



ECZ

IN PERSPECTIVE

News about the Examinations Council of Zambia

Issue No. 18

January to June 2021

ECZ COMPLETES DECENTRALISATION TO PROVINCES



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Examiners - Page 8

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The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) was established in 1983 by an Act of Parliament Number 15, Chapter 137 of the laws of Zambia with a mandate to set and conduct examinations and award certificates and diplomas to successful candidates.

VISION

An Educational Assessment Body of Excellence.

MISSION STATEMENT

To Efficiently and Innovatively Conduct Educational Assessments and Award Certificates of Comparable International Standards.

VALUES

Professionalism

Integrity

Accountability

Innovativeness

Team work

Produced by the Public Relations Unit of the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ)

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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our eighteenth (18th) edition of the "ECZ IN PERSPECTIVE" newsletter for the period January to June 2021. The publication continues to provide news on activities, programmes and events that concern you our valued clients and stakeholders.



As we continue to grapple with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in Zambia and its effect on the education sector, the ECZ has remained resilient and focused on its mandate by devising new ways and strategies to continue providing credible examinations. With the release of results for all the 2020 examinations this year, our commitment has been tried and tested. We cannot overlook the support we have received from our various stakeholders in achieving our milestones.

In this edition, we highlight some of the examination administration and management milestone achievements. These include but not limited to the service provision, capacity building through trainings, and research amid covid-19, commemoration and sensitization activities. We must also say that in the first half of the year, ECZ has innovated to add the Payment Gateway to its list of home-grown applications in conjunction with Infratel.

We continued to engage with various media houses for you to be informed of the various activities under ECZ wings in keeping an informed audience. Our work attracted the visit of the Head of State Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu who visited one of our Service Centres. His tour was a boost for us to continue carrying our work in a professional and ethical manner.

The finalization of the Strategic Plan 2021 to 2025 has been a remarkable achievement whose development was impacted by the emergence of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Picking from the previous Strategic Plan (2016-2020), ECZ has set itself as a key education partner in the development of our nation. The plan is set to be launched within the year 2021.

As nation and ECZ specifically, the death of our founding father of the Republic of Zambia – Dr Kenneth David Kaunda has left us many lessons. We will continue to remember his contribution to the education sector. The birth of ECZ in 1983 through an Act of Parliament Number 15 has played a significant role in shaping the assessment and reflecting the standards of education Zambia has. We shall embrace the Ubuntu spirit in our various endeavors knowing very well that this is what will bring the development we need.

We encourage you to continue subscribing to this publication. An online version is available on our website anytime for your easy reading.

Thank you for your support and enjoy reading this edition.

Nicolas Nkhuwa
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Dr Michael M. Chilala

Repositioning ECZ towards achieving its Vision “An Educational Assessment Body of Excellence”

Owing to Covid-19, we had to mark all the examination scripts for the 2020 examinations in the first quarter of 2021. This created a serious challenge with the apportionment of staff for the other timebound tasks for the 2021 examinations, which included, but were not limited to candidate registration, setting of examination question papers and verification of certificates for those that were aspiring for political positions in the 2021 elections.

To position ourselves better for the exercise of verifying certificates for politicians, we fast tracked the decentralization programme, to the extent that on 1st April 2021, we officially opened the last of the provincial offices in Kabwe, giving the ECZ physical presence in all the ten (10) provinces of Zambia. Though targeted at verification of certificates, the opening of provincial offices served to reduce the distances covered by members of the public to seek all ECZ services, be it replacement of certificates, records amendments, combination of statements of results and all other services. We had achieved the government directive of taking services closer to the people, creating employment and expanding our services through an ICT based service delivery. In addition to physical decentralization, we unveiled our system for Online Verification of Results (OVR).

We also completed our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, which aims at building on the gains the ECZ has made over the past years, with an intention of automating most of its services, including the introduction of Online examinations at primary school level. To back up the new strategic plan, ECZ re-organised its operational structure, reducing the staff establishment from 234 to 197 positions. We further reviewed the role profiles to reflect the new skills set requirements, as demanded by the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. On the examiners front, we went ahead to train about 600 new examiners to mark different subjects and papers, to ensure the quality of marking is enhanced and reliability of results is sustained.

While making such major strides in reorganizing ourselves, we had to make sure the candidates were registered and examinations were set and ready for administration, in accordance with the timetables. We also held meetings to review the conduct of the 2020 examinations, to draw lessons and identify actionable recommendations for future examinations. To improve candidate registration and the way we account for revenue earned from examination and other fees, a payment gateway was developed and unveiled. The system allows for online receipting and automated inclusion of candidates on the final examination registers, once they have payed examination fees.

With the unveiling of the ECZ 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, restructuring of the operational structure, training of about 600 new examiners, completion of the decentralization programme and the launch of the payment gateway, ECZ repositioned itself towards achievement of its Vision to be An Educational Assessment Body of Excellence.

We, hereby encourage all our partners and clients to work with us as we move to strengthen the operations at ECZ, while ensuring that our qualifications remain a preferred product among many others, in the world. We invite you to, once again, continue following us through our quarterly media briefings, newsletter publications, our website and Facebook page and other online platforms, to keep up-to-date with the developments in the ECZ. We wish you God's Blessings as you proceed to read the various articles in this publication.

ECZ Completes Decentralisation to Provinces

...As Mansa and Kabwe Service Centres are opened

By Nicolas Nkhuwa



Assistant Director Certification –Dr Kunda Kuku leads tour of Kabwe Service Centre

It started as a journey to convert the ECZ Woodlands Guest house to a Service Centre amidst the demand for quality service which was centralized in Lusaka only. The ECZ management led by Dr Micheal M. Chilala with the support from Council made a radical decision to transform the so much dilapidated guest house that was located in Lusaka's woodlands area to a Service Centre. The initial plan was to sale of this property, but the demand for quality service began to draw management to make strategic decisions for the use of various resources. In 2014, ECZ embarked on this journey and brought down the guest house to construct the first state-of-the-

art ECZ Service Centre. In October, 2014, the ECZ Woodlands Service Centre was officially opened by the then Minister of Education, Dr John Phiri.

Exactly two years later the ECZ opened another Service Centre in Kitwe's Riverside area as an extension of service delivery to the Copperbelt Province. This was planned to cater for the population in Copperbelt and North Western Province and some parts of Central Province. In 2018, ECZ cast its net wider and opened the Mpika Service Centre and in 2019, the Mongu Service was also opened. Later the Kasama Service Centres was opened respectively. For the People of Eastern and Southern Province, ECZ also opened centres in Chipata and Livingstone respectively. The service was further extended to Solwezi in North Western Province.

On 11th March 2021, the Mansa ECZ Service Centre was officially opened by the Permanent Secretary in charge of technical services, Dr Jobbicks Kalumba at a colourful ceremony.

The Kabwe Service Centre was also officially opened on 1st April 2021 to complete the ECZ's Provincial

decentralization plan.

The opening of the Service Centres is in line with government's agenda to take services closer to the public. ECZ has further embraced ICTs to ensure quality service delivery in all the centres. This has definitely contributed to the development of the country in as far as education services are concerned. The economic activities in the Provinces have been improved through the opening of these centres. ECZ has created employment as the officers working in these centres were employed from Provinces. Travelling time and distance has been drastically reduced. Simply put, services have now been brought to the door steps of our people.

ECZ remains grateful to the Ministry of General Education, the Council, Provincial Education Offices in the ten Provinces of Zambia, stakeholders, ECZ employees and everyone that participated in the successful journey of decentralization. Note all was smooth, but the almighty God guided us to reach where we are today.

We remain hopeful that we shall take services even closer to the district level once resources permit.





Verification of results at the Lusaka Boys Secondary School in Lusaka



ECZ Successfully Conducts Verification of Results Exercise for Political Aspiring Candidates

By Nicolas Nkhuwa

For the second time, ECZ conducted a successful verification of results exercise for political aspiring candidates vying for various political positions in the forth-coming General Election set for 12th August 2021. A similar exercise was carried out in 2016 in the run up to the General Election.

Through its network of service centres across the country at Provincial level, the ECZ received an overwhelming demand for authentication of results. This was for those that were standing at presidential, parliamentary and local government levels. The exercise which was being done under strict adherence to the COVID-19 prevention measures saw hundreds of individuals visit the Service Centres to access this verification service. ECZ also opened a temporal verification Centre at Lusaka Boys school to decongest the Lusaka Woodlands Service Centre in a bid to improve service delivery and meet service demand.

As stipulated in the constitution that candidates vying for political office are

required to poses as a minimum, a school certificate or its equivalent. The Electoral Commission of Zambia in receiving nominations from various political parties required verified results at this level. The ECZ was well prepared to undertake this task and worked tirelessly to deliver on this service.

During this exercise, the amazing and humbling gesture from the Head of State, His Excellency, Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu was when he visited the ECZ Service Centre in Woodlands on 30th March 2021 to verify his school certificate results. This was a sign of humility and leadership in ensuring that everyone obeyed the law on the school certificate requirement as stated in the constitution. The Head of State who was accompanied by Senior Government Officials and was upon arrival received and welcomed by the ECZ Management led by Dr. Michael M. Chilala.

