

**TUESDAY, 23 OCTOBER, 2018**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

ON THE

CONDUCT OF GRADE 7, 9 AND 12 EXAMINATIONS FOR 2018

BY THE

MINISTER OF GENERAL EDUCATION, MR MABUMBA, MP

Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to render on a Ministerial Statement on the conduct of the Grade 7, 9 and 12 examinations for 2018 and in particular, I just want to thank you for this opportunity and to inform the august House and the nation at large on the cancellation of the 2018 Mathematics Paper Two for the Grade 9 examination. This is due to the fact that the paper leaked and was circulated on both whatsapp and online news networks in the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018, a day before it was due to be written.

Mr Speaker and my colleagues, the 2018 Grade 9 examination question papers were received and distributed by the Examination Council of Zambia (ECZ) as per schedule and in line with the guidelines. Further, the ECZ and the Ministry of General Education received notification on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018 that the Grade 9 mathematics paper two examinations was posted on the online media, in particular the *Zambian Watchdog*. Immediately, management at the council took the following steps:

- (a) the council informed the officers at the Office of the President, the Permanent Secretary Administration in the Ministry of General Education and our other key stakeholders;
- (b) the council arranged to verify the authenticity of the circulated material. The verification process took place at the Examination Council of Zambia Offices in the presence of two Zambian Police Officers; and
- (c) upon comparing the circulated material with that in the ECZ storage, it was noted that indeed, the 2018 Mathematics Paper Two for the Grade 9 examination was leaked and circulated on online media.

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Mr Speaker, arising from the findings of the verification, the following actions have been taken:

- (a) in line with the Examination Council of Zambia Act, Cap 137 of the laws of Zambia, Section 22 (1), the Director of the ECZ through the Ministry of General Education has nullified the Grade 9 Mathematics Paper Two which should have been written today, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2018 in the morning at 0800 hours;
- (b) I have further instructed management at the council to print another paper to be administered at a later date to be advised before the end of the examination session;
- (c) the council management and the ministry working with the Government investigation wings have been instructed to take remedial measures to mitigate the situation and thoroughly investigate the matter and bring the perpetrators to book; and
- (d) while the measures above are being administered, I have further suspended the conduct of examinations until further notice.

I thank you, Sir.