

ANNUAL REPORT 2020





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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACCA Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

ACQF Africa Continental Qualifications Framework

AGM Annual General Meeting

AQVN African Qualifications Verification Network

CATS Credit Accumulation and Transfer System

CBU Copperbelt University

ECZ Examinations Council of Zambia

ICT Information Communication Technology

MDD Management Development Division

NIPA National Institute of Public Administration

NOKUT Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education

NOS National Occupational Standards

QMIS Qualifications Management Information System

QQI Quality and Qualifications Ireland

RPL Recognition of Prior Learning

SADC Southern African Development Community

SADCQF Southern African Development Community Qualifications Framework

SI Statutory Instrument

TEVETA Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UQP UNESCO Qualifications Passport

ZAQA Zambia Qualifications Authority

ZQF Zambia Qualifications Framework

PICTURES OF SOME ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING THE YEAR



The Minister of Higher Education, Hon. Dr. Brian Mushimba, the Permanent Secretary (MoHE), Mrs. Kayula Siame and ZAQA CEO, Mrs. Mirriam Chiyaba during the launch of the QMIS at Finsbury Park, Lusaka



ZAQA's Standards Setting Manager, Mr. Fidelis Cheelo handing over NOS books in Agriculture and Aquaculture sectors to representatives of the Chipata District Farmers Association.



Irish Ambassador to Zambia, Mr. Seamus O'Grady, Permanent Secretary (MOHE), Mrs. Kayula Siame and ZAQA CEO, Mrs. Mirriam Chiyaba CEO at the launch of National Occupational Standards



His Worship the Mayor of the City of Kitwe, Mr. Christopher Kang'ombe, gives opening remarks at the NOS Validation Workshop for the Construction Sector in Kitwe



ZAQA Board members with ZAQA Management team at the Board Induction Workshop held at the Radisson Blu Hotel



ZAQA Staff at the Annual Team Building event







CORE VALUES



Professionalism

We exhibit competence, commitment, good judgment, conduct and behaviour and promote a positive corporate image in the execution of our duties

Integrity

We put the obligations of the Authority above one's personal interests and conduct ourselves in a manner that is beyond reproach

Transparency

We are open and communicate effectively in the discharge of our duties

Team Work

We cooperate with others and work to the best of our abilities, despite any personal conflict that may arise between individuals to foster unity of purpose

Excellence

We provide superior and meritorious services beyond our clients' expectations

Confidentiality

We are trustworthy by not revealing or disclosing privileged information to unauthorised persons

















The Authority operated without a duly appointed Board until August 2020 when the Minister of Higher Education, Hon. Dr. Brian Mushimba, appointed the Board of Directors of the Zambia Qualifications Authority.

GOVERNANCE



Mrs. Ann Malata Ononuju

Board Chairperson

Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education



Dr. John Chileshe
Vice Chairperson
Civil Society Organisation



Mrs. Kayula Siame Member Ministry of Higher Education



Mr. Fredrick Mwila

Member

Ministry of Health



Mrs. Jaqueline C.M. Chikwama
Member
Zambia Institute of
Human Resource Management



Dr. Tamala T. Kambikambi Member Public Universities



Mr. Bonna Kashinga
Member
Zambia Institute of Chartered
Accountants



Prof. Kasonde Bowa Member Private Universities



Mr. William Ngoma Member Zambia Air Services Training Institute



Mrs. Vivien M.C. Ndhlovu

Member

Ministry of Labour



Mr. Louis Mwansa
Member
Ministry of General
Education

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



Mrs. Mirriam M.A Chiyaba Chief Executive Officer



Mrs. Mercy M. Ngoma
Director - Corporate Services



Mr. Modest Hamalabbi Director - Technical Services

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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD



It is my sincere pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Zambia Qualifications Authority for the year 2020.

During 2020, the Authority remained committed to the fiduciary management of resources and ensuring value for money on all its transactions. It operated in line with Government Policy for grant aided institutions, in line with the guidance from the Ministry of Finance through the Public Finance Management Act No. 1 of 2018.

The ZAQA Board was inaugurated in August 2020 to provide strategic direction to the Authority as it enhanced its pivotal role of implementing the national qualifications framework through the registration and accreditation of qualifications as well as the validation and evaluation of qualifications within the framework of the ZAQA Act No. 13 of 2011, ZAQA Strategic Plan 2019 to 2021 and the 2020 Annual Work Plan and Budget. Further, the operations of the Authority were guided by Statutory Instrument No. 4 of 2018 on the

Accreditation, Validation and Evaluation of Qualifications.

The Authority continued to enjoy cordial working relations with local and international counterparts and benefited from some engagements in the year through staff development programmes and technical assistance on the implementation of the national qualifications framework. Some of the cooperating partners engaged in the year included the Embassy of Ireland in Zambia, Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI), South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Africa Qualifications Verification Network (AQVN) and the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)

During the year, the Authority received overwhelming support from the parent ministry, the Ministry of Higher Education. The Ministry provided unwavering cooperation, guidance and support, without which we could not have implemented some activities, in the manner that we did.

A number of challenges were encountered in the year which hindered the Authority from achieving some of the objectives as espoused in the Strategic Plan. The outbreak of the COVID 19 virus exacerbated the situation as some activities had to be halted or cancelled.

I now invite you to read through our Annual Report which is very elaborate and hope that you will find the information useful and informative.

Ann Malata Ononuju (Mrs)

Board Chairperson

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



The Zambia Qualifications Authority (ZAQA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Higher Education established by the ZAQA Act No. 13 of 2011 to develop, oversee and maintain a national qualifications framework for Zambia. The functions of ZAQA include the registration and accreditation of qualifications, validation and evaluation of qualifications and ensuring that standards and registered qualifications are internationally comparable. The detailed functions of ZAQA are outlined in the ZAQA Act No. 13 of 2011. ZAQA is also guided by Statutory Instrument (SI) No. 4 of 2018 on Accreditation, Validation and Evaluation of Qualifications.

Operational Overview

The operations of the Authority during the year under review were guided by an approved Annual Work Plan and Budget whose focus was on the implementation of the Zambia Qualifications Framework (ZQF). A total of 46 qualifications were accredited in 2020 bringing the cumulative number to 144.

The Authority recognises that successful implementation of the ZQF requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders who include Quality Assurance Bodies, Awarding Bodies, institutions of learning, industry/employers and all those that have an interest in the quality of

qualifications being issued in Zambia. To put this in effect, the Authority engaged various stakeholders through different platforms in order to share the objectives of the ZQF.

During the year, the Authority continued with the review of the ZAQA Act and the Zambia Qualifications Framework in order to keep it current and ensure that the Zambian Qualifications remain internationally comparable.

Further, the Authority continued to validate qualifications for authenticity. During the year under review, the Authority verified 2,170 qualifications out of which 44 (2.03%) were found to be misrepresented.

The Authority recorded two separations in the year under review and two recruitments. The total staff complement at the end of the year was twenty-two (22) out of a revised establishment of thirty-two (32).

Corporate Governance

For part of the year to August 2020, the Authority operated without a duly appointed Board. The Ministry of Higher Education, through the Permanent Secretary constituted special committees to provide governance oversight and support to the Authority. In August 2020, the Minister of Higher Education appointed the ZAQA Board in line with Section 10 of the ZAQA Act.

Financial Performance

A total revenue of ZMW 12,820,765 was received in the period under review with 85% being Government Grant. The Authority did not receive the planned donor support towards income as cooperating partners were affected by the outbreak of the COVID 19 Pandemic. Some activities such as exchange visits and other face to face interactions had to be rescheduled or cancelled. The Authority recorded an operating deficit of ZMW4,071,695 in the year under review.



Board members and ZAQA Staff end of year engagement



ZAQA Staff celebrating Independence day

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mandate

The mandate of the Zambia Qualifications Authority in line with the Zambia Qualifications Authority Act No. 13 of 2011 is to develop and implement a national qualifications framework. Specific functions of the Authority among others are as follows: -

- (a) develop and implement policy and criteria, after consultation with the appropriate authority, for the development, accreditation and publication of qualifications and part- qualifications;
- (b) accredit a qualification or part-qualification recommended by an appropriate authority if it meets the relevant criteria;
- (c) develop policy and criteria after consultation with the appropriate authorities for assessment, recognition of prior learning and credit accumulation and transfer;
- (d) develop the content of level descriptors for each level of the Framework and reach agreement on the content with the appropriate authorities;
- (e) publish the agreed level descriptors in the Gazette and ensure that the levels remain current and appropriate;
- (f) ensure that standards and accredited qualifications are internationally comparable;
- (g) determine national standards for any occupation;
- (h) recognise and validate competencies for purposes of certification obtained outside the formal education and training systems;
- (i) recognise and validate competencies for purposes of certification obtained outside the country;
- (j) collaborate with its international counterparts on all matters of mutual interest concerning qualification frameworks;
- (k) keep a database of learning achievements in Zambia;
- (I) advise the Minister on matters pertaining to the Framework; and
- (m) do all such things as are necessary or condusive for the achievement of the purposes of this Act.

