



Newsletter

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His Majesty King Mswati III graces ECESWA stand at Trade Fair



His Majesty had a conversation with the CEO Dr Mandlenkhosi Dlamini.

The Examinations Council of Eswatini participated in the 2024 edition of the Eswatini International Trade Fair as an exhibitor after a five-year hiatus. For ECESWA, the Trade Fair proved to be a pivotal platform for the organisation to showcase its services and products to a diverse audience. The ECESWA stand in Pavilion 1 of the Mavuso Exhibition and Trade Centre in Manzini attracted hundreds of people who flocked in to seek information and assistance on different facets of the organisation's services. Many also bought past examination paper booklets which were on sale at the stand.

The ECESWA stand attracted dignitaries from a broad cross section of society with the most notable visitors being His Majesty King Mswati

III, and his guests including King Misuzulu of the Zulu nation. During his visit, His Majesty had a conversation with the CEO Dr Mandlenkhosi Dlamini who explained what the organisation does. Another high-level visitor was His Excellency, the Honorable Prime Minister Russell Mmiso Dlamini who was received by the Communications Officer Hlengiwe Ndlovu. The Communications Officer explained the organisation's mandate to the Prime Minister, who in turn, shared his thoughts on assessment issues in Eswatini. Other key stakeholders that visited the ECESWA stand were Cabinet Ministers, leaders in the Kingdom's education sector, teachers and learners from different schools. Members of the public mostly enquired about key issues such as the process of replacing lost certificates and symbols.



**The 40th
Annual AEAA
Conferences 2024**

Conference Theme:

Reimagining educational assessment in the age of multiple dimensions of learning in a global society

Century City, Cape Town, South Africa

19-23 August 2024

ECESWA team participates in 40th AEAA Conference

The 40th Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) Conference was held in Cape Town, South Africa on the 19th – 23rd August 2024. Themed: “Reimagining educational assessment in the age of multiple dimensions of learning in a global society” the conference attracted delegates from examining bodies across different parts of Africa and other parts of the world. ECESWA staff was represented by the following delegates:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Dr Mandlenkhosi Dlamini | CEO |
| 2. Dr Sifiso Hlandze | Director Product Development Standards and Research |
| 3. Mr Gifted Maziya | Director Examination Administration and Results Processing |
| 4. Mr Mandla Ngwenya | Director Finance |
| 5. Mr Sibusiso Masuku | Research Manager |
| 6. Ms Sipiwe Sibiya | Product Manager Humanities |
| 7. Ms Lindiwe Sibandze | Subject Officer Languages |
| 8. Mrs Makhosazana Nyoni | Subject Officer Consumer Science |
| 9. Mrs Nolwazi Ntombela | Subject Officer Business Education |
| 10. Ms Xolile Kunene | Manager Results Processing |
| 11. Ms Gugu Gumbi | Manager Examination Administration |
| 12. Ms Hlengiwe Ndlovu | Communications Officer |

The following papers were presented by the following:

PRESENTER	TITLE OF PAPER	DATE OF PRESENTATION
Dr Sifiso Hlandze	Investigating the Role of Public Examinations Towards Quality Education in Eswatini.	20 th August 2024
Mrs Nolwazi Ntombela & Mrs Makhosazana Nyoni	Breaking Barriers: Enhancing Accessibility Through Digital Assessments	20 th August 2024
Ms Sipiwe Sibiya & Ms Lindiwe Sibandze	Assessing Secondary Schools' Digital Readiness for Transition to Digital Assessments.	20 th August 2024
Mr Sibusiso Masuku	Enhancing Scientific Reasoning in Eswatini Classrooms: Leveraging Feedback from Physical Science Public Examinations	22 nd August 2024
Mr Gifted Maziya	Panelist Plenary Session: Competency Based Education	19 th August 2024

JULY - SEPTEMBER

2024 Cambridge University Press and Assessment Trainings

In collaboration with Cambridge University Press and Assessment, the Product Development, Standards and Research Department successfully offered training workshops this year to fulfil its responsibility to facilitate the maintenance of international assessment standards and to continuously improve its processes. The trainees came from different schools across the four regions of the country and covered a range of syllabuses.

