



PRESS RELEASE

THE PROVISIONAL APPROVAL OF 2019/2020 HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' LOANS

1.0. Introduction

The Higher Education Students' Loans and Grants Board (HESLGB) is pleased to announce to all accredited public and private higher education institution, continuing and newly selected students in these higher education institution, parents/guardians and the general public, that the Board has, today on **26th July, 2019** provisionally approved higher education students' loans for 2019/2020 Financial Year subject to further joint vetting by the Board and administrators of higher education institution.

There has been an increase in the number of students' loans beneficiaries from **12,725** in **2018/19** to **15,487** in **2019/20** due to the increased funding from the Malawi Government.

Therefore, HESLGB appreciates the continued and increased commitment from His Excellency Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika and his Government in ensuring that the Loans Board continues to get relevant and responsive annual budgetary allocations towards bridging the gap between the poor and the rich in accessing higher education in Malawi.

2.0. Provisionally Approved Beneficiaries

HESLGB received a total of **17,492 (11,369 Male, 6,130 Female)** loan applications both from public and private higher education institution across Malawi. The number of applicants represents a **25.77 percent** increase from the 2018/2019 loan applications.

Upon rigorous and thorough assessment of the aforementioned students' loans applications; **15,487 comprising 7,882 Male, 4,843 Female** applicants were deemed needy and deserving to be awarded students' loans. This is representing **89 percent** of the loan applicants and it is a **17.8 percent** increase from the number of students that were in 2018/2019 financial year.

The increase in number of beneficiaries is a result of the increase in numbers of needy applicants arising from increased public and private university students' intake and also as a result of the increase in the annual budget allocation for students' loans by the Government of Malawi (from MK6.9 Bn in 2018/19 to MK8.5 Bn in 2019/2020).

Table 1 Below shows the total number of applicants against the total number of provisionally approved applicants per institution segregated by gender.

Name of Institution	Number of Students Applied			Number of Students Provisionally Approved			Percentage of the Students Provisionally Approved against Applied
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
African Bible College	33	21	54	32	20	52	96%
Chancellor college	2313	1,186	3499	2203	1,074	3,277	94%
College of Medicine	467	311	778	435	288	723	93%
Catholic University	152	125	277	116	99	215	78%

Daeyang University	87	63	150	72	59	131	87%
DMI - St. John of God the Baptist	118	107	225	88	75	163	72%
Domasi College of Education	331	209	540	325	195	520	96%
Kamuzu College of Nursing	203	586	789	196	549	745	94%
Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	1815	734	2549	1492	590	2,082	82%
Malawi Assemblies of God University	36	37	73	32	35	67	92%
Malawi Adventist University	102	59	161	82	49	131	81%
Malawi College of Accountancy	88	35	123	67	32	99	80%
Malawi University of Science and Technology	1163	340	1503	1054	297	1,351	90%
Mzuzu University	1496	897	2393	1371	813	2,184	91%
Nalikule College of Education	186	126	312	183	119	302	97%
Nkhoma University	84	60	144	79	54	133	92%
Pentecostal Life University	33	51	84	26	19	45	54%
Polytechnic	2046	969	3015	1940	893	2,833	94%
University of Livingstonia	297	252	549	230	204	434	79%
Unqualified applicants	182	97	279	-	-	-	0%

(per the HESLGB Act)							
Grand Total	11,369	6,130	17,497	7,882	4,843	15,487	89%

Table2. Shows the Government funding trend and the number of students supported by the funds from 2015/2016 financial year to 2019/2020 financial year.

Details	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Government Funding					
Amount	1.5bn	3bn	4bn	8bn	8.5bn
% Increase	0%	100%	33.33%	100%	6%
Beneficiaries					
Number	4,662	7,626	9,346	12,725	15,487
% Increase	0%	63.60%	22.50%	26.55%	17.83%

3.0 Vetting of Provisionally Approved Beneficiaries

HESLGB further advises all stakeholders that provisionally approved beneficiaries will undergo further vetting in consultation with respective administrators of each higher education institution at the time of commencing each institutions' 2019/2020 academic calendar.

As provided by the HESLGB Act no.2 of 2015, the vetting process (conducted at the commencement of 2019/2020 academic year for each higher education institution) will involve removing provisionally approved beneficiaries who will be found under the following circumstances: 1) are on other scholarships, 2) are repeating a year of study on academic grounds, 3) have been withdrawn on academic or medical grounds, 4) have proven that they have other sources of financing their education, 5) are not needy as they might have falsified

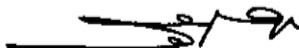
information during the application; among many other factors. It is only those students that successfully pass through this vetting process who will be on the final list of the beneficiaries of 2019/20 students' loans.

4.0 Access to Provisionally Approved Lists

Names of all provisionally approved beneficiaries can be accessed from **30th July, 2019** through the offices of Registrars or Dean of students in the respective of higher education institutions and on the HESLGB website (www.heslgb.mw).

5.0 Special Appeal

HESLGB is making a special appeal to all stakeholders and the general public to provide feedback on the provisionally approved names directly to HESLGB or through the offices of Registrars or Dean of Students of each respective higher education institutions, in case there are individual students who are on the provisionally approved list but are not needy. This information will help effective targeting of real needy students. Therefore, the general public has a critical role to play in supporting the Board to rightfully reach out to those whom the students' loans are intended for.



G.G. Chipungu

Chairman- Higher Education Students Loans and Grants Board