



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

PRESS RELEASE

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ILLEGALLY GRANTED QUALIFICATIONS ARE NULL AND VOID: THE GADAMA COURT CASE

The National Council for Higher Education Act No. 15 of 2011 (NCHE Act) mandates the National Council for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as “**the Council**”) to regulate Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Malawi.

Recently, the Council initiated criminal prosecution against Mr. Gusto Prince Gadama who was at all material time illegally operating two HEIs, namely: Cypress International Institute University and Jerusalem University. Mr. Gadama was charged with two offences before the Principal Resident Magistrate’s Court sitting at Lilongwe: i) operating the two HEIs; and ii) conferring ‘higher education qualifications’ without the authority of the Council, contrary to sections 19 and 34 of the NCHE Act respectively. The Court found Mr Gadama guilty of both charges. During sentencing, the court imposed on Mr Gadama a fine of K3, 400,000.00 or in default to serve 4 years imprisonment with hard labour.

Consequently, the Council wishes to advise the members of the public that all ‘qualifications’ obtained from Cypress International Institute University and Jerusalem University, and indeed from any unregistered and unaccredited institutions are null and void in Malawi.

The Council further wishes to advise all stakeholders as follows:

a) Higher Education Institutions operating illegally in Malawi

It is illegal to operate a higher education institution without prior registration with the Council. Any ‘qualification’ issued by unregistered and unaccredited institutions are

considered as fake and null and void. Those who operate HEI's in breach of the requirement for prior registration must forthwith stop operating them or risk criminal prosecution.

b) Students and Parents/Guardians

The Council wishes to advise all parents and prospective students that before enrolling into an HEIs, they should verify the registration and accreditation status of the HEIs they intend to enrol into. Enrolling into unregistered HEIs is risky as students are unlawfully granted invalid qualifications not recognised for any purposes including employment and further studies.

A list of registered and accredited institutions is available on the NCHE website at www.nche.ac.mw. Members of the general public can also visit the Council at NCHE House in Area 47 Sector 2, next to Chitukuko Petroda Filling Station in Lilongwe, or call 01755884/01 755 872 to verify the accreditation or registration status of any HEI.

c) Employers

All employers in Malawi are urged to verify with the Council the validity of the academic qualifications of prospective and current employees. Employing candidates with compromised qualifications obtained from unrecognised HEIs puts the organisation at reputation risk, breeds inefficiency and poor performance of the organisation, rewards the undeserving, contributes to the country's poor development, kills hard work and excellence and promotes corrupt practices of obtaining academic qualifications and the proliferation of bogus HEIs.

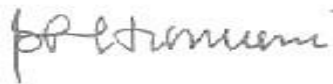
The Council calls upon every Malawian to participate in the promotion of quality higher education and the protection of the integrity of academic qualifications. The Council further appeals to the general public to report any unregistered HEI that offers academic programmes and awards bogus qualifications in the country.

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