michael M. Chilala

The Examinations Council of Zambia has undergone visible transformation under the 2009 – 2015 Strategic Plan. The achieved milestones include, but are not limited to the establishment of a Service Centre in Lusaka, Separation of the General Certificate of Education (GCE) from the School Certificate examinations, the conduct of leakage free examinations at Grades 7, 12 and Teacher Education levels, introduction of the electronic accumulation of GCE and grade nine results, introduction of On Line Candidate Registration and the SMS Results Release System (SRRS).

Cognisant of the need to plan as success only happens where preparation and opportunity meet, we started planning for the next five years as we approached the end of 2015, which marked the expiry of the 2009 - 2015 Strategic Plan. After a long and consultative process, the Council developed its new Vision of An Examining Body of Excellence and a Mission to Efficiently Conduct Assessments and Award Certificates of Comparable International Standards. The 2016 – 2020 Strategic Plan has the following five Key Results (Thematic) areas:

1. Enhance Policy and Governance;
2. Enhance Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness;
3. Enhance Institutional Capacity and Its Staff for Excellence in Service Delivery and Customer Satisfaction;
4. Strengthen the Conduct of Education and Examinations related Research, Development and Information; and
5. Advance Physical and ICT Infrastructure for Quality Service Delivery and Expansion of Services Provided.

The 2016 - 2020 Strategic Plan was unveiled and launched by the Minister of General Education, Honourable Dr. John J. N. Phiri on 5th May 2016 at the same time when he graced the occasion of the 2015 Examinations Performance Review meeting. We published the Grades 7 and 12 Examinations Syllabi through a Private Public Partnership (PPP) arrangement with Book World Africa. The examinations syllabi are to standardise the setting of examinations for the revised curriculum that was launched in 2014 by the Ministry of General Education. We developed and distributed Specimen Examination Papers for teachers and learners to acquaint themselves with the new structure of examinations after the revision, before sitting the actual examination. We concluded preparations for all examinations and distributed examination materials for the GCE examination slated for 1st July to 9th August.

We successfully implemented the verification of Grade 12 Certificates or Equivalent for all those that aspired for political office during the 2016 general elections. The exercise took a lot of time and effort from the members of staff, who were at the same time at the peak of preparing for the 2016 examinations. We commend the gallant men and women of the Council for remaining focused, resilient and restrained from any unprofessional conduct even at the highest levels of provocation, pressure and stress to ensure the exercise succeeded. Management also extends deep appreciation on behalf of staff to the Electoral Commission of Zambia for the opportunity; all politicians too numerous to mention, who spoke on our behalf and cooperated with us; the Council led by the Chairman, Prof. Samuel F. Banda in particular, for the visionary guidance rendered to us during the verification period; the Ministry of General Education led by the Honourable Minister, Dr. John J. N. Phiri for the guidance rendered in relation to Government policy; and to all our stakeholders who walked with us to the end of the exercise. Motivated by our faith in Mandela's statement that a winner is a dreamer who never gives up, we successfully concluded the verification over the period 14th March to 29th May

2016 under strenuous conditions, with all deserving aspiring candidates issued with letters confirming their qualifications timely for the filing in process to succeed.

Other achievements during the first half of 2016 include the conclusion of the procurement process for the establishment of the Service Centre on the Copperbelt Province; hosting of the Southern Africa Association for Educational Assessment (SAAEA) Conference and Research Forum meeting; hosting of the National Project Managers' Meeting (NPM) for the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) project; participation in the Executive Committee meetings of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) and the SAAEA.

From the innovation side, we introduced a new coding system that will enable the Grade 7 candidates of 2016 to carry the same examination number through Grades 9 to 12 examinations. We successfully registered the GCE and School Certificate candidates for 2016 GCE examinations using the Online Candidate Registration System (OCRS) for the first time since our establishment.

Looking forward to the immediate future of July to December 2016, we remain resolved and ready to conduct all the examinations with the integrity they deserve and expand the OCRS to Grade 7. We plan to process Grade 7 and 9 results in such a way that the Grade 8 and 10 pupils of 2017 will open on the first day of the school calendar, based the amendments made to the timetables that swapped the Grade 12 with Grade 9 examinations. We are committed to open the ECZ Service Centre on the Copperbelt Province.

Though aware of the challenges the Council has continued to face, especially those related to financing, we have made a courageous resolve to pursue our Vision and Mission as articulated in the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020. We humbly invite you on board because we have faith that with your support we shall triumph. Kindly continue updating yourself with our development plans and achievements by reading this newsletter.

# ECZ Unveils Strategic Plan 2016 to 2020

By Ronald M. Tembo



Honourable Dr John Phiri delivering a Speech during the Launch

**T**he Holy Bible in the book of Proverbs 29:18 states that, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." In view of this, the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) developed and launched the new Strategic Plan 2016 to 2020 to guide its growth.

The Strategic Plan has been developed in line with the country's Vision 2030 on Education which articulates Zambia's long term-development goals. The Vision, 'to become a prosperous middle-income country by 2030,' challenges the education sector to provide innovative and productive lifelong education and training accessible to all by 2030.

The Plan has been set and will continue with the transformation agenda through innovations and reforms. The Plan will propel the ECZ to develop creative examinations administration interventions and champion stakeholder engagement in the education

sector and beyond to make progressive decisions to enhance public service delivery systems and processes in a quest to attain the vision 2030.

Speaking during the launch of the ECZ Strategic Plan on 5th May 2016 at Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka, Minister of General Education- Dr John J.N. Phiri stated that a Strategic Plan was a very important document in any organization.

He said that the development of the Strategic Plan was a laudable achievement for the ECZ. Dr Phiri expressed belief and trust that the able men and women involved in developing the document did a wonderful job as seen from the powerful Strategic Plan he was launching.

Dr Phiri thanked the members of staff at Ministry of General Education at all levels, affiliated Teacher Unions, law enforcement agencies, members of the media and all other stakeholders who ensured that

examinations were run smoothly and results released in a timely manner.

The Honourable Minister further thanked the stakeholders who supported the ECZ in coming up with the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and ensuring that it met the expectations of the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the general public in providing assessments and certification systems of comparable international standards and credibility.

Over the years, the Council has established a credible examination system and continued to deliver on its mandate of administering public examinations for schools and tertiary levels. Flowing from Zambia's long term development including Education Sector Goals articulated in Vision 2030, the ECZ developed its first ever seven (7) year Strategic Plan (2009-2015). The Plan provided a more holistic perspective to conducting Examinations, Assessments and Award of Certificates of comparable



Prof. Samuel F. Banda showcasing the Strategic Plan

**“The Strategic Plan has been set and will continue with the transformation agenda through Innovations and Reforms”**

International Standards with a view to enhancing efficiency and effectiveness.

Therefore, the 2009-2015 Strategic Plan thus set the stage for building a solid foundation for takeoff at the Institutional, Human-Capital Development, Technology and Effective Assessment levels for the next Strategic Plan.

The second Strategic Plan which has been set from 2016 to 2020 will continue with the transformation agenda through innovations and reforms.

The five (5) year Strategic Plan, 2016 to 2020 is informed by developments in the macroeconomic environment of Zambia, Government Policy on Free Education, the proposed split of the Ministry again into General and Higher Education, subsidization of Examination Fees, desire to deepen efficiency and effectiveness of Assessments, Reduction in the Cost of doing business with ECZ using e-platforms, need to decentralize operations countrywide and improved Corporate Image through zero tolerance for Examination leakages and malpractices.

The Vision of the ECZ is, “An Examining Body of Excellence” while the Mission is to, “Efficiently Conduct Assessments and Award Certificates of comparable International Standards.”

The Eleven Strategic Goals were formulated for the Plan period. The execution of the Goals will be guided by set of 8 corporate values. Satisfactory stakeholder relations and customer service will rely on the commitment of ECZ Management and Staff to values of accountability, efficiency,

integrity, confidentiality, transparency, teamwork, competence, and innovation.

The Eleven Strategic Goals will further fall under five (5) Thematic or Key Results Areas identified so that it is easier for Departments, Sections and Units within the ECZ to relate to in terms of Expected End Of Plan Implementation Outcomes to the assigned accountability points during the Plan period.

The Five (5) Thematic/Key Result Areas are to enhance Policy and Governance of ECZ, enhance the Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness of ECZ, Enhance Institutional Capacity of ECZ and Its Staff for Excellence Service Delivery and Customer Satisfaction, strengthen the Conduct of Education and Examinations related Research, Development and Information, Advance Infrastructure Development (both Physical and ICT) for Quality Service delivery and Expansion of Services Provided.

During the same event, the ECZ also launched the new Financial Regulations. The Regulations shall provide comprehensive guidance in ensuring an effective framework for communicating the Council’s management and control of financial resources.



Nomakanjani Dancing Troupe performing during the Launch

# 2015 National Examinations Performance Review Meeting

By Ronald M. Tembo



Some stakeholders during the Review Meeting

**O**n 5th and 6th May 2015, distinguished stakeholders in the education sector, members of the press and cooperating partners convened to deliberate on the performance of learners on the 2015 National Examinations.

The gathering was held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka, Zambia. This was during the 2015 National Examinations Performance Review Meeting. This was the fourth National Performance Review Meeting. The first Review Meeting was held in the year 2013 and since then the ECZ, in conjunction with the Ministry of General Education, has been holding these Meetings annually.

The purpose of the Performance Review Meeting was to scrutinize the performance and conduct of examinations covering Grades 7, 9 and 12. The Meeting was also used as a platform to review the performance of learners in large-scale assessment. The Meetings have been necessitated by the increased demand for examination-related data by stakeholders in the quest to improve

the quality of education. These assessments provide empirical evidence that feed into policy.

Officiating during the 4th National Performance Review Meeting, Minister of General Education- Dr John T.N. Phiri, stated that the ECZ was the only institution mandated to conduct this highly specialised assessment.

Dr Phiri stated that feedback generated through the National Review Meetings on the way the ECZ conducted and administered its examinations was cardinal for the improvement of systems and processes. The Honourable Minister commended the ECZ and all the stakeholders present for their commitment shown towards improving the quality of education in Zambia.

Arising from the National Performance Review Meetings, Dr Phiri was aware that some provinces and districts were holding their Review Meetings and commended them for such undertakings.

The Honourable Minister further directed that the rest of the provinces and districts should conduct their Review Meetings. He

added that the meetings must be utilised to come up with concrete and implementable resolutions.

Dr Phiri reiterated that the Meeting should not be business as usual because research had found that providing feedback on performance had proven benefits to the education system which included; increased teacher motivation, better school management practices, effective teaching and learning processes leading to improved learner performance, among others.

The fact that the Meeting was going to have an in-depth review of the Grade 7, 9 and 12 examination results, the Honourable Minister directed the stakeholders to critically examine the fluctuation of results across provinces, the low performance in Mathematics and Science with specific focus on girls.

Other areas to be examined during the Meeting were the sustenance of the observed good performance of learners in practical subjects and the poor performance of learners in numeracy and literacy.

“The Performance Review Meetings have been necessitated by the increased demand for examination-related data by stakeholders in the quest to improve the quality of education”

Dr Phiri was expectant that the Meeting would be highly interactive and stimulate debate. He urged everyone present to effectively participate by making observations that would help improve not only the way of assessing learners but also improve learning achievement levels for quality education.

