

Empowerment FACTSHEET



Status of 2022-2024 Loan Applications

For thousands of Zambians who submitted loan applications between 2022 and 2024, August brought long-awaited closure. CEEC announced that all applications from this period have been fully reviewed and processed.

The Commission's message was direct: applicants who have not received responses should consider their applications unsuccessful. While disappointing for many, CEEC emphasises that unsuccessful applications will not affect future eligibility.

"The overwhelming response of applications reflected our nation's strong entrepreneurial spirit," noted CEEC Director General, Dr Muwe Mungule, acknowledging the disappointment of those not selected while celebrating Zambian's determination to contribute to economic growth.

Looking forward, the Commission has outlined improvements including enhanced application processes, new funding mechanisms and strengthened support systems for targeted citizens and enterprises. These changes aim to create more opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs in future cycles.

CEEC reaffirmed its commitment to transparent communication and broad-based economic empowerment under the oversight of the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises Development.

The announcement provides clarity for applicants while setting the stage for improved processes that could benefit future entrepreneurs seeking CEEC support.

CEEC
THREE
Rs

- RECEIVE**
RESPONSIBLY USE THE CEEC LOAN IN YOUR BUSINESS.
- REPAY**
MAKE TIMELY AND IN FULL REPAYMENTS VIA MOBILE MONEY OR BANK DEPOSIT.
- REVOLVE**
TOGETHER, LET'S CREATE A SUSTAINABLE EMPOWERMENT FUND FOR ALL TO BENEFIT.

Partnership for Progress: CEEC and FQM Strengthen Kalumbila Economic Zone



Figure 1 Certification ceremony for the businesses that participated in the stakeholder engagement exercise in Kalumbila.

In Kalumbila's Multi-Facility Economic Zone (MFEZ), ninety (90) entrepreneurs gathered for a transformative engagement that could reshape their business futures. The meeting between CEEC and First Quantum Minerals (FQM) Limited represented more than a partnership—it embodied inclusive economic growth in action.

CEEC Director General, Dr. Muwe Mungule, reinforced CEEC's vision during the August stakeholder meeting: "Our goal is ensuring Zambian-owned MSMEs become not just suppliers, but future industry leaders with capital, technology, and market access."

The numbers tell a compelling story. FQM sources over 80% of its procurement locally, working with more than 550 Zambian suppliers. With CEEC's support, these businesses are positioned to scale operations and capture new markets in agro-processing and manufacturing.

The engagement included 30 existing enterprises and 60 start-ups participating in CEEC's incubation program. Training focused on practical skills: financial management, record keeping, and cash flow projections essential for growth.

Tours of the Business Incubation Centre, Kalumbila Industrial Park, and housing expansion projects showcased the MFEZ's integrated approach combining investment, skills development, and food security initiatives.

CEEC also facilitated meetings with cooperatives managing high-value projects including edible oil production, maize milling and block making. Plans are underway for the formation of a cooperative union, training project managers, and submitting loan applications for capital financing.

This partnership demonstrates how strategic collaboration between CEEC and private sector players creates sustainable pathways for citizen economic participation.

CEEC Showcases Climate Solutions at 97th Zambia Agricultural and Commercial Show



Figure 2 The CEEC exhibition pavilion at the 97th Zambia Agricultural and Commercial Show.

At the 97th Zambia Agricultural and Commercial Show in Lusaka, visitors discovered how Zambian entrepreneurs are turning climate challenges into business opportunities. CEEC's exhibition featured over ten small and medium enterprises demonstrating innovative climate adaptation solutions.

Under the theme "Adapting to Climate Change," the CEEC stand buzzed with activity from diverse beneficiaries including Tinta Hair and Beauty, Free Energy Limited and Sage Valley. Each business showcased how CEEC funding helped them develop climate-resilient operations.

Dovecot College of Health Sciences exemplified the commission's long-term partnership approach. Despite completing loan repayment, the institution continues benefiting from CEEC's business development opportunities like exhibition platforms.



Figure 3 Students from Dovecot College of Health Sciences were on hand to offer onsite medical checks to showgoers.

A renewable energy sector client expressed gratitude for networking opportunities, anticipating growth through partnerships with sector players. "These exhibitions connect us with potential collaborators and customers," they shared.

