



# Newsletter

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## IN THIS ISSUE

**EPC assessment name-change to EPSA**

**ECESWA emphasises importance of well administered examinations**

**Cambridge hosts annual partners' seminar in Eswatini**

**Over 13 Candidates prosecuted for presenting forged examination results**

**ECESWA reaches out to thousands of Candidates in malpractice advocacy campaigns**

**Empowering through generosity: ECESWA, ECOL donate to visually impaired learners**

**Staff placements**

**ECESWA successfully launches an e-registration system**

## Minister releases 2025 EPSA and JC examination results



**Minister releases 2025 EPSA and JC examination results.**

The Minister of Education and Training Hon. Owen Nxumalo officially released the 2025 Eswatini Primary School Assessment (EPSA) and Junior Certificate (JC) examination results. The two sets of results were released on separate dates with JC results being the first to be released on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025. EPSA results were released one week later on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025. The 2025 EPSA results were not released on the same day as the JC results due to their comprehensive nature. Candidates wrote the EPSA examination for the first time under the CBE learning approach in 2025. In line with the principles of CBE, results were presented differently with Centres for instance being given detailed reports such as Gender Performance Reports, Subject Performance Reports, and detailed Strand/Cognitive-Level Analysis Reports. Centres additionally received reports indicating Centre performance against the national performance.

In 2025, a total of 17,674 candidates registered for the Junior Certificate (JC) examination, representing a 4.74% increase compared to the 16,777 entries recorded in 2024. Of those registered, 17,365 candidates sat for the examination in 2025, while 16,513 did so in 2024. The number of absent candidates decreased from 356 in 2024 to 309 in 2025.

The national pass rate for 2025 stands at 82.07%, slightly lower than the 83.15% recorded in 2024. Merit passes increased by 0.63%, with 844 candidates attaining this level in 2025 compared to 699 in 2024. First-class passes, however, declined by 0.69%, with 1,630 candidates achieving this grade in 2025 compared to 1,665 in 2024. Second-class passes showed an improvement of 1.5%, rising from 8,742 in 2024 to 8,932 in 2025. Third-class passes also increased marginally by 0.48%, with 2,845 candidates in 2025 compared to 2,625 in 2024. The number of candidates who

# EPC assessment name - changes to EPSA

did not pass the JC examination rose from 2,782 in 2024 to 3,114 in 2025.

## Overview of EPSA results

A total of 32 452 candidates registered for the EPSA assessment, reflecting a 9.51% increase compared to the 29 635 entries recorded in 2024. Of those registered, 32 300 candidates were assessed in 2025, while 29 478 sat for the assessment in 2024. Absenteeism slightly decreased, with 152 absentees in 2025 compared to 157 in 2024.

The proportion of candidates achieving 'Sufficient' and above in 2025 stood at 87.30%, an improvement from the national pass rate of 83.15% in 2024. Within this group, 1 181 candidates attained an 'Excellent' rating, comprising 413 males and 768 females. The 'Very Good' category accounted for 4 522 candidates, with 1 860 males and 2 662 females. A total of 16 574 candidates achieved a 'Good' rating, almost evenly split between 8 254 males and 8 320 females.

The number of candidates attaining a 'Sufficient' rating was 5 923, including 3 423 males and 2 500 females. Meanwhile, 4 100 candidates were classified as 'Insufficient' with 2 714 males and 1 386 females falling into this category.

## EPC assessment name-change to EPSA

In line with the principles of CBE, the Grade 7 assessment which was previously known as Eswatini Primary Certificate (EPC) will now be known as the Eswatini Primary School Assessment (EPSA). Beginning with the 2025 examinations, Candidates now receive Statements of Achievement with the title EPSA instead of EPC.

ECESWA CEO Dr Mandlenkhosi Dlamini explained that the name-change was necessitated by the fact that under CBE, the Grade 7 assessments are used as diagnostic tests instead of high stakes examinations. This change aligns with the principles of the Competency-Based Education (CBE) curriculum, which also positions the Grade 7 assessment as a diagnostic tool rather than a pass-or-fail examination.

