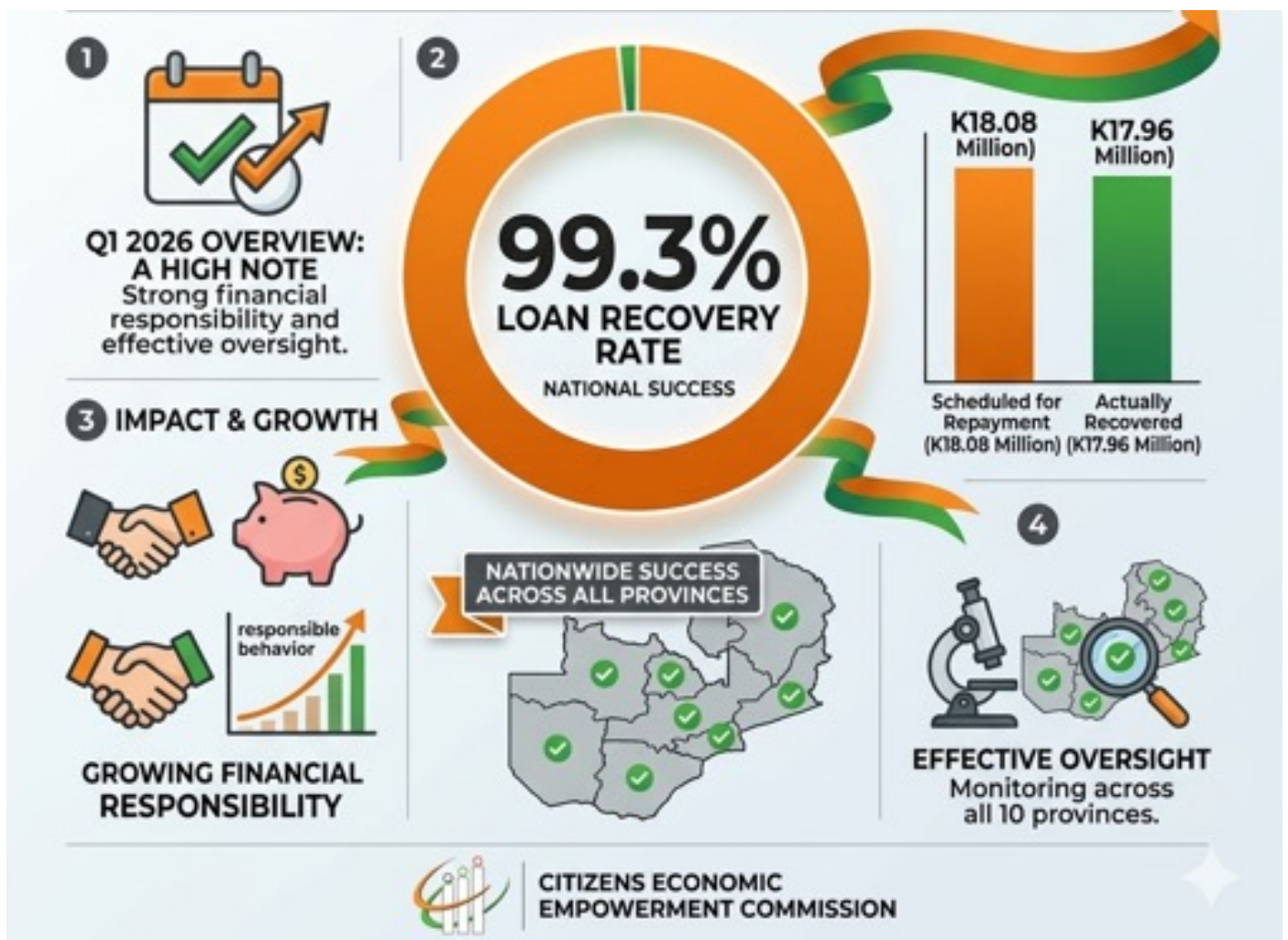


CEEC POSTS NEAR-PERFECT 99.3% LOAN RECOVERY RATE, SETTING THE PACE FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY



The Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) has closed the first quarter of 2026 on a high note, recovering K17.96 million of the K18.08 million scheduled for repayment — a national loan recovery rate of 99.3%. The figures paint a picture of growing financial responsibility among beneficiaries and effective oversight across all ten provinces.

Provinces That Went Above and Beyond

Four provinces — North-Western, Muchinga, Lusaka, and Luapula — surpassed their recovery targets, with North-Western leading the charge at a staggering 342.5%. The province collected K1.38 million against a target of K480,502, suggesting early repayments and sustained community commitment to the Commission's empowerment agenda.

Muchinga followed with 188.8%, while Lusaka — home to the Commission's largest loan portfolio of K7.04 million — posted a remarkable 175.4% recovery, collecting K12.35 million. Luapula Province rounded off the top performers at 120%, demonstrating consistent repayment across its loan book.