The Authority is also guided by the Zambia Qualifications (Accreditation, Validation and Evaluation of Qualifications) Regulations, 2018

PICTURES OF SOME ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING THE YEAR



Experts at the NOS Consultative workshop for the Construction Sector in Kitwe



The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Higher Education giving opening remarks at the consultative meeting for the review of the ZAQA Act and ZQF held on the Copperbelt



ZAQA donated used card board and paper to Apters Zambia at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) in Lusaka



Some of the measures put in place to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic



ZAQA Women during the International Women's week whose theme was,
"Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights"



The ZAQA CEO Mrs. Mirriam M.A Chiyaba speaking at the launch of the NOS in Tourism, Agriculture and Aquaculture sectors in Lusaka

2.0 OPERATIONAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2020

The Authority continued to implement its Strategic Plan 2019 to 2021. In this regard, the strategic objectives as espoused in the Strategic Plan guided the Authority's activities in 2020. The achievements recorded under each objective are as shown below:

2.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Under the Qualifications Accreditation and Validation Excellence Strategic Theme, ZAQA committed to improving the management of the Qualifications Framework in the 2019 to 2021 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Theme is aimed at strengthening the mechanism for accreditation and validation of qualifications thereby increasing the recognition of Zambian qualifications. Further, it is envisaged that during the period covered by the Strategic Plan, the Authority will increase accreditation of qualifications, increase validation of qualifications and improve set standards. During the year 2020, the Authority planned a number of activities that were aimed at achieving the intended objectives.

2.1.1 Enhance the recognition of Zambian Qualifications

2.1.1.1 Revised Addis Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States 2014

The Revised Convention entered into force in November 2019 following the ratification by eleven (11) African States. Despite being a strong advocate for the Convention, Zambia was yet to ratify the same. Cabinet approved the ratifications which now awaits Parliament's assent.

Among other provisions, the Revised Convention provides for the recognition of qualifications held by refugees and other displaced persons.

2.1.1.2 UNESCO Qualifications Passport (UQP)

The Authority continued to work with UNESCO and other partners in the implementation of the UQP Project.

Due to COVID 19, no credential evaluation and substantiation of qualifications for Refugees and Displaced Individuals was conducted. The methodology involves face to face interviews with the potential candidates to substantiate the missing documentation. Nevertheless, during this period UNESCO arranged for a further training of the four (4) ZAQA Credential Evaluators by the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT). In addition, UNESCO donated equipment to help the Authority manage online meetings.

2.1.1.3 UNESCO Workshop on Quality Education in Higher Education in Africa, Dakar - Senegal

UNESCO organised a workshop for the implementation of Component 3 of the UNESCO/Shenzhen Funds-In-Trust (FIT) Project on Strengthening Networking in Quality Assurance in Africa and Development of Continental Tools for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications. The Chief Executive Officer presented on "Trends in recognition of qualifications and linkage of quality assurance to recognition of qualifications." Lessons were shared with implementing agencies and continue to be used by the Authority in improving recognition processes.

2.1.1.4 Review of the Zambia Qualifications Framework and Level Descriptors

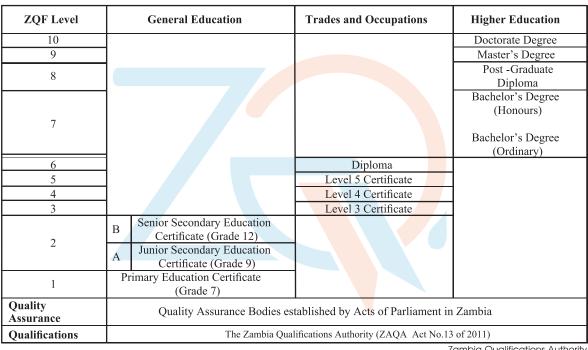
In view of the need to keep the Zambia Qualifications Framework current and comparable to international standards, the Authority received principle approval from Cabinet in May 2020 to proceed with the review of the ZQF and Level Descriptors. The Authority worked with key stakeholders in this process. This included facilitating the holding of meetings of the Technical Working Group Committee on the Review of the Zambia Qualifications Framework and its Level Descriptors. Arising from the stakeholder engagements, the Authority has proposed a cyclic qualifications framework and also revised the level descriptors. The revised framework proposes the following among others: -

- i) Introduction of A Levels on the Framework and as an entry requirement to universities;
- ii) Changing the schooling system from the current 7-2-3 to 6-4-2 meaning Primary Education will take 6 years, Secondary School Ordinary Level Qualification will take 4 years and Advanced Level will take 2 years.

The revised Framework was yet to be approved by Cabinet as at end of the year.

Current ZQF

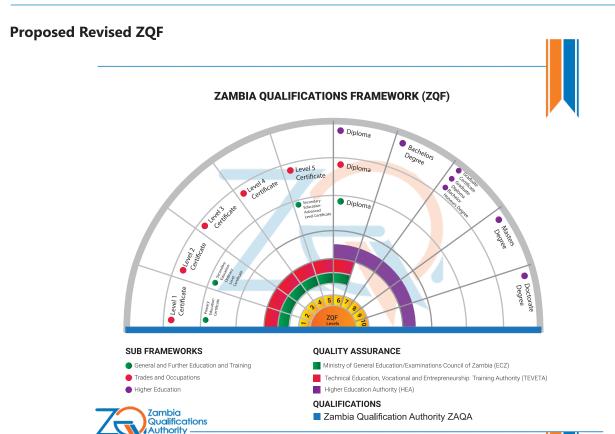






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2.1.1.5 Other Qualification Framework Engagements

Other engagements on the Qualifications Framework were as follows:

- i) The Authority engaged the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI), NARIC and the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT) to provide input on the review of the ZQF. Valuable input was received and incorporated in the review of the Framework;
- ii) ZAQA engaged with the African Union on the peer learning with respect to the development of the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF). The CEO made a presentation on the Zambia Qualifications Framework.
- iii) ZAQA also attended the SADC TCCA meeting held virtually where ZAQA continued to coordinate the advocacy and communications for implementation focus area of the SADCQF. To this end, the Authority participated in the TCCA EXCO Meeting and other SADC engagements

2.1.2 Intended results 1: Increased accreditation of qualifications

During the year 2020, the Authority received eighty-six (86) qualifications for registration and accreditation on the Zambia Qualifications Framework. A total of forty-six (46) qualifications were registered and accredited in the year 2020, bringing the total of qualifications registered and accredited on the ZQF to 144. There were three (3) qualifications pending registration and accreditation at the end of the year.

Table 1: Number of Qualifications Received and Accredited in 2020

	2019	2020
Qualifications Brought Forward from previous year	23	3
Qualifications Received	34	86
Qualifications Accredited	48	46
Qualifications Not Accredited	6	40
Pending Accreditation as at 31 December	3	3

2.1.2.1 Challenges in accrediting Qualifications

The Authority did not accredit and register the targeted 680 qualifications because Appropriate Authorities did not submit qualifications as anticipated. The operations of the Appropriate Authorities were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.1.2.2 Strategies to Address the Challenge identified above

The following strategies were put in place in order to address the challenge identified above:

- I) Holding of sensitisation meetings with Appropriate Authorities to remind them of the need to submit qualifications for registration and accreditation on the ZQF and implications of offering qualifications not registered and accredited on the ZQF;
- ii) In addition, the Authority was receiving support from the Ministry of Higher Education in reminding Awarding Bodies on the need to have their qualifications submitted for registration and accreditation on the ZQF.

2.1.3 Intended results 2: Increased validation and evaluation of qualifications

In the year 2020, the Authority received a total of 1,995 applications for validation and evaluation of qualifications. A total of 2,170 validations and evaluation were completed in the year. The validated and evaluated qualifications were distributed as shown in Figure 1.

Distribution of Validated and Evaluated Qualifications 1400 1200 1000 800 600 400 200 Local SADO United USA Kingdom Region Africa the World

Figure 1: Distribution of validated and evaluated qualifications

The Authority recorded a total of 44 misrepresented qualifications in the year representing 2.03% of validated and evaluated qualifications. The misrepresented qualifications were distributed as follows:



Figure 2: Distribution of misrepresented qualifications

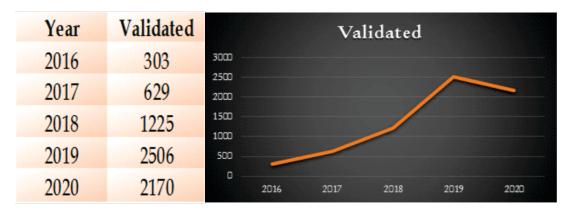
The distribution of received, validated and evaluated, as well as pending qualifications is as represented in Table 2.

