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International Engineering Alliance**

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1.0 Introduction

The Engineering Institution of Zambia was created through the Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ) Act (Act No. 17 Of 2010) to regulate the practice of Engineering in Zambia. The following are some of the core functions of the Institution:

- (a) register engineering professionals, engineering Organisations and engineering units and regulate their professional conduct;
- (b) register students of engineering;
- (c) develop, promote, maintain and improve appropriate standards of qualification in the engineering profession;
- (d) develop, promote and enforce internationally comparable engineering practice standards in Zambia;
- (e) advise the Government on matters relating to the engineering profession;
- (f) promote the general advancement of science, engineering, technological and allied disciplines for the improvement of the quality of life;
- (g) maintain and improve the standards of conduct and learning of science, engineering and allied professions in Zambia;
- (h) raise the character and status of the engineering profession and allied disciplines, to promote honourable and good practice and increase the confidence of the community in those persons practising in the engineering profession and allied disciplines;
- (i) in consultation with the Ministry responsible for education and the Technical Education Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority, accredit universities, technical colleges, institutions and programmes of instruction leading to the award of qualifications of membership classes;

Following the establishment of the Higher Education Authority (HEA), the accreditation function was removed from EIZ and placed under HEA.

There are 5 Critical players in the realm of engineering education in Zambia namely:

- a. Ministry of Education (MoE)
- b. Ministry of Science Technology and Science (MoTS)

- c. Higher Education Authority (HEA)
- d. Zambia Qualification Authority (ZAQA)
- e. Technical and Vocational Training Authority (TEVETA)
- f. Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ)

2.0 Ministry of Education (MOE)

The Mandate of the MoE is to formulate and implement education and science policies, set and enforce standards and regulations, licence, supervise and provide education and skills development, as well as promote science, technology and innovation education.

In addition, there are statutory bodies that perform specialized services to the general public and operate according to existing enabling Acts. These include the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ), Teaching Council of Zambia (TCZ), Zambia Education Publishing House (ZEPH), and Zambia National Commission for UNESCO and Education Boards.

3.0 Ministry of Technology and Science MoTS

The Ministry of Technology and Science is responsible for formulating and reviewing Technology and Science policies in order to contribute to economic growth. It collaborates with industry and wider private sector in developing relevant innovations;

Coordinate Research to promote investment in science and technology, and promote advancement of knowledge and skills in science and technology in order to accelerate transformation into digital economy. Furthermore, the Ministry conducts science, technology and innovation impact assessment and monitoring and evaluation. The Ministry derives its mandate from Government Gazette Notice 1123 of 2021 which outlines its portfolio functions

General Objective

The strategic objective of the Ministry of Technology and Science is to increase access to efficient, equitable, quality, and relevant technical, vocational, and entrepreneurial skills; and to enhance research and development, commercialization, transfer, and diffusion of technology and innovation.

Specific Objectives

To improve the quality and relevance of training through the provision of state-of-the-art equipment, upgrading of lecturer qualifications, and review and development of curricula;

To establish a sustainable financing strategy for TEVET through the Training Levy as well as establish an efficient and self-sustaining Student Loans and Scholarships Fund for Higher Education;

To increase female participation in science and technology courses and careers for national development;

To facilitate the development and promotion of entrepreneurial skills to build lifelong skills and contribute to job creation;

To strengthen basic and applied research in technical learning and research institutions by strengthening the enforcement of regulations, establishing standards in research and development, and developing a critical mass of scientists at MSc and Ph.D. levels;

To commercialize innovations and/or R&D results to contribute to socio-economic development and wealth creation.

4.0 Higher Education Authority (HEA) on Accreditation of Engineering Programmes

The **Higher Education Authority (HEA)** of Zambia was established under the Higher Education Act No. 4 of 2013 in order to provide quality assurance, regulation of private and public higher education institutions and registration of private higher education institutions.

The mandate of the Authority is to coordinate, regulate, supervise and monitor standards of higher education in Zambia.

Functions:

“(a) advise the Minister on any aspect of higher education;

(b) Develop and recommend policy on higher education, including the establishment of public higher education institutions and the registration of private higher education institutions;

(c) Establish a coordinated higher education system which promotes corporate governance and provides for a programme based higher education;

(d) Regulate higher education institutions and coordinate the development of higher education;

(e) Promote quality assurance in higher education;

(f) Audit the quality assurance mechanisms of higher education; Higher Education [No. 4 of 2013 101 Establishment of Authority Seal of Authority Functions of Authority

(g) Restructure and transform higher education institutions and programmes to be responsive to the human resource, economic and development needs of the Republic;

(h) Promote the access of students to higher education institutions;

(i) Design and recommend an institutional quality assurance system for higher education institutions, and recommend to the Minister institutional quality assurance standards for—

(i) The establishment, standardization and registration of higher education institutions, including standards of plant and equipment;

(ii) The preparation and amendment of statutes;

(iii) The development of curricula;

(iv) Libraries, laboratories, workshops and other facilities; and

(v) Student transfers between academic programmes among higher education institutions;

(j) Advise the Minister on the funding arrangements for public higher education institutions;

(k) Advise the Minister on staff development for higher education;

(l) Promote equity in access to higher education through the provision of student assistance programmes;

(m) Promote international cooperation and facilitate exchange through the provision of student assistance research and teaching; and

(n) Do all such things as are necessary or conducive for the achievement of the purposes of this Act.”

