



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR UNIVERSITIES IN MALAWI TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2022 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' DEBATES ON PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT (PFM)

MAY 2022

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Background

A consortium of ECAMA, Oxfam in Malawi and LUANAR is implementing a project called; **“Enhanced evidence-based research to inform policy decision making in PFM”**. This project falls under the **“Chuma cha Dziko Programme”** and is co-funded by the European Union and Oxfam. The implementation period is April 2020 – April 2023.

In light of the above, ECAMA in collaboration with the consortium members, is organizing debates on public finance management involving university students studying economics and/or development studies. These debates shall target both public and private universities and colleges in Malawi. The students’ debates aim to provide a unique opportunity to students to share perspectives as well as well-researched evidence on best fit practices on PFM policy and practice, which could be used to influence PFM policy decision making in the country.

Overall objective of the Debates

The overall objective is to provide a platform for university students to share knowledge and understanding of the public financial management and accountability system in Malawi including its strengths and weaknesses as perceived and alternative policy solutions for improving the systems.

Specific objectives

Specifically, the students’ debates aim to:

- promote PFM discourse amongst students in Malawi universities.
- raise public awareness on PFM systems as well as their weaknesses and strengths.
- provide policy alternatives to improve PFM systems in Malawi.
- engage the youth and encourage their participation in PFM policy and practice in the country.
- improve young people’s understanding of the national budget.
- build capacity of young people to engage on fiscal justice.

- promote policy discourse analysis skills among the youth through debating competitions among universities.
- develop research skills among the youth for their active participation in public policy discussion
- provide a voice for the university students to discuss issues of public finance management.

Objective of this call for expression of interest

The objective of this call for expression of interest is to invite interested universities and colleges which offer economics and/or development studies programs to participate in the debates.

Selection criteria

Any participating university must have met any of the following criteria.

- offers economics and/or development studies program.
- has a functional debate society in place.
- able to organize students regardless of whether the school calendar is in session or not.

Time frame

The debate competition will commence tentatively from June 2022.

Further details

Submissions are now invited from interested Universities and/or colleges which must include a cover letter indicating interest, details of the debate society clearly indicating the contact person i.e., lecturer responsible for the debate society and a copy of the current academic calendar for the institution.

Please submit, by **27th May 2022** to: **secretariat@ecamamw.com**

Acknowledgement of receipt of submissions will be sent by **3rd June 2022**.