



ECSA

ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA



MENTOR REPORT

University Of Zambia Accreditation Observation Report 22 – 24 SEPTEMBER 2025

ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 011 607 9500 | Fax: 011 622 9295

Email: engineer@ecsa.co.za | Website: www.ecsa.co.za

1. NATURE OF THE EVENT ATTENDED

Accreditation visit at the University of Zambia

2. PLACE AND DATE OF THE EVENT

Lusaka, Zambia, 21 to 25 September 2025

3. PURPOSE

To observe accreditation at the University of Zambia as part of the ECSA Mentorship programme for Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ)

4. ATTENDANCE

The attendance of the accreditation was largely constituted by the Zambian delegation which included EIZ Secretariat, Universities and Assessors.

ECSA delegation comprised of Ms Niniza Mtshali and Prof Didier Nyembwe.

5. BACKGROUND

From the 22nd to the 24th of September 2025, the Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ) conducted a landmark accreditation visit to the University of Zambia (UNZA). This visit focused on two undergraduate engineering programmes: the Bachelor of Mineral Sciences in Mining Engineering and the Bachelor of Engineering in Civil and Environmental Engineering. This accreditation exercise marks the first-ever formal evaluation of Zambian engineering programmes by the EIZ, encompassing institutions such as the Copperbelt University (CBU) and Mulungwishi University. To support and observe the process, the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and the Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES)—both long-standing full signatories of the Washington Accord (since 1999 and 2006 respectively)—were invited to participate. ECSA was represented by Prof. K. Nyembwe and Ms. M. Mtshali. Their visit spanned from Sunday, 21st September to Thursday, 25th September, during which they provided mentorship, shared best practices, and observed the accreditation process. The presence of ECSA and IES served to validate EIZ's accreditation methodology and reinforce its commitment to quality assurance in engineering education.

6. DELIBERATIONS

(a) Day 1: Planning, Institutional Engagement, and Industry Dialogue

The visit commenced with a planning session at the EIZ Headquarters in Lusaka. All assessors finalized logistics and approach. A plenary session followed at the Department of Civil Engineering at UNZA. All assessors led by the UNZA Officials conducted detailed evaluation of infrastructure, equipment and conducted interviews with both UNZA students and officials.

The EIZ team, led by Dr. K. Nsefu, Chairperson of the EIZ Accreditation Committee, observers and UNZA leadership met with UNZA Vice Chancellor, Professor Mundia Muya. Dr Nsefu, outlined the visit's objectives. Professor Muya reaffirmed UNZA's commitment to supporting the accreditation process.

The IEZ team and observers during lunch were joined by the EIZ President Eng Wesley Kaluba who expressed his gratitude for support received from both countries and acknowledged the role played by ECSA leadership and the former ECSA Council, Eng. Refilwe Buthelezi specifically.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited the Road Development Agency (RDA), an industry partner. RDA shared insights into their internship programme and recruitment of UNZA graduates, highlighting their strong employability and engineering competencies.

(b) Day 2: Laboratory Visits, Evaluation Feedback, and Quality Assurance

The day began with a plenary session where assessor team leaders reported on their initial evaluations. Feedback was positive, with commendations on programme compliance. The team visited laboratory facilities of Civil and Mining Engineering departments. Heads of Department guided the tour, showcasing modern equipment acquired through industry partnerships and African Development Bank funding. Observers interacted with assessors and noted the thoroughness of evaluations aligned with EIZ criteria and IEA graduate attributes. The day concluded with a meeting with the Director of Quality Assurance, who emphasized UNZA's commitment to quality and support for engineering programme accreditation.

(c) Day 3: Final Plenary and Accreditation Outcome

The EIZ Vice President Eng. Kennedy Musonda joined the team to express his appreciation for support from both countries. Dr Nsefu in this closing plenary session summarized findings, noting no deficiencies in either programme. Both programmes were accredited until the next cycle. EIZ expressed gratitude to UNZA and observers, with acknowledgments from the IEA Committee Chair, Professor Elizabeth Taylor.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS AND FEEDBACK

In a private session with the EIZ Accreditation Committee Chair, ECSA observers shared the following feedback:

- (i) Commendation for an excellently conducted accreditation visit.
- (ii) Recommendation to publish accreditation outcomes on the EIZ website, clearly indicating the cycle.
- (iii) Emphasis on report consistency and factual accuracy.
- (iv) Follow-up on concerns regarding laboratory housekeeping and health and safety, identified as systemic issues.
- (v) Encouragement to invite observers to the IEA decision meeting to close the feedback loop.

8. CLOSING REMARKS

Prof. K. Nyembwe and Ms. M. Mtshali expressed sincere appreciation to EIZ for the logistical support and warm hospitality during the visit. They reaffirmed ECSA's support for EIZ's IEA application and commended the institution for a well-run accreditation process.

Prepared by: Prof. K. Nyembwe (ECSA Lead Mentor) and Ms. M. Mtshali (ECSA Executive for Research, Policy and Standards – Acting)