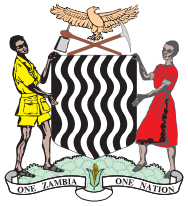

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY

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FOREWORD

The Higher Education Policy is premised on National, Regional and Global aspirations for Education and Skills Development. These aspirations are espoused in the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) 2017-2021; the Vision 2030; Africa Agenda 2064 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4 on Education). Through the implementation of this Policy, the country's human capital will be developed to play the pivotal role of driving the National Economic Development Agenda without living anyone behind. This Policy forms part of the key implementation documents for the Human Development Cluster and will be implemented through the Education and Skills Sector Plan (ESSP) and institutional strategic plans.

The Policy builds on key interventions aimed at enhancing access, quality and effectiveness of Higher Education and Skills. It also addresses financing challenges that have faced the Higher Education and Skills sectors. Furthermore, the Policy provides for a clear shift from focusing only on academic competences to also focusing on enhancing the development of well-rounded and responsible learners with both the academic and social acumen through career and ethical guidance and counselling.

The Policy has, therefore, been developed to provide guidance and direction on all matters relating to Higher Education and Skills Development. In addition, it will further facilitate reform of legislation and institutional frameworks to ensure an efficient and cost effective yet dynamic system that will address changes and challenges of the sector for the next ten (10) years.

The success of this Policy will depend on all stakeholders playing their role in creating, enhancing and mainstreaming a culture of excellence. I, therefore, wish to implore all stakeholders to effectively play their part in the implementation of the Policy to realise its objectives.

Professor Nkandu Luo, MP
Minister of Higher Education

ACKNOWNLEDGEMENTS

This Policy document is a product of extensive consultations involving Government Ministries, Provinces and other spending agencies, Non-governmental Organisations, Training Institutions and Universities and the general public. Different approaches such as technical meetings, workshops and review of relevant documents were used.

In view of the foregoing, I wish to recognize the tremendous effort which was put into the development of this Policy. In the same vein, special acknowledgement is given to Cabinet Office, the Inter-Ministerial Committee of Officials on the formulation of the Higher Education Policy and to all who actively contributed to its development.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to all members of staff in the Ministry of Higher Education for their commitment in facilitating the Policy formulation process. I am confident that this Policy will provide the much-needed guidance on Higher Education and Skills Development in Zambia.

Mabvuto Sakala
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Higher Education

WORKING DEFINITIONS

Access: The opportunity for education and skills training, regardless of one's social class, gender, ethnicity, geographical location and physical or mental disability.

Civil Society Organisation: A non-governmental organisation or institution (or non-state actor), as distinct from government and private sector (business). Civil society includes community-based organisations (CBOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs), and trade unions.

College of Education: An institution for the education of teachers.

Community: A geographically defined group of persons or sector of the public with a specific, ascertainable, and common interest.
E-Learning: The use of electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classroom.

Education: The process of giving or receiving instructions at an educational institution.

Educational Institution: An established institution providing knowledge, skills and attitude to leaners.

Education Standards: A set of statements of minimum requirements for quality of education and skills training.

Equity: Affording a fair chance in education and skills training to learners.
Gender: Attributes and opportunities associated with being male or female, and the socio-cultural relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between different groups of women and different groups of men.

Gender equality: Women having the same opportunities in life as men, including the ability to participate in the public sphere.

Governance Body: A body in which the management of an aided, private, or community education and skills training institution is vested.

Higher Education: post-secondary education leading to qualifications provided at colleges, universities, or similar education establishment.

Inspector: A person appointed to ensure that the provisions of the TEVET Act are complied with.

Learner: A person who is enrolled and is receiving education and skills training or a course of study at an education and skills training institution.

Learner with Special Education Needs: A learner who has physical, hearing, speech, visual, or mental disability; is significantly different from other learners mentally; has social, emotional or behavioural disorders as certified by a medical practitioner or prescribed officer; or is gifted and talented.

Local Authority: A city council, municipal council, or district council established under the Local Government Act.

National Examination: A national assessment conducted at the end of a defined education and skills training cycle for purposes of certification and/or selection.

Open Education: Education and skills training that is flexible in terms of time and place for both the learner and teacher.

Parent: In relation to a child, includes a guardian or a person who has actual custody of a child.

Principal: A person appointed as a head of a college of education or any other college, trades training institute, or skills training centre.

Private Educational Institution: An education and skills training institution which is privately owned and run.

Proprietor: The owner of an education and skills training institution or the person or body of persons in whom the ownership, custody, or control of the education and training institution is vested.

Public Educational Institution: An education and skills training institution administered or controlled by the Ministry or established and maintained using public funds.

Quality Assurance: The systematic monitoring and evaluation of the various aspects of education and skills training provision to ensure that minimum standards of quality are attained.

School: An institution at or from which regular instruction is provided.

School for Continuing Education: A school offering open and distance learning to learners.

Secondary Education: Second level of compulsory formal education and skills training.

Secondary School: A school at which the second level of compulsory formal education and skills training are provided.

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