The main purpose of diagnostic assessment in education is to identify students' strengths, weaknesses, prior knowledge, and misconceptions to create a tailored learning roadmap, allowing teachers to plan effective, individualised lessons, target interventions precisely, and accelerate learning by meeting students where they are.

Stakeholders are advised that EPSA results will now be presented using a revised five-point performance descriptor system, replacing the previously communicated six-point indicator framework. Following thorough review, the 'Fair' descriptor has been removed from the original set of indicators as shown below.

## Ensuring integrity, readiness for 2025 examinations



ICT Teachers Workshop.

Every year, the Examinations Council of Eswatini (ECESWA) ensures that Centres are adequately equipped to handle the examinations. The 2025 examinations are no different as ECESWA held a number of meetings and workshops for Heads of Centre, Invigilators and Teachers. On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025, an ICT teachers' workshop was held at ECESWA to address critical issues surrounding examinations. The workshop was preceded by a meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025 mainly attended by Heads of Centre.

In the teachers workshop, Director of the Examination Administration and Results Processing Department (EARP) Mr Gifted Maziya, one of the lead facilitators for the day, reminded teachers of their responsibility administer the examination in full adherence to laid down regulations. He firstly placed emphasis on the careful preparation of ICT labs to ensure that during the examination the ground is level for all Candidates.

Teachers were also encouraged to carefully study the 2025/26 EGCSE/EPCSE Handbook for Centres which provides essential guidelines on handling examinations effectively. The workshop was highly interactive as teachers voiced their concerns and sought further guidance and clarification from ECESWA on pertinent issues regarding the ICT examination. One of the pressing concerns raised by teachers was the sharing of computers among Candidates. However, the EARP Director expressed reservations, stating that sharing gadgets can enable malpractice. He further hinted that if this issue is not rectified, ECESWA may have to advise the Ministry of Education and Training to cancel ICT examinations in schools that are ill-equipped to close schools earlier than scheduled. He explained that instead, ECESWA simply requests schools chosen as marking Centres to close earlier for marking to effectively take place in those schools.

# Role of ICT Teachers during examinations

## Role of ICT Teachers during examinations



Product manager Sciences addressing teachers during the ICT teachers' workshop.

The Director clarified the role of ICT teachers during the examination as follows:

- ICT teachers will be allowed in the examination room strictly for technical support, such as troubleshooting software or hardware issues. However, they are not permitted to invigilate or assist candidates with their examination tasks.
- Teachers are expected to report any technical challenges, including malfunctioning software or hardware.
- Teachers must also ensure that all computer settings are properly

## ECESWA emphasises importance of well administered examinations

### ...through nationwide invigilation workshops

Hundreds of Heads of Centre and Invigilators participated in the invigilation workshops hosted by ECESWA across Eswatini. The workshops are held annually before the examinations commence and they are a platform that is used to share pertinent information regarding ECESWA's expectations on handling the examination.

In 2025, the workshops were hosted as follows:

Date	Region	Venue
15 September 2025	Shiselweni	Nhlangano REO Hall, Hluti Evangelical Church, Christ the King Primary School
16 September 2025	Lubombo	Siteki REO Hall, Duze High School, Mhlume High School
17 September 2025	Hhohho	ECESWA Auditorium, Mhlatane High School, Herefords High School
18 September 2025	Manzini	Mfanyana Hall, Mankayane High School, Swazi National High School

done. It was observed that some Centres submit inaccurate recording times, with some records showing candidates writing as early as 03:45am. However, a teacher explained that power cuts often reset computer clocks, especially when devices are outdated which results in inaccurate recording times.

## Addressing Malpractice



The workshop also tackled the issue of malpractice, which remains a serious concern for ICT examinations. Teachers raised concerns that they may find themselves being accused of committing malpractice for coordinating examination, however, the Director assured attendees that ECESWA investigates all reported cases thoroughly, determining whether the malpractice was committed by a Candidate, involved collusion, or was facilitated by centre staff.