He further revealed that the desire of the Ministry of General Education was to use information generated from the Meeting to build on the identified strengths, realize the existing gaps and find ways of bridging them.

Overall, the performance of learners in the 2015 examinations was comparable with the previous years. At the Grade 7 level,

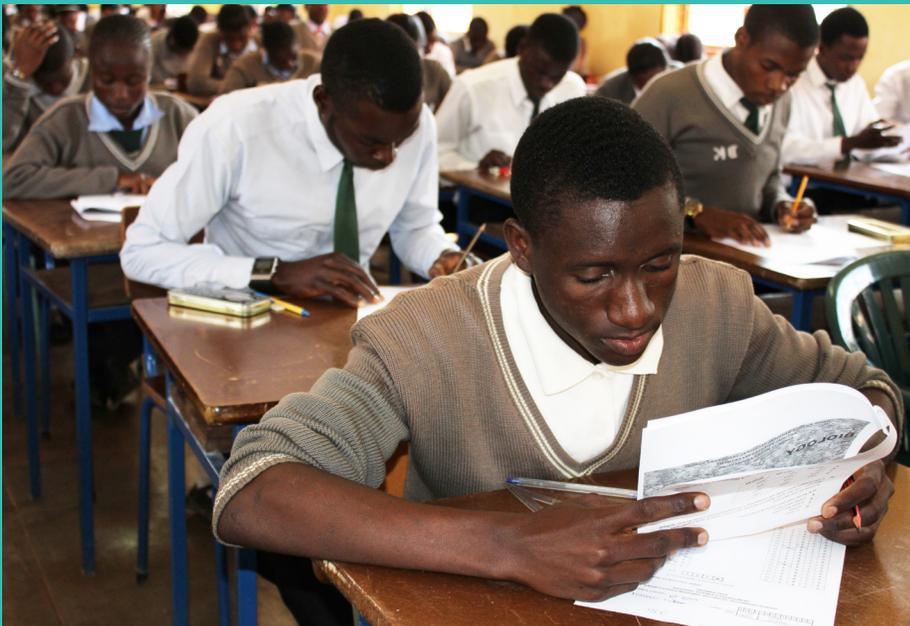
the results showed that the proportion of candidates obtaining Division 2 has been increasing since 2013.

At Grade 9 level, the examinations were based on the Revised Curriculum. Generally, learners performed better in the Practical subjects compared to Theoretical ones re-affirming the decision of the Ministry of General Education to have a 2-tier Curriculum which covers both the Academic and Vocational Pathways.

At Grade 12 level, examination results showed that the general performance of candidates had improved compared to the previous year with 57.05 percent of candidates obtaining Grade 12 Certificates compared to 55.87 percent in 2014.

## ECZ Set to Conduct 2016 School Examinations Under the revised Curriculum

By Ronald M. Tembo



developed and distributed to all the Grade 9 Examination Centres in January 2015, in readiness for the live examination in October/November, 2015.

For the 2016 examination session, the Council is set to conduct and administer Grade 7 and 12 examinations based on the revised Curriculum. This would mark the completion of the implementation of the revised Curriculum as introduced by the Ministry of Education.

One of the functions of the Examinations Council of Zambia is to develop Assessment Schemes (otherwise known as Examination Syllabi) every time there is change of Teaching and Learning Syllabi for the examinations conducted by Council.

The Assessment Schemes elaborate on the purpose of the assessment/examination and provide a comprehensive framework that will guide the general assessment of competencies at Grades 7, 9 and 12 levels.

The Schemes explain to users (Teachers, students and other educators) how an assessment has been designed.

The ECZ has also developed the Examination Syllabi and Specimen papers for Grades 7, 12 and Teacher Education. The Grade 7 and 12 Examination Syllabi and Specimen papers have since been dispatched to all the schools and examination centres countrywide in readiness for the live examination in October/November 2016.

The ECZ is now set to conduct the 2016 Grades 7, 9 and 12 Examinations under the revised National Curriculum. In 2014, the then Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education (MESVTEE) introduced the revised Primary and Secondary School Curricula. At the time the Curricula was being introduced, the Ministry announced that the first examination under the revised Curricula was going to be in 2015 at Grade 9 level.

The ECZ successfully administered the 2015 Grade 9 Examination under the revised

Curriculum. The change in curriculum entailed the introduction of new subject areas such as Computer Studies, Business Studies, Social Studies, Musical Arts Curriculum and Integrated Science.

In the old curriculum, the Grade 9 examination comprised a total of 24 subjects assessed through a total of 47 examination papers. On the other hand, the Assessment Scheme for the revised Curriculum has 21 subjects which are assessed through 47 Examination Papers.

The Specimen Papers based on the new Grade 9 Assessment Scheme were

It is a requirement that when a new Curriculum has been introduced, Specimen (Sample) Examination Papers have to be distributed to all Examination Centres for teachers and candidates to acquaint themselves with the new structure and format of examinations.

Pursuant to this mandate, the ECZ embarked on the development of Assessment Schemes (Examination Syllabi) and Specimen (Sample) Examination Papers based on the revised Curricula for Grades 7, 9 and 12.

The two documents have since been dispatched to all the schools and examination centres countrywide in readiness for the examinations in October/November 2016.

The old Grade 7 Curriculum comprised 6 subjects, which were examined in 6 papers, and 2 psychological tests namely Special Paper 1 (Verbal Reasoning) and Special Paper 2 (Non-Verbal Reasoning), making a total of 8 Examination Papers.

The revised Grade 7 Curriculum has 8 subjects. However, the Assessment Scheme has been maintained as in the old Curriculum. This was achieved by the decision to combine the three (3) new practical subjects into one paper.

The Grade 7 candidates will be graded on the best 4 subjects, plus Special Paper 1 and Special Paper 2 for selection purposes. The candidates will be graded based on the best 4 subjects for certification purposes.

The old Grade 12 Curriculum comprised 35 subjects, assessed through 74 Examination Papers. On the other hand, the revised Curriculum has 32 subjects assessed through 72 Examination Papers. Candidates are required to enter for a minimum of 6 and maximum of 9 subjects.

It is expected that the subjects should cut across three subject groupings for enrolment into tertiary institutions.

To qualify for a School Certificate, candidates must either pass in at least six subjects, including English language, with a credit in at least one of the subjects or pass in five subjects, including English Language, with credit in at least two of them.

As ECZ, we therefore urge all stakeholders to look out for the Grade 7, 9 and 12 Examination Syllabus and Examination Specimen Papers in Book World shops by the end of June 2016 and for the Teacher Education by July, 2016.

## ECZ Now Mandated to Conduct Junior Secondary Teacher Education Diploma Exam



By William B. Walawala

**T**he ECZ undertook a complex task for Teacher Education Examinations last year, 2015. The task was so complex because when ECZ was winding up the examinations for Teacher Education Certificate Programmes, the Ministry of General Education added the Diploma Teacher Education programme for Early Childhood and Primary Teachers Diploma Programmes.

The ECZ, therefore, conducted Teacher Education Examinations for Pre-School, ZATEC I, ZATEC II, first Year Early Childhood and Primary Teacher Education Diplomas in November-December 2015.

Within the year, the ECZ developed the Examinations Course Profile and Examination Syllabi (Also Known as Assessment Schemes) for both Early Childhood and Primary Teacher's Diploma Courses. The Development of Examination Papers was also done and examinations were conducted within time with no report of malpractices.

There were 33 Colleges of Education who registered candidates for the first Diploma Examinations which were conducted last year in 2015. At Certificate level for Primary, there were 25 Colleges.

This year, there has been overwhelming response from many Colleges of Education applying for Examination Centre Status for all the three Teacher Education programmes; Early Childhood, and Primary Teacher Education programme.

It was an exciting experience in Colleges of Education as this was the first time at Diploma level to write a centrally set end of first year final examination. Marking and

moderation of Continuous Assessments (CA) and final examination results was done in good time that allowed the examination results to be released in time.

This year 2016, the Ministry of General Education again has mandated the Council to conduct examinations at Diploma level for Junior Secondary School Teacher Education.

So far preparations are ongoing. Already there has been overwhelming response from Colleges of Education to apply for Examination Centre Status for this programme, too.

In the Junior Secondary Teacher's Diploma programmes, there are new Teaching Courses such as Design and Technology, Computer Studies, Business Studies and Social Studies which have been introduced. The Syllabi were already made by the Ministry of Education through the Directorate of Teacher Education and Specialised Services. These Teaching Courses will provide the current needed skills in the community which were not there previously.

**"This year 2016, the Ministry of General Education again has mandated the Council to conduct examinations at Diploma level for Junior Secondary Teacher Education"**

# 2016 GCE Examination to be Administered Under Old Curriculum

By Ronald M. Tembo

In the wake of the introduction of the revised Primary and Secondary School Curricula by the then Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education and the separation of the School Certificate and GCE Examinations, there has been mixed feelings and qualms from candidates sitting the 2016 GCE Examination, as to which Curriculum the ECZ would use to conduct the examination.

The ECZ therefore wishes to inform stakeholders and members of the general public that the 2016 GCE Examination which will commence on 1st July and end on 9th August 2016 will be administered and conducted under the revised Curriculum. The ECZ further wishes to announce that subsequent GCE Examinations would be conducted under the revised Curricula.

In retrospect, the ECZ introduced the Mid Year GCE Education on a self-sustaining basis in 2014. This was in response to the increased

demand for GCE examination by members of the public. This policy direction was a major solution to the majority who were seeking the required five 'O' levels or better results for entry into college and/or employment.

The examination ran in selected centres in all the 10 provinces of Zambia. Only 75 examination centres countrywide were approved by the ECZ to run the maiden GCE examination. All the subjects except practicals were available for the examination. Candidates were allowed to only sit for six subjects at this level.

In 2015, a decision was made to separate the School Certificate (Grade 12 Internal) from the GCE examination. It was further resolved that the GCE Examination would be conducted in August annually. 272 selected Examination Centres across the country were approved to administer the GCE Examination in 2015. This represented an increase by 195 Centres from 77 that administered the

maiden 2014 June GCE Examination. There was no restriction to the number of subjects a candidate can enter for.

The 2015 GCE Examination results which were officially released in September 2015 signaled the successful implementation of the decision by the Government of the Republic of Zambia in 2014 to completely separate the GCE Examination from the School Certificate Examination.

Over and above this, the GCE Examination has provided a second opportunity for the citizenry who wish to improve their Grades and ultimately improve their opportunity to either access tertiary education or employment in Zambia. The GCE results will therefore enable many to access better employment and higher education opportunities, thereby positively contributing to national development.

## Rules for Combination of Grade 9 Statements of Results

By Ronald M. Tembo

**A**fter the amendment of the National Curriculum, the ECZ developed the Examination Syllabi and Specimen Papers in 2014 for the Grade 9 examinations, because the examination would run first, in 2015. After the initial draft of the Grade 9 Assessment Scheme, a consultative process was followed to conclude on a number of issues related to the examination.

Through a consultative process, it was resolved that candidates will be graded based on the best 6 subjects both for selection and certification. In line with the revised Curriculum, the ECZ has revised the rules for combination of Grade 9 results with effect from January 2016.

Please note that results for candidates, who will not follow these rules, will not have their results combined.

