

Empowerment FACTSHEET

The Minister, Commissioners and the DG during launch of the CEEC Strategic Plan 2022-2026.



A Commission with a Plan!

On 6 July, the Commission launched its 2022 to 2026 Strategic Plan, officiating the event was the Minister of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED), Mr. Elias Mubanga and several other stakeholders and partners at the Mulungushi International Conference Center.

The 2022 to 2026 Strategic Plan is a build up from the 2017 to 2021 Plan and it highlights successes scored and lessons learnt from the previous Plan.

The Strategic Plan is also aimed at outlining a road map for the next five years and how the Commission intends to operate for the purpose of meeting set targets.

The Commission identified three (3) strategic themes on which the strategic objectives are premised and these are:

Socioeconomic Development which is aimed at ensuring implementation and equitable broad-based economic development for targeted citizens.

Attaining Operational Excellence, this speaks to performance excellence and service delivery through improved internal process.

Stakeholder engagement which is primarily the basis of the Commission operation success.

The Commission has also identified a set of pre-conditions that will enable the success of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and these include, optimal organisational structure, adequate skilled and committed staff as well as to decentralise specific operations and digitisation of operations.

At the launch, the Minister of SMED, Mr. Mubanga encouraged the commercial banking sector to collaborate with the Government through CEEC to improve access to finance for SMEs.

While the Commission's Board Chairperson, Jason Kazilimani, assured attendees, and the public that the Strategic Plan will enable the enhancement of access to finances for the target citizens.

And CEEC Director General, Dr. Muwe Mungule, pledged the attainment of increased loan disbursements and recoveries as well as constant monitoring and evaluation of the economic empowerment programs.



“Hi from kwa hae” – CEEC in Western Province for sensitisation and loan recovery exercises

From 17 - 24 July, the Acting Director Business Development, Walusungu Banda, led a team on a monitoring and loan recovery exercise in Western province.

The tour was aimed at monitoring the implementation of the Matching Grant Facility of the Cashew Infrastructure Development Project (CIDP) whose aim is to revive the cashew subsector for improved livelihoods of people in Western Province. An empowerment project focusing on the skills development on cashew processing through improved infrastructure and equipment.

With support from the African Development Bank, the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the Project in the Western Province and CEEC was appointed as the fund manager of the Matching Grant Facility.

This, therefore, means that CEEC has the responsibility to provide matching grants to targeted citizens and companies for the development of businesses and feasibility studies in the following 10 target districts of the Western Province: Mongu, Limulunga, Senanga, Kalabo, Nalolo, Sikongo, Shangombo, Sioma, Lukulu, and Mitete.

Western province has 138 beneficiaries which

includes individuals and cooperatives spread out across the targeted districts.

The team visited cashew processing infrastructure and shade under construction.

The team also visited markets to conduct market sensitisation and loan recoveries on the Marketer Booster Loan and Busulu loans. The exercise was undertaken in the following districts: Nkeyema, Kaoma, Mongu, Kalabo, Sikongo, Senanga, Nalolo, and Sioma.

During sensitisation, emphasis was made on loan repayments to enable the Commission to extend loan disbursements to other would-be beneficiaries, as well as contribute to the creation of a sustainable revolving fund.

The tour provided clarity on the misconception that the Marketer Booster Loans were free funds resulting in the recovery of K60,000 from recipients of the Booster Loans and Busulu Loans.

From the recoveries made it was evident that CEEC beneficiaries are willing to pay back and with the enhanced efforts on recoveries and the creation of a weekly threshold, improved loan recoveries would be inevitable.

CEEC & TATA International Zambia SIGN MoU

On July 14th, the Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TATA International Zambia - the official distributors of John Deere Products in Zambia - to ease the access to machinery, equipment and technology.

The MoU will ensure support for SME and cooperative applicants under the agricultural mechanisation light manufacturing and construction loan products. Through this partnership, targeted citizens will improve their farming and construction businesses with



spill over socioeconomic benefits and ultimately, contribute to the development of the country.

Signing the agreement was the CEEC Director General, Dr. Muwe Mungule and Cobus Du Toit, the Country Business Head responsible for John Deere Agriculture and Construction and Forestry for Zambia and DRC.

Pre-Finance Training for Cooperatives in Lusaka Province

Following Government's commitment through the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED) to revive 1,600 solar milling plants countrywide with capital financing and capacity building, the Commission's Lusaka Provincial Office commenced pre-finance training for selected co-operatives that are to benefit with business loans to operationalise the milling plants.