## Cambridge hosts annual partners' seminar in Eswatini



The annual Sub-Saharan Africa Partners' Seminar was successfully held at the Royal Villas Hotel from 16 - 17 July 2025. The Annual Cambridge Partners' Seminar is held annually to capacitate staff of examining boards in Sub-Saharan Africa that are accredited by Cambridge University Press and Assessment. This year's seminar was attended by delegates from Eswatini (ECESWA and Inspectors from the Ministry of Education and Training), Namibia, Botswana, Mauritius and Seychelles. The seminar gave all delegates to interact and experiences while drawing insights from Cambridge's experiences on the many dynamics of assessment practice. The seminar covered the following topics:

- Grading and the challenges
- Assessment objectives
- AI and assessment
- Item banks
- Moderation
- Using Large Language Models (LLMs) to create question papers.

## Successful prosecution of suspects found guilty of committing malpractice

The enactment of the Examinations Council of Eswatini Act of 2023 has played a crucial role in the successful prosecution of individuals involved in examination malpractice. For instance, in the Shiselweni region, by June 2025, two invigilators were fined either two years imprisonment or E8 000 each by the Nhlngano Magistrates Court for contravening Section 28 Act of the ECESWA Act.

In the Lubombo region, two other invigilators were fined E2 000 for similar misconduct. Additionally, one case of malpractice is pending in the Manzini region and the suspects are expected to soon appear in court. There are also two pending cases of examination results forgery in the Hhohho region. Another pending case of malpractice is that of a leakage of the contents of some examination papers in 2023. However, ECESWA is optimistic that all suspects involved in this case will soon have their day in court.

## Over 13 Candidates prosecuted for presenting forged examination results

... In September 2025, 13 Candidates were prosecuted in different courts in Eswatini for presenting forged EGCSE results to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. Local newspapers reported that the results were presented to the Scholarship Board under the Ministry. It was also established that more Candidates are yet to appear in court for presenting forged results. Each suspect was slapped with a fine of E2 000 after being found guilty of falsification of examination results.

## ECESWA staff shows up in school uniform to kick-off new academic year



ECESWA staff with the CEO Dr. Dlamini

To mark the beginning of the 2025 academic calendar, ECESWA staff members came to work dressed in school uniform. The Back-to-School initiative was met with enthusiasm and creativity as staff donned blazers, ties, tunics, and even school shoes, transforming the organisation into a vibrant scene reminiscent of a school. The gesture was not only a light-hearted way to celebrate the new academic year but also a symbolic nod to the organisation's commitment to education and learner support. The day was filled with laughter, photo opportunities, and a renewed sense of camaraderie among staff.

## ECESWA's annual review meetings with Heads of Centre

ECESWA held post examination review meetings with both primary and high school Heads of Centre to reflect on the 2024 examination series. In such meetings, ECESWA gets such much needed feedback from Heads of Centre on successes and challenges experienced in the previous examination series. Feedback helps all involved to make sustainable improvements for the following examination series.

Making his remarks in one of the meetings, CEO Dr Mandlenkosi Dlamini clarified that ECESWA neither has the power nor the mandate to close schools earlier than scheduled. He explained that instead, ECESWA simply requests schools chosen as marking Centres to close earlier for marking to effectively take place in those schools.

# ECESWA reaffirms commitment to ensuring all candidates access examinations



Head of centres

## ...ECESWA reaffirms commitment to ensuring all Candidates access examinations

Addressing Heads of Centre during post examination review meetings, the Examination Administration Manager Ms Gugu Gumbi reiterated ECESWA's commitment to providing access arrangements for all candidates. She reminded Heads of Centre that access arrangements are procedurally requested by them. Each application for an access arrangement is supposed to have a valid medical report indicating the candidate's special need. The medical report is valid for three (3) years. She reminded everyone that ECESWA, however, does not offer access arrangements for geography maps, as they are scaled to a specification, hence cannot be enlarged or added colour.

## ...Schools Manager encourages schools to adhere to proper closure protocols

The Schools Manager in the Ministry of Education and Training Mr Lungelo Nhlengetfwa attended the review meeting held on May 15, 2025 at the ECESWA Auditorium. He first expressed the ministry's appreciation to all Centres and ECESWA for the professional management

of the country's external examinations. He also reminisced on his old days as a Marker.

