

# ECAMA NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2021 ISSUE

*The official monthly newsletter of the Economics Association of Malawi*

### YOUTHS SHOULD TAKE UP THEIR RIGHTFUL ROLE

Youth engagement has been identified as an important aspect in development and policy decision making. It is in this light that the 2021 University Students' Debates are organized, with support from the EU delegation to Malawi, in a quest to promote open and proactive debate and dialogue on economic issues as a way of empowering the youth and providing them with a voice to actively participate in policy decision making.

Speaking at the official launch of the 2021 university Students' Debates, Director of Public Finance Management Systems in the Ministry of Finance, Mrs. Monaosyile Mhango, encouraged the youth to take up their rightful role in influencing policy decision making.



Director of Public Finance Management Systems in the Ministry of Finance - Mrs Monaosyile Mhango

"Your participation and inputs on Public Finance Management topical issues are of great importance" said Mrs Mhango.

Students were urged to invest in themselves academically and conduct research on Public Finance Management (PFM) policies and share their knowledge on the strengths and weaknesses of the PFM.

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# HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE MONTH

## OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF UNIVERSITY

### STUDENTS' DEBATES

The official launch of the 2021 university students' debates, organized by ECAMA together with Oxfam in Malawi and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources with support from the European Union (EU) delegation to Malawi, took place in Blantyre at the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) on 10th September, 2021.

The event was graced by the Director of Public Finance Management System in the Ministry of Finance, Mrs. Monaosyile Mhango. Catholic University of Malawi (CUNIMA) battled it out with Blantyre International University (BIU) as the battle between universities in the preliminary rounds continues. In the debate said to be a "titanic battle" by the chief judge, BIU emerged as a winner.



Debaters from CUNIMA and BIU

Subsequent debates took place at Malawi Assemblies of God University (MAGU) between the host, MAGU and Pentecostal Life University (PLU) and Malawi Institute of Management (MIM) between Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and MIM. MAGU and LUANAR won the debates, respectively, completing the semi-final list. The universities proceeding to the semi-finals are;

- University of Malawi

- Blantyre International University
- Malawi Assemblies of God University
- Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources

## THE STATE PRESIDENT TO GRACE THE 2021 ANNUAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

Preparations for the 2021 Annual Economic Conference are progressing well and the State President, His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera will grace the event as Guest of Honor.

This year's conference is scheduled to take place at Sunbird Nkopola Lodge in Mangochi from 11th to 12th November, 2021 under the theme; **"Industrialization and Trade Development for Sustainable Economic Growth and Job Creation"**. The theme is in line with the second pillar of the Malawi Vision 2063 – Industrialization.

There are four sub-topics for the conference namely; Industry Prioritization analysis for Malawi, Agriculture Commercialization and Value addition, Building resilient industries amidst Covid-19 and Digitalization for economic growth and job creation. We are currently receiving submissions on papers to be presented at the conference.

Participation to the conference for individuals will attract a contribution fee of **K300,000.00** for members, **K380,000.00** for non-members and **K200,000.00** online. This excludes cost of accommodation.

## RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 2021

Through the Public Finance Management (PFM) project co-financed by the European Union Delegation to Malawi and Oxfam in Malawi, the consortium of ECAMA, LUANAR and Oxfam in Malawi are organizing a

research symposium on PFM related topics scheduled for 21st October, 2021 in Lilongwe. A call for papers has been made as part of the preparatory process. The theme for the symposium is **“Improved Policy Decision Making in PFM Enabled by Evidence-Based Research and Sharing of Best Practice Models”**.

The 2021 research symposium will be the first in the country discussing PFM. It will be organized as an academic-style conference targeted at researchers, policy analysts and students. This symposium will provide a platform for sharing research findings on best fit practices, alternative and viable policy options on PFM with the aim of influencing policy decision making in the country.

### **EFFECTIVENESS OF PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS IN MALAWI**

Oxfam in Malawi together with ECAMA and LUANAR analyzed quantitative data on losses and gains in procurement systems under the PFM project they are implementing as a consortium.

LUANAR organized a research workshop with the theme **“Effectiveness of Procurement Systems in Malawi”** to solicit qualitative views on procurement, finance and development funding from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and councils. Officials from MDAs, Public Procurement and Disposal Authority, Ministry of Economic Planning & Development as well as ECAMA attended this research workshop and conducted focus group discussions to capture qualitative views on this theme.

The evidence collected from the workshop will be used to support advocacy efforts aimed at improving effectiveness of procurement systems in particular, and PFM systems in general in Malawi.

### **PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE IN DISTRICT COUNCILS**

ECAMA participated in a capacity building workshop for district councils on PFM. This workshop was organized to discuss various policy issues related to PFM including budget execution and auditing in district councils. This was to enhance the understanding of district council officials on how PFM is manifested at local government level including key issues on financial management currently being experienced in local councils with a view to improve our performance.

ECAMA, as a member of the consortium implementing the project on Enhanced Evidence-based Research to Inform Policy Decision making in PFM together with Oxfam Malawi and the LUANAR with support from the EU delegation to Malawi, attended this workshop in pursuit of its role to help improve PFM practices in the country. This will be done through provision of policy advice that will encourage prudent budget execution and scrutiny.

### **REMINDER**

#### **2021 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION**

ECAMA would like to encourage its esteemed members to renew their membership and pay subscription fees for 2021.

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

Platinum Members	K3,000,000
Gold Members	K1,500,000
Silver Members	K500,000

Individual membership annual fees are at K50,000 per member and K5,000 each for students.

The membership form can be downloaded from the following link: <http://www.ecamamw.com/about-us/membership>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Activity	Venue
08/10/2021	ECAMA Executive Committee Meeting	Salima
14/10/2021	University Students' Debates: <b>Semi-finals</b>	Lilongwe
21/10/2021	Public Finance Management Research Symposium	Lilongwe
29/10/2021	University Students' Debates: <b>Finals</b>	Lilongwe
11/11/2021	2021 ECAMA Annual Economic Conference	Mangochi

## OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Any update on activities being undertaken by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Executive Committee is officially communicated through the following:



[www.ecamamw.com](http://www.ecamamw.com)



[facebook.com/ECAMA4](https://facebook.com/ECAMA4)



[twitter.com/ECAMA\\_official](https://twitter.com/ECAMA_official)



[linkedin.com/in/ecama2019/](https://linkedin.com/in/ecama2019/)

### FEEDBACK

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