Table 2: Reconciliation of qualifications received for Verification and Evaluation

	2019	2020
Qualifications Brought Forward from previous year	416	813
Qualifications Received	2,959	1,995
Qualifications verified & evaluated	2,506	2,170
Qualifications misrepresented	56	44
Pending as at 31 December	813	638

The trend in the validation of qualifications from 2016 is indicated in figure 4: -

Figure 3: Validated qualifications in the last five (5) years



2.1.3.1 Challenges in the validation and evaluation of Qualifications

The main challenge encountered in the validation and evaluation of qualifications during the year under review was the delays in the confirmation of qualifications from awarding bodies for various reasons including the COVID-19 pandemic as well as language barriers. This contributed to the low number of qualifications validated and evaluated during the year.

2.1.3.2 Strategies to Address the Challenges

The following strategies were put in place to address the challenges identified in the validation of qualifications: -

- i) Targeted sensitisation of local awarding bodies on the importance of validation of qualifications and the need to respond promptly to validation requests by the Authority;
- ii) Continued collaborating with Embassies and Qualification Agencies to facilitate the validation of qualifications from foreign countries.

2.1.4 Intended results 3: Increased compliance to set standards

During the year under review, the Authority conducted a number of activities aimed at increasing compliance to set standards.

2.1.4.1 National Occupational Standards (NOS) Development

The occupational standards are primarily aimed at ensuring that the outcome from the education system respond to Industry needs. The Authority, on 8th October 2020, launched a total of twelve (12) National Occupational Standards under the Tourism and Agriculture/Aquaculture sectors (6 per sector). The launched NOS for the Tourism sector are: Tour Guide, Front Office Manager, Front Office Assistant, Executive Chef, and Sous Chef and Chef-De-Parties. Further, the launched NOS for Agriculture/Aquaculture are: Senior Agriculture Officer, Agriculture Extension Officer, Fisheries Extension Assistant, Aquaculture Farmer, Aquaculture Technician, and Fish Seed Grower.

2.1.4.2 Development of Guidelines for Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CATS)

During the year under review, the Authority finalised the development of the Guidelines on Credit Accumulation and Transfer Systems (CATS). The implementation of the developed CATS was pending approval of the revised ZQF by Cabinet as at end of the year.

2.1.4.3 Review of the ZAQA Act No. 13 of 2011

The Authority continued with the review of the ZAQA Act No. 13 of 2011. Cabinet gave approval in principle to commence the review of the Act in July 2020. During the year, the Authority facilitated the meetings of the Technical Working Group Committee on the Review of the ZAQA Act. The output of the meetings was the draft amended Act which was submitted to the Ministry of Justice for drafting of the legislative bill.

2.1.4.4 Quality Assurance

The Authority undertook quality assurance compliance audits of the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) Ndola Campus; Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA); Zambia Institute of Marketing (ZIM); and Zambia Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Studies (ZITHS). All the four institutions were found to be generally compliant with the ZAQA standards.

2.1.4.5 Challenges Encountered during the year under Review

The following were the challenges encountered during the period under review:

- The Authority was unable to invite many stakeholders to the NOS development meetings as a result of the measures put in place by Government to try and contain the spread of the COVID-19;
- ii) Reluctance among key sector players to participate in the NOS development process leading to low stakeholder participation;
- iii) Some experts, demonstrated some levels of unfamiliarity with some of the technical content in the draft NOS and the NOS development process;
- iv) The Authority was unable to conduct all the planned Compliance Audits and the RPL Monitoring visits as a result of the measures put in place by Government to try and contain the spread of the COVID-19.

2.1.4.6 Strategies to Address the Challenges

The following strategies were put in place to address challenges identified:

- i) Engaging stakeholders to comment and validate the NOS via online platforms;
- ii) The Authority continued emphasising on the nomination and appointment of competent NOSDT members with relevant qualifications, experience and expertise to be able to carry out the drafting of NOS for the identified occupations from scratch;
- iii) To mitigate the effects of COVID-19, the Authority used online self-evaluation tools developed to conduct compliance audits and monitoring activities.

2.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE II: ENHANCE STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

Under this Strategic objective, it is expected that the Authority will put in place mechanisms that will increase stakeholder support which will be evidenced through increased financial and technical support.

2.2.1 Intended Result 1: Increased stakeholder support

In an effort to increase stakeholder support and improve the visibility of the Authority, with the support of the Embassy of Ireland in Zambia, the Authority undertook a number of stakeholder engagements as follows:

2.2.1.1 Provincial Sensitisations

The Authority held provincial sensitisations in the following provinces:

I) Central Province

Sensitisation was conducted in Kabwe from 14th to 18th September 2020. A one-day workshop was held at the Urban Bliss Hotel and was officiated by His Worship, the Mayor of Kabwe, Mr. Prince Chileshe. Sensitisation of targeted institutions in Kabwe was also conducted.

ii) Copperbelt Province

Sensitisation was conducted in Ndola from 19th to 22nd October 2020. A one-day workshop was held at Urban Hotel and His Worship, the Mayor of Ndola, Mr. Amon Chisenga, officiated at the event. Further, sensitisation of targeted institutions on the Copperbelt was conducted.

iii) Eastern province

ZAQA conducted provincial sensitisation in the Eastern Province of Zambia from 10th to 13th November 2020. A sensitisation workshop was held at Crystal Springs Hotel in Chipata and His Worship, the Mayor of Chipata, Mr. Sinoya Mwale officiated at the event. The Authority also conducted sensitisation of targeted institutions in the Province.

iv) Lusaka Province

The Authority held a breakfast sensitisation meeting on the role of ZAQA and update on activities at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Lusaka, on Thursday 10th December 2020. The event was attended by Members of Parliament representing the Committee on Education, Science and Technology.

2.2.1.2 Communication Strategy

With the help of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services (MIBS), the Authority commenced the development of a Communication Strategy. The draft Communication Strategy was undergoing review at the close of the year.

2.2.1.3 Other Stakeholder Engagements

Further, the following were conducted in the year in order to increase stakeholder support and improve the visibility of the Authority:

i) Branding

ZAQA branded various items including diaries, water bottles, reusable bags and face masks for distribution to raise the ZAQA brand.

ii) Social Media

The following were the Social media statistics at the end of the year:

Table 3: Social Media statistics

Platform	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
Twitter	216 followers	290 followers	344 followers	412 followers
LinkedIn	1362 followers	1693 followers	195 followers	1,514 followers
Facebook	10,980	11,155 followers	11,542	11,723
	followers		followers	followers
Website	1,556 Visits	2,674 visits	5,211 visits	5,239 visits

The Authority closed LinkedIn account in the third quarter after guidance from LinkedIn to migrate to a corporate account.

2.3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE III: IMPROVE HUMAN RESOURCES

In order to achieve the Strategic Objective of Improving Human Resource, the following were achieved in the year 2020:

2.3.1 Intended Result I: Improve Performance

2.3.1.1 Strategy I: Review and Operationalise the Organisation Structure

With the help of the Management Development Division, the Authority reviewed the organisation structure. The revised Organisation Structure was approved by the ZAQA Board in December 2020. Key changes worth noting include:

- i) Renaming of the Registration and Accreditation Section to Qualifications Services Section, and advisory services moved to the IEC Unit;
- ii) Creating officer positions in the Qualifications Unit to manage the routine work;
- iii) Strategic Planning functions incorporated in the Standards and Quality Assurance Section to ensure focused implementation and programming;
- iv) Strengthening the lower level structures to function appropriately at their levels and free senior management from routine work;
- v) Raising the profile of the ICT Unit by operationalising the position of ICT Manager;
- vi) Operationalising the positions of Legal Counsel and Board Secretary to provide legal advice and secretarial services to the Board and Board Committees;
- vii) Providing for the function of internal Audit and Risk in line the Public Finance Management Act No. 1 of 2018;
- viii) Director and Chief Executive Officer to be referred to as Chief Executive Officer (CEO);
- ix) Heads of departments be defined as Directors similar to main stream public service and quasi government; and
- x) Strengthen management levels in the application of the performance management system.

Overall, the revised organisation structure resulted in a reduction of one position and a financial saving of ZMW 971,462.60.

2.3.1.2 Strategy II: Strengthen performance and reward mechanism.

The Authority engaged the services of a Consultant, Beatmas Human Resource Consultants, to develop a Performance Appraisal Policy. As at close of the year, the policy was undergoing internal reviews. Further, the performance management process was reviewed and strengthened in the year and performance appraisals were conducted as at close of the year.