On another matter, he expressed the Ministry of Education and Training's dissatisfaction with the habit of schools closing earlier than the dates stipulated in the national calendar. He requested schools that have a pressing need to close earlier than the stipulated dates to first seek permission from Regional Education Offices to do so. Furthermore, he encouraged teachers who are engaged as Markers for the ECESWA examinations to ensure that they properly wind up their duties at school before proceeding to marking.

began in the Shiselweni region, specifically at Hlathikhulu Central High School and is currently at the Lubombo region. The organisation's plan for 2025 is to reach out to Candidates from selected schools throughout the country's four regions. The malpractice advocacy campaign is aimed at raising awareness among Candidates on the detrimental effects of malpractice. The following Centres were visited by ECESWA officers between June and July 2025:

Hlathikhulu Central High School, Christ , Hlathikhulu Central High School, Christ the King High School , Salem High School, Evelyn Baring High School,

### For primary schools, post examination review meetings were held as follows:

Date	Region	Venue
12 May 2025	Shiselweni	Shiselweni REO Hall
13 May 2025	Lubombo	Siteki REO Hall
14 May 2025	Manzini	Mfanyana Hall
15 May 2025	Hhohho	ECESWA Auditorium

For high school Heads of Centre, the post examination review meeting was held at the ECESWA offices on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

## ECESWA reaches out to thousands of Candidates in malpractice advocacy campaigns

In June 2025, the organisation embarked in a country-wide malpractice advocacy campaign targeting schools across various regions. Thousands of Candidates have already been impacted by the campaign which aims to promote ethical practice among Candidates in the examination and adherence to examination regulations. The malpractice advocacy campaign

Nyamane High School, Nsongweni High School, Jerusalem High School, Velebantfu High School, Esandleni High School, Hosea FEA High School, Hluti Central High School, Gilgal High School, Phonjwane High School, KaMkhweli High School, Duze High School, Siphofaneni High School, Siteki Nazarene High School, Siteki Central High School, Good Shepherd High School, Lusoti High School, Mhlume High School, KaSchiele High School and Dvokolwako High School.

# ECESWA impacts Candidates through Career Expos

## ECESWA impacts Candidates through Career Expos



Candidates attending career Expo2025

The Examinations Council of Eswatini participated in the Career Expos hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security across the country's four regions. ECESWA specifically participated at the following venues of the Expo: Shiselweni I Inkhundla, Nsukuwansuku Stadium, Mankayane Sports Ground, Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre, Mkhuzweni Technical Centre and Prince of Wales. During the Expos, ECESWA was given 15-minute slots to make a presentation on key examination issues and on malpractice. In all regions, Candidates participating in the Expo were engaging and some asked questions pertaining to examination issues. ECESWA also participated in another Career Expo hosted by the Waterford KaMhlaba United World Colleges. This Expo was attended by hundreds of learners from different schools across the country.

## Empowering through generosity: ECESWA, ECOL donate to visually impaired learners

### ...in 2025 Syndicate Games

In the 2025 Syndicate Games, ECESWA and Examinations Council of Lesotho (ECOL) staff did not just meet in Maseru, Lesotho for athletic activities. The Games this year were marked by a truly memorable Corporate Social Responsibility activity at St Bernadette Resource Centre for the visually impaired in Maseru. Through this activity, staff of the two examining bodies donated blankets that will be used by learners at the Resource Centre, offering much needed comfort in Maseru's notoriously freezing winter temperatures. On the day of the

donation, which was coincidentally the Resource Centre's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, ECESWA and ECOL staff spent the day with the learners. School staff expressed gratitude, noting the blankets will make a meaningful difference in the learners daily lives. Meanwhile, Day 1 of the 2025 Syndicates Games was packed with games such as aerobics and soccer. The Games were held on 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025.



St Bernadette Resource Centre for the visually impaired



ECESWA and ECOL at St Bernadette Resource Centre



Syndicate games Lesotho 2025

# Financial Sector Stakeholders Share Insights in Interactive Sessions

## Financial Sector Stakeholders Share Insights in Interactive Sessions

Different players in the financial services industry were invited to make presentations to ECESWA staff on their products and services. Presentations demystified many dynamics pertaining to investments, savings and managing finances, thus enabling ECESWA employees to make informed decisions.

