



# ECZ

## IN PERSPECTIVE

*News about the Examinations Council of Zambia*

Issue No. 10

January to June 2017

## ECZ INNOVATIONS FOR INDUSTRIALISATION IN 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE

**Best Exhibit -**  
Government Ministry/ Department



Inside this issue:

**Decentralised Marking of GCE  
Exams to be Piloted in 2017**

**G9 Internal and External  
Examinations Separated**

**Registration for 2018  
Examinations to Start Early**

*ECZ Vision: An Examining Body of Excellence*

## VISION STATEMENT

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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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



**A**fter the challenges and successes of 2016, we regrouped in 2017 and started with a review of the conduct of the 2016 examinations in order to strategise on how we could improve the conduct and security of examination papers both in transit and in the strong rooms. We then moved to review the performance of candidates during the 2016 examinations to plan on how to improve performance at all levels of examinations. We extended the Online Candidate Registration System (OCRS) to Grade 7 and Teacher Education Examinations. We registered candidates for all 2017 examinations, set and arranged for printing of examinations and prepared for printing of 2016 certificates.

During the period under review, we implemented two major innovations in the area of examinations. We put in place systems for the first ever separate Grade 9 External Examination which was going to run concurrently with the 2017 General Certificate of Education (GCE) examination and planned for the first ever provincial marking of the GCE examination scripts. As part of the preparation for provincial marking, we trained markers of all major subjects in the provinces, created marking panels in the provinces and established a system for marking of scripts, based on the principle that no province will mark their own scripts. We then conducted a consultative meeting for all stakeholders to ensure collective agreement on the process. It should be noted that before the establishment of the provincial marking system, majority of markers were from along the line of rail. We also observed that teachers who participated in the examination processes appreciated the curriculum much better and had an opportunity to better prepare their pupils for examinations than those who did not participate. By training markers and marking scripts in all the 10 provinces, we developed capacities of teachers in provinces

to better appreciate the curriculum and prepare their pupils for examinations. We are hopeful that this effort will eventually result in improved performance of candidates in public examinations.

Other innovations we engaged in involved the enhancements on the Electronic Marks Entry System (e-MES) and we then moved to stop the printing of the Statements of Entry (SOE) for our candidates after launching a system that allows them and centres to access the entries online and print their own statements if they find it necessary to do so.

We can safely say that by the end of the first half of 2017, we had continued on our innovation journey, done the routines and prepared to achieve in most of our core areas. We had prepared successfully for the 2017 examinations and planned

## We Deserved It...

to implement measures that would enhance the security and integrity of our examinations and ICT systems. It was therefore appropriate that at the 2017 Zambia International Trade Fair, we won the 1st Prize in the Best Government Ministry/Department Category.

We hereby invite you to celebrate with us this deserved award, which was symbolic of genuine efforts to serve the Zambian people and our government better than ever before, as we move together through the second half of the year, determined to achieve our set goals and objectives.

Enjoy reading this newsletter.

**Dr. Michael M. Chilala**  
**DIRECTOR**  
**EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA**

# Editorial

Take this opportunity to welcome you to this edition of the 'ECZ In Perspective' Newsletter. As ECZ, we have set ourselves on the transformation agenda to innovate and be able to set and conduct examinations of comparable international standards.



For the purpose of tracking learner progression rate, ECZ has introduced a system of allocating examination numbers at Grade 7 level which number will be used to write the Grade 9 and 12 examinations. The use of one examination number is vital in validating statistics and contributing towards policy change.

ECZ has partnered with a lot of stakeholders in order to bring quality service to our esteemed customers. We have embraced new technology by introducing electronic platforms that will help customers access our services in the comfort of their homes. Candidates in examination classes are registered online and are also able to check for their registration status online. This has cut down on the use of paper in the registration process thereby promoting a green environment.

We believe that success is for those who plan for it. Through our strategic plan for the period 2016 to 2020, ECZ has introduced a separate Grade 9 external examination that will run effective July 2017 and will run side by side with the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination at different schools and examination centres. This innovation will help in managing the examination at this level more efficiently and provide an opportunity to candidates who wish to improve their results to do so within a short period of time.

You are also able to pay for ECZ services through any Zambia National Commercial Bank using the Bill Muster Form. This has cut down on the long queues and our clients are served more effectively and efficiently at our service centres.

I hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter providing you with various innovations ECZ has undertaken and is implementing.

**Mr Nicolas Nkhuwa**  
Corporate Affairs Officer  
Examinations Council of Zambia



By Nicolas Nkhuwa

The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) scooped the 1st Prize award at the 53rd Zambia International Trade Fair in the category of Best Exhibit - Government Ministry/Department. The award was presented by the Honourable Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Mrs Margaret Mwanakatwe at a colorful awards ceremony held in the Trade Fair grounds in Ndola, Zambia on 29th June 2017.

The Trade Fair is the biggest exhibition in Zambia, which hosts exhibitors – both local and foreign from all sectors of the economy and ECZ was among other exhibitors at this fair that saw over 500 local exhibitors and over 100 foreign exhibitors convening to showcase their various innovations under the theme “Innovation for Industrialization” and run from 28th June to 4th July 2017. As ECZ, our theme interpretation was “through improved service delivery”.

Participating at the Trade Fair was an opportunity to build, showcase and enhance opportunities for growth of the institution through synergies with both local and the international market. Staff at the ECZ stand were in high spirit and exhibited through team work. Services such as accumulation of the General Certificate of Education (GCE) certificates, Replacement of lost or

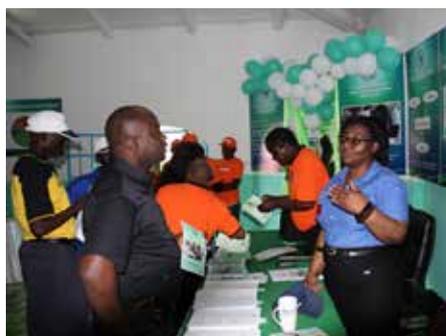
damaged certificates and statements of results issued by ECZ, Verification of results and combination of Grade 9 Statements of results among other services were offered on spot at the ECZ stand.

ECZ developed and launched the new Strategic plan for the period 2016 to 2020 to guide its growth. The Strategic Plan has been developed in line with the Zambia’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.

ECZ has set itself on the transformation agenda through innovations and reforms to develop creative examinations

administration interventions and champion stakeholder engagement in the education sector and beyond to make progressive decisions that will enhance public service delivery systems and processes in a quest to attain vision 2030 and its institutional vision “An Examining Body of Excellence” and the mission which is to, “Efficiently Conduct Assessments and Award Certificates of comparable International Standards.”

In its transformation agenda, ECZ has introduced various systems that also promote a green environment such as the Online Candidate Registration System (OCRS) where schools are able to directly link with ECZ and register candidates in real time or submit continuous assessment results for the case of colleges, without having to print registration forms or travelling to ECZ offices to submit the names and details of





candidates sitting for examinations. This has helped our customers to be able to save on time and money. This has greatly made it easy to monitor this activity. Another great innovation is the electronic access of results on mobile phones. Candidates are able to check for their results before they go to collect the official transcript from the school or examination Centre. Candidates in examination classes are also able to check for their examination entry status through an Online portal and by just using their examination number, a candidate or parent/guardian is able to confirm the correctness of the details such as the name, subjects registered for and many more. The online portal also provides candidates with their personalised time table for the examination by showing the date and time on which the examination will be written. The systems are bringing in easy monitoring, efficiency and effectiveness in service provision.

Going forward, the ECZ has also resolved that candidates who are going to write ECZ examinations will be using one examination number issued at grades 7 to sit for examinations at grade 9 and 12. This means that the management and administration of examinations will be more efficient and there will be easy monitoring of candidates progression rate in the school system as well as remove the challenges of sharing examination numbers among the candidates.

In terms of Service provision, the ECZ is decentralizing and has moved to open its first ever state-of-the-art service Centre in Lusaka, and another one on the Copperbelt in Kitwe. ECZ is committed to bringing services closer to the public through such innovations and soon will be opening

another service Centre in Mpika District. This will further see ECZ steadily open provincial offices in other provinces were the service centres will not be built.

In line with service provision, we have partnered with Zambia National Commercial Bank (ZANACO) in payment for ECZ services through the use of the Bill Muster Form at any ZANACO branch. Clients will deposit fees through the bank and only submit a deposit slip to ECZ for processing of their query. This means that, we have cut the long ques of clients at our service centres coming to make payments. Clients have the choice to visit any ZANACO branch.

ECZ has also developed assessment schemes or examination syllabi for grades 7, 9 12 and Teacher Education that explain the expected assessment objectives arising from

the revised teaching curriculum. We have further delinked GCE Examinations from the School Certificate examinations and the two will be conducted as mid-year and end of year examinations respectively. The Junior secondary school leaving examination has also been separated. The internal Grade 9 candidates will write their examination towards the end of the year while those repeating Grade 9 will write in July/August every year.

Over the years, Council has established a credible examination system and continued to deliver on its mandate of administering public examinations for schools and tertiary levels. ECZ therefore, calls for continued collaboration and support from both the government and stakeholders in order to deliver a credible examination system to the public and to fulfill its mandate.

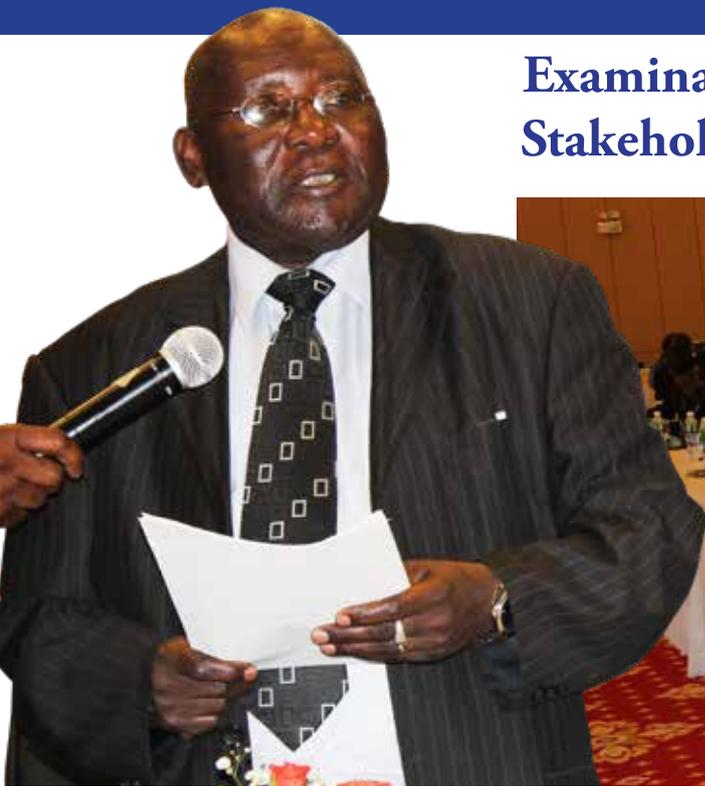
They say whatever goes up must come down. The Trade Fair was successfully held with over one thousand people visiting the ECZ Stand to access various services and closed on 4th July 2017.