Proofing and Editing Workshop

The proofing and editing training was conducted from 1 - 4 July 2024 and was attended by 21 participants. This training was facilitated by Cambridge Consultant, Margaret Cooze, who covered the following topics:

Purposes of assessment

- Principles of good assessment
- Assessment design
- Schemes of assessment
- Task types
- Command words
- Record keeping
- Setting and editing assessment material
- Modifiers of difficulty
- Proofreading
- Marking and moderation
- Processes of assessment

Setting Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) Training

On the 5th of July, Cambridge consultant Margaret Cooze facilitated on the setting of multiple-choice questions. Discussions

covered the following topics:

- Types of MCQs
- Advantages and disadvantages of MCQs
- Features of good MCQs
- Producing MCQs
- Moderation Workshop

Up to a total of 37 participants each day were trained on moderation of coursework and school-based assessments (speaking tests) from 22 to 26 July by Michael Thomas, a Cambridge consultant. Topics covered included:

- The purpose of moderation
- Key principles of moderation
- Making and scaling adjustments
- Mark schemes for coursework
- Writing a feedback report

EGCSE History Markers' Training

On the 12th to 16th August 2024, the PDSR department trained 20 EGCSE History markers for Papers 1, 2 and 3. The facilitator was Pippa Dore from Cambridge. Topics under discussion were:

- Principles of assessment
- Level-based mark schemes
- Using levels with source questions

Emphasis was made on standardisation/coordination and individual marking of all three papers. All facilitators punctuated their sessions with vibrant discussions and practical activities where participants could actively engage and exchange knowledge and expertise. Evaluation reports from the Research desk indicate that most participants concluded that the workshops were satisfactory, fit-for-purpose and met their expectations.

Thousands participate in Invigilation Workshops

The 2024 invigilation workshops for Heads

of Centre and Invigilators were held across the country's four regions from 16th – 19th September 2024. The workshops took place in the following places: Manzini Central High School, Hluthi, Christ the King High School, Siteki REO Hall, Duze High School, Herefords High School, Mhlatane High School, Mankayane High School, ECESWA Auditorium and at Swazi National High School.

Speaking in some of these workshops, the ECESWA CEO Dr Mandlenkholi Dlamini thanked Heads of Centre for being cooperative during the resit examination in 2023. ECESWA ordered a resit examination after it was discovered that some EGCSE question papers had leaked. The CEO encouraged Centres to safeguard the integrity of examinations at all costs by strictly adhering to laid down procedures in handling the examination. He informed Headteachers that the resit examination had come at a huge cost not only for ECESWA but also for the Centres. He warned of severe repercussions for Centres and individuals involved in malpractice and maladministration of the examinations especially since the ECESWA Act of 2023 is now in place. The CEO appealed to invigilators to conduct themselves with utmost integrity in handling the examination and to refrain from behaviour that could not compromise the integrity and credibility of examinations.

In addition to adhering to laid down examination rules, Heads of Centre and Invigilators were encouraged to master key principles such as Key Times and Full Centre Supervision. The different workshop facilitators explained that a lack of understanding of these principles may cause a serious threat to the examination. He explained that Key Times must be fully observed for all IGCSE examinations which are written in other parts of the world by candidates in different time zones. Centres

From July to September 2024, ECESWA spearheaded extensive training workshops, community outreach initiatives, and hosted international syndicate games, showcasing our commitment to excellence and community development.”

were further encouraged to ensure that their strong rooms are up to standard to ensure the safety of examination question papers. Heads of Centre and Invigilators were encouraged to understand their roles very well as it had been discovered that some invigilators regard themselves as being Chief Invigilators. It was explained that only the Head of Centre is the Chief Invigilator.

ESPPRA trains ECESWA Evaluators

The Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA) conducted a training for ECESWA Evaluators on the 6th and 7th August 2024. The training took place at ECESWA, Ezulwini offices. In his welcome remarks, Chairperson of the Entity Tender Board Mr Gifted Maziya expressed his appreciation to ESPPRA for offering such trainings. He also emphasised on the importance of ethical conduct in execution of duties for all involved in procurement processes. ESPPRA Capacity Building Manager Ms Nomile Simelane said it is important for organisations to have a trained pool of Evaluators. During the training, ESPPRA CEO Mr Vusi Matsebula explained that his organisation strives to lead by exemplary.

Eswatini Meets Lesotho for 2024 Syndicate Games!