Focus Areas for Recovery Acceleration

Northern Province recorded the lowest recovery rate at 22.9% (K257,449 of K1.12 million scheduled), followed by Southern Province at 41.5% and Central Province at 30.2%. CEEC management has signalled that targeted interventions will be deployed in these provinces, including loan restructuring discussions, financial literacy programmes, and intensified field follow-ups by provincial recovery officers.

Q1 2026 PROVINCIAL LOAN RECOVERY PERFORMANCE

Province	Scheduled (K)	Collected (K)	Recovery Rate
Central	5,485,656.00	1,658,162.00	30.2%
Copperbelt	264,388.32	170,000.00	64.3%
Eastern	526,449.19	480,280.30	72.9%
Luapula	288,665.83	351,132.05	120.0%
Lusaka	7,043,383.01	12,352,090.50	175.4%
Muchinga	248,607.56	484,481.56	188.8%
Northern	1,124,819.67	257,448.92	22.9%
North-Western	480,502.47	1,382,410.00	342.5%
Southern	1,671,389.00	605,553.30	41.5%
Western	545,855.59	418,822.66	74.1%
GRAND TOTAL	18,078,766.84	17,959,388.67	99.3%

Colour guide: ■ Green = ≥100% (target exceeded) ■ Red = <50% (requires urgent attention)

FROM IDEAS TO LIVELIHOODS: CEEC MARKS LABOUR DAY BY CELEBRATING OVER 155,000 JOBS CREATED

As Zambia joined the rest of the world in marking International Labour Day on 1 May, the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) marked the occasion with a milestone worth celebrating — the creation of more than 155,000 jobs since 2022 through its various empowerment programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, CEEC Director of Business Development, Albert Ngimu, highlighted that the Commission creates both direct and indirect employment by providing citizen-owned businesses with access to affordable financing, grants, and capacity-building support.

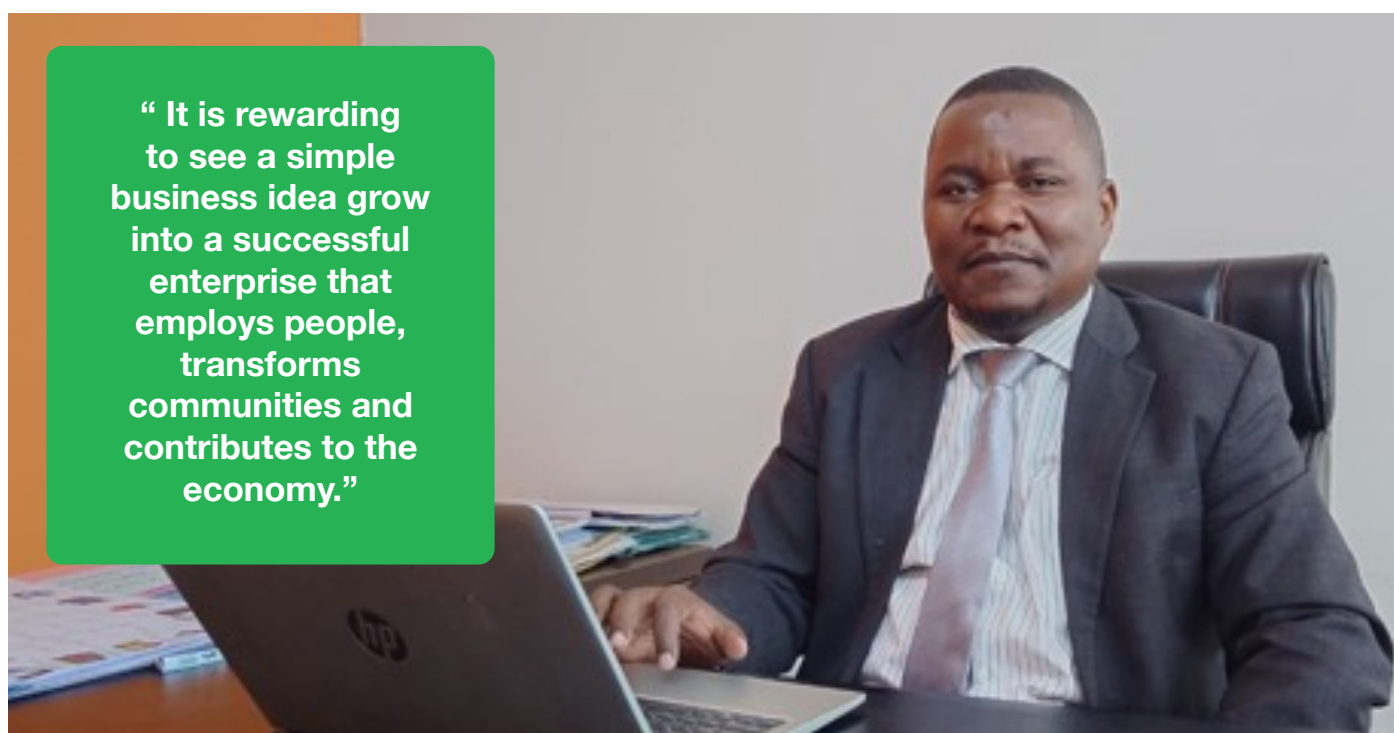


Figure 1 CEEC Director Business Development, Albert Ngimu.