### Rules for combination of Grade 9 Statement of Results

i. Candidates who passed Civics, Geography, and History in the previous years (i.e. before 2015) cannot enter for Social Studies.

ii. Candidates who failed any one of these subjects; Civics, Geography, History in the previous years (i.e. before 2015) and would like to re-write, can enter for Social Studies

iii. Candidates who passed Wood Work, Metal Work, Technical Drawing in the previous years (i.e. before 2015), cannot enter for Design and Technology Studies.

iv. Candidates who failed any one of these subjects; Wood Work, Metal Work, Technical Drawing in the previous years (i.e. before 2015) can enter for Design and Technology Studies.

v. Candidates who passed Office Practice and Book Keeping in the previous years (i.e. before 2015), cannot enter for Business Studies.

vi. Candidates who failed either Office Practice or Book Keeping in the previous years (i.e. before 2015) and would like to re-write either of the two subjects can enter for Business Studies.

vii. Candidates who failed Environmental Science in the previous years and would like to re-write, can enter for Integrated Science.

viii. Candidates who passed Environmental Science in the previous years (i.e. before 2015) cannot enter for Integrated Science.

ix. Candidates who passed Art in the previous years (i.e. before 2015) cannot enter for Art and Design.

x. Candidates who failed Art in the previous years (i.e. before 2015) and would like to re-write can enter for Art and Design.

xi. Candidates who passed Music in the previous years (i.e. before 2015), and

would like re-write, cannot enter for Musical Arts Education.

xii. Candidates who failed Music in the previous years (i.e. before 2015) and would like to re-write can enter for Musical Arts Education.

xiii. Candidates who failed any of the following subjects in the previous years (i.e. before 2015): English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Agricultural Science, Home Economics, Zambian Languages or French and would like to re-write can enter for the same subjects.

### Standing Rules

The following rules shall apply before combining statements of results at Grade 9 level:

First Sitting	Second Sitting	Third Sitting
Internal	External	External
External	External	External

Re-sitting should be done within three (3) Years. The names on the statement of results to be combined should be the same. The current charge for combination of Grade 9 results is K500. This fee includes the cost of the Certificate Card.

### Conclusion

It has been observed that some Head teachers allow learners to proceed to Grade 10 who have not made a full certificate with a view of such learners to combine their results in future.

Please note that the examination number become valid when the candidate makes a full certificate. That is, if the candidate wrote examination in 2013 and fails to make a certificate, the number becomes invalid and cannot be used to enter for Grade 12 examination.

If such candidate sits for the second time in 2014 and makes a full Grade certificate, that candidate will be allocated the number which was used in 2014.

Therefore if the learner was allowed to proceed after failing in 2013, he/she will be in Grade 12 before the examination number matures and such candidates cannot enter for examination in that particular year.

As ECZ, we would like to implore the stakeholders especially the teacher to ensure that they explain these rules to the learners, to avoid inconveniencing them and their parents.

## Stakeholders Call for Full Implementation of Examination Malpractices Decree

By Ronald M. Tembo



Lina Simpson Mbeve

One of the contemporary problems affecting education systems in the world are examination malpractices. It is a global phenomenon reported by many countries today. Zambia, particularly Chipata district, has not been an exception. Examination malpractices are common at Grade 9 level and have devastating effects on the quality of education.

Zambia undertook a study to ascertain the causes of examinations leaking in Chipata District of eastern province. A sample of 70 participants which included 22 Secondary School teachers, 25 pupils, three (3) Ministry of Education officials and 20 community members were involved. Data was collected through a questionnaire, interviews and focus group discussion.

The study revealed that some of the causes of examination malpractices were fear of failure, quest for certificate in order to get to the next level, desire of parents to have their children pass and get into university, desire to gain popularity of being the best teacher despite not covering the syllabus, poor teaching (Teacher / Pupil Ratio) and laziness leading to ineffective preparation by the students.

It was observed that most causes of examination malpractices involve parents, pupils/students, teachers and business people. Key among them is inadequate preparation for examinations.

Making a presentation during the Southern Africa Association for Educational Assessment (SAAEA) Conference on An Investigation on the Causes and Effects of Examination Malpractices on Education Standards, Lina Simpson Mbeve who is the Senior Education Standards Officer – Examinations from Eastern Province called on the full implementation of examination malpractices decree which provide for the imprisonment of culprits for a number of years.

The Senior Education Standards Officer stated that the arrest and prosecution of pupils caught in examination malpractices should always be done to serve as a lesson to others adding that concerted efforts should be made in enhancing discipline among pupils through the counselling services in schools in order to prevent them from acts of indiscipline during examinations.

She recommended that graduates should be subjected to vigorous tests in the course of seeking for employment so as to assess their abilities and also as a means of reducing examination malpractices. Lina further stated that the administration and conduct of examination should be entrusted to the care of men and women of proven integrity in schools.

Other recommendations from the study were that Guidance and Counseling Services should be adopted in all institutions so as to reduce cases of examination malpractices. There was need to provide adequate teaching and learning materials. Libraries and laboratories should be stocked with the needed textbooks, chemicals and apparatus to promote effective teaching and learning.

## Two Officers Attend 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit on Examination Fraud

The 4th Annual Summit on Combating Education Irregularities and Examination Fraud for 2016 took place from the 4th to 6th May, 2016 at Premier Hotel OR Tambo International Airport Johannesburg, South Africa. The Summit was organised by AMC International of South Africa in-conjunction with the Examination Officers Association of the United Kingdom.

The theme of the Conference was – “Implementing Effective Strategies for Improving Examination Outcomes with a Special Focus on Practical Solutions.” The Summit was attended by 51 delegates from Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Swaziland, Lesotho, South Africa, Mauritius, Seychelles, UK, Nigeria, Ghana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Ethiopia. The delegates were mainly drawn from Ministries of Education, Universities, Examining Boards, Education Training Institutions/Colleges and Private Educational Organisations.

The ECZ was represented by the Principal Examinations Officer – Security and Logistics Mr Ian Chirambo and the Senior Examinations Officer – Processing and Certification Mr Kunda Kuku.

The topics covered during the summit included the following: Institutional Approaches to Academic misconduct: Bridging the Legal and Ethical approach to Policy, Principles of inclusive Learning as a mechanism of promoting quality and baseline in combating irregularities in Education, Assessment and Fraud Prevention in Education: Reality versus Perception, Creating and Nurturing a Culture of Quality in an Examination and Assessment Body, Setting questions in line with instructional objectives and content covered to deter fraudulent activities, Evaluating the state of compliance to Global Academic integrity standards in African Education, Key trends accelerating Technology adoption in examination and moderation in 2016 with Quality Assurance as the standard and Understanding the role of both Law Enforcement and Academic Institutions in maintaining Education Transparency.

Other topics were Examination Security Facilities, Exploring means and strategy on examination integrity and academic dishonesty: A South African perspective, Combating Examination Fraud: Leading towards a culture of integrity in Institutional Examinations, Challenging issues in the Education Sector, Prevention of irregularities in academic examinations, Detection and analysis of irregularities in examinations, Responses and investigation of alleged or actual irregularities, Creating and implementing effective academic policies



By Ian Chirambo

structured towards preventing fraud/corruption within examinations.

The summit was very educative and highly interactive. Lessons learnt among other things included; the need to embrace ethics training in combating educational irregularities and examination frauds. It was observed that there was need to educate students on character and to teach them ethical principles so that their mind set would change.

It was also noted that there was need to integrate compliance and risk management issues in Institutional plans, incorporating the Universal Design for learning and social model, operationalization of the code of conduct for officers involved in the administration of examinations, training workshops for invigilators, improvement of instruction and enhancement of institutional support, the need for good corporate governance practices, establishment of legal units within examining boards, use of technology in examination material delivery and in detecting examination malpractice.

Emphasis was also placed on Teachers to reinforce academic honesty and integrity among students. Promotion and reinforcement of ethics is very cardinal in combating examination irregularities. As rightly observed by Max A. Eckstein who states that “Lack of integrity and unethical behaviour within the education sector is inconsistent with one of the major purposes of education that is to produce good citizens that are respectful of law of human rights and fairness”. Good teaching requires a teacher who acts responsibly and teach his students how to act responsibly.

The importance of Examining Boards to strengthen linkages with Law enforcement Bodies, Qualification Authorities and the Teacher Regulatory Councils to combat some of the many challenged education irregularities and examination fraud was equally emphasised.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela

“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.”

- Augustine of Hippo

# Highlights of the 2015 School Examinations

By Ronald M. Tembo



Director of Standards and Curriculum - Mrs Cecelia N. Sakala welcoming the stakeholders during the official release of the 2015 Grade 9 Examination Results

## Grade 7 Composite Examination

The year 2015 recorded more candidates entering the Grade 7 Composite Examination as compared to the year 2014 (383, 676 and 367, 967 respectively).

In terms of gender proportions, a total of 195, 584 were boys representing 50.98 percent while 188,092 were girls representing 49.02 percent.

The growth of female candidates has been consistent between 2013 and 2014, and 2014 and 2015.

Candidate absenteeism from the examination increased from 9.52 percent in 2014 to 10.21 in 2015. The increase in the proportion of learners absent from the examination was 0.54 percent for boys and 0.84 percent for girls from 2014 to 2015.

The overall increase in the proportion of candidates who were absent from the examination was 0.69 percent from 2014 to 2015. Western province recorded the highest absenteeism rate (13.20%) while Southern province recorded the lowest rate (7.81%).

The number of girls that absented themselves from the examination in 2015 was more than that of boys. The proportion of candidates obtaining Division 1 dropped by 0.11 percent while performance at Division 2 increased by 0.55, and a decline was recorded at Division 3 at -0.21.

There were more candidates that obtained Division 2 than those attaining Division 3. The proportion of candidates obtaining Division 4 dropped by -0.24 percentage point.

At the Grade 7 level, the results showed that the proportion of candidates obtaining Division 2 has been increasing since 2013.

## Junior Secondary School Leaving (Grade 9) Examination

The number of registered candidates reduced from 357,985 in 2014 to 340,478 (170,962 boys and 169,516 girls) in 2015 representing a decline of 4.98 percent.

According to reports from the provinces, this decline was due to the fact that the 2015 cohort had no repeating candidates because all repeaters were taken to Grade 8 so that they could be instructed under the revised Curriculum before taking the examination.

Of this registered number, 278,184 (81.70%) candidates sat the examination; the number of boys was 141 336 (50.81%) while the number of girls was 136 848. A total of 62,294 candidates were absent from the examination compared to 58,110 in 2014 and more girls than boys were absent.

At Grade 9 level, the examinations were based on the Revised Curriculum. Generally, learners performed better in the Practical subjects compared to Theoretical ones.

There was an increase in candidate absenteeism from 16.23 percent in 2014 to 18.30 percent in 2015, representing a 2.07 percent overall increase.

North Western (23.74%) and Central (23.55%) Provinces recorded the highest absenteeism rates while Lusaka Province recorded the lowest absenteeism rates (13.40%).

Those obtaining Statements increased by 8.50 percent (2014 was 38.05%, 2015 was 46.55%). A total of 134,123 (48.21%) obtained certificates representing a drop of 8.28 percent compared to 2014 (169,375; 56.48%).

There were more candidates obtaining Certificates (48.21%) than those who obtained Statements (46.55%). The highest certificate pass rate by province was recorded on the Copperbelt (55.28%) followed by Muchinga (53.99%) then Western (53.47%).