“ECZ has set itself on the transformation agenda through innovations and reforms to develop creative examinations administration interventions and champion stakeholder engagement in the education sector and beyond to make progressive decisions that will enhance public service delivery systems and processes in a quest to attain vision 2030...”



# Examination Performance Review Key among Stakeholders to Improve Learner Performance

By Nicolas Nkhuwa



Stakeholders in the education sector, cooperating partners and the media gathered on 11th and 12 May 2017 to discuss the performance of learners during the 2016 public examinations. They convened for the fifth time since 2013 when this meeting was initiated by ECZ in conjunction with the Ministry of General Education and has been held every year. The 2016 review meeting was held at Golden Peacock Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia.

The objective of the Performance Review Meeting was to analyze the performance and conduct of examinations covering Grades 7, 9, 12, GCE and Teacher Education. The Meetings were 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 5th National Performance Review Meeting, Minister of General Education- Mr. Dennis M. Wanchinga, MP stated that this meeting was the first to dissect performance from a completely revised examination structure based on the revised curriculum in 2014. Mr. Wanchinga stated that feedback generated through the National Review meetings on the way the ECZ conducted and administered its examinations was important 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, Mr Wanchinga was pleased to note that provinces and districts were holding their Review meetings and commended them for such undertakings. "I wish to state that the Ministry shall continue to support ECZ so that these reviews do not end up being academic exercises but activities that resonate well with all stakeholders concerned about improving education standards especially at classroom level" he said.

He also said that in order to improve the quality of graduate teachers from the Colleges of Education and performance of learners in schools, the Ministry had removed the mismatch in focus between the colleges and the school curriculum during the revision of the curricula. "By this we hope to have Graduate teachers from Colleges of Education who will be able to interpret the school curriculum correctly so that deep learning among school learners could occur" he said.

The ECZ conducted Teacher Education examinations for three programmes, namely; Early Childhood Education Teacher's Diploma, Primary Teacher's Diploma and Junior Secondary Teacher's Diploma. The Minister stated that the Ministry of General Education has mandated the ECZ to be an examining board for teacher education examinations to provide common standardised assessments in both private and public Colleges of Education across the country.

The fact the Meeting was going to have an in-depth review of the Grade 7, 9, 12, GCE and Teacher Education examination results, the Honourable Minister expected the meeting to be highly interactive and urged all participants to effectively participate

by marking observations that would help improve not only the way learners are assessed but also improve teaching and learning 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. "Be assured also that the recommendations you will make will be treated with utmost significance by my Ministry" he said.

Overall, the performance of learners in the 2016 examinations was comparable with previous years. Candidature at all levels of examinations continued to increase. At the Grade 7 level by 0.93 percent, at Grade 9 level by 7.28 percent, at Grade 12 by 0.2 percent. Absenteeism recorded a drop in all school examination the results showed that the proportion of candidates obtaining division 2 has been increasing since 2013. At Grade 9 level, the examinations the proportion of candidates that obtained Certificates increased by 1.29 percentage points from 48.21 percent in 2015 to 49.50 percent in 2016.

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 61.94 percent in 2016.

The Honourable Minister also urged stakeholders to discuss how best cases of malpractice could be reduced in future examinations after noting that the 2016 recorded a total of 212 cases of suspected cases of malpractice mainly reported in form of smuggled unauthorized materials into the examination room, assistance and copying.

# Decentralised Marking of GCE Exams to be Piloted in 2017

.....as ECZ Holds Stakeholder Consultative Meeting

By Editorial Team



**The ECZ has set itself on the transformation agenda through innovations and reforms to develop creative examinations administration interventions and champion stakeholder engagement in the education sector and beyond to make progressive decisions that will enhance public service delivery systems and processes in a quest to attain vision 2030.**

It is through this background that the ECZ is working out ways to improve the marking exercise knowing that it is a delicate process that demands efficiency and effective management of the various stages involved. To do this, various players in the education sector are engaged so as to have a thorough point of agreement for implementation.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017, the ECZ organised a stakeholder's consultative meeting on the proposal to decentralise the marking of GCE examinations. Meeting was held at Chamba Valley Exotic Hotel in Lusaka. The one day meeting saw representatives among them from the Ministry of General Education, Provincial Education Officers, District Education Board Secretaries, Chief Examiners and Senior Examination Standards Officers and representation from Universities such as the University of Lusaka represented by Professor Pinalo Chifwanakeni.

The marking of examinations at this level has been centralised and arising from this, a number of challenges have been noted which the decentralisation seeks to address. Notably, the marking exercise sometimes extends into time when schools are in session. This affects the teaching time for the markers many of whom are current teaching staff. The marking usually extends over the Christmas and New Year period which affects family time for most examiners. The candidature has been increasing thereby calling for increased numbers of examiners to mark the examinations which poses a challenge to find suitable venues with facilities to accommodate examiners. ECZ has

also been paying huge amounts of money to institutions that are used as marking centres in terms of food and accommodation instead of freeing money to help increase the examiner's allowances which may in the near future become unsustainable.

To deal with these challenges and move from centralised marking system to provincial marking, the ECZ has already trained adequate numbers of examiners in the subjects that have high candidature within the provinces. With the increase in number of examiners, it is expected that the duration of the marking exercise will be shortened, ultimately reducing the examination processing period and also the cost associated with the marking.

Speaking at this meeting, the ECZ Deputy Director noted the importance of the consultative meeting saying that it was a way of meeting to agree on the way forward in the process of marking of examinations and especially at GCE level. "The meeting is done in a transparent manner" he said. Through such engagements, it was also one way of expressing the corporate values through which the ECZ operates. He pointed out three values; Transparency, Teamwork and Innovation among others values.

The Acting Director Standards, Mr Chomba at the Ministry of General Education also said during the same meeting that it was necessary to meet in such a manner to make valued contributions towards the process of decentralised marking. "Marking is an important activity that requires proper planning and this could be done if

all stakeholders are involved so as not to compromise on quality" he said.

Delivering his opening remarks, ECZ Director, Dr Michael M. Chilala pointed out the issue of equity between the rural and the urban pupils as being cardinal when it comes to marking of examinations. "We want to create an opportunity for teachers in rural areas to be involved in the marking process without losing the quality in the process of marking" he said. He also noted that by so doing this would culminate into improved performance among learners as their teachers will be exposed through the marking exercise.

This will also mean quality marking and early release of results once implemented. Other benefits expected from the decentralized marking is the reduction in the number of teenage pregnancies and other vices due to reduced idol time for the pupils as they wait to receive their results to go to tertiary institutions.

The meeting resolved to have subjects with high candidature such as English Language, Mathematics, Civic Education, Biology and Science be marked using a decentralized system. The rest of the subject shall be marked in locations where the examiners shall be in one center while Religious Education and Geography will be marked in selected provinces depending on the concentration of examiners in the subjects. The marking will be done in such a way that no province shall mark its own scripts but that a formula will be used to apportion scripts in the provinces at the implementation stage.



## G9 Internal and External Examinations Separated

By Nicolas Nkhuwa

The effective management and administration of examinations in Zambia has been at the heart of the Examinations Council of Zambia. Mandated to set and conduct examinations and award certificates to deserving candidates, the ECZ has transformed many systems and processes by introducing among them the use of ICTs in examination administration. Online systems have been developed and rolled out. The accumulation of GCE certificates has been made possible through such innovations. Clients can now be served in a conducive environment through the opening of service centres in Lusaka and Kitwe and are able to communicate with ECZ through various platforms such as the facebook page, toll free line and access results via short messaging system (SMS).

Beginning this year (2017), the ECZ separated the Junior Secondary School leaving examination for internal and external and introduced a separate Grade 9 external examination that will run this year in July/August 2017.

Just as in 2014, ECZ separated the General Certificate of Education Examination from the School Certificate Examinations. This was consultatively done and meant to meet the growing demand of candidates who desired to improve their qualifications at this level who could not do so earlier due to limited space in school that could not allow both GCE and internal candidates to be accommodated in the same examination rooms. This delinking was also thought of as a remedy to curb examination malpractices that took place when the examinations were conducted jointly.

ECZ has further introduced the use of one examination number to be used to sit for examinations at grades 9 and 12 effective 2018. Therefore, in order to manage the examination were candidates may have different examination numbers, ECZ introduced a separate grade 9 external examinations that will help trace the progression rate of candidates and better run examinations at this level.



## More Markers Trained in Provinces

By Nicolas Nkhuwa

The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) with the support of the Ministry of General Education (MOGE) has trained a total of (number) examiners across Zambia in order to have sufficient personnel that will participate in the marking of the School Certificate and General Certificate of Education Examinations. The number of examiners before stood at (number) examiners.

ECZ is working out ways to improve the marking exercise knowing that it is a delicate process that demands efficiency and effective management of the various stages involved. In so doing a proposal has been put forward to decentralise the marking of the GCE examination. The decentralised marking at GCE level will be piloted this year in all the ten (10) provinces of Zambia in subjects that have high candidature (English, Mathematics, Science, Biology and Civic Education). Other subjects will be marked based on the concentration of markers in the province.

The marking of examinations at this level has been centralised and arising from this, a number of challenges have been noted which

the decentralisation seeks to address. Notably, the marking exercise sometimes extends into time when schools are in session. This affects the teaching time for the markers many of whom are current teaching staff. The marking usually extends over the Christmas and New Year period which affects family time for most examiners. The candidature has been increasing thereby calling for increased numbers of examiners to mark the examinations which poses a challenge to find suitable venues with facilities to accommodate examiners. ECZ has also been paying huge amounts of money to institutions that are used as marking centres in terms of food and accommodation instead of freeing money to help increase the examiner's allowances which may in the near future become unsustainable.

To deal with these challenges and move from centralised systems ECZ thought it wise to introduce marking of GCE in provinces. With the increase in number of examiners, it is expected that the duration of the marking exercise will be shortened, ultimately reducing the examination processing period and also the cost associated with the marking thereby leading to the early release of results.