MSMEs remain central to CEEC's empowerment approach. The Commission's Access to Finance pillar has channelled funding to businesses in agriculture, manufacturing, mining, energy, and agro-processing — sectors with strong potential for job multiplier effects. Targeted programmes for youth and women entrepreneurs further amplify this impact, recognising these groups as key drivers of inclusive economic growth.

CEEC does not stop at disbursing funds. The Commission maintains close oversight of funded projects, monitoring operations and performance to ensure sustainability and continued job retention. For Mr. Ngimu, the true measure of CEEC's success lies not in the numbers, but in the lives changed and communities lifted.

K20 MILLION AND COUNTING: CEEC'S BUSULU LOAN PRODUCT IGNITES YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP WAVE



The numbers are hard to ignore. Since its launch, the Busulu Loan Product — delivered through the innovative Imisepela App — has disbursed K5.46 million to 475 young Zambians. And that is just the beginning. A further K14.98 million is set to reach 1,622 newly approved applicants in the Commission's next disbursement round.

CEEC Director General Dr. Muwe Mungule announced during a joint press briefing with Imisepela, underscoring the Commission's deliberate effort to channel economic opportunities to young people.



Figure 2 Some youth participants at the CEEC-Imisepela joint media briefing.



Figure 3 CEEC Director General, Dr. Muwe Mungule, during his address at the joint media briefing on Busulu loan disbursements via Imisepela.

The gender breakdown of approved beneficiaries is equally telling: 957 are female (57%) and 665 are male (41%), reflecting CEEC’s firm commitment to women-led enterprise development. In line with its mandate, the Commission has structured programmes to ensure at least 40% of beneficiaries are youth, fostering a generation of entrepreneurs rather than job seekers.

The demand has been extraordinary. CEEC has received over 65,000 applications valued at more than K8 billion — a figure that dwarfs available resources but speaks volumes about the hunger for economic opportunity among Zambians. Of these, 41,889 applications came from youths aged 35 and below.

Beyond financing, CEEC is equipping Busulu beneficiaries with entrepreneurship training, skills development, and market access support — building the foundations for businesses that can endure beyond the initial capital injection.

CEEC EXPANDS ITS EMPOWERMENT ECOSYSTEM WITH FOUR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



Figure 4 CEEC signed four (4) Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with TEVETA, NIPA, CSR network Zambia and Hokma Risk Solutions.

Access to finance is necessary — but it is not sufficient. Recognising that sustainable enterprise requires skills, knowledge, and risk management, the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission has formalised four strategic partnerships through the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with TEVETA, NIPA, CSR Network Zambia, and Hokma Risk Solutions.

The agreements span skills development and certification, research-driven programme design, private sector engagement, and enterprise risk management — collectively strengthening every pillar of CEEC’s empowerment framework under the Citizens Economic Empowerment Act of 2006.



“These are working instruments, deliberately aligned to the nine pillars that guide CEEC’s empowerment framework — from access to finance and skills development, to market access, investment promotion and sustainable growth.”

Figure 5 CEEC Director Legal Services, Joyce Mulenga (l) with TEVETA Director General, Cleophas Takaiza (r).

Director Legal Services Joyce Mulenga, representing Director General Dr. Muwe Mungule at the signing ceremony, described the agreements as a reflection of CEEC’s institutional maturity. She said the partnerships signal a Commission that is moving beyond transactional financing towards building a comprehensive empowerment ecosystem.

By collaborating with training institutions, research bodies, and private sector partners, CEEC aims to create an environment where citizen-owned businesses do not just survive — they scale, create employment, and contribute meaningfully to Zambia’s economic trajectory.

CEEC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE SHARPENS ANTI-CORRUPTION TOOLS IN ACC-LED TRAINING

Good governance does not happen by accident. In a deliberate effort to build institutional integrity from within, members of the CEEC Integrity Committee recently completed a rigorous five-day capacity-building workshop organised by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The training was part of a broader national initiative to strengthen Integrity Committees across public institutions, equipping them with the knowledge and practical tools to prevent corruption, promote accountability, and handle complaints in a professional and transparent manner.

For Integrity Committee Secretary Oliver Mwanza, the workshop delivered concrete and immediately applicable insights.



Figure 6 Oliver Mwanza, CEEC Integrity Committee Secretary at the Integrity Workshop.

The workshop also created a valuable platform for cross-institutional learning, enabling participants to share experiences and benchmark best practices with Integrity Committee representatives from other public bodies.

As CEEC continues to strengthen its governance architecture, the Integrity Committee serves as a frontline safeguard in fostering a workplace culture of honesty, professionalism, and zero tolerance for corruption.

Members of the public and stakeholders are encouraged to report any suspected corruption or unethical conduct through the following channels:

Integrity Hotline: +260 957 482 645 (Call or WhatsApp)
Email: integrity@ceec.org.zm



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