Unity in diversity, strength in teamwork. Celebrating the spirit of mixed netball with ECESWA and ECOL!

The Examinations Council of Eswatini (ECESWA) hosted the Examinations Council of Lesotho (ECOL) in the 2024 Syndicate Games. The ECOL team was led by Chief Executive Officer Dr Peter Khoabane. The games are held annually, and they form part of many syndicate activities between the two examining bodies. This year the actual games including netball, soccer and volleyball

were played at Lobamba Football Association Technical Centre. As part of the 2024 Syndicate games activities ECESWA and ECOL staff donated soap, detergents and personal hygiene products to the Cheshire Homes of Eswatini. Both teams also had a fun game with the Cheshire Homes Wheelchair Basketball Team.

ECESWA staff makes it possible for A child in need!



ECESWA brings joy to Ebuka Soup Kitchen by donating essential items.

The ECESWA family brought smiles to the children of Ebuka Soup Kitchen and Pre-School by donating clothes, shoes, food and hygiene products including soap. This Corporate Social Responsibility exercise was initiated by the ECESWA Wellness Committee. More than 50 children are taken care of at the Soup Kitchen daily. The donated items were officially handed over by ECESWA’s Human Resources Manager Gcebile Dlamini to Buyisile Dlamini who is responsible for the Soup Kitchen’s daily operations. The Soup Kitchen representative thanked ECESWA staff for their generosity. She explained that the supplies that were brought by ECESWA had come at the right time as they were already running out of food.

She explained that Soup Kitchen does not have sponsors, it relies on donations and a bit of vegetable farming. She further mentioned that one of their biggest challenges is that many of the children do not have birth certificates and this becomes a problem when they go to primary school. She said the reason why most children do not have birth certificates is that many parents simply do not have the money to acquire them. She further requested any assistance on this matter, as they now find themselves keeping children who are above the pre-school age.

Staff Placements

We welcome all new staff members to the ECESWA family



Subject Officer Languages- Dr Jabulani Pato

Dr Jabulani Pato has been appointed as a Subject Officer in Languages, effective 1st August 2024. He holds PhD in African Languages and Literature from the University of Johannesburg, a Master's Degree in African Languages and Literature from Stellenbosch University, an Honours Degree in African Languages and English from Stellenbosch University, a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Eswatini and a Diploma in Education majoring in Siswati and English from the William Pitcher College. Before joining ECESWA, he was the Regional Inspector for SiSwati in the Lubombo region.



Senior Programmer Analyst- Sibusiso P. Vilakati

Sibusiso Vilakati was appointed as a Senior Programmer Analyst. He joined ECESWA on the 2nd September 2024. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and Physics from the University of Eswatini and Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) Computer Science from the University of South Africa. He previously worked for the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP).



Procurement Clerk (Temporary)- Thembekile M. Simelane

Thembekile Simelane joined ECESWA on the 2nd September 2024, as a temporary Procurement Clerk. She previously worked as a Procurement Officer at Zeal Procurement and Supply Chain Limited Consultancy. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce Majoring in Accounting from Midrand Graduate Institute (MGI) South Africa. She also possesses a Diploma in Procurement. She is an aspiring member of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply Chain.

With exams approaching, ECESWA staff visited local schools to stress the importance of integrity. Candidates were warned that malpractice could jeopardize their results. Stay honest and focused for a fair and successful exam period. Good luck! #IntegrityFirst #ExamSuccess #ECESWAEExams2024

Malpractice outreach exercise



In the days leading to the start of the 2024 main written Form 5 examination, ECESWA staff conducted a malpractice outreach exercise to selected schools in the Manzini region. The purpose of this exercise was to sensitise candidates on proper conduct during the examination. The schools that were visited include Lobamba Lomdzala High School, Lozitha High School and Swazi National High School. Candidates were cautioned against committing any form of malpractice because such behavior could have a negative bearing in their results. Candidates from the different schools managed to ask different questions related to malpractice and the examinations.

Upcoming activities

Activity	Start Date
EGCSE, EPCSE and IGCSE main written examination	2 nd October 2024
JC main written examination	21 st October 2024
Checkpoint Assessment	1 st October 2024
EPC main written examination	28 th October 2024

Exams

Completed,

Excellence

Unfolds:

Marking

Begins Soon!