



Republic of Zambia

Ministry of Science Technology and Vocational Training

Statement by the Minister of Science,
Technology and Vocational Training,
Hon. Brig-Gen, Dr Brian Chituwo
(Rtd), GCDS, MP on the Fees Charged
by TEVETA

~~March 2009~~

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE FEES CHARGED BY TEVETA

Mr Speaker,

I thank you for the opportunity to make a statement to the House on the fees that are charged by the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA), which is the regulatory body, under my Ministry, for the skills training sector. These fees are charged in accordance with Section 4(2)(l) of the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (Amendment) Act No. 11 of 2005. As provided for under this Act, TEVETA is mandated to charge and collect fees in respect of registration of training institutions, conduct of examinations and assessments, quality standards and other services that the Authority provides.

Mr Speaker,

As the Honourable Members may be aware, the TEVET Act I have mentioned above, allows TEVETA to source financing through Government grants, donor funds, registration of institutions and other income generating activities. Since the establishment of TEVETA, the Authority has in the past relied heavily on donor financing for its operations. Because of this support from our cooperating partners, most of the activities such as registration of institutions, and conduct of examinations were heavily subsidised.

This financing from our cooperating partners unfortunately came to an end in 2009 and it became imperative that the Authority begins to charge economic fees for the services that it provides.

In addition to the funds from the Cooperating Partners, the Authority also receives an annual Government Grant which is appropriated by this Parliament. This grant however is inadequate to meet all the operational needs of the Authority given the competing demands on the Treasury. The Authority also raises own financing through the charging of fees for the services that it provides.

Mr. Speaker,

In determining the level of fees charged by TEVETA, my Ministry goes through a thorough process of consultation. The TEVETA fee structure as approved by my Ministry therefore, takes into account Government's social responsibilities as well as the financing needs of the Authority. For example, the highest fee for Institutional Registration was set at ZMK5million for a period of three (3) years. This amounts to an average of ZMK 1.7 million per year.

Further, in order to cushion Training Institutions which are unable to meet the full cost of registration, these Institutions have been allowed to pay the fees over a two or three year period.

Mr Speaker

Allow me now to mention the types of fees that the Authority charges.

(I) Registration and Accreditation Fees

TEVETA has started the accreditation of academic programmes in 2010. Institutions are therefore required to renew the accreditation of the programmes that are being offered at their Institutions. This process will be conducted on a yearly basis and institutions are

therefore required to ensure that the programs they offer are accredited.

The following is the Fee Structure for Registration of Training Institutions and Accreditation of Training Programmes.

- a. Application for registration of a training institute (per three year period) – K5,000,000
- b. Application by institutions to offer Diploma/Technologist programme/year – K500,000
- c. Accreditation of institutions to offer Advanced Technician per programme/year – K400,000
- d. Accreditation of Institutions to offer Certificate/Craft (per program/per year) - K300,000
- e. Accreditation of Institutions to offer Trade Test Certificate (per program/per year) - K200,000
- f. Accreditation of Institutions to offer Short Courses per programme/year – K500,000

(II) Accreditation of Examinations Boards and Centres

Mr Speaker,

All Foreign Examinations Boards are required by the TEVET Act to seek Accreditation by TEVETA before they may conduct examinations and award qualifications in Zambia. The following are the Accreditation Fees:

- a. Accreditation of Foreign Examinations Boards (per three year period) – K15,000,000
- b. Accreditation of Foreign Examination Centres (per year) – K1,000,000
- c. Accreditation of Local Examination Centres (per year) - K500,000

Mr Speaker,

Training Providers should ensure that all the Lecturers/Trainers teaching at the respective institutions are accredited with TEVETA. Accreditation of personnel in the TEVET Sector is intended to assure and raise the quality of training. The accreditation of Trainers, Assessors, and Examiners started in 2009.

