



EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

FOURTH QUARTER MEDIA BRIEFING ON ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF EXAMINATIONS

**STATEMENT BY
DR. MICHAEL M. CHILALA
ECZ – DIRECTOR**

Thursday, 10th February 2022

- **Assistant Directors Present;**
- **Senior Members of Staff Present;**
- **The Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

This is our 2021 fourth quarter media interaction. It is our pledge that we will hold briefings every quarter and our goal to share valuable information with you and through you to the public, concerning matters of administration and management of examinations.

Today, we want to brief the nation on the activities that were carried out from October to December, 2021 and preparations for 2022 examinations. The update will focus on 2022 candidate registration exercise, teacher education examination results, and our hosting of the annual conference for the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa and conditions.

1.0 Registration of Candidates for the 2022 Candidates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to bring to the attention of the public the following issues concerning registration of candidates for the 2022 examinations:

1.1 We wish to bring to the attention of all examination centres and the general public that the system has been opened for registration of candidates for the 2022 examinations. So far, we have registered the following numbers of candidates:

Name of Examination	Candidates
Grade 7 Composite Examination	63,430
Junior Secondary School Leaving Examination (G9)	33,329
Grade 9 External Examination	46,681
School Certificate Examination	24,102
General Certificate of Education Examination	54,028
Total	221,570

- 1.2 Considering the fact that the total number of registered candidates is less than one quarter of the average annual candidature of above one million candidates, we wish to remind the headteachers, candidates and parents, that they have about three weeks in which to register the rest of the candidates. Please note that the closing date for registration of candidates for the 2022 examinations is **28th February and there will be no extension of the registration period**, because the examination fees that led to extension in the past have been abolished under the Free Education Policy. We further wish to state that unregistered candidates will not be allowed to write the examination.
- 1.3 The Guidelines and Regulations for Registration of Candidates have been dispatched to all Provincial Education Offices, District Education Board Secretaries' Offices and Schools for ease of reference during the registration exercise. All stakeholders are encouraged to refer to the Guidelines and Regulations, concerning all matters related to the exercise, whenever they are not sure of what to do.
- 1.4 Following Government pronouncement of free education in Public and Grant Aided schools, the following is the guidance with regard to payment of examination fees;
- 1.4.1 The following shall not pay examination fees:
- (a) Candidates in Public Schools;
 - (b) Candidates in Grant Aided schools.

1.4.2 Candidates in private schools shall pay the following amounts as examination fees:

Name of Examination	Amount (K)
Grade 7 Composite Examination	60
Junior Secondary School Leaving Exam	160
School Certificate (G12) Examination	440

1.4.3 Candidates for the Grade 9 External and General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination are required to pay the following examination fees:

Name of Examination	Subject Fee (K)	Entry Fee (K)
Grade 9 External Examination	15	25
General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination	120	75

1.4.4 All examination fees must be paid through the Payment Gateway, as stated in the 2022 Guidelines and Regulations for Registration of Candidates. Please note that payment of examination fees in any other ways not stipulated in the Guidelines causes the registration process to remain incomplete. The ECZ shall not entertain any wrongly deposited fees and those in this situation will have to deal with this matter between themselves and the bank.

2.0 Teacher Education Examination Results

Following the release of the Teacher Education Examination results on Monday, 7th February 2022, I wish to inform the Colleges of Education and students that for the first time at this level, the e-Statement Portal on the ECZ Website effective Tuesday 15th February, 2022. Meanwhile students can access the results through the SMS Results Release System (SRRS) via the short code 8383.

3.0 Release of Grades 7, 9 and 12 Examination Results

I wish to announce that after the conduct of the examinations, marking of the examination scripts and processing of results were concluded, all the 2021 school examination results were released by 28th January, 2022, with the School Certificate examination results being the last. We wish to thank the Ministry of Education staff headquarters, provincial, district and school levels; Setters and Markers; all security wings; civil society and other partner organisations; development partners of the ministry; Teacher Unions; and the general Zambian public, for supporting the Council in the successful implementation of the 2021 examinations.

We have taken note of the complaints, especially about the conditions of markers and observed a number of areas for improvement in the entire examinations cycle. We will engage with the Ministry and other relevant stakeholders to ensure we attend to the emerging issues.

We wish to further inform the public that following the release of results, we are processing the script fees for the markers and they will be paid in due course, once we finish the process.

4.0 Hosting of AEAA Conference

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to inform all stakeholders in the education fraternity, researchers and the general public that on behalf of the Ministry of Education and the country at large, we will be hosting the 38th Annual Conference of Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA), from 21st to 26th August 2022. This will be the fourth time we shall host this conference, having hosted in 1990, 1999, 2014.

We shall be having an Executive Committee meeting for the AEAA at which we will present the proposed Theme and Sub-Themes for approval. Once that is done, we will publish the Call for Papers. We wish to encourage all professionals, researchers and practitioners in the education sector to prepare papers for presentation at the conference. We also will encourage all education and assessment experts to take advantage of the conference to share knowledge and experiences for the benefit of our country and the continent at large.

We also will be calling upon our esteemed partners for possible sponsorship of certain aspects of the conference. We are available to partner from different fronts, to ensure that your businesses are marketed, while the conference is also supported towards achievement of the intended objectives.

4.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, I wish to categorically state that unlike many other examining boards, the Examinations Council of Zambia has managed to maintain the examination calendar amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. This has happened because the government, all other stakeholders and the general Zambian public has made the right decisions at the right times.

We wish to express our profound gratitude to the Government, Ministry of Education at all levels, Setters and Markers, Teacher Unions and all other stakeholders too numerous to mention, for supporting our efforts in meeting the objectives in the execution of our mandate in 2021.

We are grateful to the ECZ Council members under the leadership of Prof. Frank Tailoka, for the professional way they have continued to provide oversight on the operations of the ECZ. Their support towards our innovations and interest in meeting the needs of the ECZ management, staff, setters and markers is much appreciated.

We pledge to continue improving and innovating, in line with strategic goals stated in our 2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan.

Thank you for listening and may God Bless us all