The President was impressed with the record keeping by the ECZ and stated that individuals with forged results or certificates needed to be brought to book. President

Lungu was further taken for a tour around the Service Centre facility to appreciate the work that ECZ was doing and also interacted with some of the clients that had come to access various Council Services.

The overall exercise ensured a thorough check of each and every record to guarantee quality and credibility of the process and reliability on the qualifications issued by ECZ.

During this verification, ECZ also intercepted 42 fake qualifications. This was out of a total of over 36,000 verifications done.

The ECZ continues to be a strategic institution in providing the much sort after education services by providing assessments that are linked to the demands of local and international standards and will continue to ensure the credibility of the Zambian School qualification is upheld and promoted both locally and international. ECZ also continued to implement a mechanism for detecting and curbing any forgery cases. By working with relevant stakeholders, the scope for such mechanisms has been enhanced.

ECZ Develops Code of Ethics and Conduct



ECZ Council Members and Management pose for a photo after a successful Code of Ethics and Conduct Workshop at Sarova Hotel in Lusaka

In a bid to continue on a path of strengthening its operations, the ECZ has developed the code of ethics and conduct that provides guidelines to employee and stakeholders to uphold integrity and honesty as well as act in a professional manner when discharging Council duties. It also outlines the need for all ECZ employees to act responsibly and fairly bearing in mind needs of stakeholders.

From 14th to 16th June, 2021, ECZ held a code of ethics and conduct workshop in which the Council, Management and Staff were trained on corporate governance and developed the code in a collective manner that ensured awareness to the code by all employees involved.

With continued support from the Council, the development of the code was facilitated by Ambassador Mumba Kapumpa who engaged with staff lively to ensure the code was printed on employees' hearts for its successful implementation.



ECZ Employees during the Code of Ethics and Conduct Training Workshop at Mika Convention Centre

Over 600 Teachers Trained as Examiners

By Henry Mutati



Some teachers trained in Food and Nutrition



Some teachers trained in English language

In a bid to enhance assessment, the ECZ has undertaken training of teachers as examiners in various subjects. The training which was held from Monday, 3rd May 2021 and ended on Friday, 7th May 2021 saw over 600 teachers trained as examiners.

The training aimed at bringing a new set of marking skills as well as enhanced teaching and learning at school level among those trained as examiners under the examinations set and conducted by ECZ.

The training will result in timely release of Examination Results. Some of the subjects in which the training was undertaken included but not limited to Mathematics, English, Commerce, Religious Education, Chemistry, Physics, Home Management, Food & Nutrition, History, Fashion & Fabrics just to mention a few. The training took place at two venues; Angelina Tembo in Kabwe and Kabulonga Girls in Lusaka.

ECZ is grateful to all participants and the Ministry of General Education for the support towards this activity as it works to promote the Zambian school qualification locally and internationally.

2021 Africa Public Service Day Commemorated

By Nicolas Nkhuwa

On 23rd June 2021, ECZ joined the rest of the continent of Africa in commemorating the Africa Public Service Day –APSD held under the theme:

“Building the Africa We Want through embracing an ethical culture that underpins purpose driven leadership in the Context of a Crisis.”

Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) remains a strategic body in supporting and delivering education services to the Zambian people and beyond.

ECZ places value in the APSD by remaining focused on providing assessments of comparable international standards. To build the Africa we want, ECZ has localized its service provision by opening Service Centres in all the 10 Provinces of Zambia. These Centres are providing timely services to the locals thereby reducing travel time and cost. The people of Zambia are now able to channel resources they save from reduced traveling and distance to other busy facets of the economy and their life thereby bringing the much needed change and prosperity in the people at local level.

The Council has further gone to provide examinations in South Africa at a school called St Jeff College Primary School, thereby exporting a brand of the Zambian Education to that country. With such results, ECZ is positioning itself for a brand of an international qualification.

As an Assessment body, ECZ associates at regional, continental and global levels through the Educational Assessment bodies such as SAAEA, AEAA, and IAEA. This ensures that best practices are shared and exchanged to promote value and improve education standards overall.

The ECZ has continued to operate for more than 30 years in a manner that promote credible examinations through guidelines and working with various stakeholders to deal with some of the challenges such as exam leakages.

In the last 9 years, the ECZ has seen an implementation of systems that have brought an end to leakages. Stakeholders have been instrumental in this achievement thus far. Through its strategic plan 2016-2020, ECZ has scored in many areas

including innovations that have pushed ECZ's image positively and increased its visibility throughout the education sector and among stakeholders. We now have a separate GCE and Grade 9 External Examination running mid-year every year. The introduction of the accumulation of GCE Certificates for those with more than one certificate at this level has cheered many citizens. Not forgetting that verification of results is available at all our Service Centres.

The service charter has also seen a reduction in service time by providing services such as replacement of lost certificates within 15 working days instead of 9 months. Statements of results are replaced within 24 hours instead of 7 days or more. Results are published in a timely manner allowing for learner to have maximum teaching and learning time in class and for parents to plan for their children adequately after the release of results.

With this much development and exhibition of a focused leadership in the ECZ, the Council pledges continuity of quality service and remains open to ideas that will take the country to another level insofar as educational assessment is concerned. Together, this will build the Africa we want.



A client accesses services at the Mongu Service Centre

All Set for Conduct of 2021 Mid-Year Examinations

By Nicolas Nkhuwa

The mandate as enshrined in Act number 15 of 1983 which establishes the ECZ, the Council ensures that the conduct of examinations at various level are conducted in line with the guidelines for the administration and management of examinations in Zambia.

On an annual basis, the examinations cycle which begins with candidate registration moves to the verification of entries and development of papers. In brief, when all is set, the ECZ ensures question papers and other examination materials are printed and secured for the examinations to be conducted.

The ECZ has in record time prepared for the 2021 examinations at various levels. Even in the midst of challenging times brought by the Covid-19 pandemic, materials and all requisites have been secured. The timetables for the mid-year examinations have been published both on the ECZ

Website, newspapers and official ECZ social media platforms. The General Certificate of Education Examination (GCE) and Grade 9 External Examinations are scheduled to commence on 19th July 2021 and end on 30th July 2021 while the Grade 9 external will end on 27th July 2021.

In order to run a credible examination session, stakeholder meetings have been conducted to ensure security of examinations, adequate invigilation and smooth conduct of the examinations. The message to parents, learners and everyone involved in the examinations process to guard against malpractices has continued to be preached to all corners of the country.

ECZ will strengthen collaboration and response to all matters of examinations in 2021.

ECZ Women Celebrate their Day

The 2021 International women's day was commemorated on 8th March under the theme: "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world."

Women remain at the front line of the COVID-19 Pandemic together with their male counterparts as care givers.

The ECZ values its female employees and always goes an extra mile to make them happy.



ECZ Women pose for a photo

Messages on opening of Service Centres

Mubanga Emma
Thank you so much for bringing the services closer to us Kabwe pipo n central province at large

Namakao Liywali
We really appreciate this excellent development bringing the services closer to us kabwe people

Agnes Mumba-Wilkins
Keep up the good job ECZ, until we decentralize to district levels. So far, you are progressing in the right direction, and in these pandemic conditions, I guess you are also critically thinking about online platforms in the near future. Congrats!

Jarvis Chanda
Well done as it's cost effective and a reduction in time for queuing

Ng'onga Benjamin
We recommend you ECZ, this is really good news for us people of Luapula Province.

Mumbi Lupiya
Decentralization is cardinal in modern society, keep it up ECZ.

Beston Siame
ECZ you are a very Hard-working Institution you are Delivering According to what you Promised the people Decentralization Policy is Now on the Ground people are Now Able to see for Themselves , Secondly you have Eliminated Examination Malpractice in All The Examinations Levels Grade 7 , Grade 9 , Grade 12 , Grade 9 External And GCE Examinations This Time around we have No Examinations Leakages Well Done ECZ , you are an institution of integrity Keep it up 100%.

ECZ Holds Joint Media Briefing with Electoral Body

By Editorial Team



(L-R) ECZ Director, Dr Michael Chilala and Chief Electoral Officer Mr Patrick Nshindano during a Media briefing at Election House in Lusaka

Following the constitutional court ruling on the Grade 12 qualification clause, the Examinations Council of Zambia and the Electoral Commission of Zambia held a joint media briefing on 13th March 2021 in which the nation was updated on matters relating to the 12th August General Elections and the Grade 12 qualification. Examinations Council of Zambia represented by the Director, Dr Michael M. Chilala provided clarity on what constitutes a School Certificate and its equivalent.

The event was attended by various media institutions from electronic, print and those running online news platforms.

Following scanty information and understanding on the topical issue of the Grade 12 qualification that made countless headline and was being misinterpreted by some section of the stakeholders, such an event was inevitable.

As a going concern, ECZ through its Corporate Affairs Unit has continued to provide information and sensitization through other media engagements to bring light to this subject.

