MULUNGUSHI UNIVERSITY

Pursuing the Frontiers of Knowledge



ACTIVITY REPORT

UNESCO CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE SADC REGION (ZAMBIA CHAPTER, 19-20 MAY 2025)- INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, LUSAKA

By:
Strategic Plan Focal Person

1.0 Introduction

UNESCO has been organising and facilitating standardisation of learning practices in higher education institutions across the globe. In Africa, UNESCO has been actively involved in enhancing quality assurance ethos and practices among other salient areas of concern. In SADC, Zambia Chapter held its conference at Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka from 19th to 20th May 2025. The occasion saw the participation of over 30 higher education institutions. During this year's event, the **Permanent Secretary-Educational Services, in the Ministry of Education, Dr. Kelvin Mambwe graced the occasion**. In his remarks, he reiterated and laid emphasis on the need for quality assurance systems and practices to be given the attention it deserves in colleges and universities so that society gets the best graduates that will make a good fit in industry. Mulungushi University was represented by the Strategic Plan Focal Person, Mr. Chilayi Mayondi.

2.0 Workshop Objectives

The objectives of the capacity building workshop were anchored on the following issues:

1. Need to enhance the capabilities of quality assurance personnel, academic and management staff in higher education institutions, and relevant stakeholders in **assessment methodologies** in Higher Education.
2. Need to broaden the capabilities of quality assurance personnel, academic and management staff in higher education institutions, and relevant stakeholders in **curriculum development and evaluation**
3. Need to sharpen the capabilities of quality assurance personnel, academic and management staff in higher education institutions, and relevant stakeholders in **quality assurance in the era of digital transformation.**
4. Need to enhance the capabilities of quality assurance personnel, academic and management staff in higher education institutions, and relevant stakeholders in **national, regional,** and **international quality assurance frameworks** and **recognition of qualifications.**

3.0 Workshop Collaborative Context

The capacity building workshop is collaboratively held as a:

1. back-to-back event with the Annual Higher Education Conference of SARUA (Southern Africa Regional Universities Association) following the signing of a collaborative agreement between UNESCO ROSA and SARUA.
2. platform where synergies will be built among regional and international quality assurance initiatives, e.g. African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN), the Southern African Quality Assurance Network (SAQAN), the Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA) Initiative, and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).



4.0 Actionable Take Home Message

The following are areas that Mulungushi University Management may consider to action:

1. Creation of a full-fledged **Directorate of Quality Assurance**-which is the case in many universities.
2. Appoint a **Quality Assurance Director,** that can be supported by, for instance, a **Curriculum Development Specialist** and an **Assessments Specialist.**
3. Engage in **Tracer Studies**-so as to understand and appreciate alumni feedback.
4. Develop a **Quality Assurance Policy.**
5. Apply to UNESCO in order for Mulungushi University to have **UNESCO Chairs** in specific knowledge clusters to build regional and international collaborations.
6. Develop multi-sectoral MoUs that facilitate industrial attachments, sponsorship of students and academic research.

5.0 Conclusion

The platform was an eye opener and a great opportunity to create collaborations with UNESCO, HEA, ZAQA and higher learning institutions in and outside Zambia. Arising from this workshop, there are opportunities for funding from UNESCO to be explored meant to enhance quality assurance practices in curriculum development, learning, internationalization and assessments at Mulungushi University. It is therefore paramount that Management continues to support strategic attendance of trainings of this kind in future as doing so will enable the University to realise its goals and targets aligned to quality assurance considerations in its service delivery.