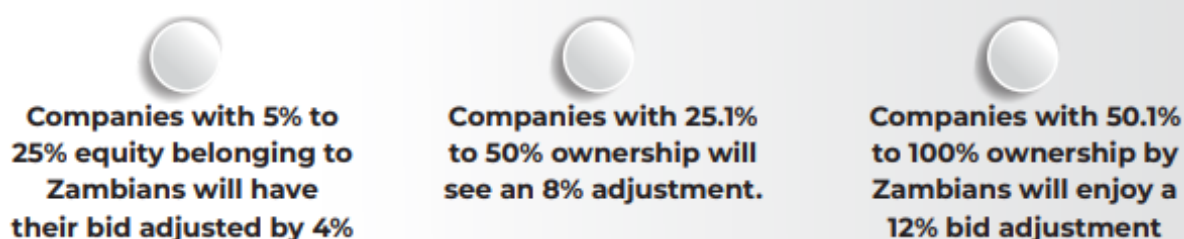
The Show provided CEEC with a platform to engage media and stakeholders, sharing information about the commission's climate change adaptation initiatives. The diverse range of exhibited businesses—from educational institutions to renewable energy companies—demonstrated CEEC's comprehensive approach to supporting climate-smart entrepreneurship.

These success stories illustrate how CEEC funding enables businesses to contribute meaningfully to Zambia's climate resilience while building sustainable enterprises

Empowering Through Preference: 456 Businesses Gain Competitive Edge

Benefits of Preferential Procurement

Companies awarded Preferential Procurement certificate by CEEC gain significant advantages in public tenders. Here's how bid adjustments are determined based on ownership percentages:



Behind every Preferential Procurement certificate lies an entrepreneur's dream of competing fairly in government tenders. This year, CEEC issued 456 such certificates, unlocking K745.8 million worth of government contracts for Zambian businesses.

The CEE Act No. 9 of 2006 mandates that at least 50% of government and private sector expenditure flows to empowered companies, with 30% of suppliers and construction companies owned by targeted citizens. These aren't just numbers—they represent transformed livelihoods and strengthened communities.

This mechanism ensures Zambian entrepreneurs can compete effectively against established companies, creating pathways for sustainable business growth.

The Preferential Treatment pillar represents one of CEEC's nine economic empowerment pillars, designed to level the playing field for targeted citizens and enterprises. By reserving significant portions of public spending for local businesses, the pillar stimulates economic activity across communities while building local capacity

Social Distribution of Beneficiaries

Category	Number of Beneficiaries
Men	271
Women	109
Youth	75
People with Disabilities	1
Total	456

This distribution reflects CEEC's commitment to inclusive empowerment, though opportunities remain to increase participation among women, youth, and people with disabilities in future cycles.

Excellence in Storytelling: Second CEEC Media Awards Open for Entries



Last year, Philip Sinkala from ZAMCOM Radio did not expect his story about a rural entrepreneur to win national recognition. Today, he's among the celebrated journalists who brought CEEC's impact stories to life through the inaugural Media Impact Awards.

Building on that success, CEEC has opened entries for the 2025 Media Impact Awards, set for November. The awards recognize journalists who showcase how CEEC's empowerment programs transform lives across Zambia's ten provinces.

"We want to celebrate the human stories behind our numbers," explains CEEC's communications team. The awards target stories aired or published between January and October 2025, covering beneficiary success stories, job creation, value chain development, and community impact.

Journalists from public, private and community media across radio, television, print, and digital platforms can participate. Last year's winners included Prime TV's Derrick Chityamba for Best TV Report and freelancer Joseph Banda for Best Print Feature, with the ceremony drawing media executives and development partners, including Ministry of Information and Media Permanent Secretary Thabo Kawana as the guest of honour.

The CEEC Media Impact Awards form part of CEEC's strategy to enhance public understanding of its economic empowerment programs while promoting responsible, research-driven journalism.

For submission guidelines, contact: +260 967 660 387 / +260 967 650 814 or media@ceec.org.zm



**CORRUPTION
IS LIKE A BAD DEBT.
BOTH HAVE
NO PLACE
AT CEEC.**

Call to Action

If you have any concerns about corruption at CEEC, please contact the CEEC Director General's Office. Your concern will be taken seriously and investigations will be thorough.

Credits

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