To help individuals vying for various political offices get the correct and precise interpretation of what constitutes a Grade 12 Certificate or Its Equivalent, messages are packaged for dissemination.

Continued collaboration between Examinations Council of Zambia and Electoral Commission of Zambia will be fostered and enhanced to ensure publicity of its various processes and procedures that affect the operations of both institutions.

CANDIDATES BEWARE!!!

INVOLVEMENT IN IRREGULAR ACTIVITIES CAN RUIN YOUR FUTURE

1. DO NOT tear any part of your question paper/ answer booklet
2. DO NOT take your question paper/answer booklet outside the exam room
3. DO NOT start writing before commencement time is officially announced
4. DO NOT continue to write after orders have been given for you to stop
5. DO NOT leave the exam room before submitting your script to the Invigilator
6. DO NOT steal, covet or misappropriate the scripts of other candidates
7. DO NOT substitute scripts during or after an exam
8. DO NOT seek or receive assistance from invigilators / supervisors, teachers or other persons when an exam is in progress.
9. DO NOT take with you a ruler or pen with additional writings
10. DO NOT write an examination outside the examination room at a different time from that allowed on the Time-Table
11. DO NOT forget to write your Name and Examination number on the Answer Booklet
12. NOTE THAT any assistance received can be detected at the marking centre and confirmed by handwriting experts
13. DO NOT pass notes for help, receive or give assistance or collude in any manner with other candidates or persons
14. DO NOT bring into an exam room any foreign material such as notes, textbooks, prepared materials or any unauthorised printed material
15. DO NOT bring into an exam room without prior authorisation, a blank piece of paper, the manual of a calculator, mathematical set covers with formulas printed inside or any other material which is intended to give you undue advantage
16. DO NOT bring into the exam room a PROGRAMMABLE calculator, pocket computers or MOBILE PHONE
17. NOTE THAT smuggled materials can be detected in your script even during marking.
18. DO NOT allow another person to write an exam for you

Examining Learners with Special Educational Needs

Accommodation & Access Arrangements

By Ruth Msoni

Standardized procedures and conditions in examination administration, management and processing exist for Learners with Special Educational Needs (LSEN) to ensure equity and quality assessment. These include an adapted Online Candidate Registration System, Accommodation and Access Arrangements and processing. The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) provides accommodation and access arrangements to allow learners with Special Educational Needs to write examinations with fewer difficulties.

The processes of accommodation and access arrangements go without changing the demands of any given examination. The process of accommodation and access arrangements allows LSEN to be examined using the same examination materials, but in a format that is user friendly (accessible) to the candidates. For example, an examination may accommodate a learner with visual impairment by providing a large-print or Braille question papers.

ECZ provides Access arrangements in different presentations as follows:

- Provision of modified Braille and large print examination question papers.
- 25 % extra time for all candidates with special educational needs in examinations.

Use of human aid in form of; –

- Reader – a person who takes readings for a candidate with SEN during examinations especially those with dyslexia.

- Scribe or Amanuensis – a person who writes responses on behalf of candidate with Special needs in examination such as candidates with dysgraphia.
- Prompter - a person who provides physical support to a candidate with SEN during examinations to ensure they stay focused.
- Transcribers.
- Tape Recording Assistant

However, administrators of access arrangement provisions need to be cautious to avoid unreasonable costs, timeframe, compromising the security and integrity of the examinations. The focus is to create a positive examination experience for all learners.

In view of this, to ensure credibility and fairness, ECZ will always require schools/centres to provide evidence of candidate's status before any access arrangements can be agreed. Schools are required to attach a medical report to the application letter for Access Arrangements as authentic proof of the need of the services required. The ECZ also conducts physical monitoring of Centres during the examinations to ensure the access and accommodation arrangements are valid.

In conclusion, the ECZ continues to ensure that examinations are set and conducted in line with set local and international standards to all categories of learners in order to inspire and provide the much needed education to the Zambian populations.



ECZ Participates at National Indaba on Education

By Editorial Team

On Friday, 30th April 2021, ECZ participated at the National Indaba on Education that was convened by the National Action for Quality Education in Zambia (NAQEZ). The aim of the indaba was to come up with recommendations to improve the quality of education in Zambia.

The indaba was also attended by other key players in the education sector such as the Teaching Council of Zambia, Zambia National Education Coalition among others. The meeting was paramount in addressing some of the challenges that affect both teachers and learners. The meeting made resolutions that would be presented to government as a way to improve the quality of education. Among the recommendations included:

- Strengthening school monitoring by school administrators and hold teachers accountable for the numbers of learners they help to acquire appropriate competencies.
- Setting up special education fund dedicated to recruitment of teachers.
- Setting up an empowerment fund for trained but not employed teachers to set up private schools
- Reducing the number of subjects taken by learners during the next curriculum review.
- Conducting an extensive audit of teacher by qualification and subject before a recruitment exercise.

The issue of automatic progression to Grade 8 for learners that can't even read or write was also discussed. ECZ presented on this matter in which it was stated that the Grade 7 Examination was a no-fail examination as a matter of policy. This meant that every child would be graded from division 1 to 4 depending on their performance and would progress to grade 8 as long as there was available space.

Multi Sectorial Approach Seals Leakages of Examination Question Papers

By Editorial Team



Stakeholders meet to discuss conduct of examinations

For a long time, the fight against examination malpractices has been thought to be for the ECZ alone.

In 2018, the country experienced one of the most challenging times in the conduct of examinations under the history of this country. Due to the widespread examination leakages experienced in 2018, the Ministry of General Education suspended the examinations for almost two weeks in order to investigate the sources of the examination leakages. A task force team was constituted and some of the examination materials were recalled from examination Centres. At the same time, fresh examination question papers were printed to replace the leaked papers in a bid to ensure credibility of examinations.

Due to the high premium placed on national examinations, the Government of Zambia through the Ministry of General Education and ECZ continues to promote the Zambian school qualification both locally and internationally to attain high levels of recognition.

Various stakeholders have come on board to combat examination leakages by offering various logistical support and expertise in the administration of examinations. Close monitoring and supervision has equally played a key role in realizing leakage free examinations. In terms of security of examination materials, there has been heightened security both in transit and at points of storage. Efforts from the men and women who work tirelessly to invigilate the examinations have also added to the success story.

Therefore, anything that threatens the integrity of these examinations needs combined efforts to deal with. Through these consented efforts, it is now visible that the multi sectorial approach in dealing with examination administration and management in Zambia is bearing desired fruits.

Highlights of the 2020 Grade 7, 9 & 12 Examinations Results

GRADE 7 COMPOSITE EXAMINATION

Candidature

The 2020 Grade 7 Composite Examination was written in the month of December between 21st and 24th December, later than it was written in 2019. The change in calendar was necessitated by the closure of schools for a specified period as a result of the covid-19 pandemic.

There were 467, 834 candidates who entered for the 2020 Grade 7 Composite Examination. Of these, 467, 642 were from the Zambian schools and 192 from St. Jeff College in Johannesburg, South Africa. Generally, candidature increased by 1.66 percent from 460, 174 in 2019. The number of boys who entered for the examination was 228, 333 (48.81%) while that of girls was 239, 501 (51.19%). Candidature by sex showed an increase by 0.97 percent for boys from 226, 129 and by 4.77 percent for girls from 234, 045 in 2019.

Candidature has been gradually increasing over the year due to the massive infrastructure development programme the Ministry of General Education has been undertaking, resulting in classroom space for more eligible children at this level of education.

Absenteeism

In terms of absenteeism from the examination, there was generally an increased marginally from 13.28 percent (61, 114 candidates) in 2019 to 13.76 percent (64, 389 candidates) in 2020. Of the 64, 389 candidates who were absent from the 2020 Grade 7 Composite Examination, 32, 826 (50.98%) were boys while 31, 563 (49.02%) were girls. The number of girls who were absent from the examination reduced from 51.05 percent in 2019 to 49.02 percent in 2020 while that of boys increased from 48.95 percent in 2019 to 50.98 percent in 2020.

General Performance

The Grade 7 Composite Examination scores are standardized so that they have a minimum score of 50 and a maximum of 150 for each learning area. The total score after standardization for the best six learning areas is 900.

Certificate classification is based on any best four out of six core subjects. To obtain Division 1, a candidate must obtain 460 standard

points and above in the best 4 subjects, excluding the aptitude tests (Special Paper I and Special Paper II). To obtain division 2 and 3 candidates must score between 422 and 459 standard points and 398 and 421 standard points respectively. For Division 4, the standard points are 397 and below. A learner may score very high in the six learning areas including the aptitude (Intelligence) tests but get a lower certification division as the scores in the two intelligence tests are excluded in certification.

The 2020 trend in the proportions of Certificate awards is similar to that of 2019. More candidates in Zambian schools the 2020 examination fell in the category of Division 4 at 38.65 percent, followed by Division 2 at 25.52 percent, Division 1 at 17.91 percent and Division 3 at 17.92 percent. It is remarkable that more than a third of the 2020 Grade 7 learners performed at the basic competence level which is not good enough for them to cope with further learning at higher levels of Grade 9 and Grade 12. It has been observed that this proportion at the basic competence level persist at Grade 9 level in the subsequent years. Surprisingly, the proportion at the Grade 7 level has persisted from 2017 to 2020. It is important that the MOGE undertakes intervention measures to reduce this proportion and increase the proportions of candidates in the divisions 1 and 2.