Mr Speaker,

The following are the Accreditation Fees for Trainers, Assessors and Examiners:

- a. Accreditation of Trainer (2 year period) - K200,000
- b. Accreditation of Assessor (2 year period) - K200,000
- c. Accreditation of Examiner (2 year period) - K200,000

(III) Sale of Curricula

Mr Speaker,

TEVETA develops and up-dates curricula in order to ensure that training is in phase with technological developments in industry. Training Institutions are therefore required to use approved curricula. TEVETA sells the curricula in order to off-set a portion of the development and review costs. The cost of curriculum development and curriculum review is far in excess of the cost at which training providers purchase these approved documents. The following are the costs of curricula:

- a. Sale of National Curriculum - K250,000 per curriculum
- b. Approval of Local Curricular - K250,000 per curriculum

(IV) Examination Fees

Mr Speaker,

TEVETA is taking over the conduct of TEVET Examinations from the Examinations Council of Zambia as per mandate of the TEVET Act.

This is a process which begun in 2008 and it is expected that the transfer of the examinations function will be completed by 2011. Although students are expected to pay Examination Fees, the cost of preparing and conducting examinations is heavily dependent on financing from the Government. Student contribution to the preparation and conduct of examinations amounts to less than 10% of the total cost.

The following Examinations Fees are applicable:

- a. Student Registration (per student) - K15,000
- b. Examination Fee per Theoretical Subject - K50,000
- c. Examination Fee per Practical Subject - K75,000
- d. Examination Entry Fee - K15,000

Mr. Speaker,

Government has noted that there has been a proliferation of people getting qualifications from foreign examination bodies and even from the internet. My Ministry is in the process of introducing the TEVET Qualifications Framework (TQF) which will make it mandatory to register such qualifications. The introduction of the TQF has reached an advanced stage and just waiting for Cabinet approval.

(V) Trade Test Fees

Mr Speaker,

Trade Testing Centres have been identified in all Districts of Zambia. With the support of Accredited Assessors, Learners will have easier access to Trade Test Centres throughout the country. These Trade Test Centres provide for the assessment and certification of skills and competencies that have been acquired through different modes of learning, including Traditional Apprenticeships. Learners are expected to contribute towards the costs of preparation and conduct of Trade Tests. The following Trade Test fees are applicable:

- a. Level 1 (per sitting) - K95,000
- b. Level II (per sitting) - K55,000
- c. Level III (per sitting) - K55,000

(VI) Penalties

Mr Speaker,

I will now inform this August House about the penalties that will be charged to institutions for defaulting. TEVETA will ensure that Training Providers and Examinations Boards will comply with the Minimum Standards by instituting sanctions for non-compliance. This action has been taken primarily to protect the interests of learners.

The following sanctions are applicable:

- a. Penalties for illegal operation as a Training Institution - K10,000,000
- b. Penalties for illegal operation as an Examination Centre for an Unaccredited Foreign Examination Body - K2,000,000
- c. Penalties for use of unaccredited Trainers (per Trainer) - K500,000
- d. Penalties for use of unauthorised Curriculum - K500,000

Mr. Speaker,

As can be observed from my statement, the fees that have been introduced and are being charged by the Authority are in line with their mandate as provided for by the TEVET Act. The fees are also only effected after consultations with my Ministry.

The issue of penalties as indicated in my presentation is meant to instill compliance and are therefore avoidable by the institutions

who will comply. They are also meant to protect the interest of learners.

The fees will continue to remain within the manageable range for institutions as long as all stakeholders agree on the long term financing for the skills training sector. To assure this long term financing, my Ministry is engaging the stakeholders to support the introduction of the training levy which is critical in financing the sector. Consultations are on-going on what will be the best mechanism of collecting the levy and the incentives which will accrue to those who will be compliant.

In conclusion, I would like to assure the House and the nation that this Government is determined to make a difference in the way we approach skills development for the country and the introduction of the fees will provide part of the long term financing of the sector.

Mr. Speaker,

I thank you.