During the presentations, ECESWA staff had the opportunity to engage in a dynamic question and answer session. These interactions allowed for deeper insights and clarification on key topics. In addition to the group discussions, one-on-one sessions were also held, providing a more personalised platform for participants to connect directly with financial experts and address specific concerns.

Financial services presentations were made as follows:

Standard Bank – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Nedbank - 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and First National Bank – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025



Nedbank representative making a presentation

## Benchmarking and Conferences

For benchmarking, good practice and maintaining high standards, ECESWA is a primary member of regional and international examinations and assessment bodies. At regional level, ECESWA is a member of the Southern Africa Association for Educational Assessment (SAAEA). ECESWA is also a member of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA). The third Association ECESWA is affiliated to is the International Association for Educational Assessment (IAEA) which is the international body responsible for assessment.

ECESWA recently participated in SAAEA, AEAA and IAEA activities as follows:

### 41<sup>st</sup> AEAA Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Eight (8) ECESWA staff members participated in the 41<sup>st</sup> AEAA Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The conference theme was “Transforming Educational Assessment towards quality learning and informed decision making.”

The following papers were presented in the Conference:

Paper Title	Main Author	Co-Author
“Unpacking Teachers’ Perspectives on Aligning High-stakes Examinations to Curriculum and Classroom Experiences at the School Leaving Qualification in Eswatini”	Dr. S.S. Hlandze	
“Towards Harmonisation: A Comparison of Assessment Standards for Indigenous Language Examinations in Selected Southern African Examination Boards”	Dr. J. Pato	Ms L Sibandze Ms S Sibiya
“Investigating Invigilators’ Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices for High Stakes Examinations in Eswatini”	Ms S. Sibiya	Mr S Masuku
“Utilisation of Grade 9 Checkpoint Assessment Data in Eswatini Secondary Schools”	Mrs N. Ntombela	Mrs M Nyoni

# Staff placement

## 50<sup>th</sup> International Association for Educational Assessment (IAEA) Conference, Livingstone, Zambia

Six ECESWA staff members attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual IAEA Conference from 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at Avani Hotel, Livingstone, Zambia, hosted by the Examinations Council of Zambia. The conference theme was “Assessment Agility: Navigating Rapid Educational Transformations.” The following papers were presented in the Conference

Paper Title	Main Author	Co-Author
“Exploring Educator Perceptions on Integrating Balanced and Inclusive Education within Competency Based Education in Eswatini”	Mr S Masuku	Mr P Nhlengetfwa
“Comparative Analysis of Pre-Moderated and Post-Moderated Scores of School Based Projects in Food and Nutrition in Eswatini”	Mrs M Nyoni	Mrs N Ntombela
“Analysing the cognitive demands of EGCSE Physical Science Question Papers Using the Semantic dimensions of the Legitimation Code Theory”	Ms V Matsebula	Mr L Nkambule
“Assessing the readiness for the EGCSE examination of the current Secondary completing class in Eswatini”	Mr S Masuku	Mr G Maziya Ms X Kunene

## The SAAEA Research Forum

The Research Manager Mr Sibusiso Masuku and Subject Officer Biology and Chemistry Ms Vuyisile Matsebula attended the SAAEA Research Forum’s meeting in Swakopmund Town, Namibia from 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Amongst other things, the Research Forum was aimed at refining quality assurance instruments based on piloting outcomes, reviewing the SAAEA Strategic Plan and validating the school-based assessment comparative study’s preliminary results.

## AEAA EXCO Meeting

The CEO Dr Mandlenkhosi Dlamini and Director Product Development Standards and Research (PDSR) Dr Sifiso Hlandze as SAAEA regional representatives (Secretariat and Chairperson, respectively) attended the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) EXCO meeting in Addis Ababa from 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to review the AEAA Charter and Strategic Plan.