The lowest Certificate pass rate was recorded in Lusaka Province (42.74%) followed by Central (43.70%) and Southern (44.50%).

## School Certificate (Grade 12 Internal) Examination

In 2015, 128,527 candidates entered the examination of whom 70,585 were boys and 57,942 were girls. This represents an overall increase of 5.3 percent.

In terms of growth in candidature, the increase was higher for girls (6.8%) than boys (4.1%) and this trend has remained consistent during the last three examination sessions.

A total of 2,841 candidates were absent from the examination, indicating that 125,686 candidates sat the examinations of whom 69,108 were boys and 56,578 were girls. Candidate absenteeism at this examination level increased from 1.8 percent in 2014 to 2.21 percent in 2015.

The proportion of candidates obtaining School Certificates for the 2015 examination session increased from 55.87 percent in 2014 to 57.05 percent (representing 71,702 candidates in 2015 compared to 66,971 in 2014).

The increase was 1.8 percentage points. The proportion of boys and girls who obtained School Certificates was 59.26 percent and 54.35 percent respectively.

Forty five (45) schools recorded 100 percent School Certificate pass compared to 41 in 2014. Copperbelt province recorded an increase in the proportion of candidates obtaining School Certificates from 43.9 percent in 2014 to 44.5 percent in 2015 although it has maintained the last position.

All provinces with the exception of the Muchinga and Northwestern provinces recorded an increase in the proportion of candidates obtaining School Certificates.

At Grade 12 level, examination results showed that the general performance of candidates had improved compared to the previous year with 57.05 percent of candidates obtaining Grade 12 Certificates compared to 55.87 percent in 2014.

## General Certificate of Education Examination

The inaugural 2014 GCE June Examination had 18,368 candidates registering for the examination. Out of these, 6607 were males while 11,761 were females an indication that more females sat the June GCE examination than males.

The proportion of candidates obtaining School Certificates for the 2015 examination session increased from 55.87 percent in 2014 to 57.05 percent (representing 71,702 candidates in 2015 compared to 66,971 in 2014).

For the 2015 August GCE Examination, a total of 105,208 candidates comprising 36,259 males and 68,949 females were registered.

The highest candidature was captured from the Copperbelt Province (26,608) followed by Lusaka Province (25,300) while the lowest was from Muchinga Province (3,371).

Of the registered candidates, 32,002 males and 63,034 females sat the 2015 GCE August Examination giving a total of 95,036 candidates who sat the examination.

As with the number of registered candidates, there were more females candidates sitting the examination than males.

In 2015, the rate of absenteeism was at 9.67 percent, representing a decrease from 11.03 percent obtained during the 2014 session. The proportion of candidates obtaining GCE Certificates was 90.38 percent, an increase from 77.45 percent in 2014.

More males (91.89%) than females (89.62%) obtained GCE Certificates. The highest proportions of candidates getting GCE Certificates came from the Copperbelt (91.49%) and Lusaka (91.19%) Provinces while the lowest came from Northern (87.37%) and Luapula (88.75%) provinces.



**EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**2016 EXAMINATIONS SESSION DATES**

The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) wishes to notify the general public that 2016 Examinations will be written on the following dates:

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Name of Examination</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
1	Grade 7 Composite Examination	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016
2	The Junior Secondary School Leaving Examination (Grade 9)	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2016	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016
3	School Certificate Examination (Grade 12)	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December, 2016
4	General Certificate of Education Examination (GCE)	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July, 2016	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
5	Pre-School Teachers' Certificate Examination	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016
6	Zambia Teacher Education Course (ZATEC) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Examination	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016
7	Early Childhood Education (ECE) Teachers' Diploma Course Year 1 Examination	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016
8	Early Childhood Education (ECE) Teachers' Diploma Course Year 2 Examination	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016
9	Primary Teachers' Diploma Course Year 1 Examination	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December, 2016
10	Primary Teachers' Diploma Course Year 2 Examination	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December, 2016

- All the examinations will be conducted in accordance with the Guidelines for the Administration and Management of Examinations in Zambia;
- Morning Sessions for all examinations start at 08:00 hours, while the afternoon Sessions start at 14:00 hours.

For further details or clarifications on the 2016 Examination Timetables, please contact the nearest Examination Centre in your area.

**ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR  
EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA**

# Ransomware

By Samson M. Shiwanwa

Computer usage has in the recent past become a part of our everyday living. Almost every household in Zambian urban areas either owns a laptop or personal computer. Every work place is either partially or fully computerised making use of facilities such as email, electronic file creation and storage. Additionally, almost every student at tertiary level is required to have a laptop computer to use for school work and research.

Corporate computer users primarily utilise facilities such as email, file storage, sharing of resources such as storage and printers via Local Area Networks (LANs), accessing enterprise systems on servers on the LAN, etc. whatever computers. Whichever environment computers are used in, storage of files is most often one of the core functions the computer performs.

Files stored on the computer are often of varying importance depending on the type of user of the data. One of the challenges in computing has been how to protect data stored on computers mainly from viruses. Traditional remedies in combating virus attacks has long included the installation of antivirus software. However, a recent form of attack called Ransomware has since appeared in the computing world. Traditional antivirus software programs cannot easily catch this kind of attack.

## What is Ransomware?

Ransomware is a type of malicious software that is designed to block access to a computer system until a specific sum of money is paid. Upon compromising a computer, ransomware will typically either lock a user's computer or encrypt files, such as documents and pictures, on the computer and then demand payment of some sort before the computer system or files can be unencrypted. Ransomware can be so devastating especially in a networked environment where an attacked computer even has some mapped drives to it. The encryption can even spread to the mapped drives and if that drive is to a file server then you know how bad that can get.

## How Ransomware works?

Computer operating systems and applications often contain security vulnerabilities at all times. The known vulnerabilities are often taken care of by the operating system and application developers by the release of software patches. It is the duty of the computer user or those charged with the responsibility of maintaining computers to ensure that these patches are

downloaded and applied to the respective computer systems.

Ransomware often takes advantage of computers with security vulnerabilities by infiltrating a user's computer as a computer worm or Trojan horse and exploiting those vulnerabilities. Once executed on the user's system, a ransomware can either (1) lock the computer screen or (2) encrypt predetermined files with a password. In the first scenario, a ransomware may show a full-screen image or some kind of notification, which prevents victims from using their computer. This also shows the instructions on how users can pay for the ransom.

The second type of ransomware locks files such as documents, spreadsheets, photos and other important types of files. Most ransomware attacks are the result of a user clicking on an infected e-mail attachment or visiting a compromised website.

## What to do to avoid Ransomware attacks:

Ransomware attacks cannot be totally avoided but the following will surely reduce the chances of attacks:

1. Ensure your computer's operating system is updated with the latest security patches. If possible, ensure to use the latest stable version of the operating system
2. Ensure all the applications on your computer are up to date with the latest security patches
3. Avoid visiting untrusted or suspicious websites. Such websites contain hidden code which automatically downloads to your computer and installs malware.
4. Avoid clicking on attachments and links from unsolicited emails. Such attachments and links are normally infected and if this is the case will secretly install the ransomware on your computer.
5. Avoid responding to strange unsolicited emails. Some criminals when searching



for target victims generally send emails to computer generated email addresses. Those who respond to such automatically become targets of ransomware among other kinds of attacks. So even if you receive an email from a seemingly convincing 'DHL' about a package that you very well know you are NOT expecting from Uruguay and you need to download the packing list, please do not download the attachment!

6. Always make regular backup of your data. The backup can be to an external storage device or can be made online

## What to do when attacked

Considering that Ransomware attacks are a criminal activity, it is generally advised not to pay the money asked for as there is no guarantee of getting your data back. The other reason why paying the ransom is not encouraged is because ransom payers may promote the ransomware business which may eventually blow out of proportion.

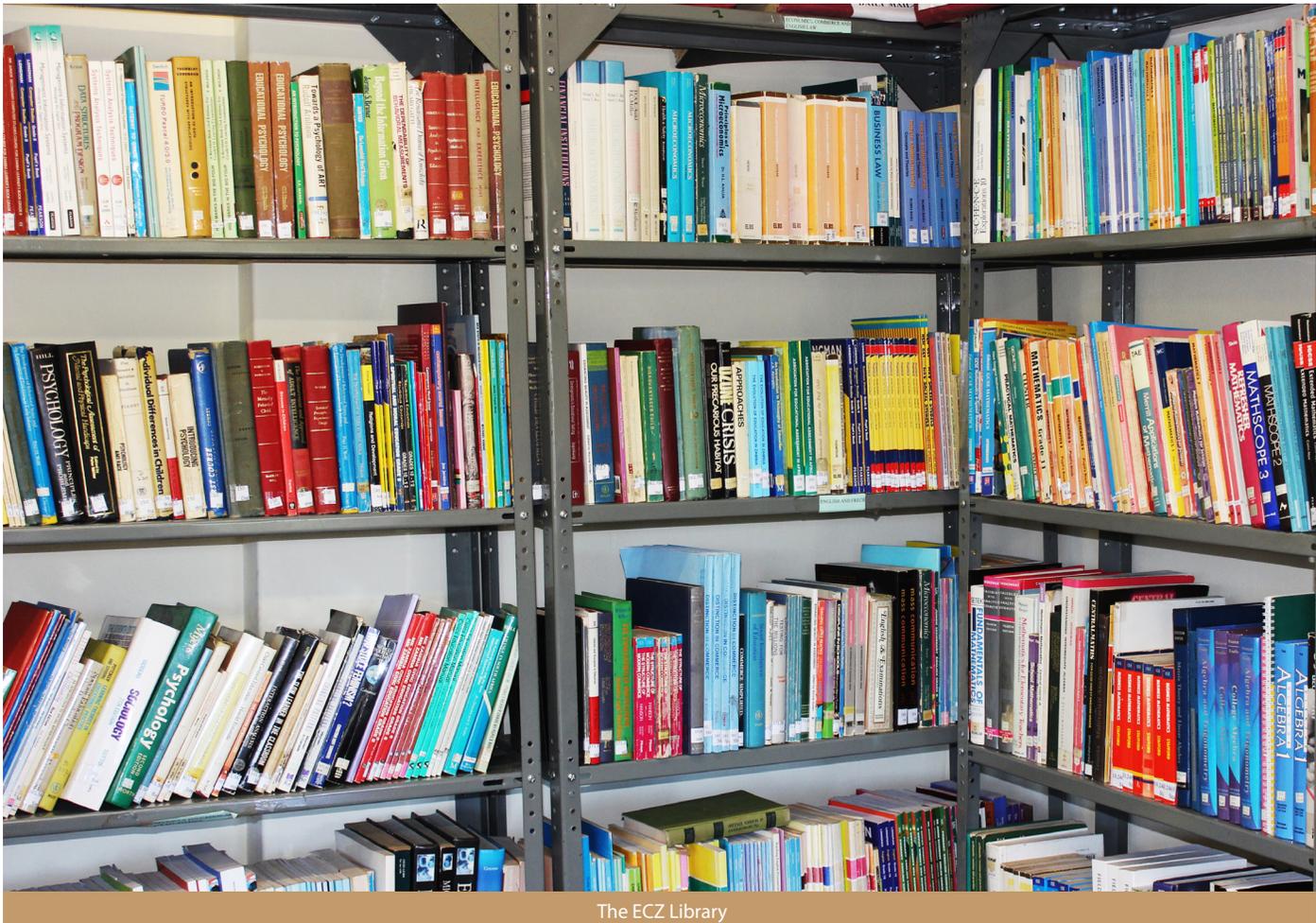
Others argue that if the lost data is valuable, paying the money asked for is worth the try. The question however is can a criminal who very well knows you have no idea who he/she/it is really care about honouring the promise of restoring your data? The logical answer is NO.

