Empowerment ACTSHEET



Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission



GEEC - A Leader in Sustainable and Inclusive Citizenry Economic Empowerment

In April, we introduced the Busulu Loan!

With the launch of the Busulu Loan product, April was an exciting month in our quest to provide affordable financing solutions to targeted citizens and companies in Zambia.

The launch of the Busulu Loan product – a micro-financing solution – targeting youth and women-led start-up or already existing MSMEs me 'Busulu' is a Kaonde word that means business or to do business. The Busulu Loan is security free targeting MSMEs in all sectors with specific focus on periurban and rural-based MSMEs. It is affordable, competitive and easily accessible loan with a flexible repayment plan. The Commission is offering loan facilities between K5, 000 and K50, 000 to MSMEs and cooperatives to enable them start or expand their businesses. For loan applications above K20, 000, CEEC will undertake further due diligence. The loan attracts eight (8) percent interest per annum and has a maximum tenure of twelve (12) months.

Why Micro-Finance?

Microfinance refers to the financial services provided to lowincome individuals or groups who are typically excluded from traditional banking. They are small working capital loans, sometimes called microloans or microcredit with the potential to reduce poverty through wealth and job creation thereby, improving the quality of life for households.

In August 2022, the Commission intensified its efforts to address business and financial issues faced by the MSMEs with the introduction of the Marketeer Booster and Project Finance loans products in line with the 8NDP Agenda of economic transformation and job creation.

Despite this intervention, MSMEs seeking financial support in the range K5, 000 to K50, 000, who are in the majority, have not been adequately covered. The introduction of the Busulu Loan will provide the following opportunities to the MSMEs:

- Accelerated trade finance especially for agricultural commodities among MSMEs and Cooperatives in periurban and rural areas
- Graduate marketeers seeking higher working capital as a way of business expansion
- Bridge the gap for MSMEs who were not covered under the Marketeer Booster and Project Finance loan products

Eligibility for the Busulu Loan

Eligibility of beneficiaries shall be based on the following;

- Zambian owned company or Individual start-up or operating
- Applicant should have a viable
 business project or opportunity
- Applicant must be a Zambian Citizen with a Green National Registration Card
- For already existing businesses, one must be a registered company with a PACRA certificate of incorporation and wholly owned by Zambians
- For already existing cooperatives, one must be registered with Registrar of Cooperatives

Application Process

- Application forms can be accessed for FREE via www.ceec.org.zm, CEEC Provincial Offices and District Commissioners' Offices countrywide.
- 2. All duly completed application forms should be submitted at the nearest CEEC Provincial Offices for processing.
- 3. Applicants with active CEEC loans are NOT ELIGIBLE to apply for this microfinance facility until they fully repay their loan.
- Applicants must provide a valid mobile number linked to their name to enable disbursement of funds via mobile money platforms.
- 5. Applications that do not follow the stated format will **NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

DEADLINE: Unless stated otherwise by the Commission, this loan product will NOT be subjected to a closing date as financing will be made on a rolling basis. In line with Government's policy, CEEC prioritises and encourages the participation of the youth, women and people living with disabilities.

For more details, visit **www.ceec.org.zm** or the CEEC Head Office and CEEC Provincial Offices countrywide.



As at 30 April 2023, we had disbursed close to K140 million in Marketeer Booster Loans to 68, 173 marketeers countrywide.

We remain committed to disbursing more booster loans to more marketeers to ensure accessibility to affordable financing at zero-interest and a flexible repayment period.

PROVINCE	# OF MARKETEEERS BOOSTED	AMOUNT DISBURSED (K)
Lusaka	18,294	52,877,981.00
North Western	13,080	24,367,951.25
Copperbelt	9,367	17,063,508.75
Central	7,742	17,220,801.00
Southern	4,514	10,060,286.65
Luapula	3,625	6,254,052.50
Northern	3,580	7,287,289.75
Eastern	3,221	5,511,192.50
Western	2,379	4,459,047.25
Muchinga	2,371	4,273,825.75

Agritech EXPO 2023



Figure 1 Interaction with showgoers at Agritech EXPO 2023.

The Commission participated in the 2023 AgriTech EXPO that took place from 19 to 21 April in Chisamba district. The exhibition was used as an opportunity to not only sensitise the public on our mandate, we also undertook on-the-spot application for the Busulu Loan.

In total, we had close to 400 stand visitations and interactions about the services provided by CEEC. Of note was the Agriculture Alliance for Science - which has a membership of 74,000 youths – that came to inquire more about the Commission's programs.

Given the attendance of numerous sector-based organisations at the EXPO, the Commission used the opportunity to seek possible market linkages and training prospects for its beneficiaries through the following:

- Nutri Feed provision of training in Poultry at their own cost.
- USAID Trade Boost provision of market linkages to clients with high quality products in the commercial farming sector.
- USAID Enabling Business facilitate a dialogue with the Private sector on policy issues such as development of sector codes and reservation schemes.

About Agritech

The AgriTech Expo is a business led event servicing the needs of the entire agri-value chain in Zambia and its neighbouring countries. AgriTech Expo Zambia has found its home at the Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART) farm in the Chisamba region of Zambia. The expo caters to large scale commercial farmers as well as emerging and small scale farmers.

With the onset of the exhibitions, trade and agricultural shows, the Commission will endeavour to increase its visibility by setting up exhibitions for information dissemination and public appreciation.



For updates, please follow and like our Facebook page: Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (@CEECZambia)

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