## Standards and Award Meeting – Examinations Council Zambia

The Product Manager Sciences attended a Standard and Awards Meeting with the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) from 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## Staff placements:

### Security Officer – Sibusiso Bonginkhosi Magagula



Sibusiso Magagula joined ECESWA as a Security Officer on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025. He holds an LLB Degree from the University of Eswatini, Diploma in Policing obtained from the Police Academy and a

Diploma in Law from the University of Eswatini. Before joining ECESWA, he was a Legal Studies Instructor at the Police Academy. He has also worked as a criminal investigator (CID) in the police force. Magagula holds certificates in the following: Criminal Investigation, Cyber Security and Investigation of Traffic Cases and Accidents.

### Security Officer – Sifiso Mabila



Sifiso Mabila was appointed as a Security Officer on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025. He previously worked for Fidelity Security Services. He completed high school at Dwalile High School in 2015.

# ECESWA successfully launches an e-registration system

## ECESWA successfully launches an e-registration system

ECESWA has introduced a new e-registration system which will enable examination centres to register all Candidates digitally. The system first presented to Heads of Centre in workshops that were held country-wide in February 2025 and then launched on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The system itself came into effect at the start of the 2025 examination series and it will be used for the registration of Candidates who will sit the EPC, JC, EGCSE and EPCSE examinations. Before the introduction of an e-registration system, Candidate registration was conducted manually. Manual registrations subjected ECESWA staff and examination centres to loads of paperwork and spreadsheets which were used to register Candidates.



Software Engineer Lungelo Msibi

This system can do data cleaning on its own leaving all the data accurate. It also safeguards against duplication of data and Candidates IDs. doesn't accept duplicates of IDs or data. Despite the overall success, challenges that were initially encountered with this system included connectivity issues in remote areas, lag in data transmission, change management resistance from some schools, and a "Too Many Redirects" system error.

## Retirement Farewell function for four staff members

ECESWA hosted a retirement farewell function in honor of four staff members: Zibuse William Dlamini, Nathi Nxumalo, Thulani Malindzisa and Fortunate Khumalo. The function was held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at Sibebe Resort. Nathie joined ECESWA in 1985 and his was in the Finance

Department, William was Senior Printing Supervisor and he joined the organisation in 1989. Malindzisa was Security Officer, he joined the organisation in 1994. Fortunate joined ECESWA in 2006, she was an Accounts Clerk. William, Nathie and Malindzisa retired after reaching the statutory age while Fortunate took early retirement on medical grounds. Speaking during the function, ECESWA CEO Dr Mandlenkhosi Dlamini thanked the four staff members for diligently serving the organisation. He also encouraged them to maintain a positive post-retirement mindset as retiring does not mean the end of life. He described reaching the statutory retirement age as a great privilege. The CEO was full of praise for the quartet as he reminisced on how each one of them exuded a true customer-centric nature throughout their professional journey at ECESWA.

He recalled that before joining ECESWA as CEO, he was a Marker and that in his marking years, Nathie would never grow weary of explaining payment issues to him and other markers. The same goes for Fortunate, who according to the CEO, gave excellent customer service to Headteachers on examination fees payment issues. The CEO recalled having heart-warming exchanges with William who seemed to know every Examination Centre and Headteacher. Malindzisa too, had an excellent recollection of issues and treated each ECESWA client in a special manner. He encouraged current ECESWA staff to follow in the footsteps of the retired staff members.

Meanwhile, the Finance Director congratulated the four for making it to retirement. He cautioned current employees to learn to adapt to the many different situations at work and to embody the resilience of the proverbial cat. He cautioned that the workplace is filled with many challenges and situations that can threaten one's career and reminded everyone that even mistakes are part of the journey. He also urged ECESWA staff to rise above all challenges and to persevere through adversity. Meanwhile, Printing Supervisor Sonnyboy Mbhamali described William Dlamini as a perfectionist and that the EARP staff had learnt a lot from him.

## When the going gets tough

### ...Retiring ECESWA staff members share experiences of dedication and resilience

Speaking at the retirement farewell function, EARP Director Mr Gifted Maziya thanked the retirees, especially those who were in the EARP Department for being dedicated,

# Retirement farewell function for four staff members

self-disciplined and for having a strong work ethic. He recalled how each of the retired staff members treated him with respect, despite being older than him in age.