I recommend the following steps to get started again on a clean note once hit with a ransomware attack:

1. Reformat the computer and install clean copy of the operating system;
2. Install all the required application software;
3. Update the operating system and all installed application software;
4. Install an up to date antivirus software and update the database;
5. Restore your data from a clean backup;
6. Follow recommended steps to avoid ransomware attacks.

# Knowledge and Information Management in Organisations

By Milimo Mweemba



The ECZ Library

In 2015, I wrote an article on new innovations that have helped in information management and dissemination. This time we want to look at knowledge and information management in organisations.

Organizations have come to realize the role of knowledge and free flow of information which leads to transfer of knowledge both within and outside the organization.

Knowledge has a great impact on how an organization operates processes, and also the integration of information communications technology in the organization's operations. It is important for organizations to understand the knowledge processes and controls to effectively manage the system of sharing and transferring knowledge within and outside an organization.

Some scholars have defined knowledge as a subjective way of knowing and is typically based on experiential or individual values, perceptions, and experiences in individuals. Knowledge and information management in knowledge intensive organizations such as software engineering, law firms and

education assessment is very important. The difficult part of it is that knowledge is tacit; it exists in people's minds, as a result it becomes difficult to share and capture it freely within an organization.

Some intellectual assets may shun knowledge transfer and sharing due to some reasons among them fear that they may be irrelevant because their source of power and leverage at work place has been exposed. Because of this some employees would rather keep everything to themselves. This is dangerous and because of this the organization need to come up with some measures of capturing and codifying knowledge to explicit, in order for it to exist in documents so that the organization can refer to it if need arise in the absence of know-how individuals, in possession of knowledge.

Knowledge turned into information (Actionable knowledge) can be expanded and be kept in knowledge repository centres such as databases and libraries for future reference in the process of execution of the organization business.

It is clear that information and Knowledge

captured through learning and experiences, builds knowledge which can be used to improve on operations or service delivery. Knowledge prevents us from repeating the same mistakes. It is also evident that Knowledge brings insight and confidence in employees and this will result in efficiency and builds up public confidence for the organization.

Knowledge and information is a critical resource for the organization because all decisions and innovations initiated depend on availability of knowledge. Knowledge if shared grows and can result into increased production. It is believed that organizations lose business growth because of concealing knowledge or lack of it.

Knowledge as an asset of the organization is useful in negotiations for securing business interests. It must be noted that Knowledge is the source of leverage (Power or ability to act or to influence people, events and decisions) within outside an organization. Therefore knowledge intensive organizations need to invest in knowledge management to strengthen competitive advantage and organizational reputation.



# PHOTO



2015 Examinations Review Meeting in Lusaka



Unveiling of the ECZ Strategic Plan 2016 to 2020



A member of staff (Right) explains the procedure on how to verify examination results to an aspiring candidate



Aspiring candidates queue up to verify their Grade 12 Results at the ECZ Service Centre in Lusaka



Exhibitors display during the Careers Exhibition for Learners in Chilanga District



Ministry of General Education officials tour the ECZ Premises

# FOCUS



Nomakanjani Dancing Troupe display their skills



Reading Competition for the learners in Choma



Some forged School Certificates detected during the Verification Exercise at the ECZ Service Centre in Lusaka



Some SAAEA sponsors showcase their dancing skills during the Cultural Night at Twangale Park in Lusaka



Staff participate during the 2015 School Certificate Awards Meeting in Lusaka



Zambia Society for Public Administration awards two ECZ Examiners

# Zambia Successfully Hosts the 10<sup>th</sup> SAAEA Conference

By Charity M. Kombe, Nicolas Nkhuwa and Ronald M. Tembo

**T**he Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) successfully hosted the 10th Annual Conference of the Southern Africa Association for Educational Assessment (SAAEA) at Taj Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka from 16th to 18th May 2016.

The Theme of the Conference was, "Beyond 2015: Sharing Experiences in Assessment for Quality Education," and the seven (7) essential sub themes were Best Practices in Soft Skills Assessment, Best Practices in Assessing Learners with Special Educational Needs, Improving School-based Assessment in the advent of universal education, The Art of Providing Feedback on Examination Results: A Strategy to Improve Learner Performance, The Role of Large –Scale Assessment in Monitoring the Quality of Education, The Role of ICTs and E-Platforms in Educational Assessment and Quality and Integrity of Examination

Systems: Challenges and Solutions.

The attendance of the 2016 Conference was representative of countries in the sub-region that included Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Beyond the sub-region, this event was also attended by delegates from Nigeria, United States of America and United Kingdom.

This was the second time Zambia through the ECZ had been accorded the honour to the host the Conference. The first one was conducted in 2003 and now in 2016. In the year 2014, Zambia successfully hosted a similar Conference at continental level – the 32nd Annual Conference for the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) in Livingstone that saw the participation of over 350 delegates from 23 countries within and beyond Africa.



Registration Desk

## Day 2

### Monday, 16th May 2016- Official Opening Ceremony

The 10th Annual Conference of the SAAEA was officially opened on 16th May 2016 by the Minister of General Education- Honourable Dr John J.N. Phiri. The Conference attracted more than 190 delegates. During the Opening Ceremony, the delegates were entertained by traditional dances by Grade 10 and 11 pupils from Lusaka Secondary School GRZ.

Speaking during the official opening of the Conference, Dr Phiri stated that the role of educational assessment in enhancing the quality of education could not be overlooked and that SAAEA was therefore well positioned to be one of the driving forces in ensuring provision of the quality of education to learners beyond 2015 in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Region.

He said the 2016 Conference could not



Honourable Dr John Phiri

have come at a better time than this when stakeholders in the education sector were focusing their energies towards the realisation of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Dr Phiri noted that while many developing countries including Zambia had made positive strides towards access to education at all levels, few countries had achieved the delivery of quality education.

The Honourable Minister implored on all the delegates to take advantage of their diversities to seriously interrogate the themes in making the Conference a milestone in the delivery of meaningful education and assessment services that matched the demands of the SADC region and beyond.

Meanwhile, the outgoing SAAEA Chairperson- Mr Esau Nhandara commended the ECZ for demonstrating total commitment to the Association by hosting the 10th Conference in 2016 when ECZ should have only done so in 2018 given that the hosting of the Conference was on a rotational basis for all member organisations.

The Chairperson of the ECZ Council- Professor Samuel Banda expressed satisfaction in the manner the 2016 SAAEA Conference Sub Themes had been arranged.

"One thing that is important to me, is where you talk about best Practices, " Professor Banda said.

He stated that whenever there were examination malpractices, there were no

## Day 1

### Sunday, 15th May 2016- Preparations, Arrival and Registration of Delegates

The eve of the 2016 SAAEA Conference saw the arrival of delegates from different countries. The ECZ through the Information Technology department developed a portal [www.systems.exams-council.org.zm/saaea](http://www.systems.exams-council.org.zm/saaea) to enable prospective delegates register online for the 2016 SAAEA Conference.

For the delegates who could not utilize the online facility, they opted to register at the Registration Desk which was set up at the Conference venue. On this day, all the Sub-Committees under the 2016 SAAEA Local Organizing Committee were ready and set to host the Conference.



Prof. Samuel F. Banda

**Day 3**  
**Tuesday, 17th May 2016- Keynote Address and Paper Presentations**

The climax of the 2016 SAAEA Conference was the fact that stakeholders shared best practices in educational assessments. The day saw various presentations made by distinguished experts in the field of education and assessment. The Presentations during the Conference were well researched, short and concise.

The plenary sessions were highly interactive and thought provoking. All the presentations conformed to the essential Conference sub-themes and attempted to address the challenges most examining boards in the region were grappling with.

best practices hence the annual SAAEA Conference should try to address some of the issues because the integrity of education relied in best practices.

Professor Banda was also happy to note that some of the abstracts would look at Information Communication Technology and e-Programmes during the Conference.

The ECZ Council Chairperson also took time to thank all the cooperating partners and sponsors of the 2016 SAAEA Conference.

And speaking during the same occasion, the ECZ Director- Dr Michael M. Chilala who was the Incoming SAAEA Chairperson, revealed that the men and women in the Research Forum had for a long time achieved what the continent desired to have, that was a harmonized education system that would allow easy movement of students from one country to another and easy movement of labour from one country to another.

Dr Chilala also noted that the harmonisation of qualifications in the Southern Africa Development Community Education Protocol had been an issue but was quick to mention that the Research Forum under SAAEA was ready to be the Thermostat that would create that change and bring development through quality education.

Dr. Chilala further welcomed all the delegates and also took time to thank the Local Organising Committee in which men and women from the ECZ under the Chairpersonship of Mrs Teza Nakazwe Musakanya had organised the Conference.

In the evening, the delegates were treated to a colourful and memorable Gala Night at InterContinental Hotel in Lusaka and they were entertained by the Evergreen Air Power Band and renowned Zambian Comedian- Bob Nkosh.

What was gratifying to note was that the presentations made were based on a study or rather investigation undertaken on a specific component on assessment and education. The presentations attempted to enhance access to quality education and learner performance in the region and beyond.

Various findings from research have been shared with the delegates during this Conference. The Papers presented stretched from policy, administration, certification and security of examinations. A total of 49 papers are expected to be presented.



Prof. Pinalo Chifwanakeni

The first Keynote Speakers edified the participants through their presentations. The first Speaker was Professor Pinalo Chifwanakeni- The Vice Chancellor from the University of Lusaka, who explained that the greatest need of many countries especially developing countries in Africa was education that had creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship skills that would interpret knowledge and skills learnt in school into wealth.

Mr Paul Machona who was An Education

Leadership and Management Specialist was the Second Keynote speaker. Mr Machona presented on the innovative measures developed by Education Development Centre and used by its USAID Funded Project in Zambia. In his presentation, he explained how they used Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) Instruct tool as a form of formative assessment to help improve literacy instruction and learners performance in reading.

The delegates were expectant that the recommendations from the presentations during the 2016 Conference would provoke each examining board to take a deeper reflection to ensure that they created quality assessment and education systems fit for purpose.

In the evening, the ECZ through the Local Organizing Committee organised a Cultural Night where the delegates showcased their dances clad in their traditional attires. Just like the Gala night, the event was spiced up by entertainment by the prominent Zambian Comedian- Bob Nkosh and live performances by the Air Power Band at Twangale Park.

**Day 4**  
**Wednesday, 18th May 2016- Closing Ceremony**

As the law of gravity states – What goes up must come down. Wednesday, 18th May 2016 marked the close of what has been by all accounts a very successful and productive 10th Conference of the SAAEA hosted by Zambia. So much sharing of experiences and acquiring of knowledge took place that the delegates were left eager to go and share and implement some of what they learnt from the Conference.

**Conference Communique**

The Conference Communique was presented by 2016 SAAEA Local Organising Committee Chairperson- Mrs Teza Nakazwe Musakanya who stated that the Conference covered all the planned sub themes effectively. She believed that the resolutions and recommendations made would contribute to quality and effective administering of assessment in the Southern African Region and Africa at large.