# Candidate Eligibility

## For ECZ Examinations By Editorial Team

Registration of the Grade 7, 9, 12 and GCE candidates for the Examination will be done through the Online Candidate Registration System (OCRS). This is a system that has been designed to allow for the registration of candidates at the school and district levels.

An intending candidate becomes a bonafide candidate only after he or she has been correctly entered by the Head of a registered Examination Centre and confirmed by the Examinations Council of Zambia through the final register.

In terms of eligibility, candidates entering for the Grade 7 Examination must have completed seven years of Primary Education and candidates entering for the Grade 9 Examination must have completed two (2) years of Junior Secondary Education and must be in possession of a Grade 7 Certificate and a valid Grade 7 examination number while candidates entering for the School Certificate Examination must be in possession of a Grade 9 Certificate, valid examination number and must have completed three (3) years of Senior Secondary Education as per requirements of the Zambian curriculum. Candidates entering for the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination must be in possession of a valid National Registration Card (NRC) or valid passport.

Transferred candidates must be entered for the examinations by the school where they were transferred to.

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*Promoting a Green environment*

## Ndola District Launches Campaign against Examinations Malpractice in 2017 By Kunda Kuku

Business in central town of Ndola on 21st June 2017 came to a standstill when the District Education Board (Ndola District) launched the campaign against Examinations Malpractice. The theme of the campaign was "Zero Tolerance on Examination Malpractice."

Before being addressed at Ndola Skills, Pupils in examination classes, selected teachers, head teachers, representatives from the Parents' Teacher Associations, Zambia Police Officers and some Ward Councillors marched through the central town. While marching, leaflets produced by the Examinations Council of Zambia were distributed to the public. The event was so colourful that it attracted the attention of the entire town centre. The brass band, the majorettes, dancing troops and poems offered entertainment during the campaign.

To mark the climax of the whole event, speeches on the dangers of Examinations malpractice were delivered at Ndola skills. Among the speakers were, the Provincial Education Office representative, Manager- Examinations Council of Zambia (Kitwe Service Centre), Ndola District Education Board Secretary- DEBS and the District Commanding Officer from the Zambia Police.

The DEBS, Ndola is commended for the initiative taken in the fight against examinations malpractice and other districts and Provinces are encouraged to organise similar events in order to sensitize the public on the DANGERS OF EXAMINATIONS MALPRACTICE.

IF NDOLA CAN DO IT, WE CAN ALL DO IT.  
Bravo to NDOLA DEBS



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## Registration for 2018 Examinations to Start Early

The registration for the 2018 School examinations is set to start early in order to allow learners and their parents prepare adequately and register for the examinations. The registration period for 2018 examinations will run from Monday, 2nd October 2017 to Friday, 26th January 2018 for all the levels.

The Examinations Council of Zambia introduced the Online Candidate Registration System (OCRS) where candidates are registered using an internet based system linked to the ECZ from the schools. It is with such innovations that ECZ is confident to achieve a proper registration process giving every eligible candidate a guaranteed chance to sit for examinations. The OCRS will automatically be opened on 2nd October 2017 and close automatically on 26th January 2018. Schools are advised to start registration once the system opens and avoid last minute registration that may cause the system to be slow.

All eligible candidates are encouraged to get more details on the registration from approved ECZ examinations centres and follow the guideline for registration.

## Validity of Statement of Results

By Matildah C. Kamoko

It's amazing to note that most people are still using statements of results in employment that were collected way back from school. This article is meant to share important information as regards the validity of statements of results.

Individuals and institutions need to understand what documents can be used at any given time. In many cases, employers also accept statements that were issued a long time hence increasing the chances of individual submitting fake results.

A statement of results is the first document that is issued to a candidate before a certificate is printed. Before printing of the certificate a period is given in which one can apply for any corrections to be made if there any, for example, names, examination number, remarking cases and many more other issues that will need to be corrected within the stipulated time frame as indicated in the guidelines.

It is interesting to note how so many people ignore the statement written at the bottom of the Statement of results which states;

***"This results slip is not a certificate. The Examinations Council of Zambia reserves the right to correct the information given on the results slip which will be confirmed by the issue of certificates. For verification contact the examinations Council of Zambia".***

This simply means that the certificate is the final document that confirms ones results. This is the document that is accepted by Educational Institutions and Employers.

In the Guidelines for the Administration and Management of Examinations in Zambia page 35 clause 19.7 clearly states

that: Statements of Results are valid only until certificates are printed. Thereafter, they become null and void. Meaning you cannot use a statement of results when the certificate has been printed. When the certificates are printed, ECZ delivers to schools through the Provincial Education Office and announces through the media (both print and electronic) that they have been dispatched and hence, all the students are expected to collect certificates from schools and not from the ECZ or any Ministry of General Education Offices. It is important for teachers to orient their candidates on the importance of collecting a School Certificate.

It is saddening to receive clients who completed school way back in the 1990 still using the statements of results which in most cases have even faded. Once the certificate is printed the statement of results becomes invalid and the valid document that every individual should use is a certificate.

With this information, all students, employees and individuals still using the Statements of Results are encouraged to go back to their schools and collect the certificates that should be submitted to their employers. ECZ is up to date on printing of certificate; any individual who completed school up to 2015 should now be using a certificate and not a statement of results.

For those that have lost or damaged their certificates, they can go to any of our Service Centres with the following documents to have it replaced at a fee:

1. Letter from the school or a copy of the lost certificate
2. Police report
3. Sworn in affidavit

## TRANSLATE YOUR FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS TO THE ZAMBIAN STANDARD

Through our Regional, Continental and International Collaborations, ECZ is able to translate Foreign Qualifications to the Zambian Standard.

**For details:  
Visit our Service Centre in Lusaka or Kitwe  
Tel: +260 211 264091 or Cell: 0955 491 516**

# MOGE and ECZ Conduct a Review of the 2016 Examinations Cycle

By Editorial Team



**T**he Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) believes that sustainable development and better education is achieved when efforts are put together by players involved in order to address various challenges in the conduct of public examinations. In order to run a smooth examination, a lot of planning is done and reviewing the conduct of the previous examination is cardinal when preparing for the next one. Time is taken to review systems and processes and the way forward is then agreed among the players.

From 10th to 13th April 2017, the ECZ organised a review meeting at Misuku Lodge in Kabwe, Zambia whose main object was to discuss the conduct of the 2016 examinations in relation to processes, systems and various administrative roles of each player involved. It was a chance for all players to interrogate and discuss the way forward on grey areas of the conduct of examinations. At the same time best practices are highlighted and shared so as to have efficiency in the processes.

In order to have a successful and resourceful review meeting, ECZ invited officials from the Ministry of General Education working at provincial, district and national levels. Among them were the Director Standards and Curriculum, the Principal Education Standards Officer, Dean of Provincial Education Officers, Dean of District Education Board Secretaries, Senior Education Standards Officers, Education Standards Officers and Guidance Teachers from various schools. ECZ was represented by the Director - Dr Michael M. Chilala, the Deputy Director - Mr William M. Kapambwe, Assistant Directors and distinguished officers from various departments.

Addressing the meeting, the Director Standards and Curriculum - Mrs. Cecilia Sakala implored on all participants to share a lot of information regarding the registration of candidates with the people in their various provinces. She also encouraged everyone to support ECZ with its innovations so as to increase its capacity and confidence

as a national assessment body. "Share the Ministry's vision and embrace technology in education" she said. Mrs. Sakala also emphasised the need for officers involved in the administration of examinations to take full responsibility in their various positions.

On the first day, the meeting discussed the roles of the ECZ and that of the Ministry of General Education in the management and administration of examinations. Registration of candidates was also discussed and challenges surrounding candidates with special needs were addressed and way forward reached. The meeting also looked at the verification of candidate entries for examinations and the access of statements of entries. The meeting was informed that ECZ had resolved not to print the statements of entries but opted to introduce the online access of statements of entries beginning this year 2017. On the second day, issues of examinations fee payment, invigilation, packaging of scripts and reporting malpractice cases were discussed and the third day was reserved to discuss the marking of scripts. Chief examiners played a vital role in this meeting as they are the experts in this area.

The meeting curtains successfully closed on 13th April with all stakeholders having agreed on the many resolutions among them were that the Online Candidate Registration System (OCRS) will be rolled out to Grade 9 effective 2018 and registration will start By September.

The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) and the Ministry of General Education (MOGE) will continue playing their respective roles in the management and administration of examinations.



# ECZ Hosts the 2017 SAAEA Research Forum

By Boniface Lisuba and Moonga Hakalyamba

The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) played host to one of the important forums in the education sector in the southern region. The 2017 Southern African Association for Educational Assessment (SAAEA) Research Forum left a lasting impression amongst the participating member countries namely Botswana Examinations Council (BEC), Examinations Council of Lesotho (ECOL), Malawi National Examinations Board (MANEB), UMALUSI, Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) and Zimbabwe School Examinations Council (ZIMSEC).

The Research Forum was held at Sandy's Creation in Lusaka – Zambia from 27th to 31st March 2017. The five-day event was attended by twenty-one officers drawn from the six member organisations.

The quality of documents produced in this forum was of significant value towards improving educational assessment in the region and beyond.

ECZ was represented by Dr. Michael M. Chilala (SAAEA Research Forum Chairperson), Mr. William M. Kapambwe, Mrs. Teza Musakanya, Mr. Shadreck Nkoya, Mr. Moonga Hakalyamba, Mr. Boniface Lisuba, Mr. Henry A. Muloongo, Mr. Shakazo Mzyece, Ms. Maureen Nkumbula and Mrs. Stella S. Ncube. ZIMSEC sent two officers, namely Mr. John C. Maramba and Dr Timothy Chiwiye. UMALUSI was represented by Dr. Celia Booyse and Ms Sisanda Loni while MANEB's envoys were Mr. William Mankhomwa and Mr. Lawrence J. Msiska. There was also Mrs Chawangwa Mudongo and Ms. Kagiso Maule-Sethora from BEC. The Examinations Council of Lesotho was

represented by Mr. Khauta Mokoma, Ms. Camilla Ramokoena and Mr. Mokhitli Peter Khoabane.

Participating members were welcomed to the forum and the beautiful country of Zambia by the SAAEA Research Forum Chairperson who was happy to host the Forum and proudly noted that the Southern African Sub-region was taking a leading role in assessment innovations and had played a pivotal role in developing the strategic plan for the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA). Earlier, Mr. William M. Kapambwe, Deputy Director – ECZ, had urged members to apply themselves during the meeting.