2.4 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE IV: ENHANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

This Strategic Objective had one Intended Result and the following were achieved under this Strategic Objective:

2.4.1 Intended Results: Effective and Efficient Service Delivery

2.4.1.1 Strategy I: Develop and Implement a Service Delivery Charter

The Authority, with the help of the Management Development Division, developed a Service Delivery Charter for the Authority. The Charter is aimed at enhancing service delivery resulting in satisfied clients. Implementation of the same was still underway at the end of the year.

2.4.1.2 Strategy II: Develop, Automate and Integrate Management Systems

The development of the Qualifications Management Information System (QMIS) was completed in 2020. Due to the outbreak of the COVID 19 Pandemic, clients were encouraged to access the ZAQA validation services through the QMIS. At the end of the year, the development team was working at resolving minor issues that were identified during the implementation.

The Authority also migrated from Pastel Partner 14 to Pastel Partner 19, a web based accounting system. This will allow accounting staff to be able to access the system from anywhere and is ideal in this COVID 19 era.

2.5 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE V: IMPROVE THE SOURCES AND MANAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

2.5.1 Intended Result I: Improved accountability

This intended result has two strategies and the following were achieved under each strategy: -

2.5.1.1 Strengthen internal financial controls

In order to strengthen internal financial controls, the Board held quarterly Board and Board Committee meetings. Further, the review of the Finance Manual commenced in the year in order to strengthen internal financial controls.

2.5.1.2 Develop and implement a Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

The Authority put in place a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in order to monitor achievements against the Strategic Plan. Quarterly progress reports were submitted to the Board highlighting progress made against the Strategic Plan.

2.6 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE VI: IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Authority worked with the Higher Education Authority, the Higher Education Loans and Scholarship Board and the Ministry of Higher Education to put in place a task team to spearhead the development of office building. The three institutions will contribute funds towards the building of offices. The Ministry of Higher Education allocated land at National Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research (NISIR) for the construction of the office building.

Table 4 shows the performance of the Authority against 2020 targets set at the beginning of the year. These targets were approved at the beginning of the year and were part of the 2020 budget.

S/N	DEPARTMENT/	INTENDED	OUTPUT	2020 PLA	2020 PLANNED VS ACHIEVED
•		RESULT	INDICATORS		
				ANNUAL TARGETS	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGET
.	Registration	Increased	Percentage of	Validate at least 1,150 local	1,235 local applications were validated
	and	validation &	applications for	applications for validation	by 31⁵t December 2020.
	Accreditation	evaluation of	local qualifications	by December 2020.	
		dijalifications	received validated		
		طمقالحقال	within 14 days.	90% of local qualifications	12% of the local qualifications.
				received validated within	received were validated within 14 days
				14 days.	
2			Percentage of	Validate at least 1,100	935 foreign applications were validated
			applications for	foreign applications for	by 31⁵t December 2020.
	Registration		foreign	validation by December	
	and		qualifications	2020.	
	Accreditation		received validated		
			within 30 days.	90% of foreign	19% of the foreign qualifications
				qualifications received	received were validated and evaluated
				validated within 30 days.	within 30 days.
3		Increased	Percentage of	Register and accredit at	46 qualifications were registered and
		accreditation of	applications for	least 830 qualifications	accredited onto the ZQF as at 31st
	Registration	qualifications	accreditation	onto the ZQF by December	December 2020.
	and Accreditation		processed within	2020.	
				95% of received	100% of applications were processed
				qualifications registered	within 30 days
				within 30 days.	
4	Standards	Improved	Percentage of Key	Develop at least 5 National	A total of twelve (12) National
	Setting	Standards	Priority Sectors	Occupational Standards for	Occupational Standards (NOS) were
			with National	each priority sector of the	developed for 2 priority sectors
			Occupational	7NDP by	

S/N	E	INTENDED	OUTPUT	2020 PLA	2020 PLANNED VS ACHIEVED
	SECTION	RESULT	INDICATORS		
				ANNUAL TARGETS	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGET
	Standards	Improved	Standards by	December, 2020.	representing 33% of key priority sectors
	Setting	Standards	December 2020.		with NOS.
				70% of key priority sectors with NOS at Dec 2020.	The NOS launched were as follows:
					i) Six (6) in the Tourism sector
					namely:
					 Tour Guide;
					 Front Office Manager;
					 Front Office Assistant;
					 Executive Chef;
					 Sous Chef and Chef-De-Parties.
					ii) Six (6) in the Agriculture /
					Aquaculture sector namely:
					 Senior Agriculture Officer;
					 Agriculture Extension Officer;
					 Fisheries Extension Assistant;
					 Aquaculture Farmer;
					 Aquaculture Technician and;
					 Fish Seed Grower.
					Furthermore, the following NOS in three
					(3) other priority sectors were drafted
					pending approval:
					i) Construction Sector
					 Geomatics Engineer,
					 Electrician – Low Voltage,
					 Draughts Person,

Zambia Qualifications Authority ANNUAL REPORT - 2020

					ANINOAL KEPOKI - 2020
S/N	DEPARTMENT/	INTENDED	OUTPUT	2020 PL	2020 PLANNED VS ACHIEVED
		1001		ANNUAL TARGETS	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGET
	Standards	Improved	Occupation of Vol.		General Bricklayer,
	Setting	Standards	Percentage of Ney		 Metal Fabricator, and
			Priority Sectors		Steel Fixer.
			Occupational		
			Standards by		ii) Manufacturing Sector
			Decembe		 Mechanical Engineer,
					 Electrical and Electronics
					Engineer,
					 Chemical Engineer,
					 Production Manager,
					Quality Controller, and
					 Workshop Machines Operator.
					iii) Mining Sector
					 Process Engineer,
					 Senior Chemist,
					 Mine Safety Officer,
					 Mining Blaster,
					 Winding Engine Operator, and
					 Mine Data Entry Operator.
2			Number of audits	Conduct at least 1	Conducted 4 compliance audits of the
	Standards	Improved	of a sector	Verification Audit and 4	following institutions.
	Setting	Standards	conducted	Compliance Audits by	i) National Institute of Public
				December 2020	ation (NIPA)
					Campus;
					ii) Zambia Institute of Chartered
					Accountants (ZICA);

	_		1		
2	SECTION	RESULT	INDICATORS		2020 FLAMMED VS ACHIEVED
				ANNUAL TARGETS	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGET
					iii) Zambia Institute of Marketing (ZIM):
	7,77	Toxogram			iv) Zambia Institute of Tourism and
	Staffinalus Settina	Jilipioved Ctordondo			Hospitality Studies (ZITHS).
	ספווווק	standards			No verification audits were conducted
					as the Authority did not receive any
					application for recognition as an
					Appropriate Authority.
9			Percentage of	3 Appropriate Authorities	100% of the Appropriate Authorities are
			Appropriate	(AA) managing the sub-	currently promoting recognition of
			Authorities	frames of the ZOF	Prior Learning (RPL) through either
	Standards	Improved	;+0 ;0 ;0 ;0 ;0 ;0 ;0 ;0 ;0 ;0 ;0 ;0 ;0 ;0	, d 100 sai+omora	grant of exemptions or recognition of
	00#	i -	pinonio	profitting RFL by	non-formal learning.
	Sering	Standards	Recognition of	December 2020.	
			Prior Learning by		
			December 2020	% of Appropriate	
				Authorities promoting RPL	
				by December 2020.	
7			Percentage of	80% of Quality assurance	All awarding bodies in the three sub-
			Quality assurance	and awarding bodies	frameworks have been incorporating
			and awarding	incorporating level	level descriptors in qualifications
	Standards	Improved	bodies	descriptors in the	submitted for registration and
	Setting	Standards	incorporating level	development of their	accreditation.
			descriptors in the	curriculum/learning	
			development of	programmes by December	
			their	2020	
			curriculum/learning		

S/N	DEPARTMENT/ SECTION	INTENDED RESULT	OUTPUT INDICATORS	2020 PLA	2020 PLANNED VS ACHIEVED
				ANNUAL TARGETS	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGET
	Standards Setting		programmes by December 2020		
∞		Recognition of Appropriate Authorities	Number of Appropriate Authorities recognised	At least 2 additional Appropriate Authorities recognised by December 2020	No application for recognition as an Appropriate Authority was received during the year under review.
ത		Strengthened collaborations	Number of regional collaborative agreements	Participation in at least 2 collaborative meetings/study tours by December 2020	ZAQA participated in the UNESCO Workshop on Quality Education in Higher Education in Africa, Dakar – Senegal, ACQF, SADC TCCA and the AQVN.
10			Number of local collaborative agreements	Participate in at least 4 local collaborative meetings on Quality Assurance by December 2020	Participated in one collaborative meeting organised by TEVETA. Other meetings of quality assurance bodies could not be done due to COVID 19.
-	Corporate Services	Increased Stakeholder Support	Percentage of budget from other sources (Other than GRZ and ZAQA Services) annually	At least 10% of budget obtained from other sources (Other than GRZ and ZAQA Services) annually	Could not be achieved due to the outbreak of the pandemic. Most Cooperating partners were affected by the pandemic and could not provide financial support. However, the Authority still had funding from the Embassy of Ireland received in Dec 2019 available for execution of programmes in 2020.