The EARP Director recalled how ECESWA encountered a big challenge in 2022, when the delivery of EGCSE examination papers was grossly delayed. Contrary to the different theories that emerged from the delay of the delivery of the consignment of question papers to ECESWA, he clarified that the hold-up was actually caused by a strike action by Durban port workers. The Director admitted that the delivery delays nearly embarrassed ECESWA. Luckily, examination papers were eventually delivered to ECESWA and drivers worked hard to ensure that they were timeously dispatched to Examination Centres.

The Director especially thanked William for his stellar effort in the despatch exercise and for motivating EARP staff to work under the clock to deliver question papers. Meanwhile, the Director advised current ECESWA staff to maintain good working relations and to avoid hurting each other in the workplace.

This is what the retirees had to say:

## Nathie Nxumalo



He worked under the leadership of three Finance Directors and all three had a strong work ethic. He urged the Board of Trustees to make constant follow-ups on how retired staff are paid and to ensure a smooth transition to the post-retirement life. He thanked his colleagues for being supportive when he was diagnosed with COVID-19 and in his battle with chronic heart disease.

## William Dlamini



He joined ECESWA at a time when the examining body was only responsible for the Junior Certificate examination. At that time, the Ministry of Education and Training was fully responsible for the Eswatini Primary Certificate examination, which was printed in South Africa. The Ministry was also fully responsible for the Form 5 examination. He served under three CEOs- Dr Ben Dlamini, Dr Njabu Dlamini, Dr Edmund Mazibuko and finally Dr Mandlenkosi Dlamini who is the current CEO. He has seen ECESWA evolve and further witnessed the introduction of great initiatives such as- medical aid for staff, Syndicate Activities and Games, and Retire in Dignity programmes.

## Fortunate Simelane

She was nostalgic about the good old times spent at ECESWA. She especially recounted memories of the Monday morning services and how uplifting they were.

## Thulani Malindzisa

Mr Thulani Malindzisa's farewell speech was delivered by his wife as he personally could not make it to the event due to a flu. Mrs Malindzisa thanked ECESWA for making it possible for employees to grow in different aspects of life. Mr Malindzisa, for instance, achieved many milestones as an ECESWA employee and he has truly retired with dignity.

# Efficiency Redefined, Excellence DELIVERED

## EFFICIENCY REDEFINED, EXCELLENCE DELIVERED

### ...As all 2024 examination results released in record time

For the second consecutive year, the Examinations Council of Eswatini (ECESWA) released all examination results in record time.



Junior Certificate (JC) and Eswatini Primary Certificate (EPC) results were released by the Honourable Minister of Education and Training Mr Owen Nxumalo on the 23rd December 2024, two days before Christmas. The early release is meant to give parents and guardians ample time to look for spaces for their children in the following grade. Much to the delight of candidates and stakeholders, the EGCSE/EPCSE and IGCSE results were also released one week before the projected schedule. They were released by the Honourable Minister on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Making his remarks in a press conference held at the Ministry of Education and Training, the Honourable Minister commended ECESWA for pulling all stops to ensure that no question paper leakages occurred in the 2024 examination. In 2023, ECESWA ordered a resit examination of seven (7) components following the leakage of contents of some question papers. "I am optimistic that going forward, we shall never experience any leakage of examination question papers and that the integrity and credibility of our examinations will always be safeguarded," said the Minister, who also cautioned Candidates, Centres and Invigilators against being involved in any form of malpractice. The national pass rate at JC level showed an improvement when compared to 2023 while the EPC pass rate declined. There was an improvement in candidate performance at

EGCSE and EPCSE levels, when compared with 2023. The only decline in the school-leaving examination was observed with the IGCSE results.

## Summary of results

### EGCSE

- The candidature increased from 19 351 in 2023 to 20 207 in 2024. There were 17 187 full-time candidates and 2 668 private candidates.
- The number of absentees decreased by 28.16% from 490 in 2023 to 352 in 2024.
- The national pass percentage increased from 88.33% in 2023 to 89.23% in 2024. This means the EGCSE pass rate increased by 0.90%.

