



THE ECAMA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April to June 2021

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INTRODUCTION

This is ECAMA's newsletter for the second quarter of 2021 and its purpose is to brief esteemed members about the activities undertaken by the association in the quarter ending June 2021 and to inform them of the planned activities for the third quarter.

During the second quarter of 2021, ECAMA carried out a number of activities, including analysis and discussion of the 2021/22 FY budget which was presented by the Minister of Finance, Honorable Felix Mlusu on 28th May 2021. These activities allowed the organization to largely deliver on its mandate of evidence-based policy advocacy.

ACTIVITIES DONE BY ECAMA IN SECOND QUARTER OF 2021

The following are some of the major activities carried out in the second quarter of 2021:

- 1. Strengthening the secretariat.** Mr. Frank Chikuta was appointed ECAMA Executive Director on 1st May 2021. Recruitment of other staff members is underway.
- 2. Research team's capacity development workshop on Public Finance Management (PFM) issues.** This workshop was conducted from 31st March to 1st April 2021 in Salima. The objective of the workshop was to orient researchers on the objectives of the project; "*Enhanced evidence-based research to influence policy decision making on PFM*". In addition, research teams on data collection, data analysis and policy were formed. These research teams will be involved in analyzing PFM issues of public interest and generate evidence to be used in influencing policy decision making on PFM. The project is being implemented in collaboration with Oxfam in Malawi, and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and is co-funded by the European Union and Oxfam.
- 3. Public Debate.** ECAMA, in collaboration with Oxfam in Malawi and Integrity Platform held a public debate at Sunbird Lilongwe Hotel on 22nd April, 2021 on the topic: "*Promoting Transparency and Accountability in the Use of COVID-19 Funds Provided by International Financial Institutions (IFIs)*". The debate aimed at creating an opportunity for engagement with the public in monitoring the use of COVID-19 financial assistance from IFIs. It was part of "The People, Power and International Financial Institutions Project", funded by Open Society Foundations.
- 4. Budget analysis dinner meeting with the Minister of Finance.** A budget analysis dinner meeting was organized with the Minister of Finance, Honorable Felix Mlusu, ECAMA membership and key private sector players in the economy. The meeting took place on 4th June, 2021 at Ryalls Hotel in Blantyre. The aim of the interface meeting was to allow ECAMA to share its observations and findings of the

2021/22FY national budget analysis that it conducted, with the Honorable Minister of Finance and also to give an opportunity to the private sector to provide their reactions to the 2021/22FY budget.

- 5. Budget Analysis report dissemination meeting with Members of Parliament (MPs).** ECAMA in collaboration with Oxfam in Malawi and LUANAR organized a dinner engagement meeting with MPs on 7th June, 2021 at Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe. The aim of the meeting was to disseminate Budget Analysis of the 2021/22FY national budget with a focus on PFM findings. This study was done by Consultants Bertha Bangara Chikadza, PhD and Ms Sharon Kalua.

UPCOMING ECAMA EVENTS

This section outlines plans for the third quarter of 2021.

- 1. Research Symposium on PFM.** ECAMA is planning to hold a Research Symposium on PFM in August 2021. Details about the symposium will be communicated in due course.
- 2. Students' Debates.** Preparations are underway to hold students' debates. The focus will be on PFM and we shall target students in both public and private universities and/or colleges. Details about the debates will also be communicated in due course.
- 3. 2021 ECAMA Annual Economic Conference.** The 2021 Annual Conference is scheduled to take place from 11th to 12th

November 2021 at Nkopola Lodge in Mangochi. More details of the conference will be provided in due course.

ECAMA STRATEGIC PLAN

The ECAMA Secretariat, with the support and guidance from its Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, is currently developing a strategic plan which will ensure that the efforts and actions of the association are properly undertaken and guided.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2021

ECAMA would like 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 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>

Upon completing it, the form should be sent to secretariat@ecamamw.com along with an attached proof of payment.

Feedback...

Please send your feedback and any other comments to secretariat@ecamamw.com