

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON

RELEASE OF GRADE 9 EXTERNAL AND GCE EXAMINATION RESULTS

BY

THE MINISTER OF GENERAL EDUCATION HON. MABUMBA, MP

Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to render a ministerial statement on the examination results for Grade 9 external examination and the General Certificate of Examination (GCE).

Mr Speaker, I wish to inform the nation that the Ministry of General Education has completed processing both the 2019 Grade 9 external examination and the GCE results. These two external examinations were designed to give opportunities to those who wish to improve their grades after they did not do well in their first attempt. Those who write the Grade 9 external examination have an opportunity to combine their results with their previous results, and then proceed to Grade 10, while those who sit for the GCE examination widen their career opportunities for either tertiary education or employment.

Mr Speaker, I will begin with the Grade 9 external examination results and then proceed with the GCE examination results. Let me now present the highlights of the 2019 Grade 9 external examination. A total of 83,640 candidates entered the 2019 Grade 9 external examination, out of which 38,935, which represents 46.5 per cent, were boys and 44,705, which represents 53.45 per cent, were girls. Out of the 83,640 who entered the examination, 79,690 candidates, which represents 95.2 per cent, sat the 2019 examination, of which 37,123, representing 46.5 per cent, were boys and 42,567 candidates, which represents 53.4 per cent, were girls. Candidature increased by 22,524, which represents 26.9 per cent from 61,116 candidates in 2018 to 83,640 candidates in 2019.

Absenteeism reduced from 5.7 per cent in 2018 to 4.72 per cent in 2019. The reduction in the number of candidates who absented themselves from the examination is an indication of how

serious the candidates took the examination and a reflection of the desire of our people to improve their education.

Mr Speaker, I assure the House and the public that the Government, through the Ministry of General Education and the Examination Council of Zambia (ECZ), will continue to provide such opportunities to people. In terms of performance, 55,721 candidates, which represents 69.92 per cent, passed the examination out of the 79,690 candidates who sat the examination, representing an increase of 8 percentage points from 35,688 candidates, which was 61.94 per cent of candidates who passed the examination in 2018. A total of 23,969 candidates, which represents 30.08 per cent, failed the examination. When disaggregated by gender, 10,658 candidates, which is 44.47 per cent of the candidates who failed, were male, while 13,311 candidates, which represents 55.53 per cent of the candidates who failed, were female. Comparisons within the genders revealed that the failure rate among females was higher at 4.78 per cent compared to that of their male counterparts which was 4.65 per cent.

Sir, subjects were grouped in four categories, namely social science and business studies, natural science, physical subjects and literature and languages. When compared across subject groupings, the highest mean score was recorded in the literature and language grouping (*Ki Kaonde* language) at 49.77 per cent, while the lowest mean score was recorded in natural science mathematics at 20.21 per cent.

Mr Speaker, allow me to turn my attention to the 2019 GCE examination results. A total of 127,456 candidates registered for the examination, of which 42,060 candidates, which is 33 per cent, were male, and 85,396 candidates, which represents 67 per cent, were female. The number of registered candidates reduced by 0.6 percentage points from 128,156 candidates in 2018 to 127,456 candidates in 2019. Out of the 127,456 registered candidates, 118,753 candidates, which represents 91.31 per cent, sat the examination, of which 38,281, which represents 32.24 per cent, were male and 80,472, which represents 67.76 per cent, were female.