S/N	DEPARTMENT/	INTENDED	OUTPUT	2020 PLA	2020 PLANNED VS ACHIEVED
	SECTION	RESULT	INDICATORS		
				ANNUAL TARGETS	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGET
12	Corporate	Improved	Commissioning of	50% of applications for	26% of applications for validations
	Services	Efficiency	QMIS	ZAQA services processed	processed through QMIS in 2020.
		`		in the QMIS by December	
				2020	
13			Percentage of	At least 50% of learner	33% of received learner records
			learner records	records from awarding	uploaded to QMIS. The Authority
			uploaded on the	bodies uploaded on the	received learner records from the
			system by	system by December 2020	following institutions: -
			December 2020		i) Zambia Institute of Tourism
					and Hospitality Studies
					(ZITHS) for 2017 to 2019
					graduating years;
					ii) Kwame Nkrumah for 2019
					graduating year;
					iii) Cavendish University for the
					graduating years from 2008
					to 2020;
					iv) UNILUS – Learner records
					for 2020 graduates;
					v) ACCA - Learners records for
					2020 graduates, and
					vi) MANCOSA – Learner
					records from 2005 to 2019.
14	Corporate	Strategic Plan in	Review of strategic	Mid-term review of the	The Mid- Term review could not be
	Services	place	plan	ZAQA strategic plan by	conducted due to the COVID 19
				1000	

N/S	DEPARTMENT/ SECTION	INTENDED RESULT	OUTPUT INDICATORS	2020 PLA	2020 PLANNED VS ACHIEVED
				ANNUAL TARGETS	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGET
					pandemic because physical meetings were not possible.
15	Corporate Services	Improved Service Delivery	Develop and implement a service delivery	Develop and implement a service delivery charter by December 2020	Service Delivery Charterwas developed in 2020 pending implementation.
16		·	Develop and implement a communication strategy Percentage reduction in client complaints and percentage	Develop and implement a communication strategy by December 2020 50% reduction in client complaints and 60% increase in client compliments by December 2020	Development commenced in the third quarter and could not be concluded due to the COVID 19 pandemic. 2020 was base year for conducting customer survey which revealed that 43.75% of clients complained of not having received their feedback on time.
18			compliments by December 2020 Percentage of activities conducted in line with the service delivery charter	90% of activities conducted in line with the service delivery charter by December 2020	information received from ZAQA. The rate of increase will be assessed in subsequent periods. Implementation of the Service Delivery Charter only commenced in the first quarter of 2021. Development of the Charter delayed due to the outbreak of the pandemic
19	Corporate Services	Positive Corporate Image	Percentage of adherence to ZAQA Core Values	100% adherence to ZAQA Core Values by all staff in 2020	100% of staff adhered to the ZAQA values according to the 360 degrees feedback received.

N/S	DEPARTMENT/ SECTION	INTENDED RESULT	OUTPUT INDICATORS	2020 PLA	2020 PLANNED VS ACHIEVED
				ANNUAL TARGETS	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGET
20	Corporate Services	Positive Corporate Image	Percentage of staff achieving at least 85% of set targets annually	80% of staff achieving at least 85% of set targets annually	65% of staff achieved at least 85% of set targets as at 31st December 2020.
21	Corporate Services	Policies developed	Number of HR policies developed	Develop 1 HR Policy and update of the terms and conditions of service	Two policies were developed namely: Health and Wellness Policy and the Anti-Harassment Policy. Terms and conditions of services were partially updated.
22	Corporate Services	Improved accountability	Unqualified audit report	Unqualified audit report by December 2020	Financial Audit for the year 2019 was concluded in March 2020 and the Auditors issued an unqualified audit report.
23	Corporate Services	Improved accountability	Number of audit queries	Zero queries by December 2020	Five queries were raised by the Auditors in the 2019 annual audit. 3 were beyond the control of the Authority.
24	Corporate Services	Improved accountability	Percentage of activities conducted within approved budget	95% of 2020 activities conducted within approved budget	98% of 2020 procurement activities were conducted within budget.

3.0 CORPORATE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The Corporate and Support Services of the Authority comprise the following functions:

- i) Information Communications Technology;
- ii) Human Resources and Administration; and
- ii) Finance.

3.1 INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

The following activities were conducted under Information and Communications Technology in 2020:

3.1.1 Qualifications Management Information System

The Authority continued to implement the Qualifications Management Information System (QMIS) in the year under review. The Authority developed some reporting templates in the QMIS to help monitor the implementation of the system.

Figure 5: Qualification Statistics

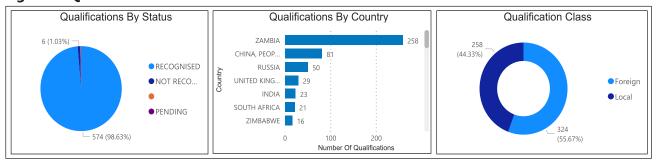
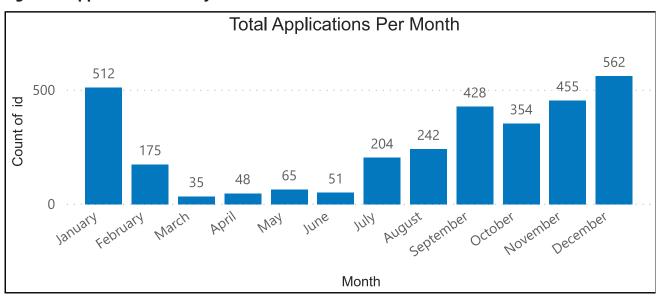


Figure 6: Applications View by month.



3.1.2 Digital Certification Integration with QMIS

The Authority completed the development and integration of E-Certification to the QMIS. This was launched together with the QMIS in June 2020.

3.1.3 Upload of Learner Records

In 2020, the Authority received learner records from nine (9) institutions for graduating years from 2005 to 2020.

3.2 HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION

3.2.1 Staff establishment

At the close of 2020, the Authority had a total of twenty-two (22) employees. Staff movement was as indicated in table 5:

Table 5: Staffing

Department	Staff Establishment	At 1st Jan 2020	Additions	Separations	At 31st Dec 2020
Office of the CEO	6	4	0	0	4
Technical Services	14	10	1	1	10
Corporate Services	13	7	1	0	8
Total	33	21	2	1	22

3.2.2 Outbreak of the COVID 19 Pandemic

The World Health Organization (WHO) on 11th March 2020, declared the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic. Zambia recorded its first COVID 19 case on 18th March 2020. The Government through Cabinet Circulars guided institutions on how to proceed in order to reduce the spread of the COVID 19 Pandemic.

The following measures were put in place in order to curb the spread of the COVID 19 Pandemic:

- i) Reduced overcrowding in the offices and service points by ensuring that non-essential staff worked from home on a rotational basis;
- ii) Staff were also provided with data bundles to be able to work from home;
- iii) Cancelled the receipt of actual cash by staff as clients were encouraged to deposit or transfer fees directly into the ZAQA bank accounts;
- iv) Cut all contact with the public as clients were encouraged to use the Qualifications Management Information System to submit their applications or send through email;
- v) Masks and sanitising facilities were provided for staff and visitors;
- vi) Some activities that take the form of meetings, conferences and workshops were postponed or cancelled.

3.3 BOARD AND BOARD PERFORMANCE

In August 2020, the Minister of Higher Education, Hon. Dr. Brain Mushimba constituted the ZAQA Board in line with section 10 of the Zambia Qualifications Authority Act No. 13 of 2011. Prior to August 2020, the Permanent Secretary provided oversight through special committees that reported to her office on a quarterly basis.

