

The Examinations Council of Lesotho welcomes a new CEO



Mr. Mokhitli Peter Khoabane: CEO: ECoL

The Examinations Council of Lesotho (ECoL) presents the new Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Mokhitli Peter Khoabane who took the reins on 01/08/2020. He has been serving the organisation for a long time in various positions, the most recent of which is as the Director for Examination Administration and Certification. The ECoL community collectively applauds Mr. Khoabane on his appointment and we pledge our support in walking this new chapter in our journey with him. We wish him the best of luck in steering the organization to even greater heights!!!

Foreword by the CEO

It is my pleasure to release the first 2020 Newsletter. The year 2020 has evolved into a period that will be remembered globally for its devastating effects on human life, interaction and behaviour. Only twice in history has mankind experienced an affliction that is transmitted by everything inherent in its socialisation. COVID-19 has affected all nations in unique ways, especially the prospective candidates for the 2020 examination series. Lesotho experienced several deaths as a result of the pandemic. Our heartfelt condolences go to all families who lost their loved ones. We only hope that Lesotho will not continue to lose lives due to this monster as we work together to defeat and learn to live with it. The need to continually protect ourselves by following all COVID-19 protocols cannot be over-emphasised.

Perhaps this is a period of true reflection into our behaviour and practices. It is also important to look into ways in which Lesotho as a whole and the Examinations Council of Lesotho (ECoL) can improve their tradition on technology utilisation for the benefit of candidates,

irrespective of their social, economic and physical status. ECoL is strategically placed to safeguard educational standards at the schooling level. As such, it is particularly challenged to ensure alignment in curriculum, instruction and assessment while ensuring fairness, transparency, and credibility of all its operations, especially for the assessment of candidates.

ECoL had to adapt operations swiftly to +of uncertainties and challenges brought about by the pandemic. The 2020 examination cohort has significantly suffered the severest loss of learning opportunities, as they were still recovering from the effects of the teachers' strikes of two consecutive years when the pandemic struck. My heart, therefore, goes out to this cohort and our nation at large. Being fully aware of the significant amount of learning time candidates have lost due to the prolonged closure of schools, ECoL has adjusted the examination timetable in line with the adjusted school calendar, to afford the 2020 candidates more time to prepare for the examinations. Candidates will sit examinations from February to March 2021. It is hoped that the adjustment will also afford candidates time to complete their school based projects which are equally important for their final examination scores.

The year 2020 is also special as it marks the first year in which LGCSE will be taken by candidates at Grade 11 in some schools. We encourage candidates to prepare for these assessments well ahead of time to ensure better rewards. We wish the 2021 cohort the best in their examinations.

Nevertheless, the psychological impact that COVID-19 has had and may continue to have on candidates, teachers and parents cannot be ignored. It is for this reason that ECoL is making plans to enhance its monitoring and support strategies for teachers, to ensure compliance with examinations standards.

To colleagues within ECoL, your tireless hard work and support have not gone unnoticed. The team spirit that you displayed during the lockdown period and other misfortunes that accompanied COVID-19 are what make us a formidable team.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MP. Khoabane', written over a horizontal line.

MP. Khoabane