On the 12 July 2023, over 10 cooperatives from Lusaka, Chongwe, Kafue, and Rufunsa districts who are currently operating or oversee the solar milling plants and are earmarked to receive business loans of up to one hundred thousand kwacha (K100,000) from the Commission with a view of increasing their participation in economic activities and subsequently contribute positively to Zambia's economic development.

The training, an important step in the disbursement process, emphasised the importance of financial management within the cooperatives.

Other subjects presented during the exercise were maintenance of product quality and adherence to standards to have viable and sustainable projects.

The Commission undertakes the prefinance training exercise with some of its collaborating partners, and the Zambia

weights and measures to avoid being found on the wrong side of the law.

Furthermore, the training was used as an opportunity to emphasise responsible utilisation of funds amongst recipients and remind them that the funds to be disbursed are loans that had to be paid back within a stipulated period. The CEEC Lusaka Provincial Office also emphasised the prudent utilisation of funds to enable business continuity. At the same event, CEEC loan procedures and processes were explained and clarified during a question-and-answer session with participants.

The Commission is working in partnership with the Zambia Cooperative Federation (ZCF) to ensure that at least 500 cooperatives are supported with a that wish to increase their maize stock and production levels to meet the ever-increasing local demand for mealie-meal in Zambia.

A similar training was conducted with people living with disabilities through the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD).

This was aimed at equipping people living with disabilities with relevant skills in financial management skills as well as

**CURRENTLY,
THE CEEC LOAN
REPAYMENT RATE
IS AT 66%.**

TIA TFP: Guiding Principles for Excellence

At CEEC, our journey towards excellence is steered by a powerful acronym - TIA TFP. These six core values - Teamwork, Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Professionalism, and Fairness - encapsulate the essence of who we are and how we operate.

T - Teamwork: Collaboration lies at the heart of our success. By working together synergistically, we harness the collective strength of diverse talents and perspectives to achieve remarkable outcomes.

I - Integrity: Upholding honesty, ethics, and doing what's right is non-negotiable. Our actions are guided by a strong moral compass that ensures we maintain the highest standards of conduct.

A - Accountability: Taking ownership of our actions and decisions is a testament to our commitment to growth and improvement. We learn from both our triumphs and setbacks, constantly evolving to be better.

T - Transparency: Open communication and information sharing build trust and empower

our community. Through transparency, we foster an environment where decisions are well-informed and everyone has a voice.

F - Fairness: Equity and respect for all underpin our interactions. Fairness guides our policies and practices, ensuring that everyone is treated with dignity and provided equal opportunities.

P - Professionalism: Elevating our standards sets us apart. Our dedication to professionalism not only enhances our reputation but also inspires others to strive for excellence.

Embracing TIA TFP isn't just a choice; it's a commitment to a culture of excellence, a testament to our unwavering values, and a beacon that guides us towards a future filled with achievements and positive impact. Together, we embody TIA TFP, and through it, we will become a Leader in Inclusive and Sustainable Citizenry Economic Empowerment.

Celebrating a Decade of Dedication: Honouring our Exceptional Staffs' 10-Year Milestone



Sylvia Bannerman

Position: Secretary

Sylvia's TENure at CEEC:

I joined the Commission in September 2008 as a typist and was shortly elevated to secretary to the Director of Empowerment programmes (now Business Development) in 2009. During my study to pursue an advanced Diploma in Business Administration and Management from 2009 to 2011,

management allowed me flexible working hours to accommodate school time.

Between 2016 to 2018, I was given an opportunity to serve in different portfolios where I gained various skills and experience e.g., Acted as Administrative Officer; stood in as an interim Administrative Assistant

for both Skills Development and Aquaculture Seed Fund projects between 2016 and 2018 respectively.

Furthermore, I was assigned additional responsibilities of an Assistant Business Development Officer-Enabling Environment at the time the Commission was understaffed from October 2019 to May 2023.

Silita Milambo

Position: Secretary

Silita's TENure at CEEC:

A decade ago, on 1 August 2012 I embarked on this professional journey as a relief Secretary for three (3) months from the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry, uncertain of what the future held. Today as I reflect on these years of service, am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and pride. What began as a month of work turned into years and years of momentous milestones of unwavering commitment of excellence.

From day one, I was inspired by the Commission's dedication to delivering

top notch services to our clients both internally and externally, this commitment to quality has been a driving force in my own work, pushing me to constantly raise the bar and strive for perfection in every task I undertake.

The Commission has provided me with an environment that fosters growth, encouragement, and a strong sense of camaraderie among colleagues.

I am truly honoured to be part of this remarkable organisation that saw potential in me that I never did.



Credits

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