The activities of the meeting were guided by an activity plan crafted in 2016 during a similar meeting at Taj Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia. The following documents were developed and finalised in accordance with the Activity Plan:

- Assessment systems and qualification framework: the document described qualification types/levels, the link

between curriculum, assessment standards and qualification, exit – level outcomes, and equivalency of qualifications within the SADC sub region.

- School Based Assessment Guidelines: this documented best practices for conducting school based assessment, relying on the provisions of the SADC protocol on Education.
- Guidelines for Conference Hosting and Publications: the document sought to outline procedures for hosting regional assessment conferences and the evaluation criteria to be used for selecting articles for publication in the SAAEA Journal.

The Forum also discussed ways of collecting information/contributions through internet and resolved that the best way to go was by creating a SAAEA Drop Box where members could be dropping their comments. Further, a small group to be chaired by Dr Celia Booyse was constituted to spearhead the drafting of recommendations on which route to take on the publication of the SAAEA Journal. Other members of this group included Dr Timothy Chiwiye, Ms Camilla Ramokoena and Ms Kagiso Maule-Sethora. Moving forward, it was proposed that SAAEA comes up with an international course on educational assessment which could be administered as a way of raising funds for SAAEA.

At the end of the week, the delegates were treated to an excursion in Siavonga where they took lunch at Lake Safari Lodge, went for a boat cruise on Lake Kariba and visited the Kariba Dam Wall.

The hope and joy of all SAAEA Research Forum members is to see the SADC Protocol on Education being operationalised through our collective and individual contributions. Long live the forum!



# Standing Rules for Grade 9 Combination of Statements of Results

**A**fter the amendment of the national Curriculum, the ECZ developed the Assessment Schemes 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 best 6 subjects both for selection and certification. In line with the revised Curriculum, the ECZ has revised the rules of combination of Grade 9 results with effect from January 2016. Please note that results for candidates, who will not follow these rules, will not be 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.

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.

# 2017 National Libraby Week Comemorated

By Milimo Mweemba

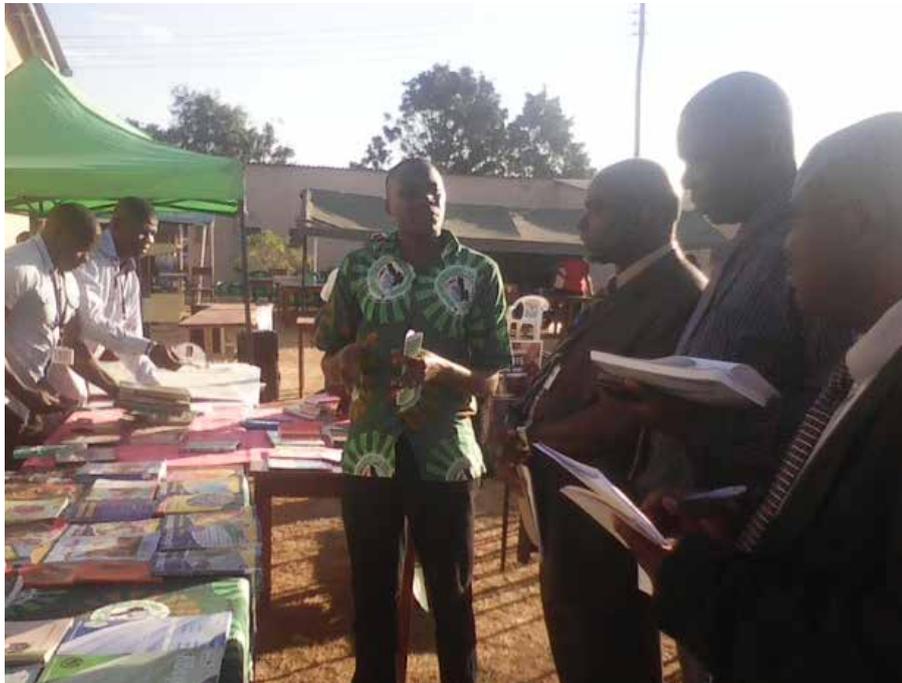
**N**ational Library Week is an event which takes place every year and is globally commemorated on different dates in different countries. It presents an opportunity for institutions and organisations to promote library and information services to the community.

ECZ joined several other exhibitors at the 2017 National Library Week that was held in Chipata district of the Eastern Province of Zambia. This year's Library Week was celebrated under a theme "Libraries as anchors towards meeting sustainable development goals,"

As a way of improving literacy skills among pupils, schools organised reading and spelling competition for grade 5, 6 and 7. There were also debate competitions contested by different secondary schools and colleges in Chipata. Institutions also shared information with the community in form of books, pamphlets, brochures, and many reading materials.

Mandated to set and conduct examinations and award certificates to deserving candidates, the ECZ which also has a fully-fledged library at its headquarters in Lusaka was appreciated for being present at the exhibition as information relating to assessment was shared with many people and general operations of the ECZ. It was also an opportunity for members of the general public to know the prerequisites before visiting ECZ.

"We distributed a lot of reports to teachers and pupils and offered firsthand information to everyone who came," the ECZ Librarian – Mr Milimo Mweemba said in a post exhibition interview. He also said the provincial library



also received ECZ information resources. "We encouraged them to open an ECZ section in their library where the public can have access to ECZ information with easy access," he said.

Libraries are anchors in sustainable development. Officiating at the exhibition, Ministry of General Education Acting Permanent Secretary, Mr Sunday Mwape read a speech on behalf of the Minister where he said the effective use of libraries can transform global economies and enable countries like Zambia to attain sustainable development goals by 2030. He said the ministry of General Education is committed in supporting and encouraging the growth of libraries in the country. "The ministry has been working with Book Aid in its efforts to develop and revamp provincial libraries." He said. In the last past 4 years the ministry managed to set digital libraries ( e-granary ) in all provincial libraries and setting up of children's sections in all libraries at provincial levels.

He also reported that the ministry received not only books but also funding from Book Aid International in monetary terms which has enabled the ministry to run provincial libraries under Ministry of General Education. He said the ministry will continue to support libraries. In his own remarks he called upon librarians to continue with good work of providing information, imparting knowledge and information literacy skills among school going children and the general public.

National library week is organised by Ministry of General Education every year to show case institutional information resources held in their Information centres and libraries. The event is aimed at showing the importance of libraries as agents of change in society and what they have to offer in support of Education and development in society. It is an opportunity for people to have access to information which will help them to know where to find information resources for consultation when need arise. In response to this important cause, ECZ could not afford to miss being part of the library week.



# 2016 Examinations Results

## Grade 7 Composite Examination

The 2016 Grade 7 Composite Examination has six subject areas namely English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Integrated Science, Creative and Technology Studies and Zambian Languages. In addition, the examination has two aptitude tests known as Special Paper 1 (Verbal Reasoning) and Special Paper 2 (Non-verbal Reasoning). The 2016 Grade 7 cohort was the first to sit the examination under the Revised Curriculum of 2013, which was first implemented in 2014.

The 2016 Grade 7 Composite Examination recorded an increase in candidates entering for this examination at 387,263 as compared to the year 2015 at 383,676. In terms of gender, a total of 196,033 were boys representing 50.62 percent of the candidates while 191,230 were girls which represented 49.38 percent of the candidates. The number of girls who entered increased marginally by 1.67 percent while that of boys increased by 0.23 percentage points. The number of female candidates entering the examination continued to grow steadily since 2013. This could be attributed to the various interventions promoting female education put in place by the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) and its stakeholders. However, in absolute terms, the numbers of girls that entered for the examination was less than the number of boys.

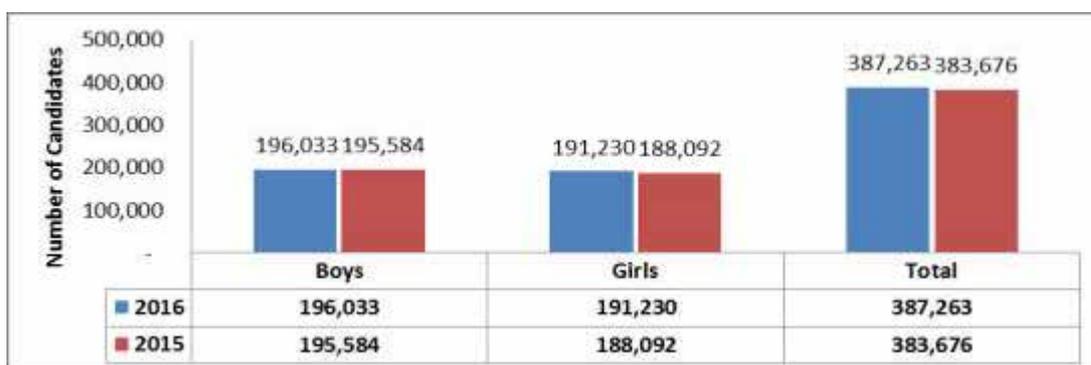
646 learners with special educational needs enrolled for Grade 7 Composite Examinations, 292 (45%) were boys and 354 (55%) were girls. A total of 40 candidates comprising 15 (37.5%) girls and 25 (62.5%) boys were absent from the examinations thereby, bringing the number of those who sat to 606 of which boys were 473 candidates made it to Grade 8 while 133 candidates failed giving a pass rate of 78%.

Candidate absenteeism from the examination decreased in both absolute figures and proportions from 39,160 (10.21%) in 2015 to 34,632 (8.94%) in 2016. All the provinces recorded a reduction in absenteeism with Eastern (-2.07%) and Northern (-1.76%) provinces recording the highest decrease. This positive development could be as a result of the continued sensitization by the government and other stakeholders to learners, parents and the communities on the importance of learners remaining in school and sitting the final examinations.

The proportion of candidates obtaining division 1 dropped by 0.04 percent from 18.56 in 2015 to 18.52 in 2016 while performance at division 2 and 3 increased by 0.72 and 0.54 respectively. There were more candidates that obtained division 2 than those attaining division 3. Additionally, performance at division 4 declined by 1.22 percent. This showed that the quality of

was implemented in 2014. The examination comprised 21 subjects that were examined at Grade 9 level in 2016. The subjects were English, Mathematics, Integrated Science, Computer Studies, Religious Education, Musical Arts Education, Design and Technology, Art and Design, Social Studies, Business Studies, Home Economics, Agricultural Science, Icibemba, Cinyanja, Chitonga, Silozi, French, Kiikaonde, Lunda, Luvale, and Physical Education.