In relation to Performance, the 2020 examination recorded marginal decreases from 2019, in the proportions of candidates in divisions 1 and 4 by 0.58 and 0.20 percentage points respectively. Divisions 2 (0.29 %) and 3 (0.49) recorded increases in proportions. Regarding gender, the proportion of girls in the 2020 examination when compared to 2019, was higher in all divisions except division 4. Boys recorded a higher proportion in Division 4 at 39. 42 percent compared to girls at 37.91 percent.

JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATION

The examination was the first to be written following the reforms in the assessment schemes. The number of theory papers reduced from 47 to 31.

The reform in the assessment schemes has led to the efficient and effectiveness of

administration of the examination, which now requires only a total of 7 working days to write thereby improving the security of the examinations materials.

It is worth noting that during the 2020 Examination, Chinese Language was examined for the first time. This brings to two (French and Chinese) of the foreign languages being examined at this level. Notwithstanding English Language, which is the language of instruction.

In the same vein, St. Jeff College of South Africa presented candidates, for the first time during the 2020 Grade 9 Junior Secondary School Leaving Examinations.

From 7th to 15th December 2020, the Junior Secondary School Leaving Examination was conducted.

Candidature

A total of two hundred eight-four thousand seven hundred fifty-five (284,755) candidates entered the 2020 Grade 9 Examination. Of these, one hundred thirty-nine thousand seven hundred seventy-seven (139,777) were boys accounting for 49.09 percent while one hundred thirty-nine thousand five hundred twenty-two (144,978) were girls representing 50.91 percent. The total number of learners registering for Junior Secondary School Leaving (Grade 9 Internal) Examination increased by 2.43 percent as opposed to the previous year 2019 where the candidature decreased by 2.35 percent. It is also worth noting that the percentage increase for girls was much higher than that of boys by 2.97 percentage points.

Out of two hundred eight-four thousand seven hundred fifty-five (284,755) candidates who entered, two hundred fifty-four thousand eight hundred fifty-two (254,852) sat for the 2020 Examination, representing an increase of 2.74 percent from the 2019 Examination. There was an increase in the number of candidates registering and those that sat for the examinations in 2020. It is equally worthwhile noting that candidate absenteeism slightly dropped for the 2020 examination session compared to that of 2019.

Absenteeism

Absenteeism from public examinations has significant cost implications on both government to individual families who put

in a lot of resources in preparing for learners who register for examinations. Learners who fail to turn up for examinations after registering as candidates are a drain to the scarce national resources.

A marginal drop of 0.27 percent in absenteeism rate was observed from 2019 to 2020. This, however, was against an increase of 0.55 percent during the 2018 to 2019 examination session. A trends analysis over a period of 4 years revealed that absenteeism was around 11 percent. This remains relatively high in absolute terms with over 29,000 candidates being absent from examination.

Generally, absenteeism rate in the 2020 Junior Secondary School Leaving (Grade 9 Internal) Examination has shown a decrease with seven out of the ten provinces recording between 0.15 to 1.27 percentage point reductions. However, three provinces namely Eastern, Northwestern and Northern provinces recorded an increase in absenteeism.

General Performance

The scores for different paper components of the subjects are aggregated to create a composite score for each of the subject area.

The certificate awards classification for the Grade 9 Examinations are in three categories: namely; Certificate, Statement and Fail.

Certificate: A candidate who is awarded the Junior Secondary School Leaving Examination (JSSLE) Certificate must score a minimum of 40 percent in at least 6 subjects.

Statement: A candidate who obtains a statement must score a minimum of 40 percent in less than 6 subjects.

Fail: A candidate is considered to have failed if he/she has a score less than 40 percent in all the subjects.

The 2020 Grade 9 Examination recorded an improvement compared to 2019. The proportions of candidates obtaining Certificates increased from 46.14 percent in 2019 to 53.09 percent.

Of the 254, 852 candidates that sat the 2020 Junior Secondary School Leaving Examination (JSSLE) Certificate, 135,300 candidates (53.09%) obtained certificates. This represents an increase of 6.95 percentage points from 46.14 percent in 2019.

Gender wise, more boys (53.62%) obtained certificates than girls (52.59%). This represents an increase of 6.68 and 7.26 percentage points for boys and girls respectively from 2019. In terms of

Statements, 98,505 candidates representing 38.65% obtained statements. In comparison to 2019, the number of candidates that obtained statements in 2020 decreased by about 4.42 percentage points from 43.07 percent.

In terms of failure rate, 21, 047 candidates representing 8.26 percent failed the 2020 Examination. This however, represents a decrease of 2.53 percentage points from 2019. Gender wise, more boys (8.67%) failed the examination than girls (7.87%). This was the case in the 2019 examination.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

The School Certificate Examination was conducted from 14th to 30th December 2020.

Candidature

A total of 149,982 candidates registered for the 2020 School Certificate examination. This represents an increase of 9.08 percentage points from 137, 500 candidates who registered for the 2019 examination. Of the 149,982 registered candidates, 51.98 percent (77,955) were boys and 48.02 percent (72,027) were girls. Compared to 2019, the number of girls who registered in the 2020 examination increased by 11.21 percent while that of boys increased by 7.18.

In terms of numbers of candidates who sat the 2020 examination, 98.05 percent (147, 055) of the registered 149,982 candidates, sat the examination. The same proportion (98.05%) was recorded in 2019.

By sex, 76, 324 (97.91%) boys and 70, 731 (98.20%) girls sat the 2020 examination. When compared to 2019, the 2020 proportion of boys who sat the examination decreased by 0.11 percentage points whilst that of girls increased by the same proportion (0.11). The probable attribution being given to the several Girl Child programmes that have been implemented by the Ministry of General Education.

Absenteeism

Similar to the 2019 examination, absenteeism in the 2020 School Certificate examination was at 1.95 percent (2,927). Showing the non-effect of Covid conditions on the participation in examinations.

By sex, more boys (2.09% - 1,631) than girls (1.80% - 1,296) were absent from the examination. There is need to investigate why boys are absconding from examinations.

General Performance

The School Certificate Examination Ordinary Level Certificate awards are categorised into the following: School Certificate, General Certificate of Education and Fail.

- i. A School Certificate (SC) is awarded to a candidate who, at one sitting, and during the same examination; a. Passes in at least six subjects, including English Language, with credit in at least one of them; or b. Passes in five subjects, including English Language, with credit in at least two of them.
- ii. A candidate who obtains GRADE ONE TO EIGHT in at least one subject, but fails to meet the School Certificate requirements, is awarded a General Certificate of Education (GCE).
- iii. A candidate who scores Grade 9 in all subjects will have failed the examination.

Of the 147, 055 candidates who sat the 2020 examination, 94,010 representing 63.93 percent obtained School certificates. This represented a decrease of 1.39 percentage points from 2019. The decrease in performance can probably be attributed to the disruptions in teaching and learning as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The analysis of candidates who obtained School Certificates by sex showed that boys (64.00%) performed slightly better than girls (63.85%).

In comparison to 2019, boys and girls performance decreased by 1.32 and 1.46 percentage points respectively.

General Certificate of Education (GCE) – Internal Candidates

A candidate who obtains GRADE ONE TO EIGHT in at least one subject, but fails to meet the School Certificate requirements, is awarded a General Certificate of Education (GCE).

The proportion of candidates obtaining General Certificate of Education marginally increased by 0.97 percentage points from 32.37 percent in 2019 to 33.34 percent in 2020. This is an improvement as compared to 2019 where there was a 2.0 percentage point decrease.



PHOTO



ECZ Chairperson-Prof Frank Tailoka addressing ECZ employees during a staff meeting at ECZ Head Office in Lusaka



Assistant Directors during the code of ethics and conduct workshop at Sarova Hotel



Amb Mumba Kapumpa interacts with Senior Research Officer at the Code of ethics workshop



ECZ Director -Dr Michael M Chilala signs the book of condolences in respect of First Republican President Dr Kenneth Kaunda

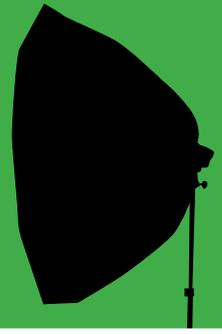


Printing of coordination scripts at ECZ HQ to kick start the marking exercise



Management during the 2021 Labour Day Awards Ceremony at the ECZ Head Offices in Lusaka

FOCUS



Republican President Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu being welcomed at the ECZ Service Centre in Lusaka



ECZ Deputy Director during the Mangement Retreat to review the ECZ organisational structure



Management members during the organsational structure review meeting at Chamba Valley Exotic Hotel



Some ECZ Officers pose for a photo after the successful opening of the ECZ Kabwe Service Centre



Staff pose for a photo after visiting the Luapula Provincial Education Office in preparation to open the Mansa Service Centre



ECZ employees participating in the Friday fitness workout at Headquarters in Lusaka

Former ECZ Director - **Newton Mutanekelwa** gives insight on examination administration



By Deputy Director - Mr. William M. Kapambwe

On 17th August, 2021, the Deputy Director Mr William M. Kapambwe interviewed the former and 1st ECZ Director, Mr Newton Mutanekelwa and mused over several assessment issues. The aim was to draw on the experiences of the former Director.