Table 6 shows attendance of the Board Members to meetings:

Table 6: Meeting attendance by Board Members

S/N	Name	Number of scheduled Meetings in 2020	Meetings Attended
		Wieetings in 2020	
1	Mrs. Ann M. Ononuju	4	4
2	Dr. John Chileshe	4	4
3	Mrs. Kayula Siame	4	3
4	Mr. Louis Mwansa	4	4
5	Ms. Vivien M.C. Ndhlovu	4	4
6	Mr. Fredrick Mwila	4	3
7	Mr. Bonna Kashinga	4	4
8	Prof. Kasonde Bowa	4	4
9	Dr. Tamala T. Kambikambi	4	3
10	Mr. William Ngoma	4	4
11	Mrs. Jacqueline C. M. Chikwama	4	4

The Board put in place Board Committees to assist with corporate governance matters. These Committees are the Registration and Accreditation Committee, the Standards Setting Committee and the Finance, Administration and Human Resources Committee. Attendance by the Members was as follows:

Table 7: Registration and Accreditation Committee

S	/ N	Name	Meetings held in 2020	Meetings Attended
1		Dr. John Chileshe	5	5
2		Dr. Albert Ng'andu	5	5
3		Mrs. Vivien M.C. Ndhlovu	5	5
4		Mr. William Ngoma	5	5
5		Mr. Succeed Mubanga	5	5

Table 8: Standards Setting Committee

S/N	Name	Meetings held in 2020	Meetings Attended
1	Mr. Louis Mwansa	3	3
2	Dr. Tamala T. Kambikambi	3	3
3	Mrs. Kayula Siame	3	3
4	Mr. Cleophas Takaiza	3	3
5.	Dr. Michael Chilala	3	3
6	Prof. Stephen Simukanga	3	3

Table 9: Finance, Administration and Human Resources Committee

		Number of	No. of Meetings
S/N	Name	Meetings held in	Attended
1	Mr. Bonna Kashinga	4	4
2	Prof. Kasonde Bowa	4	4
3	Mr. Tom Thewo	4	4
4	Mrs. Christine Mshanga	4	3
5	Mr. Jacob Mkandawire	4	4

3.3 FINANCE

The following section presents the financial performance of the Authority in the year under review.

3.3.1 Budget Performance

The total approved budget for 2020 was ZMW24,178,116. Of the budgeted amount, the Authority received ZMW 12,820,764 as indicated in table 10 below.

Table 10: Income Received in the year

	2020 Budget Performance			
	Actual (ZMW)	Budget (ZMW)	Variance (ZMW)	% Variance
Government funding	10,862,220	14,054,072	-3,191,852	-22%
Registration and Accreditation	555,000	4,710,000	-4,155,000	-88%
Validation and Evaluation	1,365,250	1,497,504	-132,254	-8%
Other Income	38,295	3,916,540	-3,878,245	-99%
Total	12,820,765	24,178,116	11,357,351	-47%

The Authority was not funded for three (3) months during 2020. The Authority continued to face challenges in receiving qualifications for accreditation from Appropriate Authorities. The outbreak of the COVID 19 also contributed to the low submission of qualifications by awarding bodies.

Further, due to COVID 19, the Embassy of Ireland was unable to disburse any funds to the Authority hence the huge variance on other income. Resource mobilisation efforts could not yield any results as most targeted cooperating partners were affected by the pandemic.

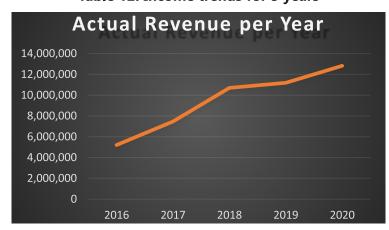
Validations were also affected by the pandemic as challenges were encountered when the Authority moved from manual to online applications to reduce the spread of the COVID 19. Furthermore, some awarding bodies could not be reached as they had closed due to the pandemic. This affected the turnaround time in processing applications.

The table 12 and figure 7 show total revenue performance in the last five (5) years:

Figure 7: Income trends for 5 years

Year	Revenue
2016	5,202,045
2017	7,470,410
2018	10,694,725
2019	11,196,487
2020	12,820,765

Table 12: Income trends for 5 years



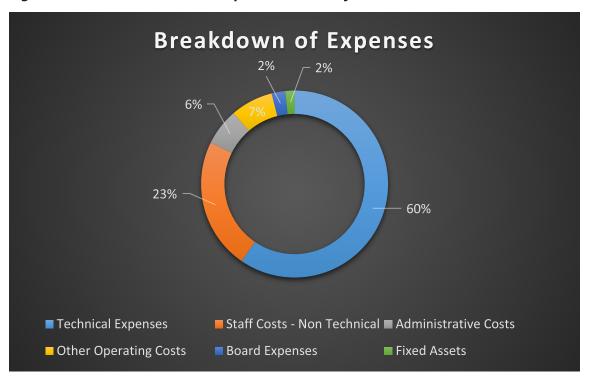
Trends analysis on the income received in the last five (5) years

There has been a slow but steady increase in the revenue of the Authority although appropriation from Government has remained static from 2018.

3.3.1 Financial Performance

The Authority recorded an operating deficit of ZMW4,071,696 (2019: ZMW3,897,183) in the year under review. Expenditure for the year amounted to ZMW16,892,460 (2019: ZMW15,079,390). The Authority also purchased fixed assets at a cost of ZMW272,556 (2019: ZMW103,917).

Figure 8 shows a breakdown of expenditure in the year 2020



4.0 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Directors have the pleasure in submitting their report on the operations of the Zambia Qualifications Authority covering the year to 31st December 2020.

1. Nature of Entity

The Zambia Qualifications Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Higher Education established by the Zambia Qualifications Authority Act No. 13 of 2011.

2. Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Authority are: -

- i. the development and implementation of a national qualifications framework;
- ii. registration and accreditation of qualifications;
- iii. provision of measures to ensure that standards and registered qualifications are internationally comparable; and
- iv. provision for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

3. Financial Results	Year Ended 31 December 2020 ZMW	Year Ended 31 December 2019 ZMW
Income	12,820,765	11,196,487
Expenditure	(16,892,460)	(15,093,670)
(Deficit) / Surplus for the Year	r (4,071,695)	(3,897,183)

4. Property, Plant and Equipment

During the year under review, the Authority purchased property, plant and equipment amounting to ZMW272,556 (2019: ZMW103,917). In the opinion of the Directors, the fair values of the Fixed Assets are not less than the amounts at which they are included in the financial statements.

5. Number of Employees

The total remuneration paid was ZMW 11,630,322 (2019: ZMW10,856,006) and the Authority had Twenty-two (22) employees at the close of the year under review (2019: 21)

6. Events Subsequent to the Year End

There have been no circumstances, facts or events of a significant or material nature impacting the business that have occurred between the period end and the date of this report.

7. Directors

The Authority operated without a duly appointed Board for the first seven months of 2020. During this period, the Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Higher Education, put in place interim committees to

provide overall guidance. The committees reported to the Permanent Secretary on a quarterly basis.

In August 2020, the Minister of Higher Education, Hon. Dr. Brian Mushimba constituted and inaugurated the Board of the Authority. The directors who held office during the year at the time of this report are as follows:

i)	Mrs. Ann-Mary Malata Ononuju	Board Chairperson
ii)	Dr. John Chileshe	Vice Chairperson
iii)	Mrs. Kayula Siame	Member
iv)	Mr. Louis Mwansa	Member
v)	Mrs. Vivien M.C. Ndhlovu	Member
vi)	Mr. Fredrick Mwila	Member
vii)	Mr. Bonna Kasinga	Member
viii)	Prof. Kasonde Bowa	Member
ix)	Dr. Tamala T. Kambikambi	Member
x)	Mr. William Ngoma	Member
xi)	Mrs. Jacqueline C. M Chikwama	Member
xii)	Mrs. Mirriam M.A. Chiyaba	Member

8. Statement of Responsibility and Approval of Financial Statements

Section 22 and 23 of the Zambia Qualifications Authority Act requires the Authority to maintain proper books of accounts and to prepare financial statements for each financial period that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Authority and of the surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing these financial statements, Management of the Authority have selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently, made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and followed the applicable accounting standards. Management are responsible for ensuring that the Authority keeps proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any given time, the financial position of the Authority. Management are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Authority and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with Sections 22 and 23 of the Zambia Qualifications Authority Act No. 13 of 2011, we, the Directors of the Authority are of the opinion that:

- a) the Statement of Financial Position is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Authority as at 31 December 2020;
- b) The Statement of Comprehensive Income is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the performance of the Authority for the year ended 31 December 2020; and
- c) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Authority will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The Directors are responsible for the Authority's system of internal controls. These controls are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance as to the reliability of the financial statements and to adequately safeguard, verify and maintain accountability of assets, and to prevent and detect misstatements and loss. Nothing has come to the attention of Directors to indicate that any material breakdown on the functioning of these controls, procedures and systems has occurred during the

period under review.

The financial statements which appear on pages 32 to 35 were approved by the Board.

