



# THE ECAMA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

July to September 2019

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## INTRODUCTION

In this quarterly report we outline the activities carried out by ECAMA from July to September 2019, as well as the upcoming activities in the following quarter.

## THIRD JOINT NATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

ECAMA in collaboration with the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) organized the Third National Research Symposium from 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 at the Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC). The symposium was held under the theme: *“Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development – Envisioning Wealth for All”*.



Chief Secretary to the government, Mr Lloyd Muhara (Centre) graced the occasion.

The two-day symposium attracted over 100 participants from different organisations both from within and outside Malawi. The Chief

Secretary to the Government, Mr Lloyd Muhara presided over the official opening of the symposium. In his opening speech, he lauded ECAMA and its partners for a carefully chosen theme in view of the nation’s agenda to formulate the successor to Vision 2020. More than 20 papers were presented on the Malawian Economy focusing on sustainable economic development; human capital and social development; governance, peace and security and sustainable environment and agriculture. The aim of the symposium was to share well researched evidence that would inform the successor to Vision 2020.

## EU-ECAMA STUDENT DEBATE COMPETITION

ECAMA in collaboration with the EU Delegation to Malawi are organizing Economics Students’ Debate Competition for private and public universities and colleges across all regions in the country. The first session in a series of the EU-ECAMA Student Debates competition was launched on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 in Lilongwe between the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and the Malawi Assemblies of God University (MAGU). The debate was held on the topic; *“Should the Government Be More Active in Supporting the Private Sector?”*.

In his opening remarks, ECAMA president, Mr. Chikumbutso Kalilombe stressed that the ultimate objective of these debates is to encourage youth participation in shaping the development agenda of the country, by creating a forum for students to interact and share knowledge on how they can contribute with innovative approaches to the development of the country. He further explained that these debates provide the youth with an opportunity to identify various development challenges and opportunities for Malawi, and this ensures that the youth's voice is heard and probably taken into consideration by policy makers when formulating national policies.



Debate session in progress

The judges of the debate included: the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM), Dr. Elias Ngalande; the Manager in the Department of Economic Policy Research at RBM, Dr. Onelie Nkuna and an Economist at the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Ms. Mary Kutengule. The debaters were assessed based on organization of facts, clarity, research, reasoning and confidence. By the narrowest of margins, MAGU was declared a winner and therefore qualified for the semi-finals scheduled for November 2019 in Lilongwe.

## 2018/19 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

ECAMA was tasked by the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Coalition to undertake a budget and expenditure tracking of the 2018/19 national budget to establish the allocation and utilization of funds in relation to ECD. The exercise was carried out in August 2019. This kind of work is an indication of the trust that stakeholders have in ECAMA's ability and credibility of evidence-based research undertakings.

## ECAMA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

ECAMA held its Board of Trustees Meeting on 2nd September 2019 at Mount Soche Hotel in Blantyre. The ECAMA Board of Trustees includes: Dr. Dalitso Kabambe (Chairperson), the Governor of the RBM, Professor Winford Masanjala (Member); Professor of Economics at Chancellor College, Dr. Jacob Mazalale, Lecturer of Economics at Chancellor College (member); Justice Zione Ntaba (Member), Judge of the High Court of Malawi; Dr. Betty Chinyamunyamu (Member), Chief Executive Officer, NASFAM; Dr. Hannock Kumwenda (Member), Independent Consultant and Mr. Harold Jiya (Member), General Manager, National Bank of Malawi.



ECAMA Board of Trustees Meeting

The main agenda of the meeting was to take stock of the ECAMA's performance by assessing where the association is coming from and

where the association intends to go. On this, the Chairperson challenged the meeting that ECAMA as an independent economic think-tank needs to be vigilant and pro-active in coming up with policy suggestions and solutions that would help to build country's economy.

### 2019 ECAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2019 ECAMA Annual Conference (AEC) is scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at Nkopola Lodge in Mangochi. This year's annual conference will be held under the theme: **Population Growth: Challenges and Opportunities for Economic Development in Malawi.** The 2019 Annual Conference intends to leverage on the findings of the 2018 Population and Housing Census and begin to deliberate and suggest practical solutions of dealing with population growth issues in Malawi.

Meanwhile, registration for participation in the conference is now open, participation fee (excluding accommodation) for members is at K265,000.00 and K325,000.00 for non-members.

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2019

Please note that membership subscription for 2019 is still underway.

**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 fee is K5,000 for students and K50,000 for everyone else.**

You can download the membership form by following this link [https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5be8fc6d1307941d41051ae1/5be8fc6d130794c26f051bde\\_ECAMA%20MEMBERSHIP%20FORM.doc](https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5be8fc6d1307941d41051ae1/5be8fc6d130794c26f051bde_ECAMA%20MEMBERSHIP%20FORM.doc) and upon completing it, send it to [secretariat@ecamamw.com](mailto:secretariat@ecamamw.com) along with an attached proof of payment.

### Feedback...

You can send your feedback to [secretariat@ecamamw.com](mailto:secretariat@ecamamw.com)