Mr Mutanekelwa was born in Livingstone on 17th November, 1950 in Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia. He obtained his Bachelors of Arts with Education from UNZA in 1974. He further obtained a Masters in Education specializing in Assessment and Evaluation from the University of Manchester. He taught at St. Raphael's for three years (1974 – 1977). In 1977 he was one of the first two Zambians to undergo training in Cambridge, UK to localize the School Certificate in Zambia.

The other person was the former Deputy Director Dr. Siamatowe. Both underwent a three months training in England in Professional Examination Administration. From 1978 to 1984, Mr Mutanekelwa was seconded as a teacher to the Examinations Section in charge of Grade 7 and 9 Examinations at the Ministry of Education Headquarters. The Grade 12 examination were being set and marked in the UK. From 1984 to 1985 he became the Deputy Chief Examinations Officer. In 1986 he served as the Acting Chief Examinations Officer. From 1987 to 2007 he served as the Director Examinations Council of Zambia, for twenty years.

The Transition from Cambridge to ECZ

In 1982 Mr Mutanekelwa underwent a course in Cambridge in Standards and Award procedures. From 1980 to 1989 Mr Mutanekelwa was going to the UK every year to go and do the grading of the Zambian School Certificate results. And every year Cambridge sent consultants to Zambia in August who trained Examiners in marking and the same examiners were invited in December to undertake marking. The markers used pencils which were later deleted so that the scripts appeared

unmarked. The results were recorded and then the scripts were packed and sent to the UK for remarking by Cambridge. The marks given in the UK were the ones used for grading. The marks awarded in Zambia were for comparison and training purposes to facilitate correlating the quality or levels that the Zambian markers were reaching. The transition ended after 10 years in 1988 when Cambridge ascertained that the Zambian markers and the UK markers were comparable. During the transition, the Zambian performance standards were compared with the world standards because Cambridge dealt with other countries' results too. So, when results came out, the students' performance could be either below or above in terms of the grade boundaries that were awarded. Performing to the international standard or above allowed Zambian students to enter international institutions of higher learning with ease.

Mr Mutanekelwa's Achievements at the ECZ

At the inception, the ECZ had no professional staff. The key employees were clerical staff whose main job was to send things to the Provinces. Mr Mutanekelwa set up to create the structure of the ECZ and recruit professional staff. Since Cambridge continued training examiners, every August the best performers were identified during training and recruited. Those are the people who became Heads of Department. The other achievement was to facilitate the international recognition of the ECZ, due to the steps they undertook. A tradition of recruiting quality officers was started and has been upheld.

The other achievement is that we undertook steps from inception to promote the recognition of the ECZ as a professional body. Right from the beginning we insisted on quality officers which is still a continued tradition in recruitment of officers at the ECZ. We also participated in international

conferences at sub-regional, continental and international levels such as the Southern African Association for Educational Assessment (SAAEA), Association of Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) and the International Association for Educational Assessment (IAEA)

Important Aspects of School Examinations

In response to the question on what he considers as very important in the course of implementing School Examinations, the former Director, Mr Mutanekelwa said that the whole essence of the examination is not to set traps for students to trick them. Questions that come in an examination are drawn from the materials that the students learnt when the teachers taught them. So, the Examiner's job is simply to find out how well the learning had taken place and the then quantify that and grade it as fail or A or C or whatever.

The other aspect is to observe fairness. Mr Mutanekelwa said it should be ensured that fairness is observed. Each student should get their correct results as evidenced by their performance. It is problematic to make teachers mark their own students' scripts. For example in the UK where there are different examining boards, teachers belonging to one body mark scripts for another examining body. When markers are made to mark scripts of students in their locality, problems crop up.

Challenges Encountered in the Administration of the Examinations Council

Mr. Mutanekelwa cited the unclear roles that guided the relationship between the Examinations Council of Zambia and the mother Ministry of Education. For example on the issue of leakages, if a paper is found in the school premises before the examination time, there are often insinuations that the paper has leaked from the Examinations Council of Zambia since that is where the

Setters are. One cannot respond to such allegations by beginning to argue.

Views on maintaining the Grade 7 Examination

Mr. Mutankelwa was of the view that since not all areas in Zambia have available classes for Grade 8 and 9, some learners end at Grade 7. Therefore, the need to continue to provide credentials at this level was important. While the certifying at Grade 7 should be maintained, cheaper ways of doing it need to be explored.

Views on School-Based Assessment

The former Director lauded the ECZ's moves to introduce School-Based Assessment in high stake examinations. He went further to call for a need to practice formative continuous assessment by teachers at the classroom level every day. He felt that learners should be exposed to regular assessment so as to monitor their progress. Reliability of School-Based Assessment can be enhanced if teachers administer it regularly. There is need to transform the thinking that currently exist that SBA is for ECZ. SBA should be considered as a part of teaching and learning to which true skill and learner competencies can be achieved.

Views on the Organisation of Marking Sessions

Mr Mutankelwa emphasized that residential marking is still very necessary because of the need to have supervision of what is taking place to avoid bad practices being brought in. He further said that markers should not publicize themselves that they are markers. If markers are not confined, other people would search for them.

Government Funding to the ECZ

The former Director indicated that there were challenges with funding in his time, although eventually funding would be provided to pay for printing and marking. The main challenge was sometimes delays in releasing money for printing. They depended solely on fees plus the government funding and the fees were not even enough since the expenses involved in conducting examinations work were not charged at an economic level.

Views on printing Examinations Locally

The former Director recollected that the Grade 7 and Grade 9 papers used to be printed locally. They were printed at Government Printers and later at the Zambia Printing Company.

However, he pointed out that the main challenge with local printing were unreliable dilapidated machinery which often broke down and the printers could not guarantee delivering on the agreed dates. Foreign printers guarantee timely delivery.

Views on the Examination of 'A' Levels

The former Director intimated that his team never thought of introducing 'A' levels because first of all the Ministry of Education needed to have students in the classes. It could not have made economic sense to offer 'A' levels to a few students as that would have demanded certain costs such as facilities, staff, centres and examiners. The

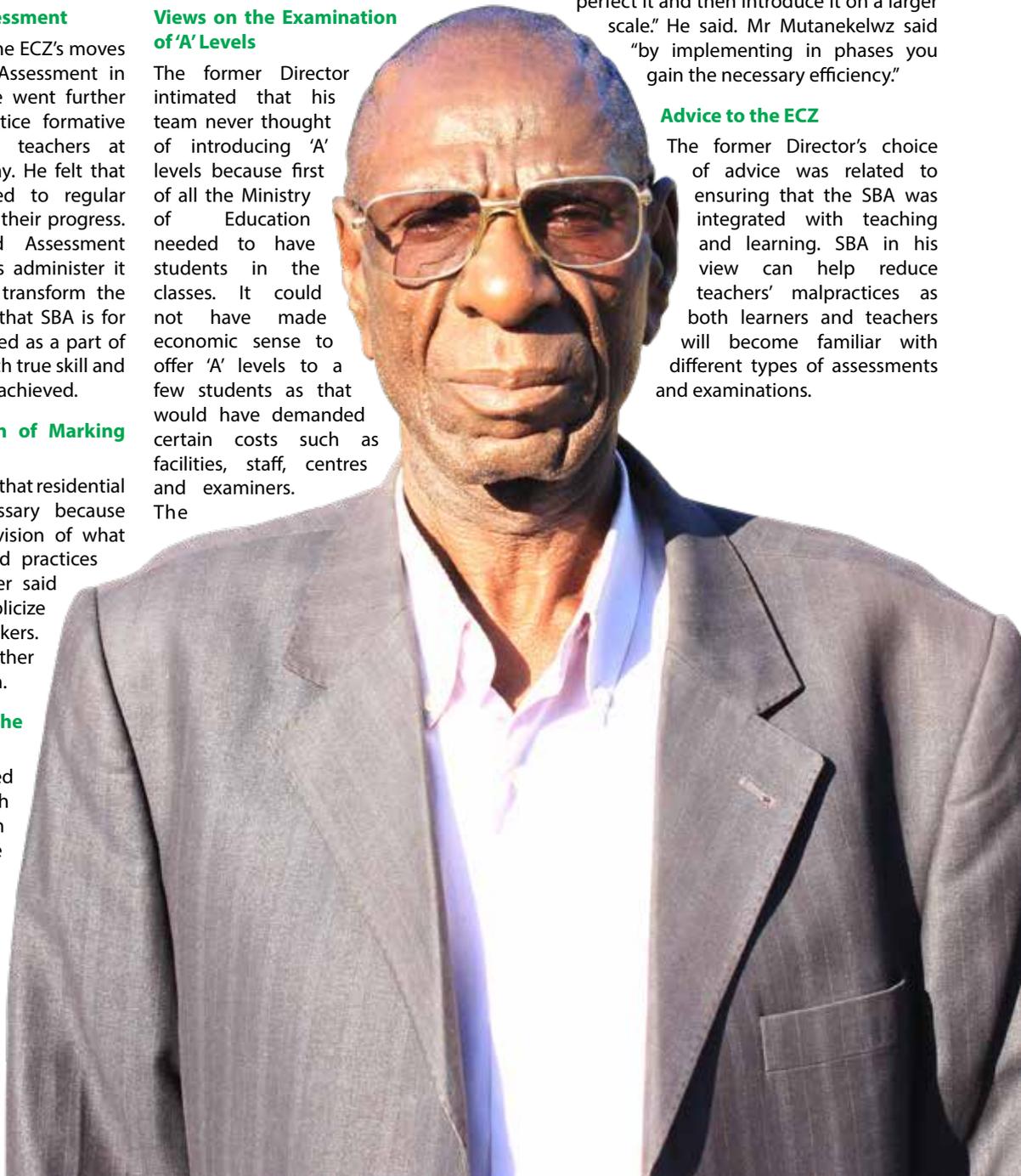
Ministry of Education also needed to provide a curriculum and syllabus and such are not under the jurisdiction of the ECZ.

