



Republic of Zambia

MINISTRY OF GENERAL EDUCATION

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF GENERAL EDUCATION,
HONOURABLE DR. DENNIS MUSUKU WANCHINGA, MP, ON THE JOINT
RELEASE OF THE 2020 GRADE 9 EXTERNAL AND GENERAL
CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (G.C.E) EXAMINATION RESULTS**

30th October, 2020

Salutations

- **Permanent Secretaries, Administration and Technical Services: Ministry of General Education;**
- **The Council Chairperson, Examinations Council of Zambia;**
- **Directors in the Ministry of General Education and the Examinations Council of Zambia;**
- **Senior Staff in the Ministry of General Education and the Examinations Council of Zambia;**
- **Members of the Media Present;**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1.0 Introduction

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to inform the nation that the Ministry of General Education (MoGE), working through the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ), has completed processing the results of the 2020 Grade 9 External and General Certificate of Education (G.C.E) Examinations.

Both examinations were written within the period from 31st August to 15th September, 2020. The examination scripts were marked and results processed between 21st September and 24th October, 2020, and were approved by Council on 27th October, 2020.

As you may be aware, various examining boards in different countries have had to vary either the time, method, type or strategy for examining candidates in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. We have followed how various education systems of the world have experienced reactions from their candidates and the people they serve based on the alternatives they took in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I wish to commend all the members of staff of the Ministry of General Education and Examinations Council of Zambia for maintaining the professional way of conducting examinations despite the challenges experienced due to COVID-19.

The successful conduct of the 2020 Grade 9 External and GCE examinations gives confidence to the Government and Zambian people that the Ministry of General Education and Examinations Council of Zambia are capable of navigating serious challenges to still serve the mandate of providing credible and leakage free examinations to the citizenry of this country.

Allow me now to present to you the results of the 2020 Grade 9 External and GCE

Examinations.

2.0 The 2020 Grade 9 External Examination Results

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

- 2.1 A total of **127,161** candidates entered the 2020 Grade 9 External Examination, reflecting a growth of 52.03% over the 83,640 candidates who had entered for the examination in 2019. Of the 127,161 candidates, **59,318 (46.65%)** were boys and **67,843 (53.35%)** were girls;
- 2.2 A total of **115,732** candidates representing **91 percent** of the 127,161 candidates sat the 2020 examination. Out of the 115,732 who sat the examination, **53,735 (46.43 percent)** were boys and **61,997 (53.57 percent)** were girls;
- 2.3 Out of the 115,732 candidates who sat the examination, **35,792** candidates, representing **25.83 percent** sat for six (6) or more subjects, while the rest sat for less than six (6) subjects;
- 2.4 A total of **11,429** candidates were absent, bringing the 2020 national absenteeism rate to **8.99 percent** compared to the 2019 national absenteeism rate which was at **4.72 percent**, with **3,950 absent candidates**;
- 2.5 Of the **115,732** who sat the examination, **96,424 (83.32%)** passed the **2020** External Examinations compared to **55,721 (69.92%)** who passed the examination in 2019;
- 2.6 Out of the **35,796** who wrote six (6) subjects or more, **8,530** candidates representing **25.83 percent** obtained **Grade 9 Certificates**, while **1,9786 (59.90%)** obtained **Statements** and **4,713 (14.27%)** **failed** the examination;

- 2.7 Analysis of performance by sex shows the following
- More boys (**27.06%**) than girls (**24.76%**) obtained Certificates.
 - More girls (**60.42%**) than boys (**59.31 %**) obtained statements and,
 - More girls (**14.82%**) than boys (**13.63 %**) failed the examination.
- 2.8 The analysis of the performance by subject revealed that the **highest** percentage mean score was recorded in **French** at **66.8** percent while the **least** performance was observed in **Religious Education** at **21.7** percent. Additionally, performance in **Mathematics (25.9%)** and **English Language (26.0%)** continue to be poor as the subjects continue to pose a challenge to the candidates. The Directorates of Standards Curriculum, Teacher Education and Specialised Services and the Examinations Council of Zambia must work together to devise strategies to improve Numeracy and Literacy levels in the Country.

3.0 2020 General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination Results

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

- 3.1 A total of **118,225** candidates registered for the examination, reflecting a reduction of comfiture by **-7.24 percent** from the **127,456** candidates who had registered for the same examination in 2019. Of the 118,225 registered candidates in 2020, **39,523 (33.43%)** were male and **78,702 (66.57%)** were female;
- 3.2 Out of the **118,225** registered candidates, **109,547** representing **92.7 percent** sat the examination;
- 3.3 The national absenteeism rate was **7.34 percent**, compared to 2019 when it was at **6.83 percent**. A higher proportion of males (**9.63%**) than females (**6.19%**) were absent from the examination. Eastern Province (**8.87%**) recorded the highest absenteeism rate followed by Lusaka

Province (**8.81%**). North-Western Province recorded the lowest absenteeism rate (**4.37%**);

- 3.3 Of the 109,547 candidates that sat the examination, **35,717 (44%)** were male and **73,830 (56%)** were female. The trend of having more female than male candidates sitting the GCE examination has continued;
- 3.4 A total of **98,043 (89.50%)** candidates obtained the General Certificate of Education, representing an increase from **80.9 percent (96,019)** who obtained the GCE in 2019. In **absolute figures**, more female (**65,735**) than Males (**32,308**) obtained the GCE Certificates;
- 3.5 There was a decrease in the national failure rate examination from **19.14 percent** in **2019** to **10.5 percent**, in the 2020 G.C.E examination;
- 3.6 Analysis of performance by subject revealed that the highest percentage mean score was recorded in French (**87.11%**), while Mathematics recorded the lowest (**15.43%**).

4.0 Examination Malpractices

- 4.1 I wish to state to there were no reported leakages of examination question papers during the conduct of the 2020 Grade 9 External and GCE examinations. I therefore wish to commend all stakeholders who took part in ensuring that the examinations were conducted leakage free;
- 4.2 Despite the absence of leakages, a total of **sixty (60)** cases of suspected examination malpractices were reported during the conduct of the 2020 Grade 9 External examination. Additionally, a total of **one hundred three (103)** cases of suspected examination malpractice were reported during the conduct of the 2020 GCE examination. The cases were in form

of smuggling unauthorized material into the examination room, collusion, copying, impersonation and assistance;

4.3 The Examinations Council of Zambia has withheld the results for the candidates involved in all cases of suspected examination malpractice until the issues are resolved by the appropriate Committees of Council;

4.4 I wish to reiterate that the Government of the Republic of Zambia will not tolerate any form of examination malpractice and anyone found wanting will be dealt with in accordance with the law;

5.0 Closing

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

5.1 Allow me once again to applaud the officers in the Ministry of General Education, the Examinations Council of Zambia, Teacher Unions, Security Wings and all other the stakeholders that were involved in monitoring and conduct of the 2020 Grade 9 External and GCE Examinations for a job well done;

5.2 It is important for us to continue with the same spirit as we conduct the internal examinations that will start in the month of December;

5.3 The public is informed that the **SMS Result notification system** will be available immediately after this release;

5.4 For the **Statements of Results**, candidates shall access them from ECZ Portal using their examination numbers at no charge;

5.5 Certificates shall be printed by the ECZ in due course for collection by deserving candidates from respective Examination Centres;

With these remarks, I declare the 2020 Grade 9 External and General Certificate of Education (G.C.E) Examinations results officially released.

Thank you all for listening and May God Continue to Bless Our Nation