

Empowerment

FACTSHEET



Rural Enterprises Set to Shine: 2025 Presidential Awards

MSME Presidential Award - Call for Entries

To recognize, motivate and award MSMEs and cooperative enterprises that have excelled and significantly contributed to the country's economy through business growth, innovation within the business and job creation.

Submit your entry via www.ceec.org.zm

MSME Presidential Award

The Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) announced the opening of entries for the 2025 edition of the prestigious Presidential Awards for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives.

This year's awards specifically target rural-based Zambian businesses that have excelled and significantly contributed to the country's economy through business growth, innovation within the business and job creation. The initiative places special emphasis on inclusive participation, prioritising youth-led, women-led and persons with disabilities-led enterprises in rural Zambia demographics of society that are traditionally underrepresented in Zambia's business landscape.

Eligible applicants must be registered MSMEs or cooperatives operating within Zambia, meeting strict criteria that showcase their contribution to local economic development. The submitted applications will be subject to a transparent selection process, ensuring fair evaluation of all submissions.

Entrepreneurs can access entry forms through the CEEC website or provincial offices, with submissions due by August 15th, 2025. Only correctly formatted applications, submitted online or in person, will be considered.

In 2024, the Commission held a glamorous awards ceremony that saw 42 enterprises countrywide receive recognition grants valued at K2.5 million.

The awards extend far beyond recognition.

The recipients have since reported enhanced business visibility, expanded market access and increased investor confidence. More significantly, the initiative is cultivating a robust entrepreneurial culture across rural Zambia, proving that with targeted support, local businesses can drive meaningful job creation and inclusive national development while transforming entire communities.

CEEC Drives Aquaculture Growth in Luapula Province



Figure 1 Community engagement with fish entrepreneurs in Samfya.

The Commission is making significant strides in transforming Luapula Province's aquaculture sector into a competitive economic driver. In July 2025, Director General, Dr. Muwe Mungule led a strategic delegation to engage directly with local fish farmers and assess the province's aquaculture potential.

The mission centred on promoting fish cage farming on Lake Chinwenshiba in Samfya, a promising approach that could dramatically increase fish production while optimising resource utilisation. This initiative represents CEEC's broader commitment to sustainable value chain

development across Zambia's provinces.

During field visits in Nchelenge District, the team engaged ten established cage fish farmers operating on Lake Mweru. These productive discussions addressed critical business aspects, including growth strategies, expansion opportunities and the vital importance of maintaining loan repayment schedules to ensure program sustainability.

The engagement proved mutually beneficial, providing farmers with technical guidance while offering CEEC valuable insights into ground-level challenges and opportunities. Farmers shared candid feedback on strengthening collaborative efforts and ensuring long-term value chain success.

CEEC's comprehensive approach combines technical support, capacity building and strategic financial assistance. This multi-pronged strategy aims to position aquaculture as a cornerstone of Luapula's economic transformation, creating sustainable livelihoods while meeting growing regional demand for fish products.

Empowering Zambian Citizens Through Strategic Skills Development



Figure 2 Skills development and financial literacy in Chipata.

The Commission continues to fulfill its mandate under the Citizens Economic Empowerment (CEE) Act No. 9 of 2006, driving inclusive economic participation through its comprehensive nine-pillar framework.

Skills development stands as a cornerstone of CEEC's strategy, enhancing citizens' capacity to engage meaningfully in the economy. During July, the Commission's Business Development Directorate partnered with Build Zambia 2064 to deliver targeted training programs across the country.

A standout initiative was the Mindset Change and Business Skills Training in Chipata, Eastern Province. This impactful session reached over 300 civil servants, providing essential business skills, financial literacy guidance and retirement planning support. The training emphasized entrepreneurial thinking and economic self-reliance, fostering a transformative shift in participants' approach to wealth creation.



Figure 3 CEEC Skills Dev. Manager, Christopher Malambo (r) looks on as a CEEC client gives a testimony.

Complementing this effort, CEEC's provincial offices conducted financial literacy and business management sessions for MSMEs nationwide. These capacity-building initiatives directly support the Commission's broader vision of enabling citizens to actively contribute to Zambia's socio-economic development.

Through these strategic interventions, CEEC demonstrates unwavering commitment to sustainable entrepreneurship and building a resilient, inclusive economy that benefits all Zambians. The Commission's practical approach to skills development continues to create pathways for economic empowerment and national prosperity.

CEEC Shines at 59th Zambia International Trade Fair



The Commission made a significant impact at the 59th Zambia International Trade Fair, held recently in Ndola on the Copperbelt. Exhibiting under the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED), the Commission's participation aligned perfectly with this year's theme: "Enhancing Business Resilience Through Innovation and Trade."

The CEEC exhibition stand became a showcase of success stories, featuring various beneficiaries who exemplify the Commission's commitment to fostering economic empowerment. This platform provided an invaluable opportunity to engage with the public, raising awareness about the comprehensive products and services the Commission offers to Zambian entrepreneurs.

A highlight of the fair came during official stand tours when Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Mr. Chipoka Mulenga, visited the CEEC pavilion. The Minister took time to interact directly with exhibiting enterprises, gaining firsthand insight into how these businesses have built resilience and embraced innovation through CEEC's strategic support programs.

The Commission's outstanding participation was recognised with the prestigious ZITF 2025 Chairman's Award, a testament to their effective representation and meaningful contribution to the trade fair's objectives. This accolade underscores CEEC's vital role in strengthening Zambia's entrepreneurial landscape and supporting sustainable business growth across the nation.



Credits

Editors:

Dr. Muwe Mungule, Lucy Mbao Mataka and Michelo Mukata

Layout:

Michelo Mukata

Stories and Images:

Luyando Haamwala Haambote and Thelma Mbewe