

GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA PLEDGE SUMMARY TO BE MADE AT THE SECOND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION (GPE) PLEDGING CONFERENCE, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 25-26 JUNE 2014.

IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN FOCUS ON IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL QUALITY. ZAMBIA HAS ACHIEVED 20% OF DOMESTIC PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION IN 2014 AND IS COMMITTED TO INCREASING THE EXPENDITURE TO 22% BY 2018. THE MINISTRY CURRENTLY RELEASES MORE THAN 50% OF THE TOTAL EDUCATION BUDGET TO THE PRIMARY SUB-SECTOR AND IS COMMITTED TO MAINTAIN THIS LEVEL.

ALL CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION IS A FUNDAMENTAL TENET OF THE MINISTRY'S PRIORITIES. ZAMBIA SUPPORTS LEARNERS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS THROUGH A DEDICATED PERCENTAGE OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL GRANTS. THOUGH THE GRANT IS CURRENTLY AVERAGING ZMW 28 PER CHILD PER YEAR, THE MINISTRY INTENDS TO INCREASE THAT TO ZMW 65 BY 2018. THIS WILL ENSURE MORE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE SCHOOL FOR ALL LEARNERS INCLUDING THOSE WITH DISABILITIES.

THE MINISTRY INTENDS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DISADVANTAGED GIRLS ACCESSING BURSARIES FROM 11,188 IN 2013 TO 15,000 AND TO INCREASE THE GENDER PARITY INDEX (GPI) AT SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL TO 0.90 BY 2018.

THE EDUCATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (EMIS) WILL SUPPORT IMPROVED PLANNING AND BUDGETING AND CONSOLIDATE ASSESSMENT DATA FROM VARIOUS SOURCES INTO ONE COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM BY 2016. ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON EQUITY AND USED TO FINALISE THE REVISED EDUCATION POLICY FOR ZAMBIA AND THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK (NIF) IV BY END 2015. THE MINISTRY WILL ALSO PROVIDE ACCURATE DATA TO THE UNESCO INSTITUTE FOR STATISTICS (UIS) AND NATIONALLY THROUGH ANNUAL DISTRICT EDUCATION PROFILE DATA BOOKLETS.

ASSESSMENT IS KEY TO IMPROVING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ZAMBIAN STUDENTS. THE MINISTRY HAS BEGUN TO ROLL OUT A NEW CURRICULUM, WHICH REQUIRES THAT ROBUST ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS ARE IN PLACE. ZAMBIA WILL ENSURE SUFFICIENT DOMESTIC FINANCING IS DEDICATED TO THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT SURVEYS AT GRADES 2, 5 AND 9 AND TO CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT PROCESSES CONDUCTED AT SCHOOL LEVEL.