Higher Education Authority (HEA) Amendment Act of 2021

This amendment Act gave assigns accreditation right to HEA for all higher education programmes in Zambia.

“PART IVA ACCREDITATION OF LEARNING PROGRAMMES IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS 23A. *Despite any other written law, the Authority shall, in consultation with relevant professional institutions, accredit learning programmes offered in a higher education institution for the purpose of— (a) setting and safeguarding the quality of learning programmes; (b) recognising learning programmes; and (c) ensuring the continuous improvement of the quality of learning programmes”.*

As a result of this amendment act, the accreditation mechanism for all higher education programs in Zambia is such that, HEA collaborates with relevant professional bodies that have specific jurisdiction for programs. Only when such bodies with jurisdiction approve the program will it be accredited. Section 6 of the principal Act was amended in sub section (4) (h) to read “*in consultation with relevant professional institutions set standards for higher education institutions*”, HEA shall proceed to accredit such programs.

In view of the above, the EIZ in conjunction with HEA and the Ministry of Education(MOE) have resolved to put in place a statutory Instrument (SI) that would operationalize the accreditation of engineering Degree programs under the approval of Engineering Institution of Zambia.

5.0 Zambia Qualification Authority (ZAQA)

The Zambia Qualifications Authority (ZAQA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Education established by ZAQA Act No. 13 of 2011 to “provide for the development and implementation of a national qualifications framework; provide measures to ensure that standards and registered qualifications are internationally comparable; and provide for matters connected with, or incidental to the foregoing”.

Functions:

“(a) develop, oversee and maintain a national qualification framework for Zambia;

(b) Develop and implement policy and criteria, after consultation with the appropriate authority, for the development, accreditation and publication of qualifications and part-qualifications, which shall include the following requirements:

(i) The relevant sub-framework shall be identified on any document relating to the accreditation and publication of a qualification or part-qualification; and

(ii) Each sub-framework shall have a distinct nomenclature for its qualification types which is appropriate to the relevant sub-framework and consistent with international practice;

(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) Recognize and validate competencies for purposes of certification obtained outside the formal education and training systems; Functions of Authority 186 No. 13 of 2011] Zambia Qualifications Authority*
- (i) Recognize 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;*
- (l) Advise the Minister on matters pertaining to the Framework; and*
- (m) Do all such things as are necessary or conducive for the achievement of the purposes of this Act.”*

6.0 Technical and Vocational Training Authority (TEVETA)

One of the functions of TEVETA, in line with the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (Amendment) Act number 11 of 2005, is to accredit trainers, assessors and examiners.

Functions:

“(1) the functions of the Authority shall be to regulate, monitor and co-ordinate technical education, vocational and entrepreneurship training in consultation with industry, employers, workers and other stakeholders.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) the Authority shall-

- (a) Advise the Minister on the development of the quality of human resources in Zambia through technical education, vocational and entrepreneurship training; (b) Regulate and advise management boards;*
- (c) Regulate and co-ordinate apprenticeship and trade testing Facilities; (d) Provide technical constancy to management boards and private training institutions;*
- (e) Promote the technical capacity of management boards;*

- (f) Develop the national curricula in consultation with all stakeholders;*
- (g) Set minimum standards and qualifications for any occupation, skill, technology or trade for institutions in accordance with developments in industry;*
- (h) Provide guidelines for the developments of institutional curriculum;*
- (i) Approve examinations to be taken by persons attending courses at an institution established or registered under this Act;*
- (j) Regulate and conduct national examinations relating to technical education, vocational and entrepreneurship training;*
- (k) Charge and collect fees in respect of examinations and other services provided by the Authority;*
- (l) Award certificates to persons who succeed in examinations set under this Act;*
- (m) Guide institutions in preparing rules for the recruitment of students and teachers;*
- (n) Approve curricula and standards of certificates in institutions established or registered under this Act;*
- (o) register institutions;*
- (p) Cancel the registration of an institution established or registered under this Act; and*
- (q) Do all such things connected with or incidental to the functions of the Authority under this Act.”*

7.0 Universities and Engineering Programs

7.1 Copperbelt University

7.1.1 Appendix 1

7.2 Copperstone University

7.2.1 Appendices 1 to 5

7.3 Mulungushi University

7.3.1 Appendix MU 1

7.4 University of Zambia

7.4.1 Appendices UNZA 1 to 7

8.0 Collaboration with Statutory Bodies

Arising from the functions and mandate of the EIZ which is specific to engineering, the Institution realised the key roles that the above Institutions played in the value chain of engineering education and practice. In view of the above the EIZ signed Memoranda of understanding with HEA, ZAQA and TEVETA to enhance quality assurance to all engineering training programs.

While the accreditation functions lie with HEA, in the case of degree programs and TEVETA in the case of Vocational Training, the accreditation process would be done under the approval of the EIZ for all Engineering programs.

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