**ECZ Director Assumes SAAEA Chairpersonship**

During the same occasion, the out-going Chairperson, Mr Esau .S. Nhandara from Zimbabwe School Examinations Council (ZIMSEC) officially handed over the Instruments of power to Dr. Michael M. Chilala, the Director of the ECZ.

Speaking during the handover, Dr. Chilala assured the delegates that SAAEA would fly high through the Strategic Plan, the Research Forum and by associating with all stakeholders. He promised the delegates that Zambia would produce a journal from the papers that were presented during the Conference.

Dr. Chilala stated that the SAAEA Grouping would continue to be consultative, to be well grounded in research, and improve activities and participation at continental and global levels through SAAEA.

He further thanked the Government of the Republic of Zambia for according him an opportunity to serve and to host the Conference of such magnitude.

**Official Closing Speech**

It goes without saying that, “When children learn, nations prosper.” This adage agrees with Zambia’s vision of becoming a prosperous middle income country by 2030 and a developed country by 2064.

In view of this fact, examining boards, universities and curriculum specialists were urged to re-affirm their rightful roles in ensuring that children in the SADC region learn.

Speaking during the official closing of the 10th Conference of SAAEA, Ministry of General Education Acting Permanent Secretary, Mrs Christine Mayondi stated that the event was a resounding signal of the importance the Ministry of General Education and indeed the Government of the Republic of Zambia attached to collaborative activities in improving the quality of education to the learners.



Mr Esau Nhandara (Right) handing over the Instruments of Power

She expressed confidence that the papers presented stirred all the delegates to evaluate themselves as researchers, teachers, academicians, education administrators, assessment and curriculum experts with regards to the provision of quality education and assessment.

The Permanent Secretary noted with concern that non-English speaking countries – Angola and Mozambique were absent during the Conference.

She further challenged SAAEA to ensure that these countries were brought on board adding that diversities should not divide collaborative efforts.

**Intriguing Excursion Tours**

After the official closing of the gathering, the delegates were taken for excursions in different areas which the Local Organizing

Committee grouped in three combos.

Delegates had an option to choose one that was of their interest. The wildlife, the Edu and the City Combos respectively.

Delegates who chose the wildlife combo were taken to Chaminuka Nature Reserves which has a variety of different wild animals, woodland and savanna habitats of more than 300 species of birds.

Delegates were happy to be taken for this tour and enjoyed the natural environment setup of this beautiful nature reserve. They had an opportunity to go on a guided game drive in the Chaminuka Game Park where an array of animals such as the Giraffes, Lions, Zebras and the fast running Impalas among other animals offered an exciting view. They were also treated to a Banana-Boat Cruise on the lake of the Nature Reserves.

The delegates that chose the Edu Combo were taken to the Kafue Gorge Hydro-Power Station located in the banks of the Kafue River. The delegates appreciated one of Zambia’s high power generating plants. They were taken about 500 meters below sea level where the turbines are propelled by water to generate electricity.

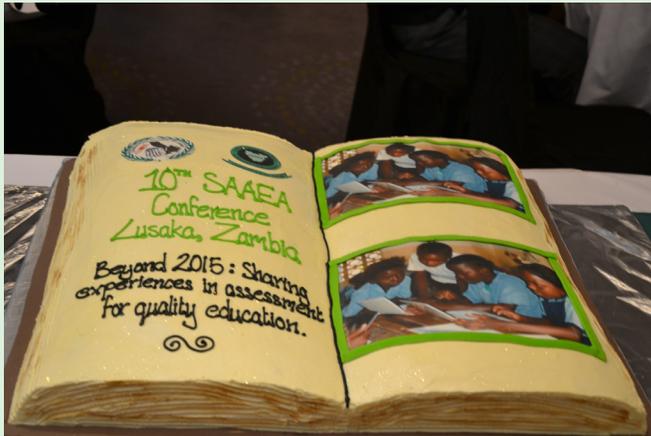
As for the City Combo, delegates visited the Presidential Burial site, the National Museum and Manda Hill Shopping Mall. From the excursions, a Bon Voyage dinner was prepared for the delegates as a way of ending the entire Conference.

As ECZ, we are confident that the 2016 Conference hosted by Zambia has made a major contribution to the ultimate success of the interventions aimed at improving access to quality education and learner performance in the SADC region and Africa as a whole.



Mrs Christine Mayondi

## 2016 SAAEA Conference in Pictures



# Chilanga District Successfully Holds 2<sup>nd</sup> Careers Exhibition

By Ronald M. Tembo



Official opening of the 2016 Careers Exhibition for Learners

For the second year running, Chilanga District Education Office held a successful Careers Exhibition for Learners. Held under the theme, "Guidance in Pursuit of a Lifetime Career," the 2015 Careers Exhibition attracted over 10 stakeholders from both the private and public sectors.

The one day Exhibition for Learners was held on 20th May 2016 at City of Hope Secondary School in Chilanga. The ECZ was invited to participate in the event. Through participation, the ECZ constructively interacted with the learners and assisted them to identify and choose an occupation that fit the learners unique qualities, abilities, talents, needs, values, interests as well as the



Some of the Learners in attendance

career pathways the learners were taking.

The ECZ team explained the career development opportunities for the learners who aspired to work for the Council in future. With over 300 learners in attendance, the event provided a golden opportunity for the ECZ to strongly warn the learners against involving themselves in examination malpractices if they were to be successful in their chosen careers.

The Council equally availed the learners information materials on examinations administration such as leaflets on Council Services, Complaint Management Procedures, Accessing Examination Results Through the Mobile Phone, Council Charges, 2016 Examination Timetables, Candidates Beware and Rules on Combining Statements of Results.

Speaking during the official opening of the Exhibition, Senior Education Officer - Guidance, Counselling and Administration Chilanga District Education, Ndiyoi Maliwa said the event had been organized at a time when the country was encouraging people to diversify so that the economy could improve.

Maliwa explained that learners who were leaving school must be well informed for them to enter society with a clear perspective of what was trending in the industry. She stated that with the implementation of the

Revised Curriculum at 90 percent in 2016, it was prudent that learners fine tuned their ambitions and create clear visions of what they would venture into after school, whether at the end of Grade 9 or 12.

She noted that both the academic and the vocational pathways in the revised Curriculum were not supposed to end in books but rather the outcomes of the syllabus was meant to address the needs of society. She was optimistic that the Exhibitors who had come to Chilanga would help answer the many pertinent questions from both the learners and teachers.

Maliwa disclosed that the nation had entered a very exciting but crucial time in the political area were the campaign period was officially opened on 16th May 2016 and political parties were all over chanting slogans and singing. In view of this, she strongly appealed to the learners to stay away from political campaigns and concentrate on their studies.

She explained that the Zambian Education Policy of 1996, "Educating Our Future: which was being implemented had provided a lot of aspects the Ministry of General Education wanted to emphasise on in the era of information communication technological advancement.

To the Exhibitors, Maliwa stated that as prospective employers, they were always searching to find out what was on demand on the labour market and as such encouraged them to offer appropriate guidance to the young boys and girls to make them responsible citizens in future.



A local Artist performing

# ECZ to Embark on Countrywide Radio Sensitization Programmes

By Ronald M. Tembo



The recording of Examinations and You Radio Programme at ECZ Head Office

**C**reativity and innovation remains the hall mark of the ECZ Information, Education and Communications Section. One of the Focus Areas for the ECZ is to continue with the 2015 Initiatives of raising public awareness on examinations administration through Radio Programmes. This is aimed at not only increasing stakeholder confidence and participation in examinations administration processes but also to enhance the corporate image of the ECZ.

Previously, the ECZ Programme dubbed, 'Examinations and You' has been produced and aired in 2014 and 2015 on Radio

Phoenix FM and ZNBC Radio 2, respectively. Arising from the programmes, the ECZ has received overwhelming feedback because the episodes sensitised the general public and stakeholders on examinations administration.

In 2016, the Strategy has been to record 13 weeks part-series of 30 minutes ECZ Radio Discussion Programmes at an approved Recording Studio in Lusaka and have them aired on selected Provincial and Community Radio Stations countrywide.

The recorded 13 Episodes of 'Examinations and You' will be launched through a Live Phone in programme and will then run on the selected Community Radio Stations

countrywide on a weekly basis. The ECZ programmes will be launched in June and July and August 2016 in the respective Community Radio Stations.

It is envisaged that the programmes will play a significant role in spreading information and raising awareness on examinations administration.

It is further expected that the series will influence and change public opinion to enable stakeholders appreciate the critical role the ECZ plays in providing assessments and certification systems of comparable international standards.

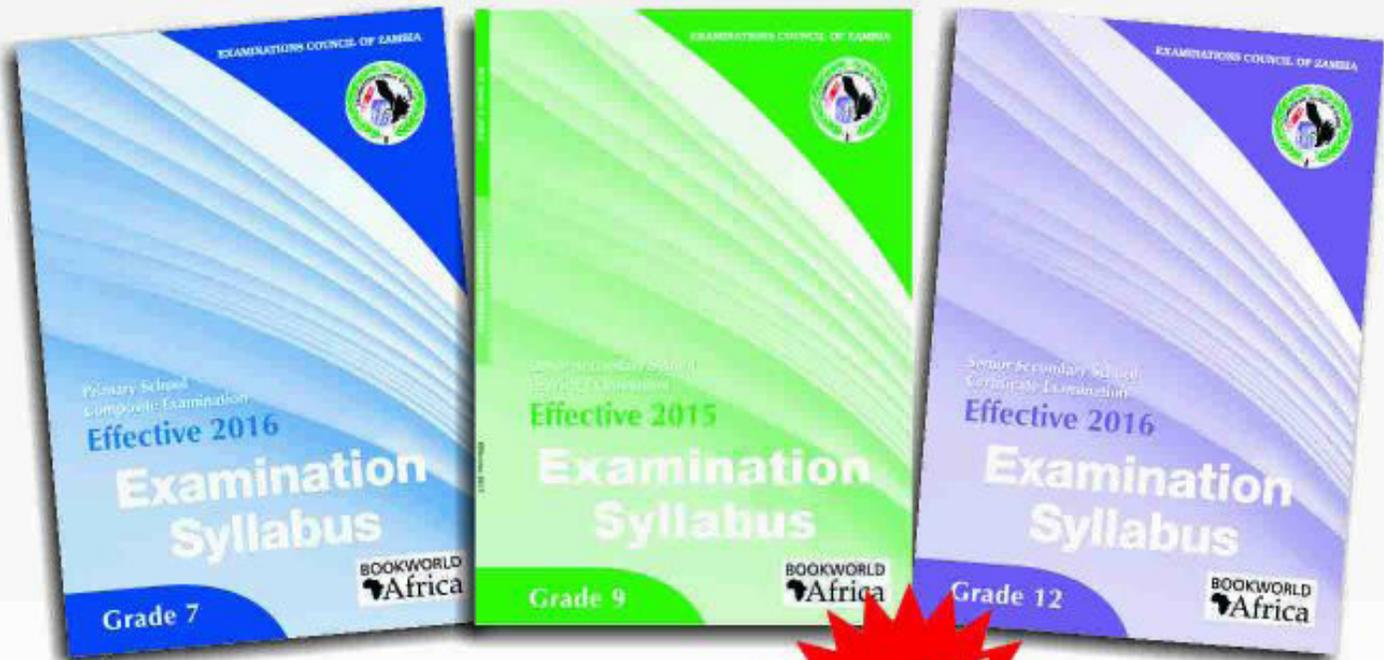
**“Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education.”**

*- Martin Luther King Jr.*

Press Briefing

# BOOKWORLD Africa

Publisher of former Macmillan Zambia books



## Arrival of **new** Grade 7, 9 & 12 Examination Syllabus

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• (NOW OPEN) Mazabuka**

## Charity Meki-Kombe Conferred With the Doctor of Philosophy Degree

By Ronald M. Tembo



Dr. Charity Meki-Kombe

**T**he ECZ joined hands to congratulate one of their members of staff Charity Meki-Kombe who was conferred with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education Management, Law and Policy on 12th April 2016 by the prestigious University of Pretoria in South Africa.