A total of 365,272 candidates entered the 2016 Grade 9 Examination, of whom 183,064 (50.12%) were boys and 182,208 (49.88%) were girls (See Table 3.2.1). The number that sat the 2016 examination was 317,972, representing an increase of 39,788 candidates (14.30 %) from the 278,184 who sat the 2015 examination. A total of 621 special educational needs learners were entered for examinations of different disability characteristics. There were 105 candidates with visual impairment, 233 with hearing impairment and 206 candidates with learning difficulties. Of the 621 candidates, 77 candidates comprising 37 boys and 40 girls were absent from the examinations bringing the number of candidates who sat the examination to 544. A total of 380 learners were selected to Grade 10 comprising 255 boys and 380 girls while 164 learners failed the Grade 9 examinations. These results represented a pass rate of 69.0%.



Grade 7 Candidature Entered for the Years 2015 and 2016

A total of 646 special educational needs learners were entered for examinations of different disability characteristics broken down as follows: Candidates with visual impairment – 115; candidates with hearing impairment – 200; and candidates with learning difficulties 158. Of the total of

results improved between 2015 and 2016.

## Junior Secondary School Leaving (Grade 9) Examination

The 2016 Grade 9 candidates were the second cohort to write this examination under the Revised Curriculum of 2013 which

obtained Certificates (49.50%) than those who obtained Statements (45.53%). More boys (51.55%) obtained Certificates than girls (47.40%), while more girls obtained Statements (47.32%) than boys (43.78%). Additionally, more girls (5.28%) failed the examination than boys (4.66%). Overall,

In terms of performance, the proportion of candidates that obtained Certificates increased by 1.29 percentage points from 48.21 in 2015 to 49.50 in 2016, while those obtaining Statements reduced by 1.02. The proportion of candidates that failed the 2016 JSSL examination reduced by 0.29 percentage points from 5.26 percent in 2015 to 4.97 percent in 2016. More candidates

# Highlights

performance classification in the 2016 examination was comparable to that of 2015. Candidates performed well in subjects with practical components such as Art and Design (50.72%), Design and Technology (50.34%), Physical Education (49.47%), (Home Economics (47.48%), and Musical Arts Education (47.29%). The performance in subjects introduced under the Revised Curriculum in 2014 such as Computer Studies (29.33%), Business Studies (33.17%), Integrated Science (33.07%) and Social Studies (39.65%), was below the pass mark of 40 percent. This kind of performance implies the need for the Ministry of General Education to supply additional learning and teaching materials as well as employ teachers in these new subjects in order to foster deep learning amongst the candidates.

## School Certificate (Grade 12 Internal) Examination

In 2015, 128, 783 candidates (69,663 boys and 59, 120 girls) entered the examinations. Candidature increased by 0.2 percent in 2016 from 128,527 candidates in 2015. In terms of gender, the candidature for boys decreased by 1.31 percent while that of girls increased by 2.03 per cent. Out of the 128, 783 candidates who entered the 2016 examinations, 126, 474 sat the examination. This included 68, 482 boys and 57, 992 girls. A total of 73 candidates with special learning needs entered for school certificate examinations and all of them wrote the examinations. The breakdown of the candidates was as follows; 35 learners with visual impairment, 26 learners with hearing impairment and 32 learners with learning difficulties.

A total of 2, 309 (1, 181 boys and 1, 128 girls) candidates were absent from the examination. Candidate absenteeism at this examination level decreased from 2.21 percent in 2015 to 1.79 percent in 2016. The proportion of candidates obtaining School Certificates in the 2016 examination session increased from 57.05 percent in 2015 to 61.94 percent in 2016 (representing 78,337 candidates in 2016 as compared to 71,702 candidates in 2015), which was a 4.89 percentage point increase. The proportion of boys and girls who obtained School Certificates was 63.95 and 59.57 percent respectively.

## General Certificate of Education Examination

The 2016 August General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination was written from Friday 1st July to Tuesday, 9th August, 2016.

The number of registered candidates was 124,780 comprising 43,070 males (34.5%) and 81,710 females (65.5%). 116,883 (93.67%) sat the examination of whom 77,291 were female while 39,592 were male. This represented 94.59 and 91.92 percent of the registered female and male candidates respectively. This represented an increase of 18.60 percent from the 2015 GCE examination where 105,208 candidates entered the examination. The proportions of males and females have remained relatively unchanged since the inaugural GCE examination conducted in June 2014. This examination keeps attracting more females than males for reasons yet to be established and candidates keep on increasing every year.

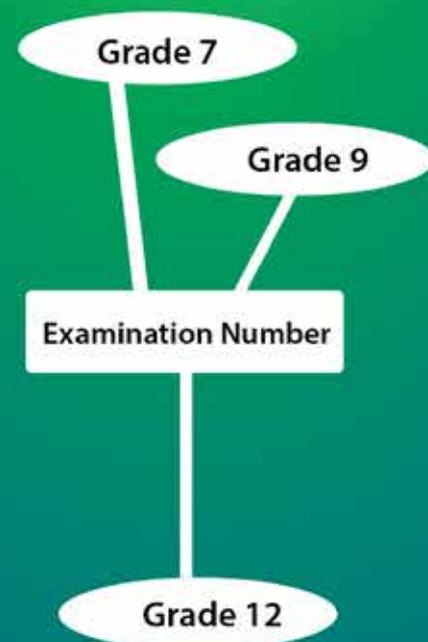
The national rate of absenteeism stood at 6.33 percent and was lower than the 2015 and 2014 rates which were 9.67 percent and 11.03 percent respectively. There was a higher proportion of males (8.08%) than females (5.41%) absent, though more females (4,419) than males (3,478) were absent in absolute terms. Lusaka Province recorded the highest absenteeism rate at 8.49 percent and was followed by Eastern Province at 7.73 percent. The two provinces just swapped the positions they held in the 2015 examinations. Just like in 2015, the Copperbelt province had the lowest absenteeism rate (4.29%), and was followed by Luapula Province (4.89%), just like in 2015.

The proportion of candidates obtaining GCE Certificates was 92.91 percent, representing 2.53 percent increase from 90.38 percent in 2015. A higher proportion of male (93.58%) than female (92.57%) candidates obtained GCE certificates, an improvement from 91.86 percent and 89.60 percent respectively for both male and female candidates in 2015. The province with the highest proportions of candidates getting GCE certificates was the Copperbelt (95.47%) followed by North-western (94.55%) while the province with the least GCE certificates was Western (86.49%) followed by Muchinga (91.41%).



## One Examination Number

Candidates will be using one examination number to sit for ECZ Examinations



This Innovation will improve Data Management and Contribute towards a Systematic Tracking of Candidates Progression



## ICT Consumer Protection By Samson Shiwanwa

In Zambia, consumers at various levels are protected by law from exploitation. The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) is a statutory body established with a unique dual mandate to protect the competition process in the Zambian Economy and also to protect consumers. In general terms therefore, the principle aim of the Commission is to safeguard competition and ensure consumer protection. For example, the government may require businesses to disclose detailed information about products - particularly in areas where safety or public health is an issue, such as food.

ICT consumers in Zambia, on the other hand have a special type of protection coming from another establishment. The Zambia Information & Communications Authority (ZICTA) is an autonomous statutory body mandated under the Information and Communication Technologies ICT Act number 15 of 2009 and the Postal Services Act number 22 of 2009 to regulate the provision of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and postal and courier services, facilitate access to ICTs and protect the rights and interests of consumers and service providers in the two sectors. Section 6(2) (f) of the ICT Act empowers the Authority to regulate and promote the respective rights, interests and obligations of consumers, and purchasers of ICT/telecommunications services including in particular, those who are disabled or of pensionable age) in respect of the prices charged, the quality and variety of such services.

ICT consumers need protection so as to protect them from exploitation from ICT service providers as well as other users

who may seem to abuse the technology for selfish or criminal gains. All ICT crime should urgently be reported to the Zambia Police and ZICTA.

The following are some examples of scenarios where ICT consumers are likely to need protection:

### 1. Identity Theft

Identity theft is a crime in which personal information is used without the owner's knowledge or permission. Information could have been accessed from the person's computer, phone or from other sources.

With sufficient information, criminals can use the stolen information to:

- Open bank accounts using the details
- Apply for debit/credit cards or loans in your name
- Transfer money directly from your bank accounts into other accounts
- Impersonate the victim online on social networking sites
- Identity theft can damage your chances of applying for loans and debit/credit cards.
- How do you avoid Identity theft?
- Monitor your digital content activity
- If you suspect that your profile (online/offline) has been compromised by any means, take recommended steps or urgently seek professional assistance as soon as possible. You could also temporarily shut it down if you can while seeking help
- Use secure websites for online transactions involving sensitive information.
- Do NOT share personal information on public platforms such as social media. Criminals use small pieces of personal information to build a much bigger picture which they use for criminal activities.

- Passwords
- To ensure that there is no identity theft, certain measures should be taken. Passwords should be:
  - eight or more characters in length, preferably a mixture of special characters, letters and numbers
  - changed regularly
  - kept NOT be written down on pieces of paper or stored anywhere in plain text
  - kept private (do not share passwords with friends or relatives)

Do NOT respond to calls or emails from banks asking for passwords or other details. If the email asks you to click on a link, chances are that it's a scam, delete it immediately. If you receive a call from someone saying they are from the bank, hang up and call back on their publicly listed number to see if it is real. How do I deal with it?

Watch your bank account and respond immediately to any unexpected withdrawals or suspicious spending

Report Identity Theft - talk to your bank and report to the Police on 991.

### 2. Sexting

Sexting is the sending of provocative or sexual photos, images, messages or videos using a mobile phone or posting online.

Once you have sent a picture or message, it is out of your control. Images posted online can be almost impossible to remove and they may come back to haunt you anywhere and anytime well into the future.

There is no such thing as safe sexting, even if you think you can trust your current girlfriend or boyfriend.

Sexting may seem funny or flirty but they have serious social and legal consequences in Zambia.

Sexting images are considered pornography. Even if all participants are willing, they will

## ECZ BENCHMARKS WITH UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD (UNEB)

be breaking the law if they take and share naked or sexual images of themselves or others who are minors. Under Section 102 of the Electronic Communications and Transactions ACT transmission or receiving of pornography is prohibited. A person who commits an offence under the provisions of the said ACT is liable upon conviction to a fine of K36 Million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years or both.

How do I deal with it?

- Think before you post the image as it will remain online forever
- Adjust your privacy settings to ensure that sensitive information is not publicly shared
- Manage photos or images tagged with your name - detag asap
- Delete any sexting you receive and do Not forward anything on to others
- Consider others before you photograph or post
- Talk to an adult you trust.