Use of ICT in Examinations

The former Director indicated that the ECZ could not afford not to embrace the use of ICT in this era. His advice was, however, that such innovations should not be done on a large scale. It would better be done incrementally step by step. "You take an activity, implement it and see how it works on a smaller scale, do what is needed to perfect it and then introduce it on a larger scale." He said. Mr Mutankelwz said "by implementing in phases you gain the necessary efficiency."

Advice to the ECZ

The former Director's choice of advice was related to ensuring that the SBA was integrated with teaching and learning. SBA in his view can help reduce teachers' malpractices as both learners and teachers will become familiar with different types of assessments and examinations.



Mr Newton Mutankelwa

Reviews of Conduct of Examinations Key to

IMPROVING ASSESSMENTS

By Editorial Team

In order to learn lessons that would inform decision making for the future including the 2021 examinations, ECZ reviewed the conduct of the 2020 examinations. The review meeting started with an internal review meeting, which was followed by provincial review meetings in all 10 Provinces of Zambia.

Arising from the meetings, notable resolutions were made which included the increasing of the bandwidth so as to enhance efficiency of the Online service delivery by the ECZ; upgrade of the online candidate registration systems to allow for self-registration by candidates; schools and colleges to adhere to set deadlines for candidate registration and other activities without fail; bring on board other banks and mobile network operators for efficient use of the payment gateway for collection of fees; restrict the number of candidates for examination centres on the candidate registration system to eliminate crowding in

centres; Provinces, Districts and schools to enhance invigilation in schools to curb the cases of assistance that are on the increase; all players to adhere to the Guidelines for Administration and Management of Examinations in Zambia.

ECZ has already started to implement some of the resolution from these meetings. In addition to payments through VISA, Zanaco and Zamtel (Zamkwacha); the Council has signed agreements and added Atlasmara, Airtel Money and MTN Money to the Online Payment Gateway, reviewed the Guidelines for Administration and Management of Examinations in Zambia, upgraded the Online Candidate Registration System and continued to work with our Internet Service Providers to increase bandwidth and operate at an increased uptime.

Schools, examination centres and members of the public are cautioned from registering candidates at the last minute as ECZ it has

no intention of extending the candidate registration periods in future, once set. The message therefore is that registration for the 2022 candidate registration will be open in October 2021.

Candidates are encouraged to ensure registration for 2022 examinations is done before end of December, 2021. Further, the Examinations Council of Zambia informs stakeholder and the candidates that it does not process results for unregistered or illegal candidates. Candidates must follow all the instructions as failure to do so is tantamount to failing the examination.

The overall goal of the reviews has enhanced the interactions with stakeholders in that the earlier model of reviews was centralised but now has been decentralised where more people are involved in understanding and learning lessons from the conduct of examinations to improve administration and management.

Opening of Kabwe and Mansa Service Centres in Picture



1



2

1. ECZ staff pose for a photo at the Provincial Education Office in Mansa
2. Director ECZ Dr Michael Chilala shares notes with Luapula Provincial Education Officer Mr Langson Chibuye
3. Kitwe Service Centre Manager- Mr Boniface Lisuba (L) orienting new staff at the Mansa Service Centre
4. ECZ Public Relations Specialist- Mr Nicolas Nkhuwa after a radio programme in Mansa



4



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5. ECZ Director Dr Michael Chilala leads guests to officially open the Kabwe Service Centre
6. Some invited guests during the opening of the Kabwe Service Centre
7. Cultural Dance Troop performing at the opening Ceremony
8. Education stakeholders at the Kabwe Service Centre opening Ceremony

ECZ Joins the World on MILO Study

The ECZ was pleased to take part in the Monitoring the Impacts on Learning Outcomes (MILO) study with the support of UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS). Zambia is one of the African Countries that was chosen to be part of this important study that measured the long-term impact of COVID-19 on learning; evaluated the effectiveness of alternative learning methods used during school closures and set to determine ways to remediate the learning disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic for the future. Other African countries involved at Kenya, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Burundi.

As ECZ, we are proud to conduct this study on behalf of the Ministry of General Education, Government and the country at large, as the study will provide the much necessary information to guide decision making on education and learning, considering the COVID-19 pandemic.

The outcomes of the study will be shared once the data has been completely analyzed.



Uphold Professional Conduct

By Nicolas Nkhuwa

Examination Fraud is detrimental to the growth and development of any country. This vice has potential to derail national goals and efforts that different stakeholders put in to ensure Zambia attains vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal Number 4 on Education.

ETICO defines Examination fraud as “cheating or swindling” which may happen in the following levels of the examination process; design of exams, admission to exam, marking of results and admission of successful candidates to the next education level. It includes also the selling of exam questions to those sitting for examinations.

They say “teachers are the only ones that make other professions”. True to this statement, we have all passed through school and our teachers have helped us be what we are today. A teacher is trained to impart knowledge and skills in learners using different strategies, methods and tools. Because of the status and position that a teacher holds at any given point in life as they discharge their duties, they are considered as models by many in helping to shape the future of many children.

Just as any profession, teachers have a code of ethics and conduct. Ethics are simply the agreed norms that regulate behaviour and conduct. It is about determining what is good or bad. Teachers ensure the smooth delivery of education and hence are held in high esteem by society.

Since teachers are considered to be models that shape the future of many, why then should they involve themselves in Examination Fraud? The birth of institutions such as the Teaching Council of Zambia (TCZ) ensure the professional conduct of teachers. This will go a long way in promoting professionalism and better teaching. Teachers are now being licensed to practice



and this will require utmost commitment from every teacher.

The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) is deeply concerned with the number of teachers who involve themselves in examination fraud each time examination are conducted. A call upon the teaching profession to condemn such people and their acts working to dent the image and noble work of teaching profession.

A country's backbone is anchored on the quality of its education system. Any acts that threaten this should be dealt with harshly. It is therefore called upon all players involved in the education sector to uphold ethical conduct and standards.

Reference:

ETICO. Examination fraud. Accessed from <https://etico.iiep.unesco.org/en/examination-fraud>



Call ECZ Toll
Free Line
8383

Payment Gateway; A Game Changer



With the advent of the CORONA VIRUS Pandemic, business is being challenged in many areas. This includes payment for various products and services. For Examinations Council of Zambia, the dependence on candidate to make cash payments at the school for examination fees is being challenged.

With the payment Gateway launched by ECZ on 15th January 2021, Examination fees will be easily deposited and accounted for throughout the registration process. Candidates can now pay their examination fees from anywhere using services such as Mobile Money, Visa payment options instead of traditional banking systems.

The system brings among other benefits accountability and transparency in the overall candidate registration process. Over and above, the issuing of hardcopy receipts when one pays examination fees is now a thing of the past. This initiative is contributing towards a green and sustainable environment and the 'SMART Zambia' initiative.

This service is available on the Online Candidate Registration System -OCRS



Launch of Payment Gateway and Online Verification of Results (OVRS)

ECZ Engages Media to Sensitize Masses

By Editorial Team



ECZ Management during a Media Briefing at ECZ Head Office in Lusaka

The advent of social media has come with its own challenges. One of them is “Fake News” which has continued to be perpetuated by mostly untrained individuals operating without any code of ethics and conduct. The moral self of such individuals and their responsibility to society seems to be moving on a negative path.

Imagine just how people have made decisions based on this fake information. Some of the decisions cannot be reversed. Peddling of false information is not only a moral issue but can also be classified as more dangerous than a “suicide bomber.” This is because it disrupts people’s social-economic life and can even bring civil unrest.