In replying to the congratulatory messages, Dr Meki-Kombe gave the following response:

'I would like to thank you for the kind words you sent regarding my achievement. They were very humbling. I don't have many words except to quote my all-time favourite singer and composer Keith Green who sang and I quote ... 'When I'm doing well, help me to never seek a crown, for my reward is giving glory to God.' I therefore owe it to the Lord who gave me the grace to finish my studies amidst other obligations.'

"I also wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank Dr Chilala for the support he offered during my PhD defense - displaying the true traits of leadership - mentoring others realise their dreams and potential. Thank you sir! Once again, thank you all!" Dr Meki Kombe stated.

Asked on why she was inspired to pursue her studies at a 'young age' and not later in life, like most people do, she had the following

to say: "When I was still quite young, my dad, Mr Wallace Meki counseled my siblings and I to have an individualized vision in life. He always directed us not to follow the crowd. With this belief, I did not have to wait for "the right age" because for me it was about time. I believe that our goals in life should never be shaped by what society accepts as right. I accept as true that God has assigned each one of us a personalized race to run and finish. I therefore ran and will continue to run

**"I also wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank Dr Chilala for the support he offered during my PhD defense - displaying the true traits of leadership"**

my race in my track based on the strength and abilities God has deposited in me.'

She added that what encouraged her during 'her PhD race' was the word of God that stated she could do all things through Christ who strengthened her.

She confessed that it was not an easy decision to pursue her dream being a full time employee at ECZ, a mother of four young children and a wife, but true to the

adage she made it because 'where there is a will, there is a way' and that 'with God, all things are possible.' She also saluted family and friends for their unwavering support by quoting Sir Isaac Newton's words, '[i]f I have seen further it is only by standing on the shoulders of giants.'

Dr Meki-Kombe becomes the second member of staff at ECZ to obtain a PhD and the first female doctor at the Council. The ECZ Director, Dr Michael Chilala was also conferred with a Doctor of Philosophy in Education (Measurement and Evaluation) in October 2015 by the Commonwealth Open University, British Islands in the United Kingdom.

Asked on what her next step was, she simply said: 'The PhD race was long and lonely and for a while I would like to catch up with 'family time' after which by the grace of the almighty God I wish to brand myself by writing, writing and writing and then in the long run, my trail will absolutely unfold.'

The Council, management and staff of the ECZ congratulate Dr. Meki-Kombe once again on this remarkable achievement. We can only wish her all the best in her race.

**Congratulations!!!**

## ECZ Celebrates International Women's Day

By Nicolas Nkhuwa



**T**he Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) joined the rest of the world in commemorating 2016 International Women's Day which fell on 8th March.

The commemoration took place at the Agricultural and Commercial Show Grounds in Lusaka, Zambia under the theme "Planet 50-50 by year 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality." Women from various organisations both from Government and the Private sector were among the participants.

This year's International Women's Day was unique in that the usual march past was

not done but instead, women showcased their achievements, talents and their important roles in contributing to national development through carnivals.

The ECZ was represented by all Council women and supported by a few men drawn from different departments and sections. The celebrations started at 09:00 hours and was graced by the Republican President, His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu.

In his speech, President Lungu directed the Ministries of Justice, Gender, Local Government and Cabinet Office to urgently make the Gender Equality Commission operational.

He said this was part of the efforts to help reduce inequalities that hinder women and girls from contributing to national development.

During the same occasion, Gender Minister Nkandu Luo said she was confident that Zambia would attain gender equality by the year 2030.

The celebrations were also packed with entertainment from local artists like Sister-D and B-Flow among others.

## ECZ Facebook Subscribers Skyrocket to Incredible Proportions ...as the Council is Commended for Quality Service

By Ronald M. Tembo

The ECZ officially established the Facebook Page to provide a platform for the stakeholders and general public to access unlimited valuable information on examinations administration processes and systems.

The Page profile for the Council is [www.facebook.com/examsCouncilZambia](http://www.facebook.com/examsCouncilZambia). Over the years, this social media platform has proved to be an effective platform where the Council constantly interacts and provides feedback to clients on various aspects of the ECZ.

The Facebook Page had been on a pilot project since October 2011. Management approved the operationalization of the

Page on 23rd January 2013. Since then, the page has had an increasing number of subscriptions daily. The page is now providing a simple hub of information about the operations of the ECZ.

As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the ECZ Facebook page has more than 97,295 subscribers interacting and getting feedback daily from the ECZ. It is common knowledge that most ECZ clients who use the internet are on Facebook.

With the page in place and active daily, the public are now able to communicate with the Council just like email. Anyone who likes the page is automatically added to the page and can easily communicate with the other members in a manner even simpler than

email and in which they all pay attention and receive instant feedback.

Going forward, the Council has plans to increase its visibility and presence on social media by opening up twitter and Instagram accounts. The ECZ is also planning to establish a YouTube account so that documented Council activities on Videos could be uploaded for public consumption.

It is our considered view that by end of the Strategic Plan 2016 to 2020, the number of subscribers would increase to more than 200,000. With this facility in place, the ECZ now has the capacity to drive traffic/subscribers to the ECZ website [www.exams-council.org.zm](http://www.exams-council.org.zm) from the Facebook Page.

A check by the editorial team on the ECZ facebook page on 11th May 2016, revealed that some fans have appreciated the service provision by the Council.

A Facebook fan by the name of Mwale Kums Andrew commended the ECZ for the quality service.

"We really thank you the ECZ for the wonderful job you do and a quality service you provide to the entire country. We also encourage you to continue with the better services you have been giving us," Mwale Kums Andrew stated.

As ECZ, we thank the stakeholders for the commendations. Inspired by our Mission Statement to efficiently conduct assessments and award Certificates of comparable International standards, the Council pledges to continue improving and providing efficient service delivery to meet the expectations of the public, key stakeholders and the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

## Management Holds a Successful Planning Meeting

By Ronald M. Tembo



ECZ Staff fine tuning their Departmental 2016 Annual Work Plan

In the fast pace of the modern business world, it is easy for an organization to lose its way and become reactive rather than proactive. Hence, organisations like the ECZ organizes Annual Planning Meetings for the Management team to strategically plan ahead so that the Council does not lose focus on the organizational goals and strategic objectives.

The ECZ Management held its Annual Planning Meeting at Fringilla from 12th to 15th February 2016 in Chisamba. Management set a tightly focused agenda for the Meeting. The working documents for this undertaking were the Planning Templates, the 2016 approved Budget and

the ECZ Strategic Plan 2016 to 2020.

The high powered resource persons during the Retreat were drawn from different departments and sections of the ECZ.

The four-days Meeting was properly conducted and vividly presented an overall investment for making strategic decisions by management team to help move the core business of examinations administration into a more successful future.

Management believes in the adage that, 'Chance favours the prepared minds.' Therefore, the Planning Meeting in Chisamba was an excellent opportunity for

planning and action-focused decision for the launch of the Strategic Plan 2016 to 2020 and Financial Regulations, implementation of Online Registration of Candidates and other ICT Innovations, Job Evaluation and the Establishment of the Copperbelt Service Centre.

It is therefore the wish of management to conduct Annual Planning Meetings repeatedly to make sure that the ECZ leadership functions continue to exist as a unified team and stays on track to establish higher levels of customer loyalty, drive business growth and improve the overall performance of the Council in accordance with the set strategic objectives.

# Health Benefits and Medical Uses of Tamarind



**T**amarind is a pod-like fruit with a distinctive sweet and sour taste. Tamarind has different names in different languages in Zamia. In Chitonga it is called 'Busiika'; and 'Zazamwa' in Chinyanja. Tamarind is very sticky, paste-like and the fruit is dark brown. It has a lot of minerals and vitamins with abundant health benefits. Tamarind is used as a flavor in Asian cookery.

## Health Benefits and Medicinal Uses of Tamarind

Listed below are the various health benefits and medicinal uses of tamarind:

1. Tamarind has a lot of fiber which plays an important role on binding salts. The pulp of tamarind acts as a laxative and is a remedy for bowel movement. Two teaspoons of tamarind paste is very good for bowel movement. In addition Tamarind pulp with a mixture of crushed herbs such as coriander and mint is very good for treating mouth ulcers.
2. Tamarind has a lot of skin benefits. This is because it has Vitamin C, A and other antioxidants which enable it to act as a natural cure for various inflammatory skin conditions, such as pimples and dark circles around the neck. In addition, it has natural Skin Hydrating and Toning Properties; a bowl of boiled and cooled tamarind water can be used for skin toning and moisturizing: Pulp of tamarind is known to protect against Vitamin C deficiency.
3. Leaves of Tamarind are used in herbal tea decoctions. The infusion of leaves is taken

to reduce fever, for bleeding gums, healing of wounds, for Liver problems as well as reducing obesity. The flowering leaves of tamarind are also crushed to extract juice which is used for piles.

4. The consumption of ripe fruits works as a laxative and helps to cure tuberculosis and blood diseases while decoction of dried seeds is used for asthma, cough and eye problems. Diluted tamarind paste is a very good home remedy for pain relief. A person with a throat infection can gargle with diluted lukewarm tamarind water for relief.

5. The tamarind fruit pod is very rich in minerals and vitamins essential for the production of red blood cells and healthy cardiovascular function. You soak tamarind and smash it then drink, use two to three cups a day. Powdered tamarind seeds mixed with turmeric paste are used as a treatment for inflammation, insect bites and stings and sores when applied to the affected area.

6. Paste of tamarind is excellent for diabetes control. It helps to lower glucose levels that tend to rise after meals. Furthermore, the Paste made from leaves treats boils and sprains. The Paste made from leaves of tamarind can also be applied on areas of the body to reduce swelling of joints and provides relief to arthritis patients.

7. The juice of Tamarind is used as a traditional medicine for jaundice sufferers and it's a very good drink for the family. It is very good for thyroid disorders and patient with such a condition should include it in their diet. Juice of tamarind is given to individuals with a severe hangover resulting



By Emeldah M. Malungo

from alcohol consumption. Tamarind has the ability to lower levels of bad cholesterol.

8. Other benefits to health are that Tamarind has powerful antioxidants that protect against harmful chemicals that cause cancer. The minerals present in the fruit are very good for bone health too. A cup of tamarind water or two tablespoons of thick tamarind paste is an excellent home remedy for an individual that has suffered mild sunstroke. Tamarind acts as a natural blood purifier. The flower, fruit and leaf juice are used as an antiseptic.