### 3. Unwanted Contact

What is it?

Unwanted contact is any type of online communication that you find unpleasant or confronting.

The contact can come from online friends you don't know or someone you know in the offline world.

Unwanted contact can include:

- Being asked inappropriate or personal questions by someone you don't know
- Being sent offensive, confronting or obscene content
- Being asked to send intimate pictures or do things online that make you feel uncomfortable.
- How do I deal with unwanted contact?
- Tell someone you trust, like your Mother, Father or another adult
- Don't respond and leave the site or chat session immediately
- Block the contact or remove them from your friends list
- Change your profile settings so that your personal details are kept private
- Don't open messages from people you don't know
- Keep the evidence. This can be useful in tracking the person posting unsuitable material
- Contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) and/or phone provider, or the website administrator. There are actions they can take to help
- Most importantly - Report it. Talk to an adult that you trust or to the police if there is a threat to your safety. Suspicious online behaviour towards a child should be reported to the Zambia Police Service, call 991.



The Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) hosted the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) Officers who were on Benchmarking visit to Uganda from 8th May 2017 to 12th May 2017. The ECZ was represented by the ECZ Deputy Director - Mr. William M. Kapambwe and the Principal Examinations Officer, Processing and Certification - Mr. Albert S. Siamunako.

The Benchmarking Visit had the following areas of discussion:

1. UNEB Organisation Structure
2. Strategic Planning
3. Skills gap Analysis, Capacity Building and Staff development
4. Funding and financial Sustainability strategies employed by UNEB
5. Test Development and Item Banking
6. Printing and Distribution of Examination Materials
7. Registration, Results Processing and Certification
8. The Marking Process
9. Types of Examination Malpractices, Policies and Mechanisms to deal with them
10. Awards Meetings
11. Post Examination Services Offered by the UNEB and challenges
12. Teacher Education Assessment
13. Time Tabling

The visit was important in order for the ECZ to stay current with regional and international standards, such benchmark visits are important as lessons learnt herein help in institutional growth and planning. The ECZ has set itself on a transformation agenda through innovations and reforms to develop creative examinations administration interventions and champion stakeholder engagement in the education sector and beyond to make progressive decisions that will enhance public service delivery systems and processes in a quest to attain vision 2030.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## ACCESSING THE 2017 EXAMINATION STATEMENTS OF ENTRY

The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) introduced Statements of Entries (SOEs) in the year 2012 as a way of providing feedback on examination registration status for the Junior Secondary School Leaving (G9), School Certificate (G12) and General Certificate of Education (GCE) examinations. Stakeholders, schools, parents, learners and the public are hereby informed that effective 2017, SOEs for Grades 7, 9, 12 and GCE will now be accessible through our **Online Candidate Registration System (OCRS)** website portal. Clients can sign in to view their examination entry status and navigate through our portal on the links as follows:

**1. Examination Centres can access using the link below:**

<http://www.systems.exams-council.org.zm/ocrs/login>

**2. Candidates can access using the link below:**

<http://www.systems.exams-council.org.zm/ocrs/clogin>

Schools should login using details given at registration while candidates should login using their full examination number and selecting the level of examination.

This new development is in order to serve our clients better and promote a green environment while we ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the administration and management of examinations in Zambia through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

**Further, note that the ECZ will not print and deliver Examination Statements of Entry (SOEs) to Examination Centres for the 2017 Examinations.**

You can also visit our website at: [www.exams-council.org.zm](http://www.exams-council.org.zm) and our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/examsCouncilZambia](http://www.facebook.com/examsCouncilZambia) for more details on accessing the 2017 examination Statements of Entry. You can also contact us on +260 211 252544 or Toll Free line on 8383 (available to Zamtel subscribers only).

Any queries on registration details should be channelled through the School or Examination Centre.

**ISSUED BY: CORPORATE AFFAIRS UNIT  
EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA**

*“Teaching is more than imparting Knowledge, it is inspiring change. Learning is more than absorbing facts, it is acquiring understanding.”*

– William Arthur Ward

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## 2017 EXAMINATION SESSION DATES

The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) wishes to notify the general public that the 2017 Examinations will be written on the following dates:

S/N	Name of Examination	Start Date	End Date
1	Grade 7 Composite Examination	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2017	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017
2	The Junior Secondary School Leaving Examination (G9 External)	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017
3	The Junior Secondary School Leaving Examination (G 9 Internal)	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2017
4	School Certificate Examination (G12)	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December, 2017
5	General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017
6	Early Childhood Education (ECE) Teacher's Diploma Programme Year 1 Examination	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017
7	Early Childhood Education (ECE) Teacher's Diploma Programme Year 2 Examination	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2017
8	Early Childhood Education (ECE) Teacher's Diploma Programme Year 3 Examination	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017
9	Junior Secondary Teacher's Diploma (JSTD) Year 1 Examination	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November, 2017
10	Junior Secondary Teacher's Diploma (JSTD) Year 2 Examination	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2017	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November, 2017
11	Primary Teacher's Diploma Programme (PTD) Year 1 Examination	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017
12	Primary Teacher's Diploma Programme (PTD) Year 2 Examination	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017
13	Primary Teacher's Diploma Programme (PTD) Year 3 Examination	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November, 2017

- 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 2017 Examination Timetables, please contact the nearest Examination Centre in your area. **Say NO to Examination Malpractices.**

ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR  
EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

*“If a Child can't learn the way we **teach**, maybe we should teach the way they **learn**.”*

– Ignacio Estrada



## *“Failing to Plan is Planning to Fail”*

### Management Holds a Successful Planning Meeting

As the adage goes “Failing to plan is planning to fail”. 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 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 Chamba Valley Exotic Hotel from 8th to 10th February 2017 in Lusaka. Management set a tightly focused agenda for the Meeting. The working documents for this undertaking were the Planning Templates, the 2017 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 two-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 was an excellent opportunity for planning and action-focused decision for the Alignment of departmental activity plans with the 2017 budget, synchronize departmental activity plans and consolidate departmental and unit activity plans into one ECZ Annual Work Plan.

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.

## The Power of a Woman



8th March 2017 is celebrated world over as International Women’s Day. The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) joined the rest of the world in commemorating this day. It is a day in which time is taken to reflect on the role women play in society. The commemoration took place at the Agricultural and Commercial Show Grounds in Lusaka, Zambia under the theme “Promoting Inclusiveness in economic participation as a means of attaining sustainable development.” Women from various organisations both from Government and the Private sector who elegantly dressed staged a march past as the Zambia Army brass band played music from the Kabwe roundabout flyover bridge upto the Show Grounds via Great East Road.

The Republican President, His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu graced this occasion that started at 09:00 hours and ECZ was represented by all Council women, supported by a few men from within the institution.

In his speech, President Lungu emphasized the need for all government Ministries to make gender an integral part of their sector plans and budgets. The President also urged stakeholders engaged in gender and women empowerment to partner with government in creating awareness and implementing the new Gender Equity and Equality ACT, 2015 as this new law is aimed at promoting gender equity and equality as a cross cutting issue in all spheres of life.



**Q. Is it possible that someone can write twice (GCE in August and then in November the same year and then combine the results to come up with one paper?**

The Examinations Council of Zambia separated the GCE examinations from the School Certificate Examinations. This means that the two examinations will run separately with the GCE candidates writing in July/August while the internal candidates will write in October/November each year. A GCE candidate cannot write two exams in a year but has an option to write up to a maximum of nine (9) subjects at a go. Further, according to the Guidelines on the Management and Administration of Examinations in Zambia, combination of GCE results and School Certificate results is not allowed.

**Q. I wrote my Grade 12 exams some 25 years ago but didn't get a certificate from the exam Centre. Now my question is can I still find it at my school?**

The Examinations Council of Zambia prints certificates and sends them to respective schools/examination Centres after two years of the examination to allow for any corrections to be made if there any. It is also important to know that once the certificates are sent to schools/examination centres, ECZ informs the public through the media (both print and electronic). Coming to your case, we encourage you to visit your school and collect the certificate as it is still with the school even though a number of years have past.

**Q. When will the 2015 GCE certificates come out?**

As Examinations Council of Zambia, we are pleased to inform you that the 2015 Certificates for Grades 7, 9, 12 and GCE have been dispatched to all respective provinces. All candidates who sat the 2015 ECZ examinations are therefore requested to visit their respective schools and collect their certificates.

**Q. How can I add a name that was left out on my grade 12 certificate?**

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.**

Yes, the ECZ is able to replace your lost certificate or statement. Visit any of our Service Centres and submitted 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. I want to know when registration for the 2018 GCE examinations will start?**

The registration of candidates for ECZ examinations will start on Monday, 2nd October 2017 and will run upto Friday, 26th January 2018. 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. Hello ECZ? How can I access my statement of Entry online?**

Thank you for your question. In promoting a green economy, the Examinations Council of Zambia resolved to introduce an online website portal called the ONLINE CANDIDATE REGISTRATION SYSTEM on which candidates and schools can access the statements of entry. This will help candidates in far flung areas to access their registration status so long they have internet connection. This innovation will reduce on cost of production of the statements that were initially being printed and delivered to school and also cut down on travel expenses for candidates to go to their school to collect the same. The statements of entry can now be accessed on the following link: [www.systems.exams-council.org.zm/ocrs/clogin](http://www.systems.exams-council.org.zm/ocrs/clogin).

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

**– Martin Luther King Jr.**

## New Faces at ECZ



### Ms Christine Simfukwe:

Christine Simfukwe has a strong ICT background with over ten years of experience in the private sector and public service. She has experience in Project Management, Information security Management, Information Systems Auditing, networking and systems administration. In her current role she plans, and oversees the ICT infrastructure and systems development within the organization. In her previous role before joining ECZ she

was overseeing the SmartCare (Electronic Health Record System) software development, training, deployment, quality assurance and testing. SmartCare has been rolled out to over 900 health facilities countrywide. Additionally, she also provided IT technical assistance for the Zambia Transport Information System (e-ZamTIS), the Coca-Cola Zambia Computerization Project, the Zambia Centre of Accountancy Studies Networking Project, among others. She has over five years' experience lecturing at ZCAS

and Copperbelt University. Christine has a Bachelor of Science in Computing from the University of Greenwich, and a Master's Degree in Computer Science with specialization in Information Security from the University Technology Malaysia. In 2014 she was awarded Highest Achiever Zambia 2014 Cohort and emerged as one of the top 13 out of 10 participating African Countries on the ALICT program. She is a certified security analyst, information systems auditor and PRINCE 2 practitioner.