### EPCSE

- The EPCSE programme was examined for the third time in 2024 under the accreditation agreement with Cambridge University Press and Assessment. The EPCSE programme is now equivalent to EGCSE which means EPCSE graduates now compete equally with EGCSE graduates for entry into tertiary institutions.
- Only 324 EPCSE candidates registered for the examination in 2024.
- The overall pass rate for EPCSE increased to 98.95% in 2024 from 96.73% in 2023. The EPCSE pass rate increased by 2.22%.

### IGCSE

- The overall pass rate for IGCSE also declined by 2.11% in 2024 when compared to 2023. The IGCSE pass rate for the 2024 examination is 81.96% while in 2023 it was 84.07%.

### EPC

- A total of 29 635 candidates registered for the examination in 2024 while in 2023 there were 26 647 entries. The number of registered candidates increased by 11.21 % in 2024 when compared with 2023 entries.

# ECESWA participate in vibrant Eswatini International Trade Fair

## ECESWA participates in vibrant Eswatini International Trade Fair



Learners from different schools enjoyed visiting the ECESWA stand

In a dynamic effort to strengthen stakeholder engagement and raise awareness of its services, the Examinations Council of Eswatini participated proudly in the 2025 edition of the Eswatini International Trade Fair. The Trade Fair, yet again, provided a valuable platform for ECESWA's direct interaction with clients, educators, and learners, allowing the organisation to showcase its offerings and answer questions in real time. The stand was designed to be both informative and welcoming, reflecting the examining body's commitment to transparency, accessibility, and educational excellence.

The response from the public was overwhelmingly positive, with hundreds of learners, teachers, and community members flocking to the stand throughout the fair. Visitors were eager to learn more about registration processes, examination timetables, past examination papers and other services provided by ECESWA. The high level of interest demonstrated the importance of such outreach initiatives for the organisation and its stakeholders.

### More Trade Fair Pictures.



Former Ndzingeni MP Lutfo Dlamini visited ECESWA stand at the trade fair

# ECESWA staff successfully participates in wellness activities

## ECESWA staff successfully participates in wellness activities

On the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024, the ECESWA team participated in the Brave the Breast Walk 2024. This walk is championed by the Eswatini Breast and Cervical Cancer Network (EBCCN). ECESWA staff is also expected to participate in this annual walk in 2025 too. The ECESWA aerobics team also participated in an aerobathon held at Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre. The team is also geared for the 2025 aerobathon.

## Blooming with joy: ECESWA's Spring Day Celebrations

As it has always been done, ECESWA staff celebrated Spring Day for two consecutive years. In 2024, Spring Day was celebrated on 13<sup>th</sup> September and in 2025, it was celebrated on 12<sup>th</sup> September, marking the beginning of a bright, colourful season. In 2024, ECESWA staff participated in a personal finance management session at the Auditorium, where Financial Coach Ms Colisile Thwala led a discussion on how staff can effectively manage their finances. She emphasised on the importance of living within one's means. In 2025, Dr Sandile Mweli made a presentation on stress and wealth.



Another highlight of the Spring Day celebrations was the physical wellness part which entailed staff taking doing annual medical check-ups at Ezulwini Private Hospital in 2024. In 2025, screenings were held at ECESWA offices.

## World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is more than a date on the calendar—it's a reminder that the fight against HIV/AIDS isn't over. Millions

are living with HIV, many are newly diagnosed each year, and stigma continues to be a barrier to care and prevention.

ECESWA was also invited to participate in the 2024 World AIDS Day commemoration, which was hosted by Eswatini Business Health and Wellness at Sidvokodvo Luke Commission. ECESWA affiliates to EBH, an organisation that was established by the business community in response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic in Eswatini. ECESWA staff that participated in the World AIDS Day celebration were: Vuyisile Magagula, Siphesihle Dlamini and Mihla Dlamini who was doing her internship at that time.

The event was an uplifting celebration of progress, resilience, and collaboration, with engaging dialogue, informative presentations, and a shared vision for a healthier future.

## Upcoming events

### 31 October 2025

Deadline for submission of coursework (all levels)

Deadline for submission of forecast grades

**Exams  
Completed,  
Excellence  
Unfolds.**