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# Your Questions Answered

By Nicolas Nkhuwa

## *Q. When will the 2015 GCE Certificates come out?*

**Ans:** As ECZ we are pleased to inform you that the 2014 Certificates for Grades 7, 9, 12 and GCE have been dispatched to all respective provinces. However, the certificates for the 2015 GCE examinations are being processed and will be ready by January 2017.

## *Q. I wrote my Grade 12 in 2015. How can I add names on my Grade 12 Certificate?*

**Ans:** Once the Certificates are printed, it is quiet impossible to add names. Nonetheless, in some cases, misspelt names can be corrected by the ECZ. A sworn-in affidavit and a letter from your school are required for any possible amendments or corrections. Since the certificate is already printed, the cost of making the correction will be done at the cost of certificate replacement which is K920.00 currently.

## *Q. I want to find out if you lost both your Grade 12 statement of results and Certificate is Examination Council of Zambia able to print a duplicate of a certificate or how do you help a person in such a situation as ECZ?*

**Ans:** Yes, the ECZ is able to replace your lost certificate or statement. Visit our Service Centre situated in Woodlands area on Plot 1926 Msuzi Road, in Lusaka. Upon visiting the Service Centre, submit a police report, sworn-in affidavit and a letter from your school. The cost of replacing a certificate is K920.00 and a statement is K180.00 However, note that a statement of results ceases to be in use once a certificate has been released.

## *Q. When is registration for the 2017 GCE examinations starting? I will appreciate your response.*

**Ans:** The registration of candidates for ECZ examinations starts in November every year and runs upto February the next year. However, the ECZ resolved to delink the GCE Examinations from the School Certificate Examinations and will be run as mid-year examination on a self – sustaining basis. This means that there will be no GCE examination at the end of the year. The registration of examinations for GCE candidates depends on the availability of space at a particular GCE Centre, hence the earlier you register the better.

## *Q. I wrote my Grade 9 in 2011 and qualified to Grade 10. If I start school now can I write under GCE or what?*

**Ans:** The Grade 9 Examination number is used at Grade 12. Its validity is for five years only from the time it was allocated. Looking at the time that has elapsed since you wrote your Grade 9 examination, the number expires this year (2016) meaning that once you are in Grade 12, you will write your examination as a GCE Candidate and a new number will be allocated to you.

## *Q. Examination fees in some of the Government Schools are too much. Would you please as the ECZ inspect these schools.*

**Ans:** As ECZ, our mandate is just to set and administer examinations in line with the Curriculum. The office of the District Education Board Secretary-DEBS or the Provincial Education Office-PEO is in-charge of the administration of schools. Kindly lodge in your query to the PEO or DEBS for urgent action.

## *Q. My name was misspelt as Murtin instead of Martin. What can I do, I am very far from Lusaka?*

**Ans:** first and foremost, we wish to thank you for using our Facebook page for communication and information purposes. We urge you to continue and inform others about this new innovation. Coming to your query, we are not sure as to what level you are referring to. However, assuming it is at Grade 12 or GCE, a name amendment is possible if you used the same names at Grade 9 level. The cost of this service is K180.00 if the certificate has not been printed and K920.00 if the certificate has already been printed.

## *Q. How can I access the ECZ Examination Timetables?*

**Ans:** Accessing the timetables is very simple. All you need to do is visit our Website at [www.exams-council.org.zm](http://www.exams-council.org.zm) and download for free. You can also email us at [infor@exams-council.org.zm](mailto:infor@exams-council.org.zm) or simply visit our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/examsCouncilZambia](http://www.facebook.com/examsCouncilZambia).

## *Q. How long does it take to replace a Statement of Results and how much is it?*

**Ans:** The replacement of a Statement of Results takes less than two days. Since you have not specified the level, the cost of replacement by level is as follows; Grade 7 (K60), Grade 9 (K 130), Grade 12 and GCE is K180 and for Teacher Education is K190.

# Puzzle

By Ronald M. Tembo

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

**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. The ECZ successfully hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Southern Africa Association for Educational Assessment (**SAAEA**) in Lusaka from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 which had 205 **delegates** participating from both Africa and beyond.
2. Effective 2016, the ECZ will conduct and administer the Grades 7, 9 and 12 School Examinations under the **revised** National **Curriculum**.
3. The 2014 **Certificates** for Grades 7, 9, 12 and Teacher Education Examination are ready and have been dispatched to **all** the schools countrywide. Candidates are advised to collect the Certificates from the **school** where they wrote the **examination** from.
4. On 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016, the ECZ launched the **Strategic Plan** 2016-2020 and the Financial Regulations to **guide** its operations.
5. The 2016 GCE Examination will **run** from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 9 August 2016. This examination will run **under** the **old** Curriculum.
6. The deadline for **resolving** of **queries** for the 2015 examinations conducted by the ECZ is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016.
7. The Grades 7, 9 and 12 Examination Syllabi also know as Assessment Schemes are now ready. The Booklets are being **sold** in all Book World outlets countrywide. Hurry and grab a copy of the Examination **Syllabus** sold at very competitive prices.
8. The Ministry of General Education has **mandated** the ECZ to start conducting Junior Secondary School Teacher Education **Diploma** Programmes, effective 2016.
9. The ECZ has started combining **GCE** Certificates for different examination sittings into one **Accumulated** Certificate.
10. You can Dial 8383, the ECZ **Toll** Free **line** to make general enquiries and report any suspected cases of malpractices in your area. The Toll Free line is available to **Zamtel** Subscribers only and it is absolutely free!
11. The 2016 Examination Timetables have been dispatched to all the schools countrywide. You can also download the Timetables from the ECZ **website** at [www.exams-council.org.zm](http://www.exams-council.org.zm).

## New Members of Staff



### **Mrs Ruth Mande Lufuna**

She joined the ECZ on 22nd February 2016 as Receptionist. Before joining ECZ, she worked with Spar Zambia based in Arcades Branch in Lusaka as Front Desk Supervisor, the position she held for two years. While at Spar, she was appointed as Front Desk Manager in 2015. Mrs Lufuna holds a Certificate in Front Office Operations from Lusaka Business and Technical College. She worked for Spar Zambia for six (6) years.



### **Mr Liche Evaristal**

He joined the ECZ on 1st April 2016 as an Examinations Officer- Quality Assurance. Prior to joining the ECZ, he taught Mathematics and Additional Mathematics for the last 10 years at Roma Girls Secondary School. Six year previously, he taught at Mwinilunga Boarding Secondary School. While at Roma Girls Secondary, he also worked as a Careers Guidance teacher as well as Head of the Mathematics Department. Following changes in the Curriculum, he also taught Information Communication Technology for the last 2 years. He holds a University of Zambia Diploma in Mathematics Education in conjunction with the Copperbelt Secondary Teachers College (COSETCO) and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Development Studies from the Zambian Open University. He is a Teaching Excellence and Achievers Fellow under the auspices of IREX and the US Department of State.



### **Mr Benson Kapumpe**

He joined the ECZ on 11th April, 2016 as Senior Examinations Officer-Processing and Certification in charge of Grade 9. Before joining the ECZ, he worked as a Teacher at Kafue Day Secondary School in Kafue for 6 years. Whilst at Kafue Day, he was appointed as Guidance Teacher and Head of the Geography Section. Mr Kapumpe holds a Bachelor of Arts with Education Degree from the University of Zambia.



### **Mr Henry A. Muloongo**

He Joined the ECZ on 2nd May 2016 as Senior Examinations Officer in-charge of Grade 7 Examination in the Examinations Administration Department. He has worked as a Teacher of Biology and Chemistry at Roma Girls Secondary School; As a Researcher in Ecology at National Museums Board; As a Media Researcher at BBC Media Action, Zambia; and most recently as a Study Coordinator at Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ). He has also been an Examiner with ECZ in Biology Paper 2. Mr Muloongo holds a Master of Education (Environmental Education) from Rhodes University, South Africa; Post-graduate Diploma (Heritage Management) from University of the Western Cape, South Africa; a Bachelor of Science with Education from the University of Zambia. He also has skills in Project Monitoring and Evaluation



### **Mr Peter Mwikuta**

He joined the ECZ on 6th June 2016 as a Cleaner. Prior to his appointment, Mr Mwikuta worked at Chabmoe Enterprise Limited as a Cleaner from 2002 to 2016. He holds a Grade 12 School Certificate.

## Reigning CADAP Champions Pull Out due to Mistimed 2016 Inter-Company Soccer Tournament

By Ronald M. Tembo



A Member of Staff poses with the 2015 CADAP Trophy

In what could be termed as a successful soccer season in 2015, the indomitable, unrelenting and fascinating ECZ Madala's team were crowned Champions of the 12th edition of the Campaign Against Drug Abuse Project (CADAP) Inter-company Madala's Soccer Tournament held at Zamsure and NAPSA Sports Complex on 29th August 2015 in Lusaka.

The indisputable champions in the cosmopolitan city of Lusaka amongst renowned companies hailing from both the public and private sectors, painted the opponents Green in a tightly contested one day tournament by defeating and humbling opponents who failed to match the pedigree, self composure and tactics of the Madala's team.

The ECZ team who are the defending CADAP Champions were adequately prepared to defend the Trophy. The members embarked on a training programme as far back as February 2016 in preparation for the CADAP Tournament which was slated to take place in August 2016.

According to Soccer.com on Soccer Defending, "It is important that your team has a culture or a way of doing things or an attitude to soccer defending. Firstly it is important that the whole team defends

together and not just leaves it to the defenders on the team to do the soccer defending."

Inspired by this motivation, the Madala's team during training sessions taught each other to defend "Like a pack of dogs," as well as "Be like a tank of piranhas" in the penalty box to ensure that no goal was conceded and attack like bees being provoked by enemies attempting to snatch honey from the hives. The members in the team have instilled the culture that the other team does not deserve the ball and that they were immediately going to close them down and regain possession.

To the dismay of all the members in the Madala's team, an Invitation Letter was received for the ECZ to participate at the 13th Edition of the CADAP Inter-Company Soccer which was slated for 28th May 2016. It was therefore not possible for the team to participate as the Council was organizing to host the 10th SAAEA Conference in Lusaka and equally had made headways preparing to conduct the 2016 GCE Examination. Entangled in this unavoidable predicament, the team couldn't commit itself to participate due to prior and divergent Council commitments. After consultation, one decision was made by the team, 'Let Us Pull Out.' This was done in good faith to allow

the CADAP Tournament to proceed.

Though the team failed to participate in the 2016 CADAP Tournament, the members have not given up. They crave for more glory in the coming years. Many of the team members dream of winning more soccer Trophies. The team wants to continue bringing pride to the Council. The members are willing to put in the hard work and preparation needed to make the Madala's team win whenever it participates in future CADAP Tournament and other corporate competitions. The ECZ Madala's team have since pledged to claim back the title from the 2016 CADAP Champions.

I end with the Madala's Slogan for 2017:

***We have Come a Long Way. We Have a New Name. We Are Champions.***

***That Is Our Indisputable Identity.***

***We Will Work Ward. We Will Continue to Prepare.***

***We Will Claim the Trophy. CADAP Trophy Is Ours. It Has Come to Stay in ECZ.***

***The Council Will Perpetually Be CADAP Champions***



# Improved Communication with Stakeholders



The ECZ website and Facebook Page provide a valuable platform for interaction with the public

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