Mrs. Ann-Mary Malata Ononuju Board Chairperson

Date:24/03/2021

Mrs. Mirriam M. A Chiyaba Board Secretary

Date:24/03/2021



M Sakala + Associates Chartered Accountants No. 28, Plot 1789 Lubambe Road P O Box 320180 Lusaka

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Directors of the Zambia Qualifications Authority

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Zambia Qualifications Authority which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2020, the Statements of Comprehensive Income, Changes in The Fund and Cash Flows for the year then ended, and the summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes as set out on pages 37 to 55.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at 31 December 2020, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Auditors' Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

• Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors.
- An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our unqualified audit opinion

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the financial statements of Zambia Qualifications Authority as at 31 December 2020, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended have been properly prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities. The accounting and other records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Zambia Qualifications Authority Act No. 13 of 2011.

M. Sakala (Mr.)

Partner

Certificate No. AUD/F001510

M SAKALA & ASSOCIATES

Registered Auditors

Date: 16/03/2021

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Note	2020 K	2019 K
Income	7	12,820,765	11,196,487
Technical Expenses	8	(10,227,176)	(9,478,233)
Surplus before Operating Expenses		2,593,589	1,718,254
Administrative Expenses	9	(1,095,597)	(990,516)
Other Operating Expenses	10	(5,569,687)	(4,624,920)
Deficit for the year		(4,071,695)	(3,897,183)
Other Comprehensive Gains and Loses		0	0
Total Comprehensive deficit		(4,071,695)	(3,897,183)

Statement of Changes in the Fund

	Accumulated Fund K	Total K
At 1 January 2019	499,393	499,393
Comprehensive Income		
Deficit for the Year	(3,897,183)	(3,897,183)
At 31 December 2020	(3,397,790)	(3,397,790)
At 1 January 2020	3,397,790	3,397,790
Comprehensive Deficit for the year	(4,071,695)	(4,071,695)
Comprehensive Deficit at 31 December 2020	(7,469,485)	(7,469,485)

The significant accounting policies and the notes set out on pages 36 to 43 form an integral part of these financial statements



Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	2020 K	2019 K
Assets			
Non – Current Assets	2	052 417	
Property, Plant and Equipment	2	952,417	1,373,312
		952,417	
		<u>.</u>	1,373,312
Current Assets Trade and Other Receivables	3	634,893	290,479
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4	1 525 602	2 6 4 2 9 7 4
		1,525,692	2,642,874
		2,160,585	2,933,354
Table			
Total Assets		3,113,002	4,306,665
Funds Employed and Liabilities			
Accumulated Fund	5	(7,469,485)	(3,397,790)
		(7,469,485)	(3,397,790)
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	6	10,582,487	
			7,704,455
		10,582,487	
			7,704,455
Total Equity and Liabilities		3,113,002	4,306,665

These financial statements were approved by the ZAQA Board on 24/03/2021 and signed on its behalf

by:

Ann-Mary Malata Ononuju (Mrs.) Board Chairperson

Date: 24/03/2020 Date: 24/03/2020

Mirriam M. A Chiyaba (Mrs.) Board Secretary

Statement of Cash Flows

	Notes	2020 K	2019 K
Operating Activities			
Operating (Deficit) / Surplus		(4,071,695)	(3,897,183)
Items Not Involving Movement of Funds			
Depreciation	2	649,698	681,692
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets		2,500	-
Profit on Disposal of Fixed Assets		-	-
Grant Amortisation		0	(4,489)
Adjustments for Changes in Working Capital			
(Increase) / Decrease in Trade and Other Receivables	3	(344,413)	88,960
Increase / (Decrease) in Trade and Other Payables	6	2,787,033	,
,			3,891,318
Cash Generated from Operating Activities		(885,787)	760,298
, ,			
Net Cash inflow from Operating Activities		(885,787)	760,298
Investing Activities			
Acquisition of Property, Plant and Equipment	2	(272,555)	
Proceeds from Disposal of Assets		41,160	(103,917) -
Trocceds from Disposar of Assets		(231,395)	(103,917)
		(231,333)	(103,311)
Net Change from Cash and Cash Equivalents		(1,117,182)	656,381
Cash and Cash equivalents at Beginning of year	4		1,986,493
		2,642,874	
	4		
Consisting of:		1,525,692	2,642,874
Consisting of: Cash at Bank and in Hand	4		
Cash at Dank and III Hand	7	1,525,692	2,642,873
		.,0=0,00=	

The significant accounting policies and the notes set out on pages 36 - 43 form an integral part of these financial statements

1. Significant Accounting Policies

a) Basis of Accounting and Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in line with the requirements of the International Financial Reporting Standards for Small to Medium-sized Entities.

b) Income Recognition

Income represents the value of Government of the Republic of Zambia Grants appropriated to and actually received by the Authority. Government Grant Income is recognized in the income statement when it is actually received and the amount received can be measured with certainty. Grant income is recognized in the income statement over the period necessary to match it with related costs that is intended to compensate.

Income also includes the value of services rendered in respect of evaluation and verification of qualifications, accreditation of qualifications as well as interest earned on securities. In recognising income from rendering services, the requirements of IFRS 15 have been duly considered and complied with.

c) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated in the statement of financial position at cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. The cost of property, plant and equipment comprise of its purchase price and any cost directly attributable to bringing it into working condition for its intended use.

Depreciation is charged to write off the cost of property, plant and equipment over their estimated useful lives, on a straight line basis, at the following annual rates:

Fixtures and Fittings	25%
Motor Vehicles	25%
Office Equipment	25%
Computer Equipment	33%
Software	25%

d) Capital Grants

Grants related to assets are either offset against the carrying amount of the relevant asset or presented as deferred income in the statement of financial position. Surplus or deficit will be affected either by a reduced depreciation charge or by deferred income being recognised as income systematically over the useful life of the related asset.

1 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

e) Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, property, plant and equipment are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset or group of assets, is estimated and compared with its carrying amount. If estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying amount is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the statement of comprehensive income.

If an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset, or group of related assets, is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but not in excess of the amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset or group of assets in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the statement of comprehensive income.

f) Income Tax

No Income Tax is applicable to the Authority as it was granted tax exempt status upon successful application to the office of the Commissioner General of the Zambia Revenue Authority.

g) Deferred Taxation

No Deferred Tax is provided for as the Authority is exempt from Income Tax.

h) Foreign Currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date.

Foreign exchange gains and losses arising from translations are included in other income or operating expenses in the period in which they occur.



	2020			2019		
•	Cost/ Valuation	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying Value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying Value
	K	K	K	K	К	K
Motor Vehicles	1,004,702	(762,306)	242,396	1,354,702	(773,631)	581,071
Computer Equipment	522,002	(317,259)	204,743	338,128	(242,612)	95,516
Fixtures and Fittings	390,583	(295,166)	95,417	320,356	(232,049)	88,308
Office Equipment	143,626	(109,840)	33,786	125,173	(80,871)	44,302
Software	<u>752,153</u>	(376,076)	<u>376,077</u>	<u>752,153</u>	<u>188,038</u>	<u>564,115</u>
	<u>2,813,066</u>	<u>(1,860,648)</u>	<u>952,418</u>	2,890,512	<u>(1,517,201)</u>	<u>1,373,312</u>

The carrying values of Property, Plant and Equipment can be reconciled as follows: -

	Carrying value at the Beginning of the Year	Additions for the Year	Depreciation Charge for the Year	Disposals	Depreciation on disposals	Carrying Value at End of Year
2020	К	K	K	K	K	K
Motor vehicles	581,070	-	(294,925)	(350,000)	306,250	242,395
Computer	95,516	183,874	(74,647)	-	-	204,743
Equipment						
Fixtures and	88,308	70,226	(63,118)	-	-	95,416
Fittings						
Office	44,301	18,455	(28,969)	-	-	33,787
Equipment						
Software	<u>564,115</u>		<u> 188,038</u>		<u>=</u>	<u> 376,077</u>
	<u>1,373,310</u>	<u>72,555</u>	<u>(649,698</u>)	<u>(350,000)</u>	<u>306,000</u>	<u>952,417</u>

2019	Carrying value at the Beginning	Additions for the Year	Depreciation Charge for the Year	Disposals	Depreciation on disposals	Carrying Value at End of Year
Motor Vehicle Computer Equipment	of the Year es 919,747 112,108	- 47,317	(338,676) (63,909)	- -	-	581,071 95,516
Fixtures and	144,330	6,600	(62,622)	-	-	88,308
Fittings Office Equipment	72,749	-	(28,447)	-	-	44,302
Software	<u>702,153</u>	50,000	<u>188,038</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	564,115
	<u>1,951,086</u>	103,917	(681,692)	Ē	Ξ	<u>1,373,312</u>
3 Ti	rade and other	Receivables			2020 V	2019
M Ir Si Si Ir	repaid Rent ledical arrangen surance outhern Cross M aff Receivables wentory Accoun uel Prepayment	lotors		2 1 1	K 89,389 36,042 6,937 45,750 46,250 06,735 3,789	71,082 30,706 24,318 - 84,691 78,077 1,605
C V Fi	ash and Cash E ash in Hand ISA Card xed Deposit ash at Bank	quivalents			1,202 1,676 - 22,814 	3,000 10,000 586,570 2,043,304 2,642,874
А	ccumulated Fu t Beginning of P eficit for the per	eriod		(4,07	07,790) <u>(1,695)</u>	499,393 (3,897,183)
				<u>(7,46</u>	<u> </u>	<u>(3,397,790)</u>