ECZ through its Corporate Affairs Unit has continued to provide monitoring of various media platforms including social media in order to ensure information about the institution is factual and authentic. The ECZ holds the sharing of accurate and complete information dear to its corporate philosophy as it carries out its mandate. Hence, sensitization and basic information sharing is cardinal in meeting stakeholder needs.

On 5th January 2021, ECZ dispelled claims that it had not paid the examiners for the 2019 marking of scripts. Through a press statement, it was clarified that a total of 11,888 examiners had been paid their

script marking allowances directly into the preferred bank accounts between 7th and 28th December 2020.

Another statement was issued on 29th January 2021 in which the fake news was dispelled following an assertion that went viral on social media purporting that the 2020 Grade 7 and 9 Examination results were out and available on mobile platforms.

“The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) is concerned and wish to put it on record that the said announcement did not emanate from the Examinations Council of Zambia. Stakeholders and members of the public are advised to disregard the information circulating as the 2020 Examinations results are still being processed.”The statement read in part.

The statement also informed the public to wait for the announcement from the Ministry of General Education as the only institution mandated to release the results to the nation once the processing of results was completed.

On 27th February 2021, the ECZ undertook to inform the public and stakeholders on the extension of the registration of candidates for the 2021 examinations at various levels.

The holding of quarterly briefings has also brought about providing insight on what

the Examinations Council of Zambia is doing as per its mandate. On 20th April 2021, ECZ held its 1st quarter media briefing which highlighting among the many activities; the Decentralization of ECZ Operations; Verification of Results; 2021 Examinations Time Tables; Dispatch of 2019 Certificates and the 2021-2025 ECZ Strategic Plan.

Many stakeholders have continued to call and send emails to appreciate these efforts in information dissemination. The awareness created from this will go a long way in helping those seeking to do business with ECZ to be well informed.

Therefore, in the first half of this year, ECZ has worked with various media such as ZNBC, Hot media group, Daily Mail, Times of Zambia, Phoenix Radio, QTV, QFM, Loyola Television, Camnet Television, 5FM Radio, Christian Voice Radio, ABN Television, CBC Television among others.



Announcement of Results by MoGE Official

Minister of General Education, Hon. Dr Dennis M. Wanchinga, MP announced the 2020 Grade 7 and 9 Examination results on Friday, 12th February 2021 while the 2020 School Certificate Examination Results were announced on Friday, 26th February 2021.

Following the misleading announcements from some quarters of society purporting that the results had been released by the ECZ, the official and only way results are released to the public is through the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) by the Minister.

We therefore caution any members of the public to desist from making false announcements but wait for the Ministry to perform its function. The premature and false statements do not only have the potential to cause unnecessary anxiety to candidates and their parents but can disrupt the smooth processing of examination results.

Once again, ECZ is delighted to inform the public that the SMS Results notification system continue to be one of its innovation for giving quick access on notification of results immediately they are announced or released.



2021 EXAMINATION SESSION DATES

S/N	Name of Examination	Start Date	End Date
1	General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination	Friday, 16th July 2021	Friday, 30th July 2021
2	The Junior Secondary School External Examination (Grade 9 External.)	Friday, 16th July 2021	Tuesday, 27th July 2021
3	Grade 7 Composite Examination	Friday, 12th November 2021	Thursday, 18th November 2021
4	The Junior Secondary School Leaving Examination Internal (Grade 9 Internal.)	Friday, 26th November 2021	Tuesday, 7th December 2021
5	School Certificate Examination (Grade 12)	Tuesday, 9th November 2021	Thursday, 25th November 2021



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Our Ref:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS STATEMENT

KITWE MAN JAILED 2 YEARS FOR FORGERY OF SCHOOL CERTIFICATES

Lusaka, Friday, 19th March 2021. The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) is pleased with the conviction and sentencing of Misheck Chiyesu of Kitwe by the Lusaka Magistrate Court. Misheck Chiyesu aged 27, was sentenced to two (2) years imprisonment with hard labour for forgery of School Certificates.

Details are that on dates unknown but between October 2018 and January 2019, Chiyesu was involved in the production of School Certificates purporting to show that they were issued by the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) when in fact not. This is contrary to Section 342 and 347 of the Penal Code Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia. On one count, Chiyesu was found guilty of the offence of forgery and was sentenced to one (1) year imprisonment with hard labour while on the second count, he was found guilty of offence of forgery committed on dates unknown but in the month of April 2019 and was sentenced to one (1) year imprisonment with hard labour. Both sentences will run concurrently effective the date of conviction. The case was presided over by Magistrate, Honourable A. Walusiku who passed the Judgment on 25th January 2021.

The conviction and sentencing of Chiyesu will act as a deterrent to anyone with intentions to engage in similar acts.

We therefore, emphasize that ECZ is the only institution mandated by law to award certificates to deserving candidates after sitting for examinations conducted by the Council.

ECZ remains committed to its mandate and will ensure that certificates are obtained through the prescribed assessment and certification process that protects the Zambian school qualification and the integrity of the education system in Zambia. Those who work to defile this effort risk being prosecuted in accordance with the Law.

Issued by:

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ECZ takes Stride towards Improving Documentation and Information Services

By Milimo Mweemba

When you have it in your hands, you are half way done with problem solving or answering a question. The importance of access to timely and up to date information cannot be over emphasized.

In its quest to improve information service delivery services in 2015 ECZ had put up a strategic goal on improving Documentation and information services through ICT infrastructure development. In line with the strategic goal, ECZ in its pursuit to improve information services delivery ECZ participated at the DSPACE training workshop which was organized by the Ministry of General Education through Zambia Library Services. It was such a remarkable concurrence of events that the Ministry of General Education organized and invited ECZ for a training workshop in line with our plans. The activity was undertaken in line with the strategic goal to enhance documentation and reference resources

through ICT and infrastructure development annually.

The activity was well organized and in accordance to our objectives of enhancing documentation and reference resources through ICT infrastructure development for Information management for ECZ. The activity revolved around DSPACE integrated system (Institution Repository) and KOHA Library integrated system. DSPACE is an open source software that allows creation of Institutional repository systems. Through DSPACE an institution can create its own Digital Library customized to meet the needs of researchers. The platform allows downloading of e-books, reports, audio-video reports and many more digital objects that need to be preserved for references purposes. DSPACE can also be used as a knowledge management enabler, since all departments can codify and document

processes, requirement and procedures. This helps to save as an institution memory, since we can download all necessary documents that are historical in nature with respect to the history of the institution.

There are a number of organizations using DSPACE around the World. Here in Zambia we have University of Zambia and Charles Luanga Teacher's College to mention a few. When the sun shines all is clearly visible and darkness goes. So is a man who is well informed, to him solving a problem is a child's play because everything is clear. Love it, value it and you are half way done in finding a solution to your problem.

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NEW FACES



Mr Gift Songiso

He joined Examination Council of Zambia on 12th April 2021 as Administrative Officer - Mongu Service Centre. Before ECZ, he worked at Kambule Provincial STEM Secondary School in Mongu, Western Province as Guidance Teacher. His work experience stretches from 2013 when he joined the Teaching Profession. Mr Songiso holds a Bachelor of Arts with Education from Kwame Nkrumah University majoring in Linguistics and African Languages and a Diploma in Education from David Livingstone College of Education (DALICE).



Mr Baxter Mwansa

Joined ECZ as in the records officer on 22nd March, 2021. Mr Mwansa holds a Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology from the Information Communications University, a primary Teachers' Diploma from Mansa College of Education among other qualifications.



Ms Linda Pande

She joined ECZ as Administrative Officer for Kabwe Service Centre on 29th March 2021, she worked as a subject teacher of English language and Religious Education at Shitima Secondary School in Kabwe. Ms Pande has served under the Ministry of General Education for 10 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts with Education from Nkrumah University and an Advanced Diploma in Business Administration and Management Studies from ZIBSIP.



Mr Justine Chinyama

Mr Chinyama joined ECZ as an Administrative officer based at the Livingstone Service Center on 29th March 2021. Prior to joining the ECZ, he worked as a teacher of Business studies at Maranatha Adventist school in Livingstone. During his time at Maranatha, he was appointed to act in the positions of Senior teacher and Procurement officer respectively. He is a holder of a Diploma in Education from Makeni College of Education underwritten by The University of Zambia and currently pursuing a Bachelors' Degree in Business Administration – Human Resources (BBA – HRM) at Chalimbana University.



Mr Bonard Y. Kalubenyi

Joined ECZ on 19th January 2021 as Administrative Officer based at the Solwezi Service Centre. His work experience spans from 2009 where he has served as class teacher and the most recent as Acting Head Teacher prior to joining the ECZ. Mr Kalubenyi holds among other qualifications a Bachelors' Degree in Education Management from Gedion Robert University and he is currently pursuing Bachelors' of ICT with Education at the Information and Communications University



Mr Angel Chilufya Walima

Joined ECZ as Examinations Officer at the Mansa Service Centre. Prior to joining ECZ, he worked as a teacher at Ng'ona Secondary School in Kawambwa where he taught Science for 14 years. He holds a Secondary Teachers' Diploma in Science from National In-Service Teachers' College and also a Bachelor of Agriculture Science with Education from Information and Communication University.

