

31st October, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAY AUDIT FEES BY 31ST DECEMBER, 2025, OR FACE DEREGISTRATION, HEA WARNS HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

The **Higher Education Authority (HEA)** has issued a stern warning to all **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)** that failure to pay annual institutional audit fees and undergo an institutional audit by 31st December, 2025, will result in deregistration in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Statutory Instrument No. 51 of 2024, issued pursuant to the **Higher Education (Amendment) Act, 2021**, mandates that all **Higher Education Institutions** conduct annual self-assessments and submit their self-assessment reports to the Authority on or before 31st March of each year. The annual institutional audit fee forms part of this statutory requirement and is legally enforceable.

The Authority has noted with concern that a few institutions remain non-compliant, particularly regarding the payment of annual institutional audit fees. This breach undermines the quality assurance and oversight functions mandated to the Authority under the **Higher Education Act, 2013**, as read with the **Higher Education (Amendment) Act, 2021**.

Accordingly, any **Higher Education Institution** that has not paid the annual institutional audit fee and has not undergone an institutional audit by 31st December, 2025, will face deregistration in accordance with:

- 1) **Section 22(2)(d) of the Higher Education Act, 2013**, which empowers the Authority to deregister an institution that fails to comply with the provisions of the Act; and,
- 2) **Section 23(1) of the Higher Education (Amendment) Act, 2021**, relating to non-compliance with regulatory requirements.

In addition, the Authority reminds **Higher Education Institutions** of their statutory obligation to remit the Student Levy. Failure to pay or remit the Student Levy also constitutes non-compliance and shall equally attract deregistration, in line with **Section 25(4) of the Higher Education Act, 2013**, which provides for enforcement against institutions that fail to meet statutory financial obligations.

The **Higher Education (General) Regulations, 2024**, published under **Statutory Instrument (S.I.) No. 51 of 2024**, in the Government Gazette on Friday, 30th August, 2024, determine all applicable fees, including annual institutional audit fees and student levy rates.

The **Higher Education Authority** will not hesitate to take decisive enforcement action against any institution that fails to meet its statutory obligations. Non-compliance will not be tolerated, and any institution found in breach will face the full weight of the law, including deregistration.

For clarification, institutions are advised to contact:

- 1) **Finance Section:** (+260) 976 936 673
- 2) **Inspectorate Unit:** (+260) 976 936 634

The Authority remains committed to safeguarding the quality, integrity, and financial accountability of Zambia's higher education system. All institutions are urged to comply without delay.



Mr. **Birbal Boniface Musoba**
Corporate Communications Officer
Higher Education Authority

Notes to Editors

About HEA: The **Higher Education Authority (HEA)** is a statutory body established by the **Higher Education Act No. 4 of 2013**. The mandate of the Authority is to regulate and monitor standards in **Higher Education Institution (HEI)** in order to ensure quality services and contribute to the enhancement of human capital and accelerated national development. HEA began its operations in 2015.

For the list of all registered, private **Higher Education Institutions** and all recognised public **Higher Education Institution**, including the accredited learning programmes at these **Higher Education Institutions**, visit our official website, www.hea.org.zm.

However, kindly note that the list of registered, private **Higher Education Institutions** and the list of accredited learning programmes at both private and public **Higher Education Institutions** are dynamic lists and, as such, should be cited with verification from our website or by emailing info@hea.org.zm, or calling (+260) 950 470 444.

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