



## **It is our time!**

This is ECAMA's second newsletter and it is intended to keep our valued members abreast of key developments undertaken by or relevant to the Association in the second quarter and of the activities to be embarked on in the third quarter.

In a bid to increase its visibility and its relevance as an economic think tank, ECAMA resolved to establish a Research/Consultancy Unit in 2018. The establishment of the Research Unit is in line with its strategic goals that aim at building a proactive economic advisory institution that provides evidence based policy advocacy in the field of economics. The key role of the Research unit is to lead in conducting demand-driven and evidence-based research that would form the basis for policy advice to relevant stakeholders. At this stage, the Secretariat has started to respond to call for consultancy work that are falling within the area of research interest of the association. Since the Unit does not have adequate full time researchers, ECAMA is therefore reaching out to its membership willing to collaborate with the Association in undertaking consultancy or research work on various topical issues that will come forward.

## **Some of Key events and activities this quarter...**

### **2018/19 Post Budget Analysis**

Following presentation of the 2018/19 budget statement by the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development on 18th May 2018,

the Association organized a budget analysis workshop on 28th May 2018 at Sunbird Lilongwe Hotel, in Lilongwe.

The main objective of the workshop was to provide a forum for economists, private sector and all interested parties to openly analyse the budget with the aim of identifying the key issues from the proposed budget. In the end participants made their objective and informed opinion on the opportunities and risks embedded in the proposed budget.

There, it was agreed that while the economic environment is favourable for growth, several risks remain in the implementation of the budget and growth prospects. Participants noted that electricity power shortages, huge government borrowing, corruption and weather shocks to agricultural sector remain major risks in implementation of 2018/19 budget. Besides, members noted that private sector was ignored in the proposed budget and this would also have a bearing on the economy.

### **Consultancy Work**

Currently, ECAMA is working in collaboration with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Malawi to review the national budget in order to determine its level of support towards the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Malawi. This involves undertaking a review of the National Budgets from 2016/17 focusing on expenditures related to the SDGs and determining how the budget allocations have aligned and support SDGs implementation.



# THE ECAMA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April-June 2018

Email: [ecamamw@globemw.net](mailto:ecamamw@globemw.net)

This assignment is being done by the Secretariat and 2 members that have necessary expertise in this particular research area. Apart from raising resources for the association, it is also envisaged that such activities would help to raise profile of the association.

## Recruitment of interns

ECAMA has recruited 2 interns from Chancellor College, who have each been offered a 6 months contract. The objective is to provide the fresh graduates with a training ground on practical economic issues while at the same time helping the association to deal with staff shortages that affect operations of the Secretariat.

## Resuscitation of ECAMA Website

We have contracted a software engineer to rebuild ECAMA's website page through which we will easily engage with members of the association and make relevant eco-

## ...and next quarter activities

- In this period, ECAMA will also start to prepare for its prestigious Annual Economic Conference in Mangochi scheduled for mid-November, 2018.
- Draft proposals for various consultancy works

## Membership Subscription for 2018 is still open

The corporate membership categories and their annual fees are as follows:

Platinum Members      K 3,000,000

Gold Members            K1,000,000

Silver Members          K500,000

There are differences in benefits applicable to each category and such information can be provided upon request from the Secretariat.

Individual membership has currently no categories and the annual fee is K5,000 for students and K50,000 for everyone else. Efforts are underway to introduce some categorization so as to attract a wider membership base and also recognize differences in professional experience as is the case with other membership-based professional associations.

## Feedback...

For purposes of readability to most of its busy members, this bulletin is limited to two pages. You can send your feedback to [ecamamw@globemw.net](mailto:ecamamw@globemw.net)

You are also free to provide short articles on topical issues that may be briefly stated or mentioned in this quarterly bulletin.

This newsletter has been produced by the ECAMA Secretariat with voluntary technical support from one of its members. We would be grateful to hear of any other members who would like to offer technical support in relevant areas of their choice.