ECZ PENSION TRUST SCHEME ELECTIONS

The Examinations Council of Zambia under its occupational scheme held elections to elect two employee representative trustees to sit on the board of the scheme trustees following the end of tenure of office for those that served on the board. The following were elected as new trustees:



Mr Julius Zulu

He was elected as Trustee on 26th February 2021



Ms Chola Shamatutu

She was elected as Trustee on 14th May 2021

GRADUATIONS



Prisca Mgogo

Studied Bachelor of Art with Education at University of Zambia (UNZA). Graduated with a Merit.



Michael Munanku

Studied Bachelor of Education in Educational Administration and Management at University of Lusaka (UNILUS).



Tabeni Muzumara

Studied Bachelor of Education in Educational Administration and Management at University of Lusaka (UNILUS).

STAFF TRANSFERS AND PROMOTIONS

In a bid to ensure effective management of work and output, increase productivity, capacity building and enhanced service delivery in line with the decentralization plan and the strategic plan for the period 2021-2025, ECZ Management transferred the following staff:



Mr Nicolas Nkhuwa

Promoted from Corporate Affairs Officer to Public Relations Specialist



Mr Michael Munsaki

Transferred from Lusaka Head Office where he served as Examinations Officer to Kabwe Service Centre as Senior Records officer in charge of the Service Centre.



Mr Makulo Musowe

Transferred for Lusaka Head Office where he served as Senior Examinations Officer to Solwezi Service Centre as Senior Records Officer in-charge of the Service Centre.



Mr Ian Tembo

Transferred from Mpika Service Centre where he served as Assistant Accountant to Lusaka Service Centre in the same capacity.



Mr Sepiso Namakando

Transferred from Mongu Service Centre where he served as Security Guard to Lusaka Headquarters in the same capacity.



Ms Enala Mawelela

Transferred from Mpika Service Centre where she served as Stenographer to Lusaka Service Centre in the same capacity



Prisca Mgogo

Transferred from Lusaka Service Centre where she served as Stenographer to Mansa Service Centre as Acting Records Officer in charge of the Service Centre.

Your Questions

ANSWERED

Question: I Lost my G12 results I want to find out if you charge for retrieving and if yes how much?

Ans: Dear client, there is no need to worry when you lose your results under any circumstance. The ECZ has a well belt record system that will ensure that your results are replaced. Therefore visit any of our service centre with a police report, an affidavit, and a letter from your school or a copy of the lost results if any. We will replace your results in accordance with our service charter. The cost is dependant on the level.

Question: I want to get my sister's Grade 12 statement of results for 2020 intake. How can I access it? Kindly help.

Ans: The ECZ has developed an online system used for accessing Statements of results. You can download your sisters statement from our e-statement portal via the link: <https://eservices.exams-council.org.zm/>

Question: Under southern why are you in Livingstone instead of Choma the Provincial capital and being central?

Ans: Dear client, thank you for getting in touch with us. We are committed to providing you with quality service all the time. The location of our service centre in Livingstone instead of Choma is a strategic position that caters for parts of western province. As you may be aware, Shang'ombo, Mwandia, Mulobezi are Districts under western but are geographically closer to Livingstone than Mongu in Western Province. Hence the location of our southern Province Office in Livingstone.

Question: Will the timetable for the Grade 12 Internal for 2021 be adjusted or it will the same?

Ans: With the effects of the pandemic on the entire country and on education, ECZ continues to engage with various stakeholders to ensure assessments are provided. We have relied on government's guidance and evaluated proposals of those in education. We are however still discussing the way forward on the conduct of examinations amid COVID-19. Nonetheless, we are prepared to run the examinations and examination timetables for examinations this year have been published. So far no indication or data show that timetables will be adjusted. Candidates are encouraged to continue preparing for examinations this year.

Question: Where should one collect the certificate from? I wrote my examinations in 1993.

Ans: Kindly be informed that certificates are sent to your school once printed. The collection is therefore done form the school. The school keeps the certificates for as long as they continue to exist. We encourage everyone who has not collected their certificate to do so.



BLOW THE WHISTLE AGAINST EXAM MALPRACTICE

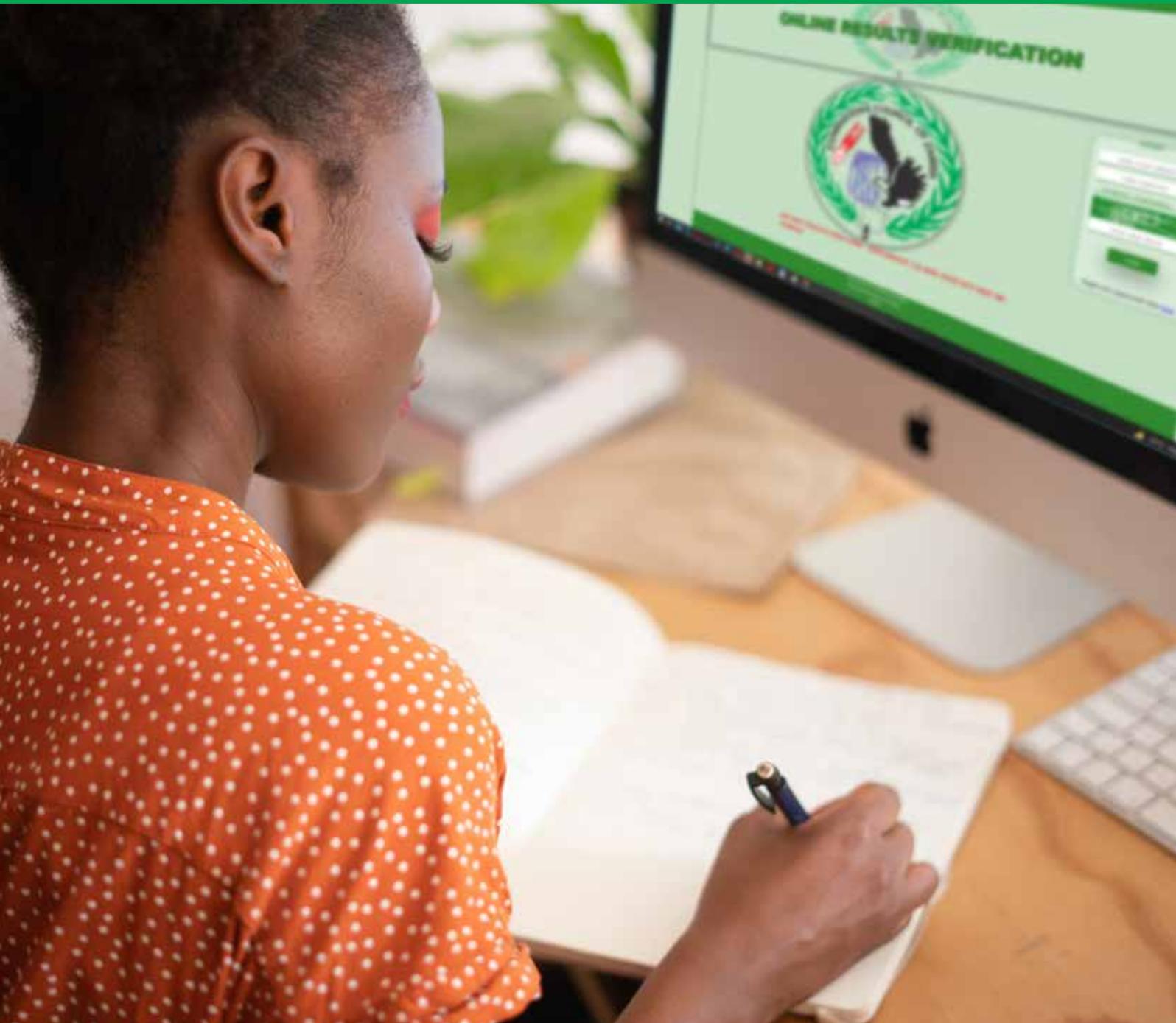
puzzle

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

Read the sentences below and find the underlined words in the puzzle. You will learn more about Examinations Council of Zambia.

1. The ECZ vision “An educational **assessment** body of excellence”
2. Candidate registration is done **online** through the Online Candidate Registration System
3. You can collect your **certificate** for the school once issued by the ECZ. The 2019 school certificates have been dispatched to all schools.
4. Examinations are supposed to be written from an ECZ approved **Centre**.
5. **Malpractice** is detrimental to society. Play your role to stamp it out by reporting any suspected case to ECZ through the toll free line 8383.
6. In order to build capacity in teachers, ECZ trained 636 teachers as **Examiners** to mark scripts for the school certificate and GCE examinations.
7. The **payment gateway** is a system used for candidates to pay examinations fees to ECZ. It encompasses use of VISA and mobile money such as Zamtel Kwacha, Airtel Money and MTN Money.
8. The **Kabwe** and **Mansa** Service centres were the final provincial centres opened by ECZ under its decentralization programme.

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