



ECAMA NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2022 ISSUE

The official monthly newsletter of the Economics Association of Malawi

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HIGHLIGHTS

UPDATE ON THE PFM PROJECT

ECAMA, in collaboration with the consortium partners (Oxfam in Malawi and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources) organized two activities under the “Enhanced evidence-based research to inform policy decision making in Public Finance Management (PFM) project.

1. QUARTERLY MEETING OF PFM RESEARCH TEAMS

This meeting took place on 9th March 2022 at Mpatsa Lodge in Salima. The aim of this meeting was for the research teams (*financial administration, public debt, public revenue, and expenditure*) to come up with concept notes on research topics that were identified during the first quarterly meeting by the teams. The research studies seek to build robust evidence on various PFM issues of public interest to inform and facilitate decision making at the policy level. It is expected that these studies will be completed by mid-2022 and the results will be disseminated during the 2022 PFM Research Symposium.



Pic: Researchers pose for a group photo

2. POLICY BRIEF INTERFACE WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

The consortium organized an interface meeting with Members of Parliament

from the Parliamentary committee for Commissions, Statutory Corporations and State Enterprises on 10th March 2022 to disseminate the findings of a study on the **“Financial and Operating Performance of Selected State-owned Firms between 2014–2020 in Malawi”**.



Pic: A cross-section of participants during the meeting

The study was motivated by the fact that despite there being several State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in Malawi, the SOEs have not grown enough to support the country's development.

Evidence from the study shows that the financial and operational performance of the SOEs has been unstable over the study period. In addition, the study finds that the long-term stability of the SOEs is questionable as evident from negative free cash flows over the study period, which in turn has perpetuated SOEs reliance on subventions.

Based on these findings, the study proposes reforms for better governance of the SOEs, as well as strengthening the operational autonomy of the SOEs through independent boards. This interface with MPs was crucial because of their key role in enacting PFM laws, monitoring, and evaluation. The full paper can be accessed [here](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

2022 UNIMA ECONOMICS SYMPOSIUM

On 18th March 2022, ECAMA attended the University of Malawi (UNIMA) final year Economics Students Symposium (UES) which was held at Amaryllis Hotel Blantyre, under the theme: **“BUILDING A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY”**.



Pic: ECAMA Executive Director, Frank Chikuta, making a presentation during the Symposium

The symposium provided an opportunity for prospective economics graduates to interact with practitioners and industry players from both the public and private sector. Through this symposium, the prospective economics graduates showcased the skills they have acquired during their period of study. In addition, they also learnt the role they would be expected to play to contribute meaningfully to the field of economics and national development.

ECAMA provided financial support towards the symposium and made a presentation. The presentation focused on the work which the Association does. The students were informed of the importance of belonging to a professional association.

ECAMA is a strong believer in benefits of including the youth in all activities as it ensures continuity and a cross-fertilization of ideas.

A VISIT BY LILONGWE PRIVATE SCHOOL



Pic: Students and staff members from Lilongwe Private School pose for a photo with ECAMA Secretariat

On 24th March 2022, students from Lilongwe Private Schools visited ECAMA Secretariat offices to learn more about the Association. The Secretariat appreciated the visit as it is a sign that students are recognizing the work of ECAMA and will form a pool of future members.

“What is growth for if not to help ordinary people thrive?”

Winnie Byanyima

REMINDER

2022 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

ECAMA would like to encourage its esteemed members to renew their membership and pay subscription fees for 2022.

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

Membership category	Amount (MK)
Platinum	3,300,000.00
Gold	1,650,000.00
Silver	1,100,000.00
Bronze	550,000.00

The revised individual membership annual fees are at **K60,000** per member while annual fees for postgraduate students and undergraduate students remain at **K20,000** and **K5,000** each, respectively.

Please visit www.ecamamw.com to complete membership renewal or registration

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