Statuto Staff Pa Prepay	and other payables bry Payments by Payables ments by Customers Payables	3,133,464 5,281,742 1,718,392 448,889 10,582,487	1,608,914 4,139,703 1,521,934 433,904 7,704,455
Validat Registr	evenue Grant ion and Evaluation Fees ation and Accreditation Fees Revenue	10,862,220 1,365,250 555,000 38,295	8,831,503 1,450,021 65,000 <u>849,963</u> <u>11,196,487</u>
8 Tech	nical Expenses	2020 K	2019 K
	t Salaries & Related Expenses	7,727,599	7,416,665
Moto Adve	editation od Qualifications or Vehicle Running Expenses rtising and Promotion	337,980 150,736 100,270	303,464 142,920 81,332
Valid Quali	nation Technology Expenses ation and Evaluation Expenses fication Network Meetings / Conferences lopment of National Occupational	183,251 254,730 23,162 690,868	131,166 194,519 552,508 190,422
Stake Colla Quali Study Reco	loping Technical Documents holder and Public Sensitisation borative Meetings fication Management Information System Tours gnition of Appropriate Authorities	451,401 303,693 2,206 - -	114,875 250,674 37,770 5,444 52,514 3,000
Audit	s of Appropriate Authorities	<u>1,280</u> <u>10,227,176</u>	960 9,478,233

9	Administrative Expenses Rent General Expenses Cleaning Office Refreshments Newspapers and Periodicals Insurance – Office equipment & furniture Building Repairs Electricity and Water Bank Charges	849,427 18,412 54,608 28,286 12,312 10,581 10,075 10,581 	823,294 12,188 32,861 22,435 14,280 6,957 21,738 - 56,762
10	Other Operating Expenses Staff Salaries & Related Costs Board of Directors and Related Costs Depreciation Printing and Stationery Professional Fees Procurement Expenses Communication Expenses Recruitment Expenses Penalties and interest Strategic Plan & AWPB Development Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	3,902,722 404,296 649,698 163,760 94,596 21,295 29,176 94,254 7,460 199,839 2,590	3,439,341 65,610 681,693 163,320 82,226 25,810 40,746 - 6,689 119,485
11	Capital Grant Opening Balance Received During the Year Amortised Balance at End of Year	2020 K - - -	2019 K 4,488 - (4,488)

12 Risk Management

Capital Risk Management

The Authority's objectives when managing funds is to safeguard its ability to continue as a going concern in order to assure the attainment of its mission.

The capital structure of the Authority consists of cash, cash equivalents and accumulated fund.

Financial Risk Management

The ultimate responsibility for managing financial risk rests with the directors. The key financial risk for the organisation is liquidity. The organisation manages the risk against its liquidity by managing and monitoring relationships with suppliers and continuously monitoring forecasts and actual cash flows and matching maturity profiles of financial assets and liabilities.

Liquidity Risk

The risk to liquidity may arise from non-availability of funds to cover future commitments. The organisation manages liquidity risk through an ongoing review of future commitments and credit facilities.

	On Demand
At 31 December 2020	
Trade and Other Receivables	634,893
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,525,692
Trade and Other Payables	(10,582,487)
	(8,421,902)
At 31 December 2019	
Trade and Other Receivables	290,479
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,642,874
Trade and Other Payables	<u>(7,704,454)</u>
	(4,771,100)

Fair value

All assets and liabilities have fair values similar to the carrying amounts due to their short term nature.

Currency Risk

The Authority keeps most of its financial assets in the local currency therefore minimising its exposure to fluctuations in the foreign currency exchange rates.

The rates used to translate foreign currency during the period in Kwacha were as follows:

USD	\$1
Mid rate	14.03
Spot rate	14.07

13 Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 31 December 2020 (2019: Nil).

14 Contingent liabilities

There were no known contingent liabilities at 31 December 2020 (2019: Nil).

15 Subsequent events

There were no known subsequent events post 31 December 2020 (2019: Nil).

16. Detailed Statement of Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 31st December 2020

of the real Linded 31 December 2020	2020	2019
INCOME	12,820,764	11,196,487
TECHNICAL EXPENSES		
Direct Staff salaries and related expenses	7,727,599	7,416,665
Accreditation of qualifications Qualification Network Meetings /	337,980	303,464
Conferences	23,162	552,508
Stakeholder and public sensitisation	303,693	250,674
Information technology	183,251	136,610
Study Tours	-	52,514
Advertising and Promotion	100,270	81,332
Motor vehicle expenses	150,736	142,920
Verification and Evaluation expenses	254,730	194,519
Collaborative Meetings	2,206	37,770
Developing National Occupational Standards	690,868	190,422
Developing working documents	451,401	114,875
Recognition of Appropriate Authorities	-	3,000
Audit of Appropriate Authorities	1,280	960
	10,227,177	9,478,233
Surplus before operating expenses	2,593,588	1,718,254

OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

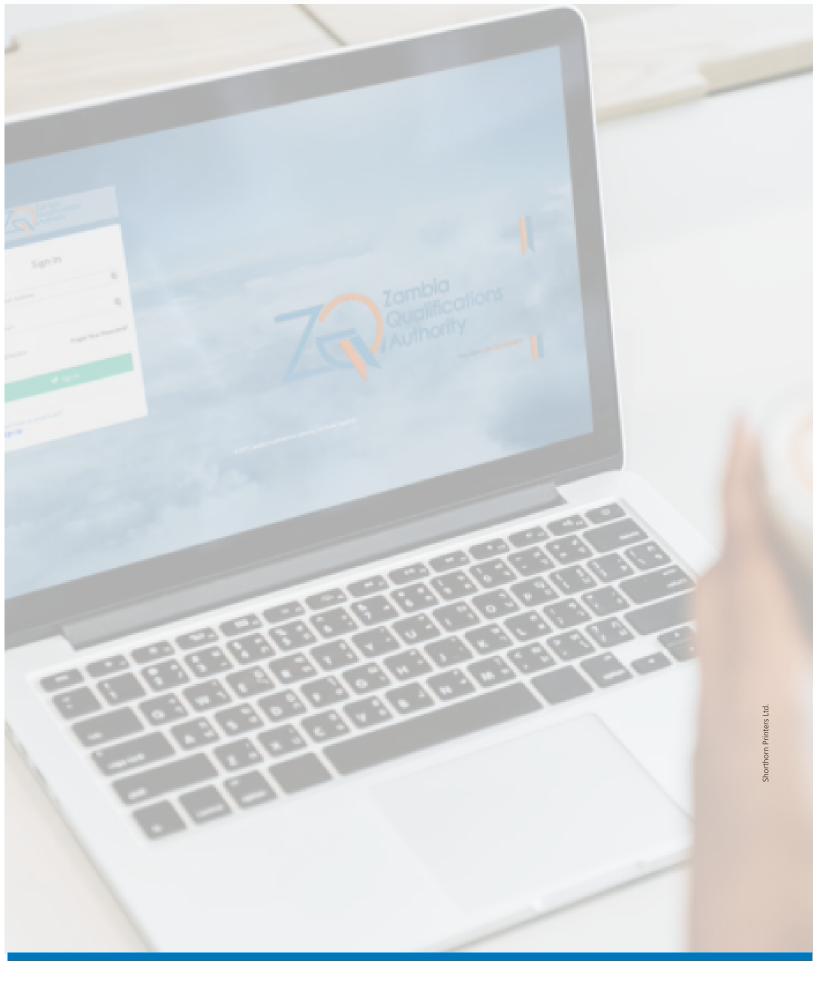
Board of directors related expenses	404,296	65,610
Communication expenses	29,176	40,746
Depreciation & fixed assets expensed	649,698	681,693
Loss on Disposal of assets	2,590	-
Audit Fees	94,596	82,226
Administrative Expenses	1,095,597	978,327
Printing & stationery expenses	163,760	163,320
Procurement expenses	21,295	25,810
Recruitment expenses	94,254	12,188
Penalties and Levies	7,460	6,689
Strategic plan and AWPB Development	199,839	119,485
Staff salaries and related expenses	3,902,722	3,439,341
	6,665,284	5,615,435
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(4,071,696)	(3,897,181)



NOTES



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