### Mr Joseph M. Mukubesa:

He joined the ECZ on 8th May, 2017 as Security Officer. Before joining ECZ, He worked in a number of security companies. He first worked for Safetech Security Company from 2006 to 2012 then joined Torres Advanced Enterprise Solution in the same capacity. He holds a Diploma in Finance and Accounting from the University of Zambia -UNZA. He is currently pursuing Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Development Studies at UNZA.



### Mr Alepha C. Banda:

Joined ECZ as Accounts Assistant on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and working at the Kitwe Service Centre. He has over 5 year experience in accounting and holds a ZICA Licentiate. He is currently pursuing ZICA Professional Level.



### Mrs Mukansemu S. Nyirenda:

She joined ECZ on 19th June 2017 as Stenographer at the ECZ Kitwe Service Centre. She has over 12 years work experience and worked for Zamtel and Zampost. She holds a certificate in Secretarial.

# PUZZLE

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

**READ** the sentences below and **Spot** the Underlined Words from the Puzzle. As you read and work out the puzzle, you will get important information about the Examinations Council of Zambia that concerns YOU!

- The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) separate the Grade 9 Internal and External Examinations effective 2017.
- The 2015 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.
- The 2017 Grade 7 Examination will run from 3<sup>rd</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
- The Grade 7, 9 and 12 Examination Syllabi also known as Assessment schemes are being sold in all Book World outlets countrywide. Hurry and grab a copy of the Examination Syllabus.
- You can access the examination statements of entry (SOR) online. Visit the ECZ website portal at [www.systems/exams-council.org.zm/ocrs/login](http://www.systems/exams-council.org.zm/ocrs/login)
- The Examinations Council of Zambia has started combining GCE Certificates for different examination sittings into one Accumulated Certificate.
- 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!
- You can download timetables and other research and examination related documents from our website at [www.exams-council.org.zm](http://www.exams-council.org.zm)
- Candidates will be using one examination number issued at grade 7 to sit for examination at grade 9 and 12 effective 2018.
- ECZ has opened a Service Centre where all Council Services are being offered. The Service Centre is located near the Copperbelt University off Jumbo Drive.

# Farewell

By Gay M. Phiri

## MAMA JACQUELINE

We thank you for the hard work and wish you well!

Mrs Jacqueline Chikwama joined the Examinations Council of Zambia on 13th December, 2010 as Council Secretary. During the 6 years of her Service to ECZ, she was a pillar that held institution together and provided selfless leadership. She held on to her values and made sure ECZ provided the required services to the nation. She always wore a smile even in stressful circumstances and was a mother, sister, friend, cousin and in-law to many. During the period of her service, ECZ flourished in many ways such as;



(Pictures: 1. Refurbished ECZ Main Building, 2. New Car Park at ECZ Headquarters, 3. State-of-the-art Lusaka Service Centre, 4. Recently Opened ECZ Kitwe Service Centre)



Mrs Chikwama accommodated and welcomed everyone who needed her attention. We cherish the time she spent with Examinations Council of Zambia.

We thank you for your hard work, we will really miss you!



# COUNCIL EMPLOYEES COMMEMORATE 2017 LABOUR DAY

## .....Management Awards Best Performers

By Mwansa Lesa



“Securing Decent Work, for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development” was the theme for the 2017 International Labour Day. ECZ staff joined the rest of the workers in celebrating this day at the Freedom Statue in Lusaka, Zambia. The day also known as “May Day or Workers Day” was graced by the Republican President Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu.

In his address, the president said the Patriotic Front Government attaches great importance to the promotion and realisation of decent work without which, no sustainable socio-economic development can take place. He said protection of workers’ rights is critical to securing decent work. “Government will ensure that laws safeguarding workers’ and employers’ rights in the workplace are fully enforced by conducting consistent labour inspections” he said.

The president also called upon all employers to ensure that efforts are made to increase on productivity as a way of uplifting the living standards of the people, higher profitability for the enterprise, improved economic growth for the nation, better conditions of service for the workers, better services for the

clients including long term competitiveness for the nation. “let us continue to pray for the preservation of these positive attributes and contributions of all Zambians for it is by working together, respecting one another’s ideas values and putting the interest of our nation first, that we will achieve even greater success” he said.

Institutions from both public and private sectors also used the day to share challenges they may have faced with their employees during the execution of their duties.

An institutions life lies in its workforce and not any other work force but one that is highly motivated. This increases productivity and also helps in staff retention. It is for this reason that the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) Management acknowledged and awarded best performers for the year 2017. The Labour Day awards ceremony was held at the ECZ Headquarters in Lusaka on 14th June 2017. A total of eight (8) employees were awarded from four categories (Long Service Employee, Most Hardworking Employee, Most Improved Employee and Most Innovative Employee). The benchmarks to these awards were the corporate values

by which the ECZ operates which include: Integrity, Competence, Teamwork, Efficiency, Confidentiality, Accountability, Innovation and Transparency.

The awards were as follows: under category of Long Service Employee: Mr Davis Siampazanga and Mr Joel Lungu were awarded. The Most Hard Working Employee awards went to Mrs Honester Kabanda and Mrs Tabene K. Muzumara. Mr Shakazo Mzyece and Mrs Edith E. K. Talimi got the Most Improved Employee awards while Mr Michael Munanku and Mr Mweemba Milimo were awarded the Most Innovative employees for 2017. Each awarded employee went away with a management gift and a certificate from the Zambia Federation of Employers (ZFE).

Award Recipients (from left to right): Mr Davis Siampazanga, Mr Shakazo Mzyece, Mrs Honester Kabanda, Mr Milimo Mweemba, Mrs Edith E. K. Talimi and Mr Joel Lungu.

Congratulations to the best performers for 2017.



## "I Started Marking in 1976"...

### **Austine G. Chibesakunda**

By Nicolas Nkhuwa



**“I completed my Bachelor of Science in Education at the University of Zambia (UNZA) in March 1974 and spent three months in National Service in Solwezi District of North-western province then took up teaching in June 1974 at Butondo Secondary School.”**

**Mr Chibesakunda was on his arrival at Butondo assigned to teach Ibibemba language, Civics, English and History to grades 8 to 12 pupils for 6 months.**

In January 1975, he was appointed Head of Science Department and managing fourteen expatriate teachers and laboratory technicians. In September 1976 the Ministry of Education Headquarters nominated him to train as marker (Biology) at Evelyn Hone College together with other trainees. Their tutors were from Cambridge University in United Kingdom.

In December 1976, he started marking at Evelyn Hone College. During this period, he was appointed as Deputy Chief Marker with one of his colleagues Mr Muuka (late) who was appointed as Chief Marker. The first group of Markers in my subject area were less than twenty drawn mainly from Lusaka and Copperbelt Provinces.

Mr Chibesakunda narrates, “I continued serving as Deputy Chief Marker for a period of 10 years until when Mr Muuka passed on in 1986 that (MHSRIP) is when I was appointed to take over as Chief Marker with Mr Haambokoma as Deputy. I have been involved in setting of examination for over thirty years. In 1984 when I was promoted to the position of Headmaster at David Kaunda

Technical School, by then the school was only offering pure sciences. I appreciated the critical role of science in National Development. In 1984 I was promoted as Science inspector. This is the time I found the Ministry of Education had sent a circular to all schools to encourage them to drop pure sciences if their laboratories were ill equipped or poorly stocked. I took this issue as my personal challenge to promote science education and quickly reversed this decision by the Ministry of Education. I instructed all schools to take up practical science. This policy encouraged me to continue marking in order for me to keep track of any reversal to the past system of avoiding practical work in science. This has over the years made science the in-thing in almost all schools no matter how poor their laboratories are.”

He says, some people continued to advocate for the removal of practicals in science but has now been abandoned. In 1998 when he became Deputy Permanent Secretary, he continued marking even when there was so much pressure of office work at the Headquarters. He managed to convince his superiors that he needed to keep close touch with examinations for easy monitoring of the standards being set in the schools.

“I retired from the civil service in August 2003 and later joined the University of Zambia as a Science Education Biology Lecturer.” For him this meant continued marking of Examinations for Grade 12 and keeping himself informed with the changing syllabus.

“Marking of examinations has become part

of me” he says. He says his main campaign has always been to have Biology practicals given a reputable status both locally and abroad.

Throughout his marking experience, he says he has enjoyed interacting with a wide range of teachers and educationalists across the country most of whom have been so instrumental even to the setting and marking of examinations. “We share the challenges faced by schools in science subjects” he says.

“I have also been exposed to training of new markers who have expressed happiness in the new knowledge they acquire.” Training teachers in the art of marking improves the way they teach and how they assess the pupils in their schools. This also improves the teacher’s preparation of techniques of all science lessons.

Mr Chibesakunda says his passion for science has made him continue to mark examinations. He was also instrumental as a Committee member of the School of Certificate Committee of the Examinations Council of Zambia. “I also contributed in sharpening the marking of School certificate and GCE Examinations.”

He sincerely thanks the Management of ECZ for continuing to call upon him to assist in managing and keeping the standards of School Certificate Examination marking. “Am also greatfull to all the team leaders involved in the marking of Examinations at Grade 12 level.

## 2018 Approved Scale of Examination Fees

Stakeholders, the general public and all prospective candidates are hereby informed that the following are the approved scale of Examination Fees for the 2018 Examinations:

S/N	LEVEL	AMOUNT
1	<b>GRADE 9 INTERNAL</b>	
	Administration fee	<b>K5.00 per candidate</b>
2	<b>GRADE 9 EXTERNAL</b>	
	Entry fee	<b>K70.00 per candidate</b>
	Subject fee	<b>K75.00 per subject</b>
3	<b>GRADE 12 INTERNAL</b>	
	Entry fee	<b>K25.00 per candidate</b>
	Subject fee	<b>K23.00 per subject</b>
4	<b>GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (GCE)</b>	
	Entry fee	<b>K75.00 per candidate</b>
	Subject fee	<b>K120.00 per subject</b>
5	<b>TEACHER EDUCATION</b>	
	Entry fee	<b>K60.00 per candidate</b>
	Subject fee	<b>K100.00 per subject</b>

The Closing date for registering candidates for the 2018 Examinations is Friday, 26th January 2018. Please note that there will be NO EXTENSIONS registration and submission of entries.

### “What does it mean to seek **First the kingdom of God**”

Jesus said to seek first the kingdom of God in His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:33). The verse's meaning is as direct as it sounds. We are to seek the things of God as a priority over the things of the world. Primarily, it means we are to seek the salvation that is inherent in the kingdom of God because it is of greater value than all the world's riches. Does this mean that we should neglect the reasonable and daily duties that help sustain our lives? Certainly not! But for the Christian, there should be a difference in attitude toward them. If we are taking care of God's business as a priority—seeking His salvation, living in obedience to Him, and sharing the good news of the kingdom with others—then He will take care of our business as He promised—and if that's the arrangement, where is worrying?

But how do we know if we're truly seeking

God's kingdom first? There are questions we can ask ourselves. “Where do I primarily spend my energies? Is all my time and money spent on goods and activities that will certainly perish, or in the services of God—the results of which live on for eternity?” Believers who have learned to truly put God first may then rest in this holy dynamic: “...and all these things will be given to you as well.”

God has promised to provide for His own, supplying every need (Philippians 4:19), but His idea of what we need is often different from ours, and His timing will only occasionally meet our expectations. For example, we may see our need as riches or advancement, but perhaps God knows that what truly we need is a time of poverty, loss or solitude. When this happens, we are in good company. God loved both Job and

Elijah, but He allowed Satan to absolutely pound Job (all under His watchful eye), and He let that evil woman, Jezebel, break the spirit of His own prophet Elijah (Job 1–2; 1 Kings 18–19). In both cases, God followed these trials with restoration and sustenance.

These “negative” aspects of the kingdom run counter to a heresy which is gaining ground around the world, the so-called “prosperity” gospel. A growing number of false teachers are gathering followers under the message “God wants you to be rich!” But that philosophy is not the counsel of the Bible—and it is certainly not the counsel of Matthew 6:33, which is not a formula for gaining wealth. It is a description of how God works. Jesus taught that our focus should be away from this world—its status and its lying allurements—and placed upon the things of God's kingdom.

Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org>



# Significance of having Breakfast

By Meldah M. Malungo

**M**any people in today's world have not understood the importance of having their meals at the right time, in recommended quantities and having the right nutritional value for them to enjoy a good and healthy life. In this article I want to talk about the importance of having breakfast. Now, what should be emphasized first is what you should start with since you are breaking the fast from a long sleep.

It is important to start your day with a whole-grain cereal such as whole grain bread, or even some corn flakes, some fresh fruits and you will find that your energy level stays high throughout the morning. Let whole grains, which are high in these carbohydrates form the core of the meal. Breakfast should provide plenty of complex carbohydrates that will help you to have lasting energy. Food is fuel and so much attention should be given to the combination of foods you eat at any meal and take care to have balance from different food groups. A good breakfast boosts your energy, increases your attention, span and heightens your sense of well-being. A good breakfast can also help both children and adults to be more efficient and more energetic. The steady influx of energy apparently stabilise glucose levels in the brain, improving mental function and attention span.

The quality of breakfast is important. One study in Sweden found that children who received adequate breakfast (e.g cereal, yogurt, sandwiches and milk) performed better in tests of creativity and addition as

well as physical exercise compared with those who ate inadequate breakfast (e.g sweet rolls and sweet drink ), Encyclopedia of Food Sciences and nutrition (2008).

Since breakfast is the first main meal of the day, it must be the heaviest, lunch moderate and supper lightest. A good breakfast should be balanced and should provide with carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals, proteins and fats. The carbohydrates should be from whole grain or unrefined cereals as they provide more fibre.

I believe that there is no such thing as a dull child or a dull brain; all there is are 'dull habits'. One such 'dull habit' which has been scientifically shown to affect children's performance is skipping breakfast. According to the Gale Encyclopedia of Mental Health (2008) simply skipping breakfast is associated with lower fluency and problem-solving ability, especially in individuals who are already slightly malnourished. Below is a list of some of the effects of skipping breakfast:

- Reduced concentration
- Poorer cognition
- Poor memory
- Increase in overall daily calorie intake by increasing the likelihood of eating more at lunch or relieving hunger with higher -fat snacks that may later cause children to be overweight or obese.
- Fatigue can arise because of not eating early in the day and skipping breakfast.

People are becoming to busy even for their own lives. Today, you will hear many say that they don't eat early in the morning. Indeed one great mistake that is. But can

you substitute breakfast with an energy drink? The effects of breakfast on cognitive performance can be attributed to the nutritional components of breakfast such as glucose or its precursors. The difference between obtaining glucose from a balanced breakfast meal and from an energy drink is shown in several studies. Young adults and children have found that glucose drinks improve memory and concentration. In one study, memory in people who ate breakfast correlated with their levels of blood glucose.

Another study showed that a glucose drink improved the memory of those who missed breakfast to the same level as those who had eaten breakfast. However, a glucose drink did not improve memory any further in those who had eaten breakfast. This finding suggests that beyond a certain threshold of blood glucose level, higher levels of intake confer no extra cognitive advantage. Interestingly, glucose did not improve all cognitive functions in subjects who missed breakfast and recall of a story was not improved with glucose. The findings suggest that, while glucose may explain some of the cognitive benefits of breakfast, it does not account for all of them.

It is important to note that energy drinks have high levels of energy therefore, may not be the best to take especially children as they have the calories above the recommended daily intake.

## References

1. Aileen Ludington, M.D et al (2002) Health Power: Health by Choice Not Chance. Review And Herald Publishing Association, Hagerstown: USA.
2. Encyclopedia of Food Sciences and Nutrition, 2nd Edition, 2003 (pages 662-663)
3. Gale Encyclopedia of Mental Health 2nd Edition 2008, page 785
4. www.shakeupyourwakeup.com, 17th July, 2017



# PHOTO



ECZ Director, Dr Michael M. Chilala gives a Speech at Performance Review Meeting for the 2016 School Examination at Goldern Peacock Hotel in Lusaka



ECZ Deputy Director, Mr William M. Kapambwe Welcome officers from various examining boards in the SADC Region to 2016 School Certificate Standards fixing and awards meeting



ECZ Deputy Director and Council Secretary shares the cake at the End of 2016 Examination Cycle Party



Officers during the ECZ budget meeting



Sharing Information with Clients at the 53rd Zambia International Trade Fair in Ndola



Network upgrade at the ECZ Main Offices

# FOCUS



Verification of Teacher Qualification on behalf of the Teaching Council of Zambia



ECZ Officers during the 53rd Zambia International Trade Fair in Ndola



ECZ Staff dancing at the End of 2016 Examination Cycle held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre



Participants During the Southern Africa Association for Educational Assessment - SAAEA Research Forum at Sandys Creation in Lusaka



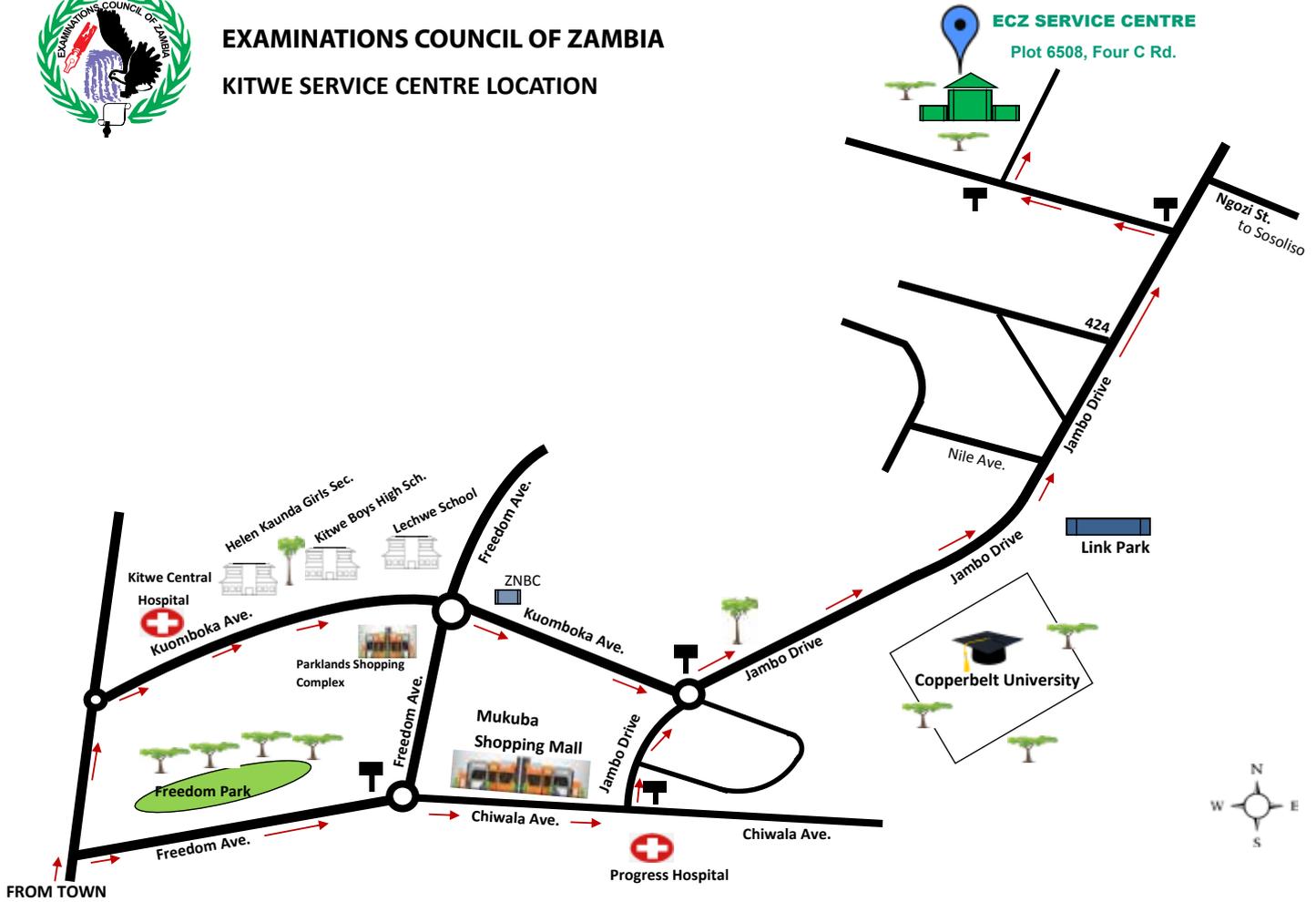
Professor Pinalo Chifwanakeni speaking at the ECZ Organised Consultative Meeting in Lusaka



Tender Opening at ECZ Head Office in Lusaka



**EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA**  
**KITWE SERVICE CENTRE LOCATION**



**Examinations Council of Zambia**

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/examsCouncilZambia](http